



## 2023 Celebration Schedule of Activities

Updated August 2023

The most up-to-date version of this schedule will be available at [site.pheedloop.com/event/nctacelebration/schedule](https://site.pheedloop.com/event/nctacelebration/schedule). Workshop and Evening Event locations will be added closer to the event start date. Please note all times listed are Eastern.

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### Sunday, September 24

All Day

**Pre-Celebration Event:** Pre-Celebration with the Finger Lakes Trail Conference

On your way to Celebration in Chestertown, New York, stop in Ithaca, in the beautiful Finger Lakes region. Join the [Finger Lakes Trail Conference](#) (FLTC) for a one-day, pre-Celebration event to discover the wonderful hiking on the Finger Lakes Trail System and sample some of the many other activities to be found in the area.

This free pre-Celebration event will be held on Sunday, September 24 and will be based in Ithaca. There will be a few guided hikes, a barbeque dinner, and information on self-guided things to do and see: waterfalls, wineries, museums, state parks, more hiking, biking, kayaking, and enjoying the scenery of the Finger Lakes.

Register now for this session then in August, Deb Nero from the FLTC will contact you with additional information.

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### Wednesday, September 27

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Evening Event:** Welcome to Celebration with opening remarks from Julia Goren, Adirondack Mountain Club Deputy Executive Director

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## Thursday, September 28

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Hike:** Long Trail, Vermont: Great Cliff to Gillespie Peak

- Difficulty: Strenuous, slow to moderate pace
- Distance: 6 miles
- Elevation Gain: 2,100 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 1 hour, 45 minutes one way
- Leader: Paul Gagnon

We'll hike out-and-back along an attractive and rugged section of the Long Trail/NCNST in the Green Mountain National Forest. Along the way, we'll stop at a scenic vista on Great Cliff with views south into the heart of the Green Mountains, pass through boreal alpine forests, and we'll hit three summits along the ridgeline: Mount Horrid, Cape Lookoff Mountain, and Gillespie Peak - the highest elevation on the entire NCNST. This hike includes substantial elevation gain up and down, and steep terrain. We'll stop for breaks and talk about the ecology, natural history, and human history of the area. This hike, including driving time, will be an all-day event. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

8:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

**Hike:** Meg Madden and Monument Farm Tour

- Leader: John Derick

Interested in mushrooms that grow in the wild? Join naturalist, mycologist and professional photographer Meg Madden for a curiosity walk along the Wright Park hiking trails. Madden will help you delve into the fascinating world of fungi and how to identify wild mushrooms. As a myco-educator Meg loves to share her knowledge of the natural world, particularly when it comes to all things fungi.

A Middlebury, Vermont native, Meg can often be found in the forests of her childhood practicing what she calls "mushroom yoga," laying on the ground, standing on her head, or balancing precariously on a log to capture the perfect snail's-eye view of her favorite photo subject: Fungi! Her colorful, highly detailed mushroom portraits offer an intimate look into the often-overlooked world of these extraordinary organisms. Inspired by the belief that people are more likely to take care of something they love, she finds great joy in facilitating fun and meaningful connections between humans and nature. Meg shares her knowledge and contagious passion for the fantastic world of fungi through visually engaging presentations, mushroom walks, and via her Instagram gallery @megmaddendesign. An advocate for fungal diversity and community science, Meg teaches iNaturalist classes, organizes educational workshops and Bioblitzes, and is compiling an Atlas Of Fungi for the state of Vermont.

After your walk with Meg, we will have lunch and then drive to Monument Farms. You will receive a digester

tour with a tour around the Milking barn and feed bunks and talk about farming today. They are one of the last of the farms that handle all their own growing, feeding and milk (450 Cows), bottle and retail, as well as delivering their product to stores. This Farm has allowed the TAM and NCNST to exist here and without them the trail system may never have been put together. We hope you join us for our adventure day in Vermont!

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Hike:** Moxham Mountain

- Difficulty: Moderate, leisurely pace
- Distance: 5.5 miles
- Elevation Gain: 1,338 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 30 minutes one way
- Leader: Steven Sokal

Moxham Mountain is located in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest outside Minerva, NY. This is a gentle and easy hike on a well-constructed and maintained trail. From its 2,361-foot summit, it provides southern views of the Hudson River Gorge, Gore Mountain, North River, North Creek, and the Hudson River. From the trailhead on 14 Th Road (1,536 feet elevation), there is a mile long climb around and over a 1,904-foot hill with open views on the top. The trail descends to and crosses an outlet of a beaver pond, and resumes climbing for 2.7 miles on a hill, and exposed ridge to the summit. This hike is also offered on Friday and Saturday. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Hike:** Jones Hill, Hoffman Notch Wilderness

- Difficulty: Easy, leisurely pace
- Distance: 4-6 miles
- Elevation Gain: 250-300 feet (gentle)
- Drive Time Estimate : 40 minutes one way
- Leader: Bob Rosati

We will hike in a mature deciduous forest to the base of the summit climb, noting trail rock work completed by volunteers and ADK professional crew. From the Dirgylot Trailhead, we walk under I-87 then up an old carriage road from the early 1900s, observing rock turnpiking. Then we enter new trail benched around a hillside to avoid wet areas below. The trail drops to Platt Brook, a peaceful spot to rest and reflect. A bridge will be built above the high-water line and finally, the hillside will be benched 1.5 miles to the summit of Jones Hill (1,882 feet). This hike is also offered on Saturday. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

9:30 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.

**Hike:** OK Slip Falls

- Difficulty: Moderate, brisk pace

- Distance: 6.4 miles
- Elevation Gain: 515 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 40 minutes one way
- Leader: Dick Frio

Located in the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area, OK Slip Falls is one of the highest waterfalls in the Adirondacks. The forest here is mixed deciduous and coniferous. The trail can be wet and muddy with several small stream crossings. Moose are often observed in the wetlands between North River and Indian Lake, so watch for tracks. There is an option to descend and ascend steeply to/from the Upper Hudson River.

10:00 a.m. - 1:35 p.m.

**Hike:** Raymond Brook Route 28 from Barton Mines Road

- Difficulty: Moderate, moderate pace
- Distance: miles thru 4
- Elevation Gain: -1,686 feet (loss)
- Drive Time Estimate: 30 minutes one way
- Leader: Rick Morse

This is a popular trail for hiking, snowshoeing, mountain biking, and skiing. Located in Siamese Ponds Wilderness, it is one of the historic ski trails from the "Ride Up, Ski Down" era in the 1930s, when thousands of people would descend on North Creek for backcountry skiing. We will ride up to the trailhead on the Barton Mine Road, climb several hundred feet to the height of land on an easy grade, then hike down to the Route 28 trailhead, where we will be picked up. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Hike:** Green Hill, Chester Challenge

- Difficulty: Strenuous, moderate pace
- Distance: 6.5 miles
- Elevation Gain: 1,250 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 25 minutes one way
- Leader: Dan Smith

Enjoy an almost 360-degree, 40+ mile view of the southeastern Adirondacks from the top of this private mountain, with the High Peaks Great Range to the north and the Tri-Lakes region to the south. Gradual climb to the mountain, followed by a steady climb to the top, no scrambling. Plan on 4.5 hours for this hike to give plenty of time for rests and photography. Also, you'll see experimental trail building in progress. This is part of the Chester Challenge, in which you can earn a pin or patch for hiking at least six of the trails.

11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Hike:** Severance Mountain

- Difficulty: Easy, leisurely pace
- Distance: 2.4 miles
- Elevation Gain: 700 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 30 minutes one way
- Leader: Tracey Donaldson

Severance Mountain is a small mountain near the north end of Schroon Lake in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness. From its 1,638-foot summit, it provides views of Schroon Lake, Paradox Lake and Pharaoh Mountain. This is a leisurely out-and-back hike. From the trailhead on US-9, the wide trail passes under I-87 and climbs for a half-mile. It then passes over several plank bridges and climbs for another half-mile. There are two overlooks near the wooded summit. This hike is also offered on Friday and Saturday.

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Hike:** Hadley Mountain Fire Tower

- Difficulty: Strenuous, moderate pace
- Distance: 3.6 miles
- Elevation Gain: 1,525 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 45 minutes one way
- Leader: Sandy Manca

This out-and-back hike takes you to the summit (2,653 feet) of Hadley Mountain and its restored Adirondack fire tower. It offers panoramic views of the southern Adirondacks and Great Sacandaga Lake. The fire tower is part of the [Fire Tower Challenge](#). If it is open, one can climb to the top for additional views.

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Hike:** Sawyer Mountain

- Difficulty: Easy, leisurely pace
- Distance: 1.1 miles
- Elevation Gain: 630 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 60 minutes one way
- Leader: Meredith Todd

Sawyer is an easy starter mountain, great for families. It is off Route 28 and 30 between Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. The climb is one mile and affords views of the mountains along the Blue Ridge, including Snowy, Panther, Wakley, and Blue Mountain. Best views are from an opening beyond the summit (2,610 feet), accessed from a herd path.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Evening Event:** Volunteer Awards and Recognition

Let's gather to cheer and commemorate some of our most impressive and devoted volunteers. We will be having both the North Country Trail Association and National Park Service [2023] awards ceremonies on this night.

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## Friday, September 29

7:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Hike:** Moxham Mountain

- Difficulty: Moderate, leisurely pace
- Distance: 5.5 miles
- Elevation Gain: 1,338 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 30 minutes one way
- Leader: Steven Sokal

Moxham Mountain is located in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest outside Minerva, NY. This is a gentle and easy hike on a well-constructed and maintained trail. From its 2,361-foot summit, it provides southern views of the Hudson River Gorge, Gore Mountain, North River, North Creek, and the Hudson River. From the trailhead on 14 Th Road (1,536 feet elevation), there is a mile long climb around and over a 1,904-foot hill with open views on the top. The trail descends to and crosses an outlet of a beaver pond, and resumes climbing for 2.7 miles on a hill, and exposed ridge to the summit. This hike is also offered on Thursday and Saturday. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

7:45 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

**Hike:** Puffer Pond Trail

- Difficulty: Easy, medium pace
- Distance: 5.1 miles
- Elevation Gain: 500 feet (gradual)
- Drive Time Estimate: 40 minutes one way
- Leader: Peg Whaley

Siamese Ponds Wilderness provides us with a good example of the character of Adirondack wilderness trails. We start at Old Farm Clearing near Thirteenth Lake then head west toward Puffer Pond along rolling terrain with gentle uphill grade. We will cross several streams and cascading waterfalls and turn around at the crossing of Hour Pond Brook. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Hike:** Potash Mountain

- Difficulty: Moderate, slow pace
- Distance: 3.9 miles
- Elevation Gain: 1,100 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 45 minutes one way
- Leader: Sharon Getman

A lovely trail in a nature preserve. Some short steep sections. Views from many open rocks at the summit. We will go up and over to rejoin the trail on the opposite side. Toward the bottom, we will take the nature trail and sit a spell at a bench. Cookies served at the pavilion.

8:00 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.

**Hike:** Pack Demonstration Forest and Ben Wood Mountain

- Difficulty: Easy to moderate
- Distance: 5.5 miles
- Elevation Gain: 570 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 10 minutes one way
- Leader: Judy and Steve Thomson

Starting from the parking area for Pack Forest, we will hike north along a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) road on relatively flat terrain. We will then head west toward Ben Wood Mountain and hike to the summit, where we can take a break and enjoy the view of peaks in Warrensburg and Thurman to the south. Returning to the base of Ben Wood, we will walk around Pack Forest Lake, returning to the parking area and completing a loop at a leisurely pace, taking breaks as needed. Tick repellent advised. Plan on about 4 hours for this hike.

8:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**Hike (Founders Circle Only):** NCTA Founders Circle Hike at Crown Point State Historic Site

- Difficulty: Easy, leisurely pace
- Distance: 0.5 to 3 miles (options)
- Elevation Gain: 0-50 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 1 hour, 15 minutes one way
- Leader: Mary Coffin

This hike is for NCTA Founders Circle\* members. We will spend the morning on a leisurely hike led by member Mary Coffin, self-guide through the Crown Point State Historic Site, and lunch with Andrea Ketchmark, NCTA Executive Director. Join us to learn more about the proposed North Country National Scenic Trail route and see firsthand how your dollars are hard at work for every mile of the Trail. The anticipated return time for this event is 1:15 p.m. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

*\*NCTA Founders Circle members support the Association's mission with a minimum \$500 annual gift.*

8:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.     **Hike:** Spectacle Pond, Pharaoh Lake Wilderness

- Difficulty: Easy, moderate pace
- Distance: 3.4 miles
- Elevation Gain: Minimal
- Drive Time Estimate: 30 minutes one way
- Leader: Karen and Richard Wang

This is a beautiful walk along a cascading brook to a pond in the deep woods of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness. The trail crosses the brook several times on small bridges before reaching the pretty pond, and there is an unobstructed view of Pharaoh Mountain from the shore of the pond.

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.     **Hike:** Severance Mountain

- Difficulty: Easy, leisurely pace
- Distance: 2.4 miles
- Elevation Gain: 700 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 30 minutes one way
- Leader: Steven Sokal

Severance Mountain is a small mountain near the north end of Schroon Lake in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness. From its 1,638-foot summit, it provides views of Schroon Lake, Paradox Lake and Pharaoh Mountain. This is a leisurely out-and-back hike. From the trailhead on US-9, the wide trail passes under I-87 and climbs for a half-mile. It then passes over several plank bridges and climbs for another half-mile. There are two overlooks near the wooded summit. This hike is also offered on Thursday and Saturday.

8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.     **Hike:** Meade and Beckham Mountains, Chester Challenge

- Difficulty: Leisurely
- Distance: 2 miles
- Elevation Gain: 597 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 30 minutes one way
- Hike Leader: Mary MacDonald

These small mountains provide wonderful views across the valleys, such as Gore Mountain with its ski runs, and Loon and Schroon Lakes. There are a few short but steeper sections along the way to the summit. We will have plenty of time for viewing and lunch. A short walk along the ridge we take us to the summit of Beckman



Mountain with its own views. A large sign at the summit of Meade Mountain identifies some of the views. This is part of the Chester Challenge, in which you can earn a pin or patch for hiking at least six of the trails.

9:30 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.

**Hike:** Botheration Pond from Barton Mine Road

- Difficulty: Moderate, leisurely pace
- Distance: 5 miles
- Elevation Gain: 120 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 35 minutes one way
- Leader: Rick Morse

This lovely hike begins on Barton Mine Road at the western edge of the Siamese Pond Wilderness. We will initially be hiking on the Halfway Brook Trail. The trail is fairly level until it reaches "The Vly," where we will be treated to a wonderful view of Gore Mountain across this beautiful beaver flow. The Vly is the headwaters of the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. We will cross a newly constructed bridge and head gently uphill, until we meet the Botheration Pond Trail. We will follow that gently downhill until we reach Botheration Pond, a beautiful pond where we will pause for lunch then retrace our steps. The trip leader was part of the trail crew that created the Botheration Pond Trail. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Workshop:** Trail Builders Workshop

This session will help experienced volunteers to further develop their "trail eyes." NCTA staff will share tips on trail design and layout, managing common maintenance issues, estimating work and more.

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Workshop:** Maps and Apps with Matt Rowbotham

Join our in-house map experts for a field-based overview of how to use NCTA's mapping resources. Bring your phones, maps, GPS devices, and questions!

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

**Workshop:** Exploring the Buckeye Trail with Randall Roberts

Marked by blue blazes for over 1,400 miles and sharing 932 miles with the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST), the Buckeye Trail winds around Ohio, reaching into every corner of the state from a beachhead on Lake Erie to a hilltop overlooking the Ohio River in Cincinnati. This presentation will give the history and evolution of Ohio's scenic hiking trail with an overview and characteristics of the trail's various unique sections. Also covered will be basic tips for planning and hiking the trail either by selectively hiking parts, section hikes, or even a thru hike, along with the advantages and challenges of each method.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Workshop:** Edible and Medicinal Plants with Heather Housekeeper

Join the Botanical Hiker, Heather Houskeeper, in discovering the many edible and medicinal plants that inhabit the region. Heather will share tips for positive identification, methods for sustainable harvest, and practical ways to incorporate these plants into healthy snacks and valuable remedies. These easy-to-identify plants may be found on the North Country Trail, along other favorite trails, and even in your own backyard. Our walk will be easy to moderate with many stops along the way to meet the plants. Feel free to bring a notepad or use your phone to jot down notes!

Heather "the Botanical Hiker" Houskeeper is an herbalist, long-distance hiker, and author. Beginning with a thru-hike on the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine, she has since hiked thousands of miles on long distance trails studying and working with the plants. Heather is the author of three trail-inspired books about wild edible and medicinal plants and the Wild Food columnist for Dirt Magazine. For more than a decade, Heather has guided others into the natural world through guided walks, workshops, and seminars. She is the founder of the School of Plant and Place Connection, an in-person herbal medicine and nature immersion school in Milford, Pa. Learn more about Heather at: [thebotanicalhiker.com](http://thebotanicalhiker.com), [schoolofplantandplaceconnection.com](http://schoolofplantandplaceconnection.com), and [@TheBotanicalHiker](https://www.instagram.com/TheBotanicalHiker)

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Workshop:** Leave No Trace

If you've ever wanted to learn more about the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace, now is your chance! Join the NCTA Regional Trail Coordinators on a hike to explore the area and dive a little deeper into Leave No Trace techniques that will help all of us enjoy the out of doors responsibly.

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**Workshop:** Walking Through the Past: History Along the Adirondack NCNST

In the Adirondacks, the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) passes through some areas with remarkable history, some of it of more regional interest, but some of it of national significance. Join Pete Nelson in this workshop detailing history along the NCNST.

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Workshop:** Conservation Through the Lives of Adirondack Loons

This presentation provides an overview of loon natural history and behavior, threats affecting loon populations, and the work of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**Workshop:** Tips for Hiking the NCNST in the Adirondacks and Vermont

Joan Young, accomplished distance hiker, NCNST enthusiast, and dedicated volunteer, will shares with you her

advice and experiences for hiking in the Adirondacks and Vermont.

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**Workshop:** Trail Protection with Paul Gagnon

Review of the most current methods and considerations for protecting the North Country National Scenic Trail, with a special focus on how to approach and communicate with landowners.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**Workshop:** Intro to Trail Maintenance

This session will help orient new volunteers to the fundamentals of trail maintenance, design and construction. Participants will learn common trail tools and terms and leave confident to attend a future NCNST project.

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Evening Event:** Live Music

Wind down from a day of hiking with music, refreshments, and camaraderie. We are honored to be joined by Bruce Matthews, former NCTA Executive Director, who will entertain us with his "front porch" style, acoustic guitar music.

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## Saturday, September 30

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Hike:** Stevens Pond on the Northville Lake Placid Trail

- Difficulty: Strenuous
- Distance: 8 miles
- Elevation Gain: 948 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 60 minutes one way
- Leader: Sandy Manca

Hike 8 miles of rolling hills in the Blue Ridge Wilderness starting Durant Road (Route 19) and ending at Lake Durant Campground. We hike first to Cascade Lake then on the Northville Lake Placid Trail (NPT) to Stephens Pond. Both are beautiful lakes with the opportunity to view any loons who have not yet flown south. There is one stream crossing.

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Hike:** Jones Hill, Hoffman Notch Wilderness

- Difficulty: Strenuous, moderate pace
- Distance: 7.5 miles
- Elevation Gain: 800 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 45 minutes one way
- Leaders: Debbie and Gary Karl

We start on the Big Pond Trail then join the Jones Hill Trail, which is not yet completed or marked, but the tread is well benched. The trail is in an open, mostly deciduous forest. After crossing two bridges and puncheons, you will hike up to a great lookout (a false summit) and finally climb a ridge to the rocky summit (1,882 feet) for more great views. This is a great lunch break with fantastic views of Hoffman Mountain and the High Peaks. As you hike down the east side, you will follow flagging where benching is yet to be finished, cross another stream, and follow an old carriage road with rock turnpiking; then under I-87 to the Route 9 trailhead. Plan on 6 hours for this hike. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Hike:** Trail Around Middlebury, Vermont

- Difficulty: Easy, moderate pace
- Distance: 1-14 miles (options)
- Elevation Gain: 50 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 1 hour, 45 minutes one way
- Leader: John Derick

This NCNST section is around the Middlebury Land Trust (MALT), a scenic and working landscape with options for longer and shorter walks. For example: Prunier Road in Weybridge to Chipman Hill in Middlebury with an extension into downtown; Boathouse Bridge and campus ridge; and campus and Oakridge trails; the Trail Around Middlebury.) **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Hike:** Moosalamoo National Recreation Area

- Difficulty: Moderate
- Distance: 4.5 miles
- Elevation Gain: Less than 1,000 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 2 hours one way
- Leader: Kevin Russell

A beautiful walk in the autumnal glow in the Vermont woods that Robert Frost once rambled. The trails are well-maintained by the U.S. Forest Service in the Green Mountain National Forest, Moosalamoo National Recreation Area. The trails are moderate up and down hill. The trailhead facility at the Moosalamoo

Campground includes shelter and restrooms. Plan on 3-4 hours for this hike. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

**Hike:** Great Camp Santanoni

- Difficulty: Moderate, moderate pace; or ride in a horse-drawn wagon
- Distance: 9 miles
- Elevation Gain: 698 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 60 minutes one way
- Leader: Lisa Druke

Camp Santanoni, built in the late 1800s, is one of the earliest examples of what became known as an Adirondack Great Camp. The camp, located in the Santanoni Preserve and surrounded by nearly 13,000 acres of New York State's Adirondack Forest Preserve, is a National Historic Landmark. The trail leads to the camp on scenic Newcomb Lake.

Two options are available to guests: to walk, or ride in a horse-drawn wagon to the camp. All must register in advance. A guided tour is included with the \$40 fee for the wagon ride. The wagon has cushioned seats, a canopy; departs at 10:00 a.m and returns at 3:30 p.m. to the trailhead. There is no charge for walkers.

**Registration for horse-drawn wagon closes four weeks prior to the event.**

8:30 a.m. - 4:50 p.m.

**Hike:** Bailey Pond and Hoffman Trail

- Difficulty: Easy, moderate pace
- Distance: 9 miles
- Elevation Gain: 200 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 50 minutes one way
- Leader: Mike Brun

Hoffman Notch and Bailey Pond trails both start at Loch Muller trailhead. We will start the hike about 3.5 miles north on Hoffman Notch Trail. The trail crosses a couple streams and then follows North Trout Brook to its source in Great Marsh. We will eat lunch at Great Marsh then hike back to the trailhead and hike to Bailey Pond. We will stop long enough to eat a snack, take pictures, and possibly wade into the pond, weather permitting. Both trails are easy to hike with only moderate slopes. With lunch and other breaks, it should take us about 5 to 5.5 hours to complete the hike. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Hike:** Moxham Mountain

- Difficulty: Moderate, moderate pace
- Distance: 5.5 miles
- Elevation Gain: 1,350 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 1 hour one way
- Leader: Steve Mackey

Moxham Mountain is located in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest outside Minerva, NY. This is a gentle and easy hike on a well-constructed and maintained trail. From its 2,361-foot summit, it provides southern views of the Hudson River Gorge, Gore Mountain, North River, North Creek, and the Hudson River. From the trailhead on 14 Th Road (1,536 feet elevation), there is a mile-long climb around and over a 1,904-foot hill with open views on the top. The trail descends to and crosses an outlet of a beaver pond, and resumes climbing for 2.7 miles on a hill, and exposed ridge to the summit. This hike is also offered on Thursday and Friday. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

9:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

**Hike:** Fort Ticonderoga

- Difficulty: Easy, leisurely pace
- Distance: 1-3 miles
- Elevation Gain: 10 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 45 minutes one way
- Leader: John Lang

Fort Ticonderoga is a 18th century, star-shaped fort located strategically at the portage around the La Chute River rapids connecting Lake Champlain and Lake George. We can tour the fort and explore the museum. The fort was important during both the French and Indian War, and the Revolutionary War. Learn the roles of Ethan Allen, Benedict Arnold, and John Brown.

**Fee: \$24/person (seniors are \$22); group rate with 15 is \$18 /person**

10:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

**Hike:** Crown Point State Historic Site

- Difficulty: Easy, leisurely pace
- Distance: 0.5 to 3 miles (options)
- Elevation Gain: 0-50 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 1 hour, 15 minutes one way
- Leader: Mary Coffin

This beautiful area is on the coast of Lake Champlain on a strategic point with views of the Green Mountains of Vermont to the east and the Adirondack Mountains in New York to the west. We will walk through the remains of French and English forts on the NCNST with a non-hiking option of visiting the museum. Both forts were

important during the Revolutionary War and French and Indian Wars, and is a National Historic Landmark. This hike is also available on Friday. **This hike qualifies for the Hike 100 Challenge.**

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Hike:** Stewart Mountain and Dynamite/Fish Trails, Chester Challenge

- Difficulty: Easy, slow pace
- Distance: 2.8 miles
- Elevation Gain: 350 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 15 minutes one way
- Leader: Dan Smith

Easy-going hike of two Chester Challenge hikes. The first is Stewart Mountain, a great view for a short hike. The second (just another 5-minute drive) is up a small hill with a lean-to at the top. See on-going trail improvements. This is part of the Chester Challenge, in which you can earn a pin or patch for hiking at least 6 of the trails.

10:45 a.m. - 2:40 p.m. **Hike:** Gore Mountain: Gondola Up, Hike Down

- Difficulty: Easy, leisurely pace
- Distance: 1.5 miles
- Elevation Loss: 1,440 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 40 minutes one way
- Leader: Rick Morse

We will climb Bear Mountain, a peak in the Gore Mountain Ski Area, the easy way: by taking a gondola ride to the top of the mountain. The cost is \$24 (ages 20-64) or \$14 (ages 65+). The summit of Bear Mountain features spectacular views of the Adirondacks. We will walk a short distance down to the Saddle Lodge, where people can look at additional views and use the bathrooms. We will then hike on the Trillium Trail about a half-mile down to an amazing view spot at the top of the Twister Cliffs, where we will have lunch. Then we will continue down through the Twister Cirque glades with some incredible glacial erratic boulders. The trail will bring us back down to the base.

11:00 a.m. - 2:35 p.m. **Hike:** Severance Mountain

- Difficulty: Easy, leisurely pace
- Distance: 2.4 miles
- Elevation Gain: 700 feet
- Drive Time Estimate: 30 minutes one way
- Leader: Peg Whaley

Severance Mountain is a small mountain near the north end of Schroon Lake in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness. From its 1,638-foot summit, it provides views of Schroon Lake, Paradox Lake and Pharaoh Mountain. This is a leisurely out-and-back hike. From the trailhead on US-9, the wide trail passes under I-87 and climbs for a half-mile. It then passes over several plank bridges and climbs for another half-mile. There are two overlooks near the wooded summit. This hike is also offered on Thursday and Friday.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Evening Event:** Keynote Presentation

Be inspired by Jennifer Pharr Davis at the Keynote Presentation. Jennifer is a National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, hiker, speaker, and author. She has set multiple Fastest Known Time records in a variety of settings, and is well versed in America's National Trails System.