

# the catskill canister

*Steward  
of the  
Catskills*

Volume 39 , No. 1

January-March, 2006

<b>Inside</b>	
<i>Hike Schedule</i>	4 - 6
<i>Hike the Smokies</i>	7
<i>Taconic Crest Hike</i>	7
<i>Moonhaw Road Park- ing - still being abused</i>	8
<i>Overlook Mt. Pro- tected</i>	8
<i>John Robb Leanto Burned.</i>	8
<i>Ten New Members</i>	8
<i>T-Shirts Available</i>	8
<i>Conservation Chair has new book pub- lished.</i>	8
<i>Personal Vignettes sought</i>	8

## Bill Leavitt: December 16, 1911 to October 21, 2005

A most significant milestone in the Club's history has been reached: sadly, Number 1, Bill Leavitt, died on October 21, 2005. Some may assume the Club has been around "forever" but with the knowledge, that until just recently, our first member was still with us, we are forced to the realization of what newcomers we are, both individually and collectively. We are indebted to Bill's daughter, Ann Leavitt Clapper #13, and Bill's close hiking companion, Ray Donahue (winter #1), for the material in this article.

planned and executed marathon day hikes of many miles and many peaks; and he used his navigational talents to explore several bushwhacks up each mountain, until he found the most interesting route; his great companion for many of those adventures being Fr. Ray Donahue.

He did many of his hiking feats solo, such as climb the entire Great Range in the Adirondacks as a day hike, which his informal records show he did on thirteen occasions. For a number of years he climbed Hunter Mountain every Sunday to take the newspaper to the tower keeper, a Mr. VanValkenberg.

the strongest hiker that Ray had ever come across

Bill was born in Hudson, NY on December 16, 1911 and he died there October 21. He was married for 55 years to Elinore Godshalk Leavitt (#2) who served the club as Treasurer, Membership Chair, and, as a member of the catskill canister committee, typed this newsletter for many years. They completed the Catskill 3500-footers in the early 60's. After being graduated from Hudson High School, Bill attended Union College, and then worked most of his life as a machinist for the V&O Press Company in Hudson. He always walked to and from work (about two miles each way), NEVER taking the car, no matter how bad the weather. But his machinist career was not his passion; hiking was. And what passion that was; he didn't just enjoy plodding up the trail to the summit; he

Among his daughter Ann's first memories are hikes at North Lake and climbing Hunter Mountain in 1945, when she was but 5-years old (she spent part of that climb in a big LLBean pack basket, which she still has). During the period 1965-66 Bill served as the Club's first canister chair (the sign-in tubes, not the newsletter), his first duty being to place canisters on all the trailless peaks. Ann, went along on many of those trips helping to place canisters on Fir, North Dome, Table, Lone, Rocky and Doubletop. The first canisters were coffee cans and were not very successful [Editors note: I'll

*(Continued on page 3)*

**SAVE THE DATE**

- ⇒ **Winter Weekend** will be **January 27 - 29** at the Hilltop Acres Resort in Jewett, see page 2
- ⇒ The **Club Dinner** will be **Saturday, April 8** at the Hillside manor in Kingston ; invitations will be in the next issue of **the Canister**.

## The Catskill Canister

### President

Geoffrey T. Hoderath  
186 Whitehall Road  
Albany, NY 12209  
(518) 459-4758

### Editor

Martin A. Cohen  
wm169@verizon.net  
169 Pershing Ave.  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
(201) 670-8383

### Associate Editor

Michael E. Doehring  
7 Cloverdale Ave.  
White Plains, NY 10603  
(914) 761-7225

### Membership

David White  
ccswhite@juno.com  
28 Mulberry St.  
Clinton, NY 13323  
(315) 853-6942

### Subscriptions/Aspirants

Judith M. Weiner  
Jmw755@aol.com  
755 Anderson Ave., #4J  
Cliffside Park, NJ 07010  
(201) 840-7078

### Outings

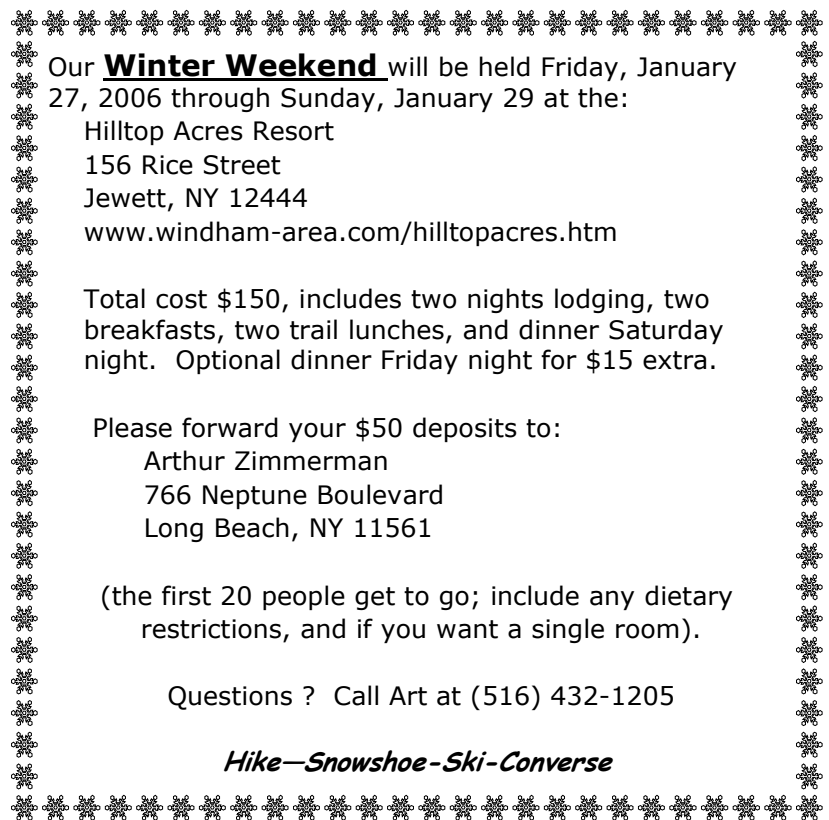
Edward Ripley-Duggan  
23 Mill Road  
Olivebridge, NY 12461  
(845) 657-7057

### Peripatetic Porcupine

Ralph Ferrusi  
34 Kim Lane  
Stormville, NY 12582  
(845) 227-6217

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 [wm169@verizon.net](mailto:wm169@verizon.net).

All material contained herein is copyrighted by the Catskill Canister.



Our **Winter Weekend** will be held Friday, January 27, 2006 through Sunday, January 29 at the:

Hilltop Acres Resort  
156 Rice Street  
Jewett, NY 12444  
[www.windham-area.com/hilltopacres.htm](http://www.windham-area.com/hilltopacres.htm)

Total cost \$150, includes two nights lodging, two breakfasts, two trail lunches, and dinner Saturday night. Optional dinner Friday night for \$15 extra.

Please forward your \$50 deposits to:

Arthur Zimmerman  
766 Neptune Boulevard  
Long Beach, NY 11561

(the first 20 people get to go; include any dietary restrictions, and if you want a single room).

Questions ? Call Art at (516) 432-1205

### *Hike—Snowshoe—Ski—Converse*

### **She Loves Playing in the Mud**

Wanda Davenport #523  
hour trail maintenance  
46-ers, and is well on her  
patch.



received her 146-  
patch from the ADK  
way to the 346-hour

**Editor's Note:** You no doubt have noticed the canister's different format this month, but if you prefer otherwise, don't be concerned (yet), it will probably change in ensuing issues. Such tumult is caused by the induction of a new editor, who is using different computer software than the previous editor, and who will be doing some experimenting.

With the exception of some exaggerations, we are interested in accuracy, particularly in the Hike Descriptions, so if you find any errors please let the editor know at [wm169@verizon.net](mailto:wm169@verizon.net). We hope your comments will help reduce the number of errors in the next issue.

Darielle Graham, our previous editor, served for 12 years, never missing a deadline; how many of us can so boast ? (Having served with a number of volunteer-run organizations, I can assure you that complacency about such matters is not wise). However, if it is December and you are reading this, then the new editor is off to a good start; if it is June ... oh well.

(Continued from page 1)

bet the porcupines loved them.], but Ann recalls having a great time putting them up. Early on they noticed that some placed in the winter were way too high on the tree when summer came, encouraging them to learn to make better estimates of snow depth. He and Ann loved to bushwhack. She recalls, as a teenager, sitting on the floor with her father and the USGS maps on a Friday night, planning a route for the next day. Often they would look for spots where the contour lines were very close together and then go out and pick their way up and around the cliffs. In later life many of their trips together and with friends were all or partly bushwhacks.

Elinore would lead the hike down after midnight

The record shows that Bill was a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club, the ADK 46ers (#143), the 111ers (#8); did the "End to End" in Vermont, and hiked the Taconic Crest Trail (29 miles) in one day (May 7, 1963). He climbed the Catskill peaks in winter many times, but never applied for the winter patch, which was in keeping with his unostentatious personality. Sometimes he would stand on a mountain top visiting with hikers, and ask them about the mountains they were viewing. Often the neophytes would label the mountains incorrectly, but rather than correct them, he would just nod, and thank them. At the time, such behavior on Bill's part would perplex Ann, but now she thinks it to be funny and just a reflection of his taciturn personality.

Bill and Elinore's contributions to the Club included leading many hikes, gifting the first printed membership cards, serving on the Nominating Committee for officers of the club (1967) and, more momentarily, being the hosts of Executive Committee meetings. October 1967 was the first of many fall Club executive committee meetings to be held at their family camp in Copake, NY, and Elinore did a huge amount of work to make these gatherings a success, including preparing a big dinner before the meeting (many times 20 pounds of mussels were steamed for an appetizer). As there was no electrical hook-up at the camp, meetings were held by the light of oil lamps and candles.

Besides Bill leading hikes for the 3500 Club and the MidHudson and Albany chapters of the ADK, Elinore, for a number of years, used to lead a joint hike on New Years Eve; Meeting Place / Time: the **top** of Slide Mountain at midnight. Elinore, Bill, and Ann would climb up by carbide lamp, lounge around in the lean-to waiting for people to show up and drink champagne; then Elinore would lead the hike down after midnight. Bill never drank anything stronger than tea, and the others had their champagne intake limited, owing to the difficulty of carting it up the mountain. [Editors note: sounds like a tradition needing revival.]

Bill was small in stature, trim (about 120 pounds) and extremely well conditioned, the strongest hiker that Ray Donahue had ever come across. Ray relates that, probably because of Bill's small size and quiet nature, casual hikers tended to volunteer hiking advice to him, which he always graciously accepted without comment. He appeared to enjoy any outdoor sport, which involved the use of his legs, including cross country skiing and snow shoeing (one trip which Ann remembers well, was a one-day ski from the ADK Loj to Upper Works and back - all in time for dinner). He also enjoyed bicycling (doing many trips of 50 and 100 miles), ice skating (as a youth he would skate on the Hudson River from Hudson to Germantown and back), ice hockey (which he played on the old-timers' team in his hometown of Hudson), and when there was no ice or snow: roller blading and roller skiing (one trip which Ann recalls was roller skiing with him from Glens Falls to Lake George and back).

Last summer, relating some of his first recollections of the Club, Bill said that it was his opinion that Elinore held the club together much of the time in the beginning, and that there was a lot of bickering early on [Editor's note: Not like now !]. They both worked very hard to get the canister typed, mimeographed, collated, and mailed; and they spent much time and energy on a multitude of Club affairs.

◆ ◆ ◆

*One day of trail maintenance for each year of hiking.*

## Hike Schedule January - March, 2006

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

Please note that bad driving conditions **along the leader's route** could force cancellation of the hike. Current roadway conditions may be checked at [www.travelinfony.com/wta/](http://www.travelinfony.com/wta/)

**Sat., Jan. 7. BALSAM CAP and FRIDAY** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2800' Elev.: 3623', 3694'

A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Jan. 2 and Jan. 5.

Leader: Joe Bogardus #1399; 518-576-9739 ; jbbogardus@yahoo.com

**Sun., Jan. 8. PLATEAU** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev.: 3840'

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register.

Leader: Margaret Freifeld #929; 914-666-0710 NCA 9:30 PM; mcfreifeld@yahoo.com

**Sat., Jan. 14. WITTENBERG & CORNELL** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 3100' Elev.: 3780', 3860'

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between Jan 9 to Jan 12 .

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

**Sun., Jan 15. PANTHER** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1830' Elev.: 3720'

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; 718-463-5675 after 3 PM (518-827-7327 Fri & Sat); hikeleader3500@att.net

**Sat., Jan. 21. SLIDE** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1800 ' Elev.: 4180'

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call the leader Mon.-Thurs. of the week before the hike to register.

Leader: Peggy Wissler #1499; 914-260-7506

**Sun., Jan. 22. S.W. HUNTER** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev.: 3740'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader by Jan. 19 to register.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; 845-657-7057; erd@wilsey.net

**Sat., Jan. 28. WINDHAM** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev.: 3524'

A beginner's trail hike with a gradual ascent and nice views at the summit. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between January 22-27.

Leader: Laurie Moore #1337; 607-538-9484 (7 PM to 9 PM); lau090@dmcom.net

**Sat. Jan. 28. NORTH DOME & SHERRILL** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 3000' Elev.: 3610' & 3540'

A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; 718-463-5675 after 3 PM (518-827-7327 Fri & Sat); hikeleader3500@att.net

**Sun., Jan. 29. BLACKHEAD**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1740' Elev.: 3940'

A moderately paced trail hike. If you also want to hike BLACK DOME and THOMAS COLE the same day, see the other hike listed for Jan. 29. We will coordinate start times for these hikes. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Email (preferred) or call leader to register between 1/20 and 1/26.

Leader: Tom Rankin #1503; 845-926-6209; trankin@hvc.rr.com

**Sun., Jan 29. BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE**

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

A moderately-paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Jan 23 to Jan. 27.

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

**Fri.–Sun., Feb 3–5. Catskill Snowshoe Workshop** (joint with AMC).

Experienced leaders will provide on the trail instruction and guidance on winter skills. Loaner snowshoes will be provided, on request, by the Tubbs Snowshoe Co. Expect a moderately strenuous hike each day. Accommodations at the Full Moon Resort just minutes from numerous hiking trail heads. \$165 pp (tax incl.) includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, and Sat. dinner.

Leader: Bob Fuller #1468 ; H:732-613-8992 W:732-420-2484 NCA 9 PM; refuller99@hotmail.com

18 Lonczak Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

**Sat., Feb. 4. HUNTER**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2040' Elev.: 4040'

A moderate to fast-paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email to register between Jan. 31–Feb. 2

Leader: Pavel Litvinov #1348; 914-909-6020 NCA 9 PM; pavellitvinov@hotmail.com

**Sun., Feb. 5. KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

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

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Jan 30–Feb 3, 2006.

Leader: Jim Malumphy #890; 860-355-5573 NCA 8 PM; lump63@hotmail.com

**Sat., Feb 11. RUSK**

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

An easy to moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader between Feb. 6–10. NCA 9 PM, Fri 6 PM

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; 718-377-2990; adirondacks@verizon.net

**Sun., Feb 12. SUGARLOAF**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent 2800' Elev.: 3800'

A moderately-paced strenuous trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

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

Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361; 518-943-5223; bobricket@netscape.net

**Sat., Feb. 18. BALSAM & EAGLE**

Distance: 6.25 mi. Ascent: 1942' Elev.: 3600' &amp; 3600'

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; 718-463-5675 after 3 PM (518-827-7327 Fri & Sat); hikeleader3500@att.net

**Sun., Feb. 19 HALCOTT**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent 2200' Elev.: 3537'

A moderate, short bushwhack. Dogs on leashes welcome. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

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

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; 607-724-5523 (6 PM to 9 PM); dbesso@stny.rr.com

**Sat., Feb. 25. WESTKILL**

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

A moderate but steadily paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register by Feb. 23.

Leader: Carol Nestor ; 914-683-3858 NCA 9 PM

**Each hiker must bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead.**

***Bad driving conditions may force cancellation of the hike.***



**Sun., Feb 26. GRAHAM**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1350' Elev.: 3868'

An easy to moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader between Feb. 20–25.Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; 718-377-2990 NCA 9 PM, Sat. 6 PM; adirondacks@verizon.net**Sat., Mar. 4. TABLE & PEEKAMOOSIE**

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

A moderate to fast paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Feb. 28–March 2Leader: Pavel Litvinov #1348; 914-909-6020 NCA 9 PM; pavellitvinov@hotmail.com**Sun., Mar. 5. BIG INDIAN & FIR**

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

A moderately paced trail and bushwhack hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Jan. 2 and Jan. 5.Leader: Joe Bogardus #1399; 518-576-9739 ; jbbogardus@yahoo.com**Sat., Mar. 11. INDIAN HEAD**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1570' Elev.: 3573'

An easy to moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader between Mar. 6–10.Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; 718-377-2990 ; NCA 9 PM, Fri 6 PM; adirondacks@verizon.net**Sun., Mar. 12. TWIN**

Distance: 6 mi, Ascent: 1700 Elev.: 3640'

A moderately paced trail hike on the Devil's Path. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between March 6–10.Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; 201-694-8344, gvp@ms.com**Fri.–Sun., Mar. 17–19. Snowshoe Weekend in Vermont** (joint with AMC)

Join us for spring snowshoeing. Leaders will run moderately strenuous snowshoe trips, but x-country and downhill skiers are welcome. Loaner snowshoes will be provided, on request, by the Tubbs Snowshoe Co. Accommodations at the Arbor Inn Bed & Breakfast in Stowe, VT just minutes from Mansfield (downhill), Trapp (groomed X-country), and numerous hiking trail heads. Outdoor hot-tub Amidst gorgeous mountains with spectacular views. \$155 ppdo (plus tax and tip) includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinners and social hour. \$100 deposit non-refundable after 2/20/05.

Leader: Bob Fuller #1468; H:732-613-8992, W:732-420-2484 NCA 9 PM; refuller99@hotmail.com;18 Lonczak Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

**Sat., Mar. 18. DOUBLETOP**

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

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

Meeting Place/Time. Call or email leader to register between March 13 to March 16.Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373; 718-698-4422 (7 PM–9 PM); mapcolus1@att.net.**Sun, Mar. 19. ROCKY & LONE**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2600' Elev.: 3508', 3721'

A moderately paced arduous bushwhack. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader by Mar. 16 to register (email preferred).Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; 845-657-7057; erd@wilsey.net**Sat., Mar. 25. BALSAM LAKE**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1000' Elev.: 3723'

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader by Mar. 22 to register (email preferred).Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; 845-657-7057; erd@wilsey.net**Sun., Mar. 26. VLY & BEARPEN**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev.: 3520', 3600'

An easy to moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rain or snow cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from March 20–24.Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; 603-595-2678 x2 (10 AM to 8 PM); mdunn@wyeth.com

**Each hiker must bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead.**

***Bad driving conditions may force cancellation of the hike.***

**Other Events of Interest**  
(these are not Catskill 3500 Club events)

**Springtime in the Smokies.** Sat - Sun **Apr 29 - May 7.** The AMC is sponsoring this trip led by 3500 Club member, Bob Fuller.

Seven days of hiking in beautiful mountains among wildflowers and waterfalls at the best time of the year. Experienced leaders will offer a variety of moderate (8 - 12 mile) to strenuous hikes (typically 12 - 15+ miles with up to 4000' of climb). Stay in scenic Gatlinburg, TN at a moderately priced motel with pool. Each room includes private bath, AC, TV, and refrigerator.

Est. cost of \$325 ppdo for 8 nights lodging, bar-beque(s), and dinner theatre/show(s). Trip fills early.

Leader: Bob Fuller #1468; H:732-613-8992, W:732-420-2484 NCA 9pm; re-fuller99@hotmail.com ; 18 Lonczak Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

**Taconic Crest Hike**— Need another trail patch ? This traditional, end-to-end, 29-mile, 7800 feet elevation gain hike will be held Sat, **13 May 2006.** Registration fills early; for more information please contact Colin Campbell, 924 New Scotland Rd., Albany, NY 12208; phone 518 438 9629; email: [holesinhead@aol.com](mailto:holesinhead@aol.com).



**People in Market for New Hiking Boots.** Connie Sciutto, David Galvin, and Harry Rampe climbed all 35 peaks in every month of the year.

**Age is No Limitation.** Frank Serravallo #1210 completed his third Catskill 3500 round — all done over the age of 80.



**Treasurer of the Over-the-Hill-Gang.** Friedel Schunk #248 was elected treasurer of the World Master Association, a group that organizes competitions for master track and field athletes.

*Poems by Paul Levine*

Orange Disk

*I said you won't believe this:  
Four old men dancing in the woods,  
all because of an orange disk on the trail.*

North South Lake

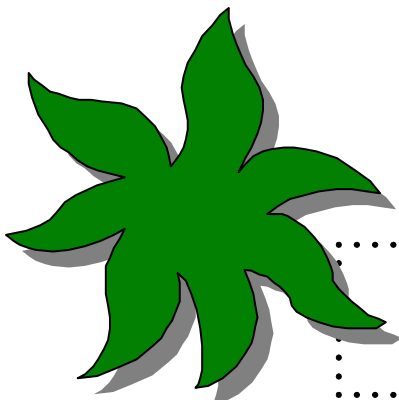
*Muses once walked this way  
across the lake  
across the snow  
promises kept, if made this way.*

Winter by the Little Stony Kill

*Free to dream  
of the river beneath the ice  
of love without the sin  
of you and I under stars.*

Magic 1

*To think of nothing  
but your name  
while sifting on a rock..*



LOVE YOUR canister EDITOR;  
Send **email** not paper mail to:  
[wm169@verizon.net](mailto:wm169@verizon.net)

## MISCELLANY

**Moonhaw Road Parking Abuses Reported.** Please adhere to the property owner's two simple requests:

1. Place a note in your car indicating who you are, where you are going, and how long (overnight or a day hike).
2. The owner has marked the route to state land with green paint and green dot markers. Please follow those markers so you do **not** end up going by his house.



**Overlook Mountain Protected.** Governor Pataki has formally announced the protection of 403 acres on Overlook Mt. The **Catskill 3500 Club** contributed to the fundraising campaign that made this purchase possible.



### New Members

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Finished</u>
1588	Karen Hibbard	09/03/05
1589	Carl Moon	09/03/05
1590	Janine Saatman	11/11/04
1591	Stephen Forte	09/17/05
1592	Marty Krise	09/18/05
1593	Marty Kutikoff	09/22/05
1594	Stephen Nichols	09/28/05
1595	David Hachey	07/16/05
1596	Renee Gerber	10/02/05
1599	Charles Hayden	10/29/05

### New Life Member:

1595 David Hachey



### **Notices From the Membership Chair.**

1. Dues notices will be arriving soon. Please include your email address on the renewal form and return it promptly. The fact that you are sent a membership card does **not** imply that you are already paid up.
2. We still have some of the larger sizes of the centennial John Burroughs t-shirt; please send an email to [ccswhite@juno.com](mailto:ccswhite@juno.com) for information.



**Fire Destroys John Robb Leanto.** On October 5, fire destroyed the John Robb leanto on the Hunter Mt. jeep road. A spokesperson for DEC says they plan to rebuild the leanto in the unspecified future, possibly somewhat relocated. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

**Who Was John Robb ?** A quick google yielded the fragments:

- a) Author of book with obscene title.
- b) Horse trainer suspended per a drug test.
- c) Secretary of War in early 1800's



**Conservation Chair Publishes New Book.** Our own Carol White has just had a book published which features first-hand accounts by 33 women who scaled the



46 Adirondack high peaks (those over 4,000 feet) in winter. These accounts, compiled by Carol into the book Women With Altitude, answer the question: "Why do I do this?" for these women who pursue this challenging sport. Recounted are many adventures resulting in falls, frostbite, forced

bivouacs, 70 mph winds, falling through ice, and scaling cliffs, all to achieve the ultimate emotion of "the peak experience".

Historical notes of winter hiking in the Adirondacks and the 46ers Club are included as well as pictures, map, and mountain information. The female perspective is illuminated with humor; the rigor of backpacking with the Rochester Winter Mountaineering Society, and the bonding that occurs between family and friends, as they attempt to surmount problems in the wild, is conveyed.

Only fifty women and 263 men are Winter 46ers, compared to nearly 6,000 three-season 46ers, whereas in the Catskills, 40% of the membership are winter members. The 33 stories are based on people's hiking journals, questionnaire answers, letters written to 46er club historian Grace Hudowalski, and ongoing communications, to get every chilling detail of their adventures. Women With Altitude is available at [www.northcountrybooks.com](http://www.northcountrybooks.com) bookstores in New York State or online.



**Your Chance to Be Famous.** With time on their hands Carol White and the Membership Chair, Dave White, are now compiling a book of Catskill adventures! Send yours to [ccswhite@juno.com](mailto:ccswhite@juno.com) or to 28 Mulberry St., Clinton, NY 13323, and see your favorite trail tales in print.





# the catskill canister

April - June, 2006

Volume 39, Number 2

## Cy Whitney: A Catskill 3500 Club Treasure

<i>Inside</i>	
<i>Hoderath on Conservation Advocacy</i>	2
<i>Hike Schedule</i>	4 - 7
<i>Dinner Meeting Program</i>	7
<i>Trail Maintenance opportunities</i>	7
<i>Dues payments and contributions</i>	7
<i>New canister on Vly</i>	7
<i>Dinner Invitation</i>	8

As we are an all-volunteer club, our survival is indebted to the few who do virtually all the work. I can't claim to know who has contributed the most time and energy to the club, but I would bet Cy Whitney, #266 (January, 1978), would at least be a candidate for that honor. Cy was President in 1986-87, and Membership Chair for twelve years, a position so demanding that, when he retired, two people were needed to replace him.

Recently he recounted to me in an interview that during his tenure as president things went quite smoothly, with only one momentous event that he needed to preside over: the adoption of SW Hunter as a new 3500-footer; possibly the only time that the club used a written ballot at the dinner/plenary business meeting. From our discussion I gathered that his service as Membership Chair was more demanding of him than his stint as club president. When Cy started as Membership Chair the membership and aspirant databases resided on 3x5 cards, but he soon realized that he would have to become computer literate in order to keep up with the explosion in membership that occurred during that period. In accordance with his usual optimistic countenance, he considered this task of modernizing the record keeping system as a pleasant opportunity rather than as a chore. Fortunately his Membership Chair position was coincident with his retirement from his paid employment,

as it did require a lot of time. During the time when there were only a few new club members added each year the membership cards and mountain completion certificates had been hand-lettered by a calligrapher, but with the membership explosion, automation was called for. Accordingly, Cy saved the day by redesigning these cards and certificates in a manner suitable for printing by computer. While these behind-the-scene innovations were very important to the club, the attribute that those of us who became members during that time most appreciate about Cy was his rapid response to our queries, an achievement in which he took great pride.

“when he retired, two people were needed to replace him.”

Of course, as one would suspect of someone as active

as Cy, the 3500 Club was not his only volunteer service: he has also been an Assistant Scout Master for about 40 years, during which time he has taken the scouts on numerous hiking and backpacking trips to the Catskills and elsewhere, a canoeing trip in the Adirondacks, among many other activities. One afternoon, when he had been camped at the base of Table with a boy scout troop, a man on crutches passed by with another hiker, intending to make the summit of Table. Cy expressed his admiration for his endeavor and also his concern that it was quite late in the day for the attempt. However the afflicted man pressed on anyway. Much later, in fact in the middle of the night, the man and his companion stumbled disoriented into the

(Continued on page 3)

### SAVE THE DATE

- ⇒ The **Club Dinner** will be **Saturday, April 8** at the Hillside manor in Kingston ; invitation on the back page.
- ⇒ **National Trails Day** is Saturday, June 3; do something nice for a trail.

### The Catskill Canister

#### President

Geoffrey T. Hoderath  
186 Whitehall Road  
Albany, NY 12209  
(518) 459-4758

#### Editor

Martin A. Cohen  
wm169@verizon.net  
169 Pershing Ave.  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
(201) 670-8383

#### Associate Editor

Michael E. Doehring  
7 Cloverdale Ave.  
White Plains, NY 10603  
(914) 761-7225

#### Membership

David White  
ccswhite@juno.com  
28 Mulberry St.  
Clinton, NY 13323  
(315) 853-6942

#### Subscriptions/Aspirants

Judith M. Weiner  
Jmw755@aol.com  
755 Anderson Ave., #4J  
Cliffside Park, NJ 07010  
(201) 840-7078

#### Outings

Edward Ripley-Duggan  
23 Mill Road  
Olivebridge, NY 12461  
(845) 657-7057

#### Peripatetic Porcupine

Ralph Ferrusi  
34 Kim Lane  
Stormville, NY 12582  
(845) 227-6217

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 [wm169@verizon.net](mailto:wm169@verizon.net).

All material contained herein is copyrighted by the Catskill Canister.

### The President's Column

Conservation Advocacy — of no little importance

Last year, the National Park Service opened the first phase of "The Hudson River School Art Trail." That "trail" is a project to map the painting sites of the artists of the Hudson River School, America's first school of landscape painting. By following the trail, travelers may walk in the footsteps of the artists and see the vistas that were their inspiration.

Many of the Catskill vistas those nineteenth century artists captured with such fidelity and sensitivity are substantially unchanged. The purpose of the Art Trail is to demonstrate that point. Given the depredations of tan-lords and quarrymen, and the Catskills' largest metro-markable cir-

Nevertheless, the everlasting

and enrich the present. Yet, the age-old struggle continues: exploitation versus preservation. Those of us who have traveled the Mountains and come under their spell [how else to explain repeatedly bushwhacking to viewless, balsam-shrouded summits?] must therefore consider and act for their future.

As a result, conservation advocacy is one of the Club's most important activities. Most recently, our Conservation Chair, Carol White, prepared a cogent and persuasive submission in support of the DEC's "Open Space Conservation Plan." That plan provided a framework for the acquisition of forestland within the Catskill Park that merited the Club's support.

That type of advocacy is not the exclusive province of the Executive Board. All of the Club's members have the same opportunity to make their views known whenever the State solicits public response. In a posting to the list-serve, Carol White described the DEC's Plan and encouraged individual responses. To those who took the time to make submissions, thanks.

Geoff Hoderath

**Editor's Note:** Last issue some graphics, such as the mountains on the masthead and a few porcupines, were lost in the incompatibilities between Microsoft products. This time, using some free software, we

are converting the canister to a PDF file before transmitting it to the printer, in the expectation of remedying that problem. One wonders how many missing graphics are roaming the internet like lost souls searching for the canister on SW Hunter.

(Continued from page 1)

scouts' camp; so it fell to Cy, of course, to guide them out in the dark to the trailhead.

In another anecdote Cy related that in October, 1979 The Middletown Record newspaper assigned a 26-year old reporter, to go along on a Club hike. The group headed up Van Wyck on the way to Table and planned to finish at the Peekamoose Road trailhead. However, not too long into the hike the reporter developed physical problems, his legs ached and lost their strength. Later, as the reporter could climb no more, an emergency plan was devised that had most of the hike proceeding ahead to the cars on Peekamoose Road, while Cy improvised a route traversing around the mountain and bailing out to Denning. Meanwhile, as Cy was coaxing the reporter along inch-by-inch and at times carrying him, Roy Messaros, the hike leader, sent someone ahead to arrange for medical evacuation support at the trailhead. As the ordeal progressed the day got darker and rainier, but eventually Denning was reached with the reporter still alive, but maybe not so well. Obviously the reporter had had no idea what he was getting into; he didn't get his summit, but he did get his article (which Cy had saved), a rather lengthy piece that reminded me of those written about Himalayan travails.

"Cy improvised a route traversing around the mountain and bailing out to Denning"

Reflecting, Cy feels that the club has been successful by sticking to its niche, focusing on hiking and environmental action in the Catskills, leaving the heavy political hitting to organizations such as the Sierra Club. He particularly admired the club's actions in building the Leavitt leanto; funding paid trail crews for special trail maintenance projects, and supporting an environmental lobbyist. He suggests that the club might consider raising money for other special environmental projects, possibly joint with the Catskill Center who, as an example, initiated a bald eagle preservation project. He has observed over the years that the club has maintained its success thanks to the volunteers who continually step up to handle the necessary leadership tasks.

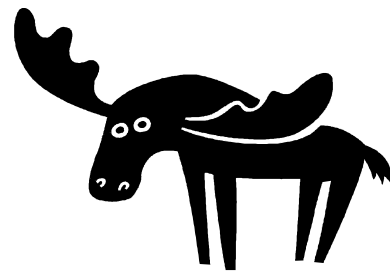
He loves the Catskills, in part owing to their uniqueness as a hardwood forest in this area, as compared to the Adirondacks and Whites, whose flora

are quite different. When he was an active hiker Cy used to carpool to the Catskills with Roy Messaros and Fred Schmelzer. He enjoyed associating with club members and other hikers as he found they shared a common love for nature and the environment, and were in general, quite civic minded.

Cy started hiking at age 41, after moving to Wyckoff, NJ from New York City. He became enamored with Wyckoff's nearness to Harriman, that great hiking venue, and was immediately surprised at how enjoyable hiking could be; he hiked almost every weekend. He was employed in the financial industry for most of life: with the government's Federal Home Loan Bank, and in private industry selling government bonds. He found the FHLB job particularly satisfying because of being able to help people like himself finance the purchase of their homes. He was 79 last December and will be celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary in 2006 with his wife, Eileen, and their four children.

Although his current infirmities limit his physical activities, as a firm believer in "use it or lose it" when it comes to both physical and mental condition, Cy regularly takes neighborhood walks, swims at the Y, competes at duplicate bridge every week, and does crossword puzzles; but he still considers that there is nothing more exhilarating than being on a ridge in the Catskills in mid January.

◆ ◆ ◆



*One day of trail maintenance for each year of hiking.*

## Hike Schedule April - June, 2006

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

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

**Sat., April 1. KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev: 3655'

A moderately paced trail hike with a short bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (preferred) leader before March 31.

Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361; 518-943-5223; bobricket@netscape.net

**Sun., April 2. WESTKILL** Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev: 3880'

A moderately paced trail through hike (shuttle). May still be winter conditions, bring snowshoes & crampons.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; 718-463-5675 after 3pm (518-827-7327 Fri & Sat); hikeleader3500@att.net.

**Sun., April 2. BIG INDIAN & FIR** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev: 3700',3620'

A full day, moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack from Biscuit Brook trailhead near Frost Valley. Dogs welcome. Heavy rain, snow, or bad driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader by April 1 to register

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; 607-724-5523 (6 pm to 9 pm); dbesso@stny.rr.com

**Sat., April 8. Catskill 3500 Club Litter Pick-up**

This is a chance to do something in return for your Club. Please bring work gloves. Plastic trash bags and safety gear will be provided.

Meeting Place/Time: Notch Lake parking Area at 9am.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; 718-377-2990; adirondacks@verizon.net

**Sun., April 9. RUSK** Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev: 3680'

A moderately paced bushwhack. Snowshoes and full crampons may be required. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between April 2—7.

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; 201-694-8344; gvp@ms.com

**Sat., April 15. EAGLE & BALSAM** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2700'. Elev: 3600'

Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike, shuttle required. Inclement weather cancels

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877; 845-292-6736 after 5pm.

**Sun., April 16. PEEKAMOOSE (and possibly TABLE)** Distance: 5 mi. (9 mi.) Ascent: 2623' Elev: 3843' (3847')

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from Jan 10—14.

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

**Each hiker must bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead.**

***Bad driving conditions might force cancellation of the hike.***

**Sat., April 22. PLATEAU & SUGARLOAF**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 3100' Elev: 3840', 3800'

A moderately paced but strenuous trail hike on Earth Day! We will go up the Mink Hollow Trail to the Devil's Path, up Plateau, then over Sugarloaf and out Pecoy Notch to enjoy a little time on the thrones. Heavy precipitation cancels..

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register by April 21.Leader: Dawn Hamilton #1359; 845-926-6208; DawnLH333@yahoo.com**Sun., April 23. THOMAS COLE**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent 1930' Elev: 3940'

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from April 17 - 21.Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373; 718-698-4422 (7:00 pm- 9:00 pm); mapcolus1@att.net.**Sat., April 29. Peekamoose and Table Trail Maintenance.**

Novices thru experienced maintainers welcome.

Meeting Place/Time: 9am at Peekamoose Road trailhead. Bring work gloves and tools if you have them; otherwise the Club will provide them for you.Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; 718-377-2990; adirondacks@verizon.net**Sun., April 30. WITTENBERG & CORNELL**Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3100' Elev: 3780', 3860'

An easy to moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from April 24-28.Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; 603-595-2678 x2 (10:00 am to 8:00 pm); mdunn@wyeth.com**Sat., May 6. VLY & BEARPEN**Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 2200' Elev: 3520', 3600'

A moderately paced bushwhack. We will come in from the south (Fleischmanns). Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register by May 5.Leader: Dawn Hamilton #1359; 845-926-6208, DawnLH333@yahoo.com**Sun., May 7. HUNTER**Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev: 4040'

An easy to moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from May 1-5.Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; 603-595-2678 x2 (10:00 am to 8:00 pm); mdunn@wyeth.com**Sat., May 13. DOUBLETOP**Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 1860' Elev 3862'

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Big Indian ascent optional.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader.Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; 718-377-2990 NCA 9 pm; Fri 6 pm; adirondacks@verizon.net**Sun., May 14. TWIN**Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev: 3640'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from May 8-11.Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326; 718-435-4943 (after 7:00 pm); suzkna@msn.com.**Fri.-Sun., May 19-21. Devil's Path Traverse**

A two-night backpack in the Catskills. The Devil's Path (24 miles) crosses Indian Head, Twin, Sugarloaf, Plateau and Westkill Mountains. This is a physically demanding hike, with a very substantial gain and loss of elevation (in aggregate, almost 16,000 feet), with extremely rugged trails in places. Scrambling will be required on several peaks, although there is no real exposure. Participants must have done at least one prior backpack over the past 12 months and be in good physical shape. This route is awkward with bulky or heavy packs. It will be necessary to spot cars on Friday PM, and walk a short distance to a lean-to. Listed jointly with AMC.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register by May 12.Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; 845-657-7057 NCA 8 PM; erd@wilsey.net**Sat., May 20. Frick Pond - Quick Lake Trails, SW Catskills.**Distance: 8-12 mi. Ascent: Dependent upon length. Elev: 2200'-2800'

A moderately paced hike on as many blazed and snowmobile trails as time and conditions permit in this rarely visited area. Heavy or steady rain cancels. Joint with AMC.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader for details and for NYC carpooling by May 18.Leader: Richard Barr #604; 212-877-2694; richardedbarr@aol.com

It is imperative that hike participants do not race ahead of the group, as this could create serious problems of safety and navigation.



- Sat. May 20. PANTHER** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev: 3720'  
Moderately paced trail hike. Inclement weather cancels.  
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader.  
Leader: Harry Rampe #877 845-292-6736 after 5pm.
- Sun., May 21. BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev: 3720', 3868'  
A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain may cancel.  
Meeting Place/Time: Email (preferred) or call leader to register from May 14 - 20.  
Leader: Tom Rankin #1503; 845-926-6209; trankin@hvc.rr.com
- Sat., May 27. HALCOTT** Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev: 3537'  
A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.  
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (preferred) leader before May 26.  
Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361; 518-943-5223; bobrocket@netscape.net
- Sun., May 28. INDIAN HEAD** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent 1700' Elev: 3573'  
A moderately paced trail hike on the Devil's Path. Bad weather cancels.  
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between May 21-26.  
Leader: George Preteasa #1478; 201-694-8344, gvp@ms.com
- Sat., June 3. North Lake Circular** Distance: 9 mi. Ascent & Elev: Depends on route.  
Not a peak, but a lovely trail hike with stunning views; moderate but steady pace. Heavy rain cancels.  
Meeting Place/Time: Call the leader by June 1 to register.  
Leader: Carol Nestor #1325; 914-683-3858. NCA 9 pm.
- Sun., June 4 Peekamoose and Table Trails and Leanto Maintenance**  
Trail and Leanto maintenance on Table Mt. Novices thru experienced maintainers welcome. Please bring work gloves and any tools (lopper, shovel, hoe, saw), that you may have; otherwise, tools will be provided.  
Meeting Place/Time: Denning trailhead at 9:00 am.  
Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; 718-377-2990; adirondacks@verizon.net
- Sat., June 10. BLACKHEAD & BLACK DOME** Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev: 3940', 3980'  
A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.  
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register Mon - Thurs during the week before the hike.  
Leader: Peggy Wissler #1499; 914-260-7506
- Sun., June 11. HUNTER & SW HUNTER** Distance: 7.5 mi. Ascent 2100' Elev: 4040', 3740'  
Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Will require car shuttle.  
Meeting Place/Time: Call leader.  
Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; 718-377-2990 NCA 9 PM; Fri 6 PM adirondacks@verizon.net
- Sat., June 17. WINDHAM** Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev: 3524'  
Moderately paced trail hike, shuttle required. Inclement weather cancels.  
Meeting Place/Time: \_Call leader to register.  
Leader: Harry Rampe #877 ; 845-292-6736 after 5pm.
- Sun., June 18. LONE & ROCKY** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300' Elev: 3721',3508  
A strenuous bushwhack at a moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels.  
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (preferred) leader before June 16.  
Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361; 518-943-5223; bobrocket@netscape.net
- Sun., June 18. NORTH DOME** Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev: 3610'  
A moderately paced bushwhack. Heavy rain cancels.  
Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from June 12-16.  
Leader: Michael "Mick" Dunn #1272; 603-595-2678 x2 (10:00 am to 8:00 pm ); mdunn@wyeth.com

As a matter of courtesy to our volunteer hike leaders, we ask that you let them know as early as possible if you have to cancel your attendance on a hike.



**Sat., June 24. WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE** Distance: 10 mi. Ascent 4000' Elev: 3780' 3860' 4180

A strenuous but moderately paced trail hike. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from June 19 - June 23.

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

**Sun., June 25. FRIDAY**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent 2494' Elev: 3694'

A moderately paced bushwhack hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time Call or email leader to register from June 19 - 23.

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

Dinner Meeting Program

Our speaker will be Prof. Robert Titus, who will speak on "Visions of Ice Age Catskill Mountaintops".

All members of the 3500 club know the pleasure of standing atop a Catskill peak and witnessing a magnificent view of nothing but nature. To a geologist the perspective is different. Dr. Titus plans to take the audience on a visit to three of our mountaintops and see, not balsam, but a view of the ice age. We will first see the coming of the glaciers from Vromans Nose, then we will travel to Slide Mountain to see the peak of ice age glaciation. Finally we will view the melting of the ice from atop the north rim of Kaaterskill Clove.

*Dr. Robert Titus is a geology professor at Hartwick College in Oneonta. He is the author of "The Catskills: A Geological Guide," published by Purple Mountain Press.*

New Members

1597	Judy Brandow	10/20/05
1598	Jan O'Hare	10/20/05
1600	William R Krisak	09/12/05
1601	Woodrow E.B. Smith	12/18/05
1602	John M Chapman	12/22/05
1603	Susan Thomas	12/31/05
1604	Ronald S Brink	12/31/05
1605	Randy P Caldwell	07/19/05
1606	Ellen Berman	01/06/06
1607	Roman Laba	05/30/05
1608	Richard L Balboni	01/22/06
1609	Rose Dong Zhen Brodell	01/29/06
1610	Jane Grayson	01/21/06
1611	Reid Grayson	01/21/06
1612	Charlene Metz	01/30/06

New Winter Members

0627	Thomas Rankin	(1503)	01/07/06
0628	Jay Hui	(1546)	01/15/06
0629	Charles Lutomski	(0786)	01/15/06
0630	Loren P Quinby	(1559)	01/22/06
0631	Timothy Holmes	(1445)	01/22/06

New Life Members

Aspirant	Daniel G. Murray
0786	Charles Lutomski
1503	Thomas F. Rankin

**Scree**

The Membership Chair appreciates the prompt **dues payments (and contributions)** received so far, and looks forward to receiving the rest soon so that all may be included in the roster of active members.



On December 24 the **canister on Vly** was replaced, back onto its old tree, which is close to the summit.



**National Trails Day is Sat., June 3, 2006.** Why not plan something nice for a trail of your choice on that day. Ideas might include a spot of trail maintenance, writing a conservation advocacy letter to your local newspaper or government official, introducing some house-bound people to the outdoors, etc.



If you can't get out National Trails Day or if you prefer company, our dedicated Trails Maintenance Chair, Elie Bijou, has scheduled **trail maintenance** on April 29 and June 4; do one, do them all.

Our youngest finisher this year is 9-year old Rose Dong Zhen Brodell (#1609) who, under the tutelage of her mother, Katrina (#67), ascended the icy north face of Blackhead on Sunday, Jan 29, thus completing her peaks in little over one year.



LOVE YOUR canister EDITOR;

Send **email** not paper mail to:

wm169@verizon.net

Members and aspirants are cordially invited to attend the  
**FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**  
**Saturday, April 8, 2006**

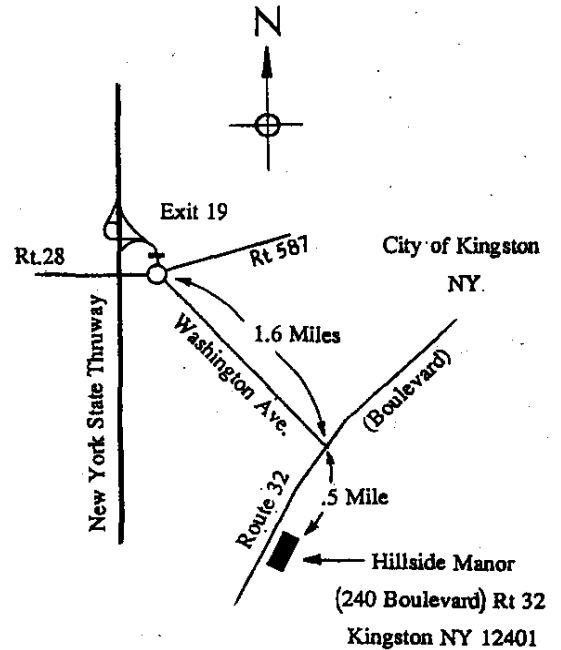
**Location:** Hillside Manor  
 Route 32 (240 Boulevard)  
 Kingston, New York 12401  
 (845) 331-4386

**Social Hour:** 4:00 P.M. — 5:30 P.M.  
 Cash bar, hors d'oeuvres served

**Dinner:** 5:45 p.m.

**Program:** Prof. Robert Titus, author of "*The Catskills: A Geological Guide*" will speak on "**Visions of Ice Age Catskill Mountaintops**" (see page 7).

**Tariff:** \$32.00 per person.  
 Check payable to "Catskill 3500 Club, Inc."  
 Name-card reserved seating for everyone.  
 Round tables seat 10.



**Reservations must be received by March 27, 2006**

Detach and mail to: Michael Doehring  
 7 Cloverdale Avenue  
 White Plains, NY 10603  
 (914) 761-7225

Reservations \$32.00 per person. Amount of Check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Choice of Entrée

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Ribs    Chicken Française    Mixed Veg. Lasagna

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Ribs    Chicken Française    Mixed Veg. Lasagna

If you intend to sit with a large group, print the names of the people you would like seated at your table, and please verify that the people listed will actually attend and wish to sit with you. Name card reserved seating provided for groups and individuals.


**Reservations must be received by March 27, 2006.**



# the catskill canister

July - September 2006

Volume 39, Number 3

## Climbing Kilimanjaro: An Ascent to 19,305 Feet

### Inside

<i>Last Call for Dues</i> .....	1
<i>Tyrol Declaration on Best Practice in Mt. Sports</i> .....	2
<i>Hike Schedule</i> .....	4
<i>Trail Maintenance Report</i> .....	7
<i>Parking Limited on Moonhaw Road</i> .....	7
<i>New Catskill Book</i> .....	7
<i>Our New Members</i> .....	7
<i>Art Zimmerman noted in Long Beach Tribune</i> .....	8
<i>Club Contact List</i> .....	8

### ..... • SAVE THE DATE • .....

- ⇒ Hudson Valley Ramble: Sept 16-17 and 23-24; page 7
- ⇒ Trail Maintenance: Sept 23; page 6.
- ⇒ Long Path Backpack: Sept 8-11; page 7

**If you have not yet paid your 2006 dues, this will be your very last canister. Don't miss an issue, renew now !**

**F**or me, it all began when I took the Wilderness First Aid Course where there was talk about climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, at 19,305 feet “The Roof of Africa”. I said I was interested and so on January 7th we all met at the Mountain Inn Hotel in Moshi at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro: Earl Albright, Herbert Coles, Jo Ellen Eisner, Steven Lander, Lilo Richter, Yoshiko Takeshita, and me. Were we ready to go? Could our equipment withstand the cold? Would we get altitude sickness? What would the weather be like? What would the food be like? Would our drinking water be boiled?

**J**anuary 8th. We piled into two Land Rovers along with our guides; porters and gear (no one is allowed to climb without a guide) en route to the Lemosho Trail which crosses the Shira Plateau. On our route we would ascend at a slower pace, than the traditional Marangu Trail route, taking six days to climb instead of three days, feeling we would have a better chance at acclimatization. When we got to the trailhead we started climbing through a forest, going from 7,500 to 9,000 ft. At one point we came upon matted grass where elephants had rested. On arrival at our first camp, tents were already being set up. Stools were brought out and tea and biscuits were served. All our campsites but the last were near streams. Not bad so far. It was still warm and we washed up and went to bed early. The stars were huge and very bright, and some nocturnal animal let out an occasional

screech during the night.

**J**anuary 9th. After a breakfast of fresh fruit, porridge, scrambled eggs, bread and tea, we resumed climbing in the thick forest decorated with what looked like Spanish moss hanging from the trees. Some of the tree trunks were so huge you could reach but half way around them. Birds were singing but we didn't see them. By lunchtime we had left the forest and were in scrub until we reached the Shira Plateau, the caldera of an old volcano now partially filled with lava from an eruption higher up. Kilimanjaro is not an extinct volcano, but “dormant”, and still rumbles occasionally. From our campsite, Shira One, at 11,300 ft. we had views of the shoulder of Uhru Peak, the highest point of the mountain.

**O**ur food was carried on the porters' heads and of course there was no refrigeration, and so was limited: breakfast was the same every day although it seemed as if the porridge got thinner as we were out longer; lunch was most often a hard boiled egg, a buttered roll and an orange. One day we had a hot lunch of French toast and warm cabbage slaw. We had tea and biscuits most afternoons. Dinner was soup and bread, some kind of starch such as pasta, rice, or potatoes with vegetable stew. The first three days there was fried chicken also. None of these meals were memorable but there was enough food. One piece of advice I

(Continued on page 3)

## The Catskill Canister

### President

Geoffrey T. Hoderath  
186 Whitehall Road  
Albany, NY 12209  
(518) 459-4758

### Editor

Martin A. Cohen  
wm169@verizon.net  
169 Pershing Ave.  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
(201) 670-8383

### Associate Editor

Michael E. Doehring  
7 Cloverdale Ave.  
White Plains, NY 10603  
(914) 761-7225

### Membership

David White  
ccswhite@juno.com  
28 Mulberry St.  
Clinton, NY 13323  
(315) 853-6942

### Subscriptions/Aspirants

Judith M. Weiner  
Jmw755@aol.com  
755 Anderson Ave., #4J  
Cliffside Park, NJ 07010  
(201) 840-7078

### Outings

Edward Ripley-Duggan  
erd@wilsey.net  
23 Mill Road  
Olivebridge, NY 12461  
(845) 657-7057

### Peripatetic Porcupine

Ralph Ferrusi  
rjferrusi@frontiernet.net  
34 Kim Lane  
Stormville, NY 12582  
(845) 227-6217

The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., for \$10.00 a year. Articles of less than 1100 words on hiking, essays or poetry, should be sent to [wm169@verizon.net](mailto:wm169@verizon.net).

All material contained herein is copyrighted by the Catskill Canister.

## Perpetuity

As of December, 2005 we had 344 aspirants.



## The President's Column

Recently, I came upon an interesting piece in the 2003 edition of *The American Alpine Journal*. The item in question was "The Tyrol Declaration on Best Practice in Mountain Sports." The Declaration is comprised of ten articles, each of which consists of a maxim and associated directives. Two of those articles are relevant to a recent development in the Catskills.

In the January-March 2006 edition, *The Catskill Canister* reported on continuing abuses at the Moonhaw Road property that many of us have used over the years to climb Friday and Balsam Cap. The property owner had generously provided space for parking and marked a route to the adjoining state land; that route enabled climbers to avoid passing too close to the owner's home.

The Tyrol Declaration reminds us in Article 3 that "[we] owe every person we meet in the mountains . . . an equal measure of respect. Even in isolated conditions . . . , we should not forget to treat others as we want to be treated ourselves." More directly, Article 7 of the Declaration enjoins climbers to "respect access restrictions and regulations . . ."

Stated bluntly, that didn't happen at Moonhaw Road. Thoughtless hikers failed to comply with the property owner's requests. As a result, the property owner very understandably withdrew permission to use that approach. The wilderness experience of all Catskill climbers [present and future] is thereby diminished, perhaps forever.

My hope is that this article truly is a case of "preaching to the choir." Nevertheless, the cautionary message is worth stating in hopes of avoiding a similar occurrence elsewhere.

As we are fond of repeating, the Catskills is a unique wilderness that enjoys special protection under the New York State Constitution. However, that wilderness is a patchwork of public and private land. Several important approach routes to mountains such as North Dome, Big Indian, Doubletop, and Graham cross private land. The loss of access to those routes would make climbing those peaks much more difficult, if not impossible.

As good stewards of the mountains, and in the interest of climbers yet to come, we must fully respect the rights of those whose stewardship role is that of landowner. They are entitled to that respect, having regularly granted permission to cross their land and shared the beauty of the mountains that we should never take for granted.

The Tyrol Declaration is a manifesto of sound principles for ethical mountaineering. Those principles promote environmental concerns and the rights of communities in mountain areas, among other issues. As climbers, we have our part to play and must show respect for the Catskills and those who call them home.

(Continued from page 1)

remembered was eat, drink and sleep if you want to make a successful climb, so I ate as much as I could; after you get to a certain altitude all food tastes like cardboard anyway.

**J**anuary 10. Climbing out of our tents in the morning we were greeted by frost-covered ground. We waited for the sun to rise over the mountain to warm things up and, after climbing a bit could see, in the distance, the Shira Hut on the ridgeline. The huts are reputed to be large, crowded and noisy; we preferred the privacy of our tents. Although it was a short day, we reached our next campsite at 13,000 ft. Here, we caught our first glimpse of the lobelia, a plant that closes up at night to avoid being frostbitten. The day turned cloudy and foggy and by the time we reached our tents, pitched among the heather, a light mist was falling.

**J**anuary 11. We awoke again to frost on the ground, and had good views of Mt Meru and the peaks surrounding the North side of the Shira Plateau. We were headed to Lava Tower at 14,950 ft. Today would be a longer day and I was beginning to feel the altitude. As we climbed into the fog, it turned colder, leaving most plant life behind except for grasses; a rock and cinders terrain, along which we met other groups of hikers, guides and porters. I had to force myself to eat lunch and when we reached Lava Tower, I collapsed in my tent. I revived after tea and biscuits. Others were feeling the altitude also, realizing they couldn't move as fast as they usually did. It was still cold and raw.

**J**anuary 12. Today was a very easy day, scheduled so we could acclimatize; a mere 650 ft. ascent to Arrow Glacier in the cold but clear weather, which took about 1.5 hours. At this elevation there was only rock, patches of snow, lots of candy wrappers, and tin cans - an inhospitable place particularly when the wind rose. From our rocky perch we could look up at the Western Breach, our next day's climb, and below to the valley where, at night, we saw lights. Civilization is never very far away. During the night the wind began to blow and blow, at times gusting to gale force. One of the tents that had only gear in it blew away but was rescued by the porters, who put rocks on all the tents to weigh them down. The wind blew all night.

**J**anuary 13. Today was the day we went up the Western Breach to camp on the Summit Plateau at 18,500 ft. There was more sun today but there were still periods of fog. Gaspar, our head guide, went first, cutting steps in the snow with his ice ax. The snow alternated with scree. I looked down once or twice and

realized that was a bad idea. Toward the top I was using my hands to pull myself up, finally reaching another caldera next to a glacier. I think we all felt relieved to have finished the climb and to be so close to the summit. We camped in the lee of the steep side of this caldera, which we would have to climb to reach Uhru Peak. I was cold and exhausted and felt as if I had not drunk enough water. I donned long johns, a turtleneck top, a fleece suit, a heavier fleece sweater, my rain jacket, rain pants, hat and gloves; put hand-warmers in my socks, and climbed into my bag; finally I was warm. We never got sick from the altitude but were certainly feeling its effects. I could eat little supper; even the soup which I usually enjoyed was an effort to eat, but I did sleep well, drinking from my last quart of Tang.

**J**anuary 14. Summit Day ! We exited our tents late so, alas, we wouldn't be able to reach the top for sunrise. A few of the group, daunted by the difficulties of climbing at altitude, had opted not to summit. As I climbed, I developed a rhythm: breath, step, breath, step, breath, step, then twenty breaths and start again. I just kept walking. Finally we got to a level area of scree and the top was almost there. I laughed and cried. Jo Ellen was shouting. We high-fived each other; waiting for another group who were taking pictures at the top before we had our turn. I snapped my last picture of Mt Meru and the summit glaciers (which will be gone in 20 years) and began the long descent, 9,000 ft. that day.

**D**escending the next day I was having difficulty; at times my legs just collapsed under me. It was an odd feeling but I picked myself up and kept going. By supertime Herb and I had rejoined the others at Mweka Hut. Never did Knorrs Soup taste so good. I was finally able to take off all my clothes and wash. It's the simple things in life that really matter.

**J**anuary 15. In the morning we ate the last of our scrambled eggs, finished up the bread and butter and started down again. The others went ahead but Herb and I descended more slowly. I was enjoying the warmth and unzipped the legs of my pants to create shorts. Much trailwork was being done on the badly eroded trail. In just four more days I would be my old self again.

Original manuscript submitted June 28,  
2003 by June Fait; edited by **the Canister**.

## Hike Schedule July - September, 2006

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

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

### Sat., July 1. PLATEAU Traverse

Distance: 5-6 mi. Ascent 1700, Elev.: 3840'

A moderately-paced trail hike on the Devil's Path. Bad weather cancels. Shuttle needed.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between June 26-30.

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478, 201-694-8344, gvp@ms.com

### Sat., July 2. SLIDE

Distance 10 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 4180'

Moderate trail hike with a bushwhack. May take a dip in the Neversink River. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877; Call for details after 5 pm at 845-292-6736

### Sat., July 8. BLACK HEAD & BLACK DOME

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev.: 3940' and 3980'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from July 3 - 7.

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

### Sun., July 9. Huckleberry Loop Trail Circular

Distance: 10.5 mi. Ascent: over 2500'

Moderate but steadily paced trail hike. Bad weather could cancel; check with leader 6:30am morning of hike if in doubt.

Meeting Place/Time: To register call or email leader no later than Friday, July 7th.

Leader: Wanda Davenport #523; 201-670-8383 NCA 9pm; wandatrails@verizon.net

### Sat., July 15. 2006 RUSK

Distance: 4 mi., Elev.: 3680', Ascent: 1,600'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy rains cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between July 6 - July 13, 2006.

Leader: Jim Malumphy #890 26 Hillendale Dr, New Milford, CT 06776; 860.355.5573, NCA 8pm; lump63@hotmail.com.

### Sun., July 16. TWIN

Distance: 6-7 mi, Ascent 1800, Elev.: 3640'

A moderately-paced trail hike on the Devil's Path. Bad weather cancels. Short shuttle.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between July 10-14.

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; 201-694-8344; gvp@ms.com

### Sat., July 22 PANTHER

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev.: 3720'

A moderate trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between July 17-20.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326, 718-435-4943 (after 7pm); suzkna@msn.com

### Sun., July 23. GRAHAM & DOUBLETOP

Distance: 5.5 mi., Ascent: 2800' Elev.: 3868', 3860'

A moderately paced bushwhack from Seager (Dry Brook Road), Trail Conf. map #42. Dogs welcome (on leash). Heavy rain cancels.

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

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; 607-724-5523 (6 pm to 9 pm); dbesso@stny.rr.com

If you are a member of the Club, new or long-term, please consider becoming a hike leader for the Club. Just contact me, erd@wilsey.net (845 657 7057), and I'll arrange to add you to the low-volume private Yahoo list through which hikes are coordinated. You will be contacted via this means when hikes are needed. - Ted R-D.



**Sat., July 29. KAATERSKILL HIGH PEAK**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev.: 3655'

A moderately paced trail hike with short bushwhack.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (preferred) leader before July 28.

Leader: Joe Bogardus #1399; 518-576-9739; jbbogardus@yahoo.com

**Sun., July 30. Shingle Gully & Verkeerderkill Falls in the Shawangunks.**

Distance: Approx 12 mi. Ascent: 1000'

A moderately-paced but strenuous off-trail and trail hike incorporating a visit to an unusual region with deep slot canyons, wild ice caves, the world's only high-elevation dwarf pine barrens, and a beautiful waterfall. Shuttle required. The canyon complex and the caves require scrambling skills. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Email leader before July 23, as this hike is subject to availability of a Nature Conservancy permit.

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; erd@wilsey.net

**Sat., Aug. 5. THOMAS COLE**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1930' Elev.: 3940'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from July 31 to Aug 4.

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

**Sun., Aug. 6 WESTKILL**

Distance: 5.6 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev.: 3880'

A moderate trail hike. Rains cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between July 31-August 3.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326, 718-435-4943 (after 7pm); suzkna@msn.com

**Sat., Aug. 12. LONE & ROCKY**

Distance: 10 mi. Elev.: 3721', 3508', Ascent: 2300'

A moderate paced bushwhack to two remote peaks. May take a dip in the Neversink River. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877. Call for details after 5 pm at 845-292-6736

**Sun., Aug. 13. Mombaccus and Little Rocky**

Distance: Approx 8 mi. Ascent: 2500'

A moderately-paced off-trail hike over two less-visited and interesting peaks near Ashokan High Point. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader by August 11

Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389. Email erd@wilsey.net

**Sat., Aug. 19. PEEKAMOOSE (and possibly TABLE)**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elev.: 3843'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from Aug. 14 - 18.

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

**Sun., Aug. 20. NORTH DOME & SHERRILL**

Distance: 6.5 mi, Ascent: 2500' Elev.: 3610', 3540'

A moderately paced bushwhack from the Westkill side. Dogs welcome (on leash). Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496; 607-724-5523 (6 pm to 9 pm); dbesso@stny.rr.com

**Sun., Aug. 20. Ashokan High Point**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 2070' Elev.: 3080'

A moderately paced strenuous trail hike. Heavy rain cancels. This is not a mountain to ignore with its magnificent views. Those interested may join me at Skytop in Kingston for some after-hike social time. For more information see <http://www.viewsandbrews.com>

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register by Aug. 18.

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

**Sat., Aug. 26. BALSAM LAKE to Alder Lake.**

Distance: 8 mi. Elev.: 3723'

A moderate trail hike through the woods. Shuttle required. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Harry Rampe #877. Call for details after 5 pm at 845-292-6736

It is imperative that hike participants do not race ahead of the group, as this could create serious problems of safety and navigation.

**Sun., Aug. 27. FRIDAY**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev.: 3940' and 3980'

A moderately paced bushwhack hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from Aug 21 - 25

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

**Sat., Sept. 2 SUGARLOAF Loop**

Distance: 7.1 mi. Ascent: 1850' Elev.: 3800'

A relaxed to moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Email (preferably) or call leaders to register between Aug. 28-31.

Leaders: Dave and Carol White #859, 860, ccswhite@juno.com; 315-853-6942

**Sun., Sept. 3. INDIAN HEAD & TWIN**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev.: 3575', 3640'.

A moderately paced trail, through hike; shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register for time and meeting place.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351; hikeleader3500@yahoo.com 718-463-5675 after 3pm (518-827-7327 Fri & Sat).

**Sat., Sep. 9. WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 4000' Elev.: 3780' 3860 4180'

A strenuous but moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from Sep. 4 - 8.

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

**Sat., Sept. 9. Gertrude's Nose in the Shawangunks**

Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent 800'

A moderately paced trail hike with great views. After hike at Gilded Otter for social time. Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register by Sept 8th.

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

**Sun., Sept. 10. BALSAM & EAGLE**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2000' Elev.: 3600'

A moderate trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register between Sept. 4-7.

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326, 718-435-4943 (after 7pm); suzkna@msn.com

**Sat., Sept. 16. VLY & BEARPEN**

Distance: 7 mi, Ascent 2200', Elev.: 3520', 3600'

A moderately-paced trail hike and bushwhack. Bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: contact leader to register between September 11-15.

Leader: George Preoteasa #1478; 201-694-8344; [gvp@ms.com](mailto:gvp@ms.com)

**Sun. Sept. 17. FIR & BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 9 mi Ascent: 2400' Elev.: 3620', 3700'

A moderately-paced bushwhack to Fir and Big Indian followed by a return on trail. Really bad weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register

Leader: Ed Gilroy #1305; 908 419-2543; egilroy@comcast.net

**Sat., Sept. 23. Peekamoose and Table Trail and Lean-to Maintenance**

Meet members of your board and talk with them about issues while doing trail maintenance. Please bring work gloves and tools: a saw, lopper, hand clipper, and/or hoe, if you have them; otherwise, the Club will provide tools.

Meeting Place/Time: Peekamoose trailhead at 9:15 AM

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492; 718-377-2990 adirondacks@verizon.net

**Sun., Sept. 24. HUNTER**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2500' Elev.: 4040'

A steep but fairly short trail hike, spectacular views from the Fire Tower.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (preferred) leader before September 22.

Leader: Tom Rankin #1503; 845-926-6209; trankin@hvc.rr.com

**Sat., Sept. 30. WINDHAM HIGH PEAK.**

Distance: 7 mi, Ascent 1500', Elev.: 3524'

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader Monday - Thursday the week of the hike

Leader: Peggy Wissler #1499; 914-260-7506

As a matter of courtesy to our volunteer hike leaders, we ask that you let them know as early as possible if you have to cancel your attendance on a hike.

**Scree**

**Tough Trail Maintainers Tackle Table (and Peekamoose).** Club members **Gail Colley, Jeff Glans, Manuel Peraza, Harry Rampe, Jack Sexton,** and **Carol and Dave White,** joined Trail Maintenance Chair, **Elie Bijou,** on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to perform needed maintenance on the Peekamoose trail. The party was split into several sections, with two people clearing from the Rock, three clearing toward Table and summit of Table to anticipate a formidable overgrown trail; perhaps requiring a second day. However, that day's trail crew was up to the challenge: the entire trail from the western end of Table Mt. to Peekamoose Road was completely cleared. Good work, Crew!!

“Elie had anticipated a formidable task clearing the overgrown trail; perhaps requiring a second day.”

**Parking Limited on Moon Haw Road.** “Mr. Catskill” reports that Joe (“Buzz”) Friedel has decided to close the parking area and trail on Friday Mountain that he formerly made available. While this means that his direct route up to the ridge center is closed, the access from the end of Moon Haw Road to the ridge, which runs over DEC lands, remains available. It is, in many regards, a preferable route. There is private property beyond the pillars at the end of Moon Haw Road. Park before these pillars (in winter, note that the last parking area is a snow-plow turnaround). From there, climb the steep woods road on the left of Moon Haw Road--skirting the inholding--then head up the woods roads and slopes to meet Friday's ridge above 2100 feet. Please note that the ridge-top is privately held up to about this 2100-foot elevation, and thus should be avoided. From there, the routes (either direct up the ridge, or over to the middle of the col) are exactly as they always have been.

**Book Bug Bites Porcupine.** Joining the list of 3500 Club authors, Ralph Ferrusi, our own peripatetic you-know-who has recently published “Catskill Tales and Trails: In Search of the Peripatetic Porcupine.”

**Two-night, 25-mile trail and bushwhack backpack,** following the Long Path through the NE and southern Catskills from Plateau to Wittenberg, Sept 8-11 . A rugged, physically demanding hike with around 8000 feet of ascent, and similar descent. Participants must have backpacked at least once recently. Contact leader by September 3. Shuttle required. Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; Email erd@wilsey.net

**Hudson River Valley Ramble.** September 16-17 and 23-24. Contact: [ramble@hvc.rr.com](mailto:ramble@hvc.rr.com)

**Position Open for Ex-Arthur Anderson Employee.** Our Audit Committee needs another person. Contact Geoff Hoderath.

**We Do Good Things With Your Money.** The Membership Chair reports significant contributions continue to be received by the Club, and wishes to thank those who so contributed.

**Whites Whittle Whites in Winter.** Board members, Dave (#859) and Carol (#860) White completed their climbs of the 48 White Mountain 4000-footers in winter, finishing with an 18-mile trek of Bondcliff. In 1997 they completed the Adirondack Winter 46 on Hough, after which Carol compiled an anthology of 33 women's adventures in the Adirondacks in winter, entitled “Women with Altitude.” Comparing the Adirondacks with the Whites they state “The trails are easier in NH, and only one bushwhack.”



**The New Members**

Regular

1601	Frederick Reed	04/06/05
1613	Brian Buurma	01/08/06
1614	Donald Slattery	01/28/06
1615	Andrew Brass	01/19/06
1616	Noelle Schwartz	02/04/06
1617	Dan Schwartz	02/04/06
1618	Leroy Wells	02/05/06
1619	Stuart Kurtz	01/28/06
1620	J. Noel Cotter	01/28/06
1621	Michael G. Putter	02/16/06
1622	Lawrence C. Swayne	02/19/06
1623	Catherine A. Swyka	02/25/06
1624	Steven P. Goldberg	02/25/06
1625	Theresa Fulgieri	03/04/06
1626	Rokhsanna Sadeghi	03/04/06
1627	Levi Ingersoll	03/11/06
1628	Terri Ingersoll	03/11/06
1629	Cindy Kuhn	03/19/06
1630	Daniel Weisberg	03/05/06
1631	Clark Rolland	03/12/06
1632	Katherin Marton	04/02/06
1633	Harry Kruyk	04/08/06
1634	Adrian Payeur	04/08/06

Winter

0632	Matthew Corsaro	(1571)	02/11/06
0633	Dawn Hamilton	(1359)	02/11/06
0634	John Slechta	(1054)	02/02/06
0635	Dan Schwartz	(1617)	02/04/06
0636	Noelle Schwartz	(1616)	02/04/06
0637	Anthony Versandi	(1488)	02/11/06
0638	Charlene Metz	(1612)	02/11/06
0639	Rik Jordan	(1472)	02/11/06
0640	Scott Hudak	(1527)	02/21/06
0641	Ronnie Cusmano	(1574)	02/19/06
0642	Karl A. Lehmann	(1312)	02/22/06
0643	Stuart J. Kurtz	(1619)	03/04/06
0644	F. Brice Faller	(1509)	03/11/06
0645	Terri Maxymillian	(1554)	03/12/06
0646	Ellen Berlin	(1606)	03/14/06
0647	Ed Homenick	(1139)	02/13/06
0648	Fred Blakely	(0505)	03/05/06
0649	Jean Dolen	(1000)	03/18/05

Life

Aspirant	Paul R. Holm
Aspirant	David Barkstedt
1308	Anthony P. Russo
1619	Stuart Kurtz
1622	Lawrence Swayne

.....

• LOVE YOUR canister EDITOR; •

• Send **email** not paper mail to: •

• [wm169@verizon.net](mailto:wm169@verizon.net) •

•.....

**Valeras' View Venture**

Arlene (#801) and Ernie (#802) Valera completed the New England Hundred Highest on Kennebago Divide, Maine in the summer of 2005, two years after becoming 111er's. They are now recovering by enjoying their grandchildren whose ages range from newborn to 20 years.



**Porcupines Perambulate Prague**

Kathy (#1102) and Ralph (#122) Ferrusi visited Prague in the Czech Republic in December, 2005 and are happy to report that it is a great walking city, offering many kilometers of trails in two vast, wooded parks on hills overlooking the city. Both are short strolls from the historic Old Town. In February, 2006 K&R climbed 1500' Pic Saint Maarten .



**Second Time Around and Still Climbing**

[The Long Beach Tribune recently published an article on our Winter Weekend Chair, **Art Zimmerman** (#866), which we have freely adapted as follows]. In 1978, at age 56, Arthur Zimmerman began ascending the Catskills in winter using cross-country skis.

He became a Touring Council member of the Ski Club, a small group of skiers, most of whom have since passed on. Later he joined an organization called the Catskill 3500 Club, made up of hikers who attempt to climb all the Catskill peaks that are over 3500 feet. Art completed his first round of peaks over a period of two years, finishing in 1993. Now at age 83 he is doing them all again and hopes to finish next year. Having just returned from a hiking vacation in the Alps, Art says "if you can climb in the Catskills, you can climb anywhere."

"if you can climb in the Catskills, you can climb anywhere."

Art completed his first round of peaks over a period of two years, finishing in 1993. Now at age 83 he is doing them all again and hopes to finish next year. Having just returned from a hiking vacation in the Alps, Art says "if you can climb in the Catskills, you can climb anywhere."

*Contact Us*

Position	Name	Email	Telephones
President	Geoffrey Hoderath	ghoderath@dhcr.state.ny.us	518-489-4758
Past President	Wanda Davenport	c3500c@verizon.net	201-670-8383
1st Vice President	Margaret Freifeld	mcfreifeld@yahoo.com	914-666-0710
2nd Vice President	Jeff Glans	glansj@yahoo.com	203-254-2157
Secretary	Laurie Moore	lau090@dmcom.net	607-538-9484
Treasurer	Ed Gilroy	egilroy@comcast.net	908-419-2543
Conservation	Carol White	ccswhite@juno.com	315-853-6942
Asst. to Conservation Chair	Richard E. Barr	richardedbarr@aol.com	212-877-2694
Aspirants	Judy Weiner	jmw755@aol.com	201-840-7078
Membership	Dave White	ccswhite@juno.com	315-853-6942
Outings	Edward Ripley-Duggan	erd@wilsey.net	845-657-7057
Rep. to NY/NJ Trail Conf.	[open]		
Canisters	Scott Lane	hwdshiker1@aol.com	845-246-5989
Trail Maintenance	Elie Bijou	adironacks@verizon.net	718-377-2990; 518-873-2119 summer
Asst. to Trail Chair	Manuel Peraza	mapcolus1@att.net	718-698-4422
Annual Dinner	Mike Doehring	clover7med@aol.com	914-761-7225
Asst. to Dinner Chair	Dawn Hamilton	dawnlh333@yahoo.com	845-926-6208
Winter Weekend	Art Zimmerman	artzim1@msn.com	516-432-1205
Peripatetic Porcupine	Ralph Ferrusi	rjferrusi@frontiernet.net	845-227-6217
the Canister, Editor	Marty Cohen	wm169@verizon.net	201-670-8383

*One day of trail maintenance for each year of hiking.*



# the catskill canister

October — December 2006

Volume 39, Number 4

## Spanning Deer Shanty Brook: not an easy quest

### Inside

*Crossroads Mega Resort*.....2

*Hike Schedule* .....4 - 6

*Our New Members* .....7

*Poem - Fir Mountain* .....7

*Scree* .....7

*Catskill Preservation* .....8

*Easier Watershed Access* .....8

### SAVE THE DATE

- ⇒ Club Dinner: Apr 14; page 8
- ⇒ Winter Weekend: Jan 27-28; page 8
- ⇒ Hudson Valley Ramble: Sept 16-17 and 23-24; see last issue.
- ⇒ Trail Maintenance: Sept 23; see last issue.



It was a miserable supper. Most hikers would agree that being in the woods during a thunderstorm isn't the most pleasant experience. It had been raining since lunch, but being wet wasn't only the rain's fault, since even before the rain came we were soaked. For the past two weeks we'd been building a bridge over the Deer Shanty Brook on the trail that goes from Denning to the summit of Table Mountain, and those who have waded its waters know that it is more than waist deep in some sections.

It was a miserable night indeed. After a full days work, Jenny (a high school student from Costa Rica, and third yearsman like myself) and I went back to camp to find puddles had formed and were getting wider. There was little we could do to stop the water from building up around us, and since the other crew hadn't come back from their blowdown sweep, we decided to get a head start on the next day's work by cutting the rebar into spikes to finish the bridge. On completing this task, we decided to boil the water for our famous "Tuna Glop". Every thing under the tarp was wet and smelled strongly of dampness, so we never noticed that the white gas container had leaked a little during the day. When the match hit the burner, it exploded into a flaming pyre. While the stove was burning and the flames were licking the tarp eight feet above, we heard faint cheering a ways off in the woods, which turned out to be a

few happy voices talking about a nice fire to warm their soggy bodies. But Jenny and I weren't paying attention; we were busy trying to find water to douse the flames. When the three other crew members arrived at camp, disappointed and wet, their hopes of a nice warm meal around a burning fire were shattered by the smoke engulfing the camp, accompanied by the expression of fear on my face. When the fire was finally brought under control, they all sat down resignedly, took out their pocket knives, and asked with returning smiles "So what needs to be cut up for supper ?".

"We are like modern day pioneers using simple tools to build bridges"

During the summer I work for the Adirondack Mountain Club's Professional Trail Crew. Our job is to stop erosion on the hiking trails. We work in the Adirondacks and the Catskills, regions where the use of power tools and ATVs are prohibited, so we accomplish our work using a wide array of basic tools: rock bars, pick mattocks, saws, axes and shovels. We are like modern day pioneers using simple tools to build bridges, clear blowdowns, harden old trails, and sometimes even build new ones.

The crew is composed of a variety of people from around the United States: from New York to Florida by way of Missouri. Although our crew has many different person-

(Continued on page 3)



### The Catskill Canister

#### **President**

Geoffrey T. Hoderath  
186 Whitehall Road  
Albany, NY 12209  
(518) 459-4758

#### **Editor**

Martin A. Cohen  
wm169@verizon.net  
169 Pershing Ave.  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
(201) 670-8383

#### **Associate Editor**

Michael E. Doehring  
7 Cloverdale Ave.  
White Plains, NY 10603  
(914) 761-7225

#### **Membership**

David White  
ccswhite@juno.com  
28 Mulberry St.  
Clinton, NY 13323  
(315) 853-6942

#### **Subscriptions/Aspirants**

Judith M. Weiner  
Jmw755@aol.com  
755 Anderson Ave., #4J  
Cliffside Park, NJ 07010  
(201) 840-7078

#### **Outings**

Edward Ripley-Duggan  
erd@wilsey.net  
23 Mill Road  
Olivebridge, NY 12461  
(845) 657-7057

#### **Peripatetic Porcupine**

Ralph Ferrusi  
rjferrusi@frontiernet.net  
34 Kim Lane  
Stormville, NY 12582  
(845) 227-6217

The Catskill Canister is published four times yearly by the Catskill 3500 Club, Inc., for \$10.00 a year. Articles of less than 1100 words on hiking, essays or poetry, should be sent to [wm169@verizon.net](mailto:wm169@verizon.net).

All material contained herein is copyrighted by the Catskill Canister.

### **The President's Column**

This article was to have been a brief informational piece concerning private access routes to the Catskill high peaks. However, recent developments dictate a temporary change in that plan.

The Catskill 3500 Club has been active in opposition to the proposed Crossroads mega-resort development at Belleayre. Following the ruling by the administrative law judge, which directed evidentiary hearings on a wide variety of issues, the matter seemed to be "on hold." Nevertheless, the Executive Board recently met with representatives of the Catskill Preservation Coalition, which also opposes the project, and voted financial support for its ongoing advocacy before the Courts and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

That was then. Now, the developer has made a new, superficially smaller but functionally equivalent proposal. To promote Crossroads-lite, the developer invited several public officials for an "informal" tour. Such private meetings concerning public matters are nothing new for the Catskills. Doubtless, Johannes Hardenburgh and Robert Livingston employed such tactics to good effect.

But this is an indisputably public matter. To assert that the future of millions of people will be affected is no overstatement. The residents of the impacted communities, and outdoors-people of every inclination, and the populace of the nation's greatest metropolis await the result. The potential drain on the public fiscals can only be estimated in the billions of dollars.

For now, the harsh light of publicity has shined into a shadowy corner of attempted subterfuge. But the larger issue is with us yet. This is not the last we will hear of such matters. Vigilance is the first, but only the first line of defense. Stay tuned. gth.





(Continued from page 1)

alities we are linked together by our love of the work and of the forest. Our work week starts on Friday when we hike in and camp out in the woods. We then work until Tuesday afternoon, at which time we clean up the camp site, pack out, and head back to the trail crew cabin at the ADK Loj in the Adirondacks for our day-and-a-half break before starting all over again the next Friday.

**T**his particular work week started as usual on a Friday morning at the trail crew cabin. After a quick breakfast we split into three groups and loaded up the vans with our tools, our food, our camping gear, and our axes. Then we made the long drive from Lake Placid to the end of Denning Road in the Catskills, our trailhead for the coming week's work. When we finished unloading the vans and had our equipment spread out across the parking lot, we noticed a group of hikers looking in disbelief as we started to tie our gear onto our frame packs. Their reaction is quite normal considering that all our tools, our large and awkward boxes of food, and our camping gear amount to over 100 pounds for each of us to pack in. Like a calf standing for its first time, our legs wobble beneath the weight. The hike in is a long and painful experience, but it's worth it for that indescribable feeling which occurs after reaching the camp site and unburdening our aching shoulders.

**L**uckily we found a nice camping area and set up camp quickly. After a quick lunch we headed to our work site: where the trail crosses the Deer Shanty Brook, a branch of the Neversink River. The previous week, we had built the base for a bridge and this week we planned to finish the job.

**O**ne reason our job is so interesting is its opportunity for learning new skills. To set the stringer logs onto the base logs, we employed what we call a saddle notch, which is the technique of using a scribe to draw the stringer log's silhouette on the base logs, and

then using chisels and axes, to carve out the wood, so that the stringer sits nicely in place. Once the seat for the stringer is cut, the next job is to get those heavy stringers in place. One of the stringers had been salvaged from the old bridge; the other was, in fact, the tree that had knocked the old stringers off their perches. Each was just shy of fifty feet long, yet they just barely reached the banks. If you've ever brought firewood in for your fireplace, you can imagine how heavy those fifty foot logs are. All we had to do was lift them up and set them down in their seats. This required strength, experience, technique, ropes, bars and winches, which combined eventually resulted in success: we had them up and the bridge was complete.

**W**e certainly experienced a great feeling of pride with our bridge out there prominently spanning Deer Shanty Brook for all to see. After celebrating our success, we took pictures, packed up, and headed out quite content with the results of our two-weeks of work.

**Aftermath.** During the fall there was a lot of heavy rain that washed out one of the banks of the Deer Shanty, taking the bridge stringers with it. Only one of the two supports for the bridge remained. Hopefully, next summer there will be a crew that will replace this bridge; will the next one also bow to the river gods ?

Original manuscript submitted June 15, 2006 by Jean-René Hickey; edited by **the Canister**.

**Note:** Thanks to your generous giving, the Club is able to contribute \$500 per year to the ADK for trail maintenance in the Catskills, a never ending effort..

*One day of trail maintenance for each year of hiking.*

## Hike Schedule October — December, 2006

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

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

### Sun., Oct. 1. VLY & BEARPEN

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2200' Elev: 3520', 3600'

A moderate trail hike and bushwack. Dogs on leashes welcome. Carpool required. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Fleischmanns area, 9:00 am. Call or email leader to register.

Leader: Danielle Besso #1496, 607-724-5523 (6 pm to 9 pm pls); dbesso@stny.rr.com

### Sun., Oct. 1. Frick Pond, Hodge Pond, Beech Mt. trails

Distance: 8-10 mi. Ascent: depends on distance.

As many blazed and snowmobile trails as time permits in this rarely visited S.W. Catskills area, where elevations range from 2,200 to 2,800'. Moderate pace, heavy or steady rain cancels. Joint with AMC.

Meeting Place/Time and/or NYC carpooling: Contact leader by 9/29.

Leader: Richard Barr #604. 212-877-2694. richardedbarr@aol.com

### Sat., Oct. 7. SLIDE, CORNELL, WITTENBERG

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elev: 4180',

3860', 3780'.

A strenuous trail hike at a moderate to fast pace. Inclement weather cancels. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader.

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

### Sun., Oct. 8. THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME, BLACKHEAD

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2760' Elev: 3940', 3980',

3940'

A moderately paced trail hike. Shuttle required.

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader to register.

Leader: Ken Hubert #1351. hikeLeader3500@yahoo.com, 718-463-5675 after 3 pm (518-827-7327 Fri. & Sat.)

### Sat., Oct. 14. DOUBLETOP

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

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register from Oct. 9 to Oct. 13.

Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373 & W566; 718-698-4422 (7 pm-9 pm); mapcolus1@att.net

### Sun., Oct. 15. PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2950', Elev: 3843', 3847'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register by Thur. Oct. 12.

Leader: Wanda Davenport #523, 201-670-8383 NCA 9 PM, wandatrails@verizon.net

### Sat., Oct. 21. Catskill 3500 Club Litter Pick-up

Meeting Place/Time: Meet at Notch Lake parking Area at 9:00 AM. Please bring work gloves. Plastic trash bags and safety gear will be provided.

Leader: Elie Bijou #1492, 518-523-6434 NCA 9 pm, Fri 6 pm, adirondacks@verizon.net

If you are a member of the Club, new or long-term, please consider becoming a hike leader for the Club. Just contact me, erd@wilsey.net (845 657 7057), and I'll arrange to add you to the low-volume private Yahoo list through which hikes are coordinated. You will be contacted via this means when hikes are needed. - Ted R-D.

**Sun., Oct. 22. SHERRILL**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3540'

Easy to moderately paced bushwhack up this nice peak

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader by Fri, October 20 to register.Leader: Elie Bijou #1492, 518-523-6434 NCA 9 pm, Fri 6 pm, adirondacks@verizon.net**Sat., Oct. 28. PLATEAU**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1700. Elev: 3840'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: call or e-mail leader to register from Oct. 23 to Oct. 27.Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373 & W566; 718-698-4422 (7 pm-9 pm); mapcolus1@att.net**Sun., Oct. 29. INDIAN HEAD (and possibly TWIN)**

Distance: 7 mi. (9 mi.) Ascent: 1700' (2400')

Elev: 3573' (3640')

A moderately paced trail hike on the Devil's Path.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (preferred) leader between October 22-28.Leader: Tom Rankin #1503; 845-926-6209; trankin@hvc.rr.com**Sat., Nov. 4 Southwest HUNTER**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2000 Elev: 3740'

Easy to moderately paced trail and bushwhack. Will require car shuttle.

Meeting Place/Time: Please contact leader to register.Leader: Elie Bijou #1492, 518-523-6434 NCA 9 pm; Fri 6 pm; adirondacks@verizon.net**Sun., Nov. 5. PANTHER**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev: 3720'

A moderately paced trail hike. Inclement weather cancels

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for details.Leader: Harry Rampe #877, 845-292-6736 after 5 pm**Sat., Nov. 11. THOMAS COLE**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1930. Elev: 3960'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: call or e-mail leader to register from Nov. 6 to Nov. 10.Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373 & W566; 718-698-4422 (7 pm-9 pm); mapcolus1@att.net**Sun., Nov. 12. BALSAM LAKE & GRAHAM**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1900' Elev: 3720',3868'

A moderately paced trail hike and semi-bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Email (preferred) or call leaders to register from Nov. 6-10.Leaders: David and Carol White, #859 and 860; ccswhite@juno.com; 315-853-6942

**\*\*\* November 18. DEER SEASON (RIFLE) BEGINS \*\*\***  
**No 3500 Club hikes scheduled in the Catskills.**

**Sat., Nov. 18. Breakneck Ridge & Sugarloaf Mts in the Hudson Highlands**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2500'

A moderately paced trail hike and rock scrambling. Very exposed sections. Rain cancels. A no-hunting area, south of the Catskills.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or e-mail leader to register from Nov. 13 to Nov. 17.Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373 & W566; 718-698-4422 (7 pm-9 pm); mapcolus1@att.net**Sat., Nov. 25. Shingle Gully & Verkeerdeerkill Falls in the Schawangunks**

Distance: Approx 12 mi. Ascent: 1000'

A moderately paced but strenuous off-trail and trail hike to an unusual area with deep slot canyons, wild ice caves, the world's only high-elevation bedrock dwarf pine barrens, and a beautiful waterfall. Shuttle required. The canyon complex and caves require scrambling skills. Inclement weather cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Email leader by Nov. 10, as this hike is subject to the availability of a Nature Conservancy permit.Leader: Edward Ripley-Duggan #1389; 845 657 7057, erd@wilsey.net (email preferred).

It is imperative that hike participants do not race ahead of the group, as this could create serious problems of safety and navigation.

**Sat., Dec 2. Mt. Taurus (Bull Hill) in the Hudson Highlands**

Distance: 4.6 mi. Ascent: 1400' Elev: 1420'

A moderately paced hike on the white-blazed Washburn Trail. Many splendid views (Hudson River, Cold Spring Village, Storm King Mountain, West Point). Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register by Dec. 1st.Leader: Dawn Hamilton #1359, 845-926-6208, DawnLH333@yahoo.com**\*\*\* December 10. DEER SEASON ENDS \*\*\*****Let's hike in the Catskills again !****Sat., Dec. 16. FRIDAY**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2500. Elev: 3694'

A moderately paced bushwhack. Rain cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or e-mail leader to register from Dec. 11 to Dec.15.Leader: Manuel A. Peraza #1373 & W566; 718-698-4422 (7pm-9pm); mapcolus1@att.net**Sun., Dec 17 WESTKILL**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 1800' Elev: 3880'

A moderately paced trail hike. If we have enough willing participants, we can spot cars and make this a through hike. Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email leader to register by Dec. 15th.Leader: Dawn Hamilton #1359, 845-926-6208, DawnLH333@yahoo.com**Sat., Dec. 23. SLIDE MOUNTAIN Loop**

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 4180'

Moderately paced trail hike to a required winter peak. Steady rain or poor driving conditions cancel.

Meeting Place/Time: Contact leader to register 12/20 to 12/22.Leader: Margaret Freifeld #929, 914-666-0710; mcfreifeld@yahoo.com**Sun., Dec. 24. BALSAM MT. LOOP**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1600' Elev: 3600'

A moderately paced trail hike. Heavy precipitation cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Email (preferred) or call leaders to register from Dec. 18-22.Leaders: David and Carol White, #859, 860; ccswhite@juno.com; 315-853-6942**Sat., Dec 30. HALCOTT**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 1700' Elev: 3537'

A moderate bushwhack at a moderate pace. Bad weather or driving conditions cancels.

Meeting Place/Time: Call or email (preferred) leader before Dec. 28.Leader: Bob Ricketson #1361, 518-943-5223; bobrick@mhcable.com**Sun., Dec. 31. BLACKHEAD**

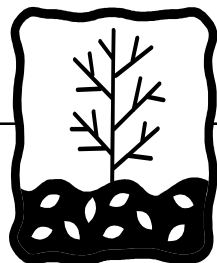
Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1740' Elev: 3940'

A moderately paced trail hike. Inclement weather cancels

Meeting Place/Time: Call leader for details.Leader: Harry Rampe #877, 845-292-6736 (after 5 pm)

As a matter of courtesy to our volunteer hike leaders, we ask that you let them know as early as possible if you have to cancel your attendance on a hike.

**Perpetuity.** Over the last four years the number of new member certificates awarded each year has gone up by 38% while the winter achievement rate has remained about constant (some people are waiting for full global warming to set in). The number of aspirants over this period has tended to remain stable.



**3500 Club Goes International.** New members 1648-1652 list their home province as Quebec. Conserving on gas, our northern neighbors came as a group and climbed as many as 13 peaks in a trip! Special congratulations to 3500 Club Quebec members **Anny Gagne, Jean-Sebastien Roux, Karl Sanfacon, Danny Sanfacon, and Audrey Jacques** who join fellow Canadian **Harry Kruyk** (#1633). [The Club is considering issuing a rocker patch for evading border vigilantes while climbing the peaks].



**Scree**

**Nature Fights Back.** Even though our last trail maintenance activity on the Peekamoose trail was a great success, nature has returned with a fury of new growth. Conditions, obviously, have been ideal for the flora, as they have spurted up almost as vigorously as the weeds in the editor's back yard, if that's possible. Next time we're going to have to offer a higher-valued sacrifice to appease the weather gods, perhaps a few members who haven't yet participated in one of our trail maintenance outings.

**Canisters Fight Back.** All books, bags, pens, pencils and sharpeners were replaced by the canister samaritan (Scott Lane). All cans are in good shape (so if you can't find the canister, you're probably on the wrong mountain).

**Trail Building = Body Building** "I can really appreciate trail workers now; three of us worked for several hours on a section of trail that took us 6 minutes to walk back down!" -- Tom Rankin (#1503) after helping build the proposed Silver Hollow Notch trail.

**Pay Attention to Our Money.** Our Audit Committee still needs another person. Please contact Geoff Hoderath.

**Hudson River Valley Ramble.** September 16-17 and 23-24. Contact: [ramble@hvc.rr.com](mailto:ramble@hvc.rr.com)

**The New Members**

Regular

1635	George Dudar	04/18/06
1636	Andrew Seirup	04/15/06
1637	Heather L Herrmann	05/01/06
1638	Laurie J Schweighardt	01/22/06
1639	Andrew Florez	05/10/06
1640	Mary Jo Hoekstra	05/13/06
1641	Blaine Hoekstra	05/13/06
1642	Bruce Allard	05/20/06
1643	Norman L Mueller	05/20/06
1644	Donald L Weise	05/28/06
1645	Daniel D Bisogno	05/28/06
1646	Frank Fallon	06/12/06
1647	Henry Halama	06/22/06
1648	Anny Gagne	07/01/06
1649	Jean-Sebastien Roux	07/01/06
1650	Karl Sanfacon	08/02/06
1651	Danny Sanfacon	08/02/06
1652	Audrey Jacques	08/02/06
1653	Michael Prowatzke	08/19/06

Life

1646	Frank Fallon	
------	--------------	--

**Fir Mountain with Steve Chorvas: My final climb**

—A poem by Henry Halama of Woodstock #1647

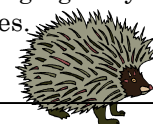
Disheveled heads of majestic trees filter the sunlight and sprinkle it on smiling wood sorrel flowers, so light hearted compared with their neighbors, the dark ferns carpeting the unevenly slanted floors on which our feet leave only erasable foot prints.

June morning in the Catskill mountains; wildlife, flowers and songs have filled all the voids in our hearts, surpassing our greatest expectations. The sweetest tenors, Hermit Thrushes, give star performances in the most beautiful concert halls imaginable. The songs of many other singers tumble from the sky like pearls of happiness, creating a unique musical experience.

Our steady bushwhack guided by compass and Steve's

understanding of these mountains is interrupted only by ancient rites of rebirth like Winter Wrens feeding their offsprings or other birds coaxing us to move on, away from their nests. Everything streams compassion and peace that are so often missing in our daily lives lives. Silently we give thanks.

Finally we reach the summit and in a surprisingly short time find the canister and sign the log book. My final peak, what an exhilarating feeling! All the snows, rains and sunshine of my countless climbs are nourishing my reverence for all life. Savoring this long awaited moment we feast on shrimp and Czech beer from Plzen, my country. Two Thrushes singing softly nearby bring tears of happiness to my eyes.



Two days of trail maintenance for each year of hiking.

### Club Dinner

The 3500 Club Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony will be held **Saturday, Apr 14, 2007** at the Hillside Manor in Kingston, NY (full details and a reservation form will be in the next issue of *the canister*). There is little need to advertise this event as it is always well attended by a raucous bunch of 3500 Club members, aspirants, family and friends. Our speaker this year will be Matt Merchant, Senior Wildlife Biologist, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, who will give a presentation on **bears in the Catskills**. In addition to the festivities, books and other goodies are available for your perusal and purchase. Not an event to be missed.

### Catskill Preservation

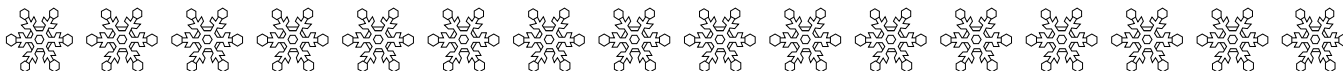
If you think the mountains will always be there for hikers, think again; there are groups out there who would like nothing better than to turn our beloved Catskills into a pricey resort for the golf set (see [www.phoeniciatimes.com/e28/belleayreresort.html](http://www.phoeniciatimes.com/e28/belleayreresort.html)). Thanks to your financial gifts, the Club was able to increase its contributions to the Catskill Preservation Coalition, a group formed expressly to coordinate the fight against the proposed Belleayre Resort.

Additionally, the Club has increased its yearly donation to the ADK for advocacy to \$2500 (the ADK, with our help, supports an environmental advocate in Albany). It is an oft verified adage that in environmentalism, one doesn't ever win the war, but only the right to fight again – keep those contributions coming !



### Easier Access to NYC's Watershed Lands in the Catskills

According to an article in the Aug. 15 Kingston Freeman, beginning immediately, there will be increased opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, and the use of motor vehicles in New York City's vast West-of-Hudson watershed, which covers territory within Ulster, Greene, Delaware, Sullivan and Schoharie counties. Access permits, which formerly were cumbersome to obtain, are now available via the department's watershed web site, [www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation](http://www.nyc.gov/watershedrecreation) (it took the editor five minutes to get his). More than 74,000 acres of Department of Environmental Protection lands are open to the public, with more than 25,000 acres and 21 reservoirs or controlled lakes available for fishing.



### Winter Weekend

The club's annual winter weekend is scheduled for **Jan 27-28, 2007** (the location, cost, and other details will be in the next issue of *the canister*). This is a great opportunity to bag a couple of winter peaks or to have other fun in the snow, and commune with fellow outdoorspeople. Last year was the first time in a while that your editor attended a club winter weekend, and he and his spouse really enjoyed it: the rooms, food, company, and mountains all were excellent. After a day of winter hiking, it is a special pleasure to enjoy dinner and then to hang out in the lounge with other members of our 3500 Club family, recanting the adventures of that day and others past. There is nothing like being toasty warm in a winter retreat, an infinity away from one's everyday life.

