



WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

FALL HIKING SCHEDULE OCTOBER, NOVEMBER and DECEMBER, 2022

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 10 days?
3. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days?
4. As far as you know, have you had contact with any confirmed or suspect COVID-19 case within the last 10 days?
5. Have you traveled outside of the U.S. in 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

Saturday, October 1 - Mianus River Gorge Preserve. 6-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We will hike out to the reservoir and include the new yellow Pond Loop Trail on the way back. There is a limit of 12 people on this hike, with preference given to members of ADK and/or WTA. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader to register: Kathie Laug 203-348-3993(H), 203-722-5490(C), kfriedmanlaug@optonline.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 56).*

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

Sunday, October 2 - **Schunemunk Circular**. 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. We'll take the Trestle Trail to the Western Ridge, then head over to the Eastern Ridge, visit the Megaliths, and return to our cars on the Otterkill Trail, all the while enjoying lots of ups and downs and almost constant views. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600.

Sunday, October 2 - **Tarrywile Park, Danbury, CT**. 4 miles, moderate terrain. Once an active dairy farm and fruit orchard, the park encompasses more than 720 acres of woodlands, fields, ponds and 21 miles of hiking trails. The Tarrywile mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a prime example of New England shingle-style architecture. Although the hike is on the easier side of moderate, it includes some rocky areas and a long, moderately steep ascent and descent. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register, email the leader, Brent Laymon, at belaymon@gmail.com or call (475) 206-7599.

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

Saturday, October 8 - **Within the County Grand Finale, Part 4: Armstrong-Richards and Ward Pound Ridge**. 6-7 miles, moderate terrain. This figure eight hike begins in the Armstrong and adjacent Richards Preserve, one of the lesser known hiking areas in Westchester County, on a route that winds through woodlands, past the Cross River Reservoir, and into the more popular Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. While there we'll visit the Leatherman's Cave and do a loop in WPR that brings us to a sweeping view of the Reservoir at lunchtime; then we'll return to our cars on different trails. Since there is limited parking at the trailhead, we will meet at a more convenient spot and carpool to the start of the hike. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 63 and 95a).*

Saturday, October 8 - **Pepsico (Donald M. Kendall) Sculpture Gardens**. 2-3 miles, easy terrain. This will be an afternoon walk of variable length, with an opportunity to spend as much or as little time as you wish. The sculpture collection, on 168 acres, consists of works by major twentieth-century artists. Russell Page, the internationally famous garden designer, cultivated the corporate grounds into an arboretum transforming the gardens into a work of art. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader for time and place. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, cell (914) 420-5778.

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

Sunday, October 9 - **Mountain Lakes Park, North Salem**. 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Early fall foliage hike. We'll hike around Spruce Lake and Hemlock Lake, stop by Pine Lake, and also take the white trail to Look Out Point, with its sweeping views. Bring lunch/snack and water. Meet at the Tamarack parking lot inside the park. Take I-684 to exit 6 (Route 35) and drive east on Route 35 for 4.4 miles; turn left on Route 121 and head north for 4.5 miles. At Hawley Road, turn right and continue 1.5 miles to the park entrance on the left, then proceed to the Tamarack lot. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register contact Sheila Sarkar, shechris6@gmail.com or (914) 498-2464. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 57).*

Sunday, October 9 - **Manitou Point Preserve**. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Even though this is only a 3 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. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net to register.

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

Saturday, October 15 - **AT via Appalachian Market.** 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This hike, closer to moderate than easy, begins on the AT and up a long, steep hill to the blue trail, then down and around to explore other trails, possibly including one near Lake Lucretia. We'll also head down to the gazebo and seek out some great views. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact the leader for meeting time and location: Art Almeida, arta@croton10520.com or (914) 319-4701.

Saturday, October 15 - **Twin Lakes/Nature Study Woods (Eastchester to New Rochelle Loop).** 4.6 miles, easy terrain. Enjoy shady woodlands, waterfalls, some fall foliage, 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, October 16 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, October 16 - **Seven Hills Reeves Brook Loop.** 5 miles, moderate terrain. This will be a circular hike along the Seven Hills/HTS/Reeves Brook Trails with views from Ramapo Torne. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader Minu Chaudhuri minuch50@gmail.com or (914) 391-5918.

Sunday, October 16 - **Teatown Lake Reservation.** 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Come out on this Fall day and enjoy a hike at Teatown. This hike combines several trails and includes a stop at a scenic waterfall. Bring lunch, water, snacks, and a hot or cold beverage depending on the weather. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact Leader Elspeth Kramer at (347) 262- 4802 or email elspethkramer@gmail.com for time and meeting spot. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

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

Saturday, October 22 - **Iron Mines Loop, Harriman State Park.** 8 miles, moderate terrain. This loop hike will traverse the ridge of Black Rock Mountain and pass the remnants of four iron mines along the Dunning and A-SB trails. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Rain cancels; contact leader for meeting time and other information. Leader: Mike Jablonski, mjab5749@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 22 - **Angle Fly Preserve.** 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Named after the last natural brook-trout spawning stream in Westchester, Angle Fly Preserve is a vital sanctuary for area wildlife. There are more than 10 miles of trails that cover the entire preserve of 649 acres, and the leader will choose a loop or two with some hills for an easy to moderate hike. Fall is an excellent

time to hike the trails. Bring hiking poles, water, a snack and lunch. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Email or call leader to register. Jane Smalley (914) 276-0413 or jsmallpt@aol.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 53).*

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

Sunday, October 23 - **Sterling Forest**. 7 miles, moderate terrain. 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 visit to the Fire Tower. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 23 - **Kitchawan Preserve**. 3-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We will explore various trails in this County owned preserve. Bring lunch and water. Meet the leader at 10 A.M. at the preserve parking lot, 712 Kitchawan Road off Route 134 between the Taconic Parkway and Route 100 in Ossining. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Sue Soni, surekhasoni1968@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 33).*

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

Saturday, October 29 - **Harriman Hike**. 8 miles, moderately strenuous terrain. Starting from the parking area on Routes 9W/202 near Iona Island, we'll take the Cornell Mine trail for a 1.5 mile climb to Bald Mountain with its lovely viewpoint. From there, we'll descend on the R-D, then head back up to the Timp for more views. Next, we'll go up to West Mountain for the last of the views; and finally head down the S-BM to the 1777 in Doodletown and back to the cars. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net.

Saturday, October 29 - **Within the County Grand Finale, Part 5: St. Matthews/Ketchem and Guard Hill Preserve**. 6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Today we will explore two preserves in Bedford Village. We'll begin with an elongated figure eight through the woodlands of St. Matthews Church and within the Arthur Ketchem Sanctuary, on trails with rolling hills and partly along the Beaver Dam River. Then we'll head over to the Guard Hill Preserve by way of local streets and dirt roads. This Westchester Land Trust property is adjacent to Sunnyfield Farm, so we may get to see a few horses lounging in the fields as we continue on the trails and into Bedford Village Memorial Park, where our hike will end. This hike involves a short shuttle; on the way to the trailhead we'll have a chance to stop and admire the massive Bedford Oak, which has been resident in the village since long before the American revolution. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 39, and No. 95b if done with our Holiday Party hikes).*

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

Sunday, October 30 - **Storm King Mountain and Butter Hill**. 6 miles, moderately strenuous terrain. Enjoy fabulous views of the Hudson River and the surrounding hills. We begin our very hilly hike on the Highlands Trail and then connect to the steep, scenic Stillman Trail which will bring us to the top of Storm King Mountain where we will have lunch. After lunch we continue on the Stillman Trail to Butter Hill. Our return will use the Bluebird, Stillman and Highlands Trails. Expect to have a wonderful and exhilarating day. Bring plenty of liquids and food. Meet at 42 Bayview Avenue, Cornwall on Hudson (Route 218). Coming from the south, drive north on Route 9W and exit at Mountain Avenue. Turn right, and go down Mountain Avenue until you come to Route 218 (Bayview Ave.) Right on Bayview for just a minute and you will see #42 on the right. Park in the rear. Contact leader for

meeting time and for any other questions. Please register by Saturday evening. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Judy Kossover (845) 548-7604 or woodtuxduo@aol.com.

Sunday, October 30 - 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 with a total of about 600' of elevation gain that lead to modest viewpoints looking north and east. Need more convincing? Ample parking and real bathrooms. Directions: Drive north on Route 9W from the Bear Mountain Bridge (pass Storm King) to Angola Road, exit and turn left (west) about ¼ mile to: 120 Muser Drive, Cornwall, NY 12518. GPS coordinates: 41.42313318748598, -74.03359486160855. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Howard Millman, isayso@runbox.com. Cell on the day of the hike only: (914) 439-8031.

Saturday, November 5 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, November 5 - Norvin Green. 6 miles, moderate terrain. Hike along the Otter Hole to the Mine trail. Then climb Carris Hill with views of Wanaque Reservoir and continue on the Hewitt-Butler trail to Yoo-Hoo Point and Wyanokie High Point with views of the NYC skyline. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader Minu Chaudhuri minuch50@gmail.com or (914) 391-5918.

Saturday, November 5 - Westmoreland Sanctuary. 6-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We will do a loop that takes in the varied natural features of this park. There is a limit of 12 people on this hike, with preference given to members of ADK and/or WTA. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader to register: Kathie Laug 203-348-3993(H), 203-722-5490(C), kfriedmanlaug@optonline.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 65).*

Sunday, November 6 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, November 6 - Hudson Highlands/Bull Hill Full Loop via Washburn Trail. 5-6 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. The hike starts near Little Stony Point with an ascent of the Washburn Trail, a persistent 50 minute climb past an abandoned quarry and intermittent vistas overlooking the Hudson River. After reaching the summit, we'll follow the Notch, Brook and Cornish trails, which are mostly flat or downhill (but with notable exceptions). Lunch break at the Cornish ruins if we're on a quick pace, otherwise en route beforehand. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. For information and to register contact the leader, Hank Zupnick, at hank.zupnick@gmail.com or (203) 564-6558.

Sunday, November 6 - Rockefeller Preserve. 5 miles, easy terrain. Starting with the 13 Bridges Trail we will visit various parts of the Preserve. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Rain cancels. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register contact leader Sarah Davis, (917) 501-1322 or sewdavis@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

Friday, November 11 (Veterans Day) - Fahnestock State Park. 6 miles, moderate terrain. Salute our veterans, and our troops, on Veterans Day! We'll start from Hubbard Lodge at the western end of the park, hike up to Round Hill and to the Perkins Trail, and return on School Mountain Road, going at a fairly brisk (but not killer) pace. Depending on the desires of the group, a possible side trip up East Mountain would add another mile or so. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Steady rain cancels. Contact leader for registration and details. Leader Bruce Collins, actz1015@gmail.com or (646) 584-1227. No first-time hikers please.

Saturday, November 12 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, November 12 - **Minnewaska State Park.** 11 miles, moderate terrain. This hike to and around Lake Awosting will be on carriage roads with about 900' of elevation gain. Expect great views from Castle Point and at the lake. The route is subject to change, depending on conditions. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register contact leader Janice Miller at madjan11@optonline.net or (845) 891-7434.

Saturday, November 12 - **Ward Pound Ridge.** 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Join the leader on a hike in this County-owned preserve. It will start from Lewisboro Park but we may meet nearby and drive over. Noteworthy will be our walking along the Cross River and across two cute bridges. We will have an early lunch with a view of the river. Trail surface varies between eroded carriage road and conventional (muddy in some sections) path. The elevation gain (580 ft.) is in the last half of the hike. Hiking boots and poles are a good idea. Bring a lunch/snack and a liter of water. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Steve Klepner, (845) 297-7066, spk010@yahoo.com. Email registration preferred, with "Hike" in the subject line. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Sunday, November 13 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, November 13 - **Schunemunk Circular.** 8-10 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. We will do a circular hike encompassing various trails and lots of ups and downs. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Rain cancels; no beginners please. For more information or to register, contact Bob Fiscina at fis6973@tutamail.com.

Sunday, November 13 - **Bennetts Pond and Pine Mountain.** 6 miles, moderate terrain. Starting at Bennetts Pond Park in Ridgefield, CT, we'll do a circular hike around the south end of Bennetts Pond, then 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 pond. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register, contact Jeanne Thomson at jeannewthomson@gmail.com or (914) 409-3405.

Saturday, November 19 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, November 19 - **Bald Mountain, Timp, and Doodletown.** 6-7 miles, moderately strenuous terrain. This hike is steep and rocky with most of the climbing before lunch. We will take the Cornell Mine and RD trails to Bald Mountain for great views, and then continue to the Timp, with more great views. After lunch we descend to Timp Pass, and access the 1777E. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 19 - **Old Croton Aqueduct.** 4-5 miles, easy terrain. We will begin our walk in Irvington on Dows Lane and walk south passing Nevis Labs, once the home of Alexander Hamilton's son James, then Mercy College, the Gatekeeper's house and lastly we will check on the giraffes before returning to Dows Lane. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register contact Cynthia Moro at Cynlyn24@gmail.com.

Sunday, November 20 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, November 20 - **Wonder Lake State Park.** 5-6 miles, moderate terrain. Wonder Lake State Park is located in Putnam County in both the Towns of Kent and Patterson. The New York State DEC purchased most of the land in 1998. An additional 106 acres was purchased in 2006 to improve

the public access, bringing the total acreage to nearly 1000. The property is mostly hills covered with mixed hardwoods with a few ravines, the lake and a pond. A portion of the Highlands Trail goes through the park, and we will do a loop to include that trail and others to take in the park's scenic features. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Call the leader Barry Leibowitz no later than 6PM on November 18 at H (845) 278-2479 or C (914)774-5321 to register and for meeting time and place. Rain cancels.

Sunday, November 20 - NYC Walk. 8 miles, easy terrain. The route is from Grand Central Station west to the Hudson River, north to 86th St., traverse Central Park and south to Grand Central. Maybe you will peer into a giant wine bottle to see an interior stateroom from the Queen Mary ocean liner. Perhaps you will see an obelisk from 1425 BCE built by Pharaoh Thutmose III. You never know what you will see because the city always has surprises. Options to shorten the walk are available. Participation is limited to 12 people. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. For questions and to register, contact the leader, Linda Wildman, at lindawildman88@gmail.com or text/call (914) 316-5674.

Saturday, November 26 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, November 26 - Turkey Hill Lake Circular. 8-10 miles, moderate terrain. This will be an 8 mile circular hike to Turkey Hill Lake in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday, to include the Timp-Torne ridge and the Popolopen Gorge trail on the way to the lake and the Anthony Wayne trail on the return. There is an option to add another two mile out and back visit to the spectacular view from the Torrey Memorial, depending on the mood of the leader and the group. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600.

Saturday, November 26 - Briarcliff Peekskill Trailway, Part 2: New Croton Dam to Ryder Road in Ossining. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Woods and wetlands, part of it through Teatown. Originally planned as a parkway in 1929, we were fortunate that plans were changed and we now have a trailway. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Short shuttle required. Contact leader for time and meeting place. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, cell (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 67 if done with Part 1 of this series.)*

Sunday, November 27 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, November 27 - Within the County Grand Finale, Part 6: Glazier, Burden and Whippoorwill. 7-8 miles, easy to moderate terrain. These preserves in Chappaqua and Mt. Kisco, all owned by the Town of New Castle, provide surprisingly remote hiking opportunities within local suburban settings. We'll begin with a hike in Glazier on its perimeter trails, up and down a few hills and along a pretty stream. Then we'll drive to Burden, where our linear hike begins. We'll explore its diverse ecosystems of wetlands, meadows and woodlands, and then walk to Whippoorwill through a winding and scenic neighborhood for more hiking on varied terrain with some interesting climbs and descents. New Castle's Parks Department has been busy rerouting some of the trails in Burden and Whippoorwill - the reroutes had not been completed by the time our schedule was finalized so there may be some surprises. This hike involves a short shuttle; participants must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 1, 4 and 45).*

Sunday, November 27 - Sunny Ridge. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is a wonderful little gem in Ossining with a wonderful surprise (don't ask, you have to be there). Usual ups and downs with one steep climb. Lots of interesting trail texture. Relaxed pace. Hikers must be vaccinated and

follow Covid policy. Contact the leader for meeting time and location: Art Almeida, arta@croton10520.com or (914) 319-4701. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 19).*

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

Saturday, December 3 - **Hogencamp Mountain Circular**. 6 miles, moderate terrain. Meet at Lake Skannatati in Harriman State Park for a pleasant loop hike. We'll start on the ASB, climb stone steps and begin to climb Pine Swamp Mountain on a moderate grade. When we reach Times Square we'll take Surebridge Mine Road to the BottleCap Trail. Then it's on to the ASB and Lichen Trail, where we have lunch at a viewpoint overlooking Island Pond. The loop will be completed on the Dunning and then the Long Path, all at a relaxing moderate pace. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Veronica O'Neil, missyellierosa@yahoo.com, cell (914) 523-9418.

Saturday, December 3 - **Overlook Mountain, Woodstock NY**. 5 miles, moderate terrain. This is a round trip hike to a Catskill mountain fire tower. We are planning it as a finish to the 2022 Catskill Fire Tower challenge. All are welcome who would appreciate a steady uphill followed by the potential for outstanding views. We recommend having traction devices available because you never know what the footing conditions will be. After the hike we will take a stroll around town for shopping, warm up drinks, etc. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Register with leader Jane Restani at irabjanea@aol.com by 5 PM on Thursday, December 1.

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

Sunday, December 4 - **Fahnestock Round Hill Loop**. 7.5 miles, moderate terrain. Starting from the Hubbard Lodge parking lot, we'll begin with a climb to views on Round Hill, continue to East Mountain, and then head back down and around to complete this scenic loop. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net.

Sunday, December 4 - **Butler Sanctuary, Mt. Kisco, New York**. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is a lovely hike, perfect for those who want to graduate from easy hikes to moderate hikes. One trail is fairly level but the other has multiple ups and downs on somewhat steep terrain. Good hiking boots are suggested and bring water and a snack. The preserve's address is 265 Chestnut Ridge Road, Mt. Kisco, NY. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register, contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 49).*

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

Saturday, December 10 - **Harriman Mines and Views**. 7-8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. We will meet in Tuxedo and take the Kakiat, Blue Disc and Ramapo Dunderberg trails to make a loop and visit the views from Pine Hill and Almost Perpendicular, as well as some historical features: Claudius Smith Den, and the Pine Hill, Black Ash, Augusta and Dater Mines. There is a 1.25 mile off trail section on this hike - please bring a stick and a sense of adventure. Weather may cancel or change the route. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com or text 914-907-6764.

Saturday, December 10 - **Hilltop Hanover Trails, Yorktown Heights**. 3-4 miles, easy terrain. This is a short hike through woodland, passing a vernal pond and rock cliffs, and ascending to the hilltop. Meet in the trailhead parking area on Hanover Street, opposite Hilltop Hanover Farm. From the Taconic State Parkway, take the Millwood/Route 100 exit. At the traffic light at Route 100, turn right. Head north for 3.9 miles and then turn left onto Route 118. Take the first right turn onto Hanover St. and proceed 1.4 miles to the trailhead parking area on the right. Bring water and a snack. Hikers

must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Register with the leader, Sheila Sarkar, shechris6@gmail.com or (914) 498-2464. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 6).*

Sunday, December 11 - **WTA HOLIDAY PARTY AND HIKES:**

Sunday, December 11 - **WTA Holiday Party.** Enjoy WTA's Holiday Party at Westmoreland Sanctuary, preceded and followed by short hikes which conclude our Within the County series (see below for information about the hikes). If attending the Holiday Party only, meet at Westmoreland at noon. We're delighted to tell you that this year we are bringing back our traditional pot luck luncheon, so bring a favorite dish. The food should be ready to serve; please remember to bring serving utensils, if needed. Suggestions include: casserole, pasta, quiche, roasted veggies, salad (greens, legumes or grains), bread, fruit, cheese or dessert. Hot dishes should be brought near the noontime hour. The club will provide tea and coffee, paper plates, cups, etc. Please contact our hospitality committee co-chair, Nancy Vincent at nevincent09@gmail.com to let her know what you are bringing so that we have an appealing variety of food. Attendees must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy.

Sunday, December 11 - **Within the County Grand Finale, Part 7: Pinecliff and Choate Sanctuaries.** These easy hikes, which precede and follow our traditional Holiday Party (see above), will conclude our Within the County series. The morning hike is just under 2 miles and involves a short shuttle. We begin with a walk around the small but lovely Pinecliff Sanctuary in Chappaqua, along boardwalks and past thriving wetlands. Then we'll access the old Ridge Trail, newly revitalized by an unknown good Samaritan. This path roughly parallels the Saw Mill Parkway but is high enough above it to be relatively quiet, and passes some interesting boulders and rock formations. The trail ends at Roaring Brook Road, where we'll retrieve our cars and head over to Westmoreland to enjoy the Holiday Party festivities. Afterwards, those who wish can drive to Choate Sanctuary in Mt. Kisco for an exploration of the trails in that property. These paths, which total just over a mile in length, are mostly through woodlands with a few mild hills. Participants must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Advance registration is required for the morning hike so if you plan on attending please contact the leader, Eileen West, for meeting time and information at eileenw1000@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 95b, if done with Part 5 of this series).*

Saturday, December 17 - **Mountain Lakes Camp.** 6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Join the leader as we do a hike in this County owned park. We will take the white trail out to the view point. Continuing, there is a short but steep ascent; the rest of the hike, which is partly on a dirt and gravel road, has only gradual elevation changes. Traction aids may be required. Hiking boots and poles are a good idea. Bring a lunch/snack and a liter of water. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Leader: Steve Klepner, (845) 297-7066, spk010@yahoo.com. Email registration preferred, with "Hike" in the subject line. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 57).*

Sunday, December 18 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, December 18 - **Manitoga.** 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. A wonderfully serene place, lots of interesting trails and rock outcroppings. We'll also wander around the Osborne Loop and the AT. Relaxed pace. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact the leader for meeting time and location: Art Almeida, arta@croton10520.com or (914) 319-4701.

Sunday, December 18 - **On the Waterfront.** 3-4 miles, easy terrain. The new, much acclaimed "Enslaved Africans' Rain Garden," highlights this Yonkers city walk marrying a cornucopia of public art with a visit to the nationally recognized Saw Mill River Daylighting Park. The Garden's five life-size sculptures honor the enslaved Africans who worked at nearby Philipse Manor Hall. (In 1799, they were among the nation's first slaves released from bondage.) The waterfront Esplanade and environs boast

an array of stunning sculptures and mural, flanked by Palisades views. The once paved-over Saw Mill Park created a nature habitat and educational eel walk in the heart of New York State's third largest city. Pickup is available at Yonkers Train Station. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. To register, contact: Debbie Farrell at debfarpr@gmail.com or (914) 282-9942.

Saturday, December 24 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, December 24 - Hudson Highlands, Fishkill, NY. 7-8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. The group will meet at the end of Sunnyside Road in Fishkill and use the Overlook and Fishkill Ridge trails, as well as woods roads to make a loop. Great views from Bald Hill, Lambs Hill and the Scofield Ridge. Weather or traffic may cancel or change the route or parking area. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com or text 914-907-6764.

Saturday, December 24 - Richter Park, Danbury CT. 4 miles, easy terrain. This walk/hike has a gradual up and down and two views. We will commence with a walk around the beautiful golf course and then into the woods for the hiking trail portion. Depending on conditions, this could be a snowshoe outing. Limited to 10 participants. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Please call or email the leader, Rosanne Schepis, for more information or to register at (203) 417-5552 or rschep@yahoo.com.

Sunday, December 25 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, December 25 - Trout Brook Valley Preserve. 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 has over 20 miles of trails that include scenic overlooks and (in other seasons) lush apple and blueberry orchards. 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, December 25 - Bronx River Pathway: Kensico Dam Plaza to NWP station and back. 4 miles, easy terrain. This level walk comes with an option to go to the top of the dam, and an option for lunch in Valhalla. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, (914) 420-5778.

Saturday, December 31 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, December 31 - Croton Point Park. 3-4 miles, easy terrain. Up, down, all around Croton Point and possibly the shoreline on this morning hike of about two hours. Great Vistas and Views, mostly easy with one longish uphill. Hikers must be vaccinated and follow Covid policy. Contact the leader for meeting time and location: Art Almeida, arta@croton10520.com or (914) 319-4701. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (52).*

Saturday, December 31 - Early New Year's Eve. Meet at 2:45 p.m. 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 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 register for the hike, but if you would like to join us for the dinner please notify Carolyn Hoffman at carohof2@gmail.com or (914) 948-0608 as soon as possible, but no later than December 27th. Inclement weather postpones the hike - but not the dinner - for 365 days. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 38).*

Sunday, January 1 - **New Years Day Walk and Swim, Greenwich Point Park.** 3 miles, easy terrain. Okay, you don't have to swim but the leader would appreciate company. 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. Register with leader Jane Restani at irabjanea@aol.com in order to get weather-impacting news or directions.