2017 Cross-County Hike Series Ulster County and a bit of Delaware County





Come hike the far eastern portion of the Finger Lakes Trail located in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

Find out why the Catskills are a favorite destination for many hikers. Hike through remote areas. Climb to the highest point on the Finger Lakes Trail. There will be an opportunity to visit Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower. Enjoy spectacular vistas. Walk past the stone ruins of a lakefront lodge.

Take on the challenge of mountains and hills and more mountains and hills and wonder why they call one a mountain and another a hill, for the mountains aren't always higher than the hills.

The 2017 county hike series will cover the FLT in Ulster County and part of Delaware County. The series will consist of five hikes covering fifty-one miles in the rugged Catskill Mountains. Heading east to west, four maps, M33 through M30, will be covered.

Be prepared for rugged terrain, significant elevation changes, and few bail out spots.

Dates are May 20th, June 17th, July 15th, August 19th, and September 16th.

The \$85 member registration fee covers transportation by bus that will shuttle hikers from their cars to the beginning of each hike. Please note the fee increase is directly related to a significant increase in the cost of transportation for remote and distant shuttles. The fee also includes a completion patch, certificate, and supplies for the sag wagons. The after hike celebration will be held at the Old School House Restaurant in Downsville.

You can **register online** any time and pay securely via PayPal using a PayPal account or a credit card. Alternatively, you can register by US mail printing the forms online, or request a copy of the form from the FLT office at 585/658-9320.

Registration must be received by April 30, 2017

If you have any questions, please contact hike coordinator, Donna Coon at <u>coledonnarn@yahoo.com</u>

Top Picture: Balsam Lake Mountain fire tower. No, we will NOT visit when it looks like this!

Bottom Picture: Alder Lake



Sign at east end of the FLT.



Warren Johnsen

Tom Bryden napping on top of Cabot Mountain. Tom says, " I was merely trying to re-charge my battery and 'solar panel.' Those Catskills kicked my butt. Good times!"



Cabot Mountain lookout