



Member Feedback: Our Survey Results are In!



We received a total of 88 responses to our recent survey. Here are the results:

Length of Membership: 9 people who answered the survey have been WTA members for one year or less; 38 have been members for 2-5 years; 11 people for 6-10 years; and 30 have been with WTA for more than 10 years.

How Often People Hike with Us: 9 said they had never been on a WTA hike; 31 hiked with us less than once a month; 17 came 1-2 times a month; and 13 hiked with us more frequently. Others were seasonal hikers ("weekly in summer", or "when I am in New York"), and a few who no longer hiked said they continued their membership to "keep up with news and support WTA".

Length and Terrain: Our most popular hikes are 5-8 miles (47 people) on moderate terrain (62). 39 people liked short hikes; 12 liked long ones. 34 enjoyed easy hikes and 14 liked the strenuous variety. Many members selected more than one category; and other comments included a preference for "moderate with an easy pace", "climbing rocks", "do not like downhill", "easy walks on carriage roads", and "everything!".

Hike Location: It was no surprise that people enjoyed hiking close to home, in Westchester, Putnam and the Bronx (55) and in nearby areas such as Harriman, Fahnestock and the Hudson Highlands (54). 25 people also liked Schunemunk and the Shawangunks; 21 liked the Catskills; 15 liked Connecticut hikes, and 12 liked New Jersey trails. One adventurous person mentioned hiking in Maine!

Spring Hiking Weeks: We're happy to report that the people who went on our Berkshire and Shenandoah trips "loved them!", although a few felt that Shenandoah was "too far to travel". People liked "the diversity of trails", "variety of hikes", having "meals together" and "perfect weather" (*Yes, we will take credit for that!*). One person was glad "that alternate activities were available", and another liked "getting together as a group for Happy Hour since we all do different hikes during the day". Suggestions for future trips included the Catskills, the Adirondacks and Maine.

We received plenty of comments about our hikes. Several people emphasized the importance of being able to carpool if possible. Most said the variety of the hikes filled "the needs of all kinds of hikers", and "should be encouraged to attract hikers of various levels". A few specifically mentioned our joint hikes with ADK as adding variety to the schedule. There was a lot of positive feedback about our leaders, who members said "are doing a great job". One person asked us to thank "the people who lead the hikes and who share their passion of nature with all of us."

And finally, there were the wonderful "thumbs up" that so many people gave to the club. They liked the "small groups and friendly folk", "the camaraderie", the "warmth and friendliness of members". "I've always enjoyed the hikes as well as the hikers." "A great group of people". "I have led several hikes for WTA and always enjoyed the people." "I feel very lucky to be a part of WTA. I have gotten to know some very remarkable people." "It's so great that you have this club!" "An excellent volunteer based organization." "All the extra activities give the WTA members who are involved a wonderful feeling of cohesion." "Good organization of offerings via published schedule and email reminders". "Enjoy the schedule write-ups." "Your newsletters are great; all the information about the hikes that we could want." "You guys are doing a great job." "Thank you for maintaining an organization that shares Nature and its beauty with everyone. It is a wonderful gift to all of us." "I think you are a wonderful organization and maintain my membership just to support you." "I can't think of anything that needs improvement. Thank you for all!" "Keep up the good work." "Please keep on keeping on!"

And thank YOU, our members and volunteers, for helping to make WTA an organization to be proud of!