



WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

WINTER HIKING SCHEDULE JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH, 2023

Covid-19 Policy

You must be vaccinated in order to participate in WTA outings and events.

Hikers must have their own Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with them at all times. This includes a mask or other face covering, which should be worn in crowded areas and when indoors or sharing vehicles. 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.

Unless otherwise noted, all of our hikes are joint with ADK Mohican

Sunday, January 1 - New Years Day Walk and Swim, Greenwich Point Park. 3 miles, easy terrain. Okay, you don't have to swim if you don't want to. There will be an approximately 3 mile walk starting around 10:30 AM from the main concession stand. Bring holiday treats if you have them for a post hike celebration. Our traditional leader, Jane Restani, may not be able to make it this year, so register instead with Lisa Weismiller at lisaweismiller@gmail.com in order to get weather-impacting news or directions. Participants must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy.

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




Saturday, January 7 - **Lake Skannatati Circular.** 6 miles, moderate terrain. This will be a loop starting from Lake Skannatati, taking the ASB and Red Cross with panoramic views of Lake Askoti to Hasenclever Mine. We then continue on Hasenclever Road to the Beech Trail past a cemetery and back to Lake Skannatati via Rockhouse Mountain Road. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Minu Chaudhuri (914) 391-5918 or minuch50@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 7 - **Kensico Cemetery Tour.** 3-5 miles, easy to moderate 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. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Sue Soni, surekhasoni1968@gmail.com.

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

Sunday, January 8 - **Black Rock Forest.** 6 miles, moderate terrain. Starting from the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum/Outdoor Discovery Center, we ascend into the Mine Hill area of Black Rock Forest via the Stern trail; once in the Forest we will do the Sackett-Stillman-Hall Road loop. The hike has a significant climb at the beginning and a total elevation gain of approximately 1100', but it will be done at a compassionate pace (so the leader can keep up), with regroupings as needed. Bring traction aids (like microspikes) with you regardless of conditions - they might be necessary at higher elevations. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader Steve Klepner, (845) 297-7066 or spk010@yahoo.com. Email preferred with 'hike' in the subject line.



Sunday, January 8 - **Ellie Carren Memorial Hike at Irvington Woods.** 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is a hike that Ellie Carren led in January of 2010, and we will share Ellie memories as we retrace her steps through woodlands and to "Hermits Grave". We'll also try to find the Macy Monument, with a plaque in honor of V. Everit Macy, who served Westchester County in various capacities including its Commissioner of Parks. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman (914) 420-5778, carohof2@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 54).*

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

Saturday, January 14 - **Silvermine Circular in Harriman.** 5.2 miles, moderate terrain. On this hike, which has about 1,000' of elevation gain, we'll start by heading west on the Menomine, passing the Lewis family cemetery and crossing Seven Lakes Drive to the Nawahunta Fire Road. We'll take a look at the Lewis Mine while on our way to the Long Path, then head south on the LP uphill to the cave shelter before a short scramble to lunch at the Stockbridge Shelter. Upon reaching the Menomine, we'll go east and admire the CCC pine plantation on Lake Nawahunta before we return to the starting point. If snow or ice, traction will be mandatory. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader for more information and to register. Rich Salz, richsalz10@gmail.com or (914) 260-1337.

Saturday, January 14 - **Hardscrabble Wilderness Area.** 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, but that gives us an option to enjoy a hot beverage and delicious pastry at Jean Jacques when we return. Bring microspikes or stabilicers if conditions warrant. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 29).*

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

Sunday, January 15 - **Hook Mountain**. 6 miles, moderate terrain. Ups and down on ridge with sweeping views, and 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. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader to register: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 15 - **Bronx River Pathway: Kensico Dam Plaza to NWP station and back**. 4 miles, easy terrain. Bring a lunch/snack and water. 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. Winter Wonderland decorations may (or may not) still be up. Heavy precipitation on day of the hike may cancel. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader for meeting time and location: Sheila Klatzky, srklatzky@gmail.com.

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

Saturday, January 21 - **Southern Harriman Hiking**. 5-6 miles, moderate terrain. We will meet at the Lake Sebago parking lot and begin our hike on the Seven Hills Trail. From there we will take an appropriate hike for the weather and ground conditions. Expect to be on the Tuxedo-Mt. Ivy Trail and the Buck Trail. Going up to Diamond Mountain will depend on the conditions of the day. Microspikes might be necessary; if unsure, check with the leader. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Judy Kossover, woodtuxduo@aol.com or (845) 548-7604.

Saturday, January 21 - **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. Be prepared with microspikes and/or snow shoes as conditions permit. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Lisa Weismiller, lisaweismiller@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 34).*

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

Sunday, January 22 - **Old Croton Aqueduct**. 7-8 miles, easy terrain. We will walk from Irvington to Hastings-on-Hudson and circle back to Irvington. The Old Croton Aqueduct, the system that once delivered fresh water from the Croton River to New York City, was a huge and complex marvel of engineering. The trail we will walk on sits on top of the aqueduct system. In Dobbs Ferry, outside the Gate Keeper's House, there is a new full scale model of the tunnel underneath the trail. In Hastings we will go to their waterfront. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. For questions and to register, contact the leader, Linda Wildman at lindawildman88@gmail.com or call/text (914) 316-5674.

Sunday, January 22 - **Cranberry Lake**. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Come out and enjoy a hike around this County owned preserve through a forest, past a quarry (the quarry climb is optional) and of course along Cranberry Lake. Bring a thermos of hot chocolate or another hot

beverage to keep you warm, plenty of water, and snacks. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader Elspeth Kramer at (347) 262- 4802 or email elspethjkramer@gmail.com for time and meeting spot. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 51).*

Saturday, January 28 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, January 28 - **Rockefeller State Park**. 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 OCA, 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 river view. We'll return to our cars along the Pocantico River Trail. Deep snow and/or ice may result in a shorter hike. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

Saturday, January 28 - **Mountain Lakes Park**. 3-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. The route and distance of this hike will depend on the weather and the group, but no matter what we will enjoy the scenery and visit a beautiful overlook. This park is in northern Westchester County adjacent to Ridgefield, CT, and is mostly covered with hardwood forest and lakes. The property was purchased by Westchester County in 1961 and now includes 1,082 acres. There is also a summer camp for children, Camp Morty, which teaches campers environmental awareness. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact the leader, Barry Leibowitz, at cell (914) 774-5321 or home (845) 278-2479 by 6 PM on January 26th to register. Rain, snow on the roads, or harsh wind chills cancel the hike. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 57).*

Sunday, January 29 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, January 29 - **Trout Brook Valley Preserve, Easton, CT**. 6-7 miles, moderate terrain. Saved from developers in 1999 by the Aspetuck Land Trust, this lovely 730-acre preserve in Connecticut's Fairfield County is host to more than 100 plants and animal species of conservation concern, so it's important to stay on the carefully maintained and well-marked trails. Starting on the White Trail off Route 58 (Black Rock Turnpike), we'll pick up the Red Trail and do a "lollipop" hike on the Red, Orange, Yellow, and back to the White before returning to our cars. Parking is on Connecticut Route 58, opposite Country Club Lane. Address is 1012 Black Rock Turnpike, Easton, CT. Look for a small sign that says, "Jump Hill Nature Preserve." Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register, email the leader, Brent Laymon, at belaymon@gmail.com or call (475) 206-7599.

Sunday, January 29 - **Kitchawan Preserve**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Depending on ground conditions, we'll take several loops in the preserve and also follow a short section of the North County Trailway to the pedestrian bridge over the New Croton Reservoir. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register, contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at shechris6@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 33).*

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

Saturday, February 4 - **People's State Forest, Barkhamsted, CT**. 5 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This loop hike has approximately 1,000' of elevation gain. We will follow various trails: Robert Ross, Jessie Girard, Charles Pack, Agnes Bowen Loop trails. We will do the trail clockwise to get the elevation done in the morning and enjoy stunning views looking out over the Farmington River and rolling hills/mountains of Massachusetts - some of the best views in northern CT. A carpool can be arranged from the Mill Plain Road (Danbury) Park & Ride (Exit 2 off Route 84) -

check with the leader for details. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. For more information and to register, contact Trish Johnston at patcjohnston@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 4 - **Sterling Lake Circular**. 5-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain. On this hike we'll walk around the lake with a stop for lunch at a small beach near the water's edge. The route we take is dependent on ground conditions - we may stay fairly close to the shore, or take some lesser used trails for a wider loop. Either way, Sterling Lake is a lovely destination for a winter hike. Bring microspikes or stabilicers if conditions warrant. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 5 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, February 5 - **Norvin Green Circular**. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This hike, in New Jersey's Norvin Green State Forest, uses multiple trails including the Highlands, Burnt Meadow, Hewitt-Butler (now called "Tapwingo"), Lake Sonoma and Stonetown Circular, to ascend to several summits with views of the Wanaque Reservoir and beyond. Bring traction devices or snowshoes if conditions warrant. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600.

Sunday, February 5 - **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.) Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Ann Autieri, ann@cilia.org or (914) 539-1620. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 20).*

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

Saturday, February 11 - **Circle Around Bear Mountain**. 10 miles, moderate terrain. This is a hike with no strenuous ascent but long distance, with plenty of rolling up and down. We will make a big loop around Bear Mountain, taking in many nice landscapes and historic features, including the Doodletown ruins, two mines, the Popolopen Gorge, Fort Clinton and Hessian lake along the way. Very inclement weather may cancel the hike or change the route. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact the leader Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com or (914) 907-6764.

Saturday, February 11 - **Cross-Country Ski or Hike**. Ski location TBA, at the closest site with sufficient snow. Don't give up if snow is feeble nearby: conditions may be glorious at High Point, NJ, or at Minnewaska. If no snow, we'll hike in Saxon Woods Park. Participants must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. RSVP to leader: Carolyn Hoffman carohof2@gmail.com or (914) 420-5778.

Sunday, February 12 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, February 12 - **Stockbridge Mountain/Lake Nawahunta Loop**. 5 miles, moderate terrain. On this hike in Harriman State Park, which will be done at a relaxed pace, we will start from the Silvermine parking area on the Menomine Trail. Near the beginning of the hike we pass through Lewis Cemetery with tombstones from the mid 1800's. We'll cross over Seven Lakes Drive, then ascend on the Nawahunta Fire Road to the Long Path and up to the summit of Stockbridge Mountain. Lunch will be at the Shelter. Heading down the mountain, we pick up the Menomine Trail again and



take that down to the starting point. Have microspikes or snowshoes handy, just in case you need them. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Veronica O'Neil, missyellierosa@yahoo.com or (914) 523-9418.

Sunday, February 12 - **Croton Point**. 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. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader to register: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (52).*

Saturday, February 18 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, February 18 - **Tibbetts Brook - Van Cortlandt Loop**. 10-12 miles, easy terrain. We will meet in Tibbetts Brook Park and hike south to Van Cortlandt Park to visit some historic sites, then back to Tibbetts Brook. The hike will be done at a brisk pace, depending on weather and ground conditions. Leader brings brownies. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact the leader Kay Cynamon, at kcynamon@gmail.com to register and for information. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 41).*

Saturday, February 18 - **Meyer Preserve**. 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Join the leader on this hike through varied terrain. We will walk through open fields as well as woods, with a few ascents and a moderate pace with the goal of all of us staying together. Participants are expected to bring traction aids and know how to put them on; poles are a really good idea. Participants must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com, (845) 297-7066. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 55).*

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

Sunday, February 19 - **Fishkill Ridge**. 7.5 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This is a lollipop loop hike over Lambs Hill to Fishkill Ridge in the Hudson Highlands. There are several views to enjoy along the way. Be prepared with traction devices and snowshoes, as needed. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Please register with the leader Janice Miller at madjan11@optonline.net not later than Friday, February 17.


Sunday, February 19 - **Snow Shoe at Richter Park in Danbury CT**. Snow shoe (conditions permitting) on a beautiful golf course with ups and downs. If there's no snow, there is the option of a beginner hike (on a wooded trail with a hill) of about 2 hours. Will start at 10:30 AM. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Please call or email the leader, Rosanne Schepis, to register or for more information at (203) 417-5552 or rschep@yahoo.com.

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

Saturday, February 25 - **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 - on a clear day, you can see forever! Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register, email leader Brent Laymon at belaymon@gmail.com or call (475) 206-7599.

Saturday, February 25 - **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. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Rain cancels. Leader: Lynn McBride, almcb@aol.com or (914)439-0879. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 43).*



Sunday, February 26 - **Orchard Beach to City Island and Back.** 7 miles, easy terrain. Explore the more remote areas of Orchard Beach with a walk through the woodlands of Twin and Hunter Islands. From there we'll access a bike path and head over to City Island, where we can purchase hot soup or a beverage while enjoying lunch indoors. Then we'll return to the mainland and stroll along the beach on the way back to our cars. Dress warmly since it can be windy along the water. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com.


Saturday, March 4 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, March 4 - **Storm King.** 5.5 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This hike has approx. 1,200' of elevation gain, rewarded by multiple views. From the Stowell trailhead (42 Bayview Ave., Cornwall-on-Hudson), we'll take the Highlands Trail to the Stillman, with some nice early views of Cornwall and possibly the Catskills and the Shawangunk Ridge. Once we reach the summit's flat rocks, we'll enjoy lunch and great views of the Hudson, Cold Spring, Taurus and Breakneck. After lunch, we'll see views looking north to Bannerman's Island and Mt. Beacon while going to the Butter Hill viewpoint, and then we will take the Bluebird Trail back to the Highlands and the parking lot. If snow or ice, traction will be mandatory. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader for more information and to register. Rich Salz, richsalz10@gmail.com or (914) 260-1337.

Saturday, March 4 - **Snow Shoe at Richter Park in Danbury CT.** Snow shoe (conditions permitting) on a beautiful golf course with ups and downs. If there's no snow, there is the option of a beginner hike (on a wooded trail with a hill) of about 2 hours. Will start at 10:30 AM. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Please call or email the leader, Rosanne Schepis, to register or for more information at (203) 417-5552 or rschep@yahoo.com.


Sunday, March 5 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, March 5 - **Mt. Beacon Loop.** 8-9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. We will go up Mt. Beacon and continue on the Wilkinson trail to make a Hudson Highlands loop hike. There will be several views to enjoy along the way. Be prepared with traction devices and snowshoes, as needed. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Please register with the leader Janice Miller madjan11@optonline.net not later than Friday, March 3.



Sunday, March 5 - **Mountain Lakes Park.** 6-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Starting at the Tamarack parking lot, we'll hike around Hemlock Lake, Spruce Lake and Laurel Lake, and return on the white trail, stopping at Look Out Point. Since this is a History Hike which originally featured a trip to Sarah Bishop's cave (now on private property), we'll talk about her life as we pass the place where the cave would have been accessed. There is also an option to drive over to the June Road cemetery in North Salem after the hike to see Sarah Bishop's grave. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at shechris6@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 57).*

Saturday, March 11 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**



Saturday, March 11 - **Pawling Nature Reserve**. 8 miles, moderate terrain. This hike uses Duell Hollow Road parking to access the Appalachian trail and make a lollipop in the Pawling Nature Reserve. Nice view of the Harlem River Valley and peaceful, underutilized trails. Very inclement weather may cancel the hike or change the route. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact the leader Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com or (914) 907-6764.

Saturday, March 11 - **Outdoor Discovery Center, Cornwall, NY**. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Yes, it's still possible to hike along soft earth trails winding through hardwood forests and pond-dotted parklike meadows. The Outdoor Discovery Center is one of a dwindling few. Trails consist of two contiguous loops totaling about 600' of overall elevation gain that lead to modest viewpoints looking north and east. Need more convincing? Ample parking and real bathrooms. Directions to hike: Drive north on 9W from Bear Mountain Bridge (pass Storm King) to Angola Road, exit then turn left (west) about ¼ mile to: 120 Muser Drive, Cornwall, NY 12518. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Howard Millman, hwardmillman@runbox.com, cell on the day of hike only (914), 439-8031.

Sunday, March 12 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, March 12 - **Ramapo Mountain State Forest**. 8-9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. The route of this loop hike makes for a good winter outing, winding around to views and past historical ruins on various trails in nearby New Jersey's Ramapo State Forest. Bring traction devices or snowshoes if conditions warrant. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600.

Sunday, March 12 - **Van Cortlandt Park**. 3-4 miles, easy terrain. Come see the second largest park in New York City: an urban forest with great diversity of trees, plants and birds. Although there are deer, their population is not big enough to eat everything under the trees. We may be lucky enough to see some early season wildflowers. Weather permitting we will meet at the Van Cortlandt Stables parking lot off Mosholu Ave. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Diana S. Catz (347) 533-0554. Please call the leader for directions and to confirm attendance).

Saturday, March 18 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, March 18 - **Lake Skannati Loop**. 8 miles, moderate terrain. We will take the Long Path to the Dunning and the White Bar, returning to our cars on the Arden-Surebridge Trail. The hike will be done at a brisk pace, with several options to lengthen depending upon weather and ground conditions. Leader brings brownies. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact the leader Kay Cynamon, at kcynamon@gmail.com to register and for information.

Saturday, March 18 - **Cemetery Walk**. 2-3 miles, easy terrain. On this afternoon walk we will explore Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne. We'll pay our respects to actor James Cagney, then walk up the hill to see Babe Ruth and Billy Martin, and a few other notables as well. Very cold temperatures will cancel the walk. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Cynthia Moro, cynlyn24@gmail.com.

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

Sunday, March 19 - **Fahnestock Hike**. 5-8 miles, moderate terrain. The length of this hike will depend on ground conditions. Starting from the Dennytown Road parking area, we'll make a loop on

the Three Lakes Trail and the A.T. We will pass by John Allen Pond, Hidden Lake, and perhaps we'll make it to Canopus Lake if conditions allow. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net.

Sunday, March 19 - **Mianus River Park, Stamford, CT.** 4.5-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This late-winter outing will follow the park's yellow perimeter trail, counter-clockwise from Merriebrook in Stamford. Conditions permitting, we'll possibly add on the short Fisherman's Loop Trail at the north end of the park. If the weather is great, there may also be the option of a 2-3 mile encore hike at either the Babcock Preserve (4 miles away) or the Greenwich Audubon (8 miles away). Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Register with leader, Hank Zupnick, preferably by Friday evening: hank.zupnick@gmail.com.

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

Saturday, March 25 - **Johnsontown Circular.** 6-7 miles, moderate terrain. This hike uses several southern Harriman trails, all of which we'll do at a relaxed pace (about 1.5 mph). We will take the Blue Disc up to Almost Perpendicular, continue to Claudius Smith's Den, and access the White Cross and Victory Trails on our way to Lake Skenonto, where we'll have lunch. Our return will be on the Triangle and White Bar trails passing the Dutch Doctor shelter. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Veronica O'Neil, missyellierosa@yahoo.com.

Saturday, March 25 - **RiverWalk and the Old Croton Aqueduct.** 5 miles, easy terrain. We will walk at a relaxed pace starting from the RiverWalk entrance past the Lyndhurst grounds taking in views of the Tappan Zee (Cuomo) Bridge and the Hudson River. We continue south on the Old Croton Aqueduct to Main Street in Irvington and break for lunch. Eat in town at your choice of one of several restaurants, or bring your own. After lunch we will walk back on the Aqueduct the same way we came. Directions: from Route 9, turn west on the first street south of the Tappan Zee Bridge (the sign has two names - Paulding and VanWart Avenues). Bear left at the fork and continue down Paulding to Hudson Place (the last street before the dead end sign). Turn right, park on Hudson Place or Van Wart Avenue. Meet the at the Van Wart Avenue RiverWalk entrance gate. Maximum number of hikers is 10. Snow/rain cancels. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader to register and for meeting time: Nancy Vincent, nevincent09@gmail.com

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

Sunday, March 26 - **Lillinonah Trail, Newtown, CT.** 6.2 miles, moderate terrain. Located within the 800-acre upper block of the Paugussett State Forest, this trail is surrounded on three sides by water, including Lake Lillinonah - created in 1955 by the construction of the Shepaug Dam, which we'll be able to see at various points along the way. The trail has multiple ups and downs and plenty of views to enjoy. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register, email the leader, Brent Laymon, at belaymon@gmail.com or call (475) 206-7599.

Sunday, March 26 - **Afternoon Hike at Cranberry Lake.** 3-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Visit this county-owned preserve in North White Plains and see an early spring waterfall. Enjoy woodlands budding, views of wetlands, history of quarrying for the Kensico Dam, broad views from the top of the quarry (optional.) Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, cell (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No 51).*