



MOHICAN

Newsletter of the Mohican Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club
Serving Westchester, Putnam, and Fairfield Counties ...and Beyond

From the Chapter Board

All things must pass, George Harrison famously declared after the breakup of the Beatles. Sadly, the end has arrived for the ADK's Mohican chapter. After much discussion and a lot of handwringing, our board has voted to dissolve the chapter as of December 31, 2024.

The Mohican chapter has been in decline for some time. We have been unable to attract new people to assume the responsibilities of leadership--and do the hard work needed to keep the chapter vibrant and exciting. The same handful of stalwarts have continued to serve on the Board and in other positions, year after year.

Like other chapters, we were hit hard by COVID-19, of course. Then came the introduction of leader training requirements, a sensible and even necessary step, but one that many people resisted, finding it onerous and unnecessary. The result is that we have fewer and fewer people certified to lead our outings.

All this makes our continued existence unsustainable. It's time to move on--with many happy, shared memories.

ADK Mohican traces its roots to an enthusiastic group of 22 people who started hiking together in 1983. Over the decades, our membership grew into the hundreds. The chapter has played an important part in many of our lives over those forty years. We've forged lifelong friendships and mourned the deaths of Mohican friends. We've traveled the world together. A few of us have even met our husbands, wives and lifelong partners through the club.

Our members include ADK 46ers--determined hikers who have conquered all the peaks over 4,000 feet in the Adirondacks; members of the Catskill 3500 Club, brave souls who have scaled all the peaks in that range

above 3,500 feet and some even completed them all in winter; and the Northeast 111 list (NE111), which actually contains 115 peaks in the Northeastern United States over 4,000 feet (including Maine (14 peaks), NH (48 peaks), Vermont (5 peaks), and NY (48 peaks). And two groups have completed the Long Path--a 358-mile trail from the George Washington Bridge to John Boyd Thacher State Park near Albany.

You will soon receive a ballot by email asking you to endorse the board's decision and vote "Yes" on the recommendation to disband.

Take heart. Even with the demise of the Mohican chapter, you will still be a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club. ADK chapters in the region can provide opportunities for you to hike, kayak, canoe, backpack, cross-country ski and otherwise fulfil your passion for the outdoors with like-minded people, including the ADK's [North New Jersey-Ramapo](#) chapter and the [Mid-Hudson](#) chapter, whose activities take place primarily in the Hudson River Valley. Many of you are also members of [Westchester Trails Association](#), a hiking club we have strong ties with. If you're not a WTA member, give it some thought. And the [ADK website](#) itself now includes a [Chapter Events](#) page listing activities across the organization. (Follow the links for more information; we will include more details with the ballot you will be receiving.)

Some Old Testament wisdom seems fitting here, from Psalm 103:

*As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.*

Brent Laymon

Visit our Chapter Webpage:
www.adkmohican.org

With Our Members

In early June Lisa Weismiller and Julie DiRaimondo embarked on a three day/two night adventure on the Oregon Trail with Historic Trails West. We met our group in Casper, WY and traveled about 40 miles on the Oregon Trail by horse and Conestoga wagon. There were 8 in our group plus our guide (and driver of the horse-drawn wagon), a cook and 2 wranglers. We criss-crossed several times over the Pony Express Trail, the California Trail and the Mormon Trail. Our views were the rolling prairies, mountains in the distance and the BIG sky for three days. We slept in teepees and had authentic Dutch oven meals. We all participated in the setting up and taking down of the camp each day. Our guide was very knowledgeable about the trail and its history. It was a memorable adventure!



A fun day on the river!

Trip Tales

Saturday, August 10

Canoe/Kayak: Bantam River, Litchfield, CT

Six of us including 3 members of the Mid-Hudson Chapter explored a new branch of the outlet on the Bantam River. After a mile of upstream paddling, we were stopped by fast rushing water coming at us. The day was gorgeous with sunshine, little wind, and less humidity. Lunch and a swim were enjoyed at the Town Beach. Our round-trip paddle totaled 6.3 miles!

Submitted by Jane Smalley

UPDATED COVID POLICY

- No vaccination requirement for all activities, **unless specified in the write-up;**
- Masks must be worn when carpooling or when indoors in groups;
- Ask that anyone with signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection at the time of the outing/program refrain from participating, and that anyone who has tested positive for COVID within 5 days of the outing, follow CDC guidelines;
- Leaders can post requirements as they determine, and any participant may choose to wear a mask at any time;
- These guidelines may be changed at any time as circumstances (i.e., ADK Club policies, CDC guidelines) may require.

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ATTENTION HIKERS

Be courteous to the leaders. If you are registering for more than one person, give the leader all the names; and if you have registered and your plans change, let the leader know so he/she does not wait for you. *Participants should arrive at the trailhead ready to hike at the designated time in the write-up.*

Hikes are joint with WTA

Leaders are required to have both Release Form/Attendance Sheet filled out and mailed as indicated below.

ADK Release Form

WTA Attendance Sheet

After the hike, please mail form to:
Jeanne Thomson, P.O. Box 219
Somers, NY 10589

Hikes and Stuff

**Saturday, October 5
Beacon "Lollipop"**

8 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. We'll park off Sunnyside Road in Beacon Hills and take the steep Overlook Trail and Fishkill Ridge trail up Lambs Hill, with fine views of the Hudson Valley to the west. From there, we'll continue to Dozer Junction and make a loop on the Fishkill Ridge trail (less steep, but still rocky with views to the east), then return the way we came. Please be vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a recent negative test. To register, contact leader Bruce Collins, actz1015@gmail.com or (646) 584-1227.

**Saturday, October 5
Muscoot Farm**

4 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This hike has some interesting terrain: much of the route is in the woods but some open fields are crossed. 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. There is an on-site concession where ice cream can be purchased; alternatively, King Cone is just down the road. To register, contact leader Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com, (845) 297-7066. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (58).*

**Sunday, October 6
Pound Ridge Reservation**

4-5 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This will be a hike in the northern section of the Reservation. We will meet at the Green Way Market shopping center, 20 North Salem Road, Cross River, NY and then drive to the start of the hike. Bring lunch as our lunch spot will be at the picnic area at Kimberly Bridge. To register, email Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

**Sunday, October 6
Saxon Woods**



3 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, moderate pace. 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. Participation on this hike is limited to 14 people, including the leader. For meeting time or other information, contact the leader Sheila Klatzky at: srklatzky@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 60).*

**Saturday, October 12
Mountain Lakes Park, North Salem**

6-7 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Starting at the Tamarack parking lot, 0.6 miles along the paved road from the entrance to the park, we'll hike around Hemlock Lake, Spruce Lake, Pine Lake and Laurel Lake and then follow the white trail to Look Out Point, where we'll stop for lunch. From there, we'll return to the cars on the white and orange trails. To register, contact leader Sheila Sarkar at shechris7@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 57).*

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**Sunday, October 13
Sterling Forest**

7 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. We will ascend the Bare Rock Trail and stop at Bare Rock with its scenic view of Greenwood Lake. Return on the Sterling Ridge Trail with a stop at the Fire Tower. Participants must be vaccinated against COVID-19. To register, contact leader Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com

**Sunday, October 13
Three Bridges and One Ferry**

7-8 miles, easy terrain. Walk New York's BMW (Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg) bridges and explore what's on each side of the BMW. Participation is limited to 12 people, and vaccination against COVID-19 is required. For questions and to register, contact the leader, Linda Wildman, at lindawildman88@gmail.com or text/call (914) 316-5674.

**Saturday, October 19
Schunemunk Two Ridges Loop Hike**

9-10 miles, moderate-to-strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This hike has several steep ups and downs and will be done at a steady pace. There are multiple views throughout the hike. Starting at the Otterkill Road parking area, we will begin on the Trestle Trail. We'll take that to the Western Ridge Trail, continue to the Barton, and then to the Ridge-to-Ridge trail. From there, we will do a steep scramble up to the Jessup, where we will enjoy views and lunch at the Megaliths. Afterwards, we will return to the Jessup trail, continue to the Sweet Clover, and take the Otterkill Trail back to the cars. Prior experience with scrambling is required. To register, contact leader Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net.

**Saturday, October 19
Old Croton Aqueduct and
Rockefeller Preserve, Sleepy Hollow**

5 miles, easy terrain, moderate pace. Where better to be than in Sleepy Hollow in the month of October as Halloween approaches? If you like cool graffiti this is the walk for you. A few ups and downs, the better to maybe see some witches, ghosts and goblins. To register contact Cynthia Moro at Cynlyn24@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

**Sunday, October 20
Storm King and Butter Hill**

5 miles, moderate-to-strenuous terrain, leisurely-to-moderate pace. Come and spend a day in the Hudson Highlands enjoying spectacular Hudson River views and hopefully seeing the leaves in their autumn splendor. We'll be climbing on Storm King Mountain all morning. After lunch, there will be many more ups and downs until we get to Butter Hill. The remainder of the day will be mostly downhill. Meet at Esty & Hellie Stowell trailhead, 42 Bayview Avenue, Cornwall Landing, NY. To register, contact leader Judy Kossover, woodtuxduo@aol.com.

**Sunday, October 20
Hike the NCIT. Section 4: Trout Brook and
Jump Hill Preserves**

5-6 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Our last hike on the Nearby Connecticut Imaginary Trail (NCIT) took us from the Saugatuck Trail to the southern portion of Easton's Trout Brook Preserve, and today we'll return to explore the trails on the northern side of Trout Brook and the adjacent Jump Hill Preserves. Unlike most of the other NCIT hikes, which are linear, our route will be a circular one, through woodlands and along a ridge past some interesting rock formations. There will be an optional stop at the Aspetuck Apple Barn (featuring great pies, jams and other goodies) on the way home after the hike. To register, contact leader Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

**Saturday, October 26
Lake Stahahe Circuit Hike #29**

6.35 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. In 2017-2019, the leader led the 27 hikes described in the book Circuit Hikes in Harriman by Don Wiese. The book also includes descriptions for eight other outings in Harriman under the heading "Trail Runs, Walks, Ski Loops, and Mountain Bike Rides." These are easier than the first 27, but still involve elevation gain as it is Harriman! This lollipop-loop hike has 935' elevation gain. It starts from the Elk Pen and circles scenic Lake Stahahe. There will be some rough patches that are not on blazed trails and some sections on paved roads. We will also pass by several summer camps. Participation on this hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact leader Kathie Laug at kfriedmanlaug@optonline.net



**Saturday, October 26
Eastern Rockefeller State Park**

3-5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely-to-moderate pace. We will do Lucy's loop and cross the field to explore a few more trails. Please bring lunch and water. Meet the leader at 10 a.m. in the large parking lot for the North County Trailway on Route 117. If you are heading west, the lot is on your left between Routes 9A and 448. Rain will cancel the hike. To register, contact leader Sue Soni, surekhasoni1968@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

**Sunday, October 27
Harriman State Park**

8.75 miles, moderate-to-strenuous terrain, moderate-to-brisk pace. This hike, with 1950' elevation change, leaves from the U-bend on Route 106. We will use the White Bar, Triangle, Victory, Ramapo-Dunderberg (R-D) and Nurain trails, along with some woods roads to enjoy the late fall foliage at Tom Jones, Car Pond, and Parker Cabin mountains and Stahahe High Peak. We will also take in the peace of Lake Skenonto, explore some old camp buildings, and search for the elusive Hemlock Hill petroglyph. Weather may cancel or change the route. This hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact leader Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com.

**Sunday, October 27
Teatown Lake Reservation**

5 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, moderate pace. Come out on this fall day and enjoy a hike at Teatown. The hike combines several trails and includes a stop at a scenic waterfall. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Rain cancels. Please register by Friday, October 25. To register and for time and meeting spot, contact leader Elspeth Kramer at (347) 262-4802 or email elspethkramer@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

**Saturday, November 2
Kakiat Circular**

10 miles, moderate-to-strenuous terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader for a hike that has about 2500' elevation gain with lots of views and lots of fun. We start with a climb on the Mountain trail to the Kakiat,

continue on the Raccoon Brook and Seven Hills trails, then climb Diamond Mountain where you will need both hands and feet. At the top, we will take the Connector trail to the Pine Meadow trail along the lake. Depending on our pace, lunch will probably be on the lake at the location of the Conklin homestead. From there, we will take Conklin Crossing to the Suffern-Bear Mountain trail, and return to the cars on the Kakiat. Use the NY/NJ Trail Conference Southern Harriman-Bear Mountain Map # 118 or an internet map of your choice. Meet at the Kakiat County Park, 558 US-Route 202 (Haverstraw Rd), Montebello, NY 10901. GPS: 41.14394, -74.11241. To register, contact leader Bill Medeot at billwp218@gmail.com or (914) 844-7038.

**Saturday, November 2
Silver Lake Preserve**

3-4 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, moderate pace. This is an interesting preserve for both terrain and history. There are some spots where no street noise can be heard! In some parts, there are many (uphill) steps and some rocky terrain; other places are relatively smooth. There are also a few tree trunks obstructing the path so be prepared to climb over them. We will visit the Stony Hill Cemetery, a memorial to the African-American community called the Hills, and end the hike at Merritt Hill, the site of a Revolutionary War skirmish. To register, contact leader Janis Biermann, biermannjanis@gmail.com, (203) 824-8166. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 40).*

**Sunday, November 3
Gertrude's Nose**



7 miles, moderate-to-strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This popular hike starts from the Minnewaska Visitor Center on carriage trails. We will then hike on regular trails to Gertrude's Nose

and Millbrook Mountain, take a trail back to Lake Minnewaska, and complete a loop around the lake. The route is on rocky cliffs with gorgeous views for much of the hike--not for the faint of heart! To register, contact leader Janice Miller at majian11@yahoo.com.



**Sunday, November 3
Croton Preserves**

5 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This linear hike is a true “easy-to-moderate” with multiple ups and downs interspersed with flat areas. We’ll head west from Lytle Arboretum to Brinton Brook Sanctuary and then to Oscawana Park and Island through varied landscapes including marshlands and woods, on varied terrain with boardwalks and rough trails, and enjoying both a “golf course view” and the Hudson River shoreline. Short shuttle involved (masks required). To register, contact leader Eileen West eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 22).*

**Wednesday, November 6 - WEEKDAY HIKE
Parker Cabin to Black Rock Mountain**

6.74 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This circular hike, with 1759' elevation gain, starts and ends on the White Bar trail and includes the R-D, Nurian and Victory trails. Along the way, we will pass Car Pond and Black Ash mountains, Tri-Trail Corner, Black Ash Swamp, Parker Cabin mountain, Tom Jones Shelter and Mountain, and Black Rock Mountain (see the NY/NJTC Southern Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails Map 118). Meet at the parking lot on Rt. 106 that you can find at "1369 Kanawauke Road, Southfields, NY" or "White Bar Trailhead Parking" or "41.234677,-74.149035". Severe inclement weather cancels. Please register by texting the leader with your full name, phone number, and the name and number of your emergency contact. Contact leader Anastasia Tavarez, (646) 207-4136 (texting preferred) or atavare@gmail.com.

**Saturday, November 9
Bennetts Pond State Park and Pine Mountain**

6 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Starting at Bennetts Pond Park in Ridgefield, CT, we'll do a circular hike around the south end of Bennetts Pond, then continue up over Wooster Mountain and on to Pine Mountain. There we'll enjoy a lovely view of the Connecticut hills and then descend for our return around the north end of the ponds. To register, contact leader Jeanne Thomson at jeannewthomson@gmail.com (preferred) or (914) 409-3405.

**Saturday, November 9
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 may cancel. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. To register, contact leader Lynn McBride almcb@aol.com or (914) 439-0879. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 41).*

**Sunday, November 10
Bald Mountain/Timp Circular**

7 miles, moderate+ terrain, moderate pace. 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. Participants must be vaccinated against COVID-19. To register, contact leader Catharine Raffaele via email at catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

**Sunday, November 10
Rockefeller Preserve**

6-7 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. Hike the Rockefeller less-traveled trails on the east side of Route 448. One short ascent at the beginning and a steep descent at the end. We will cross over 448 and stroll near Stone Barns on our return. To register, contact leader Gail Blumenfeld, gailrb@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

**Saturday, November 16
Popolopen Torne**

6 miles, moderate+ terrain, moderate pace. This hike, which will be done at a steady pace, has approximately 1300 ft. elevation gain. We'll meet at the Fort Montgomery State Historic Site's additional parking area and road walk about 0.25 miles to the trailhead.





Starting on the red trail, we'll connect to the blue Timp-Torne Trail (T-T), which includes a steep ascent with some scrambling to reach the Veteran's Memorial and beautiful views at the summit of Popolopen Torne. We'll then descend on the T-T, take a mile loop around Brooks Lake, and continue to the Fort Montgomery State Historic Site. Here we can take a few minutes to look around the visitor center and grounds before heading back to the parking area. To register, contact leader Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net.

**Saturday, November 16
Greenwich Audubon Center**



4 miles (plus a possible extension), easy-to-moderate terrain, moderate pace. This preserve has a rich diversity of habitats

including hardwood forest, old fields, lakes, streams, vernal ponds and an old apple orchard. You may wish to visit the Nature Education Center which has exhibits and a nature gift store at the end of the hike. Participation on this hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact leader Kathie Laug at kfriedmanlaug@optonline.net

**Sunday, November 17
Harriman State Park: Victory Hike**

5 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader for a hike that includes the Victory, White Cross and the Ramapo-Dunderberg (R-D) trails. They each have a variety of terrain from rocks, earth trails and some paved road. We will climb Parker Cabin and Tom Jones Mountains, both of which have beautiful views. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Rain cancels. Pace is continuous with a few breaks. To register and for time and meeting spot, contact leader Elspeth Kramer at (347) 262-4802 or by email elspethjkramer@gmail.com no later than Friday, November 15.

**Sunday, November 17
Baxter Preserve**

2-3 miles, easy terrain, leisurely-to-moderate pace. This hike, of about 1.5-2 hours, travels over rolling hills and pastures and along a scenic lake in North Salem. You can park along Baxter Road, which is a dirt road, across from #67 Baxter Road, a red house with white trim. Register with the leader Barry Leibowitz by calling his cell (914) 774-5321 or home (845) 278- 2479. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 46).*

**Saturday, November 23
Silvermine Lake and Stockbridge Mountain**

7.8 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. We will meet at the Silvermine Lake parking lot and head south on the Menomine Trail, west to the AT, crossing Seven Lakes Drive to the Long Path, and north to the Menomine Trail returning us to the parking lot. This hike has about 1500' elevation gain; use NY/NY Trail Conference Northern Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails Map 119. Severe inclement weather cancels. Please register by texting the leader with your full name, phone number, and the name and number of your emergency contact. Contact Anastasia Tavarez, (646) 207-4136 (texting preferred) or atavare@gmail.com.

**Saturday, November 23
Mianus River Gorge, Bedford, NY**

5 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This is a hike in a Nature Conservancy property. We will walk along the gorge, have a snack at the "viewpoint" and then proceed to Havermeier Falls, which we hope will have some water flowing. To register, email Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 56).*

**Sunday, November 24
AT: Route 17A to Prospect Rock and Back**

10 miles, moderate terrain, moderate-to-brisk pace. This hike traverses the ridge of Bellvale Mountain, climbing over unusual puddingstone conglomerate rock outcrops and reaching many beautiful viewpoints over Greenwood Lake while covering a very scenic section of the Appalachian Trail. To register, contact leader Kevin McGahren, KMcGC@optonline.net.



**Sunday, November 24
Old Croton Aqueduct
Part 1: Croton Dam to Ossining**

5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. This is the first in a series of linear hikes following the historic OCA from its northern end in Croton all the way to its southern terminus in Central Park. We will begin at the Croton Dam seeing dramatic cascades of water and end at the Caputo Center in Ossining, which houses the Ossining Heritage Area Visitor Center. A short shuttle is involved (masks required). For information about the OCA, see <https://aqueduct.org/oca-history>. To register, contact leader Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 72).*

**Saturday, November 30
Harriman State Park**

9.75 miles, moderate terrain, moderate-to-brisk pace. On this hike, with 1500' elevation change, we will leave from the parking near St. John's in the Wilderness. We will use the Long Path, Suffern Bear-Mountain trails, and many unmarked and woods roads to explore an old farm, the Barnes Mine, a plane crash site, and views from the reservoirs, Big Hill and Iron Mountain. There will be a bonus hunt for a memorial to a young camper above Breakneck Pond. Please bring poles and be comfortable with poorly marked or overgrown trails. Weather may cancel or change the route. This hike is limited to 12 people. Contact the leader Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com.

**Saturday, November 30
Teatown-Kitchawan Trail**

5 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, moderate pace. This out and back hike goes from the Teatown Visitor Center to the Croton Reservoir and then returns to the starting point. We will begin on the Lakeside loop and turn right on TKT, where we walk past a stream through the woods and cross the road to John Hand Park. We continue on the TKT with many ups and downs, walking past a meadow and then a steady downhill to the Croton Reservoir where we will have lunch. After lunch, we retrace our steps back to the parking lot. Register with the leader Carol Pamm, CarolJoyce2@aol.com or (646) 346-0371. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 28).*

**Sunday, December 1
Muscoot Farm, Somers**

4-5 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We'll hike around the perimeter of the farm on the yellow and white trails, through the woods and across rolling farmland. Optional visit to see the farm animals and barns on the way out. Meet in the main parking lot, 51 Route 100, Katonah, NY, preferably closer to the exit as the lot usually gets crowded later on. To register, contact leader Sheila Sarkar at shechris7@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 58).*

**Saturday, December 7
Southeast Harriman Circular**

9-10 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Starting at the eastern trailhead for the Tuxedo-Mt. Ivy, we will cross Panther Mountain, eat lunch at Pine Meadow Lake, and use several trails including the Suffern-Bear Mountain (S-BM), Pine Meadow and Tuxedo-Mt. Ivy. The first half of the hike is hillier than the rest, rewarded by some nice views. Vaccination against COVID-19 is required on this hike. Rain cancels; no first time hikers, please. To register and for start time and other information, email the leader Mike Kaplan at kaplanm2001@yahoo.com.

**Saturday, December 7
Lasdon Park and Sanctuary**



5.5 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, moderate pace. 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. To register, contact leader Lisa Weismiller, lisaweismiller@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 34).*



**Saturday, December 14
Mt. Beacon Loop**

8-9 miles, moderate-to-strenuous terrain, moderate-to-brisk pace. We will meet at the Mt. Beacon parking lot and head up to the fire tower. Then we'll continue on the Wilkinson trail to Dozer Junction to make a Hudson Highlands Loop hike. There will be several vistas along the way with views in all directions. Please register with the leader Janice Miller at majian11@yahoo.com.

**Saturday, December 14
Garrison School Forest**

4-5 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely-to-moderate pace. Panoramic Hudson views in this Revolutionary War significant setting, including visits to both the North and South redoubts. Washington and Hamilton really were here! Two significant climbs, woods, ravines, ruins, etc. are on the agenda. A limit of 10 hikers, as parking is limited, and a very short shuttle may be needed (masks required). To register, contact leader Debbie Farrell debfarpr@gmail.com. Phone for day of hike only (914) 282-9942.

**Sunday, December 15
Stahahe High Point and Island Pond**

6.5 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This is a relaxed pace hike of about 1.5 mph starting at the Elk Pen. Continue to the Nurian and up through the Valley of Boulders around Green Pond to Stahahe High Point via an unmarked trail. Then retrace our steps back to Island Pond Road to the southern end of the lake. Return to the Elk Pen via the Arden-Surebridge (A-SB). Depending on ground conditions, Microspikes or other traction devices may be needed. To register, contact leader Veronica O'Neil. Text or email to (914) 523-9418 or missyellierosa@yahoo.com.

**Sunday, December 15
Manitou Point Preserve**

4 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Even though this is only a three-hour hike or less, it is one of the best. They have done a great deal of work in this preserve off Route 9D in Garrison--redesigning and blazing trails, addition of a stone stream crossing, and construction of a riverfront cantilevered bridge on the river trail. 40% of the route is right along the Hudson River. It is considered a relatively easy hike but the trails are "rugged" meaning that they are narrow and

rocky, but we will take our time. Good hiking boots and hiking poles are suggested. Bring sufficient water and a snack. The parking lot can be easily passed as the sign is not that great. The actual address is 411 Route 9D, Garrison, NY. There is a small wooden sign which has numbers "411" at the parking lot and a small white sign which says Manitou Point Preserve. It is 1.7 miles as you get on 9D from the bridge. Contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net to register.

**Saturday, December 21
AT: Route 52 to Taconic State Parkway and Back**

9.6 miles, moderate terrain, moderate-to-brisk pace. This is a little traveled section of the Appalachian Trail known mostly to thru-hikers, but it packs two peaks within a compact 4.8 miles each way. We will climb and descend both Stormville and Hosner Mountains with views atop both summits. To register, contact leader Kevin McGahren, KMcGC@optonline.net.

**Saturday, December 21
Meyer Preserve**

5-6 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader on this hike through varied terrain, walking through open fields as well as woods. Depending on ground conditions, participants are expected to bring traction aids and know how to put them on. The hike contains some ascents, and we will go at a pace that keeps the group together. Hiking poles are a really good idea. To register, contact leader Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com, (845) 297-7066. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 55).*

**Sunday, December 22
Ward Pound Ridge**

4 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, leisurely-to-moderate pace. This hike is moderate at the beginning but easy towards the end. We will climb steeply up the Blue trail to reach the highest point in the park (870 feet), the site of a former fire tower now marked by a bench, a non-functional water pump and the stone ruins of the fire observer's cabin. We will descend on a white-blazed footpath, which goes down steeply over rocks and passes through a tunnel of mountain laurel. At the base of the descent, we will continue on a relatively flat path back to our cars. To register, contact leader Gail Blumenfeld, gailrb@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*



Sunday, December 22
Old Croton Aqueduct
Part 2: Ossining to Sleepy Hollow

6.8 or 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. This is the second in a series of linear hikes following the historic OCA from Westchester to Manhattan; the length of today's hike will depend on the weather and ground conditions. A short shuttle is involved (masks required). For information about the OCA, see <https://aqueduct.org/oca-history>. To register, contact leader Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 73).*

Saturday, December 28
Mt Holly Sanctuary/Yarrow Preserve

5 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, moderate pace. We walk through forests with some gentle ups and downs, pass a couple of streams and around a lake before heading back to Mt Holly Rd. Then we enter Yarrow preserve on the yellow trail where we will do two short loops passing by a lake and a waterfall. We will need to carpool to the trailhead as parking is limited (masks required for the carpool). Register with the leader, Carol Pamm, at CarolJoyce2@aol.com or (646) 346-0371. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 37).*

Sunday, December 29
Harriman State Park

8.75 miles, moderate terrain, moderate-to-brisk pace. Leaving from Lake Skannatati, we will use the Arden-Surebridge (A-SB), Red Cross, and Beech Trails, as well as many woods roads to do a hike with 1500 feet of elevation change while exploring a quiet section of the park. Highlights include two very good views, surveyor marks, the Hasenclever mine and road, a cemetery, a waterfall, and the Beech trail's special connection to WTA. Weather may cancel or change the route. This hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact the leader Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 29
Pond Gut: Horrid Name, Nice Hike

3-4 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Nestled in the southeast corner of the Taconic Hereford recreation area in Pleasant Valley, NY. These

unspoiled trails wind through an old growth forest, cross narrow streams and are near to some deep ravines. Offering modest ascents and tranquil views, it's a welcome change from overly-loved trails. Looking forward to see you there and then (provided you're not infected, diseased or rabid). To register, contact leader Howard Millman, wardmillman@runbox.com, cell on day of hike (914) 439-8031.

Tuesday, December 31
Early New Year's Eve

Meet at 2:45 PM 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 pre-register for the walk; but if you have questions, you can contact Eileen West at eileenw1000@gmail.com. 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 27. Inclement weather postpones the hike - but not the dinner - for 365 days. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 38).*

Wednesday, January 1
New Year's Day at Greenwich Point Park



3 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. Join us for a walk around the Todd's Point peninsula. There will be shorebirds and other inhabitants to observe. Your leader

expects to enjoy the balmy waters of the Sound in January. Participants willing to get wet are particularly welcome. We meet at 10:30 AM at the main concession stand. Registration is not required, but for directions, contact leader Jane Restani at irabjanea@aol.com. Note that post-swim refreshments are usually available, especially if you bring them. Swimmers get first pick.



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patcjohnston@gmail.com**

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