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# The Catskill Canister

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Foggy nettles above Seager lean-to. Photo by Chris Adams #2710

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Fireweed on Halcott. Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222

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## Trail Spice

*The President's Column by Maria Bedo-Calhoun*

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*"There's a trick to the "graceful exit." It begins with the vision to recognize when a job, a life stage, or a relationship is over — and let it go. It means leaving what's over without denying its validity or its past importance to our lives. It involves a sense of future, a belief that every exit line is an entry, that we are moving up, rather than out."*

*—Ellen Goodman*

I have been reading this quote quite a bit lately and it is very relevant in my life in so many ways these days. This is my final column as president of the Club and, while I will remain on the Board, my role will be different as it needs to be. It is time for other visions, ideas and voices to be heard. I am looking forward to seeing what our revised governance structure will bring — there will be a few new members joining the Board with their own goals and suggestions. But the overriding connection remains the same between all of us — a deep affection for the Club and the unique place these Catskill Mountains hold in our hearts.

Personally, my husband and I will be moving from Woodstock to the Albany area, which also brings up many emotions, but there are lots of positives with that "exit" as I say a goodbye to my local peepers and owls. I will continue to explore these beloved peaks and I hope to have more time for adventures with friends even if my drive may be a little longer — I have gotten spoiled for sure!

When I look back at these past three plus years it seems like a lifetime ago when I became president in April of 2019. COVID-19 was so much a part of that ensuing period and there does seem to be this short pre-COVID time that is now very distant, but then a fog like period of not knowing what would be coming, trying to plan as best we could and adjust as all of us have had to. My term ended up being longer than the normal two years as the Board had to work with all the

restrictions and concerns and changing presidents seemed daunting for all involved. Additionally, the major revision of our governance structure and the application for c3 status required some continuity. I am happy to see things beginning to return to normal with all of our activities. On that final matter of governance, I can report that while we will be waiting for six - eight months on a decision from the IRS (hopefully a positive one), we are on our way and now it is just a waiting game.

By the time you read this you will have received information on our slate of elected officers and directors and will see that there are a lot more names added to the list! It is because Club members need to elect everyone who votes on their behalf. In the work on our governance structure, it became clear that we were not abiding by New York State requirements which required a major change in our bylaws. Committee members will still be there, but they will not be voting members — only directors and officers can do that. You will recognize many familiar names who will be serving both in their committee positions but as directors. Our goal was to duplicate the current structure as best as possible while complying with state regulations.

I am excited that we can once again be at the Ashokan Center for our Annual Dinner on Saturday, July 9th and celebrate the awarding of certificates in person to new members. There will be plenty of outdoor seating so that everyone can choose what they are comfortable with. Other Club initiatives are in action — stewardship ones including our trailhead steward program, maintenance, and look for Wilderness First Aid classes to return in the fall. Additionally, our collaboration with other Catskill organizations is strong. These past few years have reinforced the need for all of us to work together as we faced challenging times.

Out of all the experiences during my presidency — the tough ones like dealing with the pandemic, the sadness of losing Doubletop and Graham and the minutia and rabbit holes of figuring out how to set up our governance for c3 status — the dearest to my heart are the relationships that grew and strengthened with Board and committee members, current and past. I will be forever touched and moved by the support, friendship and time that they have given and continue to give. Without that consul, advice, and the ears I have bent over these years, I would not have made it through all of it.

I also want to thank a few non-Board members who have dedicated so much time to particular projects: Debbie Melita (#1897 W802), who allowed us to get the Club logo and name trademarked without huge legal fees through her pro-bono efforts. Margaret McGrath (#2009 W939) and Terri Baker (#1955 W888) who took over merchandising two years ago and spent countless hours organizing and improving the process. Colleen Hardcastle (#2990 W1416) and all the assistance she gave to our burgeoning trailhead steward program. Sara Chapman (aspirant) and Lynn Houston (#3578 W1406), who have spent the recent months working tirelessly on an entire upgrade of our merchandise platform and website — which will go live sometime this summer. Michael Bongar (#2173 W994), who has done yeoman's work on organizing the Annual Dinner last year and this year. Jon Gordon (#2816 W1252) and Joe Bogardus (#1399 W588), who gave valuable advice as we worked out all the new governance items and Julie McGuire (#3500) who is working on a new social media plan with that committee. Some of these names will be on the slate to join the Board and their willingness to dive in and literally spend countless volunteer hours is a testament to the feelings we all have about the Club.

Without all that dedicated energy from so many volunteers, the Club would not exist. It is what keeps us moving forward and I am heartened to see that that devotion, begun 60 years ago when a group of hikers sat down and decided to create the Catskill 3500 Club, still remains strong. Leaders come and go but it is the overall spirit of the members that will keep the Club vibrant and alive so that there will continue to be wonderful stories of people exploring these special mountains and creating their own journeys, experiences and connections.

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The Catskills as seen from Upper Awosting Carriage Road. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199



## Trail Mix: News and Notes from the Club



Dues for calendar year 2022 are overdue as of January 1st. Those of you who receive the emailed quarterly link from us also get a dues reminder. Members and Aspirants who joined after the middle of the year may renew at a half-year rate to get back to “calendar-year renewal.” Contact [David White](#), [Chris Adams](#) or [Jake Haisley](#) to confirm your status. Forms and rates are on the [membership page](#) of the Club website. You may now use PayPal at the [Club site](#) or renew by mail and/or order additional member items using [this form](#). Please make checks payable to the Catskill 3500 Club.

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

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

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



Mark your calendars for the 3500 Club's Fifty-Sixth Annual Dinner Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, July 9th, 2022 at the Ashokan Center (477 Beaverkill Rd, Olivebridge, NY 12461).

Access will be open from 12-8 pm. Ticket fee of \$50 includes entrance to [all the trails at the Ashokan Center](#) and a dinner buffet with vegetarian and gluten free options. Iced tea, soda and water will be provided and a cash bar will be available with beer, hard cider and wine.

As in the past, we will have Club-related merchandise available for purchase (see the merch update below!) as well as

Carol and Dave White with their books, and Alan Via with his books.

Day schedule:

12 pm: access to the Ashokan Center

1-3 pm: socializing with appetizers and a cash bar

3-5 pm: annual business meeting and awarding of certificates

5 pm: dinner buffet

8 pm: departure

This will be more casual than our normal gathering, but having it outside allows us to gather, so dress is relaxed. Additionally, you CANNOT bring your own alcohol to the event. The Ashokan Center has very specific insurance rules they must follow so any drinks must come through the insured caterer provided. Please bring water bottles that you will be able to fill at the Ashokan's water stations. All other beverages will be provided.

Parking for most people will be in the upper lot, which will require walking down two flights of stairs, but for anyone with mobility issues, there is direct access available. Please note that on the registration form.

As we are limiting numbers to 200, we will only accept one member (or member-to-be - coming to get their certificate) with a guest to purchase tickets through July 1. If there is availability after that, we will open tickets to aspirants with one guest. We anticipate a lot of interest, so suggest members who want to attend should register right away! Children under 12 are welcome at no charge.

To purchase the tickets, use this [link](#). The purchase page asks for your member number. If you do not know it, please refer to the [Club's listing of members](#). If you are a member-to-be, check that box instead.

Lodging and camping at The Ashokan Center are available for the weekend. Please contact Lisa Hurley by [email](#) or at 845-657-8333 ext. 10.

If you have any questions, please email [Michael Bongar](#) or call 914-734-1177.

*By: Mike Doehring, Annual Dinner Chair and Michael Bongar*



## Catskill 3500 Club Welcomes New Board Member



The Officers of the Catskill 3500 Club want to extend a very warm welcome to Amy Holiday (#3831), who has joined the board as an Assistant to the Outings Chair. Amy will be working with Marv Freedman, Outings Chair, to help facilitate the Club's hikes and schedules.

Amy Holiday is a northern California native who has been hiking for the last 12 years. She relocated to the Catskills from Brooklyn during the pandemic to be closer to the peaks, trails and adventures of upstate New York. She became a Club member in 2022.



## 3500 Club Service Award Update and a Thank You to Wanda Davenport



As reported last in the [2019 Fall issue](#) of *The Canister*, the Club, besides recognizing hiking accomplishments, also

acknowledges members who give back to the Club and the Catskill Forest Preserve. The purpose of this award is to recognize service to the Club by its members. The award is open to any member in good standing who accumulates seven points by participating in [various volunteering activities](#). Please note that the list of qualifying activities now also includes trailhead stewarding, for which a point is earned for a day of service.

Since its inception, until now, the award has been administered by Wanda Davenport, Past President (2003-2004). The Club wants to extend our gratitude to Wanda for her dedicated 14 years of service. Wanda is passing the torch to [Chris Adams](#), Assistant to the Membership Chair. Please submit all future applications to Chris.



The 3500 Club Service Award was established in honor of the Club's founders (Gunter Hauptman, Nancy Locke, Dan Smiley, Bill Spangenberg, and Brad Whiting). Laurie Rankin, Carol White, Tom Rankin and Dave White were the inaugural recipients of the award at the 2008 Annual Dinner. Since then, more than 25 additional members have received the recognition. We would like to acknowledge the following most recent 3500 Club Service Award qualifiers: Michelle Kaminsky (#2804 W1305), Marv Freedman (#2242 W951) and Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond (#2814 W1222).

Thank you everyone for your dedication, stewardship and commitment to the Club! If anyone is interested in joining the volunteer list to stay up to date with the future trailhead stewardship, trail maintenance and road clean-up opportunities, please contact [Lourdes Sonera](#).



Wicking T- Shirts are in for Summer!!

For hikers who like performance wear on the trail, we have the following styles: 100% Polyester Unisex Columbia Blue and Bright Orange, and Women's wicking V-neck in Power Blue. If you prefer some cotton for summer, we have 50/50 Cotton/Poly short sleeve in Unisex and Women's Heather Charcoal as well as 100% cotton asphalt short sleeve tee. Also available are hats and long sleeve tees in Bright Orange if you need sun protection!

The order form can be found on the Club's website under [Merchandise](#) or you can [email us](#). Please contact us for size availability before ordering. We accept check or PayPal.

Also - stay tuned for an announcement concerning some exciting merchandise news!!!





By: Margaret McGrath and Terri Baker, Merchandise Coordinators



## Spring Trail Maintenance and Adopt-A-Highway Events Recap



### PEEKAMOOSSE-TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The Catskill 3500 Club hosted its spring Trail Maintenance event on April 9th, 2022. A big THANK YOU to our amazing volunteers and to our trail maintenance chair, Lourdes Sonera, for keeping section 18 of the Long Path, that traverses over Table and Peekamoosse mountains, well maintained and safe for the enjoyment of all!

The crew removed five blowdowns and cleared the water bars. Thank you to Larry Leslie (#208 W131), Lourdes Sonera (#2525 W1075), Colleen Hardcastle (#2990 W1416), Richard Garrison (#1820), David Lemmo (#3264), and Jeff Schoenfeld for your hard work and dedication.



*Thank you to our  
Volunteers for keeping the trails safe.  
Fantastic job!*

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

We had a great turnout for the Spring Adopt-A-Highway clean up, held on May 15th, 2022. Thank you to our amazing volunteers for giving their time and energy to clean up litter and trash along Route 214. Because of their selflessness and commitment, we can make an impact and help keep the Catskills pristine.

A huge thank you to: Michele Kaminsky (#2804 W1305), Anne Rubin (#3832), Al Davis (#2192 W1082), Braden Forrey, Jackson Forrey, Beth Tomlinson, Lisa Gizzarelli-Drago (#1368 W1063), Charlie Lutomski (#786 W629), Jim Bouton (#1539 W614), Rebecca Wang (#3884 W1475), John Estok (#3505), Judith Estok (#3506), Steve Johnson (#3798), Pat Johnson (#3284 W1392), Roger Green (#2627 W1383), Christopher Garibian (#3881 W1474) and Lourdes Sonera (#2525 W1075).



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

*By: Lourdes Sonera, Trail Maintenance Chair*

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## Wilderness First Aid Course

The Catskill 3500 Club will be running its annual Wilderness First Aid Course (SOLO Certified) once again. The classes will be offered over the weekend of October 15th-17th in the Pine Hill Firehouse (265 Main Street, Pine Hill, NY).

Class details are as follows:

The cost will be \$180, plus an additional \$30 if the person wants CPR included. In order to complete the WFA class, students must already have a valid CPR card prior to taking the class, or take the CPR component of the WFA class. Note that the price includes the discount for 3500 Club members.

Dates: Friday October 14th (CPR only); Saturday October 15th and Sunday October 16th WFA.

Instructors: Anmarie Spiciarich, Dave DeForest, Ed Moran, Marv Freedman.



Times will be announced closer to the date, but the CPR portion would be on Friday evening and the weekend dates will be all day each day.

For those considering leading for the Club, we are offering an incentive: 75% of the class costs will be refundable after you have been approved for leading and have led 4 hikes in 2 years.

Participants are encouraged to bring snacks, water and lunch as time for breaks are limited and there will not be time to go out and pick up lunch. There is a refrigerator we can utilize to store food at the firehouse. Participants are encouraged to bring the packs they normally hike with so we can look over what they have for first aid equipment and make suggestions on what they might need. At this moment, no masks are required. People are welcome to do whatever makes them comfortable.

Please note: there are currently 12 spots available. For any questions about the class, or to get on the waiting list, contact [Annmarie Spiciarich](#), SAR Committee Chair.

*By: Annmarie Spiciarich, SAR Committee Chair*



### **Parking Alert: Permits Required for Peekamoose Road Trailhead**



The Club wants to remind hikers that a permit is required to park at the Peekamoose-Table Trailhead near the Blue Hole, effective May 15th through September 15th, seven days a week. Until last year, it was enforced only for the Blue Hole and there was no charge, but it now it covers the entire riparian corridor and is required for hikers as well. The fee was added to cover administrative costs, which is consistent with other day use areas.

Details:

- \$10 per permit but six people are covered under one permit, though the permit is attached to a single car and must be displayed on that car.
- 70 permits per day are issued
- How to obtain it: via [Reserve America](#) or by calling 1-800-456-CAMP (1-800-456-2267).
- Fine for no permit: up to \$250



### **Upcoming Races Alert**



#### [Manitou's Revenge 54 Mile Ultra Trail Race](#) June 25-26

The Manitou's Revenge is a 54 mile foot race over some very difficult Catskill Mountain terrain. It has quickly become known as the Beast of the East in 50 Mile Ultra Running Circles. This year's event will be held Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 am in CD Lane Park in Maplecrest. After the initial road run, the course will take runners to the Escarpment Trail via the Black Dome Trail and then mostly follow the Long Path from Acra Point all the way to downtown Phoenicia. There will be 15 runners per wave starting every five minutes. The last runners should be in Phoenicia by 6 am Sunday morning. This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> running of Manitou (with 2020 skipped due to COVID19). The race is directed by Charlie Gadol (NY-NJ Trail Conference Catskill Long Path Trail and the Catskills Trail Crew Chair) and Mike Siudy (#1728 W695, NY-NJ Trail Conference volunteer trail maintainer).

#### [The Escarpment Trail Run](#): July 31<sup>st</sup> 9 am to 5 pm

The Escarpment Trail Run was the first technical trail race of its kind in the eastern USA and possibly the country. Founded in 1977, it has been held the last Sunday of July ever since (with 2020 skipped due to COVID19). According to Native American legend, when the demon Manitou fell to his death he turned to stone forming the northern escarpment of the Catskill mountains. This will be 45<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual run across the famed "Wall of Manitou." The E.T.R. starts

at the northern terminus on highway 23 in Windham and ends 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) south in the North Lake picnic area of North-South Lake State Campground. The course record is 2 hours 42 minutes but expect the last runners to finish up by 4:30 - 5 pm.

The Escarpment Trail Run has been the gateway for many "road runners" to discover the trails of the Catskills. Similarly, Manitou's Revenge has had the same effect. Here is a list of runners who have become trail maintainers and many of them are members of the Catskill 3500 Club.

Charlie Gadol, Mike Siudy (#1728 W695), Dick Vincent (#3055), Phil Vondra (#3088 W1284), Cal Johnson (#941), Joe Brown (#1297 W1176), Stewart Dufield, Tom DeHaan (#747), Chris Post (#1409 W590), Zsuzsanna Carlson, Chris Gallo, Mendy Gallo, Max Gruner, Peter Preston, Lena Peterson, Aaron Anaya (#2458 W1058), Brian Ibbs (#2681 W1150), Heather Post (#2845), Marc Gravatt, Delia Kulukundis, Dan Crandell, Ivan Milan, Jan Peter Brajer, Alanna Moss, Scott Hayes (#2568 W1070), Alan Thompson, Alan Davidson, Barbara Evans, Ken Posner (#2573 W1108), Hiroyuki Nishide (#2945), Yukiko Nishide (#2946), Matt Alexander, Tom Hawkins, Yana Baranek, Claudia Kraut, Jesse Canfield, David Hollenbaugh (#2114). Please forgive me for those I have overlooked inadvertently.

By: Dick Vincent, NY-NJ Trail Conference Representative



## Fire Tower Lighting Event 2022



New York State Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) is pleased to announce that the 2022 date for the annual lighting event will be Saturday, September 3rd, with Sept 4th being the rain date, if needed. August 24th will be the deadline to register, so start your planning now. Detailed information about the event can be found on the [NYS-FFLA website](#).

Please contact [Laurie Rankin](#) (#1337 W531), director of the NYS chapter, if you would like to participate in the event.

As per the chapter's page:

"This event is the brain child of Doug Hamilton of the Red Hill Fire Tower Committee. The idea is to light the fire tower with a high powered light on a specific date, put lots of press releases in the local paper about the time when this would occur and invite people to go to locations around the community where they could look up, see the light on the horizon and remember that there was a fire tower there watching over and protecting the community and surrounding forest. This year the event will occur on Saturday, September 3rd from 9:00 to 9:30 pm. Rain date will be Sunday, September 4th at the same time."

While the idea behind the event is to promote the special connection of the fire towers to the community, experienced hikers may enjoy seeing the event from up high! Laurie and Yana came up with the following list of ideas - please reach out and let us know of any others we may have overlooked!

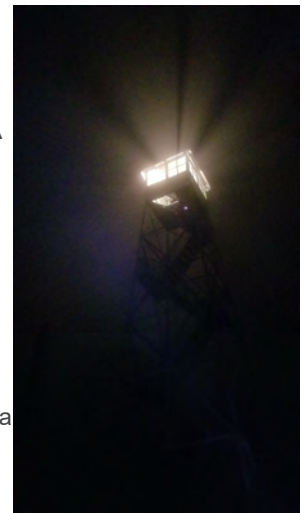
Overlook - from the viewpoint just east of the summit on Indian Head, a viewpoint just east of South Twin, Hurricane Ledge, Echo Lake, Mink Hollow viewpoint on Plateau (rock south of the main ledge), Panther. Thorn Preserve has great views of Overlook too.

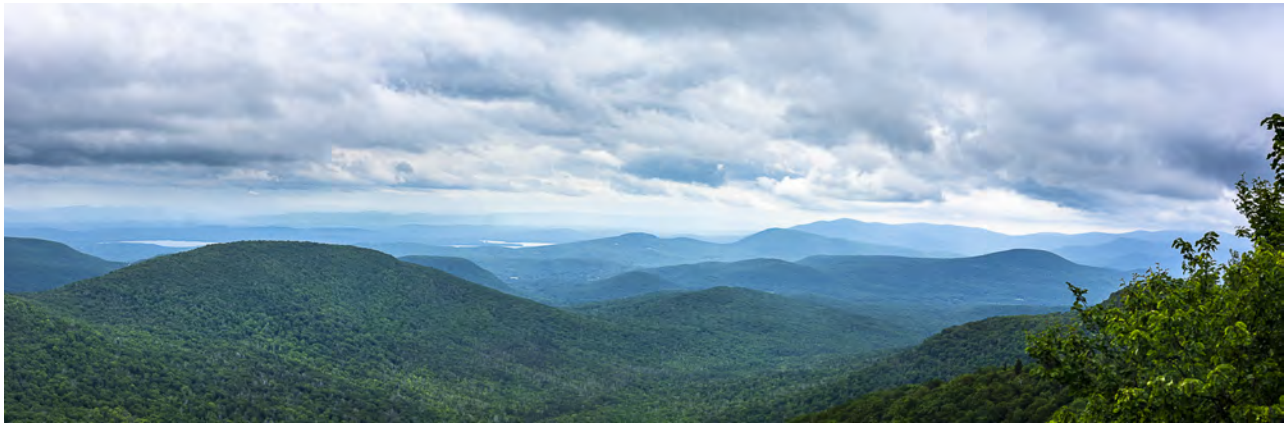
Hunter - Buck Ridge, Danny's Lookout.

Balsam Lake - a viewpoint about a mile west along Millbrook Ridge; CMC Palmer Hill trails, Belleayer near upper lodge.

Tremper - we think the tower should be seen from the view point on Panther.

Photo credits: Amy's photo is by Nathan Herzing. Trailhead and adopt a highway photos are by Lourdes Sonera (#2525 W1075) and Colleen Hardcastle (#2990 W1416). Merchandise photos are by Margaret McGrath (#2009 W939). Balsam Lake Mountain photo by the illuminator Jeremy Preston (#2281 W1024).





View from Sugarloaf. Photo by Steve Aaron #3199

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## Catskill 3500 Club Trailhead Program 2022 Season Kick-off

Text by: Jeff Schoenfeld and Colleen Hardcastle #2990 W1416

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The Catskill 3500 Club Trailhead Steward program, in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Adopt-a-Trailhead program, launched its second season Memorial Day weekend. Our four volunteers saw 240 people and 13 dogs, with 211 of the people and all the dogs on Sunday! May 29th's visitor count was a new record, with more visitors than any day in 2021. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have served this year, and who have signed up to serve as stewards later this summer. Without you, we could not advocate, protect, and preserve through this program.

First-time volunteer steward Jeff Schoenfeld loved the opportunity to greet wonderful people who share his passion for the outdoors. Jeff helped many plan their hike routes, and shared trail magic with a group doing the Burroughs Range loop. Jeff says it was a complete breath of fresh air to teach applied mathematics to unsuspecting hikers, including the average elevation gain per mile (the "unit rate"), after teaching quadratic equations to middle school students for over 35 years. Almost every visitor who was offered the opportunity to ask a question, had a question, and nearly all thanked the volunteers. Volunteers experience a deep sense of personal satisfaction from the experience. Special bonuses of his day included a piece of chocolate babka shared by visiting Search and Rescue team members who had just completed a training exercise, and a hummingbird attracted to the red vehicle tail lights.



Club volunteers from our inaugural 2021 season have shared why we volunteer:

- I love volunteering and giving back to my passion of hiking and outdoors. For me, stewarding is about something bigger than just donating time. Giving and gaining knowledge about these mountains, making an impact to preserve these trails, helping others, along with meeting new friends who share the same values. *Michele Kaminsky (#2804 W1305)*
- I appreciate the opportunity to share what I've learned about hiking the Catskills and helping newcomers prepare themselves so they can have an enjoyable experience. *Colin DeVries (#3382)*
- I volunteer to meet and learn from others who are passionate about hiking in the Catskills, to share what I've learned with first-time visitors, and to help sustain the trails for continued recreational use. *Colleen Hardcastle (#2990 W1416)*

- I greatly enjoy interacting with other hikers and sharing my knowledge with them. All of the hikers I talked to were appreciative of the information we provided, especially those doing the loop that did not know about the easement by Winnisook Lake. We were also able to provide alternatives to Slide mountain that would better fit their skill or preparedness level after talking to them, hopefully preventing injuries or rescue. *Dick Cole (#3752)*

The Trailhead Steward program is open to Catskill 3500 Club members and aspirants. Stewards are hikers who want to give back to the outdoor community. In addition to hiking in the Catskills, stewards prepare by reviewing online training material.

#### Stewards

- Encourage safe and responsible hiking
- Educate on Leave No Trace Principles
- Help hikers enjoy and respect the beauty of the outdoors
- Encourage, congratulate, and support visitors, both in reaching their hiking goals, and in wisely adjusting their goals due to conditions, equipment, or how they're feeling that day.

We staff the [Slide Mountain Parking Area](#) from late May (Memorial Day weekend) through mid-October (Indigenous Persons' Day), on Saturdays and Sundays (and Mondays and Fridays on holiday weekends), from 8am-3pm. The Club will expand to Woodland Valley as our volunteer program grows.

Through our Steward program, we engage with hikers and share information they need to hike safely in the wilderness. By connecting with hikers before their treks, trailhead stewards ensure hikers have an adequate plan, so that their backcountry experience is safe, positive, and fun for all. Educated hikers become responsible stewards, and, importantly, minimize their impact on the natural resources of the Catskills.

We are extremely grateful to the dedicated Club members and aspirants who have volunteered for 2022, and are actively seeking additional volunteers. We need more volunteers, so that we may better serve the Catskill hiking community and encourage safe and responsible hiking. Volunteer days count towards the Club's Service Award patch, and we plan to offer a patch this year specifically for Club Trailhead Stewards. Sign up now by clicking [here!](#)

P. S. The net elevation gain for Slide is calculated by subtracting the base elevation, 1641 feet, from the summit elevation, 4184 feet. To calculate the unit rate for the elevation gain, divide this difference by the trail mileage of 2.8 miles. Read the fall edition of *The Canister* for the answer key.

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Photos of Jeff, Michelle, Colleen, Assistant Forest Ranger Yazmina Rayne and NY-NJ Trail Conference summit steward Josh Nussenfeld are courtesy of Colleen Hardcastle and Michele Kaminsky (#2804 W1305).

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Beaver Meadow. Photo by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244

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### Conservation Corner

Text by: Carol White, Conservation Chair, #860 W310

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A large concrete and steel manufacturing facility proposed on Route 28 adjacent to Onteora Lake and Bluestone Wild Forest, just west of Kingston, was required to submit a State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) statement after the Catskill Mountainkeeper and Woodstock Land Conservancy sued them in 2019. The 850 Route 28 folks, rather than conduct the Environmental Impact Statement, “took advantage of the pro-development Town of Kingston to enlarge their storage area on the property, which they claim they are entitled to do ‘by right’ without any permit or environmental review,” says Kathleen Nolan, MD, MSL, Senior Research Director, Catskill Mountainkeeper. In March 2022, Catskill Mountainkeeper and the Woodstock Land Conservancy filed an Article 78 action against the Town of Kingston’s Zoning Board of Appeals code enforcement officer for illegal storage of industrial equipment. The case is now in the New York State Supreme Court with both sides submitting written arguments to the judge.



If they can proceed, they will withdraw water from an aquifer at the site, an essential nonrenewable resource, as well as from Pickerel Pond and possibly Onteora Lake. “The Department of Environmental Conservation, having seen the destruction at the site from last fall, now seems a bit more ready to step in to protect the wetlands and water resources there, as we have been calling on them to do since we became involved back in May 2019,” says Nolan.

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A view of the spruce tops in the Windham High Peak Plantation. Photo by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222

## Plantations

Text by: Mike Kudish #147

Jake Haisley (#2488), in his review of *The Catskill Forest: A History* (Purple Mountain Press, 2000), begins with the conifer plantations on Windham High Peak. Who put them in? The CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), a federal program, or the DEC (formerly the New York State Conservation Department)? Or was it some other agency or institution? See Jake's review in [\*The Catskill Canister\*, volume 54, number 1](#), January-March 2021, pages 13 and 14.



One would think that this would be an easy question to answer, but it isn't. The question applies to most of the conifer plantations in the Catskills. For only a few I have been able to track down the information source, the people responsible, and the year. Perhaps there are records in some obscure office at the DEC, but who has the time to travel to and search for them? I've selected eight plantations for which I have some historical information conveniently in my home libraries, and will speculate on a few more.

I had assumed that most or all of the plantations were established by the CCC, but Diane Galusha (President of the Historical Society of Middletown, Delaware County, and 35er #1532) had once asked me if I were certain. Diane is the author of THE book on the Catskills CCC: *Another Day, Another Dollar – The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Catskills* (Black Dome Press, 2008, 2009). It turns out that a good number of these plantations were put in by New York State at an earlier date.

There are other players here than the CCC and the state. Hundreds of private tracts have plantations put in by their

owners. The City of New York put in extensive plantations around their reservoirs – often too early or too late for the CCC to have done. Examples are around the Ashokan Reservoir in the 1905-1915 era, and along the north side of the Pepacton Reservoir in the 1940s and/or 1950s.

In almost all cases, reforestation – no matter who did the planting - took place on abandoned farm fields, and in a few cases, on burned over lands.

#### STUMPS AND BREAKS: DATING A PLANTATION

I frequently use cut stumps and broken trunks and limbs for ring counts. But these counts are not always accurate in telling me the full age of the tree and hence when the plantation was put in.

First – heart rot: When the inner core of a tree trunk rots, the earliest growth rings disappear, and a full ring count is impossible to make. One can estimate the number of years lost by calculating a proportion:

$$\frac{\text{number of rings counted}}{\text{full age of tree (unknown)}} = \frac{\text{existing wood radius}}{\text{full radius of tree}}$$

But this proportion works only when the tree's growth rate is a constant for its whole life. Often this does not happen; a tree's growth rate can speed up or slow down several times.

Second – breaks high up: If the trunk, or a limb, breaks high up and falls to the ground, the number of rings counted does not include the number of years it required for the tree to reach the height of the break. A "rule of thumb" is a foot in height per year, but it can be as slow as a few inches per year or up to two feet per year in pines or larches. One must add the estimated number of years to reach the height of the break and add it to the ring count.

Third – One must consider that the planted seedlings were not zero years old, but usually three or four. Subtract these seedling years from the full ring count to obtain the plantation date.

CCC plantations were established between 1933 and 1942, but New York State plantations can be older. By using ring counts with all their inaccuracies, it can be very difficult to determine if a tree was planted, for example by the CCC in 1937 (85 years old in 2022) or by the state in 1927 (95 years old in 2022).



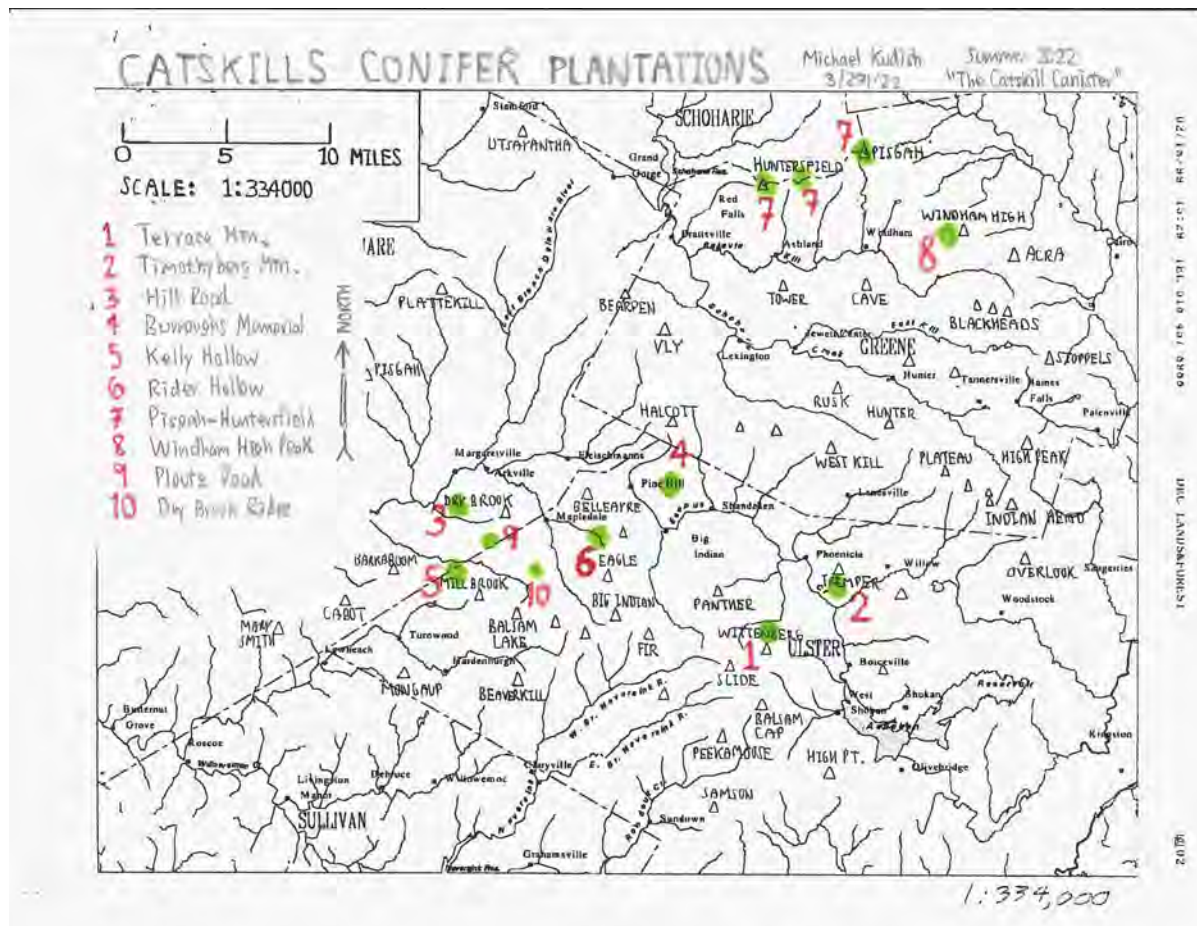
*From L to R: Norway spruce plantation at the south end of Dry Brook Ridge; red squirrel cone waste pile on Dry Brook Ridge; Red pine plantation along Ski Run Road (Below Bearpen). All photos were taken in 2004.*

#### SOME NEW YORK STATE HISTORY:

New York State conifer plantations began at an early date in the Catskills with a tree nursery at Brown's Station (now the site of the Ashokan Reservoir aerator) from 1902 to 1906. In the Adirondacks, the first tree nursery was established at

Axton between 1898 and 1902. Plantations were put in at Wawbeek ca. 1900 (there's quite a story here with this Fernow Plantation!), Lake Clear in 1902, and Saranac Inn in 1903, mainly under the supervision of Clifford Robert Pettis, a Catskills native.

Some detail on Adirondack plantations is available in volume II of Donaldson's 1921 *A History of the Adirondacks* (Purple Mountain Press reprint, 2002) and Barbara McMartin's *The Great Forest of the Adirondacks* (North Country Books, 1994).



SOME SELECTED PLANTATIONS:

A selection of plantations, familiar with 3500 Club members and in chronological order, follows:

TERRACE MOUNTAIN, May 1901: Terrace Mountain at that time was known as Simpson's Plateau, after James Simpson whose tannery crews had barked it in the 1850s. It burned on August 10, 1900 and a plantation was put in by J. Y. McClintock the following year in May; see the New York State Forest Fish & Game Commission *Annual Report* for 1901, page 45. The seedlings came from the nursery in Axton. More detail is available in Norman VanValkenburgh's *Land Acquisition for New York State* (The Catskill Center, 1985), page 103.

I placed one of my thesis sample plots in this plantation on July 5, 1970 and found only a few barely-surviving dwarfed Norway spruce at the edge of a cliff a short distance north of the Terrace Mountain Lean-to. Some spruce had died. I haven't been back since to see if any remain today.

TIMOTHYBERG MOUNTAIN, October 1901: Timothyberg Mountain was the name once given to the south spur of Mount Tremper. It had last burned in the 1880s. The New York State Forest, Fish & Game Commission *Annual Report* for 1901, pages 46 & 47, stated that the plantation could be seen from passengers from Ulster & Delaware train windows when passing Mount Pleasant Station. Because the conifers can not be seen today from the Esopus Valley, I assume it also failed, but have not been up there to check it.



HILL ROAD, HUCKLEBERRY BROOK, ca. 1920 (?). The Huckleberry Loop Trail begins on Hill Road and heads north, then east, up to Dry Brook Ridge, passing through this red pine and Norway spruce plantation. The Munson Farm was acquired by the state in 1904, and Diane Galusha says that CCC crews were trimming and thinning the plantation around and above the adjacent Huckleberry Brook state fish hatchery in 1938; if the plantation were old enough to be trimmed and thinned, it had been planted by the state considerably earlier.

BURROUGHS MEMORIAL IN ROCHESTER HOLLOW, April 1921:

The students at the Raymond Riordan School, a neighbor of John Burroughs in West Park, put in a memorial monument and white spruce plantation in honor of the great naturalist-writer shortly after he passed. It is on the south slopes of Rose Mountain. The spruce do not look too good today.

KELLY HOLLOW, April 1926: Edward G. West put in the Norway Spruce plantations at the upper end of Kelly Hollow on the Kelly, Ward, Andrews, and Newton Farms shortly after state land acquisition. Ed later became Superintendent of Land Acquisition for New York State; he was my mentor after he retired. The plantations of mixed species on the Gavett Farm along Mill Brook Road were put in later by the CCC, Camp S-133, Margaretville between 1935 and 1938.

RIDER HOLLOW, 1927 or 1928: Ed West told me that he and his crew put in the Rider Hollow (mostly European larch) plantations in 1927 or 1928.

PISGAH-HUNTERSFIELD STATE FORESTS, 1934-1942 era: This has been one of the most difficult plantations to date, but we have clues. Diane Galusha includes a chapter on CCC Breakabeen Camp S-93, largely responsible for plantations in Schoharie County. Our first clue is that the conifers on Mount Pisgah, Ashland Pinnacle, and Huntersfield Mountain are not far from Camp S-93.

Schoharie County highway maps show CCC Road heading south from the Manorkill up to the top of the ridge, passing through the gap between Richmond Mountain and Ashland Pinnacle. This road continues on down into Greene County where it is named County Route 32C or Finch Road. The fact that the road on the Schoharie side of the ridge is named CCC Road is our second clue that the Breakabeen Camp built it.

Diane Galusha (page 102) mentions that 9.6 miles of access roads were built by the CCC by the Breakabeen Camp S-93 in 1934 in southern Schoharie County and overflowed a little into Greene County: our third clue. However, this clue is found not in the Breakabeen Camp chapter, but in the S-19 Tannersville Camp chapter because some of these CCC roads were built in Greene County.

A CCC road branches off the CCC Road and heads east along the south shoulder of Richmond Mountain and dead-ends; this road is shown on the map on page 143 of the 1992 edition of the *Long Path Trail Guide*. Clue number four?

Edward Henry's *Catskills Trails*, Book One (Black Dome Press, 2000), page 149, states that the CCC put in these plantations on Huntersfield Mountain, but offers no year or detail. Nor does he attribute the plantations to CCC Camp S-93. Clue number five.

I think we have enough clues to believe that the Breakabeen Camp most likely did the reforestation, too. What do you think?

WINDHAM HIGH PEAK, 1934: We return to Jake Haisley's review of *The Catskill Forest: A History*, which opened this article. Elwood Hitchcock, in his book *Big Hollow* (Black Dome Press, 1993), page 84, tells us that Ed West and his NY State crew surveyed the tract during the winter of 1933-1934 and shortly after put in these plantations.



*Three plantations on Ashland Pinnacle and Richmond, photographed on May 16, 1995.*

#### SOME PUZZLES YET TO SOLVE:

I've been wondering about the plantations on either side of Ploutz Road. The Huckleberry Loop Trail passes through both of them. Are they NY State or CCC? One clue is that adjacent to the Ploutz Road trailhead is a cistern; several of these small water storage pools were built in the Mill Brook Valley by the Margaretville CCC Camp for possible fire fighting.

Then there's the Norway spruce plantation just west of the Dry Brook Ridge Trail as it climbs north away from the Mill Brook Road trailhead. The trail almost touches the edge of the plantation, but what is remarkable is that the trail passes directly through an area of spectacularly dense spruce naturalization (i.e. reproduction on its own).

#### FOOTNOTE:

I've dated this plantation at the south end of Dry Brook Ridge. It was put in by the NY State Conservation Commission sometime between 1920 and 1924 or a little later, not by the CCC in the mid-1930s. I tried to date the Ploutz Road west plantation last Saturday, but Dave Turan, Erwin Karl, and I need to return there to take some more careful measurements; this is a tough one to date.

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Michael Kudish's Ph.D. thesis was on the vegetational history of the Catskill High Peaks (SUNY E.S.F. 1971). This thesis initiated a life-long study on the forests from the end of the Ice Age to the present. He became member #147 on Panther Mountain on March 12, 1973 (with Ed West #45), and around that time wrote several articles for *The Catskill Canister*. Professor Mike taught in the Forestry Division of Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks for 34 years, retiring in 2005, and moved to the Catskills to continue studying the forest full time. Mike can be reached by [email](#).

Photo credits: Mike's photo in the field by Alan Via #429 W174. Plantation photos are by Mike Kudish and converted from slides by Dave Turan.

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Vly summit. Photo by Lori Beer #2393 W969

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## The Little Hills of Ticetonyk: Tonshi Mountain, Tonche Hook, and Torrens Hook

Text by: John Sasso #2034

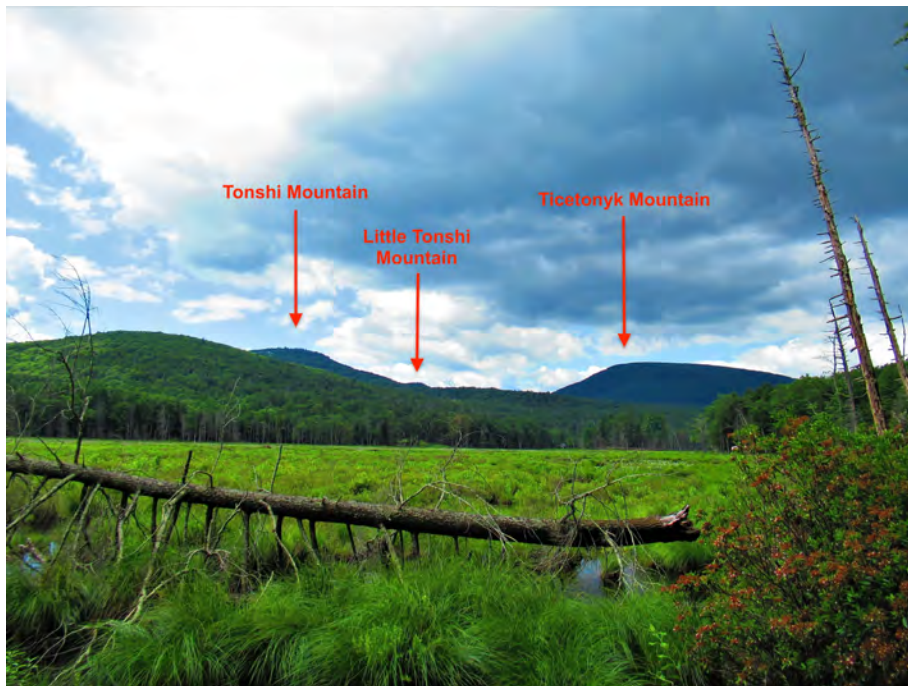
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In the last issue of *The Catskill Canister*, my historical profile focused on the history tied to Ticetonyk Mountain and Mount Tobias of Ulster County, north of the Ashokan Reservoir. The two peaks are named for the sons of an early Dutch settler of America, Coenraet (Conradt, Coenraadt) Ten Eyck: Matthias (Mathys, Mattys) and Tobias. Matthias, also referred to as Tice or Tys, was a partner in a very large land grant called the Hurley Patentee Woods (or Hurley Patent). The grant was awarded in 1708 to Cornelius Cool (Kool) and his associates, most of whom were of Dutch descent. Ticetonyk Mountain lies in the northwest corner of the patent, whereas Mount Tobias lies just north of it.



By their name, Ticetonyk Mountain and Mount Tobias are natural monuments to the influence Dutch settlers had on Ulster County. Other land features in the county have names tied to the Dutch, with roots as far back as when the county was called “Esopus” by Dutch traders of the Seventeenth-Century colony of New Netherland. This historical profile will focus on three such features, smaller hills which neighbor Ticetonyk Mountain: Tonshi Mountain, Tonche Hook, and Torrens Hook.

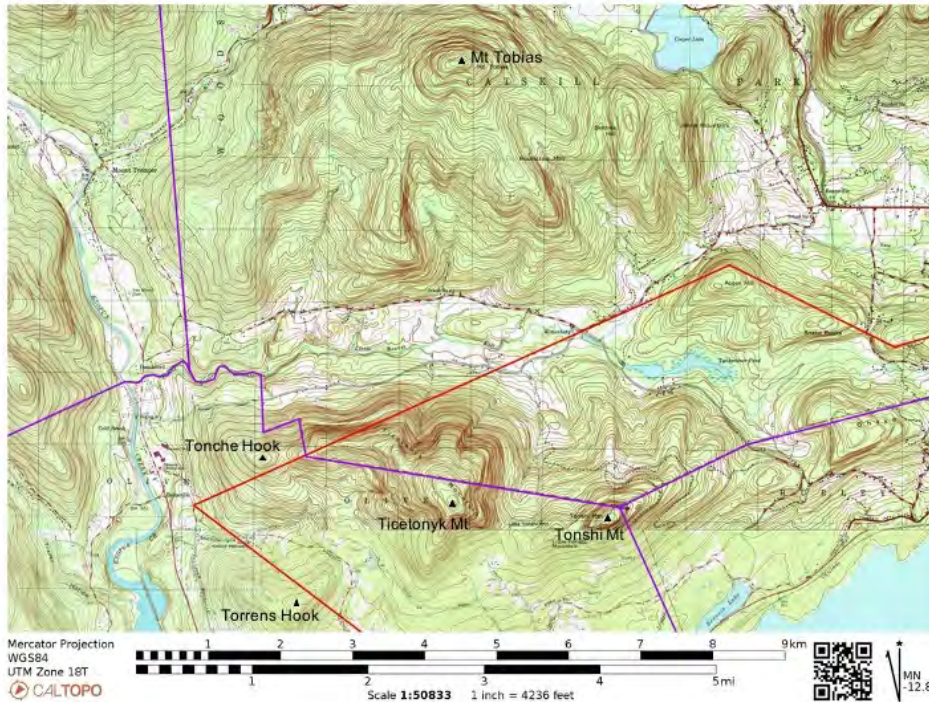
As a matter of clarification Tonche Hook and Torrens Hook are names of local origin and are not officially named as per the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.



Tonshi, Little Tonshi, and Ticetonyk Mountains, as seen from Yankeetown Pond near Woodstock.  
(Credit: James Hopson #1833 W782)



The author on Piney Point looking towards Torrens Hook, with Ashokan High Point in background.  
(Credit: James Hopson #1833 W782)



The northwest portion of the Hurley Patentee Woods land grant map (in red), with the following peaks denoted: Ticetonyk Mountain, Tonche Hook, Tonshi Mountain, Torrens Hook, and Mount Tobias. Among these, Tonche Hook and Torrens Hook are not officially-named peaks.

### A History of the Names

Let us start with the name-history for Tonshi Mountain and Tonche Hook, as they are tied to a single Dutch term through its pronunciation. To understand the connection, let us first examine the early references to the peaks.

The earliest reference to Tonshi Mountain is in the September 19, 1878 edition of *The Newtown Register*, where it is called “Tonche.” Thereafter, Tonshi Mountain went by other name variations up into the early Nineteenth Century:

- “Tontshi Mt.” on Arnold Guyot’s 1879 Map of the Catskill Mountains.
- “Big Tonche” on Charles Van Loan’s 1885 panoramic map, *Bird’s-eye View of the Catskill Mountains*.
- “Taantje mountain” in the July 9, 1908 edition of the Kingston Daily Freeman.

Likewise, Tonche Hook’s earliest appearance is on Van Loan’s 1885 map, where it is spelled as it is today. In George H. Chadwick’s 1944 report, “Geology of the Catskill and Kaaterskill Quadrangles,” he mentions the “Tys ten Eyck and Taantje mountains.” (1) Chadwick also claims that on the oldest maps, Tonshi Mountain is called “Taantje Hoek”; I have been unable to find a map with such a reference. I believe Chadwick may have mistaken this for today’s Tonche Hook.

According to Yvette Hoitink, a professional genealogist, writer, and lecturer in the Netherlands, the English pronunciation of tonche, tonshi, tontshi, and taantje is similar to that of the Dutch names “toontje” and “teuntje.” “Toontje” and “teuntje” are diminutive forms of the feminine names Antonia and Antoinette and the masculine names Antonius, Anton, Antoon, and Anthonis.(2) The Dutch suffix -tje sounds like “cheh.” Thus, these variations appear to be rooted in a common Dutch term.

The term “hook” is likely the Anglicized version of the Dutch word “hoek” or “hoeck,” meaning “point,” “point of land,” or “corner.” For example, the village of Kinderhook derives its name from Kinder Hoeck (“children’s corner”).



A portion of the 1885 *Bird's-eye View of the Catskill Mountains*, created by Walton Van Loan, showing Tonshi Mountain as "Big Tonche," and Tonche Hook. (Source: [New York Public Library Digital Collections](https://www.nypl.org/digital/collections/nypl/birdseyeviewofthecatkillmountains))

It is unclear from nineteenth-century census data and the literature pertaining to Ulster County's history if a settler of the region went by any of the Dutch names noted. I saw a few claims on the Internet that a woman named Annetje (Tantje) Roosa was born in Hurley in 1687 and married Johannes Westbrook (Westbroek) Jr. in 1715. However, the genealogical monograph *The Westbrook Family of New York* (3) gives her name as Antjen Roosa.

We now turn to Torrens Hook. The earliest reference to this hill found is in Alphonso Clearwater's 1907 text, *The History of Ulster County*, in which he calls it "Toran's Hook." (4) It has also been called "Mount Toran Hoeck." (5)

As with Tonshi/Tonche, determining the origin of Torrens comes down to presenting possibilities. "Toren" is Dutch for "steeple" or "tower." "Torrens" is also a surname derived from the Gaelic word "torran," meaning "hillock," "mound," or "little hills." The name being of Gaelic origin seems more likely, as Torrens Hook resembles more of a mound than a tower (and I could find no record of there being a tower on Torrens Hook). If we take Torrens Hook and its neighboring peaks together, "little hills" also makes sense.

The claim often published is that the Town of Hurley was named by Governor Francis Lovelace for the title of his family, the Irish Barons of Hurley. Lovelace was the second English governor of New York (1668-1673). This would seem to lend some credence to the Gaelic origin for the hill's name, but there are two problems. First, there was never such a title in Ireland. Writers may have confused it with the Barons Lovelace of Hurley in Berkshire (formerly Berks), England. Second, according to J. Hall Pleasants's detailed biographical record of the colonial governor, (6) Francis should not be confused with Francis Lovelace, the son of Richard Lovelace, the first Lord Lovelace of Hurley in Berkshire (Richard's son and the colonial governor were cousins). On the contrary, Governor Lovelace's roots are in the village of Bethersden, Kent, England. In September 1669, when the governor helped resettle what was then called the village of Nieu Dorp ("New Village") following the end of the Esopus Wars, he renamed the village Hurley in honor of his cousin's family.

Finally, I have been unable to find any record of someone by the first or last name of Torren (or variant) who lived in Ulster County prior to 1900. With the theory of a Gaelic origin for the name of Torrens Hook making the most sense, does Pleasants's biography of Governor Francis Lovelace disprove this theory? Not necessarily. Census records for the towns of Hurley, Marletown, Olive, and Woodstock from the early Nineteenth Century show residents who were immigrants from Ireland. During the Irish Potato Famine (1845-1849), an influx of Irish immigrants settled in Kingston and surrounding areas, looking for a better life. (7) The federal census for 1850 shows a massive rise of over 6,000 residents in Ulster County who emigrated from Ireland. Thus, locals of Irish stock may have given Torrens Hook its name, which has stuck to this day – albeit not on a map.

## The Legend of Dancing Rock on Torrens Hook

On the crest of Torrens Hook is a large, flat rock known as “Dancing Rock.” This place takes its name from a claim that the native peoples (possibly the Esopus tribe) used it for their war dances. The veracity of his claim has not been verified. (8, 9)

Another legend connected with Native Americans in the region and Torrens Hook is that of a duel to the death for the hand of an Indian maiden. It is said that two Indian chiefs, Ashokan and Tongore (or Tongoras, Tingore) were deeply in love with an Indian maiden named Teelah-leelah. Chief Ashokan ended up losing his life at the hands of Chief Tongore. The veracity of this legend has also not been verified.

The Ashokan Reservoir is named in honor of the fallen Chief Ashokan. Similarly, the hamlet of Olivebridge on the south side of the Ashokan Reservoir was once named Tongore, in honor of the victorious chief who purportedly lived nearby.

## The Glen Tonche Estate

Glen Tonche is a mountaintop estate which lies on the summit of Tonshi Mountain. Also referred to as the “Zeus of the Catskills,” Glen Tonche is the creation of Raymond Pitcairn (1885-1966), a Pennsylvania lawyer, philanthropist, and amateur architect who is the son of John Pitcairn, the founder of PPG Industries (a global supplier of paints, coatings, and specialty materials). (10, 11) Raymond was also active in Pennsylvania politics. As a Republican, he was one of the delegates to the state’s convention to ratify the Twenty-First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1933.

In 1928, Pitcairn commissioned the architectural firm of Mellor, Meigs & Howe of Philadelphia, PA to design the buildings on the 22.5-acre estate atop “Big Tonche Mountain.” Glen Tonche is a 18,740-square foot structure having a balloon wood frame, redwood sheathed, comprised of two main wings connected by a covered walkway. The compound includes 22 private rooms, 23 bathrooms, and 18 blue stone fireplaces. The palatial “Great Room” is more than 10,000 square feet in size, with 60-foot vaulted ceilings and 30-foot-tall windows. The dining room can seat more than 100 guests! The compound receives potable water from a water supply at the bottom of the mountain, which is pumped up to the estate. The estate is serviced by a 10,000-gallon wastewater treatment system of special design. There is also an in-ground swimming pool on the property. Undoubtedly, the beauty of Glen Tonche’s grand architecture pales in comparison to the incredible panoramic view of the Catskills Mountains and the Ashokan Reservoir, below.

The Pitcairn family used Glen Tonche as a family vacation home until they put it on the market in 1996, for the price tag of \$3.9 million. In 1998, Randall Wallace, the grandson of the vice president under Franklin D. Roosevelt, Henry A. Wallace, purchased the estate for \$1.7 million. (12) Wallace, a photographer and musician, purchased Glen Tonche while looking for a cabin close to the Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camp in Saugerties. He spent more than \$12 million on restoration of the compound, winterizing it, and sandblasting the many bluestone fireplaces.

In 2001, Wallace established Allaire Studios (13) at Glen Tonche, converting several rooms in the Great Hall to create a state-of-the-art recording studio. Regional musicians have made use of Allaire Studios, which has also attracted world-famous musicians and bands such as Norah Jones, David Bowie, and Rush.

In the spring of 2001, Bowie’s guitarist, David Tom, recommended he check out Allaire Studios as a location to work on their new album, *Heathen*. (14, 15) Tom told Bowie that the atmosphere of the studio was unlike anything he had ever seen. A visit to Allaire Studios must have truly inspired the godfather of glam rock, for Bowie recalls in an interview that “everything that my album should be about was galvanized for me into one focal point. Even though I couldn’t express it in words right that second, I knew the lyrics were ready. [...] It was almost like my feet were lifted off the ground.” *Heathen* was released on June 10, 2002.



Aerial View of Glen Tonche 24. Courtesy of Bryn Athyn Historic District Archives at Glencairn Museum.  
Photograph ID: RMP\_GT\_0432.



Glen Tonche Tower 02. Courtesy of Bryn Athyn Historic District Archives at Glencairn Museum.  
Photograph ID: RMP\_GT\_0106.

### **Bowie's Retreat on Little Tonshi Mountain**

In late January 2003, David Bowie and his supermodel wife, Iman, purchased 64 acres of land on Little Tonshi Mountain for \$1,162,500. (16) Little Tonshi is an 1,818-foot peak that is just over 0.4-miles west of Tonshi Mountain. Bowie's work at Allaire Studios likely inspired him to acquire the property on Little Tonshi, once it went on the market in September 2002. "This is not cute, on top of [Little Tonshi Mountain]," Bowie opined. "It's stark, and it has a Spartan quality about it. In this instance, the retreat atmosphere honed my thoughts .... I've written in the mountains before, but never with such gravitas."

When David Bowie died after his battle with cancer on January 10, 2016 at the age of 69, he left his estate on Little Tonshi Mountain to his daughter, Alexandria. (17) Although there have been rumors from media outlets and elsewhere that Bowie's ashes were secretly scattered on Little Tonshi Mountain, these have never been substantiated.

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John Sasso (#2034) is an Adirondack historian, and avid hiker and bushwhacker, from Colonie, N.Y. Contact the author at [jsassojr@gmail.com](mailto:jsassojr@gmail.com). For those interested in the history and folklore of the Adirondacks, join John's Facebook group [History and Legends of the Adirondacks](#).



Clouds below the summit of Slide. Photo by Phil Vondra #3088 W1284

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## Eight Mountains, One Long Adventure

Text by: Spencer Crispe #3018

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The taxi arrived at 7am. I am terrible about getting on the trail early. I'm not a morning person. But today my wife Renee and I were attempting to climb eight mountains in excess of 3000 feet and I knew it was going to be a long day so we had better get an early start. Our goal was to climb what's informally known as the bushwhack range - which is comprised of Friday, Balsam Cap, Rocky and Lone mountains. In addition we planned to climb Wittenberg, Cornell and Peekamoose Mountains which bookend the range. The taxi followed us out to Peekamoose Road where we posted a car. Then we hopped in the taxi so we could ride back to Woodland Valley Road to begin hiking on the trailhead that would take us to Wittenberg.



Our taxi driver looked exactly like Bruce Springsteen. I remember being suspicious that it was indeed The Boss himself, so I kept dropping hints during the cab ride like: "I hope we finish this hike during daylight, otherwise we're going to be dancing in the dark!" It turns out that our cab driver was definitely not Bruce Springsteen, but I remain suspicious to this day that he may have indeed been driving a cab under cover.

The ascent we took to Wittenberg is over 2500 feet in elevation gain and we definitely felt it. It took a while to get warmed up with all that elevation hitting us so early in the hike. It was sunny with no clouds anywhere. However, it was warming up fast and I don't do well in the heat. I sweat so much I am practically sponsored by Right Guard Deodorant. On summer hikes I always look like I just got out of the pool from nearly drowning. On top of that, it is hard to carry the volume of water I need to stay hydrated. I need to figure out a way to haul an industrial water tower behind me in a rickshaw. Moreover, I figured that finding water during the high elevation traverse would be difficult, if not impossible.

Wittenberg had some awesome views and getting over to Cornell was quick. Cornell also had some nice views, so we sat and loaded up on some food in order to ramp up for the bushwhack portion of this marathon hike.

We left the trail and began the bushwhack over to Friday Mountain. We brought a lot of supplies and back up gear. We also had several compasses and a GPS to help with the off-trail navigation. It was a long and tricky bushwhack that became pretty thick in places. Once atop Friday Mountain there were dense conifers and I could not find the canister to save my life. Renee and I searched seemingly everywhere for it until we finally gave up.

Next we were off to Balsam Cap. This mountain has some really steep parts and we took great effort to ascend the dome of the mountain from closer toward the western side of the ridge, where the contours of the map are more forgiving. After that we scrambled over to Rocky Mountain. Similar to Balsam Cap, we had to plot our bushwhack route carefully to try and avoid cliffy ledges, otherwise the only hope we would have of getting on top is by waiting for a stork or condor to lift us up past the steep parts to the summit, and I feared if we utilized the bird-lift-assistance-method we would be waiting a little while.

Rocky Mountain was really cool. This is one of my favorite trailless mountains in the Catskills because it has such a remote feel to it. Rocky has trailless peaks on either side of it and it is way out in the bush where the busses don't run. You won't find a KFC/Taco Bell anywhere near Rocky Mountain, and if you were hoping for the Olive Garden, well forget about it. Rocky Mountain is like the Catskill peak that time forgot and feels about as wild, remote and primitive as one can get in the range.

We forged ahead over to Lone Mountain. Often it was thick coming off the summits, but as soon as we descended a little ways, the woods would open up and the bushwhacking was easier. I remember the infamous briars and nettles found in some places in the Catskills which will transform even the heartiest clothes into a shag rug if you're not careful. These briars and nettles can devour clothing and turn it into a heaping pile of shredded garbage. Fortunately, there were very

few nettles and briars during this high elevation traverse.

After Lone Mountain we would rejoin a trail for Table Mountain which was a welcome sight after just completing the bushwhack portion of the hike. By this time it was getting late and we were running low on energy. We finally made it to Peekamoose, but by this time the sun had set and it was completely dark. Peekamoose had a cool feel and a giant boulder at the top. I liked the vibe of this mountain, although I was stumbling like the Ghost of Christmas Past weighed down by chains, exhausted from having trodden such a long way.

Renee and I began the long descent of Peekamoose down to where we had posted our car. This was a nearly 2700 foot drop which I would have loved to have just curled into a ball and rolled myself down the mountain. About half way down we encountered a large boulder slab which had a rough but mostly horizontal surface. I stopped to drink some water real quick. After I got my backpack off and had some water I turned around and couldn't hear Renee. Everything was silent. I looked and she had sprawled herself out across the boulder and instantly fallen sound asleep! She was out as if she had been in the ring with Muhammad Ali. Totally down for the count. Maybe she had transformed into the Rip Van Winkle that the Catskills were known for? I remember thinking to myself it would be a bummer to not have my wife for the next 20 years while she slept Rip Van Winkle style. I shook her a little bit and after much plodding got her to rally and keep going the remaining way to the car. She and I both stumbled down the remaining distance until we arrived at the car – 15 ½ hours after we were dropped off by “Bruce Springsteen” that morning. It was the second longest hike I had ever done and one of the most challenging.

The bushwhack range is a beautiful and remote area of the Catskills, and I definitely want to revisit it. I want to find that dastardly elusive canister on Friday Mountain next time. Friday is one of the toughest bushwhacks in the Catskills, and the bushwhack range requires solid navigational, fitness and safety preparedness skills, but the peaks comprised of Friday, Balsam Cap, Rocky and Lone are a fantastic exploration off the beaten path in the wilds of the Catskills.

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Spencer Crispe is a ninth generation Vermonter who lives in West Brattleboro, VT. He is a sugarmaker and optimizes all his free time around mountain climbing and bushwhacking. In 2020 he became the 12<sup>th</sup> known finisher to climb all 770 summits in the Northeast above 3000'. Spencer can be reached via [email](#).

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Magnificent Yellow Birches of the Catskills. Photos by Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond #2814 W1222



## Wednesday December 22, 2021

### Balsam, Eagle, Big Indian and Fir (5 hrs 9 min)

I woke up and everything was very icy. I know it would probably be worse in the Catskills. I would normally drive from home in New Paltz via the back roads, but I knew it was safer to stay on bigger roads as they would have been gritted. I was right — the drive was easy until I got to McKenley Hollow, which was a sheet of ice. But it was OK for my trusty Subaru. Spikes went on in the car (I have slipped over in too many parking lots!) and I set off for Balsam and it was indeed very icy but no problems for my Hillsounds. I know some big barky dogs live close to that trail head, so I wanted to be quiet and not set them off barking and wake everyone up. I was cold and a bit lonely in the icy darkness thinking about what lay ahead. I was just over the bridge and 100 yards along the trail when I could hear an owl hooting. I thought I would make friends, so I hooted back. Unfortunately, the dogs decided that was a human hoot not an owl and went nuts! So much for my stealth mission. Off, I went into the cold icy mountains, feeling strong, but a bit glum. The hiking went well but it was a cold windy day, and I was glad for hand warmers and extra gloves. The bushwhacks went well but from Big Indian to Fir was tricky. It was really cold and very bright, and I have never done the bushwhack in that direction. But all went well, and Piers picked me up and had a nice sandwich and a coffee for me.

### Halcott (1 hr 24 mins)

This was nice and easy up and back to my car. I had some food and a change of clothes.

### Bearpen and Vly (2 hr 26 min)

The day was warming up a bit and I was feeling good on my diet of burritos, candy and cheese. Mike also met me to keep me company on this hike, which was awesome. When he did his direttissima I did these peaks with him, so it was extra cool that he was helping with my winter effort and he always stays positive.

### Balsam Lake Mountain (1 hr 59 min)

It was getting dark, and it was mega windy, and I was tired and hungry. I dragged myself out of the car, put on extra clothes and stuffed a bunch of food in my mouth. Mike and I hiked up Balsam Lake Mountain as it got dark. It was kind of fun; crazy wind and I think it was -10F in the wind chill at the summit. We headed down to the car with a big day behind us.

## Thursday December 23, 2021

### West Kill, SW Hunter, Hunter and Rusk (6 hrs 7 min)

It was cold, really cold! My motivation was low. I hiked up West Kill and it was bitterly cold (did I mention it was cold?). It was the only time I was a bit worried. My water bottle tops had frozen before I was halfway up West Kill, so I had to stick them in my trousers to try and thaw them out. That's not a nice way to start the day. As I got close to Buck Ridge Lookout, the sun burst through and that red-golden light raised my spirits. The rest of the hike was good, but it was still cold, and I was glad I had hand warmers with me. After Hunter, I opted to go down the horse trail and take the herd path up Rusk, rather than hike up East Rusk first. I felt it was best to move quickly and not to slow down on a bushwhack. Extra vertical, but I was moving faster.

### Sherrill and North Dome (3 hrs 12 min)

This was a great bushwhack, taking a less travelled route from the DEP gate on Spruceton Rd. It was fun exploring a new area for me, with lots of old walls and trees clinging to boulders up high. It was nice to have Mike as company on this.

### Windham High Peak (2 hrs 16 min)

I was ready for bed, it was starting to get dark, and it was chilly. Mike and our friend Mendy did this with me. It was tough to get going but once moving and seeing a new face buoyed my spirits. It was a fun summit, and we could hear geese flying over us — they must have been really close. It was very cold once again and I needed a huge dinner and bed.

### Friday December 24, 2021

Blackhead, Black Dome and Thomas Cole (3 hrs 8 min)

I woke up and saw we had a few inches of unexpected snow! That was cool! I loaded up my car, locked myself out of the hotel, but I climbed over the balcony and got Mike to let me back the room so I could get coffee and breakfast!

I was having fun still but was a bit over being cold. I was happy that my friend Tom would help me on these peaks. He is a mountain goat and talks all day long. We set off, and these peaks looked great with a fresh coat of snow .

Plateau, Sugarloaf, Twin and Indian Head (4 hrs 43 min)

We had snow and ice now, and I broke out my new Hillsounds. I felt good; I was close to finishing this epic project and we now had some proper winter weather. I had two good friends with me (Mike and Piers), and off we set from Mink Hollow. I was slow but had the end in sight. It was tricky at times, often just enough snow to make the Hillsounds not grip but all was good. I did manage to trip going down Twin and kick myself in the back of my right calf which drew blood but wasn't too bad. The few inches of snow were great.



Kaaterskill High Peak (2 hrs 38 min)

The end is finally in sight! It was getting late, but Mike and I figured we could hit the summit before dark. The weather was a bit crazy, and as we got higher, we saw a cool inversion. We took some time to get pictures and then hit the summit. Mike had a can of Kaaterskill IPA so we could celebrate. I forced down a slurp and wanted to get back the car so I could get back for Christmas Eve dinner with the kids. It was nice to get back to the car at 6.28 pm, a total of three days 12 hours and 53 minutes. It was fun but I needed a shower, dinner, a warm sofa and a beer!

Overall, it was a great experience. I took it easy enough to have fun and not get too tired. I had a great bunch of friends to help me on most of the peaks. My goal was to have fun and go reasonably fast but not fast enough for it not to be fun. I'm lucky that I have a great bunch of friends that help me. I can't thank Mike Siudy, Piers Constable, Tom Kaplan and Mendy Taylor enough for hiking through the freezing winter Catskills with me. I would also like to thank all the people that keep the trails maintained and safe and the 3500 Club. The Catskills are magical in all the seasons, but winter is my favorite.

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Phil was born in London, England, moved to the USA in 2007 and has been a full time New Paltz resident since 2015. Besides hiking and trail running with his buddy George, the mini Aussiedoodle, Phil enjoys rock climbing and triathlons and was a member of the rowing national team (Great Britain). Phil has placed as a trail running champion in his age group in all Ultra trail distances 50k, 50 mile, 100k and 100 miles. His favorite Catskill hike is the Neversink 9, and the favorite view is Buck Ridge Lookout at sunrise. His least favorite Catskills thing are the ground hornets! Phil is a trail maintainer of the Long Path section between Warner Creek and the Willow Trail. He can be contacted by [email](#).



Sunrise on Campbell Mountain. Photo by Tony Versandi #1488 W637

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Maureen T. Dooley, #975** passed away on March 17, 2022, at the age of 90. Maureen was an Adirondack 46er #2455, and a member of AMC 4,000-Footer Club, Sierra Club, Highpointers, Beaver Lake Nature Center, Utica Zoo and View, Old Forge, and Munson Williams Proctor Art Institute.

**Laura Smith, #2179 W993**, of Arkville NY, passed away at home on April 1, 2022. Laura loved hiking and was happiest outdoors. After the age of 60, she hiked all of the Catskill Mountain Club All Trails Challenge, the Finger Lakes Trail, and NY Long Path end to end, as well as trails in Utah, Arizona, Maine, Tennessee, and South Dakota. To date, she is the only person to have completed the All Trails Challenge three times.

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Sunrise on Giant Ledge. Photo by Chris Sobik

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## **Rambles and Brambles** **[Hike Schedule](#)** **July - September 2022**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Club hikes may be canceled at the hike leader's discretion if dangerous weather conditions exist. When in doubt (heavy rain, high winds, or other serious weather conditions), please contact your hike leader.

**Group Size: All Club hikes are limited to 12 participants including the leaders. The DEC limits group size to 12 in the Wilderness Areas. Accordingly, all Club hikes allow no more than 12 participants.**

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

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

**Parking Alert:** As reported in the Trail Mix, a permit to park at the Peekamose Rd trailhead is required between May 15th and September 15th. Woodland Valley parking fee is in effect between May 20th and October 9th.

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Dry Brook Ridge Trail. Photo by Mark Walsh #3645

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

Club hiking schedule is subject to change.

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**Sat. June 4 - ROCKY & LONE**

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elevs: 3487', 3700'  
Moderate pace bushwhack and trail from Denning  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Joe Chenier #2233 W1138  
[jchenier1073@gmail.com](mailto:jchenier1073@gmail.com)

**Fri. July 1 - BALSAM**

Distance: 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1750', Elev: 3607'  
Relaxed pace, mindful trail hike with periods of silent hiking. Beginners welcome. Shuttle required.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Sharon Klein #3364  
[CatsNGunks@gmail.com](mailto:CatsNGunks@gmail.com)

**Sat. July 2 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU**

Distance 13 mi. Ascent: 5000', Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 38435'  
Long, challenging trail hike at a moderate, steady pace. Eastern Devil's Path traverse. Shuttle required.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951  
[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Thur. July 7 - KAATERSKILL**

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 1950', Elev: 3652'  
Moderate pace trail hike and bushwhack.  
Registration Period: by July 5  
Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950  
[edmoran@gmail.com](mailto:edmoran@gmail.com) 631-741-3765

**Fri. July 8 - LONE & ROCKY**

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2385', Elevs: 3700', 3487'  
Moderate pace bushwhack.  
Registration Period: June 27 - July 6  
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 [shnaber@yahoo.com](mailto:shnaber@yahoo.com)  
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 [newpaltz33@yahoo.com](mailto:newpaltz33@yahoo.com)

**Sat. July 16 - Long Path from Lane St. to Woodland Valley**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3300'  
Beautiful section of the Long Path from Lane Street to Woodland Valley. Details [here](#).  
Shuttle required. Shared parking fee at Woodland Valley.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Joe Chenier #2233 W1138  
[jchenier1073@gmail.com](mailto:jchenier1073@gmail.com)

**Sun. July 17 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP**

Distance: 7.5+ mi. Ascent: 3000', Elevs: 3692', 3608'  
Challenging bushwhack at a moderate pace includes visit to B25 crash.  
Registration Period: July 10 - 15  
Leader: Jake Haisley #2488 W1065  
[jacobhaisley@gmail.com](mailto:jacobhaisley@gmail.com)

**Sat. July 23 - MILL BROOK RIDGE & BALSAM LAKE**

Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elevs: 3465', 3729'  
Short bushwhack from Kelly Hollow to Mill Brook Ridge, then easy trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168  
[nmdange@live.com](mailto:nmdange@live.com)

**Sat. July 23 - HUNTER**

Distance: 6.3 mi. Ascent: 2080', Elev: 4030'  
Moderate pace

Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Amy Holiday #3831  
[aholiday@gmail.com](mailto:aholiday@gmail.com)

**Sat. July 23 - ROCKY & LONE**

Distance: 10.3 mi. Ascent: 2678', Elev: 3487', 3700'  
Moderate pace bushwhack and trail hike.  
Registration Period: July 13 - 21  
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W994  
[michael@bongarbiz.com](mailto:michael@bongarbiz.com)

**Sun. July 24 - EAGLE**

Distance: 8.2 mi. Ascent 1700', Elev: 3583'  
Relaxed-moderate pace.  
Registration Period: Jul. 17 - 22  
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312  
[catskill35r@gmail.com](mailto:catskill35r@gmail.com)

**Tue. July 26 - BALSAM LAKE & MILL BROOK RIDGE**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3729', 3465'  
Moderate pace trail and bushwhack. Shuttle required.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390  
[ericapellegrino71@gmail.com](mailto:ericapellegrino71@gmail.com)

**Sat. July 30 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU**

Distance: 13 mi. Ascent: 5000', Elevs. 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835'  
Long, challenging trail hike at a moderate pace. Eastern Devil's Path traverse. Shuttle required.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168  
[nmdange@live.com](mailto:nmdange@live.com)

**Sun. July 31 - HALCOTT via Elk Creek**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1400', Elev: 3509'  
Relaxed pace bushwhack with map and compass instruction. Beginners welcome.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082  
[ad322@freeelectron.net](mailto:ad322@freeelectron.net) 518-947-6407

**Sat. Aug. 6 - HALCOTT (am), VLY & BEARPEN (pm)**

Distance: 3.5 mi. Ascent: 1700', Elev: 3509' (Halcott)  
Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elevs: 3541', 3587' (Vly & Bearpen)  
Short steep bushwhack followed by moderate unmarked trail hike. Hike one or both.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168  
[nmdange@live.com](mailto:nmdange@live.com)

**Sat. Aug. 6 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL**

Distance: 6+ mi. Ascent: 2450', Elevs: 3605', 3558'  
Moderate pace bushwhack with steep climbs. Shuttle required.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951  
[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Sun. Aug. 7 - THOMAS COLE & BLACK DOME**

Distance: 5 mi. Ascent: 2500'. Elevs: 3953', 3994'  
Relaxed pace bushwhack with map and compass instruction. Beginners welcome.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082  
[ad322@freeelectron.net](mailto:ad322@freeelectron.net) 518-947-6407

**Thur. Aug. 11 - WINDHAM**

Distance: 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1500', Elev: 3525'  
Relaxed pace trail hike.  
Registration Period: by Aug. 8

Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950  
[edmoran@gmail.com](mailto:edmoran@gmail.com) 631-741-3765

**Fri. Aug. 12 - SW HUNTER**

Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent: 1650', Elev: 3753'  
Moderate pace bushwhack.  
Registration Period: Aug 1 - 10  
Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 [shnaber@yahoo.com](mailto:shnaber@yahoo.com)  
Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 [newpaltz33@yahoo.com](mailto:newpaltz33@yahoo.com)

**Fri. Aug. 12 - SLIDE, CORNELL & WITTENBERG**

Distance: 10.3 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elevs: 4184', 3857', 3782'  
Moderate pace trail hike. Shuttle required from Slide trailhead to Woodland Valley  
Registration Period: Aug. 3 – 10. Shared parking fee at Woodland Valley.  
Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W994  
[michael@bongarbiz.com](mailto:michael@bongarbiz.com)

**Sat. Aug. 13 - RUSK, HUNTER & SW HUNTER**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 3200', Elevs: 3680', 4030', 3753'  
Long bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168  
[nmdange@live.com](mailto:nmdange@live.com)

**Sun. Aug. 14 - SLIDE**

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev. 4184'  
Moderate paced trail. Rain, Inclement weather will cancel.  
Registration Period: August 8 - 12  
Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326  
[suzkna@msn.com](mailto:suzkna@msn.com) 718-435-3092 (after 7:00 pm)

**Tue. Aug. 16 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL**

Distance: 6+ mi. Ascent 2450', Elevs: 3605', 3558'  
Moderate pace bushwhack. Shuttle required.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390  
[ericapellegrino71@gmail.com](mailto:ericapellegrino71@gmail.com)

**Sat. Aug. 20 - WINDHAM, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE**

Distance: 14.5 mi. Ascent: 4500', Elevs: 3525', 3940', 3994', 3953'  
Long trail hike from Peck Rd. to Barnum Rd. at a moderate pace. Shuttle required.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168  
[nmdange@live.com](mailto:nmdange@live.com)

**Sat. Aug. 27 - ST. ANNE'S & WEST KILL**

Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elevs: 3423', 3898'  
Moderate pace. Shuttle required.  
Registration Period: Aug. 22 - 26  
Leader: Jake Haisley #2488 W1065  
[jacobhaisley@gmail.com](mailto:jacobhaisley@gmail.com)

**Sat. Aug. 27 - WINDHAM**

Distance: 6.2 mi. Ascent: 1575', Elev: 3525'  
Moderate pace. Friendly dogs welcome.  
Registration Period: Open  
Leader: Amy Holiday #3831  
[aholiday@gmail.com](mailto:aholiday@gmail.com)

**Sun. Aug. 28 - BALSAM**

Distance: 5.25 mi. Ascent 1610', Elev: 3607'  
Relaxed-moderate pace.  
Registration Period: Aug. 21 - 26  
Leader: Lyn W. #2865 W1312  
[catskill35r@gmail.com](mailto:catskill35r@gmail.com)

**Fri. Sep. 2 - WINDHAM, BURNT KNOB & ACRA POINT**

Distance: 8.3 mi. Ascent: 1525', Elevs: 3525', 3177', 3098'

Relaxed pace trail hike with short bushwhack to Burnt Knob summit. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Sharon Klein #3364

[CatsNGunks@gmail.com](mailto:CatsNGunks@gmail.com)

**Sat. Sep. 3 - WITTENBERG, CORNELL & SLIDE**

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 3600', Elevs: 3782', 3857', 4184'

Trail hike with some challenging scrambles at a moderate pace. Shuttle required. Shared parking fee at Woodland Valley.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168

[nmdange@live.com](mailto:nmdange@live.com)

**Sat. Sep. 3 - WINDHAM, BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME & THOMAS COLE**

Distance: 14.5 mi. Ascent: 4700', Elevs: 3525', 3940', 3994', 3953'

Long trail hike from Peck Road to Barnum Road at a moderate pace. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Fri. Sep. 9 - BEARPEN & VLY**

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 2528', Elevs: 3587, 3541'

Moderate pace bushwhack and trail hike from north side. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Sep. 1 - 7

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 W994

[michael@bongarbiz.com](mailto:michael@bongarbiz.com)

**Sat. Sep. 10 - FRIDAY, DINK, CORNELL, WITTENBERG**

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 3200', Elevs: 3692', 3659', 3857', 3782'

Relaxed pace bushwhack and trail hike with map and compass instruction.

Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Al Davis #2192 W1082

[ad322@freeelectron.net](mailto:ad322@freeelectron.net) 518-947-6407

**Sat. Sep. 10 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU**

Distance 13 mi. Ascent: 5000', Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835'

Long, challenging trail hike at a moderate, steady pace. Eastern Devil's Path traverse. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)

**Sun. Sep. 11 - FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, LONE, TABLE & PEEKAMOOSE**

Distance: 12 mi. Ascent: 5000', Elevs: 3692', 3608', 3487', 3700', 3825', 3819'

Long, challenging bushwhack and trail hike at a moderate pace. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Michael D'Angelo #2910 W1168

[nmdange@live.com](mailto:nmdange@live.com)

**Tue. Sept. 13 - INDIAN HEAD, TWIN, SUGARLOAF & PLATEAU**

Distance 13 mi. Ascent: 5000', Elevs: 3573', 3650', 3783', 3835'

Long, challenging trail hike at moderate, steady pace. Eastern Devil's Path traverse. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Erica Pellegrino #3463 W1390

[ericapellegrino71@gmail.com](mailto:ericapellegrino71@gmail.com)

**Thur. Sep. 15 - BIG INDIAN**

Distance: 9.2 mi. Ascent: 2200', Elev: 3699'

Relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: by Sep. 12

Leader: Ed Moran #2007 W950

[edmoran@gmail.com](mailto:edmoran@gmail.com) 631-741-3765

**Fri. Sep. 16 - TWIN & INDIAN HEAD**

Distance: 7.55 mi. Ascent: 2320', Elevs: 3650', 3573'

Moderate pace trail hike. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Sep. 5 - 14

Leaders: Shari Aber #2224 W944 [shnaber@yahoo.com](mailto:shnaber@yahoo.com)

Joseph Ferri #2223 W945 [newpaltz33@yahoo.com](mailto:newpaltz33@yahoo.com)

**Sun. Sep 18 - PLATEAU**

Distance: 7.6 mi. Ascent: 2335', Elev: 3835'

Relaxed pace trail. Short shuttle required

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Sharon Klein #3364

[CatsNGunks@gmail.com](mailto:CatsNGunks@gmail.com)

**Sat. Sep. 24 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL**

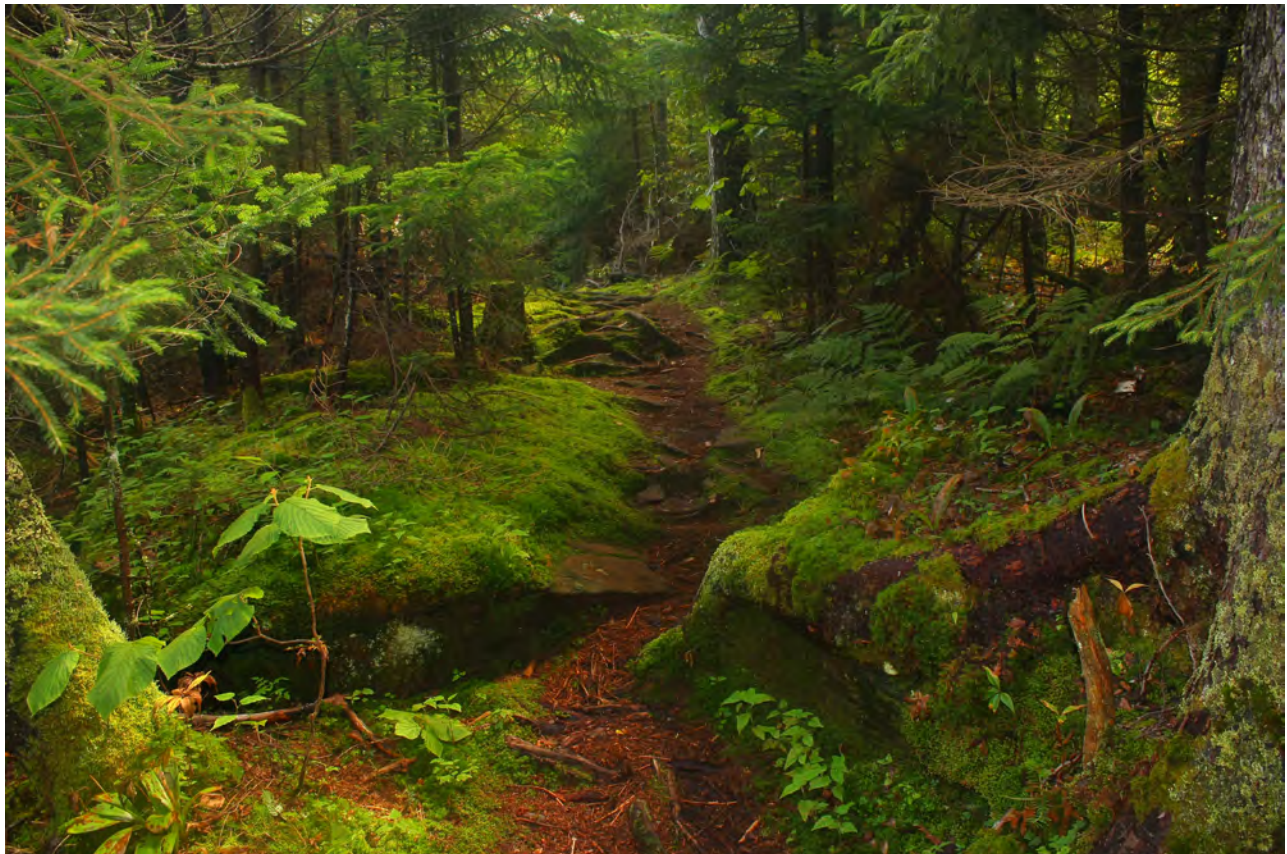
Distance: 6+ mi. Ascent: 24500', Elevs: 3605', 3558'

Moderate pace bushwhack with steep climbs. Shuttle required.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Marv Freedman #2242 W951

[marvfreedman@gmail.com](mailto:marvfreedman@gmail.com)



Top of Plateau. Photo by Tony Versandi #1488 W637

## NEW MEMBERS

The Catskill 3500 Club's "Class of 2022" includes yet-another record year for new memberships, with 343 regular members (41 of which also went on to become winter members) and 87 winter members. This number of regular finishers is up from 273 finishers in the Class of 2021. Winter finishers for 2022 were down slightly from 104 in the previous Class. Life Memberships were also a record; in calendar year 2021, there were 103 new members and 12 new aspirants. To date in 2022, there are 40 and 13, respectively.

Slide Mountain is once again finishers' favorite first peak, with 51 members choosing to start their journey atop the mountain. Hunter (44), Panther (40), Balsam Lake (27), and Wittenberg (24) round out the top-five favorite first peaks. All but six mountains from the tally--Cornell, Lone, Big Indian, Rusk, Balsam Cap, and Bearpen--were climbed as first peaks. Also, due to the changes to the tally from a couple of years ago, Doubletop and South Doubletop were each climbed once as a finisher's first peak.

Marking a bit of a departure, the four winter peaks necessary for membership weren't the top four favorite mountains to finish on. Panther (43) and Slide (40) still take top honors for favorite last peaks climbed, however, next favorite is Kaaterskill High Peak (34). Blackhead (26) and West Kill (20) round out the top five. (Balsam doesn't appear until seventh, with 15 finishers.) The only mountain not to host a finish was Black Dome.

While a quarter of finishers in the Class of 2022 started their tally in 2020, finishers' first climbs span from the 1970s to the 1990s as well as many who started in the few years before the pandemic.

Certificates were mailed out with the patch and letter. In prior years, members who finished by the time of the dinner (usually in mid April) were considered to be in that year's class. To date, we have 32 in the Class of 2023. They, as well as the more recent finishers will be listed next quarter.

### **New Lifetime Members:**

| <b>Number</b> | <b>Name</b>              |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1029          | Timothy Owney            |
| 2827          | Stephen Walsh            |
| 3052          | Sarah A Bacon            |
| 3089          | Rich Bergsma             |
| 3175          | Marc Arnold              |
| 3328          | Todd Palmer              |
| 3329          | Jessica M Palmer         |
| 3462          | Donna Monroe             |
| 3543          | Chris Condon             |
| 3908          | Timothy Burke            |
| 3916          | Scott P Chenevert        |
| 3927          | George Kushner           |
| 3954          | Anagha Yerande           |
| 3957          | Christopher James Botham |
| 3973          | Percy Bright             |
| Asp           | Jacob Mnookin            |
| Asp           | Denise Grunder           |
| Asp           | Nicholas Hepler          |
| Asp           | William Synan            |
| Asp           | Roz Stengle              |
| Asp           | Katya Blitzman           |
| Asp           | Phil Daian               |
| Asp           | Janet Laytham            |

**New Members:**

| <b>Number</b> | <b>Name</b>         | <b>Date of Finish</b> | <b>Final Peak</b> |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 3885          | Will Zheng          | 2/27/2022             | Panther           |
| 3886          | James Grady         | 1/22/2022             | Panther           |
| 3887          | John A Lang         | 3/3/2022              | Blackhead         |
| 3888          | Michael Butler      | 3/3/2022              | Slide             |
| 3889          | Elaine Chachkin     | 3/5/2022              | Rocky             |
| 3890          | Krithika Raman      | 3/5/2022              | Balsam            |
| 3891          | Robert R Lawrence   | 11/7/2021             | Panther           |
| 3892          | Florence Alban      | 10/19/2021            | Lone              |
| 3893          | James Nelson        | 3/5/2022              | Windham           |
| 3894          | Francesca K Szabadi | 3/6/2022              | Lone              |
| 3895          | Andy Froberg        | 3/9/2022              | Panther           |
| 3896          | Ryan Vance          | 3/14/2022             | Panther           |
| 3897          | Dina McGuire        | 3/15/2022             | Lone              |
| 3898          | Kelsey Fenimore     | 3/8/2022              | Panther           |
| 3899          | Karyn Libretto      | 2/21/2022             | Slide             |
| 3900          | John Harrington     | 3/12/2022             | Balsam            |
| 3901          | Ling Zhou           | 3/13/2022             | Panther           |
| 3902          | Cheryl Potter       | 3/4/2022              | Sherrill          |
| 3903          | Jerry Smith         | 3/10/2022             | Slide             |
| 3904          | Matthew T Butler    | 2/6/2022              | Vly               |
| 3905          | Tina Chen           | 3/13/2022             | Slide             |
| 3906          | Adrienne Scivolette | 3/16/2022             | Plateau           |
| 3907          | Caleb Medders       | 3/20/2022             | Kaaterskill       |
| 3908          | Timothy Burke       | 2/27/2022             | Lone              |
| 3909          | Stacey Estrella     | 3/18/2022             | Table             |
| 3910          | Arkadiusz Borkowski | 2/19/2022             | Kaaterskill       |
| 3911          | Robert Sens         | 3/13/2022             | Panther           |
| 3912          | Michael G Dougherty | 3/20/2022             | North Dome        |
| 3913          | Mike Sherman        | 3/15/2022             | Friday            |
| 3914          | Steve Weber         | 3/15/2022             | Friday            |
| 3915          | Michael J Scott     | 12/26/2021            | Blackhead         |
| 3916          | Scott P Chenevert   | 3/25/2022             | Fir               |
| 3917          | Jonathan Maldonado  | 3/26/2022             | Halcott           |
| 3918          | Robert Nuzzo        | 3/28/2022             | Blackhead         |
| 3919          | Heather Helmes      | 3/29/2022             | Blackhead         |
| 3920          | Chris Helmes        | 3/29/2022             | Blackhead         |
| 3921          | Spencer Brubaker    | 3/27/2022             | Balsam Cap        |
| 3922          | Marina Ashkinazi    | 12/29/2021            | Blackhead         |
| 3923          | Karen Miller        | 4/10/2022             | Balsam            |
| 3924          | Tom Fine            | 4/5/2022              | Balsam Cap        |
| 3925          | Frank Magyar        | 4/11/2022             | Balsam Lake       |
| 3926          | Zach Daigle         | 4/5/2022              | Slide             |
| 3927          | George Kushner      | 4/15/2022             | Sugarloaf         |
| 3928          | Fred Gillen Jr      | 4/15/2022             | Balsam Lake       |
| 3929          | Kate Macaluso       | 1/19/2022             | West Kill         |
| 3930          | Katy Brown          | 4/14/2022             | Balsam Lake       |
| 3931          | John Pursell        | 4/16/2022             | Balsam Lake       |
| 3932          | Matt Iannuzzi       | 4/11/2022             | Balsam Lake       |
| 3933          | Dayana Zeballos     | 3/18/2022             | Panther           |



|      |                      |           |            |
|------|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| 3934 | Erica Miranda        | 4/16/2022 | Eagle      |
| 3935 | JD "Bear" Szalla     | 4/16/2022 | Eagle      |
| 3936 | Izzy Miranda         | 4/16/2022 | Eagle      |
| 3937 | Ruby Rainbow Miranda | 4/16/2022 | Eagle      |
| 3938 | James Medina         | 3/27/2022 | Panther    |
| 3939 | Corolinda Medina     | 3/27/2022 | Panther    |
| 3940 | Mitzie Balingit      | 4/17/2022 | Peekamoose |
| 3941 | Mark Masciarelli     | 2/15/2022 | Slide      |
| 3942 | Kerry Chenier        | 4/23/2022 | Lone       |

**Winter Members:**

| <b>Winter Number</b> | <b>Name</b>            | <b>Number</b> | <b>Date of Finish</b> | <b>Final Peak</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1476                 | Will Zheng             | 3885          | 2/27/2022             | Panther           |
| 1477                 | Richard Smith          | 3656          | 2/27/2022             | Balsam Lake       |
| 1478                 | James Jansen           | 3362          | 3/5/2022              | Friday            |
| 1479                 | Joseph Felter          | 3560          | 2/26/2022             | Kaaterskill       |
| 1480                 | Marcy Felter           | 3492          | 2/26/2022             | Kaaterskill       |
| 1481                 | Robert R Lawrence      | 3891          | 3/6/2022              | Big Indian        |
| 1482                 | Karen Seward           | 3553          | 3/5/2022              | Rocky             |
| 1483                 | James Nelson           | 3893          | 3/5/2022              | Windham           |
| 1484                 | Kate Donham            | 3869          | 2/17/2022             | Wittenberg        |
| 1485                 | Kevin Windels          | 2880          | 3/5/2022              | Fir               |
| 1486                 | Mary Windels           | 2879          | 3/5/2022              | Fir               |
| 1487                 | Kiran Mahale           | 3544          | 3/13/2022             | Sherrill          |
| 1488                 | Dina McGuire           | 3897          | 3/15/2022             | Peekamoose        |
| 1489                 | Ryan Vance             | 3895          | 3/14/2022             | Panther           |
| 1490                 | Toni Reilly            | 3504          | 3/21/2022             | Halcott           |
| 1491                 | Ling Zhou              | 3901          | 3/13/2022             | Panther           |
| 1492                 | Cheryl Potter          | 3902          | 3/4/2022              | Sherrill          |
| 1493                 | Maryellen W Eyer       | 3344          | 3/13/2022             | Windham           |
| 1494                 | Joseph Klappowski      | 3775          | 3/16/2022             | Hunter            |
| 1495                 | Joe Frederick          | 3753          | 3/18/2022             | West Kill         |
| 1496                 | Jasmine Kwityn         | 3515          | 3/20/2022             | Windham           |
| 1497                 | Ed Kwityn              | 3514          | 3/20/2022             | Windham           |
| 1498                 | William J Buchanan III | 3649          | 3/11/2022             | Balsam Lake       |
| 1499                 | Nancy Swete            | 3257          | 3/13/2022             | Windham           |
| 1500                 | David Leone            | 2761          | 3/19/2022             | Windham           |
| 1501                 | Kyle Holden            | 3327          | 3/13/2022             | Balsam Lake       |
| 1502                 | Stacey Estrella        | 3909          | 3/18/2022             | Table             |
| 1503                 | Steven Taylor          | 3006          | 3/20/2022             | Indian Head       |
| 1504                 | Hana Walton            | 3667          | 3/20/2022             | Indian Head       |
| 1505                 | David Mahony           | 2673          | 3/20/2022             | Cornell           |
| 1506                 | Robert Sens            | 3911          | 3/13/2022             | Panther           |

|      |                      |      |           |             |
|------|----------------------|------|-----------|-------------|
| 1507 | Anne Rubin           | 3832 | 2/10/2022 | Balsam Cap  |
| 1508 | Tina Chen            | 3905 | 3/13/2022 | Slide       |
| 1509 | Steve Weber          | 3914 | 3/15/2022 | Friday      |
| 1510 | Mike Sherman         | 3913 | 3/15/2022 | Friday      |
| 1511 | AmyLou Coppola       | 3792 | 3/19/2022 | Windham     |
| 1512 | David Komoroske      | 3618 | 3/20/2022 | Hunter      |
| 1513 | Manny Fuentes        | 3061 | 3/20/2022 | Thomas Cole |
| 1514 | Wendy Fogerty        | 3202 | 3/20/2022 | Eagle       |
| 1515 | James Jean           | 3744 | 3/20/2022 | Windham     |
| 1516 | Coco Ryan            | 3491 | 3/6/2022  | Kaaterskill |
| 1517 | Ja Hee Heo           | 3415 | 3/16/2022 | Halcott     |
| 1518 | Kyo Seok Koo         | 3641 | 3/16/2022 | Halcott     |
| 1519 | Chris Helmes         | 3920 | 3/16/2022 | Balsam Cap  |
| 1520 | Heather Helmes       | 3919 | 3/16/2022 | Balsam Cap  |
| 1521 | Gayle Schutte        | 3419 | 3/20/2022 | Kaaterskill |
| 1522 | Daniel Ball          | 3556 | 3/14/2022 | Eagle       |
| 1523 | Alessandra Taddeucci | 3381 | 3/19/2022 | Balsam Cap  |
| 1524 | Louis Collins        | 3612 | 3/19/2022 | Sugarloaf   |
| 1525 | Ryan Plut            | 3955 | 2/20/2022 | West Kill   |
| 1526 | Jeremy Alexander     | 3366 | 2/21/2022 | Rusk        |
| 1527 | Chris Condon         | 3543 | 3/20/2022 | Cornell     |



View from Table. Photo by Siu Samantha Yuen #2894 W1311

## Editor's Notes

By Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond



I hope you are continuing to enjoy *The Canister*, and I thank each and every one of you who has reached out with feedback, suggestions and of course, with submissions. Feedback, as well as content contributions to future editions and ideas are very much welcomed and appreciated. Submissions on the topics of hiking with kids, pushing your limits, exploring something new and exciting, history of the Catskills, ecology, wildlife and geology, your personal experiences, advice, etc. are just some of the examples of what we would love to include in the next issue of *The Canister*! Any book lovers out there? I would love to publish your review of a relevant nature/Catskills/hiking book. For photo submissions, please ensure the photos are high resolution (several MB at a min) and in a landscape or panoramic format. We would love to see your photos of foliage, geological oddities, waterfalls, wildlife, views, flora, sunsets and sunrises. Please contact me at [editor@catskill-3500-club.org](mailto:editor@catskill-3500-club.org).



Late summer wildflowers from Alder Lake Loop Trail. Photo by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244

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|---|--|
| <b>The Catskill Canister</b><br><b>President</b><br>Maria Bedo-Calhoun<br><a href="mailto:president@catskill-3500-club.org">president@catskill-3500-club.org</a>                  |  |
| <b>Editor</b><br>Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond<br><a href="mailto:editor@catskill-3500-club.org">editor@catskill-3500-club.org</a>   | <b>Aspirants</b><br>Jake Haisley<br><a href="mailto:aspirants@catskill-3500-club.org">aspirants@catskill-3500-club.org</a><br>227 Linden Ave<br>Red Hook, NY 12571 |
| <b>Annual Dinner Chairman</b><br>Michael E. Doehring<br><a href="mailto:tigermath@aol.com">tigermath@aol.com</a><br>7 Cloverdale Ave.<br>White Plains, NY 10603<br>(914) 761-7225 | <b>Outings</b><br>Marv Freedman<br><a href="mailto:outings@catskill-3500-club.org">outings@catskill-3500-club.org</a>  |
| <b>Membership</b><br>David White<br><a href="mailto:members@catskill-3500-club.org">members@catskill-3500-club.org</a><br>28 Mulberry St.<br>Clinton, NY 13323<br>(315) 853-1070  | <b>Merchandise Coordinators</b><br>Margaret McGrath and Terri Baker<br><a href="mailto:merchandise@catskill-3500-club.org">merchandise@catskill-3500-club.org</a>  |



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Fall comes early on dry Arizona Mountain (view of Blackhead). Photo by Harold Oakhill #283 W1244

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