



SPRING HISTORY HIKES



Throughout the year we'll be featuring hikes from our old schedules. Each hike will be done in the month that it originally took place but, as explained in some of the notes below, re-creating the exact route that the leader took is not always possible. Country lanes might now be paved and busy, trails may have been closed or rerouted and new trails added in their place, and what was formerly on public land might be in private hands today. No matter what, we will do our best to capture the spirit and intent of each hike, even if it means deviating from the original route or description.

Saturday, April 8 - **Meyer Preserve to Butler Preserve**. Inspired by an April 1941 outing: "Byram Lake. A walk over dirt roads for about half of the distance, and through primeval pine and hemlock forests the rest of the way. Bring drinking water - no campfire. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Christian Genghof. 7 miles, not strenuous."

Notes: Luckily for us, the route of this hike has not changed much since 1941. The primeval pine and hemlock forests in the description are still accessible within the Meyer and Butler Preserves, and we'll be able to connect them with a walk along rural Byram Lake Road, a portion of which remains unpaved.

Saturday, April 22 - **Fahnestock History Hike**. Inspired by an April, 1973 outing: "Two Appalachian Trails in One Hike. Starting at Canopus Lake, we use the proposed A.T. past Hidden Lake to Sunken Mine, lunch at Clear Lake. Return will be by the present A.T. Leader: Joseph Volz. 7 miles, not strenuous."

Notes: The "proposed A.T." described by the leader is essentially the Appalachian Trail as we know it today, but at the time there was an additional side trail that went past Hidden Lake (now the route of the Three Lakes Trail). The "present A.T." was to the east of Clear Lake; that is now on private Scout Reservation property, so we'll have lunch at an overlook above the lake instead.

Saturday, May 13 - **Long Path in Northern Harriman**. Inspired by a May 1940 outing: "Fingerboard-Stormking Trail. A two-way hike along the FB-SK Trail going over Fingerboard, Bradley, Stockbridge Mountain and Cranberry Hill. We will also explore the interesting Bradley Mine, an abandoned iron mine. Considerable climbing but not too strenuous. Distance: 8 miles. Leader Wilson Scofield."

Notes: The FB-SK Trail went through Harriman and then towards Storm King Mountain on what is now private West Point property, but in the area described by the leader it roughly corresponds to the current route of the Long Path, allowing us to enjoy an outing similar to the one that took place 83 years ago.



The FB-SK Trail through Harriman State Park (1927 map)

Sunday, May 28 - Greystone to Tarrytown: On and Off the OCA. Inspired by a May 1926 outing: "Croton Aqueduct Highlights. Meet at statue, Warburton Avenue near Railroad Station, Greystone-on-Hudson. Walk north on the Croton Aqueduct past Amackassin Brook, marble quarry where famous buildings were quarried, inhabited now by tame pigeons gone wild, past Draper Observatory, Admiral Farragut's House, Washington's Headquarters and Weckquaesgeek Village sites at Dobbs Ferry, Irving's Home at Irvington, the Gould estate, then to Tarrytown. Distance about 8 miles. Leader to be announced later."



On the Old Croton Aqueduct, May 1926

Notes: When this hike took place the OCA was still in use (it ceased operations in 1955 and did not become a state park until 1968). Rather than walking on a continuous path, the leader diverged on and off what was then a working aqueduct to take in the described highlights. We will do the same, as we learn a little history of the places we visit.

Saturday, June 10 - Oscawana Island Park and Graff Sanctuary. Inspired by a June 1970 outing: "Oscawana Island. Visit Westchester County's most recent purchase. See how the other half lived around the turn of the century. Inspect the houses, stables, glazed-brick spring with water supply pump, and a private race track; sit in the judge's stand (a good imagination may bring your horse in first). Walk along brook, scout Oscawana Island, then stroll through the sanctuary. Leader: Agnes Schaub. 2-3 miles, an easy walk."

Notes: Although the judge's stand no longer exists, most of the remains within Oscawana are still there and we can explore them at our leisure. The Audubon Society did not acquire the nearby Graff Sanctuary until 1975, but it's been added as a bonus to the current hike.

Saturday, June 17 - Lake Sebago Circular. Inspired by a June 1956 outing: "Pine Meadow Lake Region. This is another interesting section of the Interstate Park - a section with which most of our hikers may not be familiar. If the visibility is good, we will have a chance to see the New York City skyline from Diamond Mountain. We will also visit the Fire Tower, Ga-Nus-Quam, Pine Meadow Lake, Conklin's Cabin site, the Egg, Stone Memorial Shelter and Lake Wanoksink. Leader: Tom Nagasaki. 7 miles, moderately strenuous."

Notes: The original trailhead for this hike would have been south of its current location, near the Tuxedo-Mt. Ivy crossing of Seven Lakes Drive, but parking is no longer permitted there so we will start a bit further north. Other than that, the current route is quite similar to the 1956 description. The Diamond Mountain fire tower referenced by the leader was built using steel from a fire tower that was originally on Bear Mountain. It was subjected to vandalism and dismantled in the 1950's. A second tower was erected on Diamond Mountain in 1966 but it was also vandalized, and permanently removed around 1980.