



WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

Join our Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/westhike>

OCTOBER, 2020 HIKING SCHEDULE

Maximum group size on all hikes is 10 people, including the leader (less if the writeup says otherwise). Due to the size limitation all participants should register with the leader at least 2 days before the hike. Priority will be given to WTA members (and also to ADK Mohican members if the hike is joint) who register before the deadline. Please be considerate of others and don't register for a hike until you know you will be attending. To minimize close contact among hikers, there are currently no hikes involving a shuttle.

For the safety of all concerned, anyone who answers "yes" to any of the questions below 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 14 days?
3. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
4. As far as you know, have you had contact with any confirmed or suspect COVID-19 case within the last 14 days?

Hikers must have their own Personal Protective Equipment, including a mask or other face covering, hand sanitizer/soap and disposable gloves, with them at all times, and should bring their own pen for the sign-in sheet. Masks must be worn at the trailhead, during sign-in, and at all other times when social distancing is not possible such as when passing others on the trail; at a destination (summit, pond, etc.); or when someone needs assistance managing a trail feature like a stream crossing. If proper distancing is not possible during lunch, a mask must be worn when not eating. As much as it may be appreciated, please do not bring food to share on the hike.

Hiking boots and sufficient drinking water (1-2 liters) are required on all hikes. A trail lunch should be carried unless otherwise noted. Hikers with improper footwear, without sufficient water, or who are otherwise unprepared, may be refused or turned back by the leader. Please check with the leader if you have any questions about the hike. In fairness to yourself and to the rest of the group, please be honest about your hiking experience and choose an outing within your abilities.

Hikes 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.

To become a member, please visit the "Join/Contact" page of our website for an application and dues payment options.

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

Saturday, October 3 - **Sugarloaf Hill from the Garrison Train Station.** 6-7 miles, moderate terrain. This hike provides great views of West Point and the Bear Mountain Bridge. We will meet at the southern end of the Garrison train station parking lot (free parking on weekends) and head over to Sugarloaf via trails on Open Space Institute property. Bring lunch and water. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, October 1. Leader: Steve Singlak, srshudson@verizon.net or (845) 641-4132. Rain cancels. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, October 3 - **Butler Sanctuary, Bedford/Mt. Kisco.** 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is a lovely hike, perfect for those who want to graduate from easy to moderate hikes. One trail is fairly level and the other trail we take is moderate as there is some elevation. Good hiking boots are suggested. Bring water and a snack. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, October 1. Leader: Carol Harting, c.harting@verizon.net. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 49).*

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

Sunday, October 4 - **Silvermine Circular.** 6-7 miles, moderate terrain. This hike ascends the Silvermine ski trail in Harriman and then uses the A.T, Long Path and Menomine trails plus a couple of unmarked paths to take in several foliage views. We'll have ups and downs, a nice ridge walk, and a relaxing break near the shore of Lake Nawahunta towards the end of the hike. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 2. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, October 4 - **Greenburgh Nature Center.** 2 miles, easy terrain. We will take our time exploring this little gem, with its lovely hiking trails and a miniature animal farm. Directions: from Central Park Avenue in Scarsdale, turn east onto Dromore Road, left at the sign for the preserve, and right into the parking area. We will meet at the entrance ramp, and proceed from there. Bring water and snacks. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 2. Leader: Toby Garfinkel, (914) 337-6612, Rain cancels.

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

Saturday, October 10 - **Island Pond Circular.** 6-7 miles, moderate terrain. We will begin the day with a climb up the AT from the Elk Pen. We will circle Island Pond on a variety of trails including unmarked woods roads, and pass through the Valley of Boulders. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, October 8. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, Raffaele.Catharine@yahoo.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, October 10 - **Bear Mt. Bridge and Beyond.** 5-6 miles, easy terrain. Join the leader on an easy hike, largely on paved surfaces with a few hills. Starting from the east end of the Bear Mountain Bridge, we walk across the bridge, through the Bear Mountain Zoo (bathrooms usually available) and down to the river. Returning, we will cross under Rt. 9W, circumnavigate Hessian Lake, and then arrive at the west end of the bridge. At this point, there is an optional 0.8 mile round trip excursion to Fort Montgomery. The path is rocky in places but is not a scramble. Bring a liter of water and a snack/lunch. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, October 8. Leader Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com, (845) 297-7066. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, October 11 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, October 11 - **Granite Mountain Preserve**. 4 miles, moderate terrain. You will love these less-travelled trails in this newly opened Putnam Valley preserve...especially when we finally stop climbing. But it's a steady, sane climb; no exposures, no scrambling. The paths are very well maintained, wide and scenic, with some some sweeping views of fall foliage. Granite Mountain is located along Peekskill Hollow Road; set your GPS for 500 Peekskill Hollow Road 10579. Easy parking, maps available at the starting kiosk. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 9. Leader: hwardmillman@aol.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, October 11 - **Ward Pound Ridge Reservation**. 5-6 miles, easy terrain. This is a pleasant "walk in the woods" on gentle terrain on the Reservation's ski trails. Bring lunch or a snack and plenty of water. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 9. Leader: Carol Harting, c.harting@verizon.net. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Saturday October 17 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday October 17 - **Western Fahnestock Park**. 8 miles, moderate terrain. From the Perkins access parking we will hike to Beaver Pond and climb some small hills coming and going. Appropriate footwear required. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, October 15. To register email the leader, Jane Restani, at irabjanea@aol.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday October 17 - **Oscawana Island Park and Graff Sanctuary**. 4-5 miles, easy terrain. Walk along a stream and through a forest with remains of an old estate, around a bird sanctuary, and ending with Oscawana Island, along the river and adjacent wetlands. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, October 15. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com or (914) 420-5778. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 13).*

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

Sunday, October 18 - **The Russians Are Coming to Rockland County! NOT!** 5-7 miles, moderate terrain. From 1955 to 1974, a surface to air Nike Missile complex stood just three miles from the Tappan Zee Bridge to protect metropolitan NYC from attack. Nearby, too, are the haunting, graffiti-strewn Clausland Mountain tunnels built during World War I. We'll explore these sites and nature too on this jaunt through Nike State, Blauvelt State and Clausland Mt. Parks, and possibly Buttermilk Falls. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 16. Leader: Debbie Farrell, debfarpr@gmail.com or (914) 282-9942. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday October 18 - **Kitchawan Preserve**. 4-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. We will come across fields, forests, streams and views of the new Croton Reservoir while exploring various trails. Meet at the preserve parking lot, 712 Kitchawan Road in Ossining. The preserve is just off Route 134 between the Taconic Parkway and Route 100. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 16. Leader: Sue Soni, surekhasoni1968@gmail.com or (914) 747-2452. E-mail will get a faster response. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 33).*

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

Saturday, October 24 - **Hike to the Bald, the Timp, and Doodletown**. 6-7 miles, moderately strenuous. This hike is steep and rocky with an accumulated altitude gain of 1400', nearly all before lunch. We will take the Cornell Mine and RD trails to Bald Mountain for great views, and then continue to the Timp, with even better views. After lunch we descend to Timp Pass, access the 1777E, visit the

Herbert Cemetery, pass June Pond and a waterfall, and return to our cars. There are shorter/easier outs, but you must have a map. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, October 22. Leader: Trudy Pojman, lpojman@aol.com, home (845) 446-3404, cell (443) 841-8488. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, October 24 - **Croton Gorge Park and the OCA**. 5-6 miles, easy terrain. This mainly linear hike starts at the base of Croton Dam. From the parking area we'll walk up a broad, gently winding track to the top of the dam to enjoy the views across the Croton reservoir; we'll then continue along the Old Croton Aqueduct trail to the Ossining border. We will return along the OCA and part of the river trail. Meet in the main Croton Gorge Park parking lot off route 129; bring lunch or a snack. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, October 22. Leader: Sheila Sarkar, shechris6@gmail.com or (914) 498-2464. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 99b).*

Sunday, October 25 - **THREE HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, October 25 - **Windham High Peak (3534')**, **Catskills**. 6 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. At 3534', Windham is one of the 3500 Club peaks and has approximately 1500' of elevation gain. We will follow the Elk Ridge Trail to the Escarpment trail to the summit of Windham. Approaching the summit, the Blackhead range comes into view. Just below the summit are two excellent lookouts. The first is on the right, and looks southeast to an unobstructed and very dramatic view of Blackhead, Black Dome and Thomas Cole. The second is on the left side of the blue trail. It looks out to the north, toward Albany, but also a little to the east where you'll see Mt Zoar, Ginseng Mountain, Mt Pisgah and Ashland Pinnacle. Participation is limited to 6 people, including the leader. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 23. Leader: Pat Johnston at patjohnston@gmail.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, October 25 - **Norvin Green State Forest, Ringwood, NJ**. 7-8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. Starting from the parking lot near the entrance to the New Weis Ecology Center (150 Snake Den Rd), we'll take various trails to and over Wyanokie High Point with some climbs, good views and interesting mines along the way. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 23. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, October 25 - **Irvington Woods**. 3-4 miles, easy terrain. This will be a leisurely hike through the Irvington Woods. Beginning at the O'Hara Nature Center, we will pass the reservoir, Sunset Rock, the steps to Macy Monument and the Hermit's Grave. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 23. Leader: Joe Rodriguez, text or call (914) 364-8090. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 54).*

Saturday October 31 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday October 31 - **Fahnestock Circular**. 7.5 miles, moderate terrain. This is a loop hike climbing Round Hill and East Mountain and reaching several viewpoints and historic stone walls. Please register with leader not later than Thursday, October 29. Leader: Minu Chaudhuri, minuch50@gmail.com or (914) 391-5918. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday October 31 - **Walkway over the Hudson**. 6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Beautiful views on this unique "hike" that is a perfect blend of urban and rural terrain. We will cross the Hudson on the Walkway and explore Franny Reese State Park as well. Bring lunch and water. Meet in the parking lot closest to the beginning of the Walkway. The easiest, most direct way to the Walkway on the Poughkeepsie (East) side of the river 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' from there, on the left. If you use a GPS enter '61 Parker Avenue' as the destination. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, October 29. Leader: Steve Singlak, srshudson@verizon.net or (845) 641-4132. Rain cancels. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*