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On the cover: Photo by Loraine Arnold
Contemporary Artists Inspired by the 150th Anniversary of the U.S. Civil War at the Greene County Council on the Arts

The Greene County Council on the Arts is proud to announce Museum as Muse: Remembering the American Civil War, a collaboration between Greene County’s art and history institutions. This unique exhibition brings historic artifacts alive through the creative interpretations of 11 contemporary artists. In the upstairs gallery, Undaunted Valor, a related exhibition, features historical paintings by Mark Maritato depicting the Rebel and Union forces.

Local historians Regina Daly and Sharon Quinn, who curated the shows, researched area museums and selected a variety of artifacts that tell stories about the war’s span from 1861 to 1865. Known as the deadliest war in American history, with an estimated 750,000 soldiers dead and an undetermined number of civilian casualties, these years left a lasting scar on the lives of both Northern and Southern families.

In this unique collaboration between the arts and historical institutions, Greene County Legislator Joe Izzo has created a tribute video to the Civil War soldiers buried in Catskill’s Thompson Street cemetery. Izzo’s family has placed American flags on soldiers’ graves on Memorial Day for 30 years.

Photographers Rivka and Moshe Katvan photographed Greene County Minority Historian Charles Swain wearing a rare pre-Civil War artifact from the Greene County Historical Society’s collection—a numbered medallion used to identify slaves at auction.

Texas-born, Palenville artist Jill Skupin Burkholder worked primarily with Confederate photographs from the public domain images at civilwar-pictures.com. C. Michael Bufo’s emotional painting Gettysburg II was created in response to a visit to the Gettysburg National Military Park.

Kiskatom/NYC photographers Rivka and Moshe Katvan worked with artifacts from the Durham Center Museum and scholar Juanita Leisch’s private collection featuring everyday objects used by women and children during the Civil War era. Valerie White’s portrait of a solitary cavalryman at rest was a particular favorite of curator Regina Daly. Greenville artist Jeanne Strausman’s collages share esthetic elements with juror/collector Sharon Quinn’s private collection of women’s carte-de-visites.

Joanna Szakmary created a reproduction of a quilt from the collection of the Zadock Pratt Museum. The original quilt was made during the Civil War by Suzanna Slater of Athens as a gift to her husband, John Towner of Company K, 20th New York State Militia. The newly created piece has been donated to the Zadock Pratt Museum for a September 15 raffle at Colonel George Watson Pratt Heritage Day. The raffle will raise funds for building renovation and collection conservation after damage caused by the flooding of tropical Storm Irene.

Civil War figurative sculptor Ron Tunison’s work is based on Col. David S. Cowles’ military boots from the Robert Jenkins House Museum of the Hendrick Hudson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Commander of the 128th New York regiment nicknamed “Old Steady,” Cowles was wearing these boots when he was killed at the battle of Port Hudson.

Mark Maritato and Paul Martin III’s works are born of a longstanding interest in the Civil War. Their paintings depict significant battles and detailed portraits of soldiers’ uniforms and character. Martin’s portraits of Gen. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, Gen. Robert E. Lee and President Abraham Lincoln are made in the style of hand painted, Civil War era engravings.

Maritato’s paintings commemorating the Irish Brigade and 20th Maine regiment are included in the group show downstairs. Upstairs, don’t miss the solo show, Undaunted Valor, the Historical Paintings of Mark Maritato. One side of the gallery shows battle scenes featuring Union regiments and a Portrait of President Abraham Lincoln. Across the gallery, Confederate battle scenes are represented through four paintings; the Confederate battle flag, General Robert E. Lee’s moment of triumph at Chancellorsville Virginia, Confederate artillery at Antietam and the Battle of Franklin Tennessee.
Another wall features Maritato’s studies of individual soldiers’ portraits showing enlisted men's uniforms in carefully documented detail.

Join us on Saturday, September 15 for a unique pair of historic interpretations. At 2 pm, Greene County Historical Society President Bob Hallock will narrate Elizabeth Miller’s Diary with readings by Alice Tunison, wearing full period dress. This document was recently purchased for the Vedder Research Library and later transcribed by Hallock as a script. Miller lived in New Baltimore and left a detailed diary of her impressions and insights of the war up through Lincoln’s assassination and funeral train.

Scholar Juanita Leisch follows this performance with a slide show of artifacts relating to the role of women during the war years based on her collection and book, “Introduction to Civil War Civilians.”

On Sunday, September 16 at 11 am, Cairo artist Ron Tunison will share his figurative sculptures in a slide show revealing his process and a lifetime of works focused on the Civil War. He will be followed by historian and exhibit curator Regina Daly at 1 pm, reading from her newly released books, Reports to the Homefront—A Sesquicentennial Commemoration of Civil War Journalism in Greene County. This two-volume set excerpts news and editorials from three early Greene County newspapers: The Catskill Recorder and Democrat, The Catskill Examiner and The Windham Journal. Daly credits an important journalistic archive housed at the Greene County Historical Society’s Vedder Research Library, which provided an important historic narrative for the exhibition.

Museum as Muse: Remembering the American Civil War and Undaunted Valor, the Historic Paintings of Mark Maritato are on view at the GCCA Catskill Gallery, 398 Main Street in Catskill NY through September 29, 2012. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. For more information, visit www.greenearts.org or call 518 943 3400.
Avian Impressions by Inverna Lockpez & Glimpses by Patrick McCay at the Chace-Randall Gallery in Andes

Chace-Randall Gallery proudly presents Avian Impressions, new works by Inverna Lockpez, and Glimpses, new works by Patrick McCay through September 17.

Inverna Lockpez, a native of Cuba and well-known painter/curator in New York City and the Catskill Mountains, is currently living in northern Florida, taken by the beauty of the sea and the bird life which abounds there. Hence, Avian Impressions, her most recent and stellar accomplishment.

Ms. Lockpez’s accomplishments are numerous: While living in Manhattan she won a major outdoor competition for a 25-foot sculpture under the auspices of The Municipal Art Society. She received grants from The National Endowment for the Arts, Creative Artists Public Service, CINTAS Foundation, and a CETA award. By the nineties her paintings had already been part of more than 80 exhibitions around the country and for her work she received three NYSCA Decentralization Grants administered by the Roxbury Arts Group. Her books The Noble Barn and, most recently, Cuba: My Revolution, have received national attention and glowing reviews.

Wrote critic Hertha Schulze: “Avian Impressions represents a visual meditation on the survival of species that have been transported in time. Seagulls, gray and blue herons, pelicans, egrets, ibises, and wood storks have all adapted to the suburban development that continually erodes their habitat.” The “political” is seen in Lockpez’s composition, as well. “Placing the birds at the edges of the canvas exploits the tension between the object and its surrounding space,” notes Schulze, adding that “the paintings use color and texture to reinforce such oppositions.”

Originally from Scotland, Patrick McCay’s exhibition history includes London’s Royal Academy, The Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts, The Edinburgh Royal Academy, and the London Institute, among others. His work is collected by numerous corporate and private collectors. He is currently Dean of Fine Arts, New Hampshire Institute for the Arts. Here his work in oil on canvas charts his response to the landscape of rural New Hampshire and domestic iconography, the whimsical ever present.

The Glimpse series represent painterly re-visits and a re-contextualizing of well known icons and experiences of the New England environs. They are a visual journalistic alchemy of editorial flashes and fragments of signature scenes and moments that pepper the artist’s journeys throughout New England. “Seen often at speed from the portals of our vehicles, I have attempted to distill the visual handwriting of these moments encapsulating and interpreting the glimpse in a series of formal invention that simultaneously embraces clarity and ambiguous symbol,” says the artist, adding that “the compositional objective is to provide a lofty significance to the landscape iconography and impose the dignity of the unknown to that which is all too well known.” Ultimately the paintings strive to be at once interpretive and immediate utilizing the power of summary and unpredictability to exploit expressive visual surprises.

Chace-Randall Gallery is located at 49 Main Street, Andes, NY. Gallery hours are Friday through Sunday and Holiday Mondays from 11 am to 5 pm, and by appointment. For more information call 845 676 4901 or visit www.chacerandallgallery.com.
Charles Grogg: Reconstructions at Galerie BMG in Woodstock

Galerie BMG is delighted to host Reconstructions, a solo exhibition of photographs by Charles Grogg, an artist represented by the gallery since 2010. The portfolio consists of fractured photographic images, printed piece by piece in platinum/palladium on handmade Japanese paper, with the component pieces then stitched back together to form a reconstructed image.

The artist describes the process as an attempt to “rip the world apart and stitch it back together as if I were a tailor or some absurd god trying to wring a new reality out of old parts. In these works, I have tried to displace the event of viewing familiar natural imagery without obliterating it but making it less than comfortably recognizable”.

The poet and photographic historian John Wood wrote in an introduction to Charles’ recently published book: “Charles Grogg’s photographs are hauntingly beautiful. And they are strange…. Strings and wire are often an integral part of a Grogg’s photographs…wire, string, tendrils, roots, veins, all the connecting tethers of life, become his metaphor…. Grogg’s curious compositions and masterful handling of his prints allow us to perceive a beauty we otherwise would not have known. They allow us to make important connections we would never have made.”

Charles is primarily self-taught, his interest in photography beginning in his thirties following a gift of a Leica camera, purchased in Germany in 1954, from his father. For several years he devoted his time to studying and reading about photography, going to art exhibitions, teaching himself black and white film techniques, and studying with and about other contemporary photographers. His images have been shown in galleries and art fairs internationally and published widely in fine art photography periodicals. A Deluxe Edition monograph of his work was published by 21st Editions in 2012.

Reconstructions will be on display through October 8, with an artist’s reception on Saturday, September 8 from 5-7 pm. Galerie BMG is located at 12 Tannery Brook Road in Woodstock. Regular gallery hours are Friday through Monday 12-5 pm or other times by appointment. For further information, please contact the gallery at 845 679 0027.
“Fall for Art” to Celebrate its Sweet Sixteen!

On Thursday, September 6, Fall for Art, the Jewish Federation of Ulster County’s annual fundraising art show, sale and cocktail reception, will celebrate its 16th consecutive year. Held from 6 to 9 pm at Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston, Fall for Art generally attracts over 300 guests. This year’s juried show will feature the work of the following 28 Hudson Valley artists: Sue Altman - oil; Harriet Forman Barrett - jewelry; Sara Beames - fused glass; Yael Bernhard - acrylics; Josh Bishop - drawings; Barbara Bravo - ceramics; Sherri Cohen - jewelry/judaica; Mira Fink - watercolors; Josh Franklin - turned wood; Ida Gooch - painted wooden bowls; Thomas Lindley - photography; Randy Myerson - wood; Liza Jane Norman - fiber; John Novi - acrylics; Kevin Palfreyman - oil; Rick Pantell - graphic art/oil; Joe Perry - photography; Judy Polinsky - jewelry; Sally Rothchild - ceramics; Kaete Brittin Shaw - ceramics; Elisa Shaw - photography; Tom Stoenner - blown glass; Karen Whitman - graphic art; Vindora Wixom - mixed media; Helen Zouvelekis - acrylics. These very talented artists support the Federation’s mission through revenue sharing on artwork purchased at Fall for Art.

The Federation’s share of the proceeds goes to its programs, and to many of the local not-for-profit organizations it supports. Additionally, it has been a longstanding tradition to donate a portion of the funds raised to a worthwhile Ulster County arts organization or program. The list of prior recipients includes the Rosendale Theatre Collective, the Children’s Annex, the Arts Society of Kingston, Shadowland Theatre, and the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz.

The Fall for Art committee is very proud to announce that its 2012 recipient organization will be the Arts Program at the Saugerties Boys & Girls Club. Children and teenagers enjoy painting, drawing, collage, sculpting, handcrafts and photography at this year-round arts program. In addition to the visual arts, the program also includes drama, dance, drum and guitar playing, song writing, and a girls’ choral group. During its recent site visit with Director of Operations Roland Carito and Arts Program Director Ashley Drewes, Fall for Art committee members were delighted to see examples of club members’ art throughout the facility. The welcoming Partition Street building includes a learning center, gymnasium, kitchen, arts & crafts area, and a teen lounge designed and decorated exclusively by club members. Ashley reports that the gift will be used to further develop the arts program targeting elementary school aged children, purchase materials, and repair some much-used instruments.

For information about Fall for Art, visit www.FallforArt.org, e-mail info@FallforArt.org, or call 845 338 8131.
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Not since Thomas Locker perpetuated his brilliant interpretation of the Hudson River School of Art has an artistic style so unique to America’s original heartland been put into practice as that conceived by the ingenious collaboration between Francis X. Driscoll and Michael Lavery. On display at the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center in Poughkeepsie from September 28 until November 5, the Driscoll/Lavery collaboration reaches deep into the cultural significance of Catskill Mountain history and geography to evoke a primordial sense of our region’s past.

The project begins with the stark beauty of Francis X. Driscoll’s nature photography, which is award-winning on both a local and national stage and has been featured in many publications, including Cynthia Dantzic’s prestigious art book *100 New York Photographers*. Driscoll’s technique involves total immersion in a setting in order to allow his surroundings to come forth in unexpected ways so that he might capture that rare glimpse and share it with others. Visitors to the region marvel at his work and often purchase a piece to serve as a reminder of the pristine and dreamy environment of the Catskill Mountain Forest Preserve. But what is most gratifying to Driscoll is when those who have been immersed in these same Northern Catskills also marvel at his images.

“Many people who have lived in these mountains for years come up to me and say that they’ve gone past a particular spot many times and they never noticed how beautiful it was until they saw it in one of my photographs. That really gets me,” he says in his straight-forward manner with a bit more than a hint of the accent he acquired growing up in the Bronx.

Driscoll recounts a time as a young man when he was working at the New York Botanical Garden and a friend of his who was into photography lent him a camera to use for several months. He trolled his surroundings in a burst of artistic experimentation, snapping photos of the natural beauty cultivated at the Garden as well as the wildlife of the nearby Bronx Zoo and a myriad of other subject-matter around the city. But it was not until years later, when he settled in the Catskill Mountains and began to tromp through the woods with camera in hand and a sense of expectation that he actually decided to pursue that talent glimpsed in his youth. Since then he has captured some of the most iconic images of the Great Northern Catskills and his photography evokes a sense of understanding for what it was that inspired the birth of the Hudson River School of Art almost two centuries ago.

On the other side of the collaboration is Michael Lavery, a world-class woodcarver, with work in museums from the Smith-
sonian to the Vatican. Lavery practices his own version of tramp and folk art, with much of his material coming from recycled and found wood. And his finished products are proof that great art can be truly regenerative.

It is exactly that spirit of rebirth inherent to Lavery’s work that inspired him to propose the collaboration he and Driscoll are currently engaged in. The idea got its start in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, when Lavery suggested they join their artistic talents to remind people of the beauty of the Catskill Mountains in spite of all that was lost. He had done a frame for one of Driscoll’s pieces before, but what he would accomplish once they agreed to a more elaborate project is unprecedented.

“What I wanted to do,” Lavery says, “is to create a frame that plays off the photo in a way to draw the viewer further into the reality of the image.”

For instance, one of the pieces features Driscoll’s photograph of Kaaterskill Falls, a famous location nestled into the side of a mountain and surrounded by rock walls on three sides. That spot is said to have been the inspiration for Washington Irving’s natural amphitheater in “Rip Van Winkle.” So Lavery created a frame that features elements of the story of Rip Van Winkle. At the top, Rip hikes along with his dog and comes upon Henry Hudson and his crew in the midst of playing nine-pin. Off to the side, as if in the clouds or in a dream, is their famous ship, The Half Moon. And at the base of the frame, Rip lies curled up and asleep, with his legs slung over the keg of intoxicating ale he was given to drink. Mushrooms grow out of the nearby ground, indicating Lavery’s take that more powerful intoxicants must have been involved in this twenty-year sleep, and rising up on either side are faces that appear in Rip’s dream.

Another piece features a shot taken from Sunset Rock, with a view of the Old Mountain House site and the Hudson River Valley in the distance. A sun pattern is carved into the bottom of the frame, and the Mountain House rises towards the heavens at the top. A monarch butterfly appears to flit about and catches a burst of orange from a nearby tree. Lavery purposely dulled his colors so as not to compete with Driscoll’s crisp imagery. Rather, he plays off that imagery and complements it by telling a story that elaborates on the viewing experience.

Some of the simpler pieces are real charmers, like the one that features an image of “Jenney,” a local donkey made famous around the mountaintop by Driscoll’s close-up shot of her face. “He told me,” Lavery says, “that the way he got that shot was he held an apple out and Jenney just came right up to him.” So the horseshoe shaped frame features a hand holding an apple at the bottom, while a wreath of roses arches overtop as if to celebrate a prize thoroughbred.

Then there’s Driscoll’s image of tulips, bent over and frozen in place by a springtime snowfall, and the frame simply extends this image by adding an extra cluster of tulips, with “Catskill Mt Spring” scrawled across the bottom. The feature of incorporating writing into the frame gives some pieces a decidedly down to earth feel, which Lavery says is inherent to his discipline as a tramp artist. “You gotta have a sense of humor to enjoy a lot
of this stuff,” he says, and adds, “It’s playful. That’s what tramp art is supposed to be, because it was born from the need hobos had to trade their art for food, so it had to be something people would immediately react to and like.”

As Lavery tells it, the word “hobo” derived from the phrase “homeward bound” in reference to displaced post Civil War soldiers who were heading home or simply looking for new places to live. Some of them took up wood carving to survive and they would knock on the back door of a home and offer their art in exchange for a hand-out of food. So the phrase “hand-out” originally referred to an exchange that was made with a hobo, not something given for nothing.

Tramp Art experienced a resurgence during the Great Depression but then died out until Michael Lavery and a few others came together to revive the practice throughout the 1980’s and 90’s. Lavery became so successful that he was commissioned to carve the Ark of the Covenant for Steven Spielberg’s *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Over the years he has counted many politicians and celebrities as collectors of his work. He settles comfortably into the Catskill Mountains now, confident he is embarking on a collaboration that will be as important as anything he has ever done.

Francis X. Driscoll cannot help but be beguiled by the way Lavery’s frames complement his work. “It’s in the spirit of what we set out to do,” Driscoll says, “to celebrate the beauty of the Catskills, because we were so inspired by the beauty of the people of the Catskills, the way everyone helped each other out after the flood. And just like that recovery, this project proves that when people bring their talents together they can accomplish a lot more than when they’re on their own.”

The Driscoll/Lavery collaboration is ongoing and new pieces will be premiered at the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center this fall in their Theater Building, which is located at 12 Vassar Street in Poughkeepsie and open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 am until the close of each night’s show. The art can also be viewed by appointment during the week. For more information and a full schedule of events, visit www.cunneenhackett.org.

*Special thanks to Carolyn Bennett, curator of the Zadock Pratt Museum, for sharing her copious knowledge of the cultural history of the region for this article. Garan Santicola is a writer currently living in the Catskill Mountains. He can be reached at garansanticola@yahoo.com.*
The Catskill Mountains contain a good network of hiking trails, and most folks who hike, use these marked paths for their day hikes. It is easy for one to assume that taking these trails will not only provide the easiest routes, but that they will lead you past, and to, the most interesting sights. Ever wonder if you’ve been missing something? If you’ve been hiking for a while, and are willing to take some extra precautions, then you might want to forego the trail, try a bushwhack, and see what wild wonders await.

I began off-trail exploration many years ago when the usual equipment included a canvas backpack and a war-surplus canteen with canvas cover (remember canteens?). This was before we had the current array of high tech gear we can now take advantage of, which makes outdoor travel easier and safer. To be sure, the risk is higher when you leave the trail, but so is the potential gain. Discovering something for yourself that few, or possibly no one has ever seen, will provide a hike you’ll remember for a lifetime. What can the wayward hiker hope to find in the trail-free backwoods? Here are some things I have found.

Top on the list are new lookout points. Sometimes the smallest rock outcropping, where only one person at a time can perch, may allow you to gain a unique view that is unobtainable anywhere else. Large boulders on a hillside can often deliver a line of sight above the trees, and provide a grand vista. These viewpoints are often hard to locate even while you are near them, but they can be more readily spotted from across the valley. For example, from Giant Ledge you can see a couple of small cliffs on the western side of Wittenberg, which would give you a nice western view, something uncommon in the eastern Catskills. Now you’ve got more targets to hike to. From these new lookouts, you can discover even more future destinations such as rock slides, meadows, and waterfalls. From the summit of Cornell Mountain you can catch a glimpse of an upper arm of Panther where a huge boulder stands tall amidst scrub and blueberry bushes. Now THERE is a worthy goal for another day.

Rare flora, both large and small, provide more surprises. Several very large examples of various tree species have been found on my Woodland Valley wanderings. I’ve discovered giant black...
cherry, sugar maple, beech and birch trees, many of which are 200-300 plus years old. The largest find was a white ash tree with a circumference of over 13 feet! It is easy to walk past even this size, if you don’t stop to look around now and then. Of course any finds like these I report to a forest expert like Mike Kudish, who keeps track of such anomalies. Especially now with the onslaught of invasive destructive insects, such as the emerald ash borer, any unusual or disturbing finds should be shared with somebody in the forestry field.

On the smaller scale of plant life, another great discovery took place while I was hiking on the western slope of Wittenberg with Mike. We walked past a stem of small greenish white flowers, which I thought were fairly unimpressive, but Mike knew what it was; Platanthera Orbiculata. A wild orchid. Such are the benefits of hiking with knowledgeable people. The delicate flowers on this hearty orchid were young and had not yet attained the stunning bright white they would when mature. We eventually found several of them in the area, and the next summer I found a whole flock of them on the side of Panther Mountain while on another trail-free expedition.

Sources of good water are useful discoveries as only a few of our Catskill Mountains are blessed with good springs near their summits. Wittenberg has a slow drip, Slide Mountain has a good spring, but the most faithful one is found on Giant Ledge. In 2011 the spring on Slide Mountain had gone dry, but I’ve never seen the one on Giant Ledge cease to flow. Not only that, but the water is ice cold. One hot July day I measured the water’s temperature and it was 43 degrees! It’s my theory that during the winter months, the deep crevasses on the summit fill with ice, which later melts while mixing with rainwater, and then filters down through the sandy soil to the spring.

You can often find a good water source by following a dry brook up the mountainside. On the way up Witten-
berg there is a trail-side runoff which often dries up in spells of drought. On just such an occasion I was in need of a refill, and decided to follow the dry watercourse uphill and seek out its source. After a bit of climbing I arrived at the first pool of water, and sitting in it was a pickerel frog, just to add some flavor I guess. Walking a little further brought me to the source where cold clean water flowed out of the ground. I have done this on other mountainsides, as a “spring walk” can provide an interesting hike up the mountain, and a safely obvious route to return by. This trick may even be a lifesaver in desperate situations, but don’t forget that you should always treat unknown water with filters or chemicals to make it safe.

Now for the best stream bushwhack, or “streamwhack” adventure yet: A couple of folks from the Winnisook Club, along with Mike Kudish, invited me to join them on a quest to find the beginning of the Western Branch of the Neversink River. It was a sunny day in May when we began following the stream as it wound through the Club property (keep in mind this is private property).

We followed the briskly flowing brook ever higher by constantly crossing and re-crossing it, in order to gain the best route. At first the lessening flow was barely noticeable. We passed the constant series of pools, separated by miniature waterfalls, which spilled over increasingly interesting rock features. When we began the hike, it would have taken several steps to ford the stream, but now we could easily leap across it in one bound. Upwards we climbed, simultaneously scaling the side of Slide Mountain in the process. We noticed big changes in plant life, which prompted informative comments from Mike.

Soon we were able to stand astride the Neversink, as it had been reduced to a brook about two feet wide, and quite shallow. Pressing onward, the grade became less steep and the brook continued to shrink in size while it veered from side to side and dove under the low branches, as if trying to lose us. Finally it was down to a few inches in width, and in several more steps, this trickle simply ended as a clump of wet moss. We found it amusing that this was the beginning of the mighty Neversink River, and it would literally fit into a cup. Don’t stop reading now, this adventure gets even better!

Now to get back home. Why bother taking the direct route? Our Winnisook guide led us in a northerly direction to the side of Schekelmoose Mountain. Yes, I said Schekelmoose. It’s an old name, largely forgotten. Peekamoose started as “Peek-of-a-moose” and at least it makes sense. But Schekelmoose?

Soon we were in the midst of a balsam thicket, the bane of the bushwhacker. These are groves of balsam where the trees have grown tall and close together, often one to two feet apart. The lower branches are dead, making them hard and pointy. To get
anywhere one must literally push through the branches while they rake the skin, tear the clothes, and try to poke out the eyeballs; but at least your black fly bites will get a good scratchin’. For these thickets, eye wear is a must, be it goggles or sunglasses. A hat, long sleeves and long pants will serve you well, but a suit of armor would be better. I was last in line as we wended our way through the grove and toward the open forest, hoping to see an easy path chosen by the others as they scraped their way through the balsams.

In a short while, I heard exclamations coming from the lead. I eventually arrived the locus of the excitement and its cause. There it was, on the ground: the largest nest we had ever seen. It was constructed of sticks and measured about four feet in diameter, big enough for an adult to curl up in. We were relieved to not see any human bones inside it. We stood in confused disbelief as images of large critters paraded through our heads while we searched in vain for a possible match to the nest. The thick canopy above ruled out eagles or pterodactyls. Bear? Nah! Mountain lion? No way! Coyote? Nope. Eventually we ran out of guesses and decided to move on. At this point, I knew two things for sure. One: I did not want to meet the creature that requires a four foot nest. Two: I did not want to be last in line anymore. Every horror movie I ever saw taught me that the last person in line always gets eaten first. I scooted ahead of Mike Kudish and hoped he hadn’t seen the same movies. We finally exited the balsam thicket and proceeded down Schekelmoose and safely into the Winnisook Club.

If you have some experience and are already comfortable with longer trail hikes, you might want to try a trail-free adventure. Here are some extra precautions to take:
- Plan your trip. Examine a map and get a sense of where you are headed. Then tell someone else of your plans, along with a time frame.
- Don’t go alone. Two is good. Three is better. Then someone can stay with the injured while the other goes for help.
- Take a GPS unit and cell phone, but realize they may fail.
- Pack extra food, drink and gear. Have enough to stay comfortably overnight on the mountain if need be. Even summer nights can get very cold. Extra flashlights are a must!
- Start off with short excursions and as you build experience and confidence you can go to more remote areas. Don’t forget to bring a camera, and keep an eye out for the Schekelmoose Monster!

Paul Misko leads hikes in the Woodland Valley area. He also gives talks on American history, and on topics specific to the Catskill Region.
We have had some thunderstorms rumble through, but we have had a hot and dry summer and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Forest Rangers would like to remind everyone to be careful with any fire and to follow any posted information about campfires at trailheads and campsites.

September sees cooling temperatures in the mountains, making it the perfect time to get out on the trails and enjoy all the beauty and majesty of the Catskills. We have a new section of the Finger Lakes Trail to enjoy, Fire Towers continue to be open to the public on weekends for amazing views and information, the celebration of the Catskill Park that is the “Lark in the Park” runs from the end of September through the first weekend in October, and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (Trail Conference) continues to build new trails in the Catskill Mountains and spearhead the stewardship of those trails through ongoing trail maintenance efforts.

This first section was made possible by the cooperation of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), who granted trail access to the FLTC. This was the first foot trail access permit granted by the DEP in Delaware County. Access was also granted by two private landowners, thus eliminating five miles of road walk. Trail building took place from April 30 to May 2 of this year by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference (FLTC) Alley Cat Crew.

The second portion of the FLT relocation will occur this fall in the Downsville area. The trail will be relocated from its present path from Campbell Mountain, down Campbell Brook Road and the Hamlet of Corbett, to a new path from Campbell Mountain, thru the Village of Downsville and then onto Bear Spring Wildlife Management Area. Prior to this relocation, the FLT did not pass through any villages for 90 miles but this new relocation will now offer hikers access to Downsville stores and businesses.

The third and final step in the FLT relocation will hopefully occur next summer, again near the Cannonsville Reservoir. This relocation will eliminate nearly the entire 20-mile road walk. As with the first relocation, the DEP will be granting the FLTC access around the south side of the reservoir utilizing the old D&H railroad bed. The new trail will then cross the NYS 268 highway bridge, use the old abandoned Route 10 highway path, cross present Route 10, enter DEP lands and continue northwest to Dryden Brook to connect with the first new relocation.

The FLTC wishes to thank the DEP and the DEC for their cooperation in achieving these vital relocations. In doing so they
have allowed the trail to be moved to a much more safe and enjoyable path.

Some Background on the Finger Lakes Trail

The FLT Catskill section is the longest portion of the 567-mile Finger Lakes Trail. The entire FLT stretches from the Catskill Park near the Village of Phoenicia to Allegany State Park near Salamanca, NY. It connects to the Long Path near Denning and from it, the Appalachian Trail can be reached at Bear Mountain and take a hiker to Georgia or Maine. The FLT is also part of the North County Trail in its western portions, and near Corning, NY the FLT connects with the newly created Great Eastern Trail.

Go to the Finger Lakes Trail Web site at www.fingerlakestrail.org for more information about the FLT and its Trail Crews.

Emerald Ash Borer Found in the Kenneth L. Wilson Campground

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Joe Martens has announced that an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation was found in the Catskill Forest Preserve at a state-owned campground. The discovery was confirmed after a DEC employee recovered a single EAB beetle from a purple prism trap that was placed in DEC’s Kenneth L. Wilson Campground in the Town of Woodstock, Ulster County.

After EAB was first discovered in Ulster County near Kingston in 2010, state and federal agencies initiated an EAB quarantine, which restricts the movement of ash products and firewood out of the quarantined area. Although this infestation exists within the quarantined county, this detection lies about four miles west of the previously defined area of infestation. With this being the first time EAB has been found in a DEC campground, it highlights the threat EAB poses to New York campgrounds and the Catskill Forest Preserve. The EAB is a small but destructive beetle that infests and kills North American ash tree species, including green, white, black, and blue ash.

At this time, DEC is implementing a response plan to best manage this detection and its impacts at the campground and in nearby areas. The immediate plan has several elements, including creating an inventory of all ash trees in this campground and nearby DEC campgrounds, assessing the health of these ash trees and conducting a thorough visual inspection for potential EAB infestation.

Damage from EAB is caused by the larvae, which feed in tunnels just below the ash tree’s bark. The tunnels disrupt water and nutrient transport, causing branches and eventually the entire tree to die. Adult beetles leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark of the branches and the trunk. Other signs of infestation include tree canopy dieback, yellowing and extensive sprouting from the roots and trunk. Infested trees may also exhibit woodpecker damage from larval extraction.

In 2008, New York adopted regulations that ban untreated firewood from entering the state and restricts intrastate movement of untreated firewood to no more than a 50-mile radius from its source. This was done as a precaution against the introduction and spread of EAB and other invasive species because of the documented risk of transmission by moving firewood. After more than three years of outreach and education efforts about the risks of moving firewood and the state’s regulation, DEC is increasing its enforcement efforts to prevent the movement of untreated firewood into and around New York.

DEC urges residents to watch for signs of infestation in ash trees. To learn more about EAB and the firewood regulations, or to report suspected EAB damage, call DEC’s EAB hotline at 1 866 640 0652.

Catskill Fire Tower News

There are five fully restored fire towers in the Catskill Park; with towers on Hunter, Tremper, Red Hill, Overlook and Balsam Lake mountains. For more information about the Catskill Fire Tower Project, visit the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development Web site at www.catskillcenter.org/towers.

Volunteer Fire Tower Stewards man the towers most weekends through Columbus Day. Even if the tower is not staffed, these towers make great hiking destinations. While you will not be able to enter the fire tower cab on top, just climbing the stairs of the towers can give you stunning views of the surrounding mountains.

Balsam Lake Fire Tower Stargazing

In celebration of their 125th year, The Balsam Lake Mountain Volunteer Crew is continuing with their special events schedule. Join us at the summit of Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower on September 14 for stargazing from a very dark site. The clearing around the Fire Tower affords excellent views of the heavens. Amateur astronomer Tom Rankin, co-founder of the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association, will be on hand to point out stars, constellations, and planets. A small telescope and binoculars will be available, but guests are welcome to bring their own optical aids.

Note: The summit is reached by either a 2.5 or 3 mile hike. Participants must bring a headlamp for the walk back down. A red setting on the headlamp, or a red flashlight for the observing session is recommended. The hike to the top takes at least one hour. Plan to be at the top before dark. We will start as darkness falls, and continue as long as we can. There is a lean-to near the summit if guests wish to camp. In case of poor weather, we will try again September 15. Please contact Laurie Rankin at laurierankin@hvcrr.com for any additional details you may need.

Morgan Outdoors’ 4th Annual Five Fire Tower Hikes

Do not forget to stop in at Morgan Outdoors in Livingston Manor to pick up your Fire Tower Passport and get a chance to
Work on 8+ mile Long Path Relocation Continues Near Phoenicia

Work has continued at a steady pace this summer on the new section of the Long Path that will move the Long Path from its current path down Woodland Valley Road to a route over Mount Pleasant, Cross Mountain and Romer Mountain before making its way down to High Street and the village of Phoenicia.

The Trail Conference's Trail Crews have been working on building the first 2.5 miles of this trail from Phoenicia to the top of Romer Mountain. Work that has already been done consists of the clearing of the route and trail construction, including: side-hill construction; retaining walls; stone steps; and waterbars.

Our volunteer Trail Crew trips have been running all summer and will continue throughout September and into October depending on weather conditions. In addition to crew work, the Trail Conference has hosted several different T rail University workshops on this new section of trail, including a Trail Layout and Design class and a Trail Construction class. The Trail Conference hopes to offer even more T rail University courses in the future to help train people in trail layout, design and construction, with the goal of building an even stronger Catskill Mountains Trail Crew to better improve the region's many trails.

In addition to the trail work, the New York State DEC has begun constructing the parking lot that will serve as the trailhead for the new trail. This parcel was originally purchased by the Trail Conference in order to protect the access for this trail and then transferred to the DEC.

The Trail Conference's crews are open to the public and no experience is necessary. All you need to do is watch the Trail Crew calendar (www.nynjtc.org/view/trail-crew-outings) on the Trail Conference's Web site for work trip dates. Workshops, when scheduled, will be shown on the Trail Conference's Trail University workshop calendar (www.nynjtc.org/view/workshops).

Adapt Updates and News

Adopt a Trail for Maintenance

The Trail Conference has recently adopted several dozen miles of trail from the DEC for maintenance. The adopted trails include sections of the Finger Lakes Trail, Pine Hill-West Branch Trail, the trails around Frick Pond, Hodge Pond and Quick Lake and the Mud Pond Trail. If you are interested in becoming a Trail Maintainer, fill out the interest form here: www.nynjtc.org/vop/trail-maintainer-catskills-south.

Catskill Mountain Trail Maintenance Crew

Are you interested in Trail Maintenance but not ready to adopt your own trail? The Trail Conference is in the process of developing a Trail Crew dedicated to trail maintenance over the 200+ miles of trail that they have adopted in the Catskill Mountains. This crew will tackle trails throughout the region. If you are interested in getting involved (no experience is necessary!), please email Jeff Senterman at jsenterman@nynjtc.org.

DEC Work in the Forest Preserve

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) continues to work on repairing trails and replacing trail bridges lost during Hurricane Irene. Great progress has been made, however some bridges remain out and in other places erosion has created difficult stream crossings where bridges were not required in the past. If a bridge is out and the water is high, exercise extreme caution when crossing or avoid the crossing and wait for the water to recede.

Celebrate the Catskill Park During the Lark in the Park

The ninth annual celebration of the Lark in the Park, from September 29 through October 8, will bring exciting new hiking and paddling ventures suitable for everyone in recently opened New York City reservoirs and land. And, throughout the entire region, there will be lots of other hikes, paddles, cycling, fishing, nature walks, and lectures as well as cultural and social events over the 10-day period, including a celebration dinner hosted by the Catskill Mountain Club at the Hanah Mountain Resort, 576 West Hubbell Hill Road, Margaretville (www.hanahcountryresort.com, 845 586 4849).

Created in 2004 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Catskill Park, the Lark is sponsored by The Catskill Mountain Club, the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, with the cooperation of the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation. As the event gets closer, be sure to regularly check the Lark in the Park Web site: www.catskillslark.org for schedules, event registration information (not all events require pre-registration) and other important information about the Lark in the Park activities.

Some of the planned events include:

- Paddle the Pepacton Reservoir!
  Saturday, September 29, 11 am
Mount Tremper Fire Tower Hike!
Saturday, September 29, 9 am

Following the Abandoned Rail Road Grades of the Mountain Top
Monday, October 1, 9:30 am

Paddle the Pepacton Reservoir!
Wednesday, October 3, 11 am

History of the Catskill Park and its Trails
Wednesday, October 3 at 6 pm

Huggins Lake to Hill 2942: A Search for Old Growth!
Friday, October 5 at 9:30 am

Indian Head Loop Hike
Monday, October 8, 9 am

Visit www.catskillslark.org for more details, trips and information.

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.

Chef Michael’s Fresh Harvest Café
French Culinary Institute, NYC, Graduate 2001
is now open!

Open every day from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
(sometimes later…call ahead to see if we’ll be open)

Serving breakfast all day:
- Crepes Suzettes
- French open-style omelettes
- French Toast … and more!

Lunch starting at noon:
- Grilled Panini sandwiches on homemade flatbread
- Homemade gyros (hand ground lamb and homemade flatbread & tzatziki yogurt sauce)
- Chef burgers, natural casing hotdogs
… and more!

The Chef is in the kitchen! … Come and enjoy!
7950 Main Street • Hunter, NY 12442 • 518 263 2040

Catskill Mountain PRINTING SERVICES
Now Open in Hunter!

Brochures • Rack Cards • Flyers
Newsletters • Catalogs • Magazines
Playbills • Business Cards
Presentation Folders

One-Stop Shop • Fast, Personal Service
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Contact: Steve Friedman
PH: 518 263 2072 • FAX: 518 263 5380 • friedmans@catskillmtn.org
Sugarloaf Mountain is in the Indian Head Wilderness, 16,800 acres of state Forest Preserve land characterized by the extremely rugged topography of the storied 24.6-mile Devil’s Path, which runs over Indian Head, Twin, Sugarloaf, and Plateau Mountains before heading over a section of Hunter Mountain and West Kill Mountain to Spruceton Road. This region offers the hiker some of the most fascinating and challenges treks in the Catskills, and its trailheads are among the easiest to reach.

The Devil’s Path is one of several sinister names of features in this region, which harkens back to earlier centuries when people feared the unknown land atop the great escarpment that rose 1600 feet out of the Hudson Valley. Known as the “Great Wall of Manitou” by Native Americans, it was covered with great hemlock trees; they avoided this shadowy region, doing most of their hunting and farming in the river valleys.

Newly-arrived Europeans likewise feared these mountains and their trepidation was revealed in names they bestowed on beautiful waterfalls: the Devil’s Kitchen and Hell Falls. The Devil’s Tombstone is a great boulder at the top of Stony Clove on NY 214 at the Devil’s Tombstone Public Campground. A plaque was affixed to it, commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Forest Preserve.¹ High on a cliff of Hunter Mountain at the top of Stony Clove is the Devil’s Profile, seen when traveling north on NY 214 from Notch Lake, on the left, especially if leaves are off; it looks sinister indeed.

We’ll access Sugarloaf Mountain at the trailhead near the Roaring Kill (even the sinister word “Kill” is heard in the Catskills, meaning simply, creek or waterway in Dutch. “Catskill” may have originated from the keeper of the Great Seal of Holland then, Jacob Cats, or from The Kat, a Dutch ship that voyaged up the Hudson). The Roaring Kill is a spectacular brook spanned by a bridge west of the trailhead, well worth a look and possibly a dip after your hike.

Sign in to a trail register. In a quarter-mile you reach a junction; we’re going to take you on this loop counter-clockwise on the Mink Hollow Trail, saving two very special features on the Pecoy Notch Trail for the last leg of this 7.1-mile loop over the mountain. Turning right, the trail climbs gradually to two quarries, the first at 0.3 miles and the second at 0.6 miles, a scenic area set in a dense hemlock woods with twenty-foot mossy cliffs. Old walls were built from the tailings.

The trail climbs through hemlock woods with one good breather where the route levels below rocky outcrops before climbing to a high point at 1.2 miles and 2,750 feet. The route then heads toward Mink Hollow on mostly level trail with some rough spots. A welcome view at 1.7 miles from the top of a ledge reveals Plateau Mountain.

Here the trail makes a sharp switchback right. We have met hikers retracing on the main trail, lost because they did not find this switchback that unaccountably descends steeply (if briefly). Regular hikers tend to avoid this approach to Mink Hollow due to this unwelcome loss of elevation, more ups and downs and meandering adding extra mileage,² and little to recommend it other than a stream crossing in a hemlock-lined ravine at two miles. But this route should be hiked at least once and has the advantage of offering a loop hike over Sugarloaf. It reaches the junction with the Devil’s Path at 2.6 miles, where the fittingly red-marked Devil’s Path leads left to Sugarloaf Mt. in 0.95 miles.

Now the hike becomes really interesting! The Devil’s Path climbs modestly amidst tank-sized boulders leaning at all angles along the slope and then passes under a natural rock arch, one of our favorite Devil’s Path spots. You cross a crevice atop nar-
row rock ledges and soon reach an interestingly always-wet high natural wall before hiking under a towering overhang, a quarter-mile from the junction. Soon after passing under the overhang, the trail appears to continue straight instead of climbing the cliff. Look up, locate red markers, and ascend here; the marked trail ascends this cliffy area easily, but if you miss this and continue below a bit farther, the ascent is more precarious.

The route then runs across the top of this cliff and requires careful attention. It is bit unnerving if fear of heights is an issue. In another 0.3 miles, the trail passes through a “lemon-squeezer,” literally a squeeze between narrowly spaced boulders. The trail ascends varying grades, passes a spring that can be dry, and reaches the 3500-foot elevation mark 0.8 miles from the junction. The route then ascends large boulders with good views toward Plateau Mountain.

After nearly leveling, look for a spur trail to the right, leading to excellent views east and west from a large rock ledge. In the heart of the Indian Head Wilderness, you view the truly wild Catskills far from any road. On October 14, we will be on this summit ledge by early afternoon to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Catskill 3500 Club in 1962.

Members and aspirants will be on all thirty-five peaks exceeding 3500 feet. Visit www.Catskill-3500-Club.org for further information.

Sugarloaf’s true summit at 3,800 feet and just under a mile from the Mink Hollow junction is viewless, passing through fragrant hemlock-balsam forest. The descent to Pecoy Notch is almost 1,000 feet and it begins very gradually, the trail almost level along the summit. It descends gradually to the 3500-foot sign after half a mile; low evergreens and ferns are abundant. The remaining 700 feet is descended often steeply down great ledges and boulders, an all-body workout! There are excellent views in two spots to Twin Mountain and the Ashokan Reservoir; enjoy the sedimentary rock characteristic of the Catskills. A narrow L-shaped section with weather-rounded edges of the sedimentary walls has separated like drifting continents.

You reach Pecoy Notch, the low point between the mountains, at 2,810 feet. Twin Mountain’s true summit is “only” 0.7 miles—but should you consider a side trip to it, be warned that this section of the Devil’s Path is a challenging boulder and rock scramble followed by a very steep and somewhat precarious cliff ascent, a 830-foot total ascent.

A beaver dam along the trail.

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Turn left at Pecoy Notch and descend the blue-marked trail; in 0.4 miles the route swings left into a rocky drainage, and then you enter a fascinating area of beaver activity with myriad tree stumps and an enormous dam, with views to Twin and Sugarloaf. Proceed below the dam by going slightly right and rock-hopping over the outlet. The trail passes a small wet-weather pond and then begins a steady descent through a lovely hemlock woods. Look for bear claw marks on large beech trees, especially on one left of trail. A bridge spanned the pretty stream below you; it was destroyed in the 2011 hurricane, but crossing the stream is very doable on rocks. (Before crossing, just downstream is a nice waterfall).

Soon, the trail passes great rock piles and then reaches the open expanse of Dibbles Quarry, which has been transformed into large and amazingly comfortable thrones made of rock, stairways, and much else to explore. A cave is below to the right. There are excellent views over the Schoharie Valley to Round Top Mountain and Kaaterskill High Peak and as far as the Hudson Valley. When you can tear yourself away, continue past the quarry and follow the trail, left, steeply but briefly up out of the quarry. It is another 0.75 miles back to the original junction, where you turn right back to your vehicle.

¹ The Forest Preserve was created in 1885 to preserve wilderness for posterity. Article XIV of the New York State Constitution mandates that these lands be kept forever wild and New York is the only state where such constitutional protection has been granted. The Catskill Park was created in 1904, its “Blue Line” boundary encompassing Forest Preserve land and some of the private lands in Greene, Sullivan, Ulster and Delaware Counties. Of the Park’s over 700,000 acres of both public and private lands, 287,500 acres is Forest Preserve.

² To reach the summit of Sugarloaf or Plateau more quickly than the circuitous new Mink Hollow Trail described above, drive to Elka Park. Pass Green Hill Road and bear left at one mile at the DEC signpost at Park Road. Turn right on Mink Hollow Road to its end at a parking area. That trail (often wet in spots) ascends to the Devil’s Path in 0.8 miles. Turn left to Sugarloaf, passing the more recent Mink Hollow Trail jct. Retrace or do the loop by spotting a second vehicle east of Elka Park at the Roaring Kill trailhead. At Mink Hollow Road junction, continue on a dirt road for less than two miles and cross the Roaring Kill Bridge to the parking area.

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). 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 next book is coming out on November 13, 2012: Peak Experiences: Danger, Death, and Daring in the Mountains of the Northeast, published by the University Press of New England, now available for order on Amazon. Two accounts are about the Catskills.
Mountain Cinema
At the Doctorow Center for the Arts, Main Street, Hunter

September Schedule for Screen Two, the only place on the Mountain Top to see the best Foreign and Independent Films

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.

WHY STOP NOW
DIRECTED BY PHILIP DORLING AND RON NYSWANER
Eli is a piano prodigy. Today is the audition that will determine his future—will he launch a career and take off into the world? Or will he stay stuck, caring for his mother who, despite her cheerful, loving disposition, is a drug addict. The only obstacle to a seamless transition into his future is dropping off mom at rehab, but a glitch in the system sends them off to enlist the help of an unlikely ally, her drug dealer.

8/31-9/3. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:15 & 7:15; Monday 7:15

“A bright screwball comedy …. Why Stop Now takes large themes much manhandled as movie clichés, and treats them with care and respect. It likes the characters. So did I.”
—Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun Times

ELENA
DIRECTED BY ANDREY ZVYAGINTSEV
Elena is a gripping, modern twist on the classic noir thriller. Sixty-ish spouses Vladimir and Elena uneasily share his palatial Moscow apartment—he’s a still-virile, wealthy businessman; she’s his dowdy former nurse who has clearly “married up.” Estranged from his own wild-child daughter, Vladimir openly despises his wife’s freeloading son and family. But when a sudden illness and an unexpected reunion threaten the dutiful housewife’s potential inheritance, she must hatch a desperate plan.

9/7-9/9. Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:15 & 7:15

“A breakthrough…a mysterious existential thriller that’s brilliantly acted and masterfully directed, without a second of wasted screen time.”
—Andrew O’Hehir, Salon.com
BILL W.  (UNRATED, 103 MINUTES)  
DIRECTED BY KEVIN HANLON  
AND DAN CARRACINO  
*Bill W.* tells the story of William G. Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, a man included in *Time* magazine's 100 Persons of the 20th Century. Interviews, recreations, and rare archival material reveal how Bill Wilson, a hopeless drunk near death from his alcoholism, found a way out of his own addiction and then forged a path for countless others to follow. With Bill as its driving force, A.A. grew from a handful of men to a worldwide fellowship of over 2 million men and women—a success that made him an icon within A.A., but also an alcoholic unable to be a member of the very society he had created. A reluctant hero, Bill Wilson lived a life of sacrifice and service, and left a legacy that continues every day, all around the world. 

9/14-9/16.  
Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 2:15, 4:15 & 7:15

“*A thoroughly engrossing portrait of Wilson, his times and the visionary fellowship that is his legacy.*” —Sheri Linden, Los Angeles Times

THE DO-DECA-PENTATHLON  
(RATED R, 90 MINUTES)  
DIRECTED BY JAY DUPASS AND MARK DUPASS  
*The Do-Deca-Pentathlon* is the story of two grown brothers who secretly rekindle their fiercely competitive childhood sporting event—a homemade Olympics of 25 events—during a family reunion in order to finally determine the ultimate champion. When the rest of the family is disrupted, the brothers must choose between their passion for beating the hell out of each other or the greater good of the family. 

9/21-9/23.  
Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 7:15

CRITICS’ PICK. “Very funny... In the rapidly expanding Duplass output *The Do-Deca-Pentathlon is their second-best film.*” —Stephen Holden, New York Times

NEIL YOUNG JOURNEYS  
(UNRATED, 87 MINUTES)  
DIRECTED BY JONATHAN DEMME  
In May of 2011, Neil Young drove a 1956 Crown Victoria from his idyllic hometown of Omemee, Ontario to downtown Toronto’s iconic Massey Hall where he intimately performed the last two nights of his solo world tour. Along the drive, Young recounted insightful and introspective stories from his youth to filmmaker Jonathan Demme. Demme, a long-time fan and collaborator, captured these tales of Young’s childhood and masterfully wove them together with his mesmerizing music, including songs from the 2010 album *Le Noise*, powerful renditions of his classic songs, and previously unreleased material. Through the tunes and the tales, Demme portrays a personal, retrospective look into the heart and soul of the artist.

Friday 7:15; Saturday 4:15 & 7:15; Sunday 7:15

“A feast for Neil Young lovers and initiates alike.” —Peter Rainer, Christian Science Monitor

BALLET & OPERA IN CINEMA  
AT THE DOCTOROW CENTER FOR THE ARTS, MAIN STREET, HUNTER

**MOVE TO MOVE**  
FROM THE NEDERLANDS DANS THEATER  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 2:15 PM**  
Tickets: $20

2 hours, 48 minutes, plus one intermission

“If you see one live performance this year...Nederlands Dans Theater is the one to see.” (*The New York Times*)  
The Nederlands Dans Theater comes to the big screen for the first time with an evening of four contemporary dance masterpieces. Don’t miss this “retina-shredding spectacle of passion and power” by “the world’s most magnificent dancers.” (*Sunday Herald*)

**LA TRAVIATA, BY VERDI**  
**OPERA ON SYDNEY HARBOR**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 AT 2:15 PM**  
Tickets: $20

2 hours, 40 minutes plus one intermission

In Italian with English subtitles

Verdi’s La Traviata shines in this spectacular production from Opera Australia, performed on a floating stage in the Sydney Harbor. This dramatic new staging features a nearly 30-foot chandelier suspended over the stage. *Opera Insider* raves: “This mega-production deserves only three words—Fantastic! Fantastic! Fantastic!”
BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD
Faced with her father’s fading health and environmental changes that release an army of prehistoric creatures called aurochs, six-year-old Hushpuppy leaves her Delta community home in search of her mother.

THE BOURNE LEGACY
Aaron Cross, a new hero, experiences life-or-death stakes that have been triggered by previous events.

THE CAMPAIGN
In order to gain influence over their North Carolina district, two CEOs seize an opportunity to oust long-term congressman Cam Brady by putting up a rival candidate. Their man: naive Marty Huggins, director of the local Tourism Center.

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: DOG DAYS
School is out and Greg is ready for the days of summer, when all his plans go wrong. What on earth is he going to do all summer?

THE EXPENDABLES 2
Mr. Church reunites the Expendables for what should be an easy paycheck, but when one of their men is murdered on the job, their quest for revenge puts them deep in enemy territory and up against an unexpected threat.

HOPE SPRINGS
After thirty years of marriage, a middle-aged couple attends an intense, week-long counseling session to work on their relationship.

THE INTOUCHABLES
After he becomes a quadriplegic, an aristocrat hires a young man from the projects to be his caretaker.

THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN
A childless couple bury a box in their backyard, containing all of their wishes for an infant. Soon, a child is born, though Timothy Green is not all that he appears.

PARANORMAN
A misunderstood boy who can speak with the dead, takes on ghosts, zombies and grown-ups to save his town from a centuries-old curse.

PREMIUM RUSH
In Manhattan, a bike messenger picks up an envelope that attracts the interest of a dirty cop, who pursues the cyclist throughout the city.

RUBY SPARKS
A novelist struggling with writer’s block finds romance in a most unusual way: by creating a female character he thinks will love him, then willing her into existence.

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 September.

For the most up-to-date schedule, call 518 263 4702 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!
The Catskill Mountain Foundation presents

XTREME BARNS and beyond

Photographs by Richard Schepper

“I've always been intrigued with old barns. One day I started to add a little color of my own over the existing structures. What fun. It became a celebration of color.”
—Richard Schepper

September 22-October 28, 2012
OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday, September 22, 4-6 PM
Kaaterskill Fine Arts Gallery • 7950 Main Street, Route 23A, Hunter, NY
518 263 2060 • www.catskillmtn.org
Gallery Hours: Thursday & Monday, 12-4 PM; Friday & Saturday, 10 AM-5 PM; Sunday 10 AM-4 PM and by appointment

Viewing American History Through Art

Five paintings by artist Patti Ferrara, long-time painter in the Hudson River School tradition and student of Thomas Locker, are currently being featured at the Kaaterskill Fine Arts Gallery.

This exhibit is presented in conjunction with the Thomas Cole House in its ongoing efforts to bring long-overdue attention to the fact that many of the local trails and wooded spots threaded throughout the Mountaintop and visited by hikers and tourists every year contain the very sites from which our original painters of the Hudson River School tradition painted the iconic paintings of the Catskills now known throughout the world.

Don’t miss an opportunity to view through Ms. Ferrara’s paintings a piece of American history—just a stone’s throw off the beaten track—by visually visiting the sites from which sprang America’s first school of art.

This show will be on exhibit at the Kaaterskill Fine Arts Gallery throughout the month of September.
A picture may be worth a thousand words, but can a story in words illustrate a picture? Are the images of a lifetime necessarily in sync with the memories of the events? *Here Are the Pictures You Wanted and the Stories that Illustrate Them* provides a glimpse into a childhood of connections lost and an attempt to recover that which was forever lost.

Pictures don’t always say as much as we think they do. In this memoir, the author set out to record portraits of people and places in her life through childhood eyes, an explanation of family pictures. What started out as the author’s personal story, somewhere along the way became the story of a family, any family, shattered by the loss of their rudder—Mother was gone and yet she was always there, defining the family by how she had treated them in life and how they reacted to her absence.

A memoir of a childhood in the Bronx in the 1950s and ‘60s, providing an adult commentary on a child’s myopic view of her world, revealed in sketches of character, time, and place. The shadow of the lost mother is sometimes just barely visible at the edge of events and sometimes central to them. Sorrow, humor, and absurdity are present in relatively equal measure, a fairly common recipe in life.
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
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2012 CATSKILL MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

For the most updated schedule, look for our 2012 Performance Book, now available!

FEBRUARY
Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice
February 18, 2012
Orpheum Performing Arts Center, Tannersville

Professor Louie and the Crowmatix, the Rock of Ages Horns, The Ronstadt Generations and More!
February 19, 2012
Orpheum Performing Arts Center, Tannersville

JUNE
Capitol Steps
June 2, 2012
Doctorow Center for the Arts, Hunter

Summertime Living: Easy, Clever and Fun
June 9, 2012
Piano Performance Museum
Doctorow Center for the Arts, Hunter

Aaron Diehl and the Catskill Jazz Factory
June 23, 2012
Orpheum Performing Arts Center, Tannersville

JULY
OMNY Taiko
June 30, 2012
Orpheum Performing Arts Center, Tannersville

AUGUST
Daemons of the Baroque Ballrooms: The Devil's Fiddles
August 4, 2012
Piano Performance Museum
Doctorow Center for the Arts, Hunter

A Mini Opera-Ballet: Morality Play
August 5, 2012
Doctorow Center for the Arts, Hunter

Catskill High Peaks Festival:
Classical Hollywood:
Cinematic Piano and Classics from the Silver Screen
August 19, 2012
Doctorow Center for the Arts, Hunter

Fascinatin’ Rhythm
August 25, 2012
Orpheum Performing Arts Center, Tannersville

OCTOBER
Jazz Masters from the Piano Performance Museum:
Kenny Barron in a Solo Classical Jazz Concert
October 13, 2012
Piano Performance Museum
Doctorow Center for the Arts, Hunter

NOVEMBER
Early Music New York
Istanpitta: Medieval Dances from Italy, France and England
November 3, 2012
Doctorow Center for the Arts, Hunter

Windham Chamber Festival Orchestra
Robert Manno, conductor
Nancy Allen Lundy, soprano
November 24, 2012
Doctorow Center for the Arts, Hunter
The Catskill Mountain Foundation presents
Jazz Masters of the Piano Performance Museum:

Kenny Barron Solo
Classical Jazz Concert

Saturday, October 13, 8 pm

“The most lyrical piano player of our time.”
—Jazz Weekly

“one of the top jazz pianists in the world”
—The Los Angeles Times

Doctorow Center for the Arts
7971 Main Street, Village of Hunter
Tickets/Info: 518 263 2063 or www.catskillmtn.org