January 2022

Calendar of Events
Hudson Valley’s Taconic Region

Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam & Westchester Counties

WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON STATE HISTORIC PARK // 845.834.2867

January 16, 12-1pm – Flag Changing Ceremony
The American Legion Post 739 organize and present monthly Flag Changing Ceremonies on the Walkway to honor our region’s veterans and their service to our country. These events, organized and presented by these local veterans’ organizations, are open to all who wish to attend.

STAATSBURGH STATE HISTORIC SITE // 845.889.8851

January 21 – 30, 10am – 3pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday – mansion tours
Mansion tours by advance reservation only. See the magnificent Gilded Age home of Ruth Livingston Mills, decorated with its original furnishings. To make reservations: www.bookeo.com/StaatsburghSHS
Cost: $8/Adults, $6/Seniors & Students, Children 12 & under are free.

To register for Staatsburgh tours, please visit https://millsfriends.org/

Explore Staatsburgh’s Beautiful Grounds
Along the Hudson River
Self-Guided Walking Tour

Scan QR code to view events
BANNERMANS ISLAND // 845.831.6346

Book a tour to Bannerman’s Island for 2022. Hike the island trails with professional tour guides, enjoy the Bannerman historic gardens and visit the Bannerman Island museum and visitor center. $40 Adults, $35 children – For tickets book online at www.bannermancastle.org

Now through Sunday, January 30, 2022 – “Winter Holiday Exhibition at the Bannerman Island Gallery – located at 150 Main Street, Beacon, NY. A new open-themed art exhibition of assorted paintings, pastels, watercolors, photographs, pottery and sculpture by over 25 artists. All works are for sale. Gallery Hours: Saturdays and Sundays, 12:00 noon – 5:00pm and most weekday afternoons and early evenings by chance or appointment by calling 845-416-8342.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT // 914.693.5259

Historic New York: The Highbridge Water Tower
Sunday, January 2, 2022 - 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Urban Park Rangers discuss the significance and history of this recently restored structure and lead a tour up to its viewing deck which offers spectacular views of NYC and NJ from 200 feet above ground!

At West 174 Street and Amsterdam Avenue (in Highbridge Park), Manhattan

To register: https://aqueduct.org/events

Weir Tour
Thursday, January 13, 2022 - 11:00am

Meet at the benches in front of the Joseph Caputo Center, which is located at 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562, just west of Rte. 9/Highland Ave. at the junction of Croton Ave. (Rte. 133) (from Metro-North Ossining Train Station by taxi or 15-minute uphill walk). (Parking lots nearby) After a brief walk, descend into the Weir in Ossining and explore the original 1842 brick water tunnel and learn its history. Less than a half mile and two hours. Required: pre-registration (limited number); masks, and social distancing.

Walk will be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. To register: https://aqueduct.org/events

Tibbetts Brook Park Loop
Saturday, January 22, 2022 - 12:00pm

Free, open-air, 5-mile (total) loop walk beginning and ending (where we will meet) at the bench near the admission booth inside the park entrance at 355 Midland Avenue (at Teresa Avenue), Yonkers, NY 10704. Parking is free inside the park near the meeting place or along Midland Ave. Discover the connections between the Old Croton Aqueduct, Tibbetts Brook Park, and the South County Trailway. View Tibbetts Brook and three Croton Water structures and learn their history.

Trail may be muddy; sturdy shoes or boots advisable.

Required: pre-registration (limited number); masks, and social distancing. Walk will be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. To register: https://aqueduct.org/events

Weir Tour
Sunday, January 23, 2022 - 1:00pm

Meet at the benches in front of the Joseph Caputo Center, which is located at 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562, just west of Rte. 9/Highland Ave. at the junction of Croton Ave. (Rte. 133) (from Metro-North Ossining Train Station by taxi or 15-minute uphill walk). (Parking lots nearby) After a brief walk, descend into the Weir in Ossining and explore the original 1842 brick water tunnel and learn its history. Less than a half mile and two hours.

Required: pre-registration (limited number); masks, and social distancing. Walk will be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. To register: https://aqueduct.org/events
Rockefeller is a designated State Park Preserve. A Park Preserve is a protected area of importance for flora, fauna, or features of geological or other special interest, which is reserved and managed for purposes of conservation while also allowing for passive recreation such as walking, jogging, photography or wildlife viewing. Come to Rockefeller to walk our trails/carriage roads, enjoy our magnificent trees, plants, and wildflowers - and maybe get lucky and catch a glimpse of some of our animal residents including deer, fox, coyote, raccoon, lots of birds (we are a recognized Audubon site), turtles, squirrels, chipmunks, trout, skunks, snakes, rabbits, and maybe even bobcats! Please leave the picnic and park games at home. Thank you for your cooperation!

**We follow NY State guidelines for COVID at all events.**

**Stargazing: Quadrantid Meteor Shower!**  
**January 3 from 5:15 – 7:15 pm**  
***Tickets available on December 20th, 2021 at 10:00 am ET***

Join Vinny Coulehan of the Rockland Astronomy Club for an evening of stargazing at the Preserve. You’ll have the chance to view the night sky through a telescope and catch a glimpse of our planetary neighbors. The Quadrantid meteor shower will be at its peak on this date, so we may be in for a show! **Please bring a folding chair that reclines and a headlamp with a red setting, if you have one.** Meet at the Visitor’s Center courtyard, followed by a short walk on the Overlook trail to our viewing location. Dress warmly and bring water to drink. **IMPORTANT:** We leave promptly at scheduled times. This is a night hike, after the park has officially closed. Latecomers will not be allowed to join after the group has departed. *Photo courtesy of Vinny Coulehan. Rain date: TBD. Cost: $3 + Eventbrite fees. Max: 20 people. [www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](http://www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)*

**History of Rockwood Hall**  
**January 8 from 11 am – 1 pm**

Join our Historian, David Teich, on an adventure into the past as we explore Rockwood Hall and its rich history through stories of the land and the people who called it home. Former estate of William Rockefeller, this site boasts scenic views overlooking the Hudson, lush forests, and remnants of 19th century luxuries. Leashed dogs are welcome. Bring water to drink and wear comfortable shoes; the tour is about 3 miles roundtrip. **This hike is at Rockwood Hall, DO NOT go to the main Preserve entrance.** The parking lot is on Kendal Way off route 117, just after the intersection of Phelps and Regeneron. If the lot is full, you may park in the Phelps garage (free).

**Gather at the kiosk at the top of the hill across the street from the parking lot.**  
*Rain date: January 15.*  
Cost: $3 + Eventbrite fees. Max: 40 people. [www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](http://www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)

**Silent Night: Hike with Mike**  
**January 11 from 5 – 7 pm**

Unlike our usual night walks, this walk will be limited to 15 individuals so that we can really get a feel for the nuances of the nocturnal forest. The walk will serve as a baseline for future walks of this type when more animals will be up and about attending to business rather than staying snug and warm. Please bring a headlamp or flashlight with a red light setting. Make sure that you dress warmly. Dressing in layers is always best, but a single warm garment will work for this walk. The
walk will begin and end in the Visitor’s Center courtyard and will last 1-2 hours, depending on weather conditions. **IMPORTANT:** We leave promptly at scheduled times. This is a night hike, after the park has officially closed. Latecomers will not be allowed to join after the group has departed. **In the event of heavy snow or temperatures in the teens, the walk will be canceled and a full refund will be issued; you will be notified at least 2 hours in advance.** Cost: $3 + Eventbrite fees. Max:15 people. *Photo courtesy of Katie Wildey.*

www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events

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**Birdwatching with the Saw Mill River Audubon Society**  
**January 12 and 30 from 8 – 10 am**

Get to know our feathered residents! Join experts from the Saw Mill River Audubon Society on a bird walk around the Preserve. Great for all levels of birding experience, beginners welcome! We typically go rain or shine except if very low temperatures, heavy precipitation, or high winds are forecasted and/or if travel is not advised. If so, you will receive a cancelation email two hours before the scheduled walk. **Completed vaccination required.** Bring a mask in case of close contact with other visitors. Ages 8+.

**Cost:** FREE. *Photo courtesy of Bill Golden.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** registration is NOT required for the January 12 walk; meet near the restrooms in the main parking lot. However, the January 30 walk is limited to 20 people. Please register for the January 30 walk at: [https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/register-trips/](https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/register-trips/)

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**Native Wildflower Seed Sowing Workshop**  
**January 16 from 1 – 2:30 pm**

Did you know that the middle of Winter is best time of the year to start native wildflowers from seed for your garden? Join us for this hands-on workshop with Flora Project Volunteer, Patty Butter, and Preserve Steward, Devyani Mishra, to learn about how to grow native wildflowers from seed and bring home two containers sown with seeds to start. We will discuss the ecological benefits of native wildflower gardens, and techniques for seed sowing and growing your own plants. Please bring two clear plastic containers with lids (like the ones that salad greens are sold in) to upcycle for this project. The event will take place in the Art Gallery at the Visitor’s Center. **Masks are required. Ages 10+. No pets please.** Cost: $3 + Eventbrite fees. Max: 15 people.  
*Photo courtesy of Kim Fendrich.  www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events*

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**Living Comfortably: Postural Therapy (VIRTUAL)**  
**January 17 from 11 am – 12 pm**

As we brave the winter and the manage the sedentary lifestyle that accompanies the cold, it becomes increasingly important to be conscious of our posture and find ways to make ourselves more comfortable. Join Postural Therapist, Joey Zimet, for a relaxing and relieving group session (from the privacy of your own home) where you will learn exercises to improve posture and function. These methods are well-studied and based upon neuroscience, biomechanics, the myofascial system, and other variables. Treat yourself to some maintenance and self-care! **This event is virtual; you will receive a link to join via Zoom.** You do not need to be on camera to participate.  
**Cost:** FREE. Registration required via Eventbrite. Max: 100 people.
PLEASE NOTE: If you reserve a ticket and cannot make it, please cancel your reservation through Eventbrite so the ticket may be made available to others who are wait-listed. Thank you for your cooperation.

www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events

Full Moon Hike: “Wolf Moon”
January 17 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm
>>Tickets available on January 3rd, 2021 at 10:00 am ET<<
Every month we give hikers an opportunity to experience the Preserve after dark in our "Full Moon Hike" series. Join us for this very popular and special event! Meet at the Visitor’s Center courtyard. The hike will be about 4 miles. Please bring water, a flashlight or headlamp, and dress according to weather conditions. Leashed dogs are welcome. IMPORTANT: We leave promptly at scheduled times. This is a night hike, after the park has officially closed. Latecomers will not be allowed to join after the group has departed. In case of bad weather, the hike will be canceled; you will be notified via email at least 2 hours in advance. Cost: $3 + Eventbrite fees. Max: 40 people.

Photo courtesy of RangerSu. www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events

Sunset Hike at Rockwood Hall
January 20 from 4 – 5:30 pm
Come join us for a 3-mile sunset hike at Rockwood Hall for what we hope will be a spectacular view over the Hudson and the Tappan Zee Bridge. Please dress according to weather conditions and bring water. Leashed dogs are welcome. This hike is at Rockwood Hall, DO NOT go to the main Preserve entrance. The parking lot is on Kendal Way off route 117, just after the intersection of Phelps and Regeneron. If the lot is full, you may park in the Phelps garage (free). Gather at the kiosk at the top of the hill across the street from the parking lot. We will leave ON TIME.
In case of bad weather, the hike will be canceled (including overcast skies when we know there will be no visible sunset). You will be notified via email at least 2 hours in advance.
Cost: $3 + Eventbrite fees. Max: 40 people. Photo courtesy of Guardian Melissa.

www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events

Hike with Mike: 13 Bridges, Eagle Hill, and then some!
January 22 from 9 am – 12 pm
Join our Historian, Mike Miernik, for a three-hour, approximately six-mile hike focusing on the Thirteen Bridges Trail and Eagle Hill. We will move at a brisk pace, so dress in layers to avoid overheating. Leashed dogs are welcome. Make sure to bring water, as the breath you see exiting your mouth and nose is water leaving your body. Meet at the Visitor Center courtyard. In the event of heavy snow or temperatures in the teens, the hike will be canceled and a full refund will be issued; you will be notified via email the day before.
Cost: $3 + Eventbrite fees. Max: 20 people. Photo courtesy of Susan A. Cember.

www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events
Sound Healing
January 23 from 4 – 5 pm
Sound is vibration. Vibration creates ripples in water. Our bodies are made primarily of water. When you immerse yourself in sound, you give the body an opportunity to heal on a deeper level than would otherwise be accessible. Join Kendra Valentine of Blackbird Healing for a therapeutic and restorative sound healing experience. Envelop yourself in the sounds of crystal singing bowls, chimes, and a variety of soothing instruments as you allow your mind to drift from an active state to a relaxed and meditative state. Embark on a journey inward and awaken energy that is not serving you; release it and make room for more positive energy to grow and support your well-being. The event will take place in the Art Gallery at the Visitor’s Center. Masks are required. **Please bring a pillow, blanket, and/or yoga mat, and arrive 10 minutes early so you can settle in.** To avoid disturbing the group, the door will be locked at 4 pm. Latecomers will not be allowed to enter. Ages 10+. No pets please. 
Cost: $5 + Eventbrite fees. Max: 15 people. **Please note: sound healing is not a substitute for medical treatment or diagnosis.** Registration required via Eventbrite: [www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](http://www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)

Coexisting with Coyotes
January 30 from 1 – 2:15 pm
Please join us for guest speaker Dana Goin’s talk about coyotes, their history and ecology, and what we can do to best coexist with them. The highly adaptable eastern coyote has become exceptionally adept at living adjacent to humans, even thriving in cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago, and NYC. Join us to better understand the behavior and benefits of the eastern coyote and how to empower our community with the tools, information, and resources we require to coexist with this misunderstood predator. Dana Goin is the Wildlife Outreach Specialist at the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, NY. She holds a degree in Wildlife Conservation and has worked in various areas around the country studying large and mid-sized carnivores including mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons. The presentation will take place in the Art Gallery at the Visitor’s Center. Masks are required. **This program is FREE,** however if you would like to donate, we will have a bin for cash donations, or you can donate online at: [https://nywolf.org/donate/](https://nywolf.org/donate/) Max: 20 people. Registration required via Eventbrite:[www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events](http://www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events)

Photo courtesy of Jeff Seneca.
OLANA OUTDOOR & INDOOR TOURS

All tour participants are required to: Wear a mask covering the mouth and nose inside during the tour. Maintain social distance (six feet) at all times. To learn more and purchase tickets visit https://www.olana.org/
The Olana Museum Store is open Friday - Sunday, 11am-3pm. Store closed January 1st and January 2nd.
The 250-acre landscape is free and open daily 8:00 AM to sunset.
Ongoing tours
Friday – Sunday, 11:00am – 3:00pm
No House Tours January 1st.

Virtual Tours
Learn about Frederic Church’s Olana and explore the 250-acre landscape from the comfort of your own home.
Virtual tours are available on the Olana website at Olana.org/tour-category/virtual

OLANA EYE SKYCAM
Virtual visitors can experience the iconic view from Olana's Studio Tower at any time and from around the world at OLANA.org/OLANA/EYE. Use the hashtag #OLANA/EYE on social media to share your amazing screen captures! Follow us @olanashs
Connect with Olana through virtual tours and programs by visiting https://www.olana.org/virtualg/virtual-olana/
VIRTUAL WEBINARS
Olana has over 20 virtual member’s webinar recordings available to watch for FREE! Tune in to view presentations by esteemed scholars, artists, and researchers in a diverse range of fields. Learn more about topics such as the saving of Olana, Frederic Church’s role in the establishment of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, or the careers of Church’s 19th century contemporaries like Eliza Pratt Greatorex and Mary Edmonia Lewis. Visit olana.org/olanawebinars.

Exploring Special Places with Olana
Onsite and virtual field trips for grades K-12
Scheduled Tuesdays- Fridays upon request
The Hudson Valley was an important place and source of inspiration for Frederic Church and other artists. During this tour, students will learn more about how Church and his contemporaries were inspired by this region of the American landscape. Students will explore Olana’s history through an outdoor tour, house tour, or 3D view of the site if participating in a virtual tour. Activities and conversations will prompt students to explore how artists are inspired by special places. By connecting with the story of Olana’s history and preservation, Church’s masterwork and family home, students will be encouraged to consider how they relate to important places in their own lives and communities. Free for schools in Columbia and Greene Counties. $10 per student for onsite tours/$5 per student for virtual tours. Email education@olana.org to learn more.
TACONIC STATE PARK – COPAKE FALLS
Saturday, January 1, 2022, 1:00
Ring in the New Year and join us for a fun guided 3.5 mile hike for all ages out to Bash Bish Falls and through the historic Copake Ironworks. Leashed pets welcome. Bonfire & refreshments following. Event is rain, snow or shine! Meetup at Park Office 253 Rt. 344, Copake Falls, NY 12517
Advance registration encouraged, please call 518-329-3993 for inquires and to register.

JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD STATE HISTORIC SITE
Saturday, January 1, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00PM
Kick-start your New Year’s resolutions with a First Day Hike on the grounds of John Jay Homestead. Pick up a self-guided landscape tour from our Holiday Shop in the Glass Porch of the Main House between 1:00pm and 3:00pm. For weather-based cancellation information please visit www.johnjayhomestead.org after 10:00am on the day of the program. Free admission. For more info: 914-232-5651

LITTLE STONY POINT AT HUDSON HIGHLANDS
Saturday, January 1, 2022, 11:00AM – 2:00PM
Ring in the New Year with beautiful scenery and fresh air of the Hudson Highlands down at the Hudson River’s shoreline!! Join us on New Year’s Day starting at 11 a.m. for free hot cocoa, coffee, snacks, music, fireside warmth, short naturalist-led hikes around Little Stony Point (about 1 mile), or a hike to nearby historic Cornish Estate (3 miles round-trip). Conscientious social distancing and mask-wearing, where appropriate, recommended.
Pre-registration requested, not required, via Facebook.com/Littlestonypointpark, under “Events”
ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE
WITH PETER, THE PRESERVE MANAGER
Saturday, January 1, 2022, 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Ring in the new year with Peter Iskenderian, the Preserve Manager, on our annual “First Day Hike”. Enjoy the brisk morning air and views of an icy lake as you meander along our carriage trails. We will have some small giveaways for attendees to commemorate this event and will also hold a raffle for an official NYS Parks T-shirt! If you reserve tickets and cannot attend, please cancel your reservation via Eventbrite so the tickets may be made available to others who are wait-listed. Meet up in the courtyard outside the Visitor’s Center at the Preserve’s main entrance for this 4 mile hike.

Please register via Eventbrite at www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events

ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK PRESERVE // ROCKWOOD HALL AREA
WITH LARRY TRACHTENBERG, SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY
Saturday, January 1, 2022, 9:00 AM
Start off your New Year with an invigorating 1.5 mile walk along the Hudson River across the beautiful landscapes of Rockwood Hall. The hike is guided by Larry Trachtenberg of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, so we will keep an eye out for winter birds including both Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks often seen in this park. Vaccination required.
Meet up location: Meet up at Rockwood Hall parking lot on Kendal Way at the west end of route 117, just after the intersection of Phelps and Regeneron. If the lot is full, you may park in the Phelps Hospital garage (free of charge). DO NOT go to the main Preserve entrance. Please register via Eventbrite at www.RockefellerStateParkPreserve.org/events
JOIN US! FIRST DAY HIKES

WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON STATE HISTORIC PARK
Saturday, January 1, 2022 at 2:00 – 3:00PM
Join Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park staff and members of the Walkway community for the annual First Day Hike on New Year’s Day. Leashed pets and the whole family are welcome on this easy 1-to-3-mile hike. The Walkway Over the Hudson is 1.28 miles from gate-to-gate. Both entrances will be open. Hikers will meet at the Center Overlook (by the flagpole) at 2 p.m.

OLANA STATE HISTORIC SITE
Saturday, January 1, 2022, 10:00-11:00AM & 1:00-2:00PM
Celebrate the New Year with expansive views and a New York State Parks tradition! Learn more about Olana State Historic Site and its artist-designed landscape on this special First Day Hike Walking Tour. Limited capacity. Advance registration required. For more information or to reserve spots on our waitlist, please contact education@olana.org or call (518) 751-6938.

OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT - CROTON DAM WALK
Saturday, Jan. 1 & Sunday Jan.2, both at 12:00 Noon
Greet the New Year with an easy 2-mile total loop hike north along the Aqueduct and atop the beautiful Croton Dam. Free, small group, open-air 2 hour hike north along the Aqueduct and atop the beautiful Croton Dam. Meet near the restrooms at the rear of the parking lot at Croton Gorge Park, Rte. 129, Cortlandt, NY. 10567 (free parking). The leader of the hike will discuss the history and construction of the Old Croton Aqueduct and the features of the Croton Dam, the trailhead of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail. The Aqueduct was completed in 1842 to supply fresh water to a thirsty New York City. (From Metro-North Hudson Line Croton-Harmon Train Station: 15-minute taxi.) Required: pre-registration (limited number); masks, and social distancing. Walk(s) will be rescheduled if weather does not cooperate. Please pre-register for the First- or Second-Day Hike online: https://aqueduct.org/events/croton-reservoir-dam-first-day-hike-2
https://aqueduct.org/events/croton-reservoir-dam-second-day-hike-0

FDR STATE PARK
Saturday, January 1, 2022, 10:30 AM
Ramble through FDR State Park with your guide Walt and Jane Daniels, for a fun and fact filled First Day Hike. Easy 2-mile hike, no pre-registration, no leashed pets. Dress in warm layers with hats and gloves. Meet up in North end of pool parking lot. Free of charge.
Tell me about where you grew up and what your family life was like. I grew up in a town called Pleasantville in Westchester County, about 25 miles south of my current home in Cold Spring. I was the middle child and had two brothers and two sisters. We lived in a typical baby boom generation suburban neighborhood with lots of other kids to play with and most of our time spent outdoors. The stream running through our backyard was my first real introduction to nature and my friends and I explored every swamp and wooded area within walking distance, when we weren’t playing sports. All in all, an idyllic childhood.

What do you do here at Fahnestock? I am the park manager at Fahnestock, as well as managing Wonder Lake SP and Hudson Highlands SP Preserve. During the season, I spend most of my time in HHSPPP because that park has only one other permanent employee and we have about 400,000 visitors a year, from around the world. Declan Hennelly is the assistant manager and he spends most of his time in the season managing the beach and campground at Fahnestock.

What experiences have you had that are unusual or unique? Every day is a unique experience in the park because it is so large (25,000 acres) and we have so many visitors. I guess I would highlight my experiences as a first responder, helping to rescue lost and injured hikers. Along with my staff and local emergency service personnel, we have managed to bring patrons back to safety by various means including helicopter, truck, Gator, wheeled stretcher, and old-fashioned carry. We have also been involved in search and rescue operations involving fugitives, and recovery of suicide victims. This can happen at any time of the day or night, so there is never a dull moment!

Any safety tips for Hudson Highlands hiking? Bring my cell phone number with you when you hike. Just kidding! Mostly, be prepared: make sure you have a map and understand your route, bring plenty of water and snacks, dress appropriately for the weather, have your phone fully charged and bring an extra charger. Our trails are very well marked, so if you haven’t seen a blaze in a while, you are off the trail. Go back to where you last saw one, don’t just wander on thinking that it will go somewhere positive. Often, it can lead to a dangerous cliff or remote area that will make rescue more difficult. Finally, don’t be afraid to call if you need help, early calls lead to easier rescues and avoid having to go out in the dark.
Who inspired you to get into this line of work? I was in the restaurant business for 30 years, starting as a dishwasher in high school and ending up being the chef and owner of my own restaurant for 17 years in Peekskill. I sold the restaurant in 2004, partly because I didn’t want to be stuck inside in front of a hot stove for the rest of my life. The next year I just happened to come across an ad in the local paper for a caretaker position at TOEC. I happened to be chaperoning a Girl Scout trip to the Bronx Zoo with John Stowell’s wife Theresa who told me I had to apply. That $12 an hour job turned into a 17-year career so far. And I owe it all to Theresa Stowell!

Who or what motivates you personally? My early years at TOEC were formative for me in my career. I enjoyed working with a highly motivated and cohesive staff who were doing great work, which got me off to a great start. My greatest motivation at work is to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for our patrons while protecting the natural resources that have been entrusted to us. That’s really what we’re about. And I have to thank my mother, who called me “irresponsible” so many times in my youth, that I eventually developed a pretty good work ethic. My motivation from a personal standpoint is the love I have for my three daughters, son in law, and three grandchildren. That guides my life in every way.

What about the Winter Park? FWP is an operation that could only exist within state parks because a private entrepreneur would go broke trying to run it. We never know from year to year whether we will be open for 60 days or none. But we must be ready for either eventuality with equipment, trail maintenance, and staff. FWP was the brainchild of Paul Kuznia, former director of TOEC. He built the park on a shoestring and a lot of hard work from his staff. The energy and enthusiasm he put into it have been picked up and enforced by Declan Hennelly, who is really the passion and force behind the operation. When we are open, it is a wonderful resource for the community as well as visitors from the city, many of whom grew up cross country skiing in Europe and Russia.

Do you have a favorite trail? Every time I say I have a favorite trail or place in the park, I change my mind when I get to the next spot. I am extremely lucky to live and work in one of the most beautiful places in the world!

What led you to your career at Parks? Largely, a matter of chance. But, when I was a kid, I always wanted to be a forest ranger. Somehow that got lost, but I was lucky enough to get it back at the age of 50. As I tell my kids, don’t worry too much about planning your job for the future, things have a funny way of working out if you are open to it.

What are you most proud of accomplishing here? I’m most proud of the people I have worked with and the relationships I have formed over the years. I have a wonderful staff that cares about the park and each other, and it shows in everything we do. Beyond that, we have created Hudson Highlands SPP from some lines on a piece of paper into a living breathing park. We built the park office with our own labor, turning a broken-down caretaker’s cottage into a charming visitors center. Three years ago, the park had no funding or staff. We have come a long way but still have much further to go.

What’s new or coming up at Hudson Highlands? The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail which is planned to stretch someday from Cold Spring to Beacon, will likely begin construction next fall, transforming the area around Breakneck into a safer and more beautiful place for patrons to enjoy. The trail will eventually intersect with park property and staffing in numerous ways which will present many challenges and opportunities in the future. This winter, we will begin a major reblazing project on the Highlands trails that will simplify the trail colors and hopefully reduce the number of lost hikers.
Please contact the park/site for information regarding fees & availability

### NEW YORK STATE PARKS—TACONIC REGION FACILITY LOCATIONS & PHONE NUMBERS

#### STATE PARKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarence Fahnestock Memorial</td>
<td>(845) 225-7207</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carmel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fahnestock Winter Park</td>
<td>(845) 225-7207</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Snow conditions</td>
<td>(845) 225-3998</td>
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<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yorktown Heights</td>
<td>(914) 245-4434</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hudson Highlands</td>
<td>(845) 225-7207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peekskill to Beacon</td>
<td>(845) 225-7207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Bair</td>
<td>(845) 452-1489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Valley</td>
<td>(845) 452-1489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Taghkanic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancram</td>
<td>(518) 851-3631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Lewis Norrie/</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogden Mills &amp; Ruth Livingston Mills (Mills-Norrie)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staatsburg</td>
<td>(845) 889-4646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockefeller Preserve</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasantville</td>
<td>(914) 631-1470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taconic/Copake Falls</td>
<td>(518) 329-3993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taconic/Rudd Pond</td>
<td>(518) 789-3059</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wonder Lake</td>
<td>(845) 225-7207</td>
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#### STATE HISTORIC SITES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clermont</td>
<td>(518) 537-4240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germantown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Jay Homestead</td>
<td>(914) 232-5651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katonah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olana</td>
<td>(518) 828-0135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>(914) 965-4027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philipse Manor Hall</td>
<td>(845) 889-8851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yonkers</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Staatsburgh</td>
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#### EDUCATION/NATURE CENTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taconic Outdoor Education Center (OPRHP) By Group Reservations Only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold Spring</td>
<td>(845) 265-3773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrie Point Environmental Center (DEC)</td>
<td>(845) 889-4745</td>
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<td>Staatsburg</td>
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#### STATE HISTORIC PARKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Croton Aqueduct</td>
<td>(914) 693-5259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dobbs Ferry (Park Office)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Walkway Over the Hudson</td>
<td>(845) 834-2867</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highland/Poughkeepsie</td>
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#### PROPERTIES OWNED BY NYSPORHP AND MANAGED BY NON-PROFITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bannerman Island</td>
<td>(845) 831-6346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beacon, (845)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton House State Historic Site</td>
<td>(845) 471-1630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poughkeepsie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Heritage Center</td>
<td>(914) 698-9275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The historic houses at John Jay Homestead and Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Sites are currently closed for renovations. Grounds are open at John Jay.