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On the cover: Photo by Kristen LiCalzi

2 KAATSKILLIAN REBIRTH
   By Garan Santicola

6 START HOLIDAY MEMORIES AT CATSKILLS FARMS
   WITH CUT-YOUR-OWN CHRISTMAS TREES
   By Sandy Frinton

12 THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN THE CATSKILLS
   By Jeff Senterman

15 EXPLORING OFF-THE-BEATEN PATHS
   By Carol and David White

19 DECEMBER AT THE
   CATSKILL MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION
Robert Cramer lay in his bed in the apartment at the back of the old Victorian that houses his gallery, Twigz 'n Thingz, on Main Street in Windham, as the floodwaters of Hurricane Irene seeped over the floorboards and began to lap towards him. He had skidded off the road a week earlier in a motorcycle accident that left many of the bones on the left side of his body broken. On Saturday evening, August 27, 2011, after a week in the hospital, he returned to his apartment and fell asleep, paying little attention to the torrential rains that poured down about the area.

Cramer awoke the next morning to the sound of sirens blaring from the local fire department as the flooding was already streaming through town and firemen were stepping into action to serve the community. He looked out the window to see a boat he had parked at the back of the house float past his window towards the road along with the trailer it rested on. Unable to walk, he stood out of bed on his one good leg and quickly assessed there was no easy way out of his predicament, so he flopped back down to ride out the flood.

Seemingly minutes later, the water was in the house and Cramer began a series of cell-phone calls to ask for information and eventually request help. He was told authorities had sent a helicopter and police boat through to rescue folks in the area to no avail, and that the boat had actually flipped over due to the force of water.

By noon, Cramer had three feet of water on the main floor of his house, where he lay trapped in bed, his left leg clamped into an external fixator with metal rods running through his bones. By around 3:00 in the afternoon the water finally stopped rising, and by around 6:00 pm it had receded enough for the National Guard to arrive. The Guard backed a Humvee through water and mud right up to the house and finally rescued him from his harrowing ordeal.

Cramer says of the experience, “It was truly surreal but what most stood out to me was the constant presence of my friends and the Twigz crew as well as the reaction of the community once the waters died down. People were here to help,” he says, “here to shovel out the mud and debris carried into my house by the water. Here to rescue my home and my life.” He estimates there must have been hundreds of volunteers in and through his house over the course of the next week, but he’s reluctant to name any one of those people he’s so grateful to for fear of all the names he’d be bound to leave out.

The loss of property was enormous, considering that much of the main floor was devoted to the art and rustic furniture that
occupied his store. He salvaged a few pieces but most of the contents were damaged beyond repair, and his homeowner’s insurance did not cover anything.

He did have a bit of flood insurance that kicked in, and he put the last of his savings into repairing the house, which has been a painstaking process that is ongoing to this day. Yet he wants people to know he is fully operational now and open for business; and to highlight that fact Twigz ‘n Thingz is having a Grand Reopening on Saturday, December 29, from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. He will be joined by photographer Francis X. Driscoll, whose gallery has been housed at Twigz ‘n Thingz for the past several years. There will be refreshments, and they plan on giving away a door prize, most likely one of Driscoll’s photographs paired with one of Cramer’s rustic barn wood frames.

Bob Cramer took up “rustic,” as he calls his art, in 1993, though he remembers tinkering with old objects and trying to reconstitute them even as a boy growing up on a farm in the Catskills. He moved away for a time and became a chef, opening his own restaurant near Lake Placid. But he was drawn back to the area due to family ties.

After his return, he found himself tinkering with a few small pieces of firewood that he fashioned into a band-saw box. He put the creation out on his front porch to display almost as a lark, and later someone strolled by and asked how much he would sell it for. Cramer responded “one-fifty” and the man gladly pulled out a hundred and fifty dollars to buy the box. Cramer was astounded as he had jokingly meant he would accept a dollar-fifty. He had no real intention of selling it for such a low amount as he did indeed value his own creation, but it was in that moment he began to realize others might value his talent as well. Twenty years later he is still creating rustic,
and he has developed a style that can only be appreciated by repeated trips to his store as his one-of-a-kind items are sold and replaced with different ones, demonstrating an art form with clear boundaries yet capable of subtle changes that surprise and beguile with each new visit.

Cramer’s Twigz ‘n Thingz has become a welcome outlet for many rustic artisans in the area who sell their work at his store, and he has had much help from them in filling the place with an eclectic assortment of art and furniture in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. The green, reclaimed, repurposed trend in art so popular now has always been inherent to rustic, and Twigz ‘n Thingz truly glows again with the polished look of old things made new.

An unexpected enhancement to his rustic displays came about when he removed the floorboards damaged by Irene. Underneath were older wide-plank floorboards, and since he was unable to afford new, he simply had those old floorboards refurbished. Now the floors match the enveloping rustic décor of the house with its exposed tree-branch beams stuck into the walls and running overhead in the ceilings.

The house and the artist who founded the store within have undergone a rebirth of sorts over the course of the past year, but it is a rebirth that remains unfinished to this day. Cramer is back to working capacity after his accident, taking orders, visiting with clients, and spending much time in the barn that houses his woodshop, a structure that also had to be rebuilt after the flood. But his rebirth is a Kaatskillian one, much like his art, in that regeneration might only be realized through an acceptance of the ruggedness of nature and the unexpected course it can set our lives upon.

Twigz ‘n Thingz is located on Main Street in Windham, NY. For more information, please call them at 518 734 5877.

Garan Santicola is a writer who lives in the Catskill Mountains. He can be reached at garansanticola@gmail.com.

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**Astor House Business for Sale or Lease**

The Astor House is an established Internet café, bakery, and gift shop in Greene County, NY, with a prime location near Hunter Mountain on Main Street, Tannersville, an up-and-coming revitalized area with many new businesses, including a performing arts theater. This 1800’s Victorian is fully renovated with 2,700 square feet of first floor retail space and has a prominent, attractive curbside presence with ample off-street parking. The Hunter Foundation*, which owns and operates the Astor House, is looking for interested parties to submit proposals to take over operation of the business. It is a turnkey operation fully equipped and staffed with very low upfront costs and minimal capital requirements. Favorable lease terms with options to buy are available for qualified individuals. The Hunter Foundation would also strongly consider offers to buy this property outright. In addition to the first floor retail space, the second floor has a gallery and two income-producing residential apartments, one 1-bedroom and one 2-bedroom; the third floor has one 2-bedroom/2-bath apartment. Interested parties should contact Charlene Holdridge at the Hunter Foundation, charlene@hunterfoundation.org, or by phone, (518) 589-5050.

*The Hunter Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation whose mission is to help restore and revitalize the Town of Hunter.

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For many families, traipsing through a snow-covered farm to hand pick and cut down the perfect Christmas tree is a time-honored tradition.

Growing that picture-perfect tree for trimming has been practiced by generations of Catskills’ farmers. The Christmas tree market is said to have been born in 1851 when Catskill farmer Mark Carr hauled two ox sleds of evergreens into New York City and sold them all. By 1900, one in five American families had a Christmas tree, and 20 years later, the custom was nearly universal.

As kids, young and old, get ready to begin the annual ritual of bundling up and hiking into the wooded fields to sing carols and shout “Timber,” growers in the region have spent years—in fact, seven to 10—growing the evergreens that will light up the season.

To lead up to the post-Thanksgiving kick off, farmers are busy year-round mowing the fields, planting young seedlings and pruning the mature trees to make sure they have the tree varieties, heights and shapes to appeal to everyone’s tastes.

And this year’s Catskills’ crop—which includes a diverse selection of firs and spruces—is plentiful, with thousands of trees to select from on picturesque farms, many run by family farmers, with the fragrant fresh pine smell, hot cocoa, the occasional visit from Santa himself, and perhaps even some snow this season.

So grab your handsaws, family and friends and get ready to head to the Catskills. Here are some of the best bets for the season. For a full listing of farms by county offering pick-your-own and pre-cut trees and wreaths, visit the “Fresh from the Catskills” Web site at www.buypurecatskills.com/freshfromthecatskills.html.

SECOND GENERATION ROBSON’S IN BOVINA
Gary Robson is continuing the tradition of his parents, John and Marguerite Robson, who started the pick-your-own operation in the late 1950s. He and his wife, Mary Joan (MJ), took over in 1978.

Today, Robson’s Christmas Trees in Bovina is larger and features more varieties to select from on two fields of their 110-acre...
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December 2012 • GUIDE 7
Christmas Parade and Party

Saturday, December 15, 2012

12:00-3:30 pm: Holiday Family Festival, including refreshments, PLUS films for the young and young-at-heart, including:
   It's a Wonderful Life
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farm. The same care, attention to detail, pruning and clipping by hand to get the perfect Christmas tree continues.

Robson’s offers 5 to 10 foot Fraser Fir, Concolor, Grand, Balsam Fir and Blue Spruce trees. While Gary is handling the tree part of the business, MJ has been busy making wreaths, kissing balls and centerpieces for the season.

For the 100 or so trees the Robsons plan to sell this season, several thousand are grown. A new seedling is planted when an older tree is cut and takes as long as 10 years to mature. They now have about 3,500 trees on their farm.

The young seedlings need plenty of rain in their beginning years as they slowly grow. Once they reach 3 to 4 feet high, Gary regularly prunes them using a motorized prune and hand clipper to make sure there are no large gaps between the trunk and branches, and the tree has a good shape all around.

When taller, the trees can withstand the Catskill weather conditions, but late spring frost that can damage the buds and deer eating the buds are always potential problems. This year, neither was a major issue for the Robson’s farm and the selection looks excellent.

“We have plenty of trees and they are very nice this season,” says Gary Robson. “We have a lot of 8, 9, 10 foot tall trees.”

The Robsons are ready to welcome customers that include local residents and people from the New York metro area who have second homes, vacation or visit the area. They will help visitors select and cut trees, and assist with the baling.

As much as they come for the fresh trees, customers visit the Catskills this time of year for the farm experience.

“People come with their families or a whole group and we enjoy having them,” he says. “They like the variety and picking their own tree, and knowing it’s fresh and hasn’t been transported miles. Trees cut from a farm are very fresh and many people haven’t experienced that.”

After cutting, Robson recommends shaking the tree to knock off loose needles. If the tree is stored outside and
not put in the stand right away, a half to 1 inch should be cut off from the base. Once inside, check the water regularly as trees can consume as much as a gallon of water a day, especially in the first few days after being cut.

Buying local helps support local farmers and keeps agricultural land green. “We offer good quality and competitive prices. We get a lot of repeat business. It supports the local economy.”

The farm will be open Friday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm, Thanksgiving to Christmas, or by appointment. In addition to the farm, Robson’s trees are sold at Russell’s Store in Bovina and Hogan’s General Store in Andes.

Located on the corner of McNaught Hill and Jim Lane Road, this farm is off-the-beaten-path for passer-by traffic but worth the trip. Look for new signage this year to lead the way. For information, call 607 832 4306.

**New Kids Bells Christmas Trees in Accord**

The Bell family planted its first trees as a hobby in 1991 on their family-run dairy farm in Accord, nestled between the Shawangunk Ridge and the foothills of the Catskills. They now have almost a dozen varieties of spruces and firs for cutting, as well as pre-cut trees on their 24-acre farm.

Over the past two decades, the Bells have learned several aspects of the profession of Christmas tree growing—from establishing transplant beds to grooming the various shapes and sizes of Christmas trees.

Gordon Bell and his son, Brian, and daughter-in-law, Lori, work year-round pruning the trees while Gordon’s wife, Paula, works in the rustic gift shop that is decked with hand-decorated Douglas Fir, Balsam Fir, Fraser Fir and Meyer Spruce wreaths; white pine roping and balsam kissing balls; as well as maple syrup, honey, ornaments and other hand-crafted items.

Bell’s provides drilling, shaking and baling for trees. The farm also offers balled and burlap live trees and potted trees for some species.

The whole experience is what draws customers and keeps them coming back. Santa arrived for his first visit to the farm on November 24, and has been known to make a surprise second visit in the season.

“It’s the atmosphere and coming to a real farm with dairy cows grazing the fields,” Gordon Bell says. “We have great country views and are friendly, and we have gorgeous trees.”

Located at 647 Mettacahonts Rd., Bell’s Christmas Trees is open seven days a week from the day after Thanksgiving through December 24. Hours are Monday through Friday 9:30 am to dusk; and weekends, 8 am to dusk. On Christmas Eve, the farm will be open from 8 am to noon. For information, call 845 626 7849 or visit www.bellschristmastrees.com.
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Temperatures are dropping and snow has dusted the mountain peaks as we prepare for the holiday season here in the Catskill Mountains. December can be a great month to get out and enjoy the mountains and wilderness of the Catskills if you are prepared for the cold weather and the potential for winter conditions on the trails.

New Roof for the Mink Hollow Lean-to

In October the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (Trail Conference) led the effort to rehabilitate the Mink Hollow Lean-to as part of its Lean-to Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program. The lean-to is located in the northeastern Catskill Mountains along the popular Devil’s Path hiking trail and has received a lot of use from backpackers and was really beginning to show its age.

The Trail Conference had previously identified the Mink Hollow Lean-to as a lean-to that needed rehabilitation and they worked with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to secure the necessary approvals required for the work. These approvals were granted, however since the lean-to is located within the Indian Head Wilderness Area, this rehabilitation project presented unique challenges when it came to getting materials to the site, as you cannot use motorized equipment to transport the materials in a Wilderness Area. Instead, the Trail Conference identified an abandoned trail that provided the quickest access. That access was a three quarters of a mile hike along an eroded trail which included a roughly 500 vertical foot climb to the lean-to site.

Another ongoing challenge for all lean-to projects is funding, however thanks to the Christopher Nowak Memorial Fund, set up in honor of Christopher Nowak, an avid Catskill Mountain region hiker, the Trail Conference was able to purchase the necessary cedar shingles, floor boards and associated hardware.

The weather was perfect for the weekend of work. Saturday morning volunteers from the Trail Conference and the Catskill 3500 Club, supporters of the Memorial Fund and the local Forest Ranger, Christine Nelson, brought up over 700 pounds of cedar shingles, lumber and materials to the Mink Hollow Lean-to site. Many of them, including Forest Ranger Nelson, made five to six trips back and forth bringing up material (each round trip was 1.5 miles and 1,000 vertical feet so for someone who made five trips, that was seven and a half miles of hiking and going up and down over 5,000 vertical feet!). Also on Saturday the crew was able to remove the old cedar shingles, start the first few rows of new shingles and put down the new floor boards.

On Sunday morning volunteers, Memorial Fund supporters and the Forest Ranger once again hiked up to the Mink Hollow Lean-to. They finished installing the new roof and re-stained the
Tannersville General Store

Business for Lease or Sale

Tannersville General Store is located in 3,400 square feet of prime retail space on Main Street, Tannersville, Greene County, NY in the heart of downtown, minutes away from Hunter Mountain Ski Resort and within a heavily revitalized area with many new businesses including a performing arts theater. Established in 2010 in a beautifully restored historic building, Tannersville General store is a full service general store with an old fashioned soda fountain, luncheonette, candy counter, old time toys, home decorations, and gift items. The Hunter Foundation*, which owns and operates TGS, is looking for interested parties to submit proposals to take over operation of the business. It is a turnkey operation fully equipped, stocked and staffed with very low upfront costs and minimal capital requirements. Favorable lease terms with options to buy are available for qualified individuals. Offers to buy the property will also be considered. In addition to the first floor retail space, the second floor has two income-producing residential apartments, one 1-bedroom and one 2-bedroom. Interested parties should contact Charlene Holdridge at the Hunter Foundation, charlene@hunterfoundation.org, or by phone, (518) 589-5050.

*The Hunter Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation whose mission is to help restore and revitalize the Town of Hunter.
Now hikers and backpackers have a newly rehabilitated lean-to to enjoy thanks to the Christopher Nowak Memorial Fund and volunteers from the Trail Conference and the Catskill 3500 Club.

Trail Updates and News

Hunting Season

If you are planning on hiking in December, you should take steps to protect yourself as hunting season for deer runs through a portion of the month. The regular Gun Season for deer runs until December 9 and is followed by a week of Bow Season between December 10 and December 18. A necessary step for hikers using trails during Hunting Season include wearing blaze orange clothing in any location (including areas where hunting may not be allowed) and making sure that your dog also has blaze orange clothing on, so that you are both easily seen by hunters. For more information on Hunting Season, visit www.nynjtc.org/news/hunting-seasons-2012.

Take a Hike!

If you are looking to get out on the trails, but are looking for some guided hikes to help you get your bearings on Catskill Mountain trails, the region has several different groups that lead guided hikes. The Catskill Mountain Club (CMC) offers members and non-members the opportunity to go hiking, paddling, biking and skiing throughout the Catskills. More information on the CMC and schedules of their activities can be found at www.catskillmountainclub.org. The Catskill 3500 Club leads hikes up the 35 peaks in the Catskills that reach above 3500 feet in elevation. Visit the 3500 Club’s Web site at www.catskill-3500-club.org for information on their activities. The Rip Van Winkle Hikers also lead hikes throughout the region and you can find out more information about the club and their schedule on their website at www.newyorkheritage.com/rrw. All three of these organizations are member clubs of the Trail Conference and work through the Trail Conference’s agreement with the DEC to maintain trails and lean-tos in the Catskill Mountains.

Getting Involved

If you are interested in joining a trail crew, adopting a trail for maintenance, or just finding out more information about stewardship in the Catskill Park, please contact the Trail Conference at 518 628 4243 or via e-mail at jsenterman@nynjtc.org.

Jeff Senterman was formerly an Assistant Forest Ranger for the DEC in Greene County, graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Lyndon State College and is currently the Catskill Region Program Coordinator for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference partners with parks to create, protect, and promote a network of over 1,800 miles of public trails. We offer volunteer opportunities for people who love the outdoors, as well as publishing detailed hiking maps for the Catskill Region, along with a number of other regions. For more information on our maps and our Catskill Community Trails program please visit us on the Web at www.nynjtc.org/catskills and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NYNJTC.CatskillRegion.
EXPLORING OFF-THE-BEATEN PATHS

By Carol and David White

We tend to think “mountains” in the Catskill Forest Preserve, such as Slide and Hunter that are over 4,000 feet and Thomas Cole, Black Dome, and Blackhead, just under 4,000 feet in elevation. Eight more are 3,800-footers, six exceed 3,700 feet, ten are 3,600-footers and six exceed 3,500 feet. We were told about these challenging peaks in the Catskill Forest Preserve when hiking in the Adirondacks. We had just become Adirondack 46ers¹ and were looking for more mountains to climb, unaware of this region’s vast trail system and significant peaks. That’s one reason we like to write books and articles about hiking in the Catskills, to get the word out about the myriad beauties and unique features of this “undiscovered country” on the mountain-top.

We feel very fortunate that the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK)² asked us to write Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons. The requirements for this guide were to describe our favorite hikes throughout the 300,000-plus acre Catskill Forest Preserve for every level of ability and interest. We searched out great views and fascinating natural features throughout the entire 350-mile trail system. Then ADK asked us to take over the editing of its 300-page comprehensive guidebook, Catskill Trails, and lent us a surveying wheel to measure every trail in the Forest Preserve. It took us the better part of two years, and in the process we discovered a wild world, unsuspected so near major population centers. The Slide Mountain Wilderness is one of the largest wilderness areas east of the Mississippi, its expanse including much of New York State’s little-known ninety-five square miles of virgin forest. Now a trail is being created through some of this wild region.³

For our column this month we want to stay at relatively lower elevations as winter approaches. We’ll climb from Palenville at 600 feet of elevation, up the fabled Rip Van Winkle Hollow (Sleepy Hollow) Trail to a splendid Hudson Valley view from the Little Pine Orchard Picnic Area, an 800-foot ascent. Note that big game hunting season continues through December 9 followed bow season from December 10-18, so wear blaze orange clothing.

The trail heads into a dark and lovely hemlock forest from the end of Mountain House Road into the narrowing hollow above the cascading Rip Van Winkle Brook, a beautiful section in any season. Imagine an inn on this road to the Catskill Mountain House in one mile where the trail switchbacks. Legend has it that

¹ ADK 46ers
² ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club)
³ Slide Mountain Wilderness
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• Artisan Pasta (look for Saturday pasta night, coming soon!)

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As we were contemplating life in those days and wishing the old inn were still here, we saw a penny—its date 1881, the year before a narrow-gauge railroad was constructed through Stony Clove from Phoenicia to Hunter. Getting to the mountains by rail was much preferable to the bumpy stagecoach ride taken after disembarking from Hudson River steamboats and traveling by narrow-gauge railroad to Palenville, and then by stagecoach to the mountaintop. People often had to get out and walk steeper sections!

The Huckleberry Rail Trail through Tannersville—said to move so slowly that people could jump off, pick huckleberries, and then climb back on—was constructed to get folks to the Catskill Mountain House, Kaaterskill Hotel, and Laurel House in Haines Falls. A 1.5-mile Kaaterskill Rail Trail is now being improved for a hiking/biking path from the Mountain Top Historical Society property in Haines Falls to Laurel House Road near the North-South Lake Public Campground.

Imagine getting on the stagecoach in 1881 after a pleasant stop at the Rip Van Winkle House. Scenic ledges and impressive cliffs adorn the steep side of the escarpment, that “Great Wall of Manitou” that was avoided due to fears of the dark, unexplored region until the nineteenth century. The terrain drops to the valley on your left and steadier climbing begins, but it’s not very far to the spur path to Little Pine Orchard Picnic Area at 1.6 miles, with a fireplace and fine view of the Hudson River Valley. Retrace from here, for a round-trip of 3.2 miles; or you may wonder where the Sleepy Hollow Trail goes if you continued on.

In another 1.3 miles, you reach a junction where you turn left and descend a bit on the Sleepy Hollow Trail; going straight takes you in 0.6 miles up to the North Lake picnic area and beach. After
notably descending, you pass under a high electric utility line where the stationary engine Otis Railroad line built by Charles Beach carried guests some 1,600 vertical feet up the escarpment to the Catskill Mountain House. That route is still visible from Palenville on the mountainside.

The Sleepy Hollow Trail becomes a level walk through occasional very wet spots (wear boots) to a first Palenville Overlook junction one mile from the North Lake junction. Continue just a few more yards to a second yellow-marked spur trail with trail signs; this approach is dry. This nearly level 0.3-mile trail to Palenville Overlook brings you to a fireplace, and just beyond is a path to the first of two rock ledges with spectacular views. Kaaterskill High Peak and Roundtop Mountain loom across Kaaterskill Clove.

At a second overlook, continuing along the path from the fireplace, turn to the right down rock steps to the foundation of the old boarding house that thrived in the heyday of the great hotels—you can climb down into it for a closer look. Beyond are three impressive rock thrones built just a few feet from a cut in the cliff where you can see straight down to Route 23A! Views to the Hudson River Valley from here are superb, so go on a clear day.

Retrace to the Sleepy Hollow Trail, where you have two choices: Turn right to return to the trailhead where you began in Palenville, an 8.4-mile round trip counting the spur trail in and out. Or turn left on the Sleepy Hollow Trail to do a great loop hike back with different scenery and a slightly shorter return, 8.1 miles including the spur trail. You would spot one vehicle off Whites Road and another at Sleepy Hollow trailhead on Mountain House Road, both in Palenville; these two trailheads are about four miles from each other. We road-walked it when we were measuring trails and it gets long, after a big hike! (This loop can be hiked in either direction).

If choosing the loop, take your time climbing the 150 vertical feet just after the Palenville Overlook junction—it’s just a tenth of a mile of climbing and then an attractive footpath levels out. At 4.5 miles from the Sleepy Hollow trailhead, there are good views across Kaaterskill Clove in any season. The path then ascends on gradual and moderate grades, crosses a creek, and passes through a nice stand of hemlocks.

The red-marked Harding Road Trail enters from the left at 4.8 miles and is also the Long Path, which may have turquoise-blazes—turn left. This route, then considered an engineering marvel, is on nearly level terrain here. Harding Road was built to bring wealthy vacationers from crowded, polluted, and sweltering urban areas to the Kaaterskill Hotel atop South Mountain. It’s just 0.9 miles from the Palenville Overlook spur trail junction; it descends to a parking area off Whites Road in Palenville.

You will soon begin a 350-foot descent past interesting rock slabs—this must have been a fascinating trip by stagecoach for city-dwellers who had never viewed such wild grandeur. In 0.7 miles, the route switchbacks and gradually descends along the escarpment edge with high rock cliffs on the left. In another 0.8 miles, a boulder-filled tributary is crossed and an especially lovely section with tall hemlocks, stately pines, and lovely birch greets the hiker, descending gradually above a tributary of Kaaterskill Creek. You pass a large fireplace ingeniously built into the cliffty hillside and then arrive at a splendid lookout into Kaaterskill Clove. Here is a trail register and a horse tie rail, about one mile from the trailhead. Be sure to note, near the bottom, that you turn left off the Harding Road Trail, briefly up a yellow-marked side road and then a right to your vehicle near Whites Road.

1 The Adirondack 46ers, www.adk46r.org

2 The Adirondack Mountain Club, www.adk.org, publishes hiking guides and maps covering all major hiking trails in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Our revised guide to Catskill Trails (volume 4) will shortly be available packaged with a new National Geographic Society Trails Illustrated Map #755 of the Catskill Park with our suggestions of how to most helpfully convey the 350-mile trail system.

3 Trail crews are creating a new section of the Long Path that begins near Phoenicia and continues over Romer Mountain, Mount Pleasant, and Cross Mountain to connect with the Terrace Mountain Trail near the Terrace Mountain Lean-to.
Carol and David White are authors of Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons (Adirondack Mountain Club, 2002) and editors of Catskill Trails, 3rd edition: Volume 8 (Forest Preserve Series, Adirondack Mountain Club, 2005). Catskill Trails is now packaged with the new National Geographic Society Catskill Park Trails Illustrated Map #755, which they helped create in 2011. Carol is editor of Catskill Peak Experiences: Mountaineering Tales of Endurance, Survival, Exploration & Adventure from the Catskill 3500 Club (Black Dome Press, 2008). Signed copies of all of these books are available at the Village Square Bookstore and Literary Arts Center in Hunter, NY. Carol’s new book, Peak Experiences: Danger, Death, and Daring in the Mountains of the Northeast (University Press of New England) is now available for order on Amazon. Two accounts are about the Catskills.

To Reach the Trailheads

For the Sleepy Hollow Trail: From the intersection of NY 23A/NY 32A in Palenville, travel west on NY 23A for 0.15 miles and turn right on Boggart Road. Pass a first parking area (for horses) at 2.1 miles; continue past Pennsylvania Ave. to Mountain House Road, left, at 2.4 miles. The end, 0.8 miles, is the trailhead; park on the roadside a bit down the road away from homes.

For the Harding Road Trail: From the intersection of NY 23A/NY 32A in Palenville, travel west on NY 23A for 0.2 miles and turn right on Whites Road. Take a left fork to the parking area. Walk south on the lane to a T-intersection, descend briefly, left, to the Harding Rd. Trail, and turn right.

There is another legal parking area from which to climb the Harding Road trail: 0.6 miles from the junction of Route 23A in Palenville, look for an unmarked pullout between the Palenville village limit sign and the “Entering the Catskill Park” sign.
Hello I Must Be Going

Directed by Todd Louiso

Selected as the opening night film for Sundance 2012, Hello I Must Be Going features acclaimed actress Melanie Lynskey as Amy, a recent divorcée who seeks refuge in the suburban home of her parents. Demoralized and uncertain of her future, Amy begins an affair with a 19-year-old actor that jumpstarts her passion for life and helps her discover an independence and sense of purpose that she has missed for years.

12/1-12/2. Saturday 7:15; Sunday 7:15

“Funny, well-written, involving and emotionally honest”
—Claudia Puig, USA Today

Gregory Crewdson: Brief Encounters

Directed by Ben Shapiro

Acclaimed photographer Gregory Crewdson has created some of the most haunting pictures in the history of the medium. His meticulously composed, large-scale images are stunning narratives of small-town American life. Crewdson’s imagery has also infiltrated the pop culture landscape—including his inimitable Six Feet Under ads. Shot over a decade with unprecedented access, this film beautifully bares the artist’s process.

12/7-12/9. Friday 7:15; Saturday 7:15; Sunday 7:15

“A finely sketched portrait of the artist’s unlikely pursuit of perfection.”
—Michelle Orange, Village Voice

Ticket Prices: $8 / $6 seniors & children under 11
Film schedule subject to change, please call ahead to confirm: 518 263 4702 (recorded messages) or visit www.catskillmtn.org.
SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN
(RATED PG-13, 85 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY MALIK BENDJELLOUL
In the late ‘60s, two celebrated producers were struck by the soulful melodies and prophetic lyrics of a musician performing in a Detroit bar. They recorded an album that they believed was going to secure his reputation as one of the greatest recording artists of his generation. In fact, the album bombed and the singer disappeared into obscurity amid rumors of a gruesome on-stage suicide. But a bootleg recording found its way into apartheid South Africa and, over the next two decades, it became a phenomenon. Two South African fans then set out to find out what really happened to their hero. Their investigation led them to a story more extraordinary than any of the existing myths about the artist known as Rodriguez. Searching for Sugar Man is a film about hope, inspiration and the resonating power of music. 12/14-12/16. Friday 7:15; Saturday 7:15; Sunday 7:15

“The information they eventually dislodge about Rodriguez suggests a secular saint, a deeply good man, whose music is the expression of a blessed inner being. I hope you’re able to see this film. You deserve to.” —Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun Times

A LATE QUARTET
(RATED R, 105 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY YARON ZILBERMAN
Set in iconic New York City, this is the story of four musicians, bound together by their passion for music and long years of working together. But when their patriarch Peter is diagnosed with a terminal illness, the repercussions hit the group deeper than they could imagine. First and second violinists Robert and Daniel row over first chair, Robert and violist Juliette’s marriage hits the rocks when he has an affair, and their headstrong daughter embarks on her own explosive affair—with Daniel. As their 25th anniversary performance looms, the musicians must either find a way to overcome their troubles, and preserve their legacy—or part ways forever. 12/28-12/31. Friday 7:15; Saturday 7:15; Sunday 7:15; Monday 7:15

NYT Critics’ Pick. “Magnificently acted... deeply felt, musically savvy.” —Stephen Holden, New York Times

THE FITZGERALD FAMILY CHRISTMAS
(UNRATED, 103 MINUTES)
DIRECTED BY EDWARD BURNS
With The Fitzgerald Family Christmas, Burns returns to the working-class, Irish-American roots of The Brothers McMullen. Burns seamlessly weaves an ensemble story of adult siblings dealing with the desire of their estranged father to return home for Christmas for the first time since he walked out on his family 20 years ago. Family rifts emerge, and like with any family, Christmas brings a mixed bag of complicated emotions and dynamics. Alliances form, old wounds are reopened or glossed over, and the possibility for a new hope and forgiveness emerges. 12/21-12/27. Friday 7:15; Sunday 7:15; Monday 7:15; Wednesday-Thursday 7:15 (NO SHOW ON 12/25)

“A LATE QUARTET’s dialogue rings true with its deft balance of blunt-spoken humor and emotionally charged vernacular.”

Celebrate the Magic of the Season at the CMF!
TWO Showings of the holiday classic, “It’s a Wonderful Life”
Saturday, December 15  (as part of our Holiday Family Festival, 12-3:30 pm)
Saturday, December 22 at 7:15 pm * normal movie theater admission rates apply

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TWO Showings of the holiday classic, “It’s a Wonderful Life”
Saturday, December 15  (as part of our Holiday Family Festival, 12-3:30 pm)
Saturday, December 22 at 7:15 pm * normal movie theater admission rates apply
AT THE DOCTOROW CENTER FOR THE ARTS
MAIN STREET, HUNTER

THE PHARAOH’S DAUGHTER
FROM THE BOLSHOI BALLET, MOSCOW
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 2:15 PM
2 hours, 55 minutes plus two intermissions

A young English Lord traveling through Egypt takes shelter in a pyramid. After a round of opium, the new friends begin to have fantastic dreams about the Pharaoh’s daughter. Originally a hit when first staged in 1862, the ballet fell out of favor under the Soviet regime. In 2000, Pierre Lacotte resurrected Petipa’s mighty Egyptian fresco, and it became a hit yet again.

THE ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO
FROM THE GRAN TEATRE DEL LICEU, BARCELONA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 2:15 PM
3 hours, 14 minutes

Constanze, a noble lady, and her servant Blondchen have been abducted by pirates and handed over to the Pasha Selim. Selim soon falls in love with Constanze, while Osmin, their coarse, cruel jailer, attempts to woo Blondchen. Constanze’s fiancé Belmonte manages to enter the palace in a bid to rescue them. Just as they are about to flee, they are captured. The pasha chooses to set them free, as a way of proving how civilized he is.

LA CENERENTOLA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 2:15 PM
In Italian with English subtitles

Cenerentola: A Live Fairy Tale, a stunning new film-opera event from producer Andrea Andermann, has been called “A kaleidoscopic fairytale suspended between Mozart and Disney with a hint of noir” by La Repubblica. Watch as Rossini’s jubilant take on the story of Cinderella unfolds in real castles and ballrooms in Europe, and through lush, never-before-seen animation. Starring Lena Belkina as Cenerentola.

THE NUTCRACKER
FROM THE ROYAL BALLET, LONDON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 2:15 PM
2 hours, 10 minutes plus one intermission

From the very first notes of Tchaikovsky’s overture to The Nutcracker, a sense of mystery and magic pervades the theatre as Herr Drosselmeyer sets in train the events that will see his beloved nephew, Hans Peter, freed from the enchantment of the evil Mouse King by the resourceful Clara.

THE MAGIC FLUTE
FROM LA SCALA, MILAN
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 AT 2:15 PM
2 hours, 24 minutes plus two intermissions
In German with English subtitles

From the Queen of the Night’s pyrotechnic high notes to Papageno’s chirpy birdsongs, The Magic Flute is one of Mozart’s most charming and engaging operas. This celebrated production by artist William Kentridge joyfully bursts onto the stage of Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Italy—and onto the big screen!

Thank You from the Children of Greene County!

As 2012 draws to a close the Catskill Mountain Foundation would like to take the opportunity to thank our generous donors.

All Souls Church • Bank of Greene County • Greene County Youth Program
New York State Council on the Arts • Stewarts Shops • Windham Chapter

You helped to make it possible for Greene County children to enjoy a special summer season.

The children of the National Dance Institute—Two Week Residency and Art Explorers’ Program wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.
CLASSIC FILMS
At the Doctorow Center for the Arts
7971 Main Street, Village of Hunter

Ticket Prices:
$8 / $6 seniors & children under 11

Film schedule subject to change, please call ahead to confirm:
518 263 4702 (recorded messages)
or visit www.catskillmtn.org

NEW! Every Saturday at 4:15 pm!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
RAN (1985)
DIRECTED BY AKIRA KUROSAWA
(RATED R, 162 MINUTES)
THE FIRST TIME IN NEWLY RESTORED HIGH-DEFINITION!
“SPECTACULAR! Among the most thrilling experiences a viewer can find!”
—The New York Times

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15
CHAPLIN SHORTS:
PAY DAY (1922)/SUNNYSIDE (1919)/THE IDLE CLASS (1921)
DIRECTED BY CHARLIE CHAPLIN
(UNRATED, 78 MINUTES)
IN OUR NEW SERIES: A CHAPLIN FILM EVERY MONTH!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22
PYGМАLION (1938)
DIRECTED BY ANTHONY ASQUITH AND LESLIE HOWARD
(RATED R, 96 MINUTES)
FOUR ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29
ORLANDO (1985)
DIRECTED BY SALLY POTTER
(RATED PG-13, 93 MINUTES)
NEW DIGITALLY REMASTERED VERSION!
“Ravishing and witty... a grand new movie that is as much a richly informed appreciation of the novel as it is a free adaptation.”
—The New York Times

DECEMBER: CLASSIC LITERATURE IN FILM

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The Catskill Mountain Foundation Presents

THE BLUES HALL OF FAME
NIGHT AT THE ORPHEUM

New York Blues Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Concert

This performance is funded, in part, by Friends of the Orpheum (FOTO)

with recent inductees Professor Louie & The Crowmatix, Bill Sims, Jr., Michael Packer, and Sonny Rock

Awards going to Big Joe Fitz, Kerry Kearney and more great performers to be announced with Greg Dayton opening and special guests the Greene Room Show Choir

Saturday, February 16, 2013
8pm (doors open at 7pm)

Tickets: $25 in advance, $30 at the door
(Tickets will go on sale soon: visit www.catskillmtn.org or call 518 263 2063)

Orpheum Performing Arts Center • 6022 Main St., Tannersville, NY 12485
In the Doctorow Center for the Arts
Main Street, Village of Hunter

Screens One and Three, showing
the best of first-run Hollywood films.

We show the very best Hollywood films available each
week. The following are some films that we will
show during the month of December.

For the most up-to-date schedule, call 518 263 2002 or
check www.catskillmtn.org. While there, sign up for our e-mail updates so
you can get the newest schedule delivered to your e-mail box each week!

ARGO
A dramatization of the 1980 joint CIA-Canadian secret
operation to extract six fugitive American diplomatic
personnel out of revolutionary Iran.

FLIGHT
An airline pilot saves a flight from crashing, but an
investigation into the malfunctions reveals something
troubling.

FRANKENWEENIE
Victor brings his beloved dog Sparky back to life, only to
face unintended consequences.

HERE COMES THE BOOM
A high school biology teacher looks to become a suc-
cessful mixed-martial arts fighter in an effort to raise
money to prevent extra-curricular activities from being
axed at his cash-strapped school.

THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER
An introverted freshman is taken under the wings of
two seniors who welcome him to the real world.

PITCH PERFECT
The Bellas, an all-girls singing group, take on their male
rivals in a campus competition.

THE SESSIONS
A man in an iron lung who wishes to lose his virginity
contacts a professional sex surrogate with the help of
his therapist and priest.

SKYFALL
Bond’s loyalty to M is tested as her past comes back to
haunt her. As MI6 comes under attack, 007 must track
down and destroy the threat, no matter how personal
the cost.

TAKEN 2
Retired CIA operative Bryan Mills and his wife are taken
hostage by the father of a kidnapper Mills killed while
rescuing his daughter.

WRECK-IT RALPH
A video game villain wants to be a hero and sets out to
fulfill his dream, but his quest brings havoc to the whole
arcade where he lives.
Books make great holiday gifts, children’s, cookbooks, coffee table books, starting at $2.99! Shop local for the holidays.

Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 pm
Book Talk and Book Signing with Robert & Johanna Titus

The Hudson Valley in the Ice Age: A Geological History & Tour

“If you live in or near the Hudson Valley, this delightful book will help you imagine what is no longer there to be seen—an Ice Age glacier reaching from northern Canada to what is now the mouth of New York Harbor, that in its advance and retreat shaped the landscape we enjoy today.”

—Chet Raymo, co-author of Written in Stone: A Geological History of the Northeastern United States

HUNTER VILLAGE SQUARE • 7950 MAIN ST/RTE. 23A / 518 263 2050
HOURS: MONDAY, THURSDAY-SATURDAY 10AM-5PM; SUNDAY 10AM-4PM (CLOSED TUE.-WED.)
THE CATSKILL MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION PRESENTS

The Annual Holiday Show

A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

~ Paintings by George Ballantine and

~ Pastels by His Friend, Robert Selkowitz

Through December 30 2012
When a small group of compassionate citizens came together some years ago, their purpose was quite simple: to enrich life on the mountaintop. This progressive group of second homeowners, soon to become the Windham Chapter, has taken many small steps to make great strides in our community. As a division of the Catskill Mountain Foundation, the Windham Chapter is committed to supporting projects in the arts, education, and recreation. Their impact has been felt on many levels; from the very public to the intensely personal: radio and emergency equipment for local firefighters, medical care for families, band uniforms for WAJ students and college scholarships for deserving graduates. This group saw a need and made a commitment to help fill it. Since 2003, the Windham Chapter has awarded nearly 2 million dollars to local non-profit organizations.

Some people want things to happen, some people wish things to happen...

The Windham Chapter makes things happen.

The Windham Chapter is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, governed by an all-volunteer board.

Windham Chapter • P.O. Box 600 • Windham, NY 12496
www.windhamchapter.com
**DECEMBER 2012**

**MOVIES & EVENTS AT A GLANCE**

*Schedule subject to change: please call 518 263 4702 to confirm or visit www.catskillmtn.org.*

Films on Screens 1 & 3 change weekly; please call or visit our Web site for the most up-to-date schedule of Hollywood films.

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<td>HOLIDAY MOVIES, PARTY AND PARADE</td>
<td>IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE</td>
<td>CHAPLIN SHORTS</td>
<td>OPERA IN CINEMA: LA CENERENTOLA</td>
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SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Bookmark www.catskillmtn.org and check it often for our updated schedule as it becomes available!

2013 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

**FEBRUARY**
Blues Hall of Fame
February 16, 2013

**APRIL**
Flamenco Vivo Dance Company
April 13, 2013

**MAY**
Paul Taylor 2 Dance Company
May 11, 2013
Paul Taylor 2 Dance Company and Students
May 18, 2013
Paul Taylor 2 Dance Company and Students
May 25, 2013

**JUNE**
Storyteller David Gonzalez and “Aesop Bops”
June 8, 2013
Early Music New York: “Istanpitta”
June 15, 2013

**JULY**
Perspectives Ensemble, featuring composer Huang Ruo: “Sparkle!: Works by Chinese-American composers”
July 6, 2013
Catskill Mountain Foundation Annual Benefit
July 13, 2013
Amati Music Festival Guest Artist Concert
July 20
National Dance Institute, featuring the NDI Celebration Team and Local Students
July 27, 2013
Manhattan in the Mountains Faculty Concert
July 27, 2013

**AUGUST**
Manhattan in the Mountains Faculty Concert
August 3, 2013
Catskill Jazz Factory
August 10, 2013

**AUGUST, CONT.**
Catskill High Peaks Festival: Music with Altitude!
August 11-22, 2013
Catskill High Peaks Festival: “Northern Lights: Grieg Revival”
August 18, 2013

**SEPTEMBER**
American Virtuosi Baroque Opera Theater, featuring Kenneth Hamrick: Baroque Spectacular
September 1, 2013

**OCTOBER**
Catskill Jazz Factory, Aaron Diehl Trio
October 12, 2013

**NOVEMBER**
Windham Festival Chamber Orchestra: Works by Vivaldi, Bach, Grieg and Copland
November 30, 2013

Catskill Mountain Foundation is supported in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Greene County Legislature through the County Initiative Program administered in Greene County by the Greene County Council on the Arts, by the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation, by Friends of the Orpheum (FOTO), by the Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation, and by private donations.
Quality Name Brands such as...

FREE IN-STORE DESIGN CONSULTATION
OR IN-HOUSE SERVICE CONSULTATION AVAILABLE

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