



WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

WINTER HIKING SCHEDULE JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH, 2024

COVID-19 Policy

**Outings limited to those vaccinated against COVID-19 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.

Monday, January 1 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

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.

Monday, January 1 - **Mt Taurus/Bull Hill Full Loop, Cold Spring, NY.** 5.5 miles, moderate terrain. Start the New Year right with this classic Hudson Valley hike - what better way to begin the 2024 hiking season than the 45 minute ascent of the Washburn Trail, with its panoramic views of the Hudson River, Storm King and West Point's Thayer Hotel? If it's an especially clear day, we may even get a glimpse of Manhattan. While the initial ascent is challenging, the hike overall is rated "moderate." After reaching Mt Taurus, the trail levels off, and we'll continue on a gradual descent towards the ruins of the Cornish Dairy. After a brief snack/lunch stop there, we'll conclude our hike on the mostly flat and partially paved Cornish Trail, passing and optionally stopping briefly to view additional century-old ruins. If the weather is mild and sunny, there may also be an optional post-hike 40 minute easy walk on the flat Stony Point loop along the water. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. Register with the leader, Hank Zupnick, preferably by Saturday evening: hank.zupnick@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 6 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, January 6 - **Christie Mine and Reservoirs in Harriman.** 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. The group will meet at Call Hollow Road and use the Long Path, Suffern Bear Mountain Trail and a combination of unmarked trails and woods roads to enjoy views from Big Hill and Iron Mountain, three reservoirs, and the rarely visited Christie Mine. Elevation change is 1700 feet and there is a bit of bushwhacking/walking in a gas pipeline. Optional visit to the Letchworth Village Cemetery at the end of the hike. Heavy rain or snow/ice may cancel or remove the bushwhack portion. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com no later than Friday evening.

Saturday, January 6 - **Angle Fly Preserve.** 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Join the leader for an adventurous hike on these less trodden trails of the preserve. We will explore across Rt.139 where the trail is not as well maintained. Walking along a ridge we will catch winter views and then descend to an isolated pond. Expect to encounter the thorny 'mile a minute' invasive bush and wet muddy trails. The latest vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. Bring snacks and water. Meet in the parking lot at the top of the hill. Call leader to register. Jane Smalley (914) 276-0413 or e-mail jsmallpt@aol.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 53).*

Sunday, January 7 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, January 7 - **Fishkill Ridge.** 7 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This will be a lollipop loop hike on Fishkill Ridge in the Hudson Highlands. Be prepared with traction devices and snowshoes, as needed. Register with the leader Janice Miller at madjan11@yahoo.com by 4 PM on Saturday.

Sunday, January 7 - **Hardscrabble Wilderness Area (a Hike and Hot Soup).** 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Let's fully explore this small but interesting preserve in Mt. Pleasant as we wind our way up, down and around almost every trail, past old stone walls and through deep woodlands. A short carpool from the Pleasantville train station is necessary because parking where we enter the preserve is limited (masks required for the carpool), but that gives us a chance to enjoy hot soup and delicious pastry at Jean Jacques when we return. Bring microspikes or stabilicers if conditions warrant. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 29).*

Saturday, January 13 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, January 13 - **Hudson Highlands**. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. We'll hike the Camp Smith Trail from the Toll House, over Canada Hill to Curry Pond, and then all the trails and views in Manitoaga. Lots of rocky trails and elevation. Wear sturdy boots and bring traction devices for ice. Short shuttle involved (masks required). Leader brings brownies. Leader: Kay Cynamon, kcynamon@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 13 - **Kitchawan Preserve**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We'll hike along several loops in this pretty preserve; depending on ground conditions, we may also follow a short section of the North County Trailway to the pedestrian bridge over the New Croton Reservoir to enjoy the views. To register, contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, shechris6@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 33)*.

Sunday, January 14 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, January 14 - **Tarrywile Park, Danbury, CT**. 4 miles, moderate terrain. Once a dairy farm, the park encompasses more than 720 acres of woodlands, fields, ponds and 21 miles of hiking trails. Although the hike is on the easier side of moderate, it includes some rocky areas and a long, moderately steep ascent and descent. We'll pause at Mootry Peak to enjoy the view. Bring water and a snack. Hiking poles recommended, as are traction devices. To register, email the leader, Brent Laymon, at belaymon@gmail.com or call (475) 206-7599.

Saturday, January 14 - **Kensico Cemetery Tour**. 3-5 miles, easy terrain. There are many points of interest in this 460 acre cemetery including grave sites of celebrities and structures with architectural interest. Although most of the walk is paved, expect some hills and uneven ground. Sturdy shoes, water and lunch recommended. The cemetery's address is 273 Lakeview Avenue, Valhalla. Meet at 10:30 AM in the upper parking lot. Directions: Taconic Parkway to Lakeview Avenue. Turn west, pass the monument shop, cross the railroad tracks and turn right. Go past the Administration Building to the upper lot, which is also accessible through the next street (Commerce Street). More information about the cemetery is available at www.kensico.org. Leaders: Sue and Ashok Soni, surekhasoni1968@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 20 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, January 20 - **Stockbridge Mountain and Lake Nawahunta in Harriman, at a Relaxed Pace**. 5.2 miles, moderate terrain. This hike features mountaintop views, a scenic lake, a mine and a rock cave shelter. The hike starts on the Menomine Trail from the Silvermine parking area. We will pass Lake Nawahunta before turning onto the Nawahunta Fire Road. The Lewis mine is 0,15 miles after leaving the Menomine Trail. We will pick up the Long Path and climb steadily to the Cave Shelter rock formation and to the Stockbridge Shelter. Then we'll rejoin the Menomine Trail back to the cars. Be prepared for winter conditions. Leader Veronica O'Neil. To register, email or text: missyellierosa@yahoo.com or (914) 523-9418.

Saturday, January 20 - **Tibbetts Brook to Van Cortlandt Park and Back**. 3-4 miles, easy terrain. Starting from Tibbetts Brook Park, we will take the South County Trailway to Van Cortlandt Park, then return the way we came. Meet at Tibbetts Brook in the lot closest to the entrance. Rain or snow may cancel.. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. Leader: Lynn McBride, almcb@aol.com or (914) 439-0879. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 41)*.

Sunday, January 21 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, January 21 - Hook Mountain. 6 miles, moderate terrain. Ups and down on the ridge with sweeping views, and a rocky descent on the Upper Nyack Trail. If wintry conditions prevail, traction devices will be essential. Easy return on the Shore Path, and then a climb back up to the cars at the end. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. Contact leader to register: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 21 - Muscoot Farm. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This hike will be done at an easy pace, and on interesting terrain. It's a nice opportunity to get outside. There is some elevation gain but much of the hike is flat. Afterward, the farm exhibits can be checked out. Snow or ice can make the outing more difficult - depending on the weather, microspikes or equivalent would be a good idea. Leader: Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com, (845) 297-7066. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 58).*

Saturday, January 27 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, January 27 - Rockefeller State Park. 9-10 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Starting at the Old Sleepy Hollow Road kiosk, we'll head up to Eagle Hill for views of the Hudson. From there, we'll take the 13 Bridges Trail to the Old Croton Aqueduct, where we'll connect to the Rockwood area for more views of the Hudson. Then, back on the OCA to the Gory Brook Trail and up to Cedar Hill for yet another view of the Hudson. We'll return to our cars along the Pocantico River Trail. Deep snow and/or ice may result in a shorter hike. Leader: Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

Saturday, January 27 - Butler Sanctuary, Mt. Kisco, New York. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is a lovely hike, perfect for those who want to graduate from easy hikes to moderate hikes. One trail is fairly level but the other has multiple ups and downs on somewhat steep terrain. Good hiking boots are required and possibly traction devices if there is snow or ice. The preserve's address is 265 Chestnut Ridge Road, Mt. Kisco, NY. To register, contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 49).*

Sunday, January 28 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, January 28 - Mianus River Park, Greenwich, CT. 6-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We'll follow the park's yellow perimeter trail counter-clockwise, as well as smaller side trails if the ground is dry and the trails are passable. Some mild-to-moderate hills interspersed with flat but at times rocky terrain. Extreme cold or wind may result in a shorter route; conversely, if the weather is great, there may also be the option of a 2-3 mile encore hike at the Greenwich Audubon (8 miles away). Parking at Mianus may be tight; carpooling is encouraged. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. Register with the leader, Hank Zupnick, preferably by Friday evening: hank.zupnick@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 28 - Sylvan Glen Ramble. 3-4 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. We will also visit one of the oldest trees in Westchester County: the quarry oak. There are some elevation gains and losses, so hiking poles are encouraged. 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.) To register, contact Ann Autieri, ann@cilia.org. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 20).*

Saturday, February 3 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, February 3 - **Minnewaska State Park**. 7-8 miles, moderate terrain. This hike is mostly on hiking trails with some carriage roads. We will take Jenny Lane, go to Rainbow Falls, and return on Mossy Glen. Be prepared with traction devices and snowshoes, as needed. Since it is winter and it may be icy, this route will not take us on any cliffs. Please register with the leader no later than 4pm on Friday, February 2. Leader: Janice Miller, madjan11@yahoo.com.

Saturday, February 3 - **Yonkers Trails Trio**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is a ramble in Untermyer Gardens, on the Old Croton Aqueduct, and in Lenoir Preserve, with one long-ish climb and nice river views. To register, contact Debbie Farrell, debfarpr@gmail.com. Phone for morning of hike only: (914) 282-9942. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 8)*

Sunday, February 4 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, February 4 - **Terrace Pond**. 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This hike, in West Milford, NJ, features rugged terrain, several rock scrambles, lots of rhododendron tunnels, a floating bridge, and plenty of views on trails that wind around a remote and scenic pond. Bring traction devices or snowshoes if conditions warrant. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600.

Sunday, February 4 - **Orchard Beach and City Island (a Hike and Hot Soup)**. 7 miles, easy terrain. Folks enjoyed this outing when it was on last winter's schedule as a History Hike, so let's do it again! We'll start with an exploration of the more remote areas of Orchard Beach and the woodlands of Twin and Hunter Islands. Then we'll walk over to City Island and stop at a local eatery where we can purchase hot soup or a beverage while enjoying lunch indoors. Afterwards, we'll return to our cars via a path along the beach. Dress warmly as it can be windy by the water. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 10 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, February 10 - **Ward Pound Ridge**. 6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We will be hiking the Red trail from Michigan Road, stopping at the Raven Rocks overlook for lunch. Bring microspikes in case of snow. Hiking poles suggested. Leader: Gail Blumenfeld, gailrb@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Saturday, February 10 - **Croton Point Park**. 4 miles, easy terrain. We will explore this small scenic peninsula in the Hudson River where eagles are often sighted in winter. Dress very warmly for the winds blowing off the river. There will be an optional lunch at the Croton Diner following the hike. Hikers must be vaccinated against COVID-19. Contact leader to register: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 52).*

Sunday, February 11 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, February 11 - **Devil's Den, Weston CT**. 6-8 miles, easy to moderate terrain. The length of this hike will depend on winter trail conditions. There will be modest elevation gain. Expansive reservoir views are expected. Consider the weather as you prepare. As always, boots need

to be on your feet; water and food in your pack. Carpooling from Merritt Parkway Exit 35 (High Ridge Rd.) is possible. Register with leader Jane Restani at irabjanea@aol.com between Monday of the week of the hike and 5 PM Friday.

Sunday, February 11 - Cranberry Lake. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Come out and enjoy a hike along Cranberry Lake and in other parts of this County owned preserve through forested areas and past a quarry (the quarry climb is optional). Bring plenty of water, a thermos of warm liquid, and snacks.. Leader: Elspeth Kramer, (347) 262-4802 or elspethjkramer@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 51).*

Saturday, February 17 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, February 17 - Silvermine Lake and Black Mountain in Harriman, at a Relaxed Pace. 5 miles, moderate terrain. This hike features wonderful views of Silvermine Lake, the Hudson River, surrounding mountains and a stone shelter. We'll begin on the Menomine Trail which runs along the shore of Silvermine Lake. Our route will then take us onto the Appalachian and Ramapo Dunderberg Trails up to Black Mountain. We will retrace our steps and pick up Silvermine Road with a short road walk on Seven Lakes Drive back to our cars. Be prepared for winter conditions. Leader Veronica O'Neil. To register, email or text: missyellierosa@yahoo.com or (914) 523-9418.

Saturday, February 17 - Irvington to Dobbs Ferry and Back. 3-4 miles, easy terrain. We will walk the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail from downtown Irvington to Dobbs Ferry and back, stopping for lunch along the way. The trail passes by a number of historic properties, including the Armour-Stiner Octagon House. Park behind the school building at 101 Main St. in Irvington and meet in front of the school. Pack a lunch, and bring water. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. To register, contact the leader, Sheila Klatzky, at srklatzky@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 18 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, February 18 - Storm King State Park. 5-9 miles, moderately strenuous terrain. The length of this hike will depend on snow conditions. Starting from Route 9W, we'll hike halfway around North Point and make the climb up from the base of Route 218. If ground conditions allow, we will then cut across to Storm King Mountain on the Howell Trail to a viewpoint along the Stillman Trail and backtrack to our cars. Leader: Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net.

Sunday, February 18 - Westmoreland Sanctuary. 5-6 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain. We'll do a double loop that reaches the outer boundaries of this meticulously tended preserve. Features include a forest, nature garden, lake, moderate slopes, nature benches, and rock outcroppings. Bring water and a snack; hiking poles recommended, especially given the time of year. To register, email the leader, Brent Laymon, at belaymon@gmail.com or call (475) 206-7599. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 65).*

Saturday, February 24 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, February 24 - Appalachian Trail - Route 22 to Nuclear Lake. 8.5 miles, moderate terrain. This one way hike, which is rated "moderate" but has one steep climb up to the Cat Rock view, will begin at the Appalachian Trail train station and continue south to the pretty and historic Nuclear Lake. We will traverse a beautiful boardwalk, admire views from West Mountain and stop to see the Dover Oak along the way. There will be a 10 minute car shuttle at the beginning (masks required); and vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com no later than Friday evening.

Saturday, February 24 - **Rockefeller State Park, West Side (Eagle Hill area)**. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Along the Pocantico River, Witch's Spring, Gorey Brook, Big Tree Trail and Peggy's Way, 13 Bridges, and up Eagle Hill to see the Jean Dolen memorial bench. Depending on ground conditions and the mood of the group, there may be options for a longer or shorter hike. Although unlikely, if there is plenty of snow it can be a cross-country ski outing instead. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, cell (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59)*.

Sunday, February 25 - **Hudson Highlands Gateway Park**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is a pleasant three-hour hike with gentle ups and downs. Good hiking boots are required and possibly traction devices if there is snow or ice. Take Bear Mountain Parkway north to Highland Avenue to Sprout Brook Road (street sign may be down – turn at the Gulf Station), and the parking lot is on the right designated by a sign for the Gateway Park. To register, email the leader, Carol Harting, at c.harting@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 31)*.

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

Saturday, March 2 - **Stonetown Circular**. 11 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. The Stonetown Circular Trail is one of the most rugged in the area, going over five peaks and offering multiple views of the Wanaque Reservoir to the east and the surrounding valleys to the west. It is a challenge in any season, but especially in winter. Bring traction devices or snowshoes if conditions warrant. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600.

Saturday, March 2 - **Family Friendly Hike in Butler Sanctuary**. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Highlights include pine grove, marsh, various tree types and a stone gathering at the trailhead. Bring snacks, lunch and water. Meet in the parking lot at 10 AM. Leader: Kristen Soni, kmjm2000@yahoo.com, "co-leader" Jianna Soni. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 49)*.

Sunday, March 3 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, March 3 - **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 against COVID-19 is required on this hike. Leader: Mike Kaplan, kaplanm2001@yahoo.com.

Sunday, March 3 - **Above Ground and Underground in Lower Manhattan**. 7 miles, easy terrain. We will walk here and there. We'll see public art, places of historical interest, some amazing structures, and memorials. We will navigate various underground passageways and be inside different buildings to try to minimize time outdoors. Participation is limited to 12 people. Vaccination against COVID-19 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, March 9 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, March 9 - **Black Rock Forest from the Outdoor Discovery Center**. 6 miles, moderate terrain. Starting from the Hudson Highland Nature Museum/Outdoor Discovery Center, we ascend into the Mine Hill Road area of Black Rock Forest. With the leaves down, we should have several nice views. There is a significant climb at the beginning, which will be done at a

compassionate pace with regroupings as needed. Expect approximately 1100' of total elevation gain. Traction aids may be necessary. Leader: Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com, (845) 297-7066.

Saturday, March 9 - **Rhinoceros Creek Reservation**. 2-3 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Somers' newest open space was donated to the Somers Land Trust in 2017 by the Beshar family who restored and lived in the nearby Stone House. It originally was constructed in 1849 by Gerard Crane who was a major figure in the menagerie business. The land consists of two parcels totaling 115 acres. The southern portion (55 acres off Rt. 202) is the area we will hike - a rocky, undulating trail under 3 miles. Good hiking boots and hiking poles will be helpful as it is "a rough gem in the making". The latest vaccination against COVID 19 is required on this hike. Bring water and snacks. Call leader to register. Jane Smalley (914) 276-0413 or e-mail. jsmallpt@aol.com.

Sunday, March 10 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, March 10 - **Teatown Lake and the Teatown-Kitchawan-Trail**. 8 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Join the leader for a lovely winter hike in Teatown Lake Reservation. We will start on the Lakeside Trail and continue on the T-K-T for a total of about 4 miles. After having lunch, we will return to our starting point. Please bring plenty of water, lunch/ snacks and a thermos of warm liquid. Leader: Elspeth Kramer, (347) 262-4802 or elspethkramer@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62)*.

Sunday, March 10 - **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 then visit the park at 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, then rejoin the OCA and go back to the cars. To register contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at shechris6@gmail.com.

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

Saturday, March 16 - **Black Rock Forest from the Scenic Trail**. 8 miles, moderate terrain. This hike will start on the Scenic Trail from Old Mineral Springs Road, passing waterfalls and Jupiter's Boulder to panoramic views from Eagle Cliff. Then we will pass several ponds and head back to Jupiter's Boulder and the start of the hike. Leader: Minu Chaudhuri (914) 391-5918 or minuch50@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 16 - **Cranberry Lake Preserve**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Enjoy woodlands, views of wetlands, history of quarrying for the Kensico Dam, a lovely small waterfall, and broad views from the top of the quarry (optional). Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, cell (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No 51)*.

Sunday, March 17 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, March 17 - **Lake Sebago Circular**. 5-7 miles, moderate terrain. Come hike in this beautiful area of Harriman Park where we will see striking views and lovely woods. Since it is towards the end of the winter, ground conditions are uncertain so the exact route and length of the hike will be determined at that time. Microspikes might be necessary. The day should be fun! Leader: Judy Kossover, woodtuxduo@aol.com.

Sunday, March 17 - **Ward Pound Ridge Reservation**. 5-6 miles, easy terrain. This is a pleasant "walk in the woods" on gentle terrain on the Reservation's red ski trails. Bring lunch or a snack and plenty of water, and wear something green for St. Patrick's Day. Traction devices may be

needed if there is snow or ice. We will meet at the Green Way Market shopping center, 20 North Salem Rd., Cross River and carpool into the park as there may be a parking fee. To register, contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63)*

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

Saturday, March 23 - **Diamond Mountain and Pine Meadow Lake in Harriman, at a Relaxed Pace.** 6 miles, moderate terrain. This hike features views from Diamond Mountain and two scenic lakes. Hike from Lake Sebago on the Seven Hills Trail to Diamond Mountain. Then continue down the Diamond Mountain Trail and pass an old foundation of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp to the Pine Meadow Trail and Pine Meadow Lake. Follow an unmarked trail to Lake Wanoksink, and reconnect to the Seven Hills Trail back to the cars. Be prepared for winter conditions. Leader Veronica O'Neil. To register, email or text: missyellierosa@yahoo.com or (914) 523-9418.

Saturday, March 23 - **Cemetery Walk.** 3 miles, easy terrain. Come on an afternoon walk in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne NY. We will see movie stars James Cagney and Sal Mineo, Yankee greats Babe Ruth and Billy Martin, plus a Brooklyn Dodger. We will also see a Jewish Mafia gangster who is buried in this Catholic Cemetery. Rain or snow cancels. Contact Cynthia Moro for meeting time and place: Cynlyn24@gmail.com.

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

Sunday, March 24 - **Long Path over Romer Mountain, Phoenicia, NY.** 7 miles, moderate terrain. Wonderful views on this section of the Long Path in the Catskills with approximately 1300' elevation gain. Most of the grades are moderate, climbing on switchbacks to the crest of Romer Mountain. After a relatively level stretch, the trail resumes its climb to the summit of Romer Mountain (2240'). There are no views from the summit, but after descending a little you'll come to a viewpoint about 25 feet to the left of the trail. Tremper Mountain is visible to the northeast. This is a good place to take a break and turn around. Car shuttle possible from New Paltz Park n' Ride off I-87. Traction aids and/or snowshoes may be required depending on the conditions. To register or for more information, contact Trish Johnston at patcjohnston@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 24 - **Westmoreland Sanctuary.** 5-6 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain. We'll do a double loop that reaches the outer boundaries of this meticulously tended preserve. Features include a forest, nature garden, lake, moderate slopes, nature benches, and rock outcroppings. Bring water and a snack; hiking poles recommended, especially given the time of year. To register, email the leader, Brent Laymon, at belaymon@gmail.com or call (475) 206-7599. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 65).*

Saturday, March 30 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, March 30 - **Harriman Mines and Lakes.** 9.7 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. Using the parking area at the Long Mountain Parkway, we will take the Nawahunta Fire Road, Menomine, AT and Anthony Wayne Trails to create a large loop that visits the Lewis Mine, Cranberry Mine, Spanish Mine, Lake Nawahunta and Silvermine Lake, with some nice views along the way. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com no later than Friday evening.

Saturday, March 30 - **Hike the NCIT. Section 3: The Aspetuck and Saugatuck Trails and Trout Brook Preserve.** 6-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Our hike today on the Nearby Connecticut Imaginary Trail (NCIT) is entirely within the boundaries of Easton, CT. We'll begin on the

Aspetuck Trail where we left off last time, continue to its terminus, and connect with the Saugatuck Trail (also part of Connecticut's Centennial Watershed State Forest). After a short distance we'll detour onto an unmarked path which parallels the reservoir (fear not - we will return to the Saugatuck Trail on the next hike). Our path leads to the Trout Brook Preserve, a large property owned by the Aspetuck Land Trust which has a wealth of trails. We'll explore some of them as we hike through the woods and up to a former apple orchard on a hill affording expansive views of the surrounding area, and end the hike on the southern side of the preserve. Short shuttle involved (masks required). Bring microspikes or stabilicers if conditions warrant. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 31 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, March 31 - **Redwing Conservancy, LaGrangeville, NY.** 3-5 miles, moderate terrain. In a continuing quest to find less-known trails in well-known places let's hike some newly discovered trails in Redwing Conservancy. This time we'll enter the park on the west side, circle a lake, walk along a fast flowing stream following pine tree lined paths. From there we'll climb to two viewpoints. These are great hiking trails but...at the higher elevations some get a bit convoluted. And not all are marked, so please bring breadcrumbs. Distance T.B.D. Meeting near the intersection of Routes 82 and 55, LaGrangeville. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. To register, contact the leader, Howard Millman, at wardmillman@runbox.com. Cell on day of hike: (914) 439-8031.

Sunday, March 31 - **Bronx River Pathway: Kensico Dam Plaza to NWP station and back.** 4 miles, easy terrain. We will hike on the pathway, have lunch at the picnic tables near the Dam on our return, then take an optional walk to the top of the Dam and back down and visit the 9-11 Memorial. Bring a lunch/snack and water. Heavy precipitation on day of the hike may cancel. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. Contact leader for meeting time and location: Sheila Klatzky, srklatzky@gmail.com.