



WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

FALL HIKING SCHEDULE OCTOBER, NOVEMBER and DECEMBER, 2025

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 areas. 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 some of 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 4 - **TWO HIKEs TODAY:**

Saturday, October 4 - **East Hudson Highlands and Garrison School Forest.** 6 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Repeated ups and downs on this woody hike, which is rewarded by visits to two Revolutionary War redoubts (forts) and stunning Hudson and West Point views. Leader: Debbie Farrell, Debfarpr@gmail.com or (914) 282-9942.

Saturday, October 4 - **Hilltop Hanover Farm.** 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. We will do the Hilltop loop, and along the way pass an old farm stone wall, a pond and beautiful views. We will do the inner loop as well. Then we will cross Hanover street and do the red loop and take a walk on the wild side, hiking through a meadow on a wide trail with vegetation on the other side. To register contact the leader, Carol Pamm at (646) 346-0371 or email CarolJoyce2@aol.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 6).*

Sunday, October 5 - **TWO HIKEs TODAY:**

Sunday, October 5 - **Camp Smith Trail.** 7 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. Enjoy an out and back hike on this trail, considered the most challenging in Westchester County. There will be plenty of ups and downs rewarded by almost constant Hudson River views and hopefully some good fall foliage. We will meet at the Tollhouse, have lunch at the summit of Anthony's Nose, and return the way we came. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 50).*

Sunday, October 5 - **Meyer Preserve.** 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. Join the leader on this hike through varied terrain. We will walk through open fields, along a dirt road as well as in the woods. Included is a walk along the Aqueduct Trail to Byram Lake towards our lunch spot. The hike has some flat sections as well as some ascents; poles are a good idea if you have them. Leader: Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com, (845) 297-7066. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 55).*

Saturday, October 11 - **TWO HIKEs TODAY:**

Saturday, October 11 - **Bear Mountain Summit Twice.** 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This lollipop loop has approximately 2000 feet of elevation gain with two long, steep ascents and descents. We will start at the parking area on Seven Lakes Drive just off Exit 19 of the Palisades Parkway, and take the 1777 Trail to the AT. From there, we will head north on the AT and climb to the summit of Bear Mountain, then continue on the AT down to Hessian Lake and the Bear Mountain Lodge where we will stop for lunch. Now refreshed, we will once again climb to the Bear Mountain summit, this time up the Major Welch Trail, which has rock scrambling and strenuous terrain for part of the route. We return to our cars by way of the southbound AT and the 1777 Trail. There are beautiful views along the way. Contact the leader, Alice Benash, at ajrb3@verizon.net to register and for information.

Saturday, October 11 - **Island Pond and Stahahe High Peak.** 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This circular hike, closer to moderate than easy, uses the White Bar, A-SB and Dunning trails plus unmarked paths to take in several features of Harriman State Park. The trails range from flat to hilly and rocky, and give us a chance to relax on the south shore of Island Pond near the ruins of a former ranger cabin, check out the old Boston Mine, and enjoy a great lunchtime view (hopefully including some nice fall colors) on Stahahe High Peak. Parking is limited at the trailhead, so we will meet at the Tuxedo Park & Ride for a short carpool to the start of the hike (masks required for the carpool). Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sunday, October 12 - **TWO HIKE TODAY:**

Sunday, October 12 - **Fahnestock Circular**. 7.5 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. This will be a loop hike climbing Round Hill and East Mountain and reaching several viewpoints and historic stone walls. Leader: Minu Chaudhuri, minuch50@gmail.com or (914) 391-5918.

Sunday, October 12 - **Manitoga**. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We will meet at Manitoga off Route 9D (584 Route 9D, Garrison) and explore the trails within Manitoga for a hike with some ups and down for about two-three hours. This historic property was once owned by Russel Wright, an industrial designer. The pace will be slow and leisurely, and we will stop for a snack along the way. Contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net to register.

Saturday, October 18 - **TWO HIKE TODAY:**

Saturday, October 18 - **Pond Mountain Natural Area, Kent, CT**. 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. Third time's the charm (hopefully) for this one - it has been rained out twice! Starting from Fuller Mountain Road, we will use the trails at Pond Mountain, the Appalachian Trail and the quiet Skiff Mountain Road to do a hike with 1800 feet of elevation while enjoying views from Fuller Pond, Pond Mountain, Caleb's Peak, and the St. John's Ledges. Inclement weather may cancel or change the route. This hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 18 - **Sleepy Hollow Walk**. 4-5 miles, easy terrain, moderate pace. Where better to be than in Sleepy Hollow 13 days before Halloween? We will walk part of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, then detour into the Rockefeller Preserve to see a hidden mural, return to the OCA, and finally end in Douglas Park which might have ghoulish creatures to scare us or make us smile. Hike will be limited to 20 people. Contact Cynthia Moro at cynlyn24@gmail.com to register.

Sunday, October 19 - **TWO HIKE TODAY:**

Sunday, October 19 - **Shenandoah Mountain, Fahnestock State Park**. 7.5 miles, moderate plus terrain, moderate pace. This is an out and back hike with approximately 1200 feet of elevation gain and good views. There are continuous ups and downs in both directions. The hike tracks the west side of Canopus Lake from the Route 301 AT parking area. For start time register with leader Jane Restani at irabjanea@aol.com from Monday of the hike week to Friday at 5:00PM. Please provide an emergency phone number and if you haven't hiked with the leader before, please provide some idea (short version) of your experience.

Sunday, October 19 - **Cranberry Lake Preserve: Hike and Scavenger Hunt**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. We'll start with a hike on various trails within this Westchester County preserve, and then stop for lunch. Afterwards, we'll break up into small teams and go on a one-hour scavenger hunt around Cranberry Lake. Each team will be given a handout with approximately 20 images of objects found around the lake, and one person from each team will take photos of the same images to score points. There will be prizes for the winning team! Contact the leader, Alice Benash, at ajrb3@verizon.net to register and for information. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 51).*

Saturday, October 25 - **TWO HIKE TODAY:**

Saturday, October 25 - **Anthony Wayne Circular**. 7 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. Lots of ups and downs on this hike and a visit to the summit of the Timp. Trails will include the old Ramapo-Dunderberg, Timp-Torne, Suffern-Bear Mountain, the Appalachian

Trail and the Horn Hill Trail. Rain cancels; no first time hikers please. Leader: Mike Kaplan, kaplanm2001@yahoo.com.

Saturday, October 25 - **Old Croton Aqueduct, Part 7: Bronx Line to Fordham Road**. 4.6 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We will start at the Westchester/Bronx border, continue through Van Cortlandt Park and along Jerome Reservoir, the confluence of the Old and New Croton Aqueducts, to Fordham Road at the Aqueduct Promenade. Return after this one way walk via public transportation or a ride service. For more information about the OCA, see <https://aqueduct.org/> Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, (914) 420-5778.

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

Sunday, October 26 - **Dunderberg/Bald Mountain/Timp Circular**. 7.5 miles, moderate+ terrain, steady moderate pace. Multiple ups and downs make this a challenging hike, rewarded with beautiful views of the Hudson and surrounding mountains and remnants of the never completed Dunderberg Spiral Railway. Vaccination against Covid-19 is required on this hike. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 26 - **Cliffdale-Teatown Trail and Teatown Lake**. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Bring plenty of water 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, then return to the Visitor's Center on the other side of the lake. There is a \$7 per car parking fee for non-members, so you may wish to carpool; due to an additional per-person charge for larger groups, this hike is limited to 8 people. Contact the leader for meeting time or information. Leader: Elspeth Kramer, elspethkramer@gmail.com, (347) 262-4802. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

Saturday, November 1 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, November 1 - **Anthony's Nose and the Major Welch Trail**. 8 miles, strenuous terrain, moderate pace. You are invited to join the leader for a difficult hike with about 2100' of elevation gain and plenty of rock scrambling. We will first climb the face of Anthony's Nose, then take the Appalachian Trail down to Route 9D and cross the Bear Mountain Bridge to the Bear Mountain Inn. We continue around Hessian Lake to the (R) Major Welch Trail and up to the Perkins Fire Tower. The return will be down the AT stairs through the park and the zoo over the Bear Mountain Bridge and back to the cars. Meet at the Anthony's Nose Face Trailhead, 6 NY-9D, Garrison, NY 41.32017, -73.97909. Park close to the Bridge and pay attention to the "No Parking" signs. For a trail map, use NYNJ TC Bear Mt Northern # 119 or the digital map of your choice. Rain cancels. To register and for questions, contact the leader, Bill Medeot, at BillWP@gmail.com or (914) 844-7038.

Saturday, November 1 - **Ward Pound Ridge**. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We will hike across fields and along streams on interesting trails in this, the largest of Westchester County's parks. To register and for questions contact the leader, Gail Blumenfeld, at gailrb@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Sunday, November 2 - **Muscot Farm, Somers**. 4-5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We'll hike on several trails, across rolling farmland and on a loop through the woods, where there should still be some fall colors. Those who wish may stay on and visit the historic farm. Meet in the main parking lot, preferably closer to the exit as the lot usually gets crowded later on, at 51 Route 100, Katonah, NY 10536. Bring water and snacks/lunch. To register and for meeting time, contact Sheila Sarkar, at shechris7@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 58).*

Saturday, November 8 - **TWO HIKE TODAY:**

Saturday, November 8 - **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 before we descend to our return around the north end of the ponds. To register, contact leader Jeanne Thomson at jeannethomson@gmail.com (preferred) or (914) 409-3405.

Saturday, November 8 - **Irvington Woods.** 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader as we hike in Irvington Woods, one of the largest forested areas in southern Westchester. There is even a Hermit buried there! We will hike on a few of the trails, which range from packed dirt to rocky climbs and descents. Bring poles if you have them. There can be pooling of water and of course there will be leaves. Rain cancels. Leader: Janis Biermann, biermannjanis@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 54).*

Sunday, November 9 - **TWO HIKE TODAY:**

Sunday, November 9 - **Hudson Highlands Gateway Park, Cortlandt Manor, NY.** 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This hike has several ups and downs and varied terrain, which we will do at a slow and leisurely pace. Bring lunch. Directions: take the Bear Mountain Parkway north to Highland Avenue to Sprout Brook Road (street sign may be down - turn at the Gulf Station); the parking lot is on the right designated by a sign for the Gateway Park. To register, email Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 31).*

Sunday, November 9 - **Kingsland Point Park to Pierson Park and Back.** 2.4 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We will walk from Kingsland Point Park in Sleepy Hollow to Pierson Park in Tarrytown and then return the way we came, taking in stunning river vistas while socializing on walkway benches. Bring lunch and water; meet in the parking lot at Kingsland Point Park (parking fee required). To register and for meeting time contact Nancy Vincent at nevincent09@gmail.com. Inclement weather cancels. Maximum 10 people including the leader.

Saturday, November 15 - **TWO HIKE TODAY:**

Saturday, November 15 - **The Rock Trail at Ward Pound Ridge, Cross River, NY.** 7 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This loop trail features rocky formations and several steep climbs. We will take the Green Trail to the Rock Trail (RT) and visit Dancing Rocks, Bear Rock Petroglyph, Sky Rock, walk the Rock Steps, then on to Castle Rock and Raven Rock. On the return trip along the red trail, we will cut through a former CCC camp and look at its remnants. Bring lunch and plenty of water. To register, contact Emily Mines at emily_susan@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Saturday, November 15 - **Old Mine Road and Three Lakes Loop, Fahnestock State Park.** 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. This loop covers the entire length of the Old Mine RR Trail, the bed of a narrow gauge railroad which served to haul iron ore from several of the mines in the surrounding area during the Civil War Era. You will not only travel along these beds, but also see other mining-related items such as a small vertical mine shaft just off the trail, as well as mine dumps. The part of the loop that traverses the old mine bed is quite flat, but other sections have moderate ups and downs. Leader: Kathy Skura, kathyskura@gmail.com or (914) 629-3219

Sunday, November 16 - **TWO HIKE TODAY:**

Sunday, November 16 - **Lake Skannatati.** 6 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. Enjoy a wonderful day climbing the hills of Harriman Park where beautiful views abound. Our

pace will be about 1.6 mph. We will take the Long Path, Dunning, RD, Lichen, RD, and ASB. Dress appropriately for the weather. Directions: Take Seven Hills Drive in Harriman park to Lake Skannatati and drive down into the parking lot. Leader: Judy Kossover, woodtuxduo@aol.com.

Sunday, November 16 - **Eastern Side of Rockefeller State Park**. 4-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. The trails on the eastern side of Rockefeller have a few more hills than those on the west where we usually hike, and we will explore them at a relaxed, easy pace. Meet the leader at 9.45 AM in the Rockefeller parking lot on Route 117 in Mt Pleasant between Routes 9 A and 448. If you are heading West on Route 117 the lot is on the left, just past a smaller parking area for the North County Trailway. For Google maps, use 1000 Bedford Road, Pleasantville NY. Inclement weather may cancel. Leader: Sue Soni, surekhasoni1968@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

Saturday, November 22 - **TWO HIKEs TODAY:**

Saturday, November 22 - **Hyde Park Trails**. 10-12 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Hike five trails and earn a Hyde Park Trails Walkabout patch! This year's patch is Historic Steel Truss Bridges. The hike will require a short car shuttle (masks required). We will start with two trails at Eleanor Roosevelt's Val Kill and continue on trails to the FDR estate. From there we will walk along the Hudson River to Vanderbilt Mansion. Please register with the leader, Janice Miller at madjan11@yahoo.com the week before the hike.

Saturday, November 22 - **Westmoreland Sanctuary**. 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. We'll do the Grand Tour, a double loop that reaches the outer boundaries of this meticulously tended preserve, and we may add the (relatively) new Raptor Ridge Trail to the second half of the hike. With moderate ups and downs, the sanctuary features forests, ponds and striking rock outcroppings. Bring lunch and water; hiking poles are recommended. To register, email the leader Brent Laymon at belaymon@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 65).*

Sunday, November 23 - **TWO HIKEs TODAY:**

Sunday, November 23 - **Harriman State Park Victory Hike**. 5 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader for a hike that includes three different trails with a variety of terrain and two ascents with beautiful views. Bring lunch, water, snacks and a thermos of warm liquid if the weather is cold enough. Contact the leader, Elspeth Kramer at (347) 262-4802 or email elspethjkramer@gmail.com to register and for meeting information.

Sunday, November 23 - **Haverstraw Beach to Nyack Beach**. 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. Meeting at Nyack Beach State Park, we will car shuttle to Haverstraw (masks required for the shuttle), and walk south on the path along the Hudson River. On our way, we pass Treason Rock, where Benedict Arnold betrayed West Point, and vestiges of the ice industry for which Rockland Lake was famous. Leader: Debbie Bell, deb2@columbia.edu.

Saturday, November 29 - **TWO HIKEs TODAY:**

Saturday, November 29 - **Agony Grind and Indian Hill**. 7 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. Enjoy multiple views and plenty of rock scrambling on this hike in rarely visited portions of Harriman Park and Sterling Forest. We'll ascend to the ridge on Agony Grind, do a loop around Indian Hill, and then return to Agony Grind for our descent. Leader: Kevin McGahren, kmcgc@optonline.net.

Saturday, November 29 - **Old Croton Aqueduct, Part 8: Fordham Road to West 125th Street**. 4.7 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. This hike, combining parks and street walking, begins on Fordham Road at the Aqueduct Promenade in the Bronx. We then go across the High

Bridge where the recently reopened scenic bridge carried the aqueduct across the Harlem River, and end at West 125th Street and Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan. For more information about the OCA, see <https://aqueduct.org/>. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, (914) 420-5778.

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

Sunday, November 30 - **Tri-Trail Corner to Bald Rocks in Harriman.** 8.63 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This loop hike, with about 2000' of elevation gain, goes south on the White Bar, right on Ramapo-Dunderberg, left on Victory, left on the White Bar, right on R-D, left on the Dunning, and left on the White Bar back to the parking lot. Points of Interest: Car Pond and Black Ash Mountains; Tri-Trail Corner; Black Ash Swamp; Parker Cabin Mountain; Tom Jones Shelter; Tom Jones Mountain and Black Rock Mountain. The route is shown on 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. To register and for questions, please text the leader, Anastasia Tavaréz, at (646) 207-4136 or email atavare@gmail.com (text preferred).

Sunday, November 30 - **North County Trailway.** 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. We will meet at the North County Trail parking lot (14088 Station Rd, Millwood, NY) and proceed north, passing over the Croton Reservoir before turning around and returning to our cars. The bridge over the reservoir provides nice views to the east and west. If the lot is full, there is additional parking across the street in the shopping center. For meeting time and other information, please register with the leader, Josh Knight, at oldunclejosh@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 6 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, December 6 - **Hubbard Lodge/Round Hill Loop.** 7 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This circular hike begins at Hubbard Lodge in Fahnestock State Park, follows the Schoolhouse Trail and goes across the bridge to the blue Fahnestock Trail. We will then climb on a steep grade to the Perkins Trail, continue to the East Mountain Loop, then back again on the Schoolhouse Trail. Bring lunch and plenty of water. If winter comes early, you might need microspikes. To register, contact Emily Mines at emily_susan@yahoo.com.

Saturday, December 6 - **Hike the NCIT. Section 8: Redding Land Trust Trails.** 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This hike is truly a "walk in the woods". We'll begin on some of the less-used paths in Redding's Land Trust system, exploring the Turkington, Reeve Biggers and Dan Beard trails located to the east of Route 53. Then we'll cross the road, wander through the Saugatuck Falls Natural Area, and continue to our prime lunch spot - the impressive Falls Hole, a huge woodland pool in the Saugatuck River with an overhanging cliff on one side and hemlock woods on the other. Afterwards we'll explore more of the sanctuary's trails before returning to our cars. Short shuttle involved (masks required). Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

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

Sunday, December 7 - **Doris Duke Sanctuary.** 6 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. This lovely hike in Sterling Forest will encompass many hills and views, which we will do at a pace of about 1.6 mph. The trails will be mostly uphill all morning, on the Doris Duke, Highlands Trail, Allis, and AT. Lunch will be at Mombasha High Point. After lunch we retrace our way on the AT and the Allis and then take the other side of the Doris Duke Trail. Dress appropriately for the weather. Directions: Take Route 17 to Route 17A. Go west on 17A, pass the Renaissance Festival area and then make a right on Benjamin Meadow Road and a quick left into the Doris Duke parking lot. Leader: Judy Kossover, woodtuxduo@aol.com.

Sunday, December 7 - **Rockwood Hall Plus**. 6 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. This hike combines loops in both Rockwood Hall and Rockefeller Preserve, with links on the Old Croton Aqueduct. Leader: Debbie Bell, deb2@columbia.edu. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 38 and 59).*

Saturday, December 13 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, December 13 - **Fishkill Ridge**. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This is a lollipop hike with about 2,000 feet of elevation gain that goes over Lambs Hill to Fishkill Ridge in the Hudson Highlands. We will take the Overlook Trail from Sunnyside Road. Along the way there are many beautiful views in all directions. To register contact leader Janice Miller at madjan11@yahoo.com the week before the hike.

Saturday, December 13 - **Saxon Woods**. 3 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We will do the North Loop via the white trail in this County-owned park on the White Plains-Mamaroneck border. Bring a snack and water. Meet the leader at the trailhead (1800 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY), located behind the yellow school busses. Rain will cancel the hike. To register and for meeting time and other information contact the leader, Hatice Gursoy, at gursoyhc@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 60).*

Sunday, December 14 - **WTA HOLIDAY PARTY.**

Saturday, December 20 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, December 20 - **Black Rock Forest Circular**. 9-10 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Starting from the parking area on Reservoir Road, we will take the Stillman Trail up Whitehorse Mountain to viewpoints at Mount Misery, the Hill of Pines, and Rattlesnake Hill. Continuing on the white trail, we'll head over to Eagle Cliff for another viewpoint and back to Continental Road where we'll connect to the yellow trail for yet another viewpoint at Black Rock. Heading down from Black Rock, we'll take the Black Rock Hollow trail to Honey Hill and head back to the parking area on the blue and red trails. The route of this hike will change if there is snow and ice on the trails. Please note that there is a \$5 per car parking fee, and that due to group size limitations at Black Rock this hike is limited to 12 people. Contact the leader, Alice Benash, at ajrb3@verizon.net to register and for information.

Saturday, December 20 - **Walkway Over the Hudson and Franny Reese Park**. 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. This hike combines the official "Walkway Over the Hudson" loop with a circular hike in Franny Reese State Park. The Walkway is paved, while the trails in the Park are fairly hilly. We will start from the Poughkeepsie side of the Walkway on the world's longest elevated pedestrian bridge, head into the Park and hike on trails that follow an historic carriage road past the ruins of a 19th century estate, and return to Poughkeepsie on the Mid-Hudson bridge. Our reward will be stunning views of the Catskills and Hudson River Valley and a chance to listen to some unusual "bridge music". We will meet in the parking lot at Pulaski Park, 162 Washington Street, Poughkeepsie, and head to the Walkway from there. To register and for meeting time and other information contact the leader, Chris Powers, at cpowers13@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 21 - **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. Bring layers in the event it is cold as well as water, snack and lunch. Leader: Lisa Weismiller, lisaweismiller@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 34).*

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

Saturday, December 27 - **Mount Nimham, Adams and Horse Pound Brook Units, Kent, NY.** 8.5 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. This hike, with 1400' of elevation gain, takes place entirely on unmarked trails and woods roads on State and NYC watershed land. The rewards are historical treats from stone chambers to farm ruins and a peaceful, no-crowds day in the woods. Inclement weather may cancel or change the route. This hike is limited to 12 people. To register, contact Lauren Linkowski at llinkowski@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 27 - **Empire State Trail.** 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. We will take the Empire State Trail (a/k/a the North County Trail) north past Stuart's Farm, and then return to our starting point. Parking is available in the lot to the NE of the Yorktown Town Hall (363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, NY). For meeting time and other information, please register with the leader, Josh Knight, at oldunclejosh@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 28 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, December 28 - **Hook Mountain.** 6 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Ups and down on a ridge with sweeping views, and a rocky descent on the Upper Nyack Trail. If wintry conditions prevail, traction devices will be essential. Easy return on the Shore Path, and then a climb back up to the cars at the end. Hikers must be vaccinated against Covid-19. Contact leader to register: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 28 - **Hilltop Hanover Trails, Yorktown Heights.** 3-4 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We'll hike through the woods, passing a vernal pond and rock cliffs, and make two very gentle hilltop ascents. Meet in the trailhead parking area on Hanover Street, opposite Hilltop Hanover Farm. Directions: 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, then turn left onto Route 118. Take the first right onto Hanover Street and proceed 1.4 miles to the trailhead parking area on the right, on the opposite side of the road from Hilltop Hanover Farm. Bring water and a snack. To register and for meeting time and other information, contact Sheila Sarkar at shechris7@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 6).*