

The Catskill Canister

The Catskill 3500 Club — Steward of the Catskills



April — June 2016

www.catskill-3500-club.org

Volume 49 Number 2

Trail Mix:

News & Notes From The Club

Wilderness First Aid

The Catskill 3500 Club will be running its usual Wilderness First Aid Course (SOLO Certified) this spring on Saturday and Sunday, April 23rd and 24th at the Catskill Center in Arkville. This is a valuable course for both hike leaders and regular hikers and we are lucky that John Kascenska can instruct again. You can see his considerable experience at:

<http://www.kamountainguides.com/about.html>

More information on what the class involves is at:

<http://soloschools.com/wilderness-first-aid-wfa/>

We will give first priority to current and potential hike leaders and then any extra room will be opened up to club members or aspirants. For those considering leading for the club, we are offering an incentive: 75% of the class costs will be refundable after you have been approved for leading and have led 4 hikes in 2 years.

Please contact Maria Bedo (maria1bedo@gmail.com) or Heather Rolland (haliagrace@hotmail.com) for further information or to register.

Summit Steward Program

Some of you may have noticed the summit stewards on Slide this past season. This was made possible by a partnership between the NYNJTC, the NYSDEC, and the 3500 Club.

For the past several years, we have seen an increasing number of hikers using the Catskill High Peaks. It appeared many of the new hikers were unfamiliar with how to hike safe and lacking what good wilderness ethics were, such as LNT. Many hikers were having problems and an increasing number of the summits were experiencing some sort of degradation.

The Burroughs Range, with Slide being a popular destination point for many of these new hikers, seemed

Continued on page 3...

Views from the Top

The President's Column

As I sat looking out the window and watching the heavy rain wash away the three inches of snow we finally had gotten, it brought to mind how this changing weather can and has affected our mountains.

Glancing through back editions of the Canister I came across a perfect example. The 1969 winter edition recounts the formation of the slide on the northeast flank of Friday Mountain. The article was written by Rev. Ray L. Donahue.

It had been raining for nearly a week and on May 29, 1968 the record reading for the day was 4.88" in West Shokan. At 11am Nelson Shultis, owner of Wittenberg Lumber, was just finishing loading logs in Moonhaw Hollow. He and the truck driver were wet, muddy, and unhappy and only thinking of dry cloths and a hot cup coffee when the water in the stream turned into chocolate pudding rushing past them. He knew instantly what happened.

The ridge rising out of Moonhaw is a giant semicircle made up of four of our major peaks: Balsam Cap, Friday, Cornell and Wittenberg. The terrain is extremely rugged and steep, the perfect stage for the formation of a slide. As the storm passed and clouds cleared "a 2,300' scar with a vertical rise of 1,000' was unveiled." Mr. Shultis and his crew were the first to investigate the slide track.

For those of you who enjoy exploring new avenues and are not concerned with exposure, checking out that slide may be for you. It definitely is challenging and will be even more so during our present weather conditions, which seem to change daily.

Before going out make sure you are prepared for the worst. The conditions this winter are definitely difficult. At lower elevations the ground may be bare but don't let that fool you into thinking you can leave your traction

Continued on page 3...

The Catskill Canister

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Nominal dates for receiving the Canister are:
Mar 15, Jun 15, Sep 15, and Dec 15.

Conservation Corner

*A Note from our Conservation Chair,
Carol White*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

On May 14 at 1:00 PM at the Catskill Interpretive Center on Route 28, Mt. Tremper, Mark Whitmore will discuss invasive species that kill hemlock and ash trees—the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the Emerald Ash Borer. Jennifer Dean of the DEC will train in the use of [iMapInvasives](#), a program for reporting invasive species to the state database and how to use advanced mapping features.

These two insects are controlled biologically—a long-term, sustainable solution to invasive species. Tiny stingless wasps lay their eggs in the borer's larvae, killing the insect, and only that insect is targeted. Small beetles are predators of the adelgid. The Environmental Protection Fund, which supports this vital work, is securing more funding.



The iMapInvasives App

At the CIC on May 21 at 1:00 PM, Dan Snider of the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership will offer a workshop and field training dealing with identification and reporting these two insects. The 3500 Club can be very helpful in this important cause, being in the woods often and in many locations.

Before this meeting on May 21, join training on how to control/eradicate Hemlock Woolly Adelgid from 10:00 AM to noon at the Mountain Top Arboretum on County Route 23C north from Tannersville, before the junction of Routes 25A/23C. The Arboretum features many beautiful, exotic trees from all over the world and many hiking trails.

No registration or fee is required for any event. 

The Future is Here!

Now you can renew your
membership
with PayPal!


New members must
still [submit a written
application.](#)



Views from the Top: continued from page 1

devices behind. As you ascend the probability increases of your being greeted by thick ice flows. Be prepared. Check out our website for safe hiking tips.

Be safe and enjoy our wonderful mountains. Happy hiking.

Connie Sciutto - President 

Trail Mix: continued...


to be bearing the brunt of the invasion: illegal camping, fires, cutting, large amounts of litter and scores of uneducated people on any weekend.

The 3500 Stewardship Committee came up with the idea of placing stewards on some of the summits, similar to the program that has been in place in the Adirondacks for many years. We soon realized we could not manage the program ourselves and approached the NYNJTC, who could. They came up with a plan and submitted it to the DEC, who approved it. The problem was funding. The NYNJTC and the DEC had no extra monies available. That's where you, as a club, come in. After much debate, the 3500 Executive Board decided to invest \$5000 to put 2 stewards on the summit of Slide Mountain to educate and help hikers for the 2015 season. This was referred to as "seed" money, with the idea that the program would be successful and grow. It was hoped that other groups would see this as a viable program and contribute in the future.

Despite a late start, training glitches and a few other minor issues, the program ran between Memorial Day and Columbus Day, with 2 stewards alternating weekends. It was seen as a success: many hikers were spoken to, the summit was much cleaner, and instances of illegal camping, fires and cuttings were reduced. This was because the stewards were there to educate.

It has been decided to continue and expand the program this season. Other groups have been donating, it is planned to cover Slide again, as well as some other non summit high use areas, such as Kaaterskill Falls.

The Stewardship Committee believes our money should be reserved for the high peaks and is again putting a motion to the Board to fund additional stewards on Wittenberg and Cornell this coming season to preserve the summits from further damage and to educate hikers there. We are hoping that as this program grows and

becomes more solid, that eventually volunteer stewards could be used as well as paid stewards and the program spread to other peaks. 

New Members

2486	Meredith Kaser	12/06/15
2487	Elena Louros	11/28/15
2488	Jacob Haisley	10/18/15
2489	Brian Reilly	12/20/15
2490	Fred Haghghi	12/12/15
2491	Nancy Benson	12/21/15
2492	Jeong Nye (Jay) Lee	12/23/15
2493	Kevin Kumerle	12/24/15
2494	Matthew TeNyenhuis	12/27/15
2495	Michael Calzi	12/27/15
2496	Nicole Calzi	12/27/15
2497	Dillon J Creen	12/31/15
2498	Barb Hansen	12/22/15
2499	Brandon Preston	12/26/15
2500	Steve McBride	12/27/15
2501	Kenneth Rowell	01/01/16
2502	Nick Minglis	01/02/16
2503	John Moore	10/18/13
2504	Anne Jeffers-Beaumont	12/25/15
2505	Brian Eakins	12/31/15
2506	Rick Shortt	01/01/16
2507	Hua Davis	01/03/16
2508	Kevin Cwalina	11/07/15
2509	Tova Pesahovitz	01/10/16
2510	Angelo Persichilli Jr.	01/09/16
2511	Ryan Persichilli	01/09/16
2512	Karen L. Pignataro	01/06/16
2513	John G. Perrella	01/15/16
2514	Mark E.L. Mack	01/16/16
2515	Jason Wolfanger	01/16/16
2516	Tom O'Dowd	12/12/15
2517	Deb Farrell	06/27/15
2518	Dennis Gleason	01/03/16
2519	Joshua Gregory	01/23/16
2520	James Palmatier	01/17/16
2521	Michael Heim	01/28/16
2522	Bong S. Jeong	01/31/16
2523	Marta Porras	01/23/16
2524	Caysey Herschaft	01/24/16
2525	Lourdes Memoli	02/07/16
2526	Kerry Tice	02/07/16
2527	Eileen Tice	02/07/16
2528	Anna Martone	02/04/16
2529	Barbara Alstadt	01/14/16

Continued on page 7...

Rambles and Brambles: Hike Schedule April — June 2016

Assumed Risk: Hiking involves certain inherent risks and persons participating do so at their own risk. In cool weather, hike participants should avoid cotton clothing, as it retains dampness and the resulting chill can result in hypothermia, *which can lead to death*. Instead, wear (and have available in your pack) garments of wool or fleece. Silk or polypropylene make the best base layers, as they tend to wick moisture away from the body. Hats, gloves, and a headlamp must be part of the standard early spring kit. Ice and snow can still be found unexpectedly in these peaks. In early spring, if there is any doubt about the conditions that may be encountered, each hiker is strongly advised to **bring snowshoes and full crampons to the trailhead**; the leader may advise that these do not have to be taken on the hike, but be aware that while there may be bare ground at the trailhead, there is often very significant ice and snow as the elevation increases, which could result in those improperly prepared being sent back. Anyone not properly equipped may be refused permission to participate, at the leader's absolute discretion. Don't be seduced by buds on the trees at the trailhead, *early spring in the Catskills is not to be treated lightly*.

Rating System: Please be advised that the hikes listed herein would most likely be rated more difficult by clubs who hike in non-mountainous terrains

Sat. April 2 - KAATERSKILL H. P. & ROUND-TOP

Distance: 8.50 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3655', 3440'

Moderately paced, sometimes steep bushwhack.

Registration Period: By April 1

Leader: Michael Bongar #2173 michael@bongarbiz.com

Sun. April 3 - BLACKHEAD, BLACK DOME, THOMAS COLE

Distance: 7.3 mi. Ascent: 2800', Elev: 3940', 3980', 3940'

A moderately paced through-hike of the Blackhead Range. Joint hike with Mid-Hudson ADK.

Registration Period: March 25 - April 1

Leaders: Joe Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

(914) 489-1582

Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com

(914) 489-0654

Fri. April 8 - DOUBLETOP & BIG INDIAN (weekday)

Distance: 8.5 miles Ascent: 2500', Elev: 3871', 3681'

Bushwhack and trailed loop hike at a moderate pace.

Registration Period: March 30 - April 6

Leaders: Joe Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

(914) 489-1582

Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com

(914) 489-0654

Sat. April 9 - PANTHER VIA FOX HOLLOW

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2300', Elev: 3720'

A moderately paced trail hike via a quite underutilized route.

Registration Period: April 3 - 8

Leader: Paul Swieton #1824, W729 swietp@gmail.com

Sat. April 9 - HIKE LEADER HIKE: "EVERGREEN TRAVERSE"

Distance: 8.5 mi. Ascent: 1500', Elev: 3240', 3380', 3620'

A moderately paced bushwhack for hike leaders only.

Registration Period: Open

Leader: Bill Winterbottom #1904

billw@usdsoftware.com

Sat. April 16 - BALSAM LAKE MOUNTAIN & GRAHAM

Distance: 10.5 mi. Ascent: 2120', Elev: 3720', 3868'

A moderately paced trail hike. Well behaved dogs are welcome.

Registration Period: April 7 - 14

Leader: Tom Martone #2454

tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com

Sun. April 17 - VLY & BEARPEN

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2009', Elev: 3529', 3600'

A relaxed pace bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: April 7 - 13

Leader: Neil Berenholz #2443 neilberenholz@gmail.com

Sat. April 23 - LONE & ROCKY

Distance: 11 mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3721', 3508'

A lengthy, difficult bushwhack done at a relaxed pace.

Registration Period: April 14 - 21

Leader: Hans Schick #1853, W759

Hans.W.Schick@gmail.com (preferred)

(845) 518-7541 C (7:00 to 10:00 PM)

In case of bad weather or dangerous conditions, hikes may be canceled; if in doubt contact the leader.

Sat. April 23 - WESTKILL

Distance: 6.6 mi. Ascent: 1786', Elev: 3880'

A relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: April 14 - 21

Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 W789

tshemella@yahoo.com (preferred)

(845) 687-2208 to leave message until 8 p.m.

Sun. April 24 - VAN WYCK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 700', Elev: 3206'

A moderately paced bushwhack hike.

Heavy rain cancels.

Registration Period: April 18 - 22

Leader: Michael L. "Mick" Dunn, Jr. #1,272

mickfords@gmail.com (603) 809-0348

Sun. April 24 - EAGLE & BALSAM

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2820', Elev: 3600', 3600'

A moderately paced bushwhack and trailed hike.

Well behaved dogs are welcome.

Registration Period: April 14 - 21

Leader: Tom Martone #2454

tom.martone.cmc@gmail.com

Sat. May 7 - ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Please join us for a few hours cleaning up the Club's section of Rte. 214. Bring work gloves and a great attitude – all else will be provided, including refreshments afterward. Your participation helps the Club, the environment, and keeps the Catskills beautiful!

Registration Period: Open

Leaders: David Bunde #2269 W925, Tom Martone

#2454 W1010 david@dgbdesign.com

Sun. May 8 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elev: 3694', 3623'

A moderately paced and strenuous bushwhack hike.

Heavy rain cancels.

Registration Period: May 2 - 6

Leader: Michael L. "Mick" Dunn, Jr. #1,272

mickfords@gmail.com (603) 809-0348

Sun. May 8 - SUGARLOAF

Distance: 6.8 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3800'

Moderately paced trail hike.

Registration Period: April 25 - May 6

Leader: Pamela Martin #2102

pamelamartininc@gmail.com

Sat. May 14 - PEEKAMOOSE, TABLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

It's our spring trail maintenance day! Please help us keep the Peekamoose-Table Trail clean, clear and safe for the enjoyment of all. Bring work gloves and your favorite trail maintenance tools (the Club will also have tools available). It's fun work and a great way to help the Club and the hiking community.

Refreshments will be provided afterward.

Registration Period: Open

Leaders: David Bunde #2269 W925,

Tom Martone #2454 W1010 david@dgbdesign.com

Sun. May 15 - NORTH DOME, SHERRILL

Distance: 6 mi. Ascent: 2600', Elev: 3610', 3540'

Moderately paced bushwhack. Joint with Mid-Hudson ADK.

Registration Period from May 6 - 13

Leaders: Joe Ferri #2223 W945 newpaltz33@yahoo.com

(914) 489-1582

Shari Aber #2224 W944 shnaber@yahoo.com

(914) 489-0654

Sun. May 15 - THOMAS COLE, BLACK DOME, BLACKHEAD

Distance: 7.4 mi. Ascent: 2700', Elev: 3940', 3980', 3940'

A strenuous hike at a relaxed pace with several magnificent views. Short car shuttle.

Registration Period: May 1 - 13

Leader: Lanny Wexler #593 highpt43@optimum.net

Sat. May 21 - HALCOTT

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent 1720', Elev: 3520'

A relaxed paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: May 15 - 20

Leader: Paul Swieton #1824, W729 swietp@gmail.com

Sat. May 21 - RUSK

Distance: 4 mi. Ascent: 1600', Elev: 3680'

A moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack.

Rain cancels.

Registration Period: May 16 - 20

Phone calls only May 20.

Leader: Jim Malumphy #890 lump63@hotmail.com

Sun. May 22 - BALSAM

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 1689', Elev: 3600'

A relaxed paced trail hike.

Registration Period: May 12 - 19

Leader: Ted Shemella #1550 w789

tshemella@yahoo.com (preferred)

(845) 687-2208 to leave message until 8 p.m.

Sun. May 22 - DOUBLETOP

Distance: 5.5 mi. Ascent: 1900', Elev: 3860'

Moderately paced bushwhack.

Registration Period: May 9 - 20

Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. May 28 - FIR & BIG INDIAN

Distance: 10.3 mi. Ascent: 2678', Elev: 3620', 3700'

Moderately paced, bushwhack and trail hike.

Registration Period: May 16 - 27

Leader: David Bunde #2269 W925

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. May 28 - PLATEAU

Distance: 7.0 miles Ascent: 1700', Elev: 3840'

Relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: May 19 - 26

Leader: Hans Schick #1853, W759

Hans.W.Schick@gmail.com (preferred)

(845) 518-7541 C (7:00 to 10:00 PM)

Sat. June 4 — NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent: 2950', Elev: 3843', 3847'

Join Dan Snider, the Catskill Center's Field Projects Manager, for a relaxed pace hike along the Peekamoose-Table Trail. We'll explore invasive species, as well as the general ecology in this section of the Catskills. It will be a great day of education about and celebration of the trail our Club maintains!

Registration Period: May 16 – June 3

Leaders: David Bunde #2269 W925; Dan Snider;

david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. June 5 - SLIDE, CORNELL, WITTENBERG

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2800', Descent: 3900'

Elev: 4180', 3860', 3780'

Strenuous through-hike at moderate pace. Joint with Mid-Hudson ADK.

Registration Period: May 26 - June 2

Leaders: Joe Ferri #2223 W945

newpaltz33@yahoo.com (914) 489-1582

and Shari Aber #2224 W944

shnaber@yahoo.com (914) 489-0654

Sun. June 5 - INDIANHEAD & TWIN

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2100', Elev: 3573', 3640'

Registration Period: May 29 - June 4

Leaders: Laurie and Tom Rankin; #1337, #1503

lauriejrankin@gmail.com (preferred)

(845) 926-2182 Cell

Sun. Jun 5 - LONE & ROCKY

Distance: 11mi. Ascent: 2000', Elev: 3721', 3508'

A very difficult, long and strenuous bushwhack to the most remote peaks.

Well behaved dogs welcome.

Registration Period: May 22 - June 2

Leaders: Doug Garrity, #1757, Suzanne Garrity #1968

garrid0@lycos.com

Sat. June 11 - WINDHAM HIGH PEAK

Distance: 7 mi. Ascent: 1800', Elev: 3524'

Relaxed paced trail hike. Well behaved dogs welcome.

Registration Period: June. 1 - 6

Leader: Jane Bannon jb_outdoorgirl@yahoo.com

Sat. June 11 - FRIDAY & BALSAM CAP

Distance: 6.0 mi. Ascent: 3000', Elev: 3694', 3623'

Steep and strenuous bushwhack over two very remote peaks. Moderate pace.

Rain cancels.

Not recommended for new hikers.

Registration Period: June 2 - 8

Leader: Neil Berenhoolz #2443

neilberenholtz@gmail.com

Sun. June 12 - HUNTER & S.W. HUNTER

Distance: 9 mi. Ascent 2225', Elev: 3740'

Relaxed paced hike.

Registration Period: June 6 - 10

Leader: Mike Stallbohm #1826 W745

mstall0128@hotmail.com

Sat. June 18 - CROSS, MT PLEASANT & ROMER

Distance: 12 mi Ascent 3300', Elev: 2500', 2800', 2240'

A strenuous hike at a relaxed pace to one of the most magnificent stretches of trail in the Catskills. Short car shuttle.

Registration Period: June 4 - 17

Leader: Lanny Wexler #593 highpt43@optimum.net

Sat. June 18 - NORTH DOME & SHERRILL

Distance: 6.5 mi. Ascent: 2500', Elev: 3540', 3610'

Challenging bushwhack done at a relaxed pace.

Registration Period: June 9 - 16

Leader: Hans Schick #1853, W759

Hans.W.Schick@gmail.com (preferred)

(845) 518-7541 C (7:00 to 10:00 PM)

Sun. June 19 - PEEKAMOOSE & TABLE

Distance: 10 mi. Ascent: 2950', Elev: 3843', 3847'

A moderately paced trail hike. Rain cancels.

Registration Period: June 13- 17

Leader: Suzanne Knabe #1326 suzkna@msn.com

(718) 435-3092 after 7

Sat. June 25 - "THE SIX" (FRIDAY, BALSAM CAP, ROCKY, LONE, TABLE, PEEKAMOOSIE)

Distance: 12 mi. Total Ascent: 4175', Elev: 3694', 3623', 3508', 3721', 3847', 3843'

A difficult, long and strenuous bushwhack/trail hike to some of the most remote peaks.

Experienced hikers only.

Registration Period: June 6 - 24

Leaders: David Bunde #2269 W925; Heather Rolland #1777 W757 david@dgbdesign.com

Sat. June 25 - WITTENBERG

Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2400' Elev: 3780'

A relaxed pace trail hike.

Registration Period: June 19 - 23


Leader: Wanda Davenport #523

wandatrails@verizon.net

Membership Chair Message

Membership dues or subscription renewals for 2016 are due. If you have not yet climbed all the peaks, you are an aspirant and the renewal should be sent to Mike Dwyer. If you have been assigned a number, you are a member and dues should be sent to Dave White. Dues/renewals are on a calendar year basis. If you joined mid-year, a partial year renewal can get you back on track. Each quarter you will receive an email when the Canister is available (even if you elected to receive a paper copy.) The message will indicate your dues status. Additional member items are available for purchase; see the online dues form for pricing.

Below you can see that your club supports a number of projects that we believe are in the best interests of the hiking community. We do that with the contributions that members make. Life Members and Life Aspirants who opt for electronic delivery of their Canister, also provide funds; originally there were reserves set aside for postage and printing. I want to acknowledge a substantial gift that we have recently received. Many members of NY Sansaram, and other Korean hiking clubs have joined as Life Member/Aspirants, but in addition to those, \$1,140 was recently received from the "Wednesday" contingent of their club. All of us thank you.

In the past few years we have supported the following programs: Catskill Firetower Project, Catskill Community Trails Fund, Adirondack Mountain Club for trailwork in the Catskill Preserve and state advocacy on behalf of the Catskills, NYNJTC for Summit Stewards, Catskill Interpretive Center, and the Catskill Heritage Alliance. Thank you! 

New Members, continued from page 3

2530	Juan Salazar	10/17/15
2531	Trent (Weston) Fenner	02/07/16
2532	Starchild	01/10/16
2533	Hee Ja Choi	01/10/16
2534	Shaun Cassidy	02/13/16
2535	Alexis Barth	02/07/16
2536	Wojtek Kopczuk	02/22/16

New Life Members

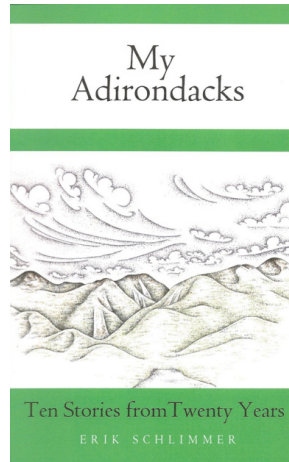
2356	Vivien Eng
2444	Brian Crowley
2500	Steve McBride
Asp.	Chris Hummel
Asp.	Jannell Bissonnette
Asp.	Roy Wooters
Asp.	Dan Robin
Asp.	Matt Robin

New Winter Members

0987	Joanie Merwin	2005	12/25/15
0988	Cynthia FS Chan	2351	12/27/15
0989	Laura Sanford	2449	12/30/15
0990	John Barringer	2178	12/31/15
0991	Kenneth Rowell	2501	01/01/16
0992	Prissy Lee	2435	01/02/16
0993	Laura Smith	2179	01/03/16
0994	Michael Bongar	2173	01/09/16
0995	Stephen Rombach	2385	01/14/16
0996	Eileen Garvey	2254	03/15/15
0997	Jack Garvey	2253	01/09/16
0998	David Schaff	2249	03/19/15
0999	Renuka Kumar	2391	01/10/16
1000	Kimberly Cuozzo	2299	01/24/16
1001	Christopher Fisher	2345	01/29/16
1002	Jerry Meng	2401	01/24/16
1003	Evan Colgan	2461	01/24/16
1004	Manuel Jimenez	2313	01/03/16
1005	Ann Roberti	2434	01/28/16
1006	Polly Armour	2354	01/31/16
1007	Hua Davis	2507	01/31/16
1008	Eric Markowitz	2264	01/31/16
1009	John Fallucca	2352	01/31/16
1010	Tom Martone	2454	02/04/16
1011	Anna Martone	2528	02/04/16
1012	Mike Kessler	2366	02/05/16
1013	Danielle DeGraw	2302	02/06/16
1014	Diane Linenbroker	2247	02/06/16
1015	Juan Salazar	2530	02/08/16
1016	Thomas Keegan	2375	02/13/16
1017	Sharon Desrochers	2428	02/18/16
1018	Andy Moss	2101	02/19/16
1019	Karen Glemming	2370	02/20/16
1020	Vivien Eng	2356	02/20/16
1021	Song Kyong Kang	2423	02/21/16
1022	Suk Bong Kim	2427	02/21/16
1023	Wendi Yoakum	2457	02/21/16

My Adirondacks—a book review:

By Kevin Morgan, #2032, Editor of the Catskill Canister



Recently I was sent a book to review for *The Catskill Canister* by Erik Schlimmer. The book is, “My Adirondacks: Ten Stories from Twenty Years” (ISBN 978-0-9891-9962-9).

The book is, as the title suggests, an assortment of Erik’s hiking experiences spanning his adventures beginning at age 16 in 1989 when he and his friend Joey decided to bushwhack and camp overnight on top of 1,370 foot high Remington Mountain in early November of that year, and concluding with the tale of how he came up with the idea for a Trans Adirondack route (which he’s also written a book about—see note at the end of this article) which he finally embarked on in July of 2010.

This book is well written and Erik has a great flare for communicating the beauty of his surroundings and his love of the outdoors. I especially liked the tales from his time as an assistant forest ranger in the Adirondack Park’s Western High Peaks. In one he describes having several run-ins with a somewhat aggressive bear that was loitering in the area of a shelter where a group was staying. After several encounters with the bear he later sets up camp near the lean-to to keep watch in case he returned—and he did. With the campers in the shelter asleep and the bear’s tenacity, Erik decided to hang out inside the lean-to in case he got an opportunity to give him a good scare. His description of the bear’s breathing and fur rubbing against the shelter as he sat quietly next to the sleeping campers was quite vivid. I could almost smell the bear’s breath myself. As the bear’s snout (with very white teeth) came around the side of the shelter he let out a loud scream and scared the bear all the way to


Canada! Amazingly, the campers never woke up.

Another story tells the tale of his deciding on a bushwhack of Van Dorrien Mountain, starting off in the wrong place and ending up on top of Ampersand Mountain.

I enjoy reading stories about hiking and mountaineering. When I first began reading about hiking it was with Bill Bryson’s “A Walk in the Woods” which got me all psyched to hike the Appalachian Trail. Enthusiasm, when it’s conveyed well in story form, is contagious, especially if one is inexperienced in the activity being so lovingly described. Reality is different for each of us and I quickly discovered that while I do love to hike I do not love, or even like, to camp. I also don’t enjoy hikes that lack views or are difficult just for the sake of being difficult. I don’t like to be wet or cold to the point of misery and so when hanging around with other hikers who are describing what to them was an awesome tale of survival and grit, I am making a mental note to never do that hike or visit that region.

Many of Erik’s experiences are like that. He loves to bushwhack and by the gaps in his tales I can tell that most of them are in the category of arduous to insane. He is also a member of that group of hikers known as peak baggers, having climbed all the Northeast’s 770 mountains over 3,000 feet with more than 400 of those being bushwhacks!

I think anyone who’s been working on climbing all of the Catskill 3500’s will enjoy reading this book. I’ve also been looking into some of Erik’s other books to read.

From Amazon.com’s author bio: *Erik Schlimmer is also the author of “Thru Hiker’s Guide to America” (2005), “Blue Line to Blue Line” (2013), and “History Inside the Blue Line” (2014). He has also written for national periodicals including Canoe and Kayak, Mountain Biking Magazine, and National Geographic Adventure. As a former educator for the State University of New York, Erik is three-time recipient of this university system’s Merit Award for Teaching and their Outstanding Instructor of the Year Award. An accomplished adventurer, he has hiked more than 10,000 miles, mountain biked more than 10,000 miles, climbed 1,500 peaks, and slept outside more than 1,000 nights.* 

A Student-Hiker's Remembrance— Spring, 1966

Dana Helsley, #38 & 6W

"#27¹ sponsors a hiking club in the high school where he teaches. Several of the students have nearly finished the 3500." (From the "Peripatetic Porcupine" - The Catskill Canister – Winter 1968, Vol. 1, No. 1; Page 3)

Two years before #2 mimeographed the first edition of the Canister and included the above, and approximately four months prior to #16 leading the first 3500 Club hike over Giant Ledges and Panther, #27 organized three day trips for his high school students during the spring semester of 1966. The first one was Hunter in April, the second to Slide in May, and a third trip over Blackhead, Black Dome, and Thomas Cole was scheduled. Now, in the interest of full disclosure, this remembrance begins with the third as I missed the first two hikes for whatever reasons 9th Graders do or don't do things, but a good report from a classmate who had attended the Hunter trip piqued my interest. After all, how difficult could this be? So I signed up, as did nearly forty of my schoolmates (including eight future 3500 Club members) before the English teacher removed the attendance list from his school desk.

The forecast for that first Saturday in June of fifty years ago was for sunny skies and temperatures in the eighties—a continuation of a very dry spring in the Catskills. The calm of the unusually warm morning air at the end of Big Hollow Road was broken by teenagers chaotically disembarking from a school bus while #27 attempted a pre-hike orientation, remarkably, about fifty feet away from the dry streambed of Batavia Kill. Unfortunately for some, a warning about conservation of water on a day forecast to be hot was missed in the clamor to get started up the trail, and several students had already begun to meander in a southeasterly direction along the roadway before the meeting was concluded. With an impressive burst of speed, #27 commandeered the lead from members of the high school's track team, and without much more warning, my first Catskill hike was suddenly underway and the more—or less—athletically inclined were being sorted along the trail by walking speed.

As a novice, the peak-bagging phenomenon was an unknown to me, and much less a priority than my worries

about getting lost and eaten by a bear before lunchtime! As such, I suspected being somewhere in the middle of this long queue stretching along the pathway as being best for wild animal avoidance, at least the odds would be with me. I sincerely tried to maintain my station, but after about fifteen minutes several of those ahead were stopping to drink water or remove clothing and I passed them by. Anyway, in this short time I had already deduced that no self-respecting bear would dare approach a group making that much of a racket, no matter how hungry it was. It was easy to follow all the noise ahead and after another half-hour it eventually guided me to a spot where I saw #27 talking to several resting students. I was going to stop for a rest myself, but he pointed uphill to the right and said that a steep mile was ahead and for me not to go beyond the next trail junction until he got there, so I kept moving.

Now I was climbing up a much rougher pathway alone, and I was only occasionally hearing others ahead and behind. Some time and a couple rest stops later, I was more than a little surprised when I broke out onto a relatively level part of the trail and came face-to-face with the group of student athletes that had been in the lead. All were suffering from little available shade and no breeze, coupled with the hot sun and heavy air making the catching of one's breath difficult. When #27 and a half-dozen more hot and sweaty students arrived a few minutes later, I was very pleased to be included among the lead group directed to continue on—anything to get off that sultry summit!

My group of fast-movers crossed over that surprisingly long top and then descended into the next col very quickly, and it seemed only fifteen minutes had passed when we came upon the next trail junction where we had been told to wait. The shade made resting here a little more pleasant than on Blackhead, but hardly ten minutes had passed when #27 and some more students showed up. Wasting no time, he asked if everyone thought they had enough water to tackle Black Dome. Absent any replies, he immediately started uphill with members of the rested track team on his heels—but the entire group strung out quickly this time as the increasing temperature was taking its toll. I passed by a few resting schoolmates on the way up yet another steep section, and was about to stop for a rest and drink when it suddenly leveled out. I walked across the top of Black Dome until I came upon a few sweat-soaked students lying on some rocks,

Continued on page 10...


Student Hiker, continued from page 9

breathing heavily. Seated on another rock some distance away, and seemingly calm and collected, #27 was eating his lunch! I was more thirsty than hungry, and one of my two canteens was already empty, but I thought lunch was probably a good idea so I followed suit.

Again, not much shade was available and the uncomfortable minutes passed slowly while more exhausted students made the summit, and then, surprisingly, one of the other faculty advisors arrived. He took a head count and I overheard him tell #27 that over twenty students were on their way down with the third chaperone, and except for a couple still behind him, it seemed everyone was accounted for. #27 then asked if any of those that had made it this far wanted to continue over to Thomas Cole, or was everyone ready to call it a day and return to the parking area. It was apparent that near empty canteens combined with the heat and humidity was becoming a problem for many of the students, and all but a few ended up slowly heading back.

Those of us continuing left our schoolmates on Black Dome for Thomas Cole, with #27 in the lead. He paced our small group to keep everyone together for the relatively short and not quite so steep walk. Just like the two before it, that third summit was also very warm and during the brief rest stop I recall #27 saying we were getting short on time and that he hoped we would not meet any stragglers when we got back to Black Dome. But the summit was empty when we arrived the second time that day and the trail was clear as we made another quick descent into the col. When there, #27 only slowed briefly to be sure we all turned downhill, and I heard him say it was a little less than two miles to the parking area. He then picked up his pace for the next mile or more, and only reduced his speed when he came upon a pair of hot and tired students headed slowly down the pathway. Regardless of fatigue, now it was our turn to show him some pace as we quickly caught up and hiked on by. I recall he laughed loudly as we passed, and then he yelled for us to take a left at the next junction! Additional returning schoolmates were just ahead, and not much further along we came upon the third chaperone waiting just above the red and yellow trail junction. He asked where #27 was and who we had seen on the way down, and seemed pleased by our answers. He pointed the way out, and fearing that #27 might catch us, we left immediately!

A few minutes later, our hot and exhausted group walked into the parking area. Almost immediately we

were descended upon by a couple dozen hungry and thirsty teenagers who were anxious to be leaving as soon as they could! Several of them questioned how far we had gotten, what took so long, did I have any water left, who was still up on the trail, how far back they were, where #27 was, and how long before all of them would be getting to the bus. Most of their canteens had been empty for a while and were just as dry as Batavia Kill, where a couple of students were unsuccessfully digging around its smooth rocks for some signs of drinkable water. Getting on the waiting school bus offered little benefit as there was shade but no breeze, and even with all the windows open the inside felt like an oven and smelled like a locker room. Over the next half-hour, twos and threes of stragglers came off the trail, and each of them faced the same interrogations as we had! Almost an hour later, the welcome sight of the last three missing students being escorted out by #27 and the third chaperone came into view. The bus was loaded and running by the time they got aboard and with another quick counting of heads, finally began moving west with the breeze giving some relief from the heat and the smell. The ordeal was almost over, and the return ride home was very quiet. While I didn't know it at the time, I had just tallied my first three required peaks. What I did know, however, was that I swore I would never sign up again for any day trips where #27 was involved! 

1. Referring to members by number is something that harkens back to the early days of The Catskill Canister
—Ed.

