



the catskill canister

Vol. 37, No. 1

JANUARY - MARCH, 2004

DREAMS AT SUCKER BROOK

I'm dreaming about a bear trying to get at our food in the nylon sack overhanging the stream. His claws sing out as they cut through the air trying to sever the nylon line. The airy, shrill sound of his swinging paw intensifies. Suddenly, I wake up. It's pitch black and dead quiet. My son's hand is on my shoulder. He tells me there was a terrible screeching noise just outside the tent.

Although I heard the same sound in my dream, or the sound started my dream, my mind interpreted it as my worst fear. I think we may have heard the cry of a Saw-whet Owl, a little guy with a big voice. I remember my good friend, Bud, who knows everything about birds of prey, telling me about the Saw-whet. In addition to a tooting mating sound, the characteristic call of the Saw-whet has been compared to the sound of a metal saw being sharpened on a whet stone, hence the name. But it was not as scary as a big black bear sniffing around our tent and swiping at our food.

That happened to us for real about twenty years ago in the high peaks region of the Adirondacks when my son was fourteen. We had set up camp in a place well known for its bears. Bad decision! We went to sleep to the sounds of banging pots and pans and the screams from other campers as they attempted to discourage the marauders. It was almost humorous.

I awoke with a start at about 4 o'clock in the morning, the moon faintly illuminating our wooded site. A giant shadow rose up in front of the tent blocking the light. Then four claws proceeded to shred the bark on the tree nearest the tent as a black bear cut the line supporting the food sack between two trees. Heart pounding, I found and switched on a flashlight, turned it on the culprit and screamed invectives. My son awoke and joined me in my tirade against the creature that could waste three days of our trip by sending us back to a grocery store. Miraculously, the bear spooked. He crashed backwards down the tree and charged off never to be seen again that night. Morning came, and the accounting: seven food sacks missing, three remaining. One of those, fortunately, was ours. That morning, some of the campers went from tent to tent begging for food. How quickly we learn.

My son's mood that day was a little subdued and as night descended and we set up camp far from those screaming guys with the pots and pans, he kept nervously looking around without saying anything. How to relieve my son's anxiety? I decided on a half-truth, telling him that bears hate the smell of human urine. My son now had the power to cast out his demons.

Twenty years later, here we are, camping off the Sucker Brook Trail on a small tributary stream feeding the larger Sucker Brook in the Indian Lake region of the Adirondack Park. In the morning we climb to the notch above to bushwhack through tangled woods to one of the local trailless summits. Since we finished climbing the hundred highest peaks in New England we've been working on the hundred highest peaks in New York. After the notch, we come on a clearing, and an unexpected sound. A large buck in the middle of the clearing snorts at our approach. I pick up a twig and toss it at him.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With the separation of Aspirant/Subscription tasks from the Membership responsibilities, an updating of the Bylaws is necessary. Additionally, the Winter Weekend Chair would be part of the Executive Committee. Section One of Article IX would then read as follows:

Section 1. The Executive Committee will consist of all officers (designated in Article VIII, Section 1), the most recently retired past president able to serve, the editor of *The Catskill Canister*, the delegate to the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, and the chairpersons of the following committees: Membership, Aspirants, Outings, Trails, Canisters, Conservation, Annual Dinner, Winter Weekend, and Search and Rescue.

This Bylaw change and the tabled motion for the 420 Award will be under consideration at the 2004 Annual Dinner Meeting.

The ADK 2003 summer trail crew worked sections of seven Catskill trails, putting in rock staircases, water bars and rock steps. Check out further work on the Peekamoose-Table or Giant Ledge-Panther Trails.

Pete Senterman, NY-NJ Trail Conference Trails Chair for the Catskills, has a wish list of trails in need of a maintainer. The Devil's Path on Indian Head or Westkill and four segments of one mile each between Blackhead and Dutcher Notch are just a few that are available. To volunteer send an email: c3500c@verizon.net.

Nearly fifteen years ago club dues were increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00. Beginning January 1, 2004, a new dues schedule will be in effect. Annual dues will be \$10.00 with Life Membership at \$200. For the first time a discounted rate of \$17.00 will be available for two persons at the same address. This increase is necessary if the Club is to remain solvent and continue its good deeds and work.

Kudos to Carol and Dave White for leading hikes each day of the Hudson Valley Ramble weekend. The Executive Committee hopes to make Club participation an annual tradition.

On November 1 and 2, 2003, 29 hikers attended a wilderness first-aid course given by the Wilderness First Aid Society. The course covered a host of injuries and conditions all hikers need to know about when in the woods and provided hands-on practice. Thanks go to Ted Ripley-Duggan for organizing it, the Olivebridge Fire Department for donating its premises, and to the three excellent instructors, Maureen McCahery, Jonathan Silver and Ron Fields.

Continuing with efforts to keep the membership informed, the Executive Committee voted to make a modest donation towards expenses to the Save the Ridge Coalition as they work to preserve open space in the Gunks. Also, the Club is now a member of the American Hiking Society in addition to the NY-NJ Trail Conference. The Club received some nice publicity in an article on hiking in the Catskills in the September 2003 issue of Hudson Valley Magazine.

Just a reminder that email/telephone number information for all Executive Committee members was listed in the Summer 2003 *Canister*. Please contact any of us with your concerns.

Wanda Davenport (#523)

He replies with another snort and an advance. We slowly retreat and give the clearing a wide berth. When we return by the clearing the buck hears us coming and spooks. Now he's the one who retreats, breaking branches as he crashes through the woods.

That night back at camp, we talk about our adventures and the wildlife we've encountered. In the gathering twilight we're treated to the sight of a Great Horned Owl silently gliding down through the trees. It lands on a boulder in the middle of the stream and stays there about twenty seconds. Sensing our presence, it lifts effortlessly and disappears downstream.

The evening creeps in and leaves us with only the small circle of light from our candle lantern and the sound of the stream. The guys with the pots and pans are not welcome tonight. The peace is sublime. Tomorrow, we will pack our gear and trudge back to the car for the long ride home, leaving the sounds and dreams of Sucker Brook behind us.

Dick Sederquist (#905)

CATSKILL WINTER WEEKEND: JANUARY 23 - 25, 2004

This event will be held at West Kill Mountain Bed & Breakfast (formerly Schwarzenegger's Sunshine Valley House) located on Spruceton Road in Westkill, New York; tel.: 518-989-6500. Hikes have been scheduled for members and aspirants (see p. 5 of hiking schedule). Downhill skiing is available within a half hour's drive at Windham, Hunter Mountain, Belleayre and Cortina Ski Areas.

Rates: Double occupancy - \$155.00/night, which includes lodging on Friday night when guests will be welcomed with coffee, cake or wine at an informal social; Saturday breakfast, trail lunch and dinner with a pre-dinner reception consisting of cheese, crackers and wine; and Sunday breakfast and trail lunch. Tax and gratuity is also included in the cost.

To reserve, send a deposit of \$75.00 to Arthur Zimmerman, 766 Neptune Boulevard, Long Beach, New York 11581; telephone 516-432-1205. Make checks payable to **West Kill Mountain Bed & Breakfast**. Cancellation, with full refund, requires one week's notice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DATE CHANGED FOR ANNUAL DINNER

The 3500 Club Annual Dinner will be held at the Hillside Manor, Kingston, New York, on Saturday, March 27, 2004 not Saturday, April 3, 2004, as indicated in the Fall 2003 issue of the Canister. Invitations will be mailed in the Spring 2004 Canister, due out at the beginning of February 2004. In the meantime, diary the new date on your calendar.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITION OPEN

The club seeks someone to replace Dave Sutter as its representative to the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. He or she should be able to attend three TC meetings a year and all club board meetings. Those interested should send an email with phone number to c3500c@verizon.net.

The club thanks Dave for his years of service as its Trail Conference representative and also its tee-shirt impresario.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JANUARY - MARCH 2004**ASSUMED RISK**

Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In winter, hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can cause hypothermia. Instead, wear (or have available in your pack) garments of wool or fleece. Silk or polypropylene make fine base layers, as they keep the wearer warm even when wet. Hat, gloves and a headlamp (or flashlight) should be part of the standard winter kit. Snowshoes and full (not instep) crampons are requisite. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion.

Thurs., Jan. 1 LONE and ROCKY

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent 2250'
Elev.: 3721' , 3508' Order: 17, 35

A strenuous bushwhack. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Dec. 28-30.

Leader: Rocky Walberg (#886), 607-967-5840 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Sat., Jan. 3 KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1730'
Elev.: 3651' Order: 22

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for details.

Leader: Ken Hubert (#1,351), 718-463-5675 (after 3:00 PM Mon-Thurs; 518-827-7327 Fri and Sat.);
hikeleader3500@att.net

Sun., Jan. 4 BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 5, 4

A moderately paced trail hike. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 PM)

Sat., Jan. 10 HALCOTT

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3723' Order: 32

A moderate bushwhack. Shuttle may be required since parking is limited at trailhead. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader between Jan. 6-9.

Leader: Joe Bogardus (#1,399), 609-737-2542 (7:00 PM - 10:00 PM; jbbogardus@yahoo.com)

Sun., Jan. 11 RUSK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A short, relaxed paced bushwhack. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Jan. 4-10.

Leader: Dawn Hamilton (#1,359), 845-473-0317; DawnLH333@yahoo.com

Sat., Jan. 17 BALSAM LAKE (Winter Skills Session)

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1100'
Elev.: 3723' Order: 16

An easy-paced hike with an emphasis on winter hiking skills, including winter comfort, snowshoe and crampon technique and/or emergency winter survival (as snow conditions permit). Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Mill Brook Road parking area at 9:00 AM. Email or phone leader by Jan. 15.

Leader: Jon Bentley (#1,384), 908-464-1096; jbentley@avaya.com

Sun., Jan. 18 **WESTKILL**

Distance: 8-10 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately paced trail hike. The shorter distance assumes we can spot cars to avoid the road walk. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader between Jan. 12 -16.

Leader: Jeff Glans (#793), 203-254-2157 (before 10 PM); jhglans@aol.com

Sat., Jan. 24 (Winter Weekend) **Giant Ledge and PANTHER**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1545'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderate trail hike. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 PM)

Sun., Jan. 25 (Winter Weekend) **BLACKHEAD**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1750'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 5

A moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register by Thursday, Jan. 22.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710; mcfreifeld@yahoo.com

Sun., Jan. 25 (Winter Weekend) **BALSAM and EAGLE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3600', 3600 Order: 28, 27

A moderately paced trail hike to required winter peaks. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Jan. 19-23.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1,373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM); mapcolus1@att.net

Sat., Jan. 31 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2850'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

A moderately to fast paced trail hike. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Jan. 26-29.

Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1,348), 914-631-4861 (before 9:30 PM); pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

Sun., Feb. 1 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 34

A moderately paced trail hike. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Jan. 26-29.

Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1,348), 914-631-4861 (before 9:30 PM); pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

Sat., Feb. 7 **NORTH DOME and SHERRILL**

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A moderately paced bushwhack. Shuttle required. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert (#1,351), 718-463-5675 (after 3:00 PM Mon-Thurs; 518-827-7327 Fri and Sat.); hikeleader3500@att.net

Sun., Feb. 8 **PLATEAU and SUGARLOAF**

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13

A moderately paced trail hike. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 PM)

- Sat., Feb. 14 **VLV and BEARPEN** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3529', 3600' Order: 33, 29
A moderately paced bushwhack. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.
Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Feb. 8-12.
Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), 845-657-7057; erd@wilsey.net.
- Sun., Feb. 15 **HUNTER** Distance: 7mi. Ascent: 1940'
Elev.: 4040' Order: 2
A moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.
Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Feb. 9-13.
Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1,373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM); mapcolus1@att.net
- Sat., Feb. 21 **LONE and ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2250'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 17, 35
A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Feb. 16-20.
Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM)
- Sun., Feb. 22 **FIR and BIG INDIAN** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19
A moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.
Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337), 607-538-9484 (before 9:00 PM); robert@dmcom.net
- Sat., Feb. 28 **WITTENBERG and CORNELL** Distance: 9.6 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3780', 3860' Order: 14, 9
A very strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Feb. 24-27.
Leader: Joe Bogardus (#1,399), 609-737-2542 (7:00 PM - 10:00 PM); jbbogardus@yahoo.com
- Sun., Feb. 29 **INDIAN HEAD and TWIN** Distance: 8.7 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 30, 23
A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or, preferably, email leader to register between Feb. 22-26.
Leader: Chris Post (#1,409), 518-537-5165; cbone@webjogger.net
- Sat., Mar. 6 **PANTHER** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1830'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18
A moderately paced trail through hike. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.
Leader: Ken Hubert (#1,351), 718-463-5675 (after 3:00 PM Mon-Thurs; 518-827-7327 Fri and Sat.); hikeleader3500@att.net
- Sun., Mar. 7 **SLIDE** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1780'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
A moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.
Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Mar. 1-5.
Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1,373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM); mapcolus1@att.net

Sat., Mar. 13 **GRAHAM and DOUBLETOP**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2360'
Elev.: 3868', 3860' Order: 7, 8

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderately fast pace. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions may cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Mar. 8-11.

Leader: John Swanson (#592), 201-935-1704 (between 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM only)

Sun., Mar. 14 **SOUTH WEST HUNTER (and possibly HUNTER)**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3740', (4040') Order: 15, (2)

A strenuous trail and bushwhack hike at a moderately fast pace. Difficult off-trail conditions. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions may cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Mar. 8-11.

Leader: Nan Giblin (#1,328), 201-935-1704 (between 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM only)

Sat., Mar. 20 **SLIDE, CORNELL and WITTENBERG**Distance: 9.5 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 4180', 3860', 3780' Order: 1, 9, 14

A moderately to fast paced hike. Shuttle required. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 PM)

Sun., Mar. 21 **BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3624', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Mar. 15-19.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Sat., Mar. 27 **Orchard Point and Danny's Lookout on Plateau**Distance: 2.8 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 3600'

A moderately paced trail hike to beautiful views for those who would like a short hike before the club's Annual Dinner starting at 4:00 p.m. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Mar. 22-25 (no calls Mar. 26).

Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942; ccswhite@juno.com

Sun., Mar. 28 **NORTH DOME**Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1710'
Elev.: 3610' Order: 26.

A relaxed-pace bushwhack. Full winter gear, including snowshoes and crampons, required. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Mar. 22-25 (no calls Mar. 26).

Leader: Carol White (#860), 315-853-6942; ccswhite@juno.com

WINTER RIDE

Who shall declare the joy of the running!
Who shall tell of the pleasures of flight!
Springing and spurning the tufts of wild heather,
Sweeping, wide-winged, through the blue dome of light.
Everything mortal has moments immortal,
Swift and God-gifted, immeasurably bright.

So with the stretch of the white road before me,
Shining snow crystals rainbowed by the sun,
Fields that are white, stained with long, cool, blue shadows,
Strong with the strength of my horse as we run.
Joy in the touch of the wind and the sunlight!
Joy! With the vigorous earth I am one

MANAGEMENT OF BEARS IN THE CATSKILLS

On October 30, 2003, David Galvin attended a meeting at NYSDEC headquarters in Stamford on behalf of the Club. The purpose of the meeting, and two proposed subsequent meetings, is to get input from "stakeholders" (DEC's term) on a population management plan for bears in the Northern Catskills. The DEC's encompassing definition of the Northern Catskills is an area roughly bounded by Route 17 to the south, the Susquehanna Valley to the west, I-88 to the north and the Hudson Valley to the east. It includes all or most of Ulster, Green, Schoharie and Delaware Counties, plus bits of Sullivan, Otsego, Schenectady and Albany Counties. This area includes all of the Catskill Mountains over 3000' elevation.

The DEC is concerned with the explosive increase in bear population in the area since the 1970s. In 1974, there were an estimated 200 bears in the northern Catskills before the start of the hunting season. Half of this population was harvested during the hunt, so the season was suspended in 1975 and 1976 to allow for population recovery. Since that time, in spite of hunting seasons permitting the taking of about 30% of the population each year, the pre-season population has increased to an estimated 1200 bears, with no end in sight. The large number of bears has led to numerous human-bear conflicts, including substantial property damage and the death of a child.

Of those in attendance, most appeared distinctly anti-bear; one even suggested the possibility of extermination. The DEC representatives, to their credit, disregarded this idea. The meetings are closed to the public, but further information regarding their outcome will be published in a future issue of the *Canister*.

NEW MEMBERS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1471	Monique Bouhours	08/16/03
1472	Rick Jordan	08/23/03
1473	Greg Terwilliger	09/07/03
1474	Steven D. O'Neill	09/01/03
1475	Jerry Kuntz	09/20/03
1476	Frank Gandhi	09/14/03
1477	Ernie Stutzbach	10/22/03
1478	George Preoteasa	10/25/03
1479	Chuck Heuer	10/25/03
1480	Laura Gardner	10/25/03
1481	Ned Gardner	10/25/03
1482	Cynthia Tollo	11/01/03
1483	Charles Mohr	11/02/03
1484	Judy Mohr	11/02/03
1485	Alex Flegontov	11/09/03
1486	Ken Marcinowski	11/15/03
1487	Nilde Marcinowski	11/15/03

Lost In The Woods, I Snapped Off A Dark Branch

Lost in the woods, I snapped off a dark branch
and, lifted its murmur, in thirst, to my lips:
perhaps the weeping voice of the rain,
a shattered bell, or a broken heart.

It came to me, something out of far distance,
deeply concealed, and hidden by Earth,
a cry, defeated by immense autumns,
by half-opened moistness of shadowy leaves.

But waking out of the wood's dream there,
that hazel branch sang under my tongue,
and its vagrant perfume rose to my mind

as if suddenly roots I had long abandoned
searched me, the lost domains of childhood,
and held me, wounded by wandering fragrance.

Pablo Neruda



the catskill canister

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APRIL - JUNE, 2004

THE FROGS

The weather in Connecticut had been dreary and wet with no hint that summer would ever come. My wife and I agreed, despite the weather, that we should take our auction winners of a "Guided Hike to the Catskills" to their just reward. If it rained, we could always go to Howe Caverns. The chosen day started off like the previous and the day before that: dark and sullen. As we proceeded west toward our destination of North/South Lake State Park, I saw a patch of blue on the horizon.

We parked at North Lake and, after the Catskill Mountain House site and a limited but shrouded view of the Hudson River, we headed uphill towards President Grant's favorite spot, Inspiration Point. Along the way we passed a number of vistas and hoped that the clouds hanging over us like a curtain would part and show us more.

We were doing fine in the weather department, but knees started to protest. At the Kaaterskill Hotel site it was decision time and it looked as though President Grant was going to be disappointed. "Let's find the shortest route back." "How about we proceed to the parking area at Schutt Road, 1.5 miles away" someone else suggested. This was met with a "No problem, I'll walk to the car and pick you up."

In all the confusion of foot and horse trail signs, there appeared to the north a well-worn trail, complete with the normal complement of trail bike tire tracks. "Let's give it a try." My first apprehension was the lack of evidence of horse power on this trail, yet it appeared to be going in the right direction toward South Lake. As the trail narrowed and the wisdom of our decision seemed in question, we came upon a small pond, filled with frogs and catfish. A gentle sloping ledge led us to the water's edge. It was so peaceful and serene we were in awe. Inspiration Point never seemed so far and unimportant.

Bordering the pond on the north was a dam designed to hold the water here for, I suspected, the long-defunct Kaaterskill Hotel. Below the dam through the trees there appeared to be an old cellar hole. I started to think of Darwin and the voyage of the Beagle, the Galapagos Islands and the theory of evolution and how different species evolved when cut off from their own. It wasn't a cellar hole but an enormous cistern with a waist-high stone rim designed to hold water from ages past. It was thirty feet in diameter and thirty feet deep, probably once protected by a conical wooden roof. At the bottom of this enormous well lay less than a foot of water with various debris and building stones littering the floor.

As our eyes adjusted to this twilight scene, it became apparent that this well was more than an artifact of times long ago. It had become a universe for its sole inhabitants. Sitting on the rocks below, oblivious to our presence, were numerous bullfrogs. It appeared that they had no way in or way out. They must have lived there for generations and generations, eating whatever hapless insect or creature that fell in. After years of separation, I wondered if they had evolved and were slightly different from the bullfrogs that lived in the pond above. They seemed bigger, darker in color and less skittish than their brethren in the pond. In fact, they did not respond to the twig tossed over the side. They just sat their dreaming their frog dreams.

Cont'd on Page 3

THE CATSKILL CANISTER

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The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., for \$10.00 a year. Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker St., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"All of us who choose to hike together have obligations to one another. It needs to be understood that by hiking with others, we are sacrificing a degree of individual autonomy." – J. Graham, *The Catskill Canister*, Vol. 36, No. 4, Oct-Dec. 2003.

"Cooperate: to associate with another or others for mutual benefit." – *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*, 1990

Once again hike leaders have experienced difficulties with uncooperative participants, members and aspirants alike, on club outings. If you sign up for a hike, it is expected that you will abide by the leader's directions to (1) stay with the hike and not go ahead; (2) maintain the pace and route set by the leader. From the perspective of safety, it is very important that the group stay together. If you do not like the stated pace or route, you should not sign up for the hike. Good hiking ethics requires cooperation and responsibility to one's fellow hikers to ensure the welfare and safety of all who participate.

Join me in welcoming Will Nixon to the Executive Committee as the Catskill 3500 Club representative to the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference. Will, formerly of New York City, is a writer currently living in Woodstock, New York.

The 2003 Hudson River Valley Ramble was such a resounding success that the event will be held over two weekends this year: September 18-19 and September 25-26. If you would like to represent the club and lead a hike, contact Outings Chair, Ted Ripley-Duggan.

David Galvin continues to represent the club at NYSDEC meetings for input from stakeholders on a bear population management plan in the northern Catskills. Thanks for volunteering your time, David.

More positive publicity for our club. See the December 2003 issue of *Catskill Mountain Region Guide* for J. May's article on our club and winter hiking.

I hope you will be able to attend the club's Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 27. It provides an excellent opportunity for members and aspirants to socialize off the trail, to catch up with friends and meet new people. You'll find the invitation to this event on page 7. I look forward to seeing you all on the 27th.

Wanda Davenport (#523)

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

On August 22, 2003, Michael Strich (#1,394) became an Adirondack 46er, finishing on Panther • On November 9, 2003, Bob Consadine (#646, #209W) climbed Panther to complete climbing all the Catskill 3500' peaks at least 20 times each; he has climbed the Adirondack High Peaks three times each, the second time as his wife Dorothy (#750, #308W) completed her 46th summit; Bob also completed the Northeast 111 on June 7, 1992 • Kathy (#1,102, #413W) and Ralph (#122, #34) Ferrusi did the classic Grand Canyon rim to rim hike on October 7-9, 2003.

If there is a special event in your life or that of another member (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion) or a special achievement on or off the trail that you would like to appear in the Peripatetic Porcupine column, please send the news to Ralph Ferrusi (see column on this page).

When we resumed our hike, it turned out that the trail we had taken circled back to our starting point. Our guests raved about their day. We saw something few may have seen before. People on trail bikes probably blew by in their pursuit of motion. Some day I will come back with my grandchildren and show them one of the mysteries of life. I wonder how many generations of frogs will pass before I return.

Dick Sederquist (#905)

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: APRIL - JUNE 2004

ASSUMED RISK

Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. Winter-like conditions may still exist and hikers should dress accordingly. Avoid cotton clothing as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can cause hypothermia. Instead, wear (or have available in your pack) wool or fleece garments. Silk or polypropylene make fine base layers as they keep the wearer warm even when wet. Hat, gloves and a headlamp (or flashlight) should be part of the standard equipment. Snowshoes and crampons may still be needed. If in doubt, check with the leader. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion.

Sat., April 3 PLATEAU

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3840' Order: 12

A relaxed-paced trail hike. Please be prepared for winter conditions with snowshoes and/or crampons. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for details.

Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337) 607-538-9484; lau090@dmcom.net

Sun., April 4 Ashokan High Point

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3080'

A moderate loop trail hike up one of the most scenic mountains under 3500 feet. Rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Time/Place: Contact leader for details.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389) 845-656-7057; erd@wilsey.net

Sat., April 10 INDIAN HEAD and TWIN

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2200'-2600'
Elev.: 3573', 3640' Order: 29, 22

A moderate and steady-paced trail hike. Distance approximate depending on route. Snowshoes and crampons may be needed. NO cotton clothing or dogs. Poor weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call Leader to register between April 1-9.

Leader: Alan Via (#429), 518-439-3514 (6:00P.M.-9:00 P.M.); be46@nycap.rr.com

Sat., April 10 WESTKILL

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate to fast pace.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between April 5-9.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., April 11 DOUBLETOP

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1860'
Elev.: 3862' Order: 8

A moderately-paced strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Full winter gear may be required.

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Mar. 29 -April 2.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1,373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.); mapcolus1@att.net.

Sat., April 17 BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 5, 4

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels. Snowshoes or crampons may be required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between April 12-15.

Leader: Jerry Kuntz (#1,475), 845-987-8917 (5:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.); jkuntz@rcis.org

- Sun., April 18 **BLACKHEAD (via Acra Point)** Distance: 7.2 mi. Ascent: 1740'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 4
A strenuous trail hike at a relaxed-to-moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Email (or call) leader to register between April 12-16 (not home April 17).
Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942; ccswhite@juno.com
- Sat., April 24 **CORNELL and WITTENBERG** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2850'
Elev.: 3860', 3780' Order: 9, 14
A moderately paced trail hike.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register.
Leader: Ken Hubert (#1,351) 718-463-5675 (after 3:00 P.M., Mon-Thurs.); 518-827-7327 (Fri-Sat);
hikeleader3500@att.net
- Sat., April 25 **SLIDE Loop** Distance: 6.7 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
A moderately strenuous trail hike at a relaxed-to-moderate pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Email (or call) leader to register between April 19-23.
Leader: Carol White (#860), 315-853-6942; ccswhite@juno.com
- Sat., May 1 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3524' Order: 34
A relaxed-pace trail hike. Heavy precipitation cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Parking area on Rte. 23 across road from trailhead at 8:30 A.M.
Leader: Dawn Hamilton (#1,359), 845-926-6208; DawnLH333@yahoo.com
- Sat., May 1 **TABLE, PEEKAMOOSE, LONE, ROCKY, BALSAM CAP, FRIDAY, CORNELL, WITTENBERG, SLIDE** Distance: 16 mi. Ascent: 5000+
Elev.: 3847', 3843', 3721', 3508', 3623', 3694', 3860', 3780', 4180'
Order: 10,11,16,35,24,20,9,14,1
An extremely difficult and strenuous bushwhack and trail hike at a steady pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Time/Place: Call leader to register between April 26-29.
Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. ONLY)
- Sun., May 2 **PANTHER** Distance: 7mi. Ascent: 1545'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18
A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy snow cancels. Full winter gear may be required.
Meeting Place/Time. Call or e-mail leader to register between April 12-16.
Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1,373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.); mapcolus1@att.net.
- Sat., May 8 **EAGLE and BALSAM** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3600', 3600' Order: 27, 28
A moderately-paced bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between May 3-7.
Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (no calls after 9:00 P.M.); wandatrails@verizon.net
- Sat., May 8 **Mt. Tremper (and possibly Carl)** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2700'
A moderately-paced trail hike to Mt. Tremper fire tower with possible bushwhack to Carl Mountain (2880').
Shuttle required. Heavy precipitation cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register between May 2-7.
Leader: Dawn Hamilton (#1,359), 845-926-6208; DawnLH333@yahoo.com
- Sun., May 9 **HALCOTT** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3723' Order 32
A moderate bushwhack. Steady or heavy rain cancels
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between May 5-7.
Leader: Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710 (no calls after 9:30 P.M.); mcfreifeld@yahoo.com

Sat., May 15 **BIG INDIAN: Nature Hike**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1600'
Elev: 3700' Order: 19

A moderately-paced trail hike, with frequent stops to examine, identify and discuss the unusually rich spring flora.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader for details.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389) 845-656-7057; erd@wilsey.net

Sun., May 16 **TABLE and PEEKAMOOSE:
Trail Maintenance**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2850'
Elev.: 3847', 3843' Order: 10, 11

Give back to the woods and bag one or both peaks. Rain cancels. Rain date: Sat., May 22.

Meeting Place/Time: Trailhead at Denning at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Daniel Case (#1,238), 845-7781090; dancase@frontiernet.net

Sat., May 22 **TWIN**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1100'
Elev.: 3640 Order: 23

BRING A KID, grab your own, a relative, or one of the neighbor's kids and join us for a fun hike to the summit of Twin as well as to explore the historic and mystical Dibble's Quarry along the way. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for details.

Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337), 607-538-9484; lau090@dmcom.net

Sun., May 22 **BLACK DOME and BLACKHEAD**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev.: 3980', 3940' Order: 5, 3

A moderately-paced but strenuous bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register (no calls after Thurs., May 20, please).

Leader: Elie Bijou (#1,492), 518-873-2119; adirondacks@verizon.net

Sun., May 23 **Adopt-A-Highway Litter Pick-Up**

Give back to the Catskills and help pick up litter along a beautiful two-mile stretch of Route 214.

Meeting Place/Time: Notch Lake Parking area at 10:00 A.M.

Leader: Daniel Case (#1,238), 845-7781090; dancase@frontiernet.net

Sat., May 29 **LONE and ROCKY**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3721, 3508' Order: 17, 35

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate to fast pace.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between May 24-28.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., May 30 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3655' Order: 22

A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack with probable side trip to Huckleberry Point. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (no calls after 8:00 P.M.); lump63@hotmail.com

Sat., June 5 **WESTKILL**

Distance: 7-10 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderate, steady-paced trail hike; distance approximate depending on route. NO dogs. Poor weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call Leader to register between May 20-31. **(No sign-ups by phone or email will be accepted after 9:00 P.M. on May 31.)**

Leader: Alan Via (#429), 518-439-3514 (6:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.); be46@nycap.rr.com

Sun., June 6 **FRIDAY and BALSAM CAP**

Distance: 7 mi Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3694', 3623' Order: 20, 24

A moderate-paced bushwhack, possibly ascending via the Friday slide.

Meeting place/Time: Contact leader for details

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), 845-656-7057; erd@wilsey.net

Sat., June 12 **SHERRILL and NORTH DOME** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate to fast pace.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between June 7-11.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sun., June 13 **Evergreen, RUSK (and possibly East Rusk)** Distance: 6 (8) mi. Ascent: 2300' (2450')
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between June 7-11; no calls Sat. night.
Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.); wandatrails@verizon.net

Fri.-Sun., June 18-20 **Escarpment Trail Backpack** Distance: 23 mi. Ascent: Considerable
Starting Friday evening (as early as possible) with car placement, we will walk the entire Escarpment Trail, camping two nights. This is one of the finest scenic trails in the Catskills.
Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader by June 10 for details.
Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), 845-656-7057; erd@wilsey.net

Sat., June 19 **HUNTER and SW HUNTER** Distance: 9.9 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3740', 4040' Order: 15, 2

A strenuous trail hike and bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader for details.
Leader: Joe Bogardus (#1,399), 609-737-2542 (7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.); jbbogardus@yahoo.com

Sun., June 20 **BALSAM LAKE and GRAHAM** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3723', 3868' Order: 16, 7

A slow to moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between June 14-18.
Leader: Michael ("Mick") Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, X2 (10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.); mdunn@wyeth.com

Sat., June 26 **THOMAS COLE and BLACK DOME** Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3940', 3980' Order: 4, 3

A moderately-paced trail hike. Black Head is an option. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader for details.
Leader: Susan Poretz (#1,208), 845-246-1823 (7:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.)

Sat., June 26 **VLY and BEARPEN** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 33

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between June 21-25.
Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (7:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M. only)

Sun., June 27 **TWIN and SUGARLOAF** Distance: 8.6 mi. Ascent: 2700'
Elev.: 3640', 3800' Order: 22, 13

A slow to moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between June 21-25.
Leader: Michael ("Mick") Dunn (#1,272), 603-595-2678, X2 (10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.); mdunn@wyeth.com

Members and aspirants are cordially invited to attend the
THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

of the

Catskill 3500 Club

Saturday, March 27, 2004

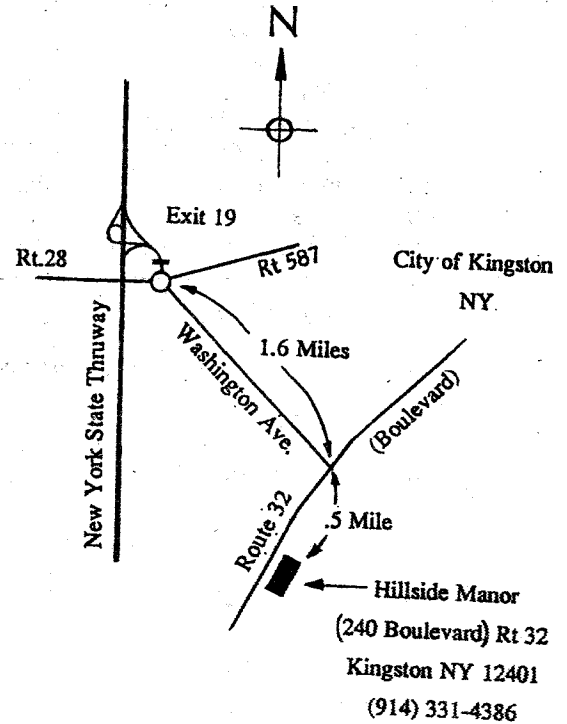
Location: Hillside Manor
 Route 32 (240 Boulevard)
 Kingston, New York 12401
 (845) 331-4386

Social Hour: 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
 Cash bar, hors d'oeuvres served

Dinner: 6:15 p.m. - Choice of Entrée:
 Prime Ribs au Jus
 Chicken Française
 Mixed Vegetable Lasagne

Program: "John Burroughs: The Spirit of a Naturalist."
 By: Tom Alworth, Executive Director of The
 Catskill Center for Conservation and
 Development.

Cost: \$24.00 per person
 Check payable to "Catskill 3500 Club, Inc."
 Name card reserved seating for everyone,
 Round tables seat 10
Reservations required by March 22, 2004



Detach and mail to: Charles B. Brock (631-473-0186)
 307 Myrtle Avenue
 Port Jefferson, NY 11777-1714

Reservations received later than
 March 22, 2004 will not be accepted.

Catskill 3500 Club

Reservations \$24.00 per person. Amount of Check: \$ _____

Circle Choice of Entrée

Name: _____	Prime Ribs	Chicken Française	Mixed Veg. Lasagne
Name: _____	Prime Ribs	Chicken Française	Mixed Veg. Lasagne

Use back of this form for additional names and choice of entrée.
 Also list names of others with whom you want to be seated.
 Name card reserved seating provided for groups and individuals.

NEW MEMBERS

No.	Name	Date Finished
1488	Anthony Versandi	12/29/02
1489	Tim Morrison	11/29/03
1490	Maureen McCahery	10/19/03
1491	Karen Rose	11/15/03
1492	Elie Bijou	11/23/03
1493	David Graves	11/27/03
1494	Jeffrey R. Diemer	12/21/03
1495	Thomas Kramek	12/27/03
1496	Danielle Besso	12/31/03
1497	Robert Andreasson	12/31/03
1498	Richard Andreasson	12/31/03

NEW WINTER MEMBERS

575	William P. VanSaders	3/16/03
576	Jeffrey Diemer	12/21/03
577	Douglas Egeland	12/28/03
578	Robert E. Fuller	1/11/04

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Asp.	Lawrence C. Swayne
1279	Lutz Heinrich
1351	Ken Hubert
1435	Mark Traver
1436	Carol Traver
1462	Jane Restani
1478	George Preoteasa

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

We are temporarily out of stock of the decals but should have both inside and outside types available at the dinner on March 27, 2004. As soon as I get them, mail orders will be filled. Please specify which type you need.

Please be sure to give me your email address (and area code if it changed) when you send in your dues.

Dave White

Frogs

Frogs sit more solid
than anything sits. In mid-leap they are
parachutists falling
in a free fall. They die on roads
with arms across their chests and
heads high.

I love frogs that sit
like Buddha, that fall without
parachutes, that die
like Italian tenors.

Above all, I love them because,
pursued in water, they never
panic so much that they fail
to make stylish triangles
with their ballet dancer's
legs.

Norman McCaig



the catskill canister

Vol. 37, No. 3

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2004

PEAK BAGGING

When I was working my way towards membership in this club, I was introduced to a woman during a pre-hike breakfast at Sweet Sue's. Her first words to me were "What number are you on?" It took me a second to realize she was referring to the number of peaks I had climbed and it struck me then that anything can be turned into a competitive sport.

This woman was involved in a competition with another woman to see who could finish the Catskill peaks first. Neither would admit that she was competitive but both would talk about how competitive the other was. They both finished their last peak on the same day, but the one who got the lower number actually mailed in her application before she went out for her hike. These two then went on to have unacknowledged but very real competitions over the Adirondack 46, the Long Trail and the Long Path. Last I heard, they were both working on the 111.

They are not alone. People want to see who can climb all the peaks on a given list the fastest, or the most, or in every month of the year. There have been numerous attempts to set speed records for hiking the Appalachian trail. One fellow did it in about two months with a pack. Another hiker, an ultra-marathoner, did it in a few days less but he had a support crew meet him at every trailhead. Debates ensued among purists about what constitutes a hike and whether records done with support crews should be allowed. Neither record is acknowledged by the Appalachian Trail Conference, which feels that speed records are not compatible with their notion of the spirit in which the trail should be used.

These days I live in sight of Mt. Monadnock and many weekends you can find me volunteering at the State Park there. Monadnock is the most climbed mountain in the world, with over 125,000 summit visits a year (it used to be number two, but then a road was built to the summit of Mt. Fuji). Monadnock is a good place to reflect on hiking as a competitive sport. There is one fellow who climbed Monadnock every day for an eight-year period. Extreme illness eventually broke his streak at 2,850 days, but if you include the climbs he did before and after, he has made more than 4,000 trips up the mountain. And counting....

I was sitting on the summit of Monadnock one fall day with a park ranger when he pointed out another hiker to me. "That guy holds the record for climbing Monadnock the most times in 24 hours." The ranger is an extremely accomplished hiker and was on the medical team for an Everest expedition. He climbs up and down Monadnock almost every weekend of the year, so I asked him what was the most number of round trips that he had ever done in a day. "Five," he said, "and I really felt it." "And what is that guy's record?" I asked. "Fourteen," said the ranger.

You also see lots of trail runners on Monadnock. The main trail from the Park HQ to the summit is a little over two miles long with an elevation gain of about 1,800 feet. Lots of people run up it in under 40 minutes.

And then there are the stranger approaches. One fellow hikes the mountain backwards. Another crawls up it. A group carries a canoe to the summit once a year. One guy made it to the top - somehow - on a unicycle. Next time you are at Monadnock and want to hear some interesting stories, talk to Ed and Dave, the two rangers who do most of the patrolling up on the mountain. From naked hikers to babies in strollers above treeline, they've seen it all.

Cont'd on Page 3

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Lark in the Park, the DEC celebration of the 100th birthday of the Catskill Park, will be held Oct. 2-11. Club members will lead hikes as part of the activities. Our club has designed a tee-shirt, available in the fall and at next year's annual dinner, to commemorate the centennial.

Anyone desiring a copy of the 2003 financial report for the club for should send a SASE to me with your request.

On July 5th, there will be multiple protest hikes against the mega-resort on Belleayre Mountain. To register, email: keepitwild@earthlink.com.

Recently your Executive Committee voted for our club to become a member of The Catskill Center. The club also made a donation towards a land purchase to the east of the trail to Kaaterskill just as it leaves the new DEC parking lot off CR 16. In addition, the club will once again support the ADK Summer Trail Crew with a sizable donation towards the cost of food.

The club thanks the following members who have recently volunteered as NY-NJTC maintainers for trail sections in the Catskills: Kevin Lockett, Douglas Egeland, Margaret Gaertner and Karen Rose.

Thanks also to Past President Michael Doehring for partially funding and ordering the new club banner in time for this year's dinner.

The annual listing of contact information for Executive Committee members may be found in this issue. Let us know your concerns, as long as you call before 9:00 P.M.!

Wanda Davenport (#523)

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we learn of the passing of Kenneth A. Shuker from lung cancer. During the first ten years of the *Catskill Canister*, he was responsible for mailing the newsletter to members and aspirants, as well as receiving subscriptions from aspirants. Beginning in 1971, Kenneth became secretary of the club, a position he held for almost five years.

Kenneth Shuker was born in November 1933. His father was a Presbyterian minister and his mother worked in the office of Norman Vincent Peale, one of the most popular preachers of the 20th century. Kenneth graduated from New York State Brockport Technical College and spent his entire working life at West Point. He taught industrial arts to cadets as a leisure-time activity.

Franklin B. Clarke (#33)

***** ADVANCE NOTICE *****

Wilderness First-Aid Course, Saturday, November 6 and Sunday, November 7, 2004. See p. 7 in this issue for details.

I am not immune to the lure of peak bagging, as my membership in this club attests. I am working on the New Hampshire 48 and after that the 111. I also endorse the mantra of many AT through-hikers: hike your own hike. It is not for me to judge anyone else's motivation for entering the woods as long as they are respectful of nature and other hikers. I do believe, however, that we can all benefit from a little self-reflection on why we do what we do. Bruce Scofield writes in his book, *High Peaks of the Northeast*, "the challenge [of peak bagging] is not to defeat another person, but to meet the demands of the mountains themselves."

I heartily endorse that ideal. I know that without the 3500 list to motivate me, I would have missed many spots of rare beauty and solitude, and I am extremely grateful to Hank Jenkins who first introduced me to the Club. Still, as I pursue my own peak bagging goals, I try to remember the record held by Andrew Zboray. Andrew is the head ranger at Monadnock State Park. One day we were doing some trail maintenance together and talking about all the strange things done by people trying to set records. Andrew turned to me and said, "Well, you know, I hold a record, too."

"Which one?" I asked.

"Most hikes on the mountain without bothering to go to the summit," he said with a wink, and went back to cleaning out a water bar.

Stephen Clark (#959)

Names and specific details have been intentionally omitted so as not to encourage the afflicted.—S.C.

A TALK ON LEAVE NO TRACE ISSUES

On Saturday, July 24 at 9:00 A.M., DEC Region 3 Ranger Jennifer Snyder will give a talk on Leave No Trace issues in camping and hiking for members of the 3500 Club. Please view www.Int.org for a discussion of the Leave No Trace (LNT) philosophy and principles, which are designed to minimize human impact in outdoor recreation.

The event will be held at the Olive Free Library. Jennifer will deliver a PowerPoint presentation, after which there will be a discussion period. Following this, the group will take a short drive to the Ashokan High Point area and hike in to observe first-hand the damage caused by not following LNT practices, and discuss how to avoid causing such impacts.

This promises to be a stimulating and informative event. We anticipate it lasting approximately four to six hours, so we suggest bringing a light packed lunch. This should be of interest to both day hikers and backpackers. There will be a \$10 charge to cover expenses, payable in advance. We request that you pre-register, as attendance will be limited to fifteen. Please contact the Outings Chair by email (erd@wilsey.net) or phone (845) 657-7057 for further details.

Ted Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), Outings Chairman

HUDSON RIVER RAMBLE

The Fifth Annual Hudson River Ramble is to be held on September 18-19 and 25-26, 2004. For the second year, the 3500 Club will be offering hikes as part of the program, a total of four in all. These are to be led by Dave and Carol White and Laurie Moore, who were also responsible for putting the program together over the two Ramble weekends. For more information, please visit the Ramble website at <http://www.hudsonvalleyramble.com/mainpage.htm> where a full list of the trips (including those run by the Club) may be found. A copy of the printed program may be obtained by calling (845) 334-9574 and supplying your address. Programs will be available in printed form in late August.

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2004**ASSUMED RISK**

Hiking involves certain inherent hazards, and persons participating do so at their own risk. When you participate in activities listed in the schedule, you should be both physically and mentally prepared and equipped with the appropriate gear. The trip leader is not responsible for your safety; you are.

- Sat., July 3 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
 A moderately paced trail hike. Thunderstorms cancel. Elev.: 3655' Order: 22
 Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register.
 Leader: Elie Bijou (#1,492) 518-873-2119 (no calls after 12:00 P.M., Fri., July 2); adirondacks@verizon.net
- Sun., July 4 **TWIN End-to-End** Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 1700'
 Elev.: 3640' Order: 23
 A strenuous trail hike at a relaxed to moderate pace. Short shuttle required. Rain cancels.
 Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between June 28-30 or July 1 (I may not be home Friday).
 Leader: Dave White (#859), 315-853-6942 (8:00 P.M. -10:00 P.M.); ccswhite@juno.com
- Sat., July 10 **INDIAN HEAD** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 1573'
 Elev.: 3573' Order: 29
 A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.
 Meeting Place/Time. Call or e-mail leader to register between July 5-9.
 Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1,373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.); mapcolus1@att.net.
- Sun, July 11 **SLIDE Loop** Distance 6.7 mi. Ascent: 1650'
 Elev.: 4180' Order: 1
 A moderate trail hike at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.
 Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register between July 6-10.
 Leader: Jerry Kuntz (#1,475), 845-987-8917 (between 5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.); jkuntz@rcls.org
- Sat., July 17 **FIR: Map and Compass Workshop** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1500'
 Elev.: 3620' Order: 25
 A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack with map/compass skills review. Bring trail map #43 and a compass. Steady rain cancels.
 Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.
 Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 before 9:00 P.M.
- Sun., July 18 **EAGLE AND BALSAM** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2700'
 Elev.: 3600', 3600' Order: 27, 28
 A moderate trail and bushwhack hike. Rain cancels.
 Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.
 Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)
- Sat. July 24 **SLIDE, CORNELL AND WITTENBERG** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000'
 Elev.: 4180', 3860', 3780' Order: 1,9,14
 A long, strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.
 Meeting Place/Time: Contact Leader to register between July 18-23.
 Leader: Laurie Moore (#1,337), 607-538-9484 (7:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.); lau090@dmcom.net
- Sun., July 25 **WINDHAM HIGH PEAK: Preparedness Hike.** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800'
 Elev.: 3524' Order: 34
 A pleasant stroll punctuated with emergency drills, including first-aid problems, fire-making, preparations for an overnight stay, etc. Please bring a "leader's pack" with enough gear for practice. All are welcome, from hiking novices to experienced leaders; the goal will be to refresh old skills and learn new skills. This hike will take place in any kind of weather.
 Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register.
 Leader: Jon Bentley (#1,384), 908-464-1096; jbentley@avaya.com

Sat., July 31 **Evergreen and RUSK**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2300'
Elev.: 3680' Order: 21A moderate through bushwhack at a moderate pace. We will need to spot cars. Thunderstorms cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register.

Leader: Elie Bijou (#1,492), 518-873-2119 (no calls after Fri., July 30, at noon); adirondacks@verizon.net

Sun., Aug. 1 **BIG INDIAN AND EAGLE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2150'
Elev.: 3700', 3620' Order: 19, 25

A strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Tom Rankin (#1,503), 845-926-6209; frankin@hvc.rr.com

Sat., Aug. 7 **PEEKAMOOSE: Trail Maintenance**Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3843' Order: 11Give back to the woods and bag the peak. Bring your loppers, saw, pickax, work gloves and an upbeat attitude.
Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Trailhead on Peekamoose Rd. at 9:30 A.M.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 P.M.); wandatrails@verizon.net

Co-leader: John Graham (#478)

Sun., Aug. 8. **HALCOTT AND NE Halcott**Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

A moderately paced and somewhat difficult bushwhack traverse. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register through 8:00 P.M., Aug 7.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), 845-657-7057; erd@wilsey.net

Sat., Aug 14 **BALSAM LAKE AND GRAHAM**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev: 3723', 3878' Order: 16, 7

A moderately paced hike and (minimal) bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Aug 8-13.

Leader: George Preoteasa (#1,478), 201-569-0244; g.preoteasa@att.net

Sun., Aug. 15 **BLACKHEAD**Distance: 4.5 mi. Ascent: 1740'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 4

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Aug. 9-13.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1,373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.); mapcolus1@att.net.

Sun., Aug. 15 **LONE AND ROCKY**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3721', 3508' Order: 17, 35

A long, strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Aug. 9-13.

Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (by 9:00 P.M.)

Sat., Aug 21 **PLATEAU AND SUGARLOAF**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3840', 3800' Order: 12, 13

A moderately paced, strenuous trail hike. Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register

Leader: Dawn Hamilton (#1,359), 845-926-6208; DawnLH333@yahoo.com

Sun., Aug. 22 **VLY AND BEARPEN**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1900'
Elev.: 3600', 3529' Order: 29, 33

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

Sat., Aug. 28 **SOUTH WEST HUNTER AND HUNTER**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 3740', 4040' Order: 15, 2

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for details the week before the hike.
Leader: Peggy Wissler (#1,499), 914-260-7506

Sun., Aug 29 **Ashokan High Point**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev: 3080'

A moderately paced hike to a scenic mountain under 3500 feet. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Aug. 23-27.
Leader: George Preoteasa (#1,478), 201-569-0244; g.preoteasa@att.net

Sat., Sept. 4. **WESTKILL**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2400'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderately paced and fairly difficult bushwhack. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register through 8:00 P.M., Sept. 3.
Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan, (#1,389), 845-657-7057; erd@wilsey.net

Sun., Sept. 5 **NORTH DOME AND SHERRILL**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3610', 3540' Order: 26, 31

A moderately paced bushwhack.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.
Leader: Ken Hubert (#1,351), 718-463-5675 after 3:00 P.M., Mon.-Thurs.; 518-827-7327 Fri.and Sat.);
hikeleader3500@att.net

Sat., Sept. 11 **THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME,
BLACKHEAD AND WINDHAM**Distance: 14 mi. Ascent: 4200'
Elev.: 3940', 3980', 3940', 3524'
Order: 4, 3, 5, 33

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate to fast pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Sept. 6-9.
Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1,348), 914-631-4861 (before 9:00 P.M.); pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

Sun., Sept 12 **GRAHAM AND DOUBLETOP**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2360'
Elev. 3868', 3860' Order: 7, 8

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register before Sept. 9.
Leader: Al Knight (#1,051), 518-827-8599 (7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.)

Sat., Sept. 18 **North Mountain**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 1800'

A moderately paced trail hike with, perhaps, the most beautiful views in the Catskills. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Sept. 13-16.
Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1,348), 914-631-4861 (before 9:00 P.M.); pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

Sat., Sept. 18 **DEVIL'S PATH: INDIAN HEAD, TWIN,
SUGARLOAF, PLATEAU AND
WESTKILL**Distance: 26 mi. Ascent: 8000'
Elev.: 3573', 3640', 3800', 3840', 3880'
Order: 30, 23, 13, 12, 6

An extremely long and difficult trail hike at a fast pace. Rain cancels.
Meeting Place/Time: Call Leader to register between Sept. 13-16.
Leader: Bob Novick (#1,086), 201-385-3161 (7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. only)

Sun., Sep. 19 **PEEKAMOOSE AND TABLE**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2800'
Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Sep. 13-17.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1,373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.); mapcolus1@att.net

Sat., Sept. 25 **FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, LONE AND
ROCKY**Distance: 15 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3694', 3623', 3721', 3508'
Order: 20, 24, 17, 35

A strenuous bushwhack at a steady pace. Work gloves recommended. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Sept. 19-23.

Leader: Donna Beth Stewart (#1,003), 212-722-2028 (8:00 P.M. - midnight)

Sat., Sept. 26 **PANTHER**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1800'
Elev.: 3720' Order: 18

A moderate trail hike at a moderate to fast pace. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#877), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 P.M.)

WILDERNESS FIRST-AID COURSE: NOVEMBER 6-7, 2004

Club member and EMT Maureen McCahery will once again offer an intensive 16-hour course, with a substantial book and completion certificate through the American Safety and Health Institute. The cost of the course will be approximately \$100.00, which includes the accompanying book and certification. The venue will be the firehouse hall (a large, comfortable space) in Olivebridge, near the Ashokan reservoir in Ulster County.

The WFA course emphasizes patient assessment skills, treating back-country trauma and environmental problems such as heat stroke and hypothermia. There are no prerequisites for this course and no first-aid background is assumed. The certification is valid for 3 years.

If you wish to participate, please email me at erd@wilsey.net to confirm, or phone (845) 657 7057.

Ted Ripley-Duggan (#1,389), Outings Chairman

2004 BOARD MEMBERS

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Winter Weekend	Art Zimmerman	artzim@msn.com	516-432-1205
The Canister Editor	Darielle Graham	jbgraham@optonline.net	914-241-2240

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Congratulations to all those who received their Certificates this year. To everyone who did not attend the dinner, I would like to let you know what member items can be obtained. Rosters are available for \$3.00 + \$1.00 S&H (shipping and handling). They include an alphabetic listing of active members and a numeric listing of winter members. Prices remain the same for patches and decals -- Regular \$2.00, Winter \$1.00, Decal \$1.50 -- but I am requesting fifty cents for S&H or a self-addressed, stamped envelope. For the decals, please specify inside or out. Note, an outside decal could decorate things other than a car window. Be creative!

Finally, thank you all for amending the bylaws to include two positions as voting members of the Executive Committee: winter weekend and aspirants. In regard to the latter, I wish to clarify the separation of duties. Aspirants/subscribers will receive the *Canister* and renewal notices from Judy Weiner. Members will receive them from me. Tally sheets, when completed, are sent to me. The application fee of \$5.00 covers a letter, card, patch and certificate. For those completing the peaks in winter the fee is \$2.00. For each membership you must be a subscriber to the *Canister*, or current with your dues. One last clarification: the term I used on the dues notice, "Associate," was meant to be additional members sharing one *Canister*, not a "limited income" level of membership.

Dave White (#859)
Membership Chairman

<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>			<u>NEW WINTER MEMBERS</u>		
<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1499	Peggy Wissler	01/11/04	0579	Susan Lehrer	01/26/04
1500	Dale Fox	01/11/04	0580	K W Hanson	02/15/04
1501	Peter Judge	02/01/04	0581	David Graves	02/21/04
1502	Daniel Vorisek	10/10/00	0582	Michael Strich	02/29/04
1503	Thomas Rankin	02/14/04	0583	Jim Bonadonna	02/22/04
1504	Bruce Campbell	02/14/04	0584	Jean Taylor	02/29/04
1505	Brian Buechele	02/15/04	0585	Stephen Klepner	02/28/04
1506	Craig Buechele	02/15/04	0586	Margaret Gaertner	03/10/04
1507	Christine Gillen	01/11/04	0587	Richard Moore	03/07/04
1508	Stephen Klepner	01/28/04	0588	Joseph Bogardus	03/14/04
1509	F Brice Faller	02/22/04	0589	Danielle Besso	03/14/04
1510	Michael Skeritt	02/28/04	0590	Christopher Post	02/14/04
1511	Elizabeth Panzer	02/14/04	0591	Robert Barthel	02/28/04
1512	Fred Barthel	02/28/04	0592	Fred Barthel	03/14/04
1513	Marsha Kramer	03/13/04	0593	Alan Knight	03/13/04
1514	Maria Osterman	08/01/03	0594	Irene Fusco	03/13/04
1515	Nola Royce	03/17/04	0595	Ken Krabbenhoft	03/16/04
1516	Jerry Nadasky	03/24/04	0596	Nola Royce	03/17/04
			0597	Jerry Nadasky	03/16/04
			0598	Russell Faller	03/21/04
<u>NEW LIFE MEMBERS</u>					
1499	Peggy Wissler	Asp. Mark Epstein			
	Asp. Scott Hudak	Asp. Frank Fallon			



the catskill canister

Vol. 37, No. 4

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2004

A FOOT SOLDIER IN THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE OVERLOOK MOUNTAIN

Of all the Catskill peaks the one I've hiked over and over again is Overlook Mountain above Woodstock. At 3,140 feet, it's small compared to the roller coaster peaks along the Devil's Path to the north or the massive front range guarding Slide Mountain to the west and, with a 2.5 mile dirt road to the summit fire tower, not as challenging. Nor can it be called wilderness. A huge transmission tower stands beside the trail high on the ridge, an ugly sight fortunately offset by nearby old hotel ruins that are fun to explore. Yet Overlook is the mountain to which I keep returning. It may not be difficult but it's always a treat.

The views are spectacular. From the fire tower, you can see many of the Catskills' highest peaks, extending as far west as Belleayre Mountain, marked by its ski slopes. To the south lies the Ashokan Reservoir and the broad valleys between the Shawangunk Ridge and the Hudson Highlands. There's also the pewter ribbon of the Hudson River passing under the tiny Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge and widening into a large bay. On the eastern horizon, you can see, on a cloudless day, the Taconics, the Berkshires, and the Green Mountains of Vermont.

My favorite spot for views is the cliff top about a hundred yards from the fire tower. Except for the Adirondacks, I can see all of the mountain ranges that have filled my hiking life for the past 16 years. And I can see the valleys where I've lived since moving to the Catskills in 1996. This past winter and spring I finally lived in the village of Woodstock itself, which from my cliff top perch looks like a little village with a church steeple sticking up above bushy trees.

I've sat on this cliff top to celebrate New Year's Eve; to celebrate a poem about sitting on this spot accepted by a literary journal. I've climbed Overlook to launch a new diet to lower my cholesterol; to console myself after a fight with a girlfriend; as a reward for finishing an assignment; or simply to stretch my legs after driving home from Manhattan. To be honest, I don't need much of an excuse to hike Overlook. This past winter and spring, I walked the summit road eight or ten times, starting with the first snow in early December and finishing with the spring warblers and bugs. I finally noticed the bear claw marks on several telephone poles leading up to the transmission tower. But I still haven't seen the rattlesnake known to sun itself beyond the shadow of the fire tower.

Last December, the Woodstock Land Conservancy and the Open Space Institute announced a \$1 million fund-raising campaign to acquire private properties on the slopes of Overlook to be added to the Catskill Forest Preserve of "forever wild" lands. At that time, the groups had just bought two parcels totaling 285 acres, but they still cite upwards of 1,000 acres that they would consider buying from willing sellers if they can raise the funds. As soon as I heard this news I knew I wanted to help. Living in Woodstock, I saw the consequences of failing to protect Overlook.

Late autumn in the Catskills has been described as "the season of the emerging hemlocks" for the way the dark conifers stand out so prominently in the newly-bare forest. But it's also the season of "emerging real estate." After being masked by foliage all summer, houses seem to appear on the mountainsides like garish billboards. After the first snow, not only could I see these houses hopscotching up Overlook, but several dirt roads that zigzagged even higher.

Cont'd on Page 3

THE CATSKILL CANISTER**President**

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The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., for \$10.00 a year. Articles on hiking or travel experiences, essays or poetry, should be sent to Darielle Graham, 60 Barker Street., #419, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Long-time Conservation Chair and past President, Howie Dash, is retiring this October. We thank Howie for his many years of service to the club. His are difficult shoes to fill but Carol White has volunteered to do so. Carol brings wide-ranging political experience and contacts in the environmental community to a position that requires communication skills and the ability to build relationships. Welcome to the Executive Committee, Carol.

Chuck Brock leaves the board after two years of yeoman's service as the Dinner Chair following in Roy Messaros' footsteps. Thanks, Chuck. Michael Doehring takes on the responsibilities of Dinner Chair. As a past President he brings institutional history to the Executive Committee and the new retiree's time to do the job. Dawn Hamilton joints Michael as assistant to the Chair, forming a committee of two.

Carol White has asked me to announce the following: Send stories of your Catskill Mountains hiking or backpacking adventures in all seasons to her at ccswhite@juno.com or 28 Mulberry St., Clinton NY 13323, for inclusion in a book. Describe misadventures, peak experiences, interesting encounters, challenging situations, accidents, things learned, observations, reflections, humorous moments, why you're out there.

Recently four maintainers retired after more than ten years of work on Catskill trails. Pete Senterman of the NY-NJTC once again is in need of additional volunteers to adopt a trail in the Catskills. Larry Armstrong is the latest member to take on an assigned trail, but we still need more maintainers. Please email me and I will forward your name to Pete.

Thanks to Dawn Hamilton for volunteering to represent the club at the spring club day at the new EMS in Poughkeepsie. In June Judy Weiner and Carol and Dave White manned a booth at the Belleayre Sports Expo to put out the word about our club. The club was also represented at a recent Focus Group held by the NY-NJTC in Mahwah, NJ.

Changes to contact information: Art Zimmerman: artzim1@msn.com; Scott Lane: hwdshiker1@aol.com; Will Nixon: 518-586-6404; Michael Doehring: clover7med@aol.com; Carol White has the same contact info as Dave White.

Wanda Davenport (#523)

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS/SUBSCRIBERS

If you have not sent your \$10.00 payment for 2004, this is the last issue of the *Canister* you will receive. Henceforth, if monies due are not received by mid-May each year, your name will be dropped from the mailing list. To receive a reminder, your current email address must be on file. To save postage, members receive a new membership card with the dues notice. Just because it is marked "dues paid" does not mean you do not need to send in a \$10.00 check!

Dave White, Membership Chair
ccswhite@juno.com

Judy Weiner, Aspirant Chair/
Subscriptions
Jmw755@aol.com

In the spring, I hiked one of these roads. Along the way, I found many spectacular views, several pitches steeper than anything on the summit trail road, and troubling signs of more houses to come. In particular, near the top of the road, I stood on a raised septic field which anywhere else in the Catskills would be an ideal location for a lean-to. It looked across a deep ravine at the summit fire tower and out over the Hudson Valley. It would be one of the most dramatic campsites in all of the Catskills. But instead of a public lean-to it may become a private mountainside mansion.

Last June, the Executive Committee of the Catskill 3500 Club voted for the club to contribute \$100.00 to this campaign. If you would like to help protect Overlook Mountain or want to learn more, please check the web site, woodstocklandconservancy.org, or write to the Woodstock Land Conservancy, Box 864, Woodstock, NY 12498. You may also call the Conservancy president, Michael DeWan, at 845-679-6994.

In the meantime, maybe we'll meet on top of Overlook. When the \$1 million goal is reached, I'll be the guy with the bottle of champagne. I just hope it isn't 12 degrees like it was on New Year's Eve.

Will Nixon (#1071, Winter #420)

MOSS-GATHERING

To loosen with all ten fingers held wide and limber
 And lift up a patch, dark-green, the kind for lining
 cemetery baskets,
 Thick and cushiony, like an old-fashioned doormat,
 The crumbling small hollow sticks on the underside
 mixed with roots,
 And wintergreen berries and leaves still stuck to the
 top, -
 That was moss-gathering.
 But something always went out of me when I dug
 loose those carpets
 Of green, or plunged to my elbows in the spongy
 yellowish moss of the marshes:
 And afterwards I always felt mean, jogging back over
 the logging road,
 As if I had broken the natural order of things in that
 swampland;
 Disturbed some rhythm, old and of vast importance,
 By pulling off flesh from the living planet;
 As if I had committed against the whole scheme of
 life, a desecration.

Theodore Roethke

CATSKILL 3500 CLUB HIKES: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2004**ASSUMED RISK**

Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. As cold weather approaches (the Club's official winter season begins on December 21), hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia. Instead, wear (or have available in your pack) garments of wool or fleece. Silk or polypropylene make fine base layers, as they keep the wearer warm even when wet. Hat, gloves and a headlamp (or flashlight) should be part of the standard winter kit. Ice and snow can come early and unexpectedly to these peaks. Snowshoes and crampons should be carried to the trailhead, although these need not be taken on the hike unless the leader deems they are warranted. For early season ice conditions instep crampons are often adequate, but in winter full crampons are requisite. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion.

Sat., Oct. 2 CORNELL & WITTENBERG

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2850'
Elev.: 3860', 3780' Order: 9, 14

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register the week before the hike.

Leader: Peggy Wissler (#1499), 914-260-7506

Sun., Oct. 3 PEEKAMOOSE: Trail Maintenance

Distance: 7.7 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3843' Order: 11

This is an opportunity to help maintain Peekamoose, one of the Catskill 3500 peaks for which the club is responsible. Bring loppers and a saw if you have them (if not they will be provided by the club) and work gloves.

Meeting Place/Time: Trailhead on Peekamoose Road at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Daniel Case (#1238), 845-778-1090; dancase@frontiernet.net

Sat., Oct. 9 HUNTER & SOUTH WEST HUNTER

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100'
Elev.: 4040', 3740' Order: 2, 15

A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register (no calls/email Friday, Oct. 8, after 3:00 p.m.)

Leader: Elie Bijou (#1492), 518-873-2119; adirondacks@verizon.net

**Sun., Oct. 10 Eastern Devil's Path Traverse:
PLATEAU, SUGARLOAF, TWIN,
& INDIAN HEAD**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 4800'
Elev.: 3840', 3800', 3640', 3575'
Order: 12, 13, 23, 30.

A moderately paced trail hike. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert (#1351), 718-463-5675 (after 3:00 p.m. - Mon.-Thurs.); 518-827-7327 (Fri.-Sat.); hikeleader3500@att.net

**Sat.-Sun., Oct 9-10 Western Catskills Backpack:
Trout Pond to Big Pond**

Distance: 22 mi.

We will travel over fairly gentle terrain in the little-used Cherry Ridge-Campbell Mountain and Middle Mountain Wild Forests. Shuttle required. Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from Sept. 14 - Oct. 1.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1389), 846-757-7057; erd@wilsey.net

Sat., Oct. 16 FIR & BIG INDIAN,

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2500'
Elev.: 3620', 3700' Order: 25, 19

A moderate to fast paced trail hike and bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe (#897), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 p.m.)

Sun., Oct. 17 **Ashokan High Point** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3080'

A moderately paced hike to beautiful views. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 12-16.

Leader: Pavel Litvinov (#1348), 914-631-4861 (before 9:00 p.m.); pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

Sat., Oct. 23 **BALSAM LAKE Firetower: Family Hike** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1350'
Elev.: 3723' Order: 16

A slow-to-moderately paced hike to the summit fire tower. Parent/legal guardian must accompany each child. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 p.m.)

Sat., Oct. 23 **Big Mountain Dreams:** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2800'
PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE Elev.: 3843', 3847' Order: 11, 10

So you dream of going out west to climb Rainier, Whitney, the Grand Teton? This hike will help you prepare for your dream climb. We will talk about gear, acclimatization and guide services. Bring a full pack (30 pounds for Grand Teton, 70 pounds for Rainier). All are welcome.

Meeting Place/Time: Trailhead at Peekamoose Road at 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Jon Bentley (#1384), 908-464-1096; jbentley@avaya.com

Sun., Oct. 24 **SHERRILL & Balsam:** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Map & Compass Workshop Elev.: 3540' Order: 26

A moderately paced bushwhack with map/compass skills review. Bring trail map #42 and a compass. Steady rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register. Registration closes Fri., Oct. 22 at 8:00 p.m.

Leader: Wanda Davenport (#523), 201-670-8383 (before 9:00 p.m.); co-Leader: Sue Eilers (#337)

Sat., Oct. 30 **BLACKHEAD** Distance: 4.5 mi. Ascent: 1740'
Elev.: 3940' Order: 5

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Oct. 25-29.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.); mapcolus1@att.net

Sun., Oct. 31 **FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000'
Elev.: 3623', 3694' Order: 24, 20

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Oct. 25-30.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan (#1389), 846-757-7057; erd@wilsey.net

Sat., Nov 6 **HALCOTT** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2200'
Elev.: 3537' Order: 32

A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register.

Leader: Dawn Hamilton (#1359), 845-926-6208, DawnLH333@yahoo.com

Sun., Nov. 7 **DOUBLETOP** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1860'
Elev.: 3862', Order: 8

A moderately paced, strenuous bushwhack and trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Nov. 1-6.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza (#1373), 718-698-4422 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.); mapcolus1@att.net

Sat., Nov. 13. **WESTKILL End to End.** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev.: 3880' Order: 6

A moderate to fast paced trail hike. Shuttle required.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#897), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 p.m.)

Sun., Nov 14 **FIR via Hemlock & Spruce** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700'
Elev: 3620' Order: 25

A moderately-paced bushwhack. Short shuttle required. Rain cancels.
Meeting place/time: call or email leader to register between Nov 7-12.
Leader: George Preoteasa (#1478), 201-569-0244, g.preoteasa@att.net

NOV. 16-DEC. 7: HUNTING SEASON (FIREARMS). NO HIKES SCHEDULED IN THE CATSKILLS

Sat. Nov. 20 **Adopt-A-Highway Litter Pick-Up**
Help pick up litter along a beautiful 2-mile stretch of Route 214.
Meeting Place/Time: Notch Lake Parking area at 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Daniel Case (#1238), 845-778-1090; dancase@frontiernet.net

Sat., Dec. 4 **The Appalachian Trail - NY RT. 22 to Bulls Bridge in Kent, CT.** Distance: 11 mi.

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Bad driving conditions cancel.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register the week prior.
Leader: Jim Malumphy (#890), 860-355-5573 (7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

Sat., Dec 11 **Penguin Rocks** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1700'

A moderately paced, easy trail hike up the Dry Brook Ridge trail as far as Penguin Rocks, returning on the Huckleberry Loop Trail. Shuttle required, but participants can opt not to spot cars. Heavy precipitation cancels. Snowshoes and/or full crampons may be required.
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register
Leader: Dawn Hamilton (#1359), 845-926-6208, DawnLH333@yahoo.com

Sun., Dec. 12 **BLACK DOME & BLACKHEAD** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2000'
Elev. 3980', 3940' Order: 5, 3

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels. Snowshoes and/or full crampons may be required.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register the week before the hike.
Leader: Peggy Wissler (#1499), 914-260-7506

Sat., Dec. 18. **TWIN & INDIAN HEAD** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2600'
Elev: 3640', 3753' Order: 23,30

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required. Heavy precipitation or bad driving conditions cancels. Snowshoes and/or full crampons may be required.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.
Leader: Harry Rampe (#897), 845-292-6736 (after 5:00 p.m.)

Sun., Dec. 19 **KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1730'
Elev.: 3651' Order: 22

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy precipitation and/or bad driving conditions cancels. Snowshoes and/or full crampons may be required.
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register between Dec. 13-17.
Leader: John Graham (#478), 914-241-2240 (by 9:00 p.m.)

Sun., Dec. 26 **SLIDE (Required Winter Peak)**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1650'

Elev.: 4180', Order: 1

A moderate trail hike at a moderate pace. Poor driving conditions or heavy precipitation cancels. Snowshoes and/or full crampons may be required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Dec. 23-25

Leader Margaret Freifeld (#929), 914-666-0710; mcfreifeld@yahoo.com

AN UPDATE ON THE NOVEMBER WFA COURSE

As announced in the previous issue of the *Canister*, on the weekend of November 6-7 we will be offering our second Wilderness First Aid Course for 3500 Club leaders and members in Olivebridge, near the Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County. As with last year's program, it will be led by Club member and EMT Maureen McCahery. Maureen is offering an intensive 16-hour course, with a substantial book to accompany it and a completion certificate through the American Safety and Health Institute. The course will emphasize patient assessment skills, treating back-country trauma, and environmental problems such as heat stroke and hypothermia and will include practical exercises and outdoor scenarios to help participants gain confidence and encourage the development of critical decision-making skills. There are no prerequisites for this course and no first-aid background is assumed. The certification is valid for 3 years. Total cost is \$100.00.

There are many B & Bs and motels within reasonable driving distance of the venue. If you wish to participate, please e-mail me at erd@wilsey.net to confirm, or phone (845) 657 7057 as soon as possible. As of this writing, we have about ten spaces remaining.

LARK IN THE PARK

The Lark in the Park is a series of outdoor events being held throughout the Catskills between October 2 - 11, 2004. For information visit the DEC website at www.dec.state.ny.us or call event organizers at 877-426-0323 for a free guide. The 3500 Club Lark hikes are as follows:

Sat., Oct. 2, 2004, 9:00 a.m. Wittenberg & Cornell led by Howie Dash (#458). Meet at the Woodland Valley Campground. Contact Howie to register at 845-255-3409 or by email at howiedash@aol.com.

Sat., Oct. 9, 2004, 10:00 a.m. Slide Mountain, the Catskills' highest peak, led by Jon Bentley (#1384). Meet at the Slide Mountain Trailhead parking area on County Route 47. Contact Jon to register at 908-464-1096 or by email at jbentley@avaya.com.

Sun., Oct. 10, 2004, 9:00 a.m. Kaaterskill High Peak led by Harry Rampe (#897). Meet at the trailhead on Platte Clove Road. Contact Harry to register at 845-292-6736

From garden to garden, ridge to ridge,
I drift enchanted . . .
gazing afar over domes and peaks, lakes and woods,
and the billowy glaciated fields . . .
In the midst of such beauty, pierced with its rays,
one's body is all one tingling palate.
Who wouldn't be a mountaineer!

John Muir

NEW MEMBERS

No.	Name	Date Finished
1517	Tim Kutch	03/20/04
1518	Juanita M. Wilsey	03/19/04
1519	Douglas M. Hamilton	05/01/04
1520	John P. Greene	01/04/04
1521	Lorinda S. Paul	05/20/04
1522	Jeff Stephens	05/22/04
1523	William T Bechtel	05/16/04
1524	Christopher Lanthier	10/05/03
1525	Frank Murphy	04/10/04
1526	Walter Markl	01/04/04
1527	Scott Hudak	08/03/04

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

599	Bill Schafer	03/14/04
600	William T. Bechtel	03/07/04

PERIPATETIC PORCUPINE

3500 Club past President Bruno Walmsley (#610, #205W) and Warren Hale (#576, #223W) recently completed hiking Vermont's Long Trail. They did it in sections over an 8-year period.

If there is a special event in your life or that of another member (graduation, engagement, marriage, promotion) or a special achievement on or off the trail that you would like to appear in the Peripatetic Porcupine column, send the news to Ralph Ferrusi, 34 Kim Lane, Stormville, NY 12582.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Winter Weekend, January 22-23, 2005. Hikes to required winter peaks will be scheduled. Look for details in the January-March 2005 issue of the *Canister*.

Annual Dinner, Hillside Manor, Kingston: April 9, 2005. Invitations will appear in the April-June 2005 issue of the *Canister*.

THE CAVE

Sometimes when the boy was troubled he would go
 To a little cave of stone above the brook
 And build a fire just big enough to glow
 Upon the ledge outside, then sit and look.
 Below him was the winding silver trail
 Of water from the upland pasture springs,
 And meadows where he heard the calling quail;
 Before him was the sky, and passing wings.

The tang of willow twigs he lighted there,
 Fragrance of meadows breathing slow and deep,
 The cave's own musky coolness on the air,
 The scent of sunlight . . . all were his to keep.
 We had such places - cave or tree or hill . . .
 And we are lucky if we keep them still.

Glenn W. Dresbach

FATHER'S VOICE

"No need to get home early;
 the car can see in the dark."
 He wanted me to be rich
 the only way we could,
 easy with what we had.

And always that was his gift,
 given for me ever since,
 easy gift, a wind
 that keeps on blowing for flowers
 or birds wherever I look.

World, I am your slow guest,
 one of the common things
 that move in the sun and have
 close, reliable friends
 in the earth, in the air, in the rock.

William Stafford