



WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

WINTER HIKING SCHEDULE JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH, 2025

Covid-19 Policy: If you have tested positive for Covid-19 within the past 5 days, or if you have symptoms of a respiratory infection or any other contagious illness, do not come on the hike! Stay home, take care of yourself, and keep others safe by not exposing them to a potential infection.

- You must have a mask or other face covering with you at all times, for use in crowded areas. Masks must be worn during carpools.

- Outings that are limited to those vaccinated against Covid-19 will say so in the description.

Hike ratings are based on terrain and pace (mileage is stated separately in the description).

Terrain: These ratings apply during good weather; bad weather can lead to poor footing and increase the difficulty of any hike.

Easy - relatively level terrain or a few hills, such as the Old Croton Aqueduct or the Rockefeller Preserve carriage trails.

Easy to Moderate - these hikes have both easy and moderate components. Expect more ups and downs than on an easy hike. Examples include parts of Teatown Reservation and most of Ward Pound Ridge.

Moderate - steeper grades, possibly going up and down all day; may include some bushwhacking or short rock scrambles, like most of Harriman State Park.

Moderate to Strenuous - combines elements of both moderate and strenuous hikes (e.g., the Hudson Highlands excluding the Breakneck Ridge Trail).

Strenuous - very steep ascents/descents with rough or difficult terrain on much of the hike, such as the Breakneck Ridge Trail and the more challenging Schunemunk trails.

Pace: Leisurely (under 2 mph); Moderate (2 - 2.5 mph); Brisk (over 2.5 mph). These ratings are an average for the entire hike - pace is generally slower on rugged or steep terrain, and then speeds up on easier stretches.

Please do not use mileage + pace to estimate how long a hike will take. Many variables add to that time. In addition to terrain, they include ground conditions; stops for views, water, separations, and adding or removing layers; breaks for lunch or snacks; and unforeseen events. If you need to get back by a certain time, forego the hike and wait for another day.

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.

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).

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 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.

Saturday, January 4 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, January 4 - Fishkill Ridge. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This is a lollipop hike with about 2000' of elevation gain that goes over Lambs Hill to Fishkill Ridge in the Hudson Highlands. For a change of pace we will take the Overlook Trail from Sunnyside Road. Along the way there are many beautiful views in all directions. Come prepared with winter gear. No beginners please. To register contact leader Janice Miller at madjan11@yahoo.com the week before the hike.

Saturday, January 4 - Tarrytown Lakes Trails. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This hike is partly on the Tarrytown Lakes bike path but mostly on varied trails along the lakefront. Starting from the Eastview commuter lot we will do a series of loops through woodlands, stop for lunch at the water's edge, and continue winding our way back to the cars on the least direct route we can find. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 5 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, January 5 - Fahnestock State Park. 9 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. Starting from the lesser-used Big Woods Trailhead, we will make a loop with about 1500' of elevation change that utilizes the Cabot, Charcoal Burners, Clove Creek, Fahnestock and Perkins Trails. Along the way we will enjoy quiet woods, three ponds, and a late lunch at the view that the Fahnestock family called "Picnic Ridge." Inclement weather may cancel or change the route. This hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 5 - FDR State Park. 4-5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace, Starting from Parking Area 1, we'll walk by Mohansic Lake, continue along the blue woodland trail to Crom Pond, and then walk along the white and yellow trails back to the cars. To register, contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at shechris7@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 24).*

Saturday, January 11 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, January 11 - Both Sides of Route 106. 7-8 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. We will take the SBM north to climb Irish Mountain and check out the "Potato". Then we'll use unmarked paths in the Lake Welch area to access the southbound SBM and ascend to the fire tower. We will head over to the second and third reservoirs and other scenic spots, returning past the ORAK ruins on the way back to our cars. Vaccination against Covid-19 is required on this hike. Email the leader for start time and other information: Mike Kaplan, kaplanm2001@yahoo.com. No first time hikers, please. Rain or snow cancels.

Saturday, January 11 - Cranberry Lake Preserve. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Hike on variety of trails. Going up the quarry offers a short but steep climb. Please bring lunch and water. Meet at the nature center at 10 AM. The preserve is located at 1609 Old Orchard Street in North White Plains, NY. If you need directions or information about the preserve their number is

(914) 428-1005. Rain cancels the hike. Leader Sue Soni, surekhasoni1968@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 51).*

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

Sunday, January 12 - **Hook Mountain.** 6 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Ups and down on a 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. Hikers must be vaccinated against Covid-19. Contact leader to register: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 12 - **Rockefeller Preserve.** 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We will explore trails on the western edge of Rockefeller, south of Route 117 and north of Route 448. Participation in this hike is limited to 15 people. To register, contact the leader Debbie Bell at deb2@columbia.edu. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

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

Saturday, January 18 - **Black Rock Forest.** 9 miles, moderately strenuous terrain, moderate pace. The route of this hike will take us up to several peaks for sweeping winter views, but the hike can be modified to 7 miles on moderate terrain (predominantly carriage trails) if ground conditions are unfavorable. To register contact the leader, Alice Benash, at ajrb3@verizon.net.

Saturday, January 18 - **Granite Knolls/Sylvan Glen.** 5-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Come explore some of the hidden gems of Westchester County as we visit relics of both geologic history and human endeavors. Nestled in the heart of the Town of Yorktown, our hike begins in Granite Knolls Park where we will view one of the largest glacial erratics in the area. Along the way to Sylvan Glen Park, we will pass evidence of long-gone human industrial activity, dating back to the time when Yorktown was a major supplier of granite. A large quarry and abandoned mining equipment still on site are among the highlights of this hike. If time and trail conditions permit, we will also visit a large oak tree, several hundred years old. Although much of the hike is level, there are some steep downhill pitches including rock steps, which we can bypass if conditions are icy. Contact the leader, Aaron Bock, at (914) 646-4056 or Abock52@gmail.com with questions and to register. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 20 and 61).*

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

Sunday, January 19 - **Shenandoah Mountain off the AT.** 6 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This hike with 1,282 feet of elevation is moderate enough to give everyone a good workout with a hiking time of about 4+ hours including lunch at the top. Take the Taconic State Parkway to Miller Hill Road (traveling north it is two exits after Fahnestock). Turn north and go down the hill to Hortontown Road and parking is at the "T" intersection. We will pass the RPH Shelter and climb to the open summit on the mountain, then return on the same route. Contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net to register.

Sunday, January 19 - **Central Park Walk.** 7 miles, easy terrain, moderate pace. From Grand Central Station we will head to Central Park and walk here and there. Maybe we will see an Angel, panther, turtle, gazebo, sundial, octagonal tower, castle, the Bard, three women, obelisk, Alice and Hans, bears, the iconic Imagine, and more. Let's top off the walk with hot chocolate. Participation is limited to twelve persons; vaccination against Covid-19 is required on this hike. To register, contact the leader, Linda Wildman, at lindawildman88@gmail.com or text/call (914) 316-5674.

Saturday, January 25 - **Muscoot Farm**. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This is a hike on 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 also a concession where coffee, etc can be purchased. Leader Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com, (845) 297-7066. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 58)*.

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

Sunday, January 26 - **Westmoreland Sanctuary**. 5-6 miles, easy-to-moderate terrain, moderate pace. 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 lunch and water; hiking poles are 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)*.

Sunday, January 26 - **Old Croton Aqueduct**. 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We will walk out and back from the Croton Dam along the OCA. Then we'll return over the top of the Croton Dam and head down the Blue footpath trail. To register email the leader, Chris Powers, at cpowers13@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 1 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, February 1 - **Northern Fahnestock Circular**. 9 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Join us for a loop hike in Fahnestock State Park with about 1200 feet of elevation gain. We will meet at the Big Woods parking lot and take the (Y) Perkins through farmland into the woods to the (B) Fahnestock along the lake. From here we will continue to (W) Clove Creek to (Y) Trout Brook. At Trout Creek we will connect onto the (R) Charcoal Burners Trail. Along this trail we be at the highest point of the hike - 1300 feet. This trail will lead us to the (Y) Perkins and back to the cars. Meet the leader at the Big Woods Trailhead Parking, Route 301, Cold Spring, NY 10516. GPS: 41.44481, -73.86600. For meeting time and to register contact the leader Bill Medeot at billwp218@gmail.com or (914) 844-7038.

Saturday, February 1 - **Croton Point**. 4 miles, easy terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. 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. Optional lunch at 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 2 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, February 2 - **Fahnestock Park, South of Route 301**. 7 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This loop in Fahnestock State Park will begin on the AT near Canopus Lake and continue on the Three Lakes Trail. We'll turn left on Sunken Mine Road, take that to the Blue Scout Trail, and return to the cars on the Three Lakes Trail. We will pass several mines, learn about the history of the Park, and stop at a viewpoint for lunch. For information and to register email the leader, Kathy Skura, at kathyskura@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 2 - **Saxon Woods**. 3 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We will do the North Loop via the white trail in this County-owned park on the White Plains-Mamaroneck border. Please bring a snack and water. Meet the leader at the trailhead (1800 Mamaroneck Avenue,

White Plains, NY), located behind the yellow school busses. Rain will cancel the hike. Leader: Hatice Gursoy, gursoyh@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 60).*

Saturday, February 8 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, February 8 - **Rockefeller State Park**. 10 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Starting at the Old Sleepy Hollow Road kiosk, we will do a few climbs to viewpoints throughout the day. Deep snow and/or ice may result in a shorter hike. To register and for questions contact the leader, Alice Benash, at ajrb3@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

Saturday, February 8 - **Walkway over the Hudson and More**. 6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Beautiful views on this unique hike over the pedestrian bridge in Poughkeepsie, plus the Franny Reese State Park loop. Then across the Mid Hudson Bridge where you must listen to the music, and finally back to the cars - a perfect blend of urban and rural terrain. It may be chilly walking over the two bridges so bring appropriate gear (hats, gloves). Meeting place is at the end of the unpaved parking lot closest to the beginning of the Walkway. The easiest, most direct route to the Walkway from Westchester is the Taconic to Route 55 West, straight into Poughkeepsie. Turn right on Washington Street, then right on Parker Avenue and the Walkway parking lot is about 1000' on the left. If you use a GPS enter '61 Parker Avenue' as the destination. To register and for questions, contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net.

Sunday, February 9 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, February 9 - **Catfish Loop**. 5 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader on a wonderful hike in Fahnestock State Park which we'll do at a steady, comfortable pace. It has something for everyone - varied terrain, some stream crossings, and a few minor rock scrambles. Bring a thermos of something hot, plenty of water, snacks and lunch. Contact the leader for meeting time or information. Leader: Elspeth Kramer, elspethjkramer@gmail.com or (347) 262-4802.

Sunday, February 9 - **Hardscrabble Wilderness Area (a Hike and Hot Soup)**. 3-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. The route and distance of this hike will depend on ground conditions, but no matter what we will wind our way up, down and around several of the trails in this small but interesting preserve in Mt. Pleasant. Parking is limited where we enter the preserve so we do a short carpool from the Pleasantville train station (masks required), but that gives us a chance to enjoy hot soup and delicious pastry at Jean Jacques when we return. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 29).*

Saturday, February 15 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, February 15 - **Minnewaska**. 8 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This loop hike will take us on a mix of hiking trails and carriage roads. We will take Jenny Lane to Lake Awosting and return on the Upper Awosting Carriage Road and Mossy Glen Trail. Come prepared with winter gear. To register contact the leader Janice Miller at madjan11@yahoo.com the week before the hike.

Saturday, February 15 - **Butler Sanctuary**. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. We start on the Orange trail with large ferns lining our path and then proceed to the Red trail around the perimeter of the park to the Hawk Watch where we will have lunch before returning to the cars. Along the way there are some ups and downs and a couple of steep climbs. We will walk through Evergreen and White Pine forests, some small stream crossings and beautiful glacial rock formations. Leader: Carol Pamm, CarolJoyce2@aol.com or (646) 346-0371. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 49).*

Sunday, February 16 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, February 16 - **Ramapo Valley Reservation and Ringwood State Park.** 9 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. Starting from the NYNJTC headquarters, we will make a large circuit of the park with 1600 feet of elevation change and several viewpoints, two mines, three waterfalls and multiple ruin sites. Inclement weather may cancel or change the route. The hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 16 - **Ward Pound Ridge.** 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. We will do a counter-clockwise loop at this county-owned park in Lewisboro, including a trail along a stream, an old mill site and through some meadows. Please bring microspikes if snow is on the ground. There are a few ups and downs so hiking poles may be useful. Leader: Gail Blumenfeld, gailrb@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Saturday, February 22 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, February 22 - **Scofield Ridge and the Mt. Beacon Fire Tower.** 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. Depending on the availability of parking, this will either be an out and back hike on the Wilkinson Memorial Trail from the east side of Scofield Ridge, or a loop from the Casino Trail trailhead on the ridge's western side. Either way, we will be treated to plenty of ups and downs and plenty of views. Leader: Kevin McGahren, KMcGC@optonline.net.

Saturday, February 22 - **St. Matthew's Church Woodlands and Arthur Ketchum Sanctuary.** 3 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Are you working on the Westchester 100 challenge? If so, this is the outing for you! (If not, it's a lovely walk in the woods anyway.) The leader has combined trails in these sanctuaries with some BRLA (Bedford Riding Lanes Association) trails so that you will get two hiking areas for the price of one. We start with a downhill in the church woodlands, cross a stream (on a bridge) and start a gradual uphill to the top of the ridge. From there we twist and turn on rolling hills. We will have lunch in the outdoor children's chapel and finish on the "Glebe" trail. Snowshoes or spikes may be required. Poor driving conditions cancel. Contact leader, Lisa Weismiller, at lisaweismiller@gmail.com to register. *Qualifies for The Westchester 100 (Nos. 39 and 66).*

Sunday, February 23 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, February 23 - **Devil's Den Preserve, Weston, CT.** 6-8 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. There is a possibility of hiking approximately 8 miles if the ground conditions are optimal. That would be a fairly complete park loop, with only a few climbs. The leader plans to start from the East (Pillar's Trail), not the main entrance, to make sure we get the reservoir views even if conditions dictate lopping off a mile or two. To register email the leader Jane Restani at irabjanea@aol.com no earlier than Monday of the hike week and no later than 5 PM Friday of that week. Provide your telephone number and the name and number of your emergency contact. Carpooling (masks required) from Merritt Parkway exit 35 Park & Ride is likely.

Sunday, February 23 - **Old Croton Aqueduct, Part 3: Sleepy Hollow to Tarrytown.** 5.5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. The third hike in this Croton Aqueduct series begins in Sleepy Hollow, goes through Rockefeller State Park, and continues to Lyndhurst in Tarrytown. For more information about the OCA, see <https://aqueduct.org/oca-history>. A short shuttle is involved (masks required). Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com , (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 73, if done with Part 2 of this series) and 74 (if done with Part 4).*

Saturday, March 1 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, March 1 - **Briarcliff-Peekskill Trail.** 10 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This hike will take us from Teatown Reservation in Ossining past the Croton Dam and all the way to the Blue Mountain Reservation in Peekskill. Despite its origins as a planned parkway, much of the trail has a remarkably remote feel. Meet the leader at the parking lot for the Blue Mountain Summit Trailhead, Blue Mountain Reservation, Cortlandt, NY; we will carpool from there to the start of the hike at Teatown. Masks are required for the carpool; please bring small bills to contribute to the \$7 parking fee at Teatown. Leader: Kay Cynamon, kcynamon@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 62 and 67).*

Saturday, March 1 - **Croton Dam and the OCA.** 4-5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We'll meet in the parking area at the base of Croton Dam, hike south along the Old Croton Aqueduct trail as far as Ossining, taking in the winter views, and then return and visit the top of the dam. Afterwards, we'll take the blue trail down to the cars. To register, contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at shechris7@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 72).*

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

Sunday, March 2 - **Hook Mountain Loop.** 6.8 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This hike, with an elevation gain of 1100', starts around the north side of Rockland Lake via Rockland Lake Road to Landing Road to catch the Long Path going north. We hike the Long Path to the Treason Trail (W) and go down the Bike Path along the Hudson River. We then take the Trail going back up to Landing Road and the parking lot. Severe inclement weather cancels. Use TC Hudson Palisades Trails Map 111. Meet at Rockland Lake State Park, (Parking lot #2), 271 Rockland Lake Rd, Valley Cottage, NY. Poles recommended. Bring traction devices. Leader: Anastasia Tavarez. Register by texting Anastasia at (646) 207-4136 or emailing to atavare@gmail.com with your first and last name as well as the name and number of your Emergency Contact.

Sunday, March 2 - **Sylvan Glen Ramble.** 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. 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 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 by Friday, February 28. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No.20).*

Saturday, March 8 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, March 8 - **Fahnestock State Park, North Highland, NY.** 8 miles, moderate-plus terrain, moderate pace. The plan is to hike approximately 8 miles climbing both Round Hill (great views) and East Mountain and to collect some more views on the Fahnestock Trail as we return to our Route 301 parking. There is more than 1300 feet of climbing; washed out bridges sometimes occur so we will improvise as necessary. Register with leader Jane Restani by emailing irabjanea@aol.com no earlier than Monday of the hike week and no later than 5 PM Thursday of the same week. Provide your telephone number and the name and phone number of your emergency contact.

Saturday, March 8 - **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). Leader: Debbie Farrell debfarpr@gmail.com. Phone for day of hike only (914) 282-9942.

Sunday, March 9 - **Pound Ridge Reservation**. 5.6 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. This is a pleasant "walk in the woods" with some gentle hills on the Reservation's red ski trails. We will have a lunch break so bring lunch or a snack and plenty of water. To register, contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net for meeting time and place. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Saturday, March 15 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, March 15 - **Black Rock Forest**. 6 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. Starting from the Hudson Highland Nature Museum/Outdoor Discovery Center, we ascend into the Mine Hill Road area of Black Rock Forest. Once there, we do a circular hike. With bare trees, we should have a nice view or two. Traction assist devices may be required. There is about 1200' of total elevation gain with a significant climb on fairly smooth terrain at the beginning, which will be done at a compassionate pace with regroupings as needed. Leader: Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com, (845) 297-7066.

Saturday, March 15 - **Van Cortlandt Park**. 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. This park in the Bronx is diverse and fun to explore. We will see some of the highlights and also walk on running trails so there will be some gentle climbs (and descents). If you like carrot cake, you might want to check out Lloyd's Carrot Cake after we finish! Leader: Janis Biermann, biermannjanis@gmail.com, (304) 824-8166.

Sunday, March 16 - **Rockwood Hall Plus**. 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We will do the ever-popular Rockwood Hall loop plus the Old Croton Aqueduct and trails in Rockefeller State Park. Participation in this hike is limited to 15 people. To register, contact leader Debbie Bell at deb2@columbia.edu. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 38 and 59).*

Saturday, March 22 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, March 22 - **Harriman State Park**. 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. Starting from the Johnstown Road Circle, we will use the trails of Dater Mountain Park, along with unmaintained woods roads, the R-D and Blue Disc Trails to make a loop with 1400' of elevation change that passes the little-visited Dater and Augusta mines, and the views from Almost Perpendicular, Claudius Smith Den, and Sleater Hill. Note: this hike includes 1.5 miles of bushwhack that cannot be skipped. Inclement weather may cancel or change the route. The hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at linkowski@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 22 - **Old Croton Aqueduct, Part 4: Tarrytown to Hastings on Hudson**. 4.8 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. Starting from Lyndhurst in Tarrytown we will take the OCA all the way to Draper Park in Hastings. For more information about the OCA, see <https://aqueduct.org/oca-history>. A short shuttle is involved (masks required). Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 74, if done with part 3 of this series) and 75 (if done with part 5).*

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

Sunday, March 23 - **Dunderberg Mountain Loop.** 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. This circular hike combines the Timp-Torne and Ramapo-Dunderberg Trails to do a loop with multiple views along the ridgeline and from the summits of The Timp and Bald Mountain. We will also pass the remnants of a long-abandoned attempt to build a spiral railway on the mountain. Leader: Kevin McGahren, KMcGC@optonline.net.

Sunday, March 23 - **Cliffdale-Teatown Trails and Teatown Lake.** 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Bring a thermos of something hot, plenty of water and snacks, and enjoy a hike from the Visitor's Center to the Cliffdale Educational Center, using part of Teatown Lake and other trails. We will have a snack on the benches at Cliffdale, and then return to the Visitor's Center on the other side of the lake. Our pace is steady yet comfortable. Participation on this hike is limited to 8 people. Please register with the leader no later than the Friday before the hike. Leader: Elspeth Kramer, elspethkramer@gmail.com or (347) 262-4802. There is a \$7 per car parking fee at Teatown, so you may wish to carpool. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

Saturday, March 29 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, March 29 - **Breakneck Mountain Loop.** 7 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This hike is through a quiet area of southeastern Harriman State Park. The route has 1,455 feet of elevation gain, with the steep and rocky parts at the beginning and end of the hike. Hopefully, there won't be any winter conditions requiring snowshoes or spikes at this point. Text or email to register. Leader Veronica O'Neil, (914) 523-9418 or missyellierosa@yahoo.com.

Saturday, March 29 - **Cemetery Walk.** 3 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. 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 leader Cynthia Moro for meeting time and place: Cynlyn24@gmail.com.

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

Sunday, March 30 - **Mt Beacon Loop.** 8-9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. We will meet at the Mt. Beacon parking lot and head up to the fire tower, then 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. No beginners please. To register contact the leader, Janice Miller, at madjan11@yahoo.com the week before the hike.

Sunday, March 30 - **Hike the NCIT. Section 5: Saugatuck Trail.** 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. On today's Nearby Connecticut Imaginary Trail (NCIT) hike we will return to the blue blazed Saugatuck Trail, but exactly where will remain a mystery for now. Over the summer a bridge at a wide stream crossing was washed out. If the bridge has been replaced by the time the hike takes place (or if conditions permit a safe crossing) we'll access the trail where we left it on our last Saugatuck hike and head west, ending at its Universal Access Path. Otherwise, we will return to that section when the bridge is replaced. Instead, today's hike will begin at the Universal Access Path, continue on the Saugatuck Trail, and pass through the northern part of Devil's Den. Either way, we'll be treated to a walk through deep woods with frequent water views. Short shuttle involved (masks required). Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com.