



# WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

## FALL HIKING SCHEDULE OCTOBER, NOVEMBER and DECEMBER, 2024

**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 outdoor areas or when indoors. 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).

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

Saturday, October 5 - **Beacon “Lollipop”**. 8 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. We'll park off Sunnyside Road in Beacon Hills and take the steep Overlook Trail and Fishkill Ridge Trail up Lambs Hill, with fine views of the Hudson Valley to the west. From there we'll continue to Dozer Junction and make a loop on the Fishkill Ridge Trail (less steep, but still rocky, with views to the east), then return the way we came. Please be vaccinated against Covid-19 or have a recent negative test. Leader: Bruce Collins, [actz1015@gmail.com](mailto:actz1015@gmail.com) or (646) 584-1227.

Saturday, October 5 - **Muscot Farm**. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This hike has some 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 an on site concession where ice cream can be purchased; alternatively, King Cone is just down the road. Leader: Steve Klepner, [spk010@yahoo.com](mailto:spk010@yahoo.com), (845) 297-7066. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (58)*.

Sunday, October 6 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, October 6 - **Pound Ridge Reservation**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This will be a hike in the northern section of the Reservation. We will meet at the Green Way Market shopping center, 20 North Salem Road, Cross River, NY and then drive to the start of the hike. Bring lunch as our lunch spot will be at the picnic area at Kimberly Bridge. To register, email Carol Harting at [c.harting@verizon.net](mailto:c.harting@verizon.net). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63)*.

Sunday, October 6 - **Saxon Woods**. 3 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. We will do a circular hike in this lovely park, which goes through surprisingly wooded, shady and serene areas in spite of the park's location near the city of White Plains. Meet the leader in the pool parking lot off Mamaroneck Avenue on the far side (away from the road), near the southern portion of the lot. Participation on this hike is limited to 14 people, including the leader. For meeting time or other information, contact the leader Sheila Klatzky at: [srklatzky@gmail.com](mailto:srklatzky@gmail.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 60)*.

Saturday, October 12 - **Mountain Lakes Park, North Salem**. 6-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Starting at the Tamarack parking lot, 0.6 miles along the paved road from the entrance to the park, we'll hike around Hemlock Lake, Spruce Lake, Pine Lake and Laurel Lake and then follow the white trail to Look Out Point, where we'll stop for lunch. From there we'll return to the cars on the white and orange trails. To register, contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at [shechris7@yahoo.com](mailto:shechris7@yahoo.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 57)*.

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

Sunday, October 13 - **Sterling Forest**. 7 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. 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 stop at the Fire Tower. Participants must be vaccinated against Covid 19. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, [catharineraffaele@gmail.com](mailto:catharineraffaele@gmail.com) \_

Sunday, October 13 - **Three Bridges and One Ferry**. 7-8 miles, easy terrain. Walk New York's BMW (Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg) bridges and explore what's on each side of the BMW. Participation is limited to 12 people, and vaccination against Covid-19 is required. For questions and to register, contact the leader, Linda Wildman, at [lindawildman88@gmail.com](mailto:lindawildman88@gmail.com) or text/call (914) 316-5674.

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

Saturday, October 19 - **Schunemunk Two Ridges Loop Hike.** 9-10 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This hike has several steep ups and downs and will be done at a steady pace. There are multiple views throughout the hike. Starting at the Otterkill Road parking area, we will begin on the Trestle Trail. We'll take that to the Western Ridge Trail, continue to the Barton, and then to the Ridge to Ridge Trail. From there we will do a steep scramble up to the Jessup, where we will enjoy views and lunch at the Megaliths. Afterwards, we will return to the Jessup Trail, continue to the Sweet Clover, and take the Otterkill Trail back to the cars. Prior experience with scrambling is required. Leader: Alice Benash, [ajrb3@verizon.net](mailto:ajrb3@verizon.net).

Saturday, October 19 - **Old Croton Aqueduct and Rockefeller Preserve, Sleepy Hollow.** 5 miles, easy terrain, moderate pace. Where better to be than in Sleepy Hollow in the month of October as Halloween approaches? If you like cool graffiti this is the walk for you. A few ups and downs, the better to maybe see some witches, ghosts and goblins. To register contact Cynthia Moro at [Cynlyn24@gmail.com](mailto:Cynlyn24@gmail.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

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

Sunday, October 20 - **Storm King and Butter Hill.** 5 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. Come and spend a day in the Hudson Highlands enjoying spectacular Hudson River views and hopefully seeing the leaves in their autumn splendor. We'll be climbing on Storm King Mountain all morning. After lunch there will be many more ups and downs until we get to Butter Hill. The remainder of the day will be mostly downhill. Meet at Esty & Hellie Stowell Trailhead, 42 Bayview Avenue, Cornwall Landing, NY. Leader: Judy Kossover, [woodtuxduo@aol.com](mailto:woodtuxduo@aol.com).

Sunday, October 20 - **Hike the NCIT. Section 4: Trout Brook and Jump Hill Preserves.** 5-6 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Our last hike on the Nearby Connecticut Imaginary Trail (NCIT) took us from the Saugatuck Trail to the southern portion of Easton's Trout Brook Preserve, and today we'll return to explore the trails on the northern side of Trout Brook and the adjacent Jump Hill Preserves. Unlike most of the other NCIT hikes, which are linear, our route will be a circular one, through woodlands and along a ridge past some interesting rock formations. There will be an optional stop at the Aspetuck Apple Barn (featuring great pies, jams and other goodies) on the way home after the hike. Leader: Eileen West, [eileenw1000@gmail.com](mailto:eileenw1000@gmail.com). Rain cancels.

Saturday, October 26 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, October 26 - **Lake Stahahe Circuit Hike #29.** 6.35 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. In 2017–2019 the leader led the 27 hikes described in the book Circuit Hikes in Harriman by Don Wiese. The book also includes descriptions for 8 other outings in Harriman under the heading "Trail Runs, Walks, Ski Loops, and Mountain Bike Rides." These are easier than the first 27 but still involve elevation gain as it is Harriman! This lollipop-loop hike has 935' feet of elevation gain. It starts from the Elk Pen and circles scenic Lake Stahahe. There will be some rough patches that are not on blazed trails and some sections on paved roads. We will also pass by several summer camps. Participation on this hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact leader: Kathie Laug at [kfriedmanlaug@optonline.net](mailto:kfriedmanlaug@optonline.net)

Saturday, October 26 - **Eastern Rockefeller State Park.** 3-5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. We will do Lucy's loop and cross the field to explore a few more trails. Please bring lunch and water. Meet the leader at 10 AM in the large parking lot for the North County Trailway on

Route 117. If you are heading west, the lot is on your left between Routes 9A and 448. Rain will cancel the hike. Leader: Sue Soni, [surekhasoni1968@gmail.com](mailto:surekhasoni1968@gmail.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

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

Sunday, October 27 - **Harriman State Park**. 8.75 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. This hike, with 1950 feet of elevation change, leaves from the u-bend on Route 106. We will use the White Bar, Triangle, Victory, R-D and Nurain Trails, along with some woods roads, to enjoy the late fall foliage at Tom Jones, Car Pond, and Parker Cabin Mountains and Stahahe High Peak. We will also take in the peace of Lake Skenonto, explore some old camp buildings, and search for the elusive Hemlock Hill petroglyph. Weather may cancel or change the route. This hike is limited to 12 people. Contact the leader Lauren Linkowski at [llinkowski@gmail.com](mailto:llinkowski@gmail.com).

Sunday, October 27 - **Teatown Lake Reservation**. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Come out on this fall day and enjoy a hike at Teatown. The hike combines several trails and includes a stop at a scenic waterfall. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Rain cancels. Please register by Friday, October 25. Contact leader Elspeth Kramer at (347) 262-4802 or email [elspethkramer@gmail.com](mailto:elspethkramer@gmail.com) for time and meeting spot. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

Saturday, November 2 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, November 2 - **Kakiat Circular**. 10 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader for a hike that has about 2500' of elevation gain, with lots of views and lots of fun. We start with a climb on the Mountain Trail to the Kakiat, continue on the Raccoon Brook and Seven Hills Trails, then climb Diamond Mountain where you will need both hands and feet. At the top we will take the Connector trail to the Pine Meadow Trail along the lake. Depending on our pace, lunch will probably be on the lake at the location of the Conklin homestead. From there we will take Conklin Crossing to the Suffern-Bear Mt Trail, and return to the cars on the Kakiat. Use the TC Southern Harriman-Bear Mt. Map # 118 or an internet map of your choice. Meet at the Kakiat County Park, 558 US-Route 202 (Haverstraw Rd), Montebello, NY 10901. GPS: 41.14394, -74.11241. To register contact the leader Bill Medeot at [billwp218@gmail.com](mailto:billwp218@gmail.com) or (914) 844-7038.

Saturday, November 2 - **Silver Lake Preserve**. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. This is an interesting preserve for both terrain and history. There are some spots where no street noise can be heard! In some parts there are many (uphill) steps and some rocky terrain; other places are relatively smooth. There are also a few tree trunks obstructing the path so be prepared to climb over them. We will visit the Stony Hill Cemetery, a memorial to the African-American community called the Hills, and end the hike at Merritt Hill, the site of a Revolutionary War skirmish. Leader: Janis Biermann, [biermannjanis@gmail.com](mailto:biermannjanis@gmail.com), (203) 824-8166. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 40).*

Sunday, November 3 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, November 3 - **Gertrude's Nose**. 7 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This popular hike starts from the Minnewaska Visitor Center on carriage trails. We will then hike on regular trails to Gertrude's Nose and Millbrook Mountain, take a trail back to Lake Minnewaska, and complete a loop around the lake. The route is on rocky cliffs with gorgeous views for much of the hike - not for the faint of heart! To register, contact leader Janice Miller at [madjan11@yahoo.com](mailto:madjan11@yahoo.com).

Sunday, November 3 - **Croton Preserves**. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This linear hike is a true "easy to moderate" with multiple ups and downs interspersed with flat areas. We'll head west from Lytle Arboretum to Brinton Brook Sanctuary and then to Oscawana Park and

Island, through varied landscapes including marshlands and woods, on varied terrain with boardwalks and rough trails, and enjoying both a "golf course view" and the Hudson River shoreline. Short shuttle involved (masks required). Leader: Eileen west, [eileenw1000@gmail.com](mailto:eileenw1000@gmail.com). Rain cancels. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 22).*

Wednesday, November 6 - **WEEKDAY HIKE: Parker Cabin to Black Rock Mountain.** 6.74 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This circular hike, with 1759' of elevation gain, starts and ends on the White Bar Trail and includes the R-D, Nurian and Victory Trails. Along the way we will pass Car Pond and Black Ash Mountains, Tri-Trail Corner, Black Ash Swamp, Parker Cabin Mountain, Tom Jones Shelter and Mountain, and Black Rock Mountain (see the TC Southern Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails Map 118). Meet at the parking lot on Rt 106 that you can find at "1369 Kanawauke Road, Southfields, NY" or "White Bar Trailhead Parking" or "41.234677,-74.149035". Severe inclement weather cancels. Please register by texting the leader with your full name, phone number, and the name and number of your emergency contact. Leader: Anastasia Tavarez, (646) 207-4136 (texting preferred) or [atavare@gmail.com](mailto:atavare@gmail.com).

Saturday, November 9 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, November 9 - **Bennetts Pond State Park and Pine Mountain.** 6 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Starting at Bennetts Pond Park in Ridgefield, CT, we'll do a circular hike around the south end of Bennetts Pond, then continue 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 ponds. To register, contact leader Jeanne Thomson at [jeannethomson@gmail.com](mailto:jeannethomson@gmail.com) (preferred) or (914) 409-3405.

Saturday, November 9 - **Tibbetts Brook to Van Cortlandt Park and Back.** 3-4 miles, easy terrain. Starting from Tibbetts Brook Park, we will take the South County Trailway to Van Cortlandt Park, then return the way we came. Meet at Tibbetts Brook in the lot closest to the entrance. Rain may cancel.. Vaccination against Covid-19 is required on this hike. Leader: Lynn McBride, [almcb@aol.com](mailto:almcb@aol.com) or (914) 439-0879. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 41).*

Sunday, November 10 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, November 10 - **Bald Mountain/Timp Circular.** 7 miles, moderate+ terrain, moderate pace. Marked trails and an old railway bed will lead us to an unfinished tunnel. There are multiple ups and downs on this hike, with beautiful views of the Hudson and surrounding mountains. Participants must be vaccinated against Covid 19. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, [catharineraffaele@gmail.com](mailto:catharineraffaele@gmail.com).

Sunday, November 10 - **Rockefeller Preserve.** 6-7 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. Hike the Rockefeller less-traveled trails on the east side of Route 448. One short ascent at the beginning and a steep descent at the end. We will cross over 448 and stroll near Stone Barns on our return. Leader: Gail Blumenfeld, [gailrb@yahoo.com](mailto:gailrb@yahoo.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

Saturday, November 16 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, November 16 - **Popolopen Torne.** 6 miles, moderate+ terrain, moderate pace. This hike, which will be done at a steady pace, has approximately 1300 ft. of elevation gain. We'll meet at the Fort Montgomery State Historic Site's additional parking area and road walk about 0.25 miles to the trailhead. Starting on the red trail, we'll connect to the blue Timp-Torne Trail, which includes a steep ascent with some scrambling to reach the Veteran's Memorial and beautiful views at the summit of Popolopen Torne. We'll then descend on the T-T, take a mile loop around Brooks Lake, and

continue to the Fort Montgomery State Historic Site. Here we can take a few minutes to look around the visitor center and grounds before heading back to the parking area. Leader: Alice Benash, [ajrb3@verizon.net](mailto:ajrb3@verizon.net).

Saturday, November 16 - **Greenwich Audubon Center**. 4 miles (plus a possible extension), easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. This preserve has a rich diversity of habitats including hardwood forest, old fields, lakes, streams, vernal ponds and an old apple orchard. You may wish to visit the Nature Education Center which has exhibits and a nature gift store at the end of the hike, and . Participation on this hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact leader: Kathie Laug at [kfriedmanlaug@optonline.net](mailto:kfriedmanlaug@optonline.net)

#### Sunday, November 17 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, November 17 - **Harriman State Park: Victory Hike**. 5 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader for a hike that includes the Victory, White Cross and the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trails. They each have a variety of terrain from rocks, earth trails and some paved road. We will climb Parker Cabin and Tom Jones Mountains, both of which have beautiful views. Bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water. Rain cancels. Pace is continuous with a few breaks. Please register by Friday, November 15. Contact leader Elspeth Kramer at (347) 262- 4802 or email [elspethkramer@gmail.com](mailto:elspethkramer@gmail.com) for time and meeting spot.

Sunday, November 17 - **Baxter Preserve**. 2-3 miles, easy terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. This hike, of about 1-1/2 to 2 hours, travels over rolling hills and pastures and along a scenic lake in North Salem. You can park along Baxter Road which is a dirt road, across from #67 Baxter Road, a red house with white trim. Register with the leader, Barry Leibowitz, by calling his cell (914) 774-5321 or home (845) 278- 2479. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 46).*

#### Saturday, November 23 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, November 23 - **Silvermine Lake & Stockbridge Mountain**. 7.8 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. We will meet at the Silvermine Lake parking lot and head south on the Menomine Trail, west to the AT, crossing Seven Lakes Drive to the Long Path, and north to the Menomine Trail returning us to the parking lot. This hike has about 1500 feet of elevation gain; use TC Northern Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails Map 119. Severe inclement weather cancels. Please register by texting the leader with your full name, phone number, and the name and number of your emergency contact. Leader: Anastasia Tavarez, (646) 207-4136 (texting preferred) or [atavare@gmail.com](mailto:atavare@gmail.com).

Saturday, November 23 - **Mianus River Gorge, Bedford, NY**. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This is a hike in a Nature Conservancy property. We will walk along the gorge, have a snack at the "viewpoint" and then proceed to Havermeyer Falls which we hope will have some water flowing. To register, email Carol Harting at [c.harting@verizon.net](mailto:c.harting@verizon.net). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 56).*

#### Sunday, November 24 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, November 24 - **AT: Route 17A to Prospect Rock and Back**. 10 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. This hike traverses the ridge of Bellvale Mountain, climbing over unusual puddingstone conglomerate rock outcrops and reaching many beautiful viewpoints over Greenwood Lake while covering a very scenic section of the Appalachian Trail. Leader: Kevin McGahren, [KMcGC@optonline.net](mailto:KMcGC@optonline.net).

Sunday, November 24 - **Old Croton Aqueduct, Part 1: Croton Dam to Ossining**. 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. This is the first in a series of linear hikes following the historic OCA from its northern end in Croton all the way to its southern terminus in Central Park. We will begin at the Croton Dam, seeing dramatic cascades of water, and end at the Caputo Center in Ossining which houses the Ossining Heritage Area Visitor Center. A short shuttle is involved (masks required). For information about the OCA, see <https://aqueduct.org/oca-history>. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, [carohof2@gmail.com](mailto:carohof2@gmail.com), (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 72)*.

Saturday, November 30 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, November 30 - **Harriman State Park**. 9.75 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. On this hike, with 1500 feet of elevation change, we will leave from the parking near St. John's in the Wilderness. We will use the Long Path, SBM, and many unmarked and woods roads to explore an old farm, the Barnes Mine, a plane crash site, and views from the reservoirs, Big Hill and Iron Mountain. There will be a bonus hunt for a memorial to a young camper above Breakneck Pond. Please bring poles and be comfortable with poorly marked or overgrown trails. Weather may cancel or change the route. This hike is limited to 12 people. Contact the leader Lauren Linkowski at [llinkowski@gmail.com](mailto:llinkowski@gmail.com).

Saturday, November 30 - **Teatown-Kitchawan Trail**. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. This out and back hike goes from the Teatown Visitor Center to the Croton Reservoir and then returns to the starting point. We will begin on the Lakeside loop and turn right on TKT trail where we walk past a stream through the woods and cross the road to John Hand Park. We continue on the TKT with many ups and downs, walking past a meadow and then a steady downhill to the Croton Reservoir where we will have lunch. After lunch we retrace our steps back to the parking lot. Register with the leader Carol Pamm, [CarolJoyce2@aol.com](mailto:CarolJoyce2@aol.com) or (646) 346-0371. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 28)*.

Sunday, December 1 - **Muscot Farm, Somers**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We'll hike around the perimeter of the farm on the yellow and white trails, through the woods and across rolling farmland. Optional visit to see the farm animals and barns on the way out. Meet in the main parking lot, 51 Route 100, Katonah, NY, preferably closer to the exit as the lot usually gets crowded later on. To register, contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at [shechris7@yahoo.com](mailto:shechris7@yahoo.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 58)*.

Saturday, December 7 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, December 7 - **Southeast Harriman Circular**. 9-10 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Starting at the eastern trailhead for the T-MI, we will cross Panther Mountain, eat lunch at Pine Meadow Lake, and use several trails including the SBM, Pine Meadow and Tuxedo-Mt. Ivy. The first half of the hike is hillier than the rest, rewarded by some nice views. Vaccination against Covid-19 is required on this hike. Rain cancels; no first time hikers, please. Email the leader for start time and other information: Mike Kaplan, [kaplanm2001@yahoo.com](mailto:kaplanm2001@yahoo.com).

Saturday, December 7 - **Lasdon Park and Sanctuary**. 5.5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Take in the dormant beauty of this park and arboretum. We will travel forest trails, walk the Trail of Honor, visit the dinosaur garden, and walk the historic tree trail to the Chinese pavilion. Then we'll continue on to Lasdon Sanctuary for an out and back hike before returning to the cars. Leader: Lisa Weismiller, [lisaweismiller@gmail.com](mailto:lisaweismiller@gmail.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 34)*.

Sunday, December 8 - **WTA MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY AND HIKES.**

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

Saturday, December 14 - **Mt. Beacon Loop.** 8-9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. We will meet at the Mt. Beacon parking lot and head up to the fire tower. Then we'll 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. Please register with the leader Janice Miller at [madjan11@yahoo.com](mailto:madjan11@yahoo.com).

Saturday, December 14 - **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](mailto:debfarpr@gmail.com). Phone for day of hike only (914) 282-9942.

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

Sunday, December 15 - **Stahahe High Point and Island Pond.** 6.5 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This is a relaxed pace hike of about 1.5 mph starting at the Elk Pen. Continue to the Nurian and up through the Valley of Boulders around Green Pond to Stahahe High Point via an unmarked trail. Then retrace our steps back to Island Pond Road to the southern end of the lake. Return to the Elk Pen via the ASB. Depending on ground conditions, microspikes or other traction devices may be needed. Leader: Veronica O'Neil. Text or email to (914) 523-9418 or [missyellierosa@yahoo.com](mailto:missyellierosa@yahoo.com).

Sunday, December 15 - **Manitou Point Preserve.** 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. 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. Contact Carol Harting at [c.harting@verizon.net](mailto:c.harting@verizon.net) to register.

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

Saturday, December 21 - **AT: Route 52 to Taconic State Parkway and Back.** 9.6 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. This is a little traveled section of the Appalachian Trail known mostly to thru-hikers, but it packs two peaks within a compact 4.8 miles each way. We will climb and descend both Stormville and Hosner Mountains with views atop both summits. Leader: Kevin McGahren, [KMCGC@optonline.net](mailto:KMCGC@optonline.net).

Saturday, December 21 - **Meyer Preserve.** 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader on this hike through varied terrain, walking through open fields as well as woods. Depending on ground conditions, participants are expected to bring traction aids and know how to put them on. The hike contains some ascents and we will go at a pace that keeps the group together.



Hiking poles are a really good idea. Leader: Steve Klepner, [spk010@yahoo.com](mailto:spk010@yahoo.com), (845) 297-7066. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 55).*

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

**Sunday, December 22 - Ward Pound Ridge.** 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. This hike is moderate at the beginning but easy towards the end. We will climb steeply up the Blue Trail to reach the highest point in the park (870 feet), the site of a former fire tower now marked by a bench, a non-functional water pump and the stone ruins of the fire observer's cabin. We will descend on a white-blazed footpath, which goes down steeply over rocks and passes through a tunnel of mountain laurel. At the base of the descent, we will continue on a relatively flat path back to our cars. Leader: Gail Blumenfeld, [gailrb@yahoo.com](mailto:gailrb@yahoo.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

**Sunday, December 22 - Old Croton Aqueduct, Part 2: Ossining to Sleepy Hollow.** 6.8 or 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. This is the second in a series of linear hikes following the historic OCA from Westchester to Manhattan; the length of today's hike will depend on the weather and ground conditions. A short shuttle is involved (masks required). For information about the OCA, see <https://aqueduct.org/oqa-history>. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, [carohof2@gmail.com](mailto:carohof2@gmail.com), (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 73).*

**Saturday, December 28 - Mt Holly Sanctuary/Yarrow Preserve.** 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. We walk through forests with some gentle ups and downs, pass a couple of streams and around a lake before heading back to Mt Holly Rd. Then we enter Yarrow preserve on the yellow trail where we will do 2 short loops passing by a lake and a waterfall. We will need to carpool to the trailhead as parking is limited (masks required for the carpool). Register with the leader, Carol Pamm, at [CarolJoyce2@aol.com](mailto:CarolJoyce2@aol.com) or (646) 346-0371. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 37).*

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

**Sunday, December 29 - Harriman State Park.** 8.75 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace, Leaving from Lake Skannatati, we will use the ASB, Red Cross and Beech Trails, as well as many woods roads to do a hike with 1500 feet of elevation change while exploring a quiet section of the park. Highlights include two very good views, surveyor marks, the Hasenclever mine and road, a cemetery, a waterfall, and the Beech trail's special connection to WTA. Weather may cancel or change the route. This hike is limited to 12 people. Contact the leader Lauren Linkowski at [llinkowski@gmail.com](mailto:llinkowski@gmail.com).

**Sunday, December 29 - Pond Gut: Horrid Name, Nice Hike.** 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Nestled in the southeast corner of the Taconic Hereford recreation area in Pleasant Valley, NY, these unspoiled trails wind thru an old growth forest, cross narrow streams and are near to some deep ravines. Offering modest ascents and tranquil views, it's a welcome change from overly-loved trails. Looking forward to see you there and then (provided you're not infected, diseased or rabid). Leader: Howard Millman, [hwardmillman@runbox.com](mailto:hwardmillman@runbox.com), cell on day of hike (914) 439-8031.

**Tuesday, December 31 - Early New Year's Eve.** Meet at 2:45 PM 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 you are welcome to bring snacks to share, if you wish. 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 pre-register for the walk but if you have questions you can contact Eileen West at [eileenw1000@gmail.com](mailto:eileenw1000@gmail.com). If you would like to join us for the dinner please notify Carolyn Hoffman at [carohof2@gmail.com](mailto:carohof2@gmail.com) or (914) 948-0608 no later than December 27<sup>th</sup>. Inclement weather postpones the hike - but not the dinner - for 365 days. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 38).*