



Summer, 2013

Dear member:

I'm happy to report as the 2013 summer season gets into full swing, The Catskill Mountain Club (CMC) recently was involved in completing three major trail-building projects and co-sponsored the second annual *Catskills Outdoor Guide* - <http://www.watershedpost.com/catskills-outdoor-guide-2013/>:

1) Shavertown Trail - a 5.3-mile (round trip) trail near the Pepacton Reservoir's Shavertown Bridge. The trail, offers an easy to moderate climb with great views of the Pepacton at one mile of the 2.5-mile one-way distance. The trailhead is located near the kayak/canoe storage area off of County Route 1 six miles south of Andes. This is the first project completed on NY City's DEP land to help the agency make more terrain readily accessible for public use. We received support and backing from the Town of Andes, Andes Works, a local community group, and the NY/NJ Trail Conference. Our objective is to open more family friendly, less steep trails near Catskill communities. We'll begin our second partnership project with DEP on Palmer Hill, near Andes, later this summer and are planning other trail-building projects on watershed lands in Delaware and Ulster Counties.

2. Andes Rail Trail – working with volunteers, including many from Andes Works, extended the trail by another two miles, creating the “Bullet Hole Spur” hiking trail. We also assisted the Common Ground Garden Club with their project to beautify the trailhead located near S. Main Street in Andes. The trail now offers (round-trip) two flat miles and another two miles on more strenuous terrain. Thanks to CMC Board member, Ann Roberti for all of her efforts in organizing both the Shavertown and Andes Rail Trail projects.

3. The Finger Lakes Trail – CMC board member, Rick Roberts, who is also Coordinator for the Catskill Section of the Finger Lakes Trail, in June organized construction of a new 12-mile trail around the Cannonsville Reservoir, requiring the building of five bridges. The Trail Conference's Alley Cat Crew handled construction along with CMC board members, Bob Moses and Ann Roberti. Approximately eight miles of this trail is on the old Ontario and Western Railroad bed and, thanks to the cooperation of NY City's DEP, this new trail section eliminated eight miles of road walk.

4. “Catskills Outdoor Guide” – CMC co-sponsored with the Central Catskills Chamber of Commerce the second annual guide, a 40-page listing of outdoor events in the region for 2013-2014, published and distributed by *The Watershed Post*. CMC board members, including Heather Rolland, Wendell George, Lisa Lyons, Jeff Senterman and Ann Roberti, wrote much of the content including a listing of hikes, based on degree of difficulty, and many other suggestions for ways to enjoy outdoor activities in the region. The Guide was distributed throughout the Catskills and at rest stops along the NYS Thruway (I-87).

We're Growing –

The number of outdoor events being offered this year by your club far exceeds those available at this time last year and the rate of new events being posted on our website (www.catskillmountainclub.org/) as well as our Facebook page is also increasing dramatically. Our activities are designed to encourage individuals and families to participate in organized group non-motorized outdoor activities throughout the Catskill's six-and-a-half-county Region. So far, nearly 800 people have signed up to take advantage of CMC events!

Our Board of Directors has grown to 14 members, including representatives from the Catskill 3500 Club and Catskill representatives from both the Finger Lakes and NY/NJ Trail Conferences with whom we are sharing

many events, including trail building and maintenance. We're also planning to hold our bi-monthly board meetings in different areas of the Catskill region, targeting each of the six counties comprising it and groups involved in outdoor activities are encouraged to join us at any of these meetings.

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the "Lark in the Park" -

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of The Lark in the Park regional celebration (October 5-14) which began in 2004 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Catskill Park's founding in 1904. More events than ever before are being planned with our two co-sponsors, The NY/NJ Trail Conference and The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development. Activities for the Lark will be listed on two websites: (www.catskillmountainclub.org/) and www.catskillslark.org/ starting by mid-August.

We're Now a Not-for-Profit, Tax-Exempt Corporation

I'm pleased to announce the CMC is now a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. Whether you are making a donation, becoming a member, giving a gift of membership or renewing your membership, you are making a charitable donation, tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Funds for donations or membership now can be sent by check directly to CMC at PO Box 404, Margaretville, NY 12455-0404. Credit card or PayPal payments still must be made through the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development's online store - <https://www.catskillcenter.org/store/> - until we integrate this feature into CMC's website.

Rising costs include anticipated expenses for upgrading our website as your club expands its activities and adds new members. We're offering more hikes in the Catskill region, many beyond the park itself. We're also planning even broader efforts in trail-building and maintenance and providing an increasing number of other activities which, in addition to hiking, include canoeing and kayaking, biking, fishing, family events and outdoor, nature-oriented projects. We are also at a point of needing new printed materials and other items for distribution to members and those interested in joining us.

Please Continue Your Support -

We hope you will participate in - perhaps volunteer to lead - our growing list of activities. All are geared to heighten the wealth of experiences available in the Catskill region and promote the pure joy of sharing the outdoors with friends and family.

Suggested tax-deductible membership donations for the coming year are as follows:

Individual	\$20.00
Family (including children under 18 year of age).....	\$35.00
Seniors (65 years or older) and Students.....	\$15.00
Sponsor	\$100.00
Benefactor.....	\$500.00 or more
 Business Friend (includes a year's listing on both CMC and Lark in the Park websites).....	 \$50.00

Please mail your tax-deductible membership donations directly to the Catskill Mountain Club at: PO Box 404, Margaretville, NY 12455-0404 or, if paying by credit card or PayPal, go online to <http://www.catskillcenter.org/join-the-catskill-mountain-club/>

Sincerely,

Steve Berg, President
The Catskill Mountain Club