



WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

SUMMER HIKING SCHEDULE JULY, AUGUST and SEPTEMBER, 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 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, July 5 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, July 5 - Harriman State Park. 10 miles, moderate terrain, moderate to brisk pace. Starting from Lake Sebago, we will beat the heat and July 4th crowds with a hike of about 1100 feet of elevation, almost entirely on unblazed but easy to follow woods roads. What this hike lacks in views it makes up for in shade, peace, and history. 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, July 5 - Westmoreland Sanctuary. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. We'll do a loop, starting with a steady climb on the yellow trail. Then we continue to the Lost Pond, where we'll pause to contemplate its lovely spillway before heading back on different trails, all at a pace aiming for around 2 mph. Bring water and a snack; hiking poles recommended. To register, email the leader Brent Laymon at belaymon@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 65).*

Sunday, July 6 - Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. 5.6 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. This is a pleasant "walk in the woods" on gentle terrain on the Reservation's red ski trails. We will have a lunch break so bring lunch or a snack and plenty of water. To register and for meeting time and place, contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Saturday, July 12 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, July 12 - Bull Hill Long Loop. 6 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This hike, which starts from the Bull Hill parking area, has 2200 feet of elevation gain. We begin with a long ascent with beautiful views along the way to the summit of Bull Hill, where more views of the Manhattan Skyline await on a clear day. We will then head back down gradually, and make a stop at the abandoned Cornish Estate to explore the ruins. An optional short, easy hike around Little Stony Point Park across the street will be offered upon our return to the parking area. Contact the leader, Alice Benash, at ajrb3@verizon.net to register and for information.

Saturday, July 12 - Muscoot Farm. 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We will explore this popular county park. After the hike, there will be time to visit the animals and add an optional visit to King Kone for ice cream. To register, contact the leader Debbie Bell at deb2@columbia.edu. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 58).*

Sunday, July 13 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, July 13 - Shady Side of the Hook. 6 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. We will walk north on the Long Path, which features Hudson River views filtered by foliage and ample shade. The ridge provides many ups and downs and a steep and rocky descent down the Treason Trail. We will walk along the lower path, which is shared with bicycles on level and easy terrain, and then climb back up to the cars at the end of the hike. Vaccination against Covid-19 is required on this hike. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Sunday, July 13 - Leon Levy Preserve. 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. The 370 acre Leon Levy Preserve features wetlands rich in wildlife, a ravine with 75 foot cliffs and a diverse hardwood forest. In 2005 the Town of Lewisboro purchased this former Bell property. Late 19th and early 20th-century ruins, as well as rare Purple Milkweed and Blue Cohosh plants, can be found here. The main entrance is on Route 123, just south of the intersection with Route 35. A white sign marks the entrance at 2-50 Smith Ridge Road, South Salem, NY. Leader: Gail Blumenfeld, gailrb@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 35).*

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

Saturday, July 19 - **Black Rock Forest Hike and Swim.** 5-7 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We will head over to Sutherland Pond for a dip, but before that we'll enjoy great views, "Jupiter's Boulder," and a waterfall. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, (914) 420-5778.

Saturday, July 19 - **Oscawana Island Park.** 3-4 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We'll start in the upland section of the park, hiking alongside Furnace Brook and exploring the remnants of the McAndrews Estate, including the former race track, and then cross the road to the Riverview Trail and have lunch by the Hudson River. There are some ups and downs, but nothing difficult. Meet in the parking area across from the trailhead at 123 Cortlandt St., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. Contact leader for meeting time and to register. Leader: Sheila Sarkar, shechris7@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 13).*

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

Sunday, July 20 - **Fitzgerald Falls to the Bellvale Creamery.** 4-5 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Celebrate National Ice Cream Day on this linear route along the Appalachian Trail in Orange County, NY. We'll begin with a visit Fitzgerald Falls, then reverse direction and ascend Bellvale Mountain to a broad ridge. Heading south, we'll have a choice of routes at various points along the trail: those who wish can tackle the challenging and fun rock scrambles up and down Cat Rocks and the Eastern Pinnacles, and those who would rather stay on (relatively) level ground can bypass these features. Either way, we'll be rewarded at the end of the hike with a great view and some of the best ice cream in the area. Short shuttle involved (masks required). Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sunday, July 20 - **Cranberry Lake Preserve.** 4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. Hike on shady wooded trails this County owned preserve. We will meet at the Nature Center, 1609 Old Orchard Street, North White Plains, NY. If you need information about the preserve, their number is (914) 428-1005. To register, contact the leader Surekha Soni at surekhasoni1968@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 51).*

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

Saturday, July 26 - **Storm King Mountain.** 8-9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, brisk pace. Starting from Route 218 we will utilize various trails providing lots of ups and downs along with several sweeping views. For more information or to register contact Bob Fiscina at fis6973@tutamail.com the week of the hike. Rain cancels. No beginners please.

Saturday, July 26 - **Blue Mountain Reservation in Peekskill.** 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. This park has granite boulders, glacial erratics, rock outcroppings, creeks, bridges, fallen trees, ferns and mosses, making it a great place to hike. There will be ups, downs and some level trails. We will hike to a scenic view from Mt. Spitzenberg, and see the Hudson River and surrounding landscape. Vaccination against Covid-19 is required on this hike. Ice cream is an option afterwards. To register or for questions, please contact the leader Linda Wildman at lindawildman88@gmail.com or text (914) 316-5674. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 48).*

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

Sunday, July 27 - **Schunemunk Circular.** 8-9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. Starting from the Otterkill Road parking area, we will hike on multiple trails on both

ridges, visit the Megaliths, enjoy almost unlimited views in all directions, and possibly find some blueberries along the way. To register and for questions, contact the leader, Kevin McGahren, at KMcGC@optonline.net.

Sunday, July 27 - Teatown Lake Reservation. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Come out on this lovely summer day and enjoy a hike at Teatown. This hike combines several trails and includes a stop at a scenic waterfall. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. Please note that the hike is limited to 8 people, and that there is a \$7 per car parking fee at Teatown. Register with the leader, Elspeth Kramer, by Friday July 25, at (347) 262-4802 or email elspethkramer@gmail.com. Rain cancels. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

Saturday, August 2 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, August 2 - White Bar Circular. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. This hike, with about 2,500 feet of elevation gain, uses multiple trails within Harriman State Park to form a loop that starts and ends at the White Bar Trailhead. We will first head south on the (W) White Bar Trail over Car Pond Mountain. At the (Y) Triangle trail we turn west and then south along the Deep Hollow Brook through Black Ash Mountain. When we reach the (R) Ramapo Dunderberg Trail we head northeast to Parker Cabin Mountain. Then at the (Y) Triangle Trail we head west, and pick up the (W) White Bar Trail back to the cars. Use Trail Conference Harriman-Bear Mt Southern Map #118 or the digital map of your choice. Meet at the White Bar Trailhead Parking, 1369 (very approx.) Kanawauke Road, Southfields, NY 10975; GPS: 41.23495, -74.14896. For starting time or other information, register with the leader Bill Medeot at billwp218@gmail.com or (914) 844-7038.

Saturday, August 2 - Pocantico Lake and Rockefeller Trails. 4-5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We'll first hike alongside Pocantico Lake up to the northern end; and after returning the same way we'll follow the stream back to the road and then cross over to hike the 13 Bridges Trail and the Pocantico River Trail in Rockefeller State Park. Most of the hike will be on shady trails. To register, contact the leader, Sheila Sarkar, at shechris7@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

Sunday, August 3 - Mountain Lakes Park. 6-7 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. Spend the day in Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park in North Salem. The length of the hike depends on the heat, but the plan is to do a large loop using most trails in the park, to include Bailey Mountain, Lookout Point, the area around the radio tower, and some lakes. Rain cancels. To register, contact the leader, Mike Kaplan, at kaplanm2001@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 57).*

Saturday, August 9 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, August 9 - Fahnestock State Park. 10-11 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This loop hike has about 1800' of elevation gain, and takes us on the Clove Creek Trail along a stream and small waterfall to the Perkins Access Trail. From there, we'll take the Round Hill Bypass (with a quick detour to a viewpoint on Round Hill) to School House Road, and then the Wiccopee Trail back to our cars. Meet at the Trout Brook Trailhead, 38-20 Trout Brook Road, Cold Spring, NY. Contact the leader, Alice Benash, at ajrb3@verizon.net to register and for meeting time and information.

Saturday, August 9 - Bear Mountain Bridge to Bear Mountain Park. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. Join the the leader on this hike from Route 9D across the Bear Mountain Bridge into Bear Mountain Park. We will either walk through or around the Zoo, down to the river, and then around Hessian Lake. On our way back to the bridge we'll detour and

descend on a rocky path to Fort Montgomery. Returning, we will cross the bridge back to our cars. We will have regroupings so that we proceed together. Trail surface varies: paved, unpaved but smooth, somewhat steep in sections and rocky. Bring a lunch/snack and a liter of water. Leader: Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com or (845) 297-7066, email registration preferred, with HIKE in the subject line.

Sunday August 10 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday August 10 - **Three Lakes/AT Loop in Fahnestock State Park.** 6.5 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. Enjoy a circular hike through the woods of Fahnestock State Park with some ups and downs on the Appalachian and Three Lakes Trails. Contact leader to register: Minu Chaudhuri (914) 391-5918 or minuch50@gmail.com.

Sunday, August 10 - **Morning Hike: New Rochelle to Mamaroneck, Hot Dogs and Ice Cream, Oh, My!** 4-5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. Let's get a (relatively) early start to beat the heat on this midsummer day. We begin on the Leatherstocking Trail in New Rochelle, a narrow strip of land originally slated to become part of a highway going from Port Chester to the Bronx. We'll detour from our route to wind our way around some of the paths near the Larchmont Reservoir, then continue to the Sheldrake River Conservation Area to check out its streamside trails. From there we'll head downhill on local streets to the iconic Walter's Hot Dog Stand, on the National Register of Historic Places and a fixture in its present Mamaroneck location since 1928. Feel free to bring a sandwich if you don't want one of their award-winning hot dogs, but save room for dessert - both their ice cream and Italian ices are homemade. The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy as you wish. Short shuttle involved (masks required). Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 99a).*

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

Saturday, August 16 - **Southern Harriman Circular.** 8-9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate to brisk pace. This hike uses the Triangle and Tuxedo-Mount Ivy trails to form a large loop that affords several panoramic views while passing two lakes as well as the hideout of the infamous bandit, Claudius Smith. To register and for questions, contact the leader, Kevin McGahren, at KMcGC@optonline.net.

Saturday, August 16 - **Old Croton Aqueduct, Part 6: Odell Avenue in Yonkers to the Bronx Line.** 6.1 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We'll pass the carved lion and hornless unicorn at the Untermyer Park gates, more urban areas of Yonkers, and walk through Tibbetts Brook Park to end at the Bronx/Westchester border. Short shuttle involved (masks required). For more information about the OCA, see: <https://aqueduct.org/>. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman, carohof2@gmail.com, (914) 420-5778. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 41 and part of No. 75).*

Sunday, August 17 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, August 17 - **Taurus Mountain (Bull Hill) from Nelsonville, NY.** 5-6 miles, moderate+ terrain, moderate pace. This hike has approximately 1300 feet of elevation gain, and the footing may be difficult in the latter stage of the hike. That is, we will do a counterclockwise loop to enjoy the views but the trails will involve some steep descents. A post-hike ice cream stop is planned. To register contact leader Jane Restani at irabjanea@aol.com between Monday and Friday at 5 PM the week of the hike.

Sunday, August 17 - **Hilltop Hanover Trails, Yorktown Heights NY**. 3 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This is a short hike through shady woods, passing a vernal pond and rock cliffs, and ascending to a leafy hilltop. Meet in the trailhead parking area on Hanover street, opposite Hilltop Hanover Farm (for navigation, use 1260 Hanover Street , Yorktown Heights, NY). Bring water and a snack. Please register with the leader not later than Saturday, August 16 before 5 PM. Leader: Barry Leibowitz, barry.leibowitz@gmail.com or (914) 774-5321. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 6).*

Saturday, August 23 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Saturday, August 23 - **Hook Mountain Loop**. 6.8 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This hike, with an elevation gain of 1100', starts around the north side of Rockland Lake via Rockland Lake Road to Landing Road to catch the Long Path going north. We hike the Long Path to the Treason Trail (W) and go down the Bike Path along the Hudson River. We then take the Trail going back up to Landing Road and the parking lot. Severe inclement weather cancels. Use TC Hudson Palisades Trails Map 111. Meet at Rockland Lake State Park (parking lot #2), 271 Rockland Lake Rd, Valley Cottage, NY. Poles recommended. Leader: Anastasia Tavaréz. Register by texting Anastasia at (646) 207-4136 or emailing to atavare@gmail.com with your first and last name as well as the name and number of your emergency contact.

Saturday, August 23 - **Sleepy Hollow River Walk, and More**. 3-4 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We will meet in Sleepy Hollow (parking fee required) and walk the path to Kingsland Point Park. Along the way we will see the lighthouse, the colorful mural and maybe an eagle. On the return we will leave the path and walk up the hill to check out the new DeCiccos Sleepy Hollow supermarket which has a Legend of Sleepy Hollow theme. If you have not seen the store you will say "OMG." It's awesome. You can bring lunch or buy something in the store from the huge buffet or prepared salads and sandwiches. There is plenty of indoor and outdoor seating on the upper level with views. Afterwards we walk the neighborhood and see all the development on which was once a General Motors automobile factory. For meeting time and place contact Cynthia Moro at Cynlyn24@gmail.com

Sunday, August 24 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, August 24 - **Catfish Loop via the Appalachian Trail**. 5 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. Join the leader on this wonderful hike in Fahnestock State Park. It has something for everyone - varied terrain, stream crossings, a little rock scrambling, and beautiful woods, which we will do at a steady, comfortable pace of about 2 mph. Bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch. Please register with the leader, Elspeth Kramer, by Friday August 22, at (347) 262-4802 or email elspethjkramer@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sunday, August 24 - **Manitou Point Preserve**. 3-4 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 are needed 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 to register. Extreme heat cancels.

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

Saturday, August 30 - **Hudson Highlands.** 8-9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, brisk pace. Using the Washburn and Undercliff trails we will ascend from Route 9D and explore the Bull Hill area of the Hudson Highlands. Plenty of ups and downs rewarded by good views from the summit and along the ridge. For more information or to register contact Bob Fiscina fis6973@tutamail.com the week of the hike. Rain cancels. No beginners please.

Saturday, August 30 - **Teatown Lake Reservation.** 3-4 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We will do a circular hike at Teatown Lake Reservation, passing two lakes and climbing a few moderate hills. 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. Leader: Gail Blumenfeld, gailrb@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 62).*

Sunday, August 31 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, August 31 - **Nimham Mountain Circular.** 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. This 1054-acre multiple use area in Putnam county is named in honor of Chief Daniel Nimham, a leader of the Wappinger people and an American Revolutionary War combat veteran. The route has several moderate climbs interspersed with easier stretches on an extensive trail network open to hikers and mountain bikers, and we will take our time enjoying the varied paths, reaching the summit in time for lunch and a chance to enjoy 360-degree views from its fire tower. Our return will be through mountain laurel and past long-abandoned (and since remediated) arsenic mines. Optional ice cream stop at Scoops N' More on the way home. Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sunday, August 31 - **Croton Reservoir South.** 5.8 miles, easy terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. Out and back along the Croton Reservoir starting from the north side of the Gatehouse Bridge in Yorktown Heights (41.235N 73.800W). We pass over the old Croton reservoir dam (submerged, not visible), and under two bridges that carry the Taconic State Parkway over the reservoir before turning around about 0.5mi east of the new Croton Reservoir dam. This is a gravel road (some vehicle traffic is possible) that is well shaded by trees for most of the hike. About 1.5 miles of the route is also part of the Teatown Kitchawan Trail. For meeting time and other information, please register with the leader, Josh Knight, at oldunclejosh@gmail.com.

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

Saturday, September 6 - **Mianus River Gorge, Bedford, NY.** 6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We will do a loop around this Nature Conservancy property through shaded woods. Our route out will be on the green and red trails to Havermeyer Falls, which hopefully will be flowing. Then we return on the newly-blazed yellow trail past a pond and through former farmland on the blue trail. Bring lunch and plenty of water. To register, contact Carol Harting at c.harting@verizon.net. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 56).*

Saturday, September 6 - **PepsiCo Gardens.** 2-3 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. Join the leader on an afternoon walk through PepsiCo Sculpture Gardens in Purchase NY. We will see sculptures by Rodin, Alexander Calder and George Segal along with a lily pond, totem poles from the northwest and much more. The grounds are quite exquisite. No cans or bottles of Coca Cola permitted on this hike. Contact Cynthia Moro at cynlyn24@gmail.com to register. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No.97a).*

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

Sunday, September 7 - **Pond Mountain Natural Area, Kent, CT.** 8 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. Starting from Fuller Mountain Road, we will use the trails at Pond Mountain, the Appalachian Trail and the quiet Skiff Mountain Road on a hike with 1800 feet of elevation gain, all 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.

Sunday, September 7 - **Rockefeller Preserve.** 5 miles, easy terrain, leisurely pace. We will explore trails on the western edge of Rockefeller, south of Route 117 and north of Route 448. To register, contact the leader Debbie Bell at deb2@columbia.edu. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59)*

Saturday, September 13 - **Westmoreland Sanctuary.** 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain, moderate pace. We'll do a double loop that reaches the outer boundaries of this meticulously tended preserve. Features include a forest, nature garden, lake, moderate slopes, nature benches and 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, September 14 - **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 within Franny Reese State Park. The Walkway loop 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 360 degree 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 information contact the leader, Chris Powers, at cpowers13@gmail.com.

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

Saturday, September 20 - **Outdoor Discovery Center into Black Rock Forest.** 6 miles, moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. Starting from the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum/Outdoor Discovery Center, we ascend into Black Rock Forest. The trails are easy at first, but we soon encounter a significant climb. We will do a circular hike within the Forest, and then descend. Expect about 1200 ft. of total elevation gain, which will be done at a compassionate pace with regroupings as needed. Leader: Steve Klepner, spk010@yahoo.com or (845) 297-7066, Email registration preferred, with HIKE in the subject line.

Saturday, September 20 - **Arnold, Arden and Glenclyffe.** 4-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely to moderate pace. Oodles of views and history on this trek encompassing parts of Benedict Arnold's flight, a mid-1800's estate once home to NY Governor Hamilton Fish, a former Capuchin friary, and the ancestral lands of the Wappinger indigenous nation. Leader: Debbie Farrell, debfarpr@gmail.com. Phone only on the morning of the hike: (914) 282-9942.

Sunday, September 21 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, September 21 - **Stahahe High Point and Island Pond.** 6.5 miles, moderate+ terrain, moderate pace. Leaving from the Elk Pen, we will take various trails, including the Nurian, up through

the Valley of the Boulders and the Dunning with some challenging, rocky terrain and beautiful views. We will follow unmarked trails to climb to Stahahe High Point with more great views and then visit the southern point of Island Pond. Climb up and over Green Pond Mountain on the ASB to return to the Elk Pen. Vaccination against Covid-19 is required on this hike. Leader: Catharine Raffaele, catharineraffaele@gmail.com.

Sunday, September 21 - Kitchawan Preserve. 3-5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We will explore various trails in this County owned preserve. Bring lunch and water. Meet the leader at 10 A.M. at the preserve parking lot, 712 Kitchawan Road, Ossining, NY 10562, located off Route 134 between the Taconic Parkway and Route 100. Rain cancels. Leader: Sue Soni, surekhasoni1968@gmail.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 33).*

Saturday, September 27 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, September 27 - Minnewaska State Park. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous terrain, moderate pace. This hike will start from Minnewaska's main lower lot. We'll hike on the Mossy Glen trail alongside Peter's Kill, then make our way up to Rainbow Falls, where we'll stop for lunch. An ascent after lunch will take us to views from Castle Point, and from there we'll take the Blueberry Trail and the Mossy Glen trail or the Awosting Carriage road, back to our cars. Contact the leader, Alice Benash, at ajrb3@verizon.net to register and for information.

Saturday, September 27 - Hike the NCIT. Section 7: Redding Land Trust Trails. 5-6 miles, easy to moderate terrain. The first half of this hike on the NCIT (the Nearby Connecticut Imaginary Trail) has a few steep sections, while the second half is easier. We'll briefly revisit the Saugatuck Trail in order to access the white blazed paths of the Redding Land Trust system, ascending on consecutive ridges along the perimeter of the Mary Anne Guitar Preserve. After reaching a local road we head down to the Stormfield Natural Area, where Samuel Clemens a/k/a Mark Twain lived during the last years of his life. These trails go through pretty woods on routes with names from the author's "Extract From Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven", like Halley's Comet (which the Captain passed on his way to the Hereafter), Sandy's Trail (he was a bald-headed angel from New Jersey) and the Harp Trail (no explanation needed). From there we'll use a short side path and continue to the Saugatuck Falls Natural Area to check out a few trails in the southern part of that preserve before ending today's hike. Fear not - we will fully explore this area on our next NCIT outing. Short shuttle involved (masks required). Leader: Eileen West, eileenw1000@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sunday, September 28 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Sunday, September 28 - Macedonia Brook State Park, Kent CT. 7 miles, moderate terrain, moderate pace. This park has great views from its summits and as the name indicates a lovely brook. There are also remains of CCC work. Among others we will traverse the Cobble Hill Trail and parts of the Ridge Trail, skipping the difficult ascent of Cobble Hill from the north. The leader estimates that there will be about 1500' of elevation gain. Carpooling is possible but if you want to explore the quaint town of Kent or Kent Falls after the hike that is a possibility. Register with leader Jane Restani at irabjanea@aol.com between Monday and 5 PM Friday the week of the hike.

Sunday, September 28 - Butler Memorial Sanctuary. 5 miles, easy to moderate terrain, leisurely pace. We'll follow the perimeter of the sanctuary in a clockwise direction, on the red and orange trails. Some adjustments may be made to the route if the ground is very muddy, but the alternative trails are also very scenic. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the sanctuary, at 265 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Contact leader for meeting time and to register. Leader: Sheila Sarkar, shechris7@yahoo.com. *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 49).*