



WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

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

NOVEMBER and DECEMBER, 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 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. Please check with the leader if you have any questions about the hike.

In fairness to yourself and others, please be honest about your hiking experience and choose a hike within your abilities. 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.

Sunday, November 1 - **THREE HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, November 1 - **Within the County: OCA, SCT and Nearby Parks. Part 1: Glenville-Tarrytown Lakes "Lollipop"**. 8-9 miles, easy on the bike path, easy to moderate terrain elsewhere. This is the first hike in a new "Within the County" series covering the Old Croton Aqueduct, the South County Trailway, and adjacent hiking areas. Starting at Glenville Woods, a preserve owned by the Town of Greenburgh, we'll head north through and over Buttermilk Ridge. Once we reach Eastview, at the dividing line between the North and South County Trailways where our last series of hikes ended, we'll continue west on the Tarrytown Lakes bike path. From there we will explore the Tarrytown Lakes extension and check out some of its new circular paths while enjoying views of the reservoir, then head back to our cars via the Buttermilk Ridge/Glenville Woods route. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 30. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 2).*

Sunday, November 1 - **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 Friday, October 30. Leader: Sheila Sarkar, shechris6@gmail.com or (914) 498-2464. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 99b).*

Sunday, November 1 - **Orchard Beach, Twin and Hunter Islands**. 3-4 miles, easy terrain. We will meet on the left side of the Orchard Beach parking lot and do a circular hike in this lovely area, enjoying ocean breezes, varied terrain and spectacular views of Long Island Sound. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, October 30. Leader: Toby Garfinkel (914) 337-6612. Rain cancels.

Saturday November 7 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday November 7 - **Bear Mountain via Major Welsh Trail**. 5.5 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. Enjoy expansive views of the Hudson as we ascend Bear Mountain on this challenging route. Our descent will be by way of the Appalachian Trail. Bring lunch and water. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, November 5. Leader: Steve Singlak srshudson@verizon.net or (845) 641-4132. Rain cancels. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday November 7 - **Ward Pound Ridge**. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Join the leader as we do a hike in Ward Pound Ridge on the Brown ski trail with excursions onto the Deer Hollow trail. Bring a lunch/snack and adequate water. There is a \$10 admission to the area but it is well worth it. We will meet in the Cross River Shopping Center and those who wish to car pool (short drive, masks and open car windows) can split the admission fee. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, November 5. Leader: Steve Klepner (845) 297-7066 or spk010@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Sunday, November 8 - **Muscoot Farm**. 4 miles, easy terrain. This hike, on the yellow trail, will take us past fields and through the woods along the perimeter of this County owned preserve in Somers. Participation is limited to 8 people, including the leaders. Please register not later than Friday, November 6. Leaders: Vipin and Usha Shukla, shukla_vipin@hotmail.com. Rain cancels. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 58).*

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

Saturday, November 14 - **Storm King Circular**. 5 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. The stars on the Trail Conference map signify views, and we visit ten of them on this spectacular hike on Butter Hill and Storm King Mountain, plus visit some substantial ruins. We will start from the Esty & Hellie Stowell property (42 Bayview Ave., Cornwall NY 12520, just off Route 218 in Cornwall) and ascend about 1200' feet, with all of the climbing being done before lunch. A few sections may require the use of hands and feet, and one narrow area on the descent may be an issue for those with a fear of heights, so don't hesitate to contact the leader before registering if you have any questions or doubts about your ability to do this hike. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, November 12. Leader: Trudy Pojman, lpojman@aol.com, cell (443) 841-8488. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, November 14 - **Oscawana Island Park and Graff Sanctuary**. 4 miles, easy terrain. Back by popular demand (we had a waiting list in October). Walk along a stream and through a forest with remains of old estates, around a bird sanctuary, and ending with Oscawana Island, along the river and adjacent wetlands. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, November 12. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, (914) 420-5778. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 13)*

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

Sunday, November 15 - **Schunemunk Mountain**. 8.5 miles, moderately strenuous terrain. Starting at the Otterkill Road parking area, we'll take the Otterkill trail to the Jessup, ascending to a ridge composed of unusual conglomerate rock. We'll continue along the ridge, with viewpoints and interesting terrain, to the megaliths. The return route will be along the Western Ridge trail, with more viewpoints, and down the Trestle trail back to our cars. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, November 13. Leader: Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, November 15 - **Mills Mansion and Norrie Point, Staatsburg, NY**. 5-6 miles, easy terrain. This hike will take us along hiking and carriage trails in the Mills/Norrie State Park. We will do a loop hike and have lunch next to the Hudson River. Enjoy late fall views of the Hudson and the Catskills. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, November 13. Leader: Janice Miller, madjan11@optonline.net. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

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

Saturday, November 21 - **Hudson Highlands**. 7-8 miles, moderate terrain. Starting from Garrison we will climb Sugarloaf South and then hike the carriage roads of the Osborne Loop and take various trails to White Rock. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, November 19. Leader: Minu Chaudhuri (914) 391-5918 or minuch50@gmail.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, November 21 - **FDR State Park**. 4-5 miles, easy terrain. For this late fall hike, perhaps with some remaining foliage, we'll meet at the parking lot in Downing Park (off route 202, east of the Taconic State Parkway). From there we'll hike on the white and yellow loop trails, visit Mohansic Lake, and also take an out-and-back trail to Crom Pond. Rain cancels. Bring water and a snack or lunch. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, November 19. Leader: Sheila Sarkar, shechris6@gmail.com or (914) 498 2464. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 24).*

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

Sunday, November 22 - **Hunter Mountain, Catskills.** 6.5 miles, moderate terrain. If you are looking to bag one of the Catskill 3500' peaks, this is the second highest at 4,039', and it is also on the Northeast 111 list (peaks over 4,000'). The route is a steady up with 1900' of elevation gain. There will definitely be some views since the trees will be leafless. The summit of Hunter doesn't have a view, but climb the fire tower to just below the observation deck and you will be rewarded with views of the Blackhead Range and other 3500' peaks in all directions. Weather conditions can be variable in November so be prepared for anything. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, November 20. Leader: Pat Johnston, patjohnston@gmail.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, November 22 - **Sylvan Glen Trails You (likely) Don't Know.** 5 miles, moderate terrain. We'll travel on a mix of familiar and not-so-familiar scenic trails crisscrossing Sylvan Glen Preserve in Mohegan Lake. This is on the "easier" end of a moderate hike, with about 500' of elevation gain. Most of the trails are wide; some sections, however, will require several degrees of separation and possibly masks. Unfortunately, little or no bushwhacking. Exact route TBD depending on weather conditions and zombie sightings. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, November 20. Leader: Howard Millman, howardmillman@aol.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

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

Saturday, November 28 - **Blue and Spitzenberg Mountains.** 7 miles, moderate terrain. Join us as we go to the real summit of Blue Mountain in Peekskill, then climb up Spitzenberg and return to Depew Park on different trails with lake views. We will meet at the Veteran's Memorial Pool in Peekskill. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, November 26. Leader: Frank Lee, fleessa@yahoo.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 48).*

Saturday, November 28 - **Angle Fly Preserve.** 4-5 miles, easy terrain. Come hike this preserve in late fall. There are more than 10 miles of trails that span the entire Preserve comprised of almost 650 acres, and the leader will choose several loops for an easy hike. Bring water, a snack and/or lunch. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, November 26. Leader: Jane Smalley (914) 276-0413 or e-mail jsmallpt@aol.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 53).*

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

Sunday, November 29 - **Black Rock Forest, Cornwall-on-Hudson.** 7-8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This hike has several viewpoints with substantial elevation gain. We will meet at the Reservoir Road parking lot. This is the one where Northbound drivers on 9W have to enter through a narrow tunnel. Drivers with gargantuan vehicles can continue farther and come back for a Southern approach. Participation is limited to 8 people, including the leader, and hiking boots and PPE are required. Please register not later than Friday, November 27 at irabjanea@aol.com. Leaders: Jane Restani and Bob Fiscina. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, November 29 - **Teatown Lake Reservation.** 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Come out on this Autumn day and enjoy a hike at Teatown. This hike combines several trails and includes a stop at a scenic waterfall. Bring lunch, snacks, a thermos of hot chocolate, and of course water. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, November 27. Leader: Elspeth Kramer, (347) 262-4802 or elspethkramer@aol.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

Saturday, December 5 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, December 5 - **Within the County: OCA, SCT and Nearby Parks. Part 2: Ossining to Philipse Manor.** 8 miles, easy to moderate terrain. This is a linear hike which allows us to avoid a shuttle by taking Metro North back to our cars. Starting at the Ossining train station, we'll head up to the Old Croton Aqueduct and walk south to Rockwood Hall State Park. We'll have lunch at the foundation overlooking the Hudson, head down towards the river and walk along local streets until we reach the Peabody Preserve, a new hiking area with several paths to explore. Our hike ends at the nearby Philipse Manor train station, where we can catch the train back to Ossining. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, December 3. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 38 and 73 (if done with Part 3 of this series)).*

Saturday, December 5 - **Manitou Point Preserve.** 3 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Even though this is only a two hour hike 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. Although considered a relatively easy hike 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 Route 9D from the bridge. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, December 3. Leader: Carol Harting, c.harting@verizon.net. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday December 6 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday December 6 - **Camp Smith Trail.** 7 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain. This hike takes us from the Toll House to Anthony's Nose and back with great views of the Hudson all along the route. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, December 4. Leader: Steve Singlak rshudson@verizon.net or (845) 641-4132. Rain cancels. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, December 6 - **Croton Point Park.** 4 miles, easy terrain. Starting in the main parking lot, we'll walk through the woods and past a campground to Tellers Point, with views south to the former Tappan Zee bridge. We'll return by the marshes and then ascend the former landfill, enjoying panoramic views of the Hudson River. Please dress warmly and bring water and a snack. Directions: From Route 9 north or south, take the exit for Croton Point Avenue and turn west towards the river. Follow signs into the park and proceed past the entry booth to the main parking lot, opposite the bathroom facilities (closed in winter). Snow, sleet or rain cancels. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, December 4. Leader: Sheila Sarkar, shechris6@gmail.com or (914) 498 2464. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 52).*

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

Saturday, December 12 - **Overlook Mountain, Catskills.** 5 miles, moderate terrain. We will climb to the Overlook firetower on a combination of eroded roads and trails. Last year we definitely needed traction devices, and even if the ground is not frozen it will be wet and slippery so winter footwear is necessary. Afterwards we will stroll around the charming town of Woodstock. Shopping allowed. The usual gathering inside at Bread Alone may not be possible, but obviously takeout is a possibility. Participation is limited to 8 people, including the leader, and PPE is required. Please

register with the leader not later than Thursday, December 10. Leader: Jane Restani, irabjanea@aol.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, December 12 - Silvermine Circular. 6 miles, moderate terrain. We will head up the ski slope, down an unmarked route to a woods road, turn right and then left on the AT going east. Another unmarked path circles a bit southeast to the Menomine, where we turn left and up to the Brian shelter. From there we take the AT/RD east to enjoy expansive views from Black Mountain, then retrace our route to the old Silvermine Road, which takes us back to our starting point. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, December 10. Leader: Trudy Pojman, lpojman@aol.com, cell: (443) 841-8488. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, December 13 - Hikes and Holiday Party at Westmoreland. WTA Members Only.

Saturday, December 19 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, December 19 - Mountain Lakes County Park. 5-7 miles, moderate terrain. The route and difficulty of this hike will depend on ground cover, but if there is little or no snow we'll be on narrow trails most of the time. We will hike along Spruce Lake and on the Old Sib trail, ascend Bailey Mountain (the highest point in Westchester County although sadly no view), and visit an expansive lookout on the white trail before returning to our cars. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, December 17. Leader: Alice Benash, ajrb3@verizon.net. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 57).*

Saturday, December 19 - Angle Fly Preserve. 4-5 miles, easy terrain. Come hike this preserve days before the winter solstice. There are more than 10 miles of trails that span the entire Preserve comprised of almost 650 acres, and the leader will choose several loops (different from the November outing) for an easy hike. Bring hiking poles, water, a snack and /or lunch. We may need traction devices depending on trail conditions. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, December 17. Leader: Jane Smalley (914) 276-0413 or e-mail jsmallpt@aol.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 53).*

Sunday, December 20 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, December 20 - Hook Mountain. 6 miles, moderate terrain. Ups and downs on the ridge with lovely views, followed by an easy return on the Shore Path. If we have snow or ice, bring traction equipment. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, December 18. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, raffaele.catharine@yahoo.com. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, December 20 - Cliffdale-Teatown Trail and Teatown Lake. 4 miles, easy terrain. Bring a thermos of hot chocolate and enjoy a hike from the Visitor's Center to the Cliffdale Education Center, using part of the Teatown Lake and other trails. We'll have a snack on the benches at Cliffdale, and then return to the Visitor's Center on the other side of the lake. Please register with the leader not later than Friday, December 18. Leader: Elspeth Kramer, elspethkramer@aol.com or (347) 262-4802. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

Saturday, December 26 - Hubbard Perkins-Round Hill Circular. 7-8 miles, moderate terrain. This hike in Fahnestock State Park starts at the Hubbard Lodge, ascends Round Hill to several good viewpoints, and then returns to the starting point via the Perkins Trail and the East Mountain Loop. If there is snow, traction devices or snowshoes may be needed. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, December 24. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net or (914) 772-0600. *Joint with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, December 27 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, December 27 - **Ward Pound Ridge**. 6-7 miles, moderate terrain. Join the leader as we do the Rocks Trail in Ward Pound Ridge, with multiple ups and downs, visits to interesting rock formations, and views along a ridge. Bring a lunch/snack and adequate water. There is a \$10 admission to the area but it is well worth it. We will meet in the Cross River Shopping Center and those who wish to car pool (short drive, masks and open car windows) can split the admission fee. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, December 24. Leader: Steve Klepner (845) 297-7066 or spk010@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Sunday, December 27 - **Cranberry Lake Preserve**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain. Enjoy shady woodlands, views of wetlands, history of quarrying for the Kensico Dam, broad views from the top of the quarry (optional), and options to do more or less mileage. Please register with the leader not later than Thursday, December 24. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, cell (914) 420-5778. *Joint with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No 51.)*