



WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

FALL HIKING SCHEDULE OCTOBER, NOVEMBER and DECEMBER, 2023

Covid-19 Policy

**Outings that are limited to vaccinated participants will say so in the description.
The restrictions below apply regardless of vaccination status.**

You must have a mask or other face covering with you at all times, which must be worn in crowded outdoor areas, when indoors, and during carpools. Those who are not from the same household should maintain at least 6' of social distance.

For the safety of all concerned, anyone who answers “yes” to any of these questions cannot be allowed on the hike:

1. Do you currently have any symptoms of a respiratory infection (including cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, or loss of taste/smell)?
2. Have you had any of the above symptoms in the past 5 days?
3. Have you tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 5 days?
4. As far as you know, have you had contact with any confirmed or suspect Covid-19 case within the last 5 days?



Hiking boots and sufficient water (1-2 liters) are required on all hikes. A trail lunch should be carried unless otherwise noted. Hikers with improper footwear, without enough water, or who are otherwise unprepared, may be refused or turned back by the leader. In fairness to yourself and others, please be honest about your hiking experience and choose a hike within your abilities. Check with the leader if you have any questions about pace, terrain, or any other aspect of the hike.

Ratings are based on terrain (mileage is stated separately in the description). An “easy” hike is one with relatively flat terrain. A “moderate” hike has steeper grades, possibly going up and down all day, and may involve some bushwhacking or short rock scrambles (like much of Harriman Park). A “strenuous” hike has steep ascents, often with rough or difficult terrain on much of the hike (like most Schunemunk trails, Breakneck Ridge, etc.). These ratings apply during good weather; bad weather may lead to poor footing and increase a hike’s difficulty.

Carpooling arrangements are entirely voluntary and entail no obligation on the part of the drivers. Passengers should reimburse the driver for a share of the expenses. We suggest that you multiply the miles driven round trip (to and from the trailhead) by 30¢ per mile, add tolls and parking fees if applicable, and divide the total by the number of people in the car (including the driver). You may wish to round these amounts up or down to the nearest dollar, to make things easier.

Sunday, October 1. TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday October 1 - Doris Duke Sanctuary. 6 miles, moderate terrain. We'll hike both sections of the Doris Duke Trail. In the morning we will be hiking uphill quite consistently. Then we'll take the Allis Trail which will lead us to the AT. Lunch will be at Mt. Mombasha which is on the AT. After lunch we retrace our steps back to the Doris Duke Trail and take the other side back. This hike will be led at a moderate pace. Directions: From Route 17 take Route 17A West to Benjamin Meadow Road

where you make a right; then make a sharp left into the Doris Duke Sanctuary. The hike is on the Sterling Forest Map #100. Leader: Judy Kossover, woodtuxduo@aol.com.

Sunday, October 1 - **Tibbets Brook Park+**. 3-4 miles, easy terrain. This ramble in an area once the site of Native American Councils and stirring Revolutionary encounters with British forces will also skirt the Croton Aqueduct and South County Trailway. Leader: Debbie Farrell, debfarpr@gmail.com or (914) 282-9942. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 41).*

Saturday, October 7 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, October 7 - **Harriman Geology Hike**. 7 miles, moderate terrain. We will do a loop starting at Lake Skannatati and going past Bowling Rocks, Hogencamp Mountain and the Pine Swamp area. As we head along the route, which includes the Long Path, Dunning, R-D and A-SB trails, the leader will tell us about the landscape and how it was formed through geological events such as the ice age. Vaccination is required on this hike. Leader: Mike Kaplan, kaplanm2001@yahoo.com.

Saturday, October 7 - **Pound Ridge Reservation**. 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is a pleasant hike in the woods on the Reservation's red ski trails. Bring lunch or a snack and plenty of water. To register, contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Sunday, October 8 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, October 8 - **Mount Nimham Multiple Use Area, Kent, NY**. 6-7 miles, moderate terrain. Starting from the parking area on Gipsy Trail road, the group will use marked trails, unmarked trails, and some bushwhacking to make a loop through this wonderful park. There will be an option to climb a firetower that offers excellent views of the Hudson Valley, as well as stops at one of the stone chambers of Putnam County, with possible other surprises along the way. The leader will bring some historical pictures and documents to share about the firetower, Chief Daniel Nimham, and the colonial history of the area. Elevation change is 1500 feet. Hikers should wear bright colors as there is legal hunting as well as mountain biking in the area. Inclement weather may cancel or change the route; occasional timber clearing and arsenic mining remediation in the area may also change the route. Vaccination is required on this hike. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com.



Sunday, October 8 - **Westmoreland Sanctuary**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Join the leader on a hike with modest elevation gain. The many varied, short trails will be combined to make a nice outing. The pace will be moderate to accommodate all the participants. Leader: Steve Klepner, (845) 297-7066, spk010@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 65).*

Saturday, October 14 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, October 14 - **Jackie Jones Mountain and Big Hill Shelter**. 6.5 miles, moderate terrain. This will be a loop hike in Harriman State Park. We will take the Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail past the ruins of a large estate known as ORAK and up to Jackie Jones Mountain, marked by a steel fire tower, then head down (and up) to the Big Hill Shelter which offers panoramic views. Continuing on the Suffern-Bear Mountain and unmarked trails we pass two scenic reservoirs. The Long Path will take us back to the S-BM trail for a return to our cars. Leader: Carol Pamm, CarolJoyce2@aol.com or (646) 346-0371.

Saturday, October 14 - **Twin Lakes/Nature Study Woods (Eastchester to New Rochelle Loop)**. 4.6 miles, easy terrain. Enjoy woodlands, waterfalls, and a walk around Twin Lakes. This is a circular hike with gentle ups and downs. While it is a mostly smooth hike, stretches on the Nature Study path can be rocky. The entrance to the parking area is at 960 California Road, at the Twin Lakes Farm Stable northern entrance. Park in the lot to the left, available to hikers. There is also street parking off California Road. Vaccination is required on this hike. Rain cancels. Leader: Lynn McBride, almcb@aol.com or (914) 439-0879. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 43).*

Sunday, October 15 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, October 15 - **Moderate Hikes at a Gentle Pace: A.T. in Fahnestock**. 3.7 miles, moderate terrain. This is the first in an irregular series for hikers who would like to go on moderate hikes at the pace of the easy to moderate hikers. We will hike on the Appalachian Trail from Route 301 to Dennytown Road in Fahnestock State Park through beautiful woodlands and wetlands, along ridges, and past a waterfall/cascade. Short shuttle involved (masks required). Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, cell (914) 420-5778.

Sunday, October 15 - **Hike the NCIT. Section 2: Collis Huntington State Park and the Aspetuck Trail**. 7-8 miles, easy to moderate terrain. For our second hike on the Nearby Connecticut Imaginary Trail (NCIT), we'll pick up where we left off last time, near the imposing statues of wolves and bears that guard the entrance to Collis Huntington State Park. We continue through the Couch Hill Preserve and into the woods, hopefully with some nice fall foliage, and then access the Aspetuck Trail. This trail, within Connecticut's blue-blazed system, is part of the Centennial Watershed State Forest. It heads south along a ridge, and our hike will end a mile or so before its terminus in Easton, CT (we'll complete the trail as part of the next hike in this series). Short shuttle involved (masks required). Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 21 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, October 21 - **Neversink Gorge: Three Falls Loop**. 8.4 miles, moderately strenuous terrain. Enjoy walking through a pine forest, along a rambling river, and taking in three waterfalls on this hike in a rarely visited area with several steep ups and downs and approximately 1600' total elevation gain. Since the hike is located in the Neversink Unique Area near Wurtsboro, NY (about 1.25 hours from the Mario Cuomo Bridge), carpools can be arranged for those interested. Contact Alice Benash at ajrb3@verizon.net for details.

Saturday, October 21 - **Mountain Lakes Park**. 6-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Starting at the Tamarack parking lot, we'll follow the white trail to Look Out Point, stopping to admire the view, and continue around Laurel Lake, Spruce Lake and Hemlock Lake. Hopefully the fall foliage will be at or near peak! To register, contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at shechris6@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No.57).*

Sunday, October 22 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, October 22 - **Harriman State Park Victory Hike**. 5 miles, moderate terrain. Join the leader for a hike that includes the Victory, White Cross and Ramapo-Dunderberg trails. They have a variety of different terrain from rock, earth trails, and some paved road. We will climb Parker Cabin and Tom Jones Mountains, which both have beautiful views. Bring lunch, water, snacks and a thermos of warm liquid if the weather is cool enough. Contact the leader, Elspeth Kramer, at (347) 262-4802 or elspethkramer@gmail.com for time and meeting spot.

Sunday, October 22 - Muscoot Farm. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This hike, on the yellow trail, will take us past fields and through the woods along the perimeter of this County owned preserve in Somers. Group size is limited to 10 people including the leaders. For information and to

register, contact the leaders, Vipin and Usha Shukla, at shukla_vipin@hotmail.com. Rain cancels. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 58).*

Saturday, October 28 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, October 28 - Fahnestock Hike. 5.3 miles, moderate terrain. This hike begins on the Appalachian Trail along tree-lined ridges, and returns on the Three Lakes Trail. We will pass several lakes before ascending a final ridge providing good views of the Hudson Highlands and beyond. We will explore various habitats including wetlands, marshes, lakes and forested areas. On the way, we'll also learn about the history of the area and the flora that we pass. To register, contact the leader, Aaron Bock, at acbock52@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 28 - Larchmont and Manor Park. 3-4 miles, easy terrain. We will walk through the beautiful Manor Park which overlooks the Long Island Sound. We will then walk through the nearby local streets to admire the numerous amazing older homes which includes the oldest built in 1797 by Founding Father John Jay's nephew. There are still a few original Larch trees (from which Larchmont is named) on the property. Contact the leader, Cynthia Moro, at cynlyn24@gmail.com to register and for information

Sunday, October 29 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, October 29 - Stillman Trail End to End. 11 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This hike, based on a 1980 WTA outing aptly called "Death March Revisited", retraces the original route of the Stillman Trail. Starting at Mine Hill Road in Black Rock Forest, we will hike to the original "trailhead" (now at a viewpoint in the middle of nowhere) and head east, stopping for another view at Split Rock, then over the summits of Black Rock Mountain and Mt. Misery, up to the rocky top of Butter Hill, over Storm King Mountain, and out to our cars. This hike involves a short shuttle (masks required). No beginners please. Leader: Bob Fiscina, fis6973@tutamail.com. Rain or wet conditions cancel.



Sunday, October 29 - Red Wing Conservation Area. 4-5 miles, moderate terrain. Few hikes offer the tranquility, views and quality trails of Red Wing. Our mini odyssey, mostly moderate with a few easy sections, includes two civilized climbs (at a genteel pace), scenic ridge walks and, of course, some backwoods wandering. Exact combination of trails to be decided based on weather conditions and hikers' energy level. We will meet at the trailhead on the shoulder of Route 82, across the street from the sand and gravel company (2332 Route 82, Billings, NY 12510). Leader: Howard Millman, hwardmillman@runbox.com. Day of hike cell: (914) 439-8031. Vaccination is required on this hike.

Saturday, November 4 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, November 4 - Gertrude's Nose. 7 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This popular hike starts from the Minnewaska Visitor Center on carriage roads. We will then hike on trails to Gertrude's Nose and Millbrook Mountain. We will take a trail back to Lake Minnewaska and complete a loop around the lake. We will be on rocky cliffs with gorgeous views for much of the hike - not for the faint of heart. To register, contact Janice Miller at madjan11@yahoo.com.



Saturday, November 4 - Post-Halloween Hike - Dobbs Ferry to Sleepy Hollow, Following the Legend. 8 miles, easy hiking into the unknown. This hike, mostly on the Old Croton Aqueduct, will start out happily enough, as we walk from the site of the former OCA Keeper's House in Dobbs Ferry to Lyndhurst. There, we'll begin reading excerpts from Washington Irving's "Legend of Sleepy Hollow". As the story unfolds, we will follow the route, as best we can, taken by Ichabod Crane through Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow on the fateful night when he met the Headless Horseman. As sundown approaches, we'll walk through the burying ground of the Old Dutch Church and visit the graves of the author and some of the characters in the story. The plan is to (hopefully) return safely to our cars via the Old Croton Aqueduct, but bring a flashlight "just in case". A car shuttle is involved (masks required). Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 74).*

Sunday, November 5 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, November 5 - Harriman State Park: Pine Swamp and Hogencamp Mountains. 6.5 miles, moderate terrain. This is a figure 8 loop hike with about 1200' of elevation gain, which we'll do at a relaxed pace. There are views, a side trip to Pine Swamp mine, interesting rock formations, and scenic Lake Skannatati. Participation is limited to 12 people Leader Veronica O'Neil. To register please text (914) 523-9418 or email missyellierosa@yahoo.com.

Sunday, November 5 - Saxon Woods. 3 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We will do a circular hike in this lovely park, which goes through surprisingly wooded, shady and serene areas in spite of the park's location near the city of White Plains. Meet the leader in the pool parking lot off Mamaroneck Avenue on the far side (away from the road), near the southern portion of the lot. Vaccination is required on this hike. Contact leader for meeting time or other information. Leader: Sheila Klatzky, srklatzky@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 60).*

Saturday, November 11 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, November 11 - Mt. Taurus via Nelsonville. 5 miles, moderate (but rocky) terrain. We'll take the less crowded route up Mt. Taurus and do a loop down the back side. Or, with sufficient drivers, we'll do a car shuttle so that we can include an under-hiked, under-rated section of the Highlands Trail. Meet at the Undercliff Trailhead, 18A Secor St., Nelsonville, NY 10516. From the traffic light at the intersection of Routes 9D and 301 in Cold Spring, go approx. ½ mile east and turn left onto Pearl St. (If you see Juanita's Kitchen, you've gone too far.) Pearl St. ends and the parking lot is directly across Secor St. Park in this lot or on the street, but not in the Masonic lot. Vaccination is required on this hike. To register, call or email leader Bruce Collins, (646) 584-1227 or actz1015@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 11 - Family Friendly Walk at Gedney Park. 2 miles, easy terrain. Bring the whole family to this lovely park in Millwood, NY for a walk on the Outer Loop Trail, which takes about an hour to complete. Playground and bathrooms are available. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs are welcome but must be on a leash. Meet the leaders at the picnic tables near the playground entrance at 10 AM. Leader: Kristen Soni, "co-leader" Jianna Soni. For information, contact Kristen at kmjm2000@yahoo.com. Rain cancels. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 25).*

Sunday, November 12 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, November 12 - Stahahe High Peak and Island Pond. 6.5 miles, moderate+ terrain. Leaving from the Elk Pen, we will take various trails, including the Nurian through the Valley of the Boulders and the Dunning with some challenging, rocky terrain and beautiful views. We will follow

unmarked trails to Stahahe High Peak with more great views and then visit the southern point of Island Pond. Return to the Elk Pen on the ASB. Vaccination is required on this hike. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Sunday, November 12 - **Kitchawan Preserve**. 3-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We will explore various trails in this county owned preserve. Bring lunch and water. Meet the leader at 10 A.M. at the preserve parking lot, 712 Kitchawan Road off Route 134 between the Taconic Parkway and Route 100 in Ossining. Leader: Sue Soni, surekhasoni1968@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 33).*

Saturday, November 18 - **TWO HIKES TODAY**

Saturday, November 18 - **Round Hill East Mountain Loop, Fahnestock State Park**. 8 miles, moderate terrain. This hike has two good climbs to nice views, with a total elevation gain of about 1500'. We will meet at the Hubbard Perkins Lodge. Contact leader Jane Restani at irabjanea@aol.com during the week of the hike to register, but no later than 5 PM on Thursday.

Saturday, November 18 - **Georges Island Plus**. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain with one steep hill. This hike features Georges Island, a bit of Montrose State Forest and the Seward Estate. Ample woods and water; home site of Frederick Seward, who saved his father Treasury Secretary William H. Seward's life amid the Lincoln Assassination conspiracy; NYS's second largest shell midden, and more. Leader: Debbie Farrell, debfarpr@gmail.com or (914) 282-9942 *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 26).*

Sunday, November 19 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, November 19 - **Ives Trail in Connecticut**. 12 miles, moderate terrain. We'll follow a uniquely-blazed trail named for one of Danbury's most famous citizens, going from Bennett's Pond in Ridgefield to Tarrywile Park in Danbury. We traverse Pine Mountain (site of Ives' cabin), Wooster Mountain, Moses Mountain, and Thomas Mountain; these are actually hills and not mountains, but the elevation accrues. Leader brings brownies. A short car shuttle is involved (masks required). Contact the leader, Kay Cynamon, at kcynamon@gmail.com to register and for information.

Sunday, November 19 - **Teatown Lake Reservation**. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Come out on this Fall day and enjoy a hike at Teatown. This hike combines the Lakeside Loop, the Briarcliff Peekskill Trail and the Three Lakes Loop. It also includes a stop at a scenic waterfall. Bring lunch, snacks, water, and a thermos of warm liquid. Contact Leader Elspeth Kramer at (347) 262-4802 or elspethkramer@gmail.com for time and meeting spot. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

Saturday, November 25 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, November 25 - **Schunemunk Two Ridge Circular**. 8-9 miles, moderately strenuous terrain. This will be a loop hike starting at the Otterkill Road parking area. The hike begins on the Otterkill Trail and ascends on the Jessup Trail to its ridge. We'll continue on the ridge with its many beautiful viewpoints along the way and head over to the Megaliths. From there, we'll take the Ridge-to-Ridge Trail which connects to the Western Ridge, make our way along this ridge to the Trestle Trail, and descend back to our cars. Leader: Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net.

Saturday, November 25 - **Butler Sanctuary**. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We start on the Orange trail with large ferns lining our path and then proceed to the Red trail around the perimeter of the park to the Hawk watch where will have lunch before returning to the cars. Along the way there

are some ups and downs and a couple of steep climbs. We will walk through Evergreen and White Pine forests, some small stream crossings and beautiful glacial rock formations. Leader: Carol Pamm, CarolJoyce2@aol.com or (646) 346-0371. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 49).*

Sunday, November 26 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**



Sunday, November 26 - **Claudius Smith Circular**. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This hike combines various trails in Harriman State Park including the RD, Blue Disc, White Bar and others to go over Tom Jones and Parker Cabin Mountains with a lunch stop at the top of Claudius Smith's Den and a return on (somewhat) easier trails. Lots of views and ups and downs on this hike. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600.

Sunday, November 26 - **Dumbo and Promenade**. 8.5 miles, easy terrain. This will be a fun and interesting walk. DUMBO with its cobblestone streets. Brooklyn Bridge Park with its meandering six piers. Brooklyn Promenade with its grand townhouses. We will wander hither and thither. The weather will determine if this is doable. An alternate plan would be to walk north on the East River Walkway and south through Central Park. Participation is limited to 12 people. Vaccination is required on this hike. For questions and to register, contact the leader, Linda Wildman at lindawildman88@gmail.com or text/call (914) 316-5674.

Saturday, December 2 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, December 2 - **Overlook Mountain, Woodstock NY**. 5 miles, moderate terrain. Join us for a steady climb to a fire tower and hopefully great views of the Hudson Valley. Afterwards there will be time for refreshments in the picturesque town and some pre-holiday shopping. Register with the leader, Jane Restani, at irabjanea@aol.com by 5 PM Thursday. Carpooling likely will be available.

Saturday, December 2 - **Croton Gorge Park and the OCA**. 5-6 miles, easy terrain. Meeting at Gerlach Park in Ossining, we'll walk up the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail to Croton Dam, cross the top of the dam with its beautiful views, and take the blue trail down to the base of the dam, where we'll have lunch at the picnic tables. We'll continue along a short section of the lower trail and then rejoin the OCA back to the cars. To register, contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at shechris6@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 3 - **Sylvan Glen Ramble**. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Tucked behind busy Route 202 are former quarry operations that at one time employed about 250 people. Join the leader on an interpretive hike to view what remains there, while also enjoying a woodland experience with trails that wind past interesting rock formations. Driving Directions: From the Taconic State Parkway, take the Route 202 exit 17A and turn west. Continue 1.8 miles to the traffic light at Lexington Avenue and turn right. Drive 0.6 mile to Morris Lane and turn right. The parking lot is at the bottom of the hill. (The preserve does not have a street address; use 1770 Morris Lane, Mohegan Lake, then continue past that house into the parking lot.) Leader: Ann Autieri, ann@cilia.org or (914) 539-1620. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 20)*

Saturday, December 9 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, December 9 - **Bald Mountain / Timp Circular**. 7 miles, moderate+ terrain. Marked trails and an old railway bed will lead us to an unfinished tunnel. There are multiple ups and downs on this hike, with beautiful views of the Hudson and surrounding mountains. Vaccination is required on this hike. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com .



Saturday, December 9 - **Manitoga**. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We will meet at Manitoga off Route 9D in Garrison (584 Route 9D, Garrison) and explore the trails within Manitoga for a hike with some ups and down for about two-three hours. This historic property was once owned by Russel Wright, an industrial designer. Contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net to register.

Sunday, December 10 - **WTA HOLIDAY PARTY**.

Saturday, December 16 - **TWO HIKES TODAY**:

Saturday, December 16 - **Harriman State Park**. 7.5 miles, moderate terrain. This will be a loop hike from Johnsontown Circle to Claudius Smith Den and continuing on to Lakes Skenonto and Sebago, with views and scenic lakes done at a relaxed pace. Participation is limited to 12 people. Leader Veronica O'Neil. To register please text (914) 523-9418 or email missyellierosa@yahoo.com.

Saturday, December 16 - **Leon Levy Preserve**. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. The 370 acre Leon Levy Preserve in Lewisboro features wetlands rich in wildlife, a ravine with 75 foot cliffs and a diverse hardwood forest. View the remains of the Black Mansion and other ruins. Hike 2-3 hours on mostly easy trails but hiking poles encouraged for the small ups and downs. Go east on Route 35 from 684 for about 9 miles. The main entrance is on Route 123, just south of the intersection with Route 35. A white sign marks the entrance. Leader: Gail Blumenfeld, gailrb@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 35)*.

Sunday, December 17 - **Lasdon Park and Sanctuary**. 5.5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Take in the dormant beauty of this park and arboretum. We will travel forest trails, walk the Trail of Honor, visit the dinosaur garden, and walk the historic tree trail to the Chinese pavilion. Then we'll continue on to Lasdon Sanctuary for an out and back hike before returning to the cars. Leader: Lisa Weismiller, lisaweismiller@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 34)*.

Saturday, December 23 - **TWO HIKES TODAY**:

Saturday, December 23 - **Baileytown, Lakes, and Brooks Hollow, Highlands NY**. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. We will start from the parking area by Turkey Hill Lake and use a combination of the Long Path, Baileytown Road, and unmarked/woods roads. The route will visit views from the Torrey Memorial and Howell Mountain, as well as the ruins of Baileytown, a cemetery, and what is left of several boy scout camps. Elevation change is 1600' with some off-trail exploration. Heavy rain/snow or ice may cancel or change the route. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com no later than Friday afternoon. Vaccination is required on this hike.

Saturday, December 23 - **Tarrywile Park, Danbury, CT**. 4.5 miles, moderate terrain. An urban gem, Tarrywile features 720 acres of rolling fields, glistening ponds, and dense forests of hemlock, oak, and maple, along with steep hillsides punctuated by dramatic outcrops of granite. We'll pause at Mootry Peak to enjoy the view. Elevation gain about 700 feet. To register, email leader Brent Laymon at belaymon@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 24 - **TWO HIKES TODAY**:

Sunday, December 24 - **Mount Beacon Circular**. 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. We will use the Casino, Wilkinson and Fishkill Ridge Trails, and others, to do a wide loop along the hills surrounding the Beacon Reservoir, with lunch at the Beacon Mountain Firetower. There are plenty of views along the way, and over 2,000' of elevation gain to give us a good workout before sitting down to enjoy that Christmas dinner. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600.

Sunday, December 24 - **Greenburgh Nature Center**. 2-3 miles, easy terrain. We will do an easy afternoon stroll in this rarely-visited sanctuary. Near busy Central Avenue but away from the road noise is a peaceful oasis of rambling forest trails, native plants, meadows, ponds, open green spaces,

Native American replica structures, and animal habitats surrounding the Manor House. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, cell (914) 420-5778.

Saturday, December 30 - **Elmsford-Tarrytown Circular**. 6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is an exploration of marked and unmarked trails within the Glenville Woods and Buttermilk Ridge Parks. Although mostly used for linear hikes between Route 119 and Tarrytown Lakes, the paths in these preserves offer a wide variety of terrain and we will take advantage of that by doing several loops around the property, including a winding ascent of the rarely visited Beaver Hill. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 31 - **Early New Year's Eve**. Meet at 2:45 p.m. at the Rockwood Hall State Park parking lot on Rockwood Road, just west of Route 117. We'll do a two mile, mostly level walk around the former Pocantico Hills estate of William Rockefeller (now part of the State Park Preserve) and then offer our traditional sundown toast to the old year within sight of the Hudson River. Alcohol-free beverages will be served and you are welcome to bring snacks to share, if you wish. Afterwards we'll continue the celebration with an optional dinner beginning at 5:15 PM at The Cabin in Valhalla. There is no need to register for the hike, which will be led by Catharine Raffaele; if you would like to join us for the dinner please notify Carolyn Hoffman at carohof2@gmail.com or (914) 948-0608 no later than December 27th. Inclement weather postpones the hike - but not the dinner - for 365 days. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 38)*.

Monday, January 1 - **New Year's Day at Greenwich Point Park**. 3 miles, easy terrain. Join us for a leisurely walk around the Todd's Point peninsula. There will be shorebirds and other inhabitants to observe. The traditional leader is returning for a plunge to start off the new year. Participants willing to get wet are particularly welcome. We meet at 10:30 AM at the main concession. Registration is not required, but for directions contact the leader, Jane Restani, at irabjanea@aol.com. Note that post swim refreshments are usually available, especially if you bring them. Swimmers get first pick.

