



# WESTCHESTER TRAILS ASSOC.

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

## WINTER HIKING SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2011, JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2012

Hikes ratings are based on terrain (mileage is stated separately in the description). An "easy" hike is one with relatively flat terrain or gentle, rolling hills (for example, Rockefeller Preserve). A "moderate" hike has steeper grades, possibly going up and down all day, and may involve some bushwhacking or short rock scrambles (like much of Harriman Park). A "strenuous" hike has steep ascents, often with rough or difficult terrain on much of the hike (like most Schunemunk trails, Breakneck Ridge, etc.). These ratings apply during good weather. Bad weather may lead to poor footing and increase the difficulty of any hike.

Hiking boots and drinking water are required on all hikes. A trail lunch should be carried unless otherwise indicated. Hikers with improper footwear, without sufficient water, or who are otherwise unprepared, may be refused by the leader. New hikers are asked to contact leaders in advance of hikes. All hikers should choose a hike within his or her abilities - contact the leader if you have any questions. All who participate in the activities of Westchester Trails Association (WTA) do so at their own risk.

A hike listing with an "NWP" designation means that the group meets in the parking lot of the North White Plains train station at the stated time for a carpool to the trailhead. (Otherwise, please contact the leader for information about the meeting time and place.) To reach the NWP lot, take the Bronx River Parkway to Fisher Lane in North White Plains and follow the train station sign. The parking lot is half a block from the turn, on the right hand side, before the underpass. There is no charge in this lot on Saturdays or Sundays. If coming by train please notify the leader. Walk down the stairs from the train platform to the parking lot on the NYC bound side, then walk north toward the toll booth.

We encourage carpooling to the hike site. This arrangement is entirely voluntary and entails 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). You may wish to round these amounts up or down to the nearest dollar, to make things easier.

A schedule of WTA activities is printed 4 times a year. For further information contact Herb Hochberg at (914) 723-6566, [h\\_hochberg@hotmail.com](mailto:h_hochberg@hotmail.com), Eileen West at [eileenw1000@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenw1000@yahoo.com), or Stewart Manville, (914) 582-1237 before 10PM.

To become a member, please print out and complete the application on our website. Make checks or money orders payable to Westchester Trails Assoc., and mail to the address on the application.

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**Saturday, December 3 - Croton Gorge Park and the Old Croton Aqueduct.** 5-7 miles, easy. We will walk along the Croton River and the Old Croton Aqueduct, then return to the park for lunch. Optional: after lunch we will climb up to have a view from the top of the Croton Dam. Directions: take Routes 9/9A to Route 129 in Croton-on-Hudson. Follow Route 129 east for about 1.5 miles until you reach the Croton Gorge Park sign; then make a right and go down to the parking lot. If you need a ride please contact the leader, Sue Soni, at (914) 747-2452 or [surekhasoni914@hotmail.com](mailto:surekhasoni914@hotmail.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 99b).*

**Sunday, December 4 - Dobbs Ferry to Yonkers on the OCA, and More.** (NWP). Contact leader for meeting time. 7 miles, mostly easy. On this second hike in our Westchester 100 "OCA and More" series, we will start our journey in Dobbs Ferry and head south, enjoying great views of the Hudson from multiple vantage points. The trip will include forays into Lenoir Preserve and

Untermyer Park, and we may also visit the Hudson River Museum, which usually has special exhibits and events as part of Westchester's "Free Arts Day". Leader: Eileen West, [eileenw1000@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenw1000@yahoo.com). Heavy precipitation cancels. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 8 and 75).*

Saturday, December 10 - **White Bar and Triangle Trails in Harriman**. 6 miles, easy to moderate. We will do a hike in the shape of a lollipop on these peaceful trails, passing Lakes Skenonto and Sebago in what may be a winter wonderland. Possibly a snowshoe hike if lots of snow. E-mail leader Carol Ann Benton at [aquarius2950@hotmail.com](mailto:aquarius2950@hotmail.com). for time and meeting place. Inclement weather cancels. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, December 11 - **WTA Holiday Party, Plus Hikes in Meyer Preserve and Marsh Sanctuary**. We'll start the day with a 2-3 mile hike in the Meyer Preserve, followed by our Holiday Party and Buffet. Then we'll top off the day with another 2 mile hike at Marsh Sanctuary. For those joining us on the morning hike, meet at the Westmoreland parking lot at 9:30 a.m. for a short shuttle to Meyer (or form your own carpool at NWP at 9:00 to arrive at Westmoreland by 9:30). If attending the Holiday Party only, meet at Westmoreland at noon. Bring something for potluck lunch (casserole, pasta, salad, bread, cold cuts, cheese or dessert) to share, ready to serve with utensils. Club will provide hot drinks, paper plates and cups. Those not bringing food will be asked to contribute \$5 towards expenses. For information, call Stewart (914) 582-1237. *Both hikes qualify for the Westchester 100 (Meyer is No. 55, and Marsh is No. 36).*

Saturday, December 17 - **Teatown Ramble**. 6 miles, easy to moderate at a relaxed pace with some climbing, along various trails in the reservation. We'll look for bird activity on the lake and at the end may visit some of the disabled raptors cared for by the reservation. Leader will meet hikers in the main parking lot at 10:00 (extra parking off Blinn Road), or form your own carpool at NWP and meet leader at the Teatown lot. For driving directions go to [www.teatown.org](http://www.teatown.org). In case of snow or ice bring traction aids. Inclement weather could cancel; in this case a message will be sent to WTA's Yahoo group by 7:30 a.m. on the day of the hike. Leader: Richard Isaac. If questions call (914) 699-5888 before 9 p.m. or [rasisaac@verizon.net](mailto:rasisaac@verizon.net).

Sunday, December 18 - **Squantz Pond State Park in New Fairfield, CT**. 5 miles, easy with one short but steep climb. This beautiful hike travels through meadows, onto a carriage road, and then heads up a trail to an overlook with a view of Candlewood Lake. Deep snow means snowshoes but steady rain cancels. The hike starts at 10:00 a.m. Contact the leader Rosanne Schepis at (203) 417-5552 or [rschep@yahoo.com](mailto:rschep@yahoo.com) to register and for meeting location. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, December 24 - **RiverWalk**. 3-5 miles, easy. Meet the leader at 10:30 a.m. in the Stop & Shop shopping center near the Tappan Zee bridge for a short carpool to the beginning of the RiverWalk trail, with scenic views of the Hudson River and beyond. We will enter the grounds of Lyndhurst and traverse a short distance on the Old Croton Aqueduct. The hike can be extended further south on the Aqueduct towards Irvington, if desired. Leader: Ellie Carren. Please register via e-mail to [eileenw1000@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenw1000@yahoo.com).

Sunday, December 25 - **No "Official" Hike, But...** if Santa brought you new outdoor gear, or you just want to enjoy the gifts that nature has given to us, post a message on our Yahoo group site and have like-minded folks join you on a hike today.

Saturday, December 31 - **A HIKE, THEN A TOAST:**

Saturday, December 31 - Rockefeller Preserve. 6-7 miles, easy. We will explore several popular destinations on this leisurely hike around Rockefeller Preserve, including Swan Lake, the Stone Barns Center, Greenrock farmlands and a stroll along the Pocantico River, before heading over to Rockwood Hall State Park in time to meet Stewart Manville and his group for an early New Year's Eve toast (see below). Leader: Eileen West, [eileenw1000@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenw1000@yahoo.com). Meet leader at 11:30 a.m. at the Rockwood Hall parking lot on Rockwood Road, just west of Route 117, for a short shuttle to the start of the hike. Steady precipitation cancels. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 59).*

Saturday, December 31 - Early New Year's Eve. 3:00 p.m. (NWP) or 3:30 p.m. at the Rockwood Hall State Park trailhead on Rockwood Road, just west of Route 117. Two miles, mostly level. A return to the Pocantico Hills former estate lands (now part of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve), for a sundown toast to the old year within sight of the Hudson River. Alcohol-free beverages will be offered, and afterwards we can drive to a local restaurant for an optional dinner. Inclement weather postpones for 365 days. Leader: Stewart Manville (914) 582-1237. Please notify the leader in advance if you are coming so he knows how much "bubbly" to buy! *Joint hike with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 38).*

Sunday, January 1 - New Year's Day Walk/Swim at Greenwich Point in CT. The walk is an easy 3-4 miles; the swim is whatever you can tolerate (or not). We will meet at the second (main) concession stand at 10:30 a.m. E-mail leader Jane Restani at [irabjanea@aol.com](mailto:irabjanea@aol.com) by 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 31 for registration or directions. Registration is optional, but we obviously won't wait for you if we don't know you are coming. Leave telephone number for emergency communication. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, January 7 - New Croton Dam to Ossining on the OCA, and More. (NWP). 7 miles, mostly easy. Contact leader for meeting time. We continue our Westchester 100 "OCA and More" series with a hike that begins with views of the dam and an exploration of the Croton Gorge Park trails. After lunch at the picnic area near the base of the dam, we'll head for the Aqueduct and hike into Ossining, where we conclude with a visit to the museum at the Caputo Community Center, which has exhibits and information about the Aqueduct, and also about the history of Sing Sing prison. Leader: Eileen West, [eileenw1000@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenw1000@yahoo.com). Heavy precipitation cancels. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 72 and 99b).*

Sunday, January 8 - Cross-Country Ski or Hike. (NWP). 9:30 - ?? . Easy, 3-7 miles. Depending on conditions, we will either ski or hike at Rockwood Hall State Park, on the Old Croton Aqueduct, and at Rockefeller Preserve. Those who wish the shorter route will end on the OCA, while others can continue in the park as the group wishes. Leader: Carolyn Hoffman (914) 948-0608; [earthwormch@aol.com](mailto:earthwormch@aol.com) Cell phone on day of hike: (914) 420-5778. RSVP by Friday night. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 38 and 59).*

Saturday, January 14 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, January 14 - Manitoga, Curry Pond and Sugarloaf South. 7-8 miles, moderate. We will start the day at Manitoga and do a circuit to include the Osborne Loop, Curry Pond Trail and Appalachian Trail; then top it off with a climb to Sugarloaf South for views before returning to our starting point. This will be a hike or snowshoe, depending on ground conditions. If the weather is unfavorable, we'll just tromp around Manitoga. Contact the leader, Carol Harting at (845) 669-6731 to register. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, January 14 - Dobbs Ferry to Hastings and Back. 5 miles, easy. We will hike on the Old Croton Aqueduct from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry into Hastings, then proceed through

local streets to MacEachron Waterfront Park on the Hudson River. If weather is not conducive to outdoor eating, lunch will be indoors at the tennis "Bubble" where we can warm up and have soup or a cup of coffee. Some variation in the return route. Meet the leader at 10:30 a.m. at the Mercy College parking lot closest to Route 9. Leader: Ellie Carren. Please register via e-mail at [eileenw1000@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenw1000@yahoo.com).

Sunday, January 15 - Fahnestock Park. 5-6 miles, moderate. This hike will be on well marked trails with some moderate climbing. Weather permitting, we'll do a loop on the School Mt. Road, East Mt. Loop and Perkins Trails to cover the full mileage. If the trails, especially the rocks, are icy, we may skip the Perkins Trail. If there is decent snow cover, bring your snowshoes for the School Mt. Road portion of the hike. Leader: Howard Millman, [wardmillman@aol.com](mailto:wardmillman@aol.com). Meet leader at 10:00 a.m. at Hubbard Lodge (head north on Route 9; about 1/4 mile north of Route 301 look for entrance driveway and sign on right. Turn right, then left to roadside parking near the Lodge). *Joint hike with ADK Mohican.*

Saturday, January 21 - TWO HIKES TODAY:

Saturday, January 21 - ORAK Ruins and Big Hill. 4-5 miles, moderate. We will head south on the SBM in Harriman from Route 106 to visit the ruins, learn the history, and enjoy views from the Jackie Jones fire tower and the shelter on Big Hill, then return on the Long Path and some unmarked trails and roads. Contact leader for meeting time and place. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Carol Ann Benton, [aquarius2950@hotmail.com](mailto:aquarius2950@hotmail.com). *Joint hike with ADK Mohican*

Saturday, January 21 - Marshlands Conservancy. 3-4 miles, easy. Enjoy a two hour hike in this Rye preserve, on a network of trails through a field, a deciduous forest, and a salt marsh. Meet leader at 10:30 a.m. at the Conservancy parking lot, located at 220 Boston Post Road near the Rye Golf Course. Leader: Leslie Millman, [oooleslie@aol.com](mailto:oooleslie@aol.com). *Joint hike with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 9).*

Sunday, January 22 - Late Start Hike - Greystone to Ardsley via Old Croton Aqueduct. 7 miles, easy to moderate. This hike is mostly on the Old Croton Aqueduct but also on several side trails in nearby parks. First to Untermeyer Park, then Lenior - both are 150 ft. climbs and both have great viewpoints. Afterward we proceed north via a series of inter-connected parks and return to the OCA, finishing in Ardsley. Snow, ice may limit route or cancel. Drivers, park near the Greystone RR Station in time to meet the arriving 11:57 train (Google Map: Warburton & Harriman Ave. zip 10701) (do not park in commuter lot!). Leader: Hal Kaplan [kapkotours@gmail.com](mailto:kapkotours@gmail.com) or (914) 376-3156. Hike message on answering machine begins Wed. a.m. *Joint hike with AMC. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 8).*

Saturday, January 28 - North County Trailway, 10:00 - 2:30 (NWP). 5-6 miles, easy. We will start at Millwood, walk up to the reservoir bridge at Kitchewan and then return. The Trailway leads through varied and scenic terrain and offers expansive views of the reservoir from the bridge. Leader: Catharine Raffaele. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday January 29 - George's Island and Montrose State Forest. 5 miles, easy. During the winter, bald eagles roost for the night at George's Island Park. Join hike leaders Jane and Walt Daniels ([jdhikes@gmail.com](mailto:jdhikes@gmail.com) or 914-245-1250) for a hike though George's Island Park and Montrose State Forest. We will end the hike about the time eagles fly into roost, but there are no guarantees. Meet at the parking area by the river at 1 p.m. To reach the park, take Route 9 to the Route 9A exit (Montrose). Head north for 1.3 miles and turn left on Dutch Street. Follow it for 0.9 mile to the park entrance and drive to the parking lot at the end of the road which overlooks the Hudson River. A pick-up from the train station in Cortlandt is also possible with advance notice.

*Joint hike with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 26 and 80).*

Saturday, February 4 - **Ward Pound Ridge**. 9:30 - 3:30 (NWP). 6-7 miles, easy to moderate. We can shorten the hike as weather and ground conditions permit. Explore the south side of the park, Overlook and Leatherman's cave area, and trailside nature museum. Bad weather cancels. Leader: Mike Kaplan, [kaplanm2001@yahoo.com](mailto:kaplanm2001@yahoo.com). *Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 63).*

Sunday, February 5 - **Ossining to Sleepy Hollow on the OCA, and More**. 8 miles, mostly easy. The final hike in our Westchester 100 "OCA and More" series begins in an urban setting, as we walk through Ossining and then along a pretty stretch of road with Hudson River views. As the Aqueduct winds its way towards Rockwood Hall State Park, we'll leave the path to walk around Rockwood and enjoy lunch at the foundation overlook. Once past Rockwood, the Aqueduct heads through Rockefeller Preserve, and then out to Route 448 in Sleepy Hollow. Leader: Eileen West, [eileenw1000@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenw1000@yahoo.com). Meet leader at the Sleepy Hollow H.S. parking lot (access is from Route 448, just east of Route 9) at 9:45 a.m. - we will shuttle from there to the start of the hike. Heavy precipitation cancels. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 38 and 73).*

Saturday, February 11 - **East Mountain Loop in Fahnestock**. 4-5 miles, easy to moderate. Hike or snowshoe through the Hubbard Perkins woods to a beautiful "Winter" view. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Hubbard Perkins Lodge off Route 9, just north of Route 301. Leader: Margaret Douglas. Inclement weather cancels.

Sunday, February 12 - **TWO HIKES TODAY:**

Sunday, February 12 - **Appalachian Trail: Dennytown Rd. to Canopus Hill Rd. and Back**. 7.4 miles, moderate. This hike, mostly within Fahnestock Park, offers scenic woods and some ups and downs. From the Taconic exit for Fahnestock, travel 3.3 miles west to Dennytown Road. Turn left and travel 1.1 miles; the parking lot is on the left. Contact the leader, Carol Harting at (845) 669-6731 to register. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican.*

Sunday, February 12 - **Croton Point Park**. 10:00 - 1:00 (NWP). 3 miles, easy. Croton Point Park has beautiful views of the Hudson River and can be an excellent place to sight owls and eagles in the winter months. Dress very warmly because we may encounter cold winds. Optional lunch at Croton Diner following the walk will extend the return time to North White Plains. Leader: Catharine Raffaele. *Joint hike with ADK Mohican. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (No. 52).*

Saturday, February 18 - **Island Pond in Harriman**. 5-6 miles, moderate. Using Island Pond Road and the White Bar trail we will leisurely hike around the pond. If little or now snow on the ground, we'll also enjoy the view from Stahahe High Peak. Contact leader for meeting time and place. Inclement weather cancels. Leader: Carol Ann Benton, [aquarius2950@hotmail.com](mailto:aquarius2950@hotmail.com). *Joint hike with ADK Mohican*

Sunday, February 19 - **Late Start Hike - Hastings Circular**. 7 miles, easy to moderate. Entirely within inter-connected suburban parks: Rowleys Bridge, Old Croton Aqueduct, Lenoir Preserve, Draper Park, Burke Estate, Hillside Woods, Zinser Park and back to the diner near the Hastings Station. Inclement weather or poor ground conditions may cancel. Drivers park/meet at the northbound commuter lot at the Hastings RR station in time to meet the arriving 11:57 train (Google Map: Southside Ave zip 10706). Leader: Hal Kaplan [kapkotours@gmail.com](mailto:kapkotours@gmail.com) (914) 376-3156 (hike message on answering machine begins Sat. a.m.) *Joint hike with AMC. Qualifies for the Westchester 100 (Nos. 30 and 93a).*

Saturday, February 25 - **Piermont to Nyack**. 9 miles. Moderate terrain at a moderate to brisk pace

via a Tallman Mountain loop, and a northward trek on the old Erie RR bed. Cheerful trails, even in light snow, culminate in Nyack with an optional dinner. A nearby bus stop can return drivers to Piermont in 10 minutes. Drivers: meet leader in time for the arriving 9:17 northbound bus at the Bunbury Cafe (460 Piermont Ave., corner Tate Ave.) just east of Route 9W in Piermont, NY. Contact leader Marvin Malater (718) 376-3608 for hike status, driving instructions or other questions. *Joint hike with the Shorewalkers.*

Saturday, February 25 - **Anthony Wayne Ramble**. 9:30 - ? (NWP). 3-5 miles. We will do a loop hike in the winter woods with some ups and downs. Length and difficulty to be determined by the preferences and ability of the group. Leader: Mike Doehring (914) 761-7225, [clover7med@aol.com](mailto:clover7med@aol.com).

Sunday, February 26 - **Palisades Shore Path**. 9:00 - 4:00 (NWP). 7 miles, moderate. We will go north from the George Washington Bridge on the Shore Path at the base of the Palisades. Great views of Manhattan and the Bronx. Return on the Long Path atop the Palisades. Leader: Herb Hochberg (914) 723-6566, [h\\_hochberg@hotmail.com](mailto:h_hochberg@hotmail.com).)