

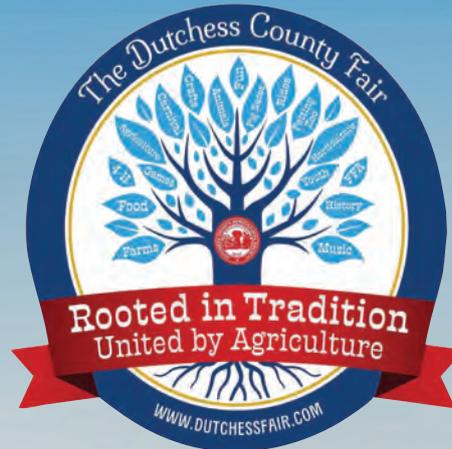
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explore

SPRING IN THE VALLEY

2025





2025 Events at Dutchess County Fairgrounds

❧ May 2, 3 & 4 ❧

Rhinebeck Antique Car Show & Swap Meet

❧ May 24 & 25 ❧

Barn Star Antiques at Rhinebeck

❧ May 31 & June 1 ❧

Rhinebeck Crafts Festival

❧ August 19 - 24 ❧

179th DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

❧ September 6 & 7 ❧

Hudson Valley Wine & Food Festival

❧ October 4 & 5 ❧

Octoberfest Handcrafted at Rhinebeck

❧ October 11 & 12 ❧

Barn Star Antiques at Rhinebeck

❧ October 18 & 19 ❧

NYS Sheep & Wool Family Festival

❧ November 28th - December 28th ❧

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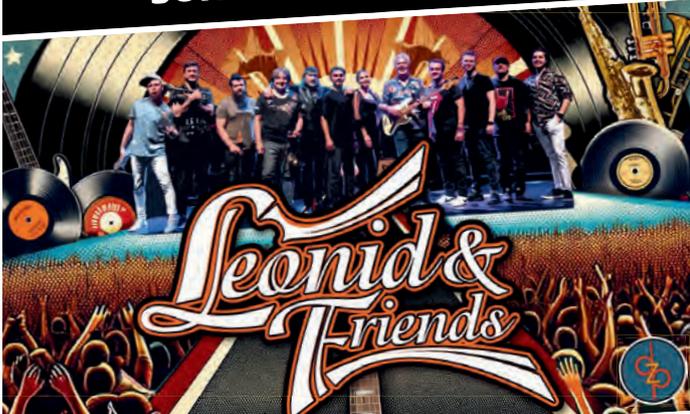
SUN. 4.27 · BARDAVON

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PHYLLIS McCABE

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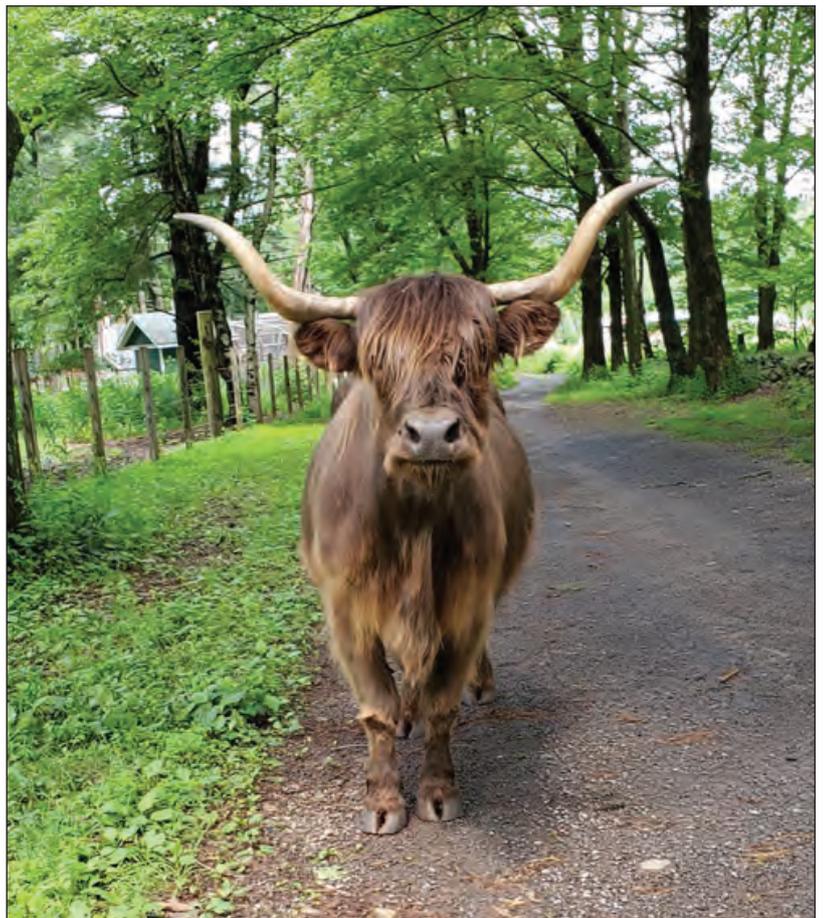
by Zac Shaw

Sat. 4/19 • 10am-5pm

Zoo Opening Day

Bailiwick Animal Park, 118 Castle Road, Catskill.

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Sat. 4/19 • 11am-5:15pm

Boozy Adult Egg Hunt

Robibero Winery, 714 Albany Post Road, New Paltz.

Adult egg hunts are a growing trend, especially among our region's vast tracts of farmland which make for perfect

hunting grounds. Robibero Winery is getting in on the fun with a 21-and-up search for 500 eggs packed with prizes like wine, beer tastings, grape-stomping tickets and other surprises. Rain or shine, BYO basket.

Thu. 4/24 • 6pm

Blossom Cider Pairing Dinner

Angry Orchard, 2241 Albany Post Rd., Walden.

Blossom season in an apple orchard is a breathtaking spectacle of delicate white and pink flowers bursting into bloom, filling the air with a sweet, fresh scent and a sense of renewal as the trees begin their transformation into a fruitful

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PHYLLIS McCABE

Fairy Lizzy DiMuccio tries to get the children's attention from the church balcony.

harvest. What better setting for a cider pairing dinner at one of the most popular cideries in the entire country? Each of the four meal courses will be paired with an Angry Orchard original.

Fri. 4/25 • 9:30pm

Spring Fever Sirens

Colony, 22 Rock City Road, Woodstock.

See beauty in bloom at a high-energy night of burlesque and cabaret in an intimate setting. Combining burlesque, sideshow acts, pole arts, liquid motion, and live music, the 18-and-up event showcases a sizzling lineup of a half-

Hudson Valley Explore

Spring in the Valley 2025

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www.hudsonvalleyone.com

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Left, Beacon Strawberry Festival; top right, Hudson Valley Pirate-fire dancer Opal Raven; below right, Rhinebeck Antique Car Show at the DC Fairgrounds.

dozen talented performers.

Sat. 4/26-Sun. 5/11 • 10am-6pm

Hudson Valley Tulip Festival

Kelder's Farm, 5755 Route 209, Kerhonkson.

A magical, kaleidoscopic display of 600,000 tulips blooming over ten acres awaits visitors to Kelder's Farm this spring. The farm is beloved by both locals and tourists for its plethora of family-friendly outdoor activities, delicious food, and majestic views that beg to be shared. Peak tulip bloom gives peak fall a run for its photogenic money. Check keldersfarm.com for official dates, as tulips are a very weather-dependent crop and bloom on their own schedule.

Sat. 4/26 • 11am-3pm

March O' the Faeries

Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston.

What could be more "spring" than a faerie party? This family- and fae-friendly event presented by the Circle Creative Collective and the impressively named Society for Creative Anachronism is an annual favorite. The festivities include live music, storytelling, a trash-to-treasure hunt and refreshments – but the main events are the Faerie Queen and Court parade and the Fae Folk houses

exhibit, in both of which visitors can participate. Cosplay is encouraged, but no worries if you show up as a normal human. There will also be crafting of crowns, wands and wings to set your imagination into flight.

Sat. 4/26 & Sun. 4/27 • 11am-5pm

Earth Day at the Wineries

Multiple locations.

Earth Day at the Wineries brings together 15 regional wine producers from Pine Bush to Montgomery and in between. At each location, visitors will enjoy small bites paired with wine tastings, poured into a souvenir Shawangunk Wine Trail tasting glass. The first 300 attendees will also get an herb seedling. There are three itineraries to choose from depending on the region you'd like to focus on – don't worry, you're not drinking 15 glasses of wine in a day. But you'll probably get buzzed – which is why it's so cool the organizers made a special designated driver package for the selfless hero of the day.

Fri. 5/2 • noon, Sat. 5/3 & Sun. 5/4 • 8am

Rhinebeck Antique Car Show & Swap Meet

Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 Route 9, Rhinebeck.

Get revved and ready for a massive meetup of motors in one of the Northeast's grandest car shows. Folks come to this event from all over to view prime specimens of antique cars of every imaginable make and model, including customs. For true gearheads, there are 60 antique and classic classes and 30 awards to be given out. A weekend-long swap meet accelerates the fun.

Fri. 5/2 • 4-7pm

Spring Book Fair for Grown-Ups

Rose Hill Farm, 19 Rose Hill, Red Hook.

Oblong Books and Rose Hill Farm are teaming up for their first-ever grown-up book fair, a nostalgic throwback to childhood Scholastic fairs – this time with drinks, food pop-ups, and zero bedtime. Browse curated book tables, scoop up whimsical stickers, sip craft beverages from the taproom, and enjoy eats from Oh My! Gyro and Supreme Soft Serve. All ticket proceeds benefit the American Booksellers for Free Expression (ABFE).

Sat. 5/3 • 2pm

29th Annual Spring Wassail

Stone Ridge Orchard, 3012 Route 213, Stone Ridge.

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tradition with vibrant celebration as guests sing to the apple trees to encourage a fruitful harvest. Hosted by Hudson Valley Farmhouse Cider, the event features artisanal food and cider. Tastings — including new single varietals and infusions — alongside live Balkan and Romani folk music, traditional dancing, and a festive spirit welcoming the spring season.

First Sundays, Apr. to Nov. • 9am-4pm

Red Owl Flea Market

Red Owl Collective, 25 Cornell St., Kingston.

Kingston Point Beach, 102-144 Delaware Ave., Kingston.

This is a free family-friendly event where kite enthusiasts of all levels can soar. Bring your own kite or design one on-site, and enjoy the open sand and breezy sky perfect for flying. The festival also features a variety of vendors, live performances, and the MyKingstonKids Play Cafe, offering food, shopping, and entertainment for all. Fresh off their building façade's cameo in the hit TV show *Severance* as a fictional business called 'Great Doors', Red Owl will be attracting attention for a different reason this spring, summer and fall — their first Sundays flea market is fast becoming a treasured tradition with seekers of vintage and handmade finery. Rain or shine.



COURTESY OF RED OWL COLLECTIVE

Red Owl's Sunday Flea Market.

Sat. 5/10 & 5/11

Hudson Valley Pirate Festival

Ulster County Fairgrounds, 249 Libertyville Rd., New Paltz.

This is a tale of two fantastical festivals. The family-friendly daytime event features a weekend of food and craft vendors, a circus with aerials, jugglers, snake charmers, stilt walkers and belly dancers, and a Mother's Day brunch with Queen Tatiana and her fairy court. When the sun sets, things get spicy for an 18-and-up array of entertainment including a kilt contest, adult comedy, exotic dance, and a trampoline cleavage contest. Raise the mizzenmast!

Sat. 5/10 • 11am-5pm

11th Annual Kingston Earth Fair

TR Gallo Park, 30 Rondout Landing, Kingston.

This year's Earth Fair lineup is stacked with talent. Where else can you see renowned musicians like Gail Ann Dorsey and Tom Chapin alongside the puppet

mastery of Arm of the Sea Theater and the wacky antics of the Mid-Hudson Juggling Club? These are just a few of the dozens of performing groups that will entertain the eco-conscious crowd at this zero-waste event. Boat tours, kids activities, face painting, free paper shredding, environmental education and an "Earth Day exchange" promise a family-friendly day of fun where it's easy being green.

Sat. 5/10 & Sun. 5/11 • 10am-5pm

Basilica Farm & Flea's Spring Market

Basilica Hudson, 110 Front St., Hudson.

Independent makers, farmers, and artisans will converge at this spring market to sell a diverse array of seasonal goods, from spring dresses to vintage garden sets. Enjoy delicious food offerings from local favorites like Swoon, Bonfiglio & Bread, and Rivertown Lodge. It's a community-centric, classy way to celebrate Mother's Day weekend.

Sat. 5/17 • 11am-4pm

Hudson Valley Kite Fest

Kingston Point Beach, 102-144 Delaware Ave., Kingston.

This is a free family-friendly event where kite enthusiasts of all levels can soar. Bring your own kite or design one on-site, and enjoy the open sand and breezy sky perfect for flying. The festival also features a variety of vendors, live performances, and the MyKingstonKids Play Cafe, offering food, shopping, and entertainment for all.

Wed. 5/21 • 7pm

Home: A Spring Awakening Sound Journey

Marbletown Multi-Arts, 3588 Main St., Stone Ridge.

Welcome spring's renewing energy at a sensory healing evening inside the yurt temple at Marbletown Multi-Arts. Guided by sound practitioners Elana Bell and Ben Brown, this immersive experience blends nature-connected

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Photo: Kate Schoonmaker

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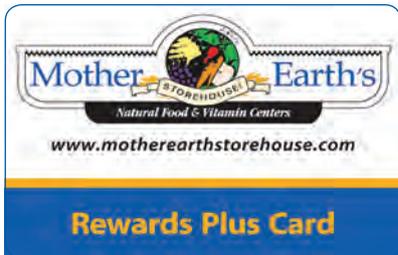
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practices with deep listening to promote emotional release, nervous system regulation, and creative awakening. Expect sacred sound journeys, poetic ambiance, and a cozy space to lie down, breathe, and reconnect. Bring yoga mats and blankets; chairs are available.

Sat. 5/24 • 10am-4pm & Sun. 5/25 11am-4pm

Spring Antiques at Rhinebeck

Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6636 Route 9, Rhinebeck.



Woodstock/New Paltz Arts & Crafts Fair.

This iconic event features a diverse range of antiques and collectibles, from Oriental rugs and fine jewelry to mid-century design, military antiques,

folk art, and much more. Visitors can explore three spacious buildings filled with treasures from various cultures and time periods. The show also includes

free parking, sanitized restroom facilities, and delicious offerings from food trucks.

May 25-27 • 10am
Woodstock-New Paltz Arts & Crafts Fair
Ulster County Fairgrounds, 249 Libertyville Road, New Paltz.

The Woodstock-New Paltz Art & Crafts Fair, voted one of America's top art shows, has grown into a highly successful event, attracting talented artists and craftspeople from across the country.

Since 1981, the fair has been a popular family-run, community-focused event with demonstrations, handmade art, and unique crafts. A second fair is held Labor Day weekend if you happen to miss this one.

June 20-22
Belleayre Mountain Jam
Belleayre Mountain, 181 Galli Curci Road, Highmount.

After a six-year hiatus, the Northeast's premier rock and camping music festival will make its triumphant return to Belleayre Mountain. The festival will feature headliners Khruangbin, Mt. Joy, and Goose, with additional performances by Joe Russo's Almost Dead, Trampled by Turtles, Michael Franti & Spearhead, and many others. There isn't enough peanut butter in the whole Hudson Valley to match the amount of jam that will be spread at this event.

Sat. Jun. 21 & Sun. June 22 • 11am-8pm
Rosè All Day Party
Benmarl Winery, 156 Highland Ave., Marlboro.

Our spring event guide naturally ends with a summer kickoff event, this one being the first of what Benmarl Winery hopes will become an annual tradition. Usher in the summer with a variety of refreshing rosé drinks, live music, and fun activities like flower bouquet-making, permanent jewelry, face painting, and a dessert vendor. With live entertainment from DJ Culture Ramo, The Carrie Zazz Band, and more, plus food options like brickoven pizza and BBQ, this first annual party has all the hallmarks of catching on.



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gora goats,” says Andrea. They have the abundant soft hair of angoras, and their small size makes them easy to manage.

The 45-acre farm was established in 1850 as a dairy farm. It was owned by

the same family until Andrea and Mike bought the property in 2016. Andrea had been a school administrator for 30 years and was ready for a change of pace. While she runs the farm, Mike continues

to teach at Bard College.

Despite having grown up in Maine, where her only pet was a cat, Andrea did develop a connection to fiber. “When I was working as an administrator, my

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needs guarding, not that Dainan seems to agree.”

Alpacas are generally smaller than llamas and more skittish, but Moe appears determined to look after the aloof and elegant Dainan.

At the end of a pasture, we lead the donkeys past Mike’s hop field, where he grows a critical ingredient for making beer. As a biologist, he is intrigued by fermentation and has years of experience with craft brewing. Students, often groups of friends, leave his classes with two bottles of craft beer each and the knowledge to set up their own equipment for home brewing.

Andrea’s classes include weaving, dyeing fabric using plant dyes, soap-making, creating loofahs from alpaca fibers, and other fiber-related projects. Home-school

therapy was to go home and knit,” she said. “I got a spinning wheel and learned how to spin.”

We are walking through the side of the farm where all the female llamas and alpacas are pastured. Earlier, we paid a visit to the males, which serve as guardians for the sheep, a job llamas have practiced for thousands of years. “The llamas will chase off coyotes and once in a while domestic dogs.”

“That one looks like a sentry,” I observe, pointing to an alpaca alertly gazing outward.

“That’s Moe,” Andrea responds. She indicates a tall black llama striding gracefully across the grass, the long feathery hairs on his legs and belly fluttering. “That’s my daughter’s show llama, Dainan. Moe has decided Dainan



groups, school classes and youth groups are welcome to attend her workshops. Once a week, when kids from a local private school spend a few hours helping out with farm chores, she talks to them about sustainable and regenerative farming-- which she also teaches at summer camps. Corporate retreats provide a soothing dose of rural life to business people.

THE DONKEY WALK TAKES US through a small wetland, and then we head back through the fields to the pasture where we started. After a final bite of carrot, we remove the halters. The donkeys, hoping for another treat, follow us to a cluster of tall

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llamas with fluffy coats. The two biggest ones, Essie and Tia, see us coming and step forward to say hello.

They are like giant cats, eager to be petted. And scratched. I sink my hands into several inches of thick, soft hair on Essie's back and stroke the silky fur on the front of her long neck. At one point, she lies down at my feet, and I rub the area behind her ears.

Essie was adopted from a herd where she wasn't flourishing, and when she first arrived she was aggressive toward people. When approaching an unfamiliar llama, said Andrea, you don't look it in the eyes, but approach it by walking backwards. For months, backing up was the only way she could get near Essie, who would spit at her when scared.

"Llamas rarely spit at people unless they've been mishandled," said Andrea. After consistently kind and cautious treatment, Essie became the friendliest llama in the herd.

The alpacas, meanwhile, are grazing nearby, avoiding us. Alpacas are usually solid-colored, and they don't have the curving, banana-shaped ears of the llamas, whose hair is longer and less dense. Alpaca hair is warmer and finer, and it's softer than sheep wool.

"We shear the llamas and alpacas once a year," Andrea says. "In this climate, they are susceptible to heatstroke, and in really hot weather we hose them off with water." She does much of the shearing herself, but some of the alpacas were rescued and are difficult to handle, so she hires professionals to shear them.

The animals on the farm yield 350 pounds of fiber per year. At a mill in Connecticut, the fiber is spun into yarn, which is sold in a shop in Clover Brooke's renovated chicken coop, along with knitted hats, fingerless alpaca mittens, homemade soap, and other products created on the farm. Lower-grade portions of the fiber are felted into dryer balls, better for the environment than commercial dryer sheets.

Other offerings include stays at two Airbnb apartments, yoga on the farm, animal-assisted therapy, teatime with alpacas, goat walks, llama hikes, weddings, parties, photo and video shoots, and 4-H club activities. Visits to the farm, by groups or individuals, are by appointment only, through the website, <https://cloverbrookefarm.com>, or by calling 845-444-6066.



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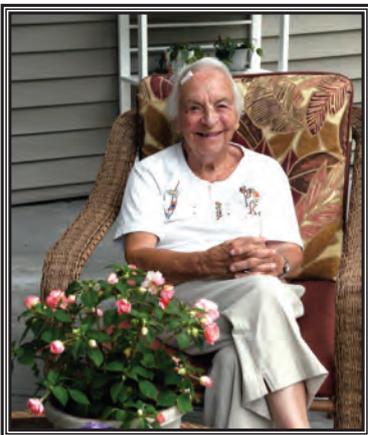
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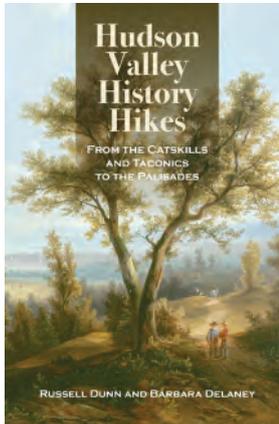
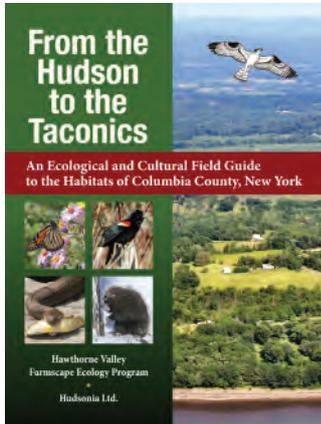
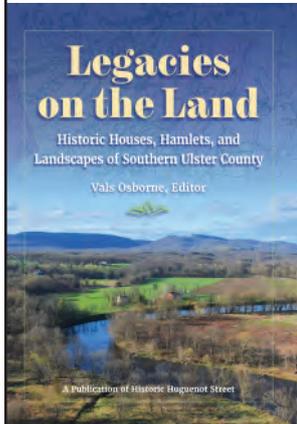
A guide at Fort Ticonderoga with some of his charges.



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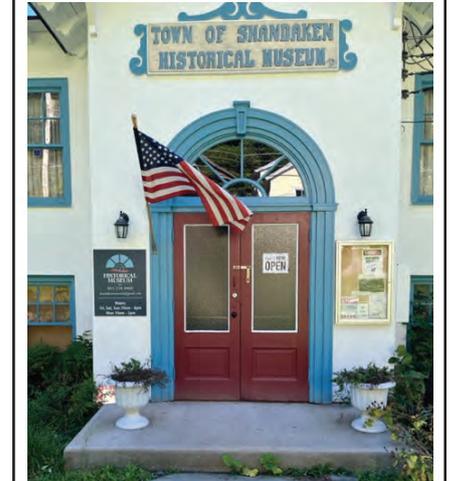
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Fort Ticonderoga

A perfect short getaway from the Hudson Valley

by Cloey Callahan

WELCOMING VISITORS SINCE 1909, Fort Ticonderoga preserves 2,000 acres of historic landscape on Lake Champlain and Carillon Battlefield. It's a historic destination with many attractions and programs amongst a picturesque landscape.

From the Hudson Valley, it's only about three hours away, making it an ideal option for a family getaway for a day or weekend trip.

"People think of historic sites as passive or static experiences, and part of that is because a lot of historic sites that are nationally significant are often owned



by the federal or state government," said Beth Hill, President and CEO of Fort Ticonderoga. "I think it's a big surprise for people to realize that we do offer so much every day."

Fort Ticonderoga welcomes 70,000 visitors each year during its May through October season. Its mission is at the core of its work: to preserve, educate and

provoke active discussion about the past and its importance to present and future generations.

"We often see a multigenerational experience, where parents and grandparents and kids are all coming together at a very special place," said Hill. "I love seeing one generation bring another generation to come to experience it."



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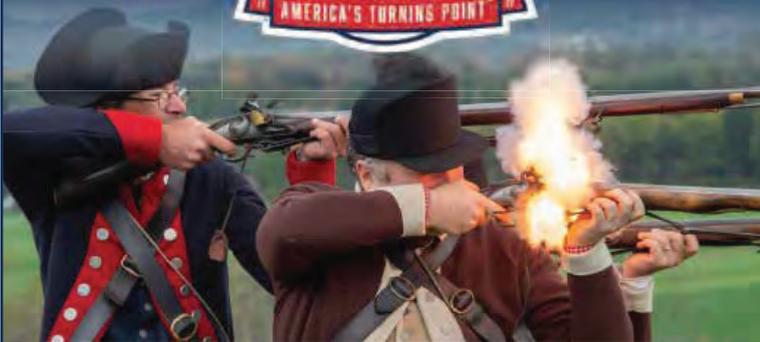


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Carl Heilman II, photographer, 2016

Hill says it draws in history buffs and folks looking for family fun alike. Largely their visitors are from the New York metropolitan area, but the day trippers within the 2.5 to 3 hour market are a significant part of their audience. With a buy one day get the next day free deal, it's easy to choose a weekend trip over a day trip.

Right now, it's commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution with a multi-year programmatic initiative as an innovative real-time experience bringing Ticonderoga's history to life. 2025 is the year 1775 when you step foot on the fort. Signature stories and history like historic trades, soldiers' life



programs and weapons demonstrations will be plenty. The new 2025 "A Revolutionary Anthology: Subjects, Citizens, Service," features a deep look into the world of the American Revolution with hundreds of artifacts on display for the first time. The commemoration will be celebrated until 2027.

"This is a great time to discover or rediscover our founding story," said Hill. "We are telling that story through special events and our exhibitions program."

Fort Ticonderoga is a historic site, a

museum, a center for learning and a cultural destination. From tailoring to shoemaking to exciting weapons demonstrations, the skilled living history team is equipped and trained to safely and accurately demonstrate the exciting story of Fort Ticonderoga. With 2,000 acres to explore, there is room for kids to run around and explore.

"The adults get to go in the shoemaker shop and accomplish that task while the kids might see the sheep and oxen," said Hill.

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If you do decide to stay a night, there is other nearby family fun including enjoying Lake George, admiring fossils at the historic Ausable Chasm and taking the kids to The Great Escape. For those who are looking to stay a little bit longer, there are plenty more possibilities too.

Situated at the northern part of Lake George, the southern portion of the Adirondack Park, and in close proximity to Vermont, it is the perfect



option for an extended trip. In fact, municipalities have teamed together to highlight 18 historic destinations across New York, Vermont and Québec, known as the “Northern Department.”

“This whole Champlain corridor is part of this really big story as part of our revolution,” said Hill. “We encourage people to visit all of these places while they come up if they want to make it more than a day trip. It’s an awesome entire region to explore.”

Daily visitation runs from May 3 to October 26, Tuesdays through Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors, \$14 for kids above 5 years old, and free for under.

On-site, visitors can find America’s Fort Cafe for quick bites to eat with fresh produce that is grown right there – 40% of their land is farmland. The dining experience boasts sweeping views of Lake Champlain and Mount Defiance.

But one of the best parts about Fort Ticonderoga really is the area in which it resides. A favorite is the narrated 75-minute Carillon Boat Cruise on Lake Champlain, which Hill suggests getting tickets early for.

“When we look at our data, we find that visitors’ experiences are enhanced when they include a boat tour on Lake Champlain,” said Hill. “You can see some of the really cool findings underwater with sonar.”



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The aroma of life

An interview with Marcus Guiliano

by Jason Bover

WITH A CAREER spanning over 30 years and an impressive professional resume, chef Marcus Guiliano has mastered the art of turning natural ingredients into mouth-watering entrees. He's the mastermind behind the innovative cuisine at Aroma Thyme Bistro, a must-visit restaurant on Canal Street in Ellenville where you'll find a menu full of focused natural cuisine that reflects balance and well-being.

Guiliano's consistent objective has been to create impact through the use

of natural ingredients with minimal manipulation. You won't find heavy dairy products, white flour, or refined sugars in his cooking. The restaurant uses essential oils and organic local ingredients whenever possible. The highest-quality ingredients bring an extra layer of flavor and nutrition to each dish.

Aroma Thyme Bistro is committed to sustainability and social responsibility. Guiliano sources his ingredients from free-range, pasture-raised, and certified organic sources. He works with local farmers to cultivate crops specifically for the restaurant. The use of sustainable and socially responsible food has earned

Aroma Thyme Bistro many awards. Meeting eco-friendly or environmentally sustainable standards of operating, it's the only certified Green restaurant in Ulster County – and was the first upstate restaurant to receive that designation.

I sat down recently with owners Marcus and Jamie.

Jason: So how long have you guys been in Ellenville?

Marcus: Since the end of 2003. So 22 years.

J: And what were you doing before that?

M: I was the chef at Millbrook Golf and



Jamie and Marcus Guiliano.

PHOTOS BY JASON BOVER

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Tennis Club, but I moved back a few years prior to that from Colorado to take a job in Westchester at the Bonnie Briar Country Club. I was the executive chef. They were the ones who brought me here from Colorado.

J: So let's rewind. What's your cooking history? Where did this all start?

M: Oklahoma. Born in Oklahoma and raised in Colorado until I was nine. Then I moved to New York -- here in Ellenville, and then left Ellenville after high school. I went to the Greenbrier, West Virginia, then to the Broadmoor in Colorado, and then worked in London. In London, I worked at La Tante Claire for Michelin

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three-star chef Pierre Hoffman. It's the same place Ramsey trained, and Marco Pierre White. My wife Jamie was teaching in London. When we came back to the states I got a job at the Broadmoor. I was out there for a couple years. Became a chef at local country club, and then was lured back to Ellenville in 2000.



J: What was your culinary training like before all these restaurants?

M: Yeah, so I went to Sullivan County to get my degree. But the Greenbrier is where I really learned how to cook. The Greenbrier is in West Virginia, and they have an amazing apprenticeship program there. Really just amazing facilities. That's what they do. They refine cooks. I spent three years there.

J: So then when did you meet Jamie?

M: I met Jamie in high school. High-school sweethearts. She worked at the Greenbrier also in the summers when I

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was down there.

J: How long have you guys been together?

M: So 35 years, 34 years. No, 35 years

J: What inspired you to get into cooking?
Italian family?

M: Yeah. Southern Italy. Apulia. Fasano, right outside Bari.

J: So did you go over to Italy as a kid?

M: No, I didn't start going there until 2008 or 2009. Then I just got addicted to it and been going back ever since.

J: You guys are going in two weeks, right?

M: Yeah, less than two weeks.

J: And you guys are going in the fall, too, I think.

M: We had to alter some plans. In the fall, we're doing France only. Then in the spring, we're doing Italy again. Piedmont this time.

J: What about Mexico?

M: Mexico is at least once a year, sometimes twice. Oaxaca for Mezcal and Guadalajara for tequila. Tequila is very popular destination. It's a popular drink. So the goal is to get there once a year as well, and take small groups, four or six people. Those groups are unique, those trips are unique. We'll do as few as two people on those trips. You can pick your private dates. December or January for Mexico. Trips are listed on www.vipwineryvacations.com

J: Do you do any wine tours in America?

M: We do the Finger Lakes. In 2020 and 2021 we were doing two or three trips a year up there. We couldn't really travel anywhere else during Covid. That was big. We've done Santa Barbara before,





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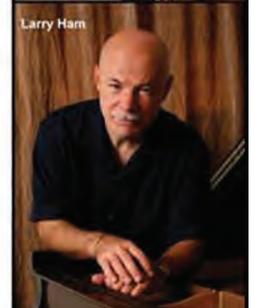
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and I'm happy to do Santa Barbara again. There's so many regions, and now we are doing France and Spain. So all the pictures throughout the restaurant are pictures I've taken on our adventures. So you can see crushing the agave. You can see the cheese being made that we serve here. You can see an Italian vineyard in a Puglia or Spain.

We just have been to so many regions that we'd love to show people. If you say, Hey, let's go to Chile! I'm like, I want to go to Chile, too! If you want to go to southern Africa, I want to go to South Africa, too! Who doesn't love to travel? Being in business 23 years, you have a ton of connections. Relationships are a good currency. You know, we are friendly with everybody we do business with, and we do business with the right people. They take care of us. I'd call two or three importers that I know and they will hook us up with a great time in the wine valleys.

J: What do you consider local? What's the definition of local?

M: What's the definition of local? Local and regional kind of play a part of each other. So, for example, we buy cranberries every Thanksgiving from Cape Cod. I like to say they're local, but they are more of a regional thing. There's no true definition for what is sustainable or what is local.

Nobody wants to go into a store and buy Italian shoes, but then you see the tags say made in China. right? That's misrepresenting a product. Food is more intimate than shoes because you eat food and it goes into every cell of your body. You become what you eat. We are what we eat is the most profound statement ever.

J: You know, thinking back as far as I

can, you were the first local only farm-to-table restaurant I can think of. You were always pushing that mentality and that lifestyle.

M: I ate like that before I opened the restaurant.

J: I think I heard you on the radio all the time back then.

M: We've been on tons of radio and tons of stuff. We've literally been on Good Morning America with David Burke. I was talking about the salt meters, because it comes down to every ingredient, not just the main ingredients or the expensive ingredients. It comes down to every single ingredient, from the salt to the sugar. |

J: Straighten me up. You guys have the largest tequila selection, or wine selection, or what is it?

Jamie: Yelp gave us best bar in Ellenville, or something like that. I don't know where that little plaque is, but yeah, we have a lot.

J: Do you have a number?

Jamie: I think there's like 80 agave spirits behind the bar.

J: what about bourbons?

Jamie: Oh, god. I would say there's at least 40 different bourbons.

J: What's your big thing? Is it wine list?

Jamie: Our wine list is curated from wineries that we go to visit. We've been to over 350 different wineries. So we've curated the list in the more recent years, probably within the last ten years, of places that we go to and bring those

wines in. I mean, we have a lot of bottles.

J: How would you describe your bar?

Jamie: It's filled with local and independent spirits, so there are no big brands behind our bar whatsoever. We are a little guy. We want people to come support us. So we want our money to go towards families that need the money to grow their business. You have to support independent.

Jason: So would you say that in order to be pro-craft beverage, you almost have to be anti-corporate?

Marcus: I don't think you have to be 100 percent anti, but I feel like putting a sign over the front door that says anti corporate headquarters. General Mills owns so much of our food supply. If I have an option to buy an organic product from General Mills versus an independent, I'm gonna buy it independent. Our food system is so infiltrated with these mass companies that only four or five beverage companies own the majority of spirits. So you need to be as conscious about as much as you can. By no means is every restaurant perfect. I'm not perfect but I'm conscious.

J: You know, being the southernmost point of Ulster you guys are just as close to Jersey as Saugerties. People would never consider New Jersey local to Ulster County. I'm in Saugerties, and if I get my lettuce from Catskill it's only five minutes down the road but you're saying local is from Jersey. That's crazy to me. I never think of it that way.

M: Yeah. We source down in the black dirt in Florida, New York year-round. The border to Jersey is right there. We round up potatoes from a bunch of farms. I drive 30 minutes to a farm. So like what is local? Italy figured this out. They call it zero kilometers. They're measuring how far the food is from where they're eating it. Their goal is to be zero kilometers. One kilometer is 2.2 miles. So zero kilometers is their goal.

One thing I have to say is don't be fooled by farmstands. Sometimes farmstands bring products in and say it's local.

J: I used to deliver beverages to all the farmstands, and they would get their stuff delivered. Like berries all year. Twelve flats of Driscoll boxes sitting there by the back door. It creates financial sustainability, because you're able to offer more



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than you're really producing.
M: But is it ethical?
J: So we're coming into springtime. It's starting to get warm outside. What are your favorite spring seasonal fruits and vegetables?
M: Rhubarb spritz. Sorry, I was still thinking about alcohol. Yeah, rhubarb spritz. Morel mushrooms or asparagus. Asparagus is the big one. I will do ramps and stuff like that, too. We only buy asparagus from local farms. From New Jersey to the Finger Lakes is our span. So we have maybe eight weeks that we can buy asparagus at this restaurant, and we don't serve it any other time of the year. So we have an asparagus celebration! Cabbage is coming in right now. New crop of cabbage. We have bok choy already.

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J: How do you know you are getting the best products, then?
M: You gotta be careful. The world has a love affair with Italian food. How do you make enough prosciutto for the whole world in such a small area? How do you meet worldwide demand? Sometimes corners are cut and sometimes you're not buying prosciutto Parma, or you're buying prosciutto that's declassified from another region. It's totally different than Parma.
 There's a love affair with olive oil. Most olive oil isn't made in Italy, it's just packaged in Italy. So it is up to you to do your homework, to find an Italian company that's using Italian products. It's interesting.

J: Your menu goes into very specific details of every ingredient
M: Because it's part of being transparent. If you're not that kind of restaurant, no problem. But if you claim you're a farm-to-table restaurant, you need transparency. There's nothing worse for me than going out to a farm-to-table restaurant and asking what's local? And nobody can answer me. Where is this from? We don't know or we don't have anything right now, because it's out of season. You can buy stuff twelve months a year in the Hudson Valley. Right now it's March and we're getting fresh bok choy and fresh cabbage. All the storage crops, all the cheeses, grains, all the beans. So much is available!

J: What are some of the challenges that you've faced starting a restaurant in Ellenville? As it pertains to, you know,

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opening a restaurant, sustaining a restaurant, remaining viable?

M: This is a good question. We opened in 2003, when there wasn't anything else available besides pizzerias and Chinese takeout. So we were really bucking the trend of what was open here. And we love the locals, but we understand that the locals aren't a primary target, and we wanted to create something elevated that people would drive for. That was our main goal. I want you to come here as a destination. As a chef, I'm honored when you make a trip for my food. That's what I wanted. Ellenville was kind of like the forgotten area of Ulster County, because we're almost in Sullivan County.

Within two years, the Nevele closed and there were no more hotels. The people weren't coming here to vacation any more, and it was an extreme challenge to get tourism here. We joined every chamber out there. We went to all kinds of events. We networked and networked and networked to get our name out there. We just kept working as hard as we could. Now, don't forget, this is pre-social media.

Things started really changing when Facebook was open to everybody in 2008 or 2009, and YouTube was not a dating site any more. We jumped on YouTube right away, and it was a slow progression. There were days in the beginning when we thought we weren't going to make it. We were working so hard for so little. We

always stayed true to our vision. So one of the challenges was when somebody walks in and says, I want a Budweiser. I'm like, sorry, we are craft, not corporate. And people didn't understand back then.

So to stay relevant, you know, we were on that farm-to-table, healthier food way before a lot of other people were. I was like, if I can't get beef from a local supplier, I'm not going to have beef on my menu for a while. That wasn't available from mainstream distributors back then. Because we're in Ellenville and there were no other restaurants here, and companies sometimes wouldn't deliver. So I found a beef that met my approval: hormone-free, antibiotic-free, and no feedlot. Our first two years, I drove to the Bronx to pick up our wild salmon and bottled water and stuff.

J: Do you think that being the only upscale restaurant in Ellenville had its benefits?

M: To a certain point, I thought it was a benefit. There's synergy with other restaurants in the area. I think having other restaurants helps. Nobody is as strict as us in the area. Building trust with people is huge and keeping us relevant. What do we do in 2025? What are the trends? Well, you know, of course, one of the trends is agave spirits. Hands down, tequila and mezcal. So we went from 20 tequilas and mezcals to 200 to fill that need. Now all the tequila geeks, all the

agave geeks, are finding us. People are making special trips to us.

J: Here's a question I ask everybody. It's kind of a joke. What is your least favorite vegetable?

M: Ooh, rutabaga. Rutabaga!

J: Why rutabaga?

M: I put in a soup once. In like one of those cleanses. I was doing a cleanse, and it called for rutabaga stew. I got so sick of it. It kind of tastes like socks. I mean even celery root is better. There's so many things that are better, right? So there's a reason why it's not more mainstream popular, right?

J: Do you think the influx of affluent people to Ellenville has increased your customers' expectations?

M: They are used to a certain level of service coming from New York City.

J: They come up here and they're expecting this higher-quality experience? The locals may not expect that, you know. I'm trying to stay politically correct.

M: This a good question. People say we are "the Manhattan escape." People say you're like Manhattan, but you're not in Manhattan. So I think the level that we've given over the years meets what they're used to in Manhattan or wherever they're coming from. We're deep in the hospitality business. We do a whole training for our staff on how to smile. We go above and beyond on everything. Customer satisfaction, customer service, guest satisfaction, is super-important to us and doing things that beat expectations of other places. This has been my career forever, and I know good food. I know good service. You know service is just as important as food. People want to be heard. People want to be pampered. They sit down and they don't have to think.

Here's a sample of our most popular bourbons. Here, try them. You like this one, right? We are used to providing that higher level service. When it snows, we shovel right to their car -- and it's in a village parking lot, not even ours.

J: How do you see the food scene in Ellenville going forward?

M: Better than it's ever been.

.....
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PHOTOS BY DION OGUST

Steering The Mothership

Paul McMahon's creative space nestled in old Woodstock

By Dion Ogust

WALKING WEST FROM the Woodstock Green, crossing the crumbling bridge over the Tannery Brook stream and turning left into Woodstock Way, you walk through a boutique hotel of tiny houses that command big prices. Emerging from this enclave, ascending the hill onto Sergeant Richard Quinn Lane you will find yourself opposite the American Legion, a gathering place of veterans of some of the oldest Woodstock families, who as Paul says, are “salt-of-the-

earth, good people and neighbors”. Across from it sits a former boarding house, built in 1926, which once served briefly as the Woodstock Day School

“How best can I use my imagination today?”

and is now known as The Mothership. Paul McMahon is the mother, father, creator, and visionary behind The Mothership. He has transformed it into a space where artists can display their work and

perform in conjunction with exhibits. Recently, Linger Dance performed alongside Bucky Miller’s art show, Big Skeleton, while Andrea Ward—a musician, singer, and choreographer—brought movement and sound to abstract paintings. Last autumn, writer Jenni Knight, a Byrdcliffe resident, read excerpts from her work in progress. The Mothership is open to all, a welcoming haven for creativity. A conversation with Paul is inspiring, thought-provoking, and multidimensional. During a visit, he shared his daily mantra, “How best can I use my imagination today?” He

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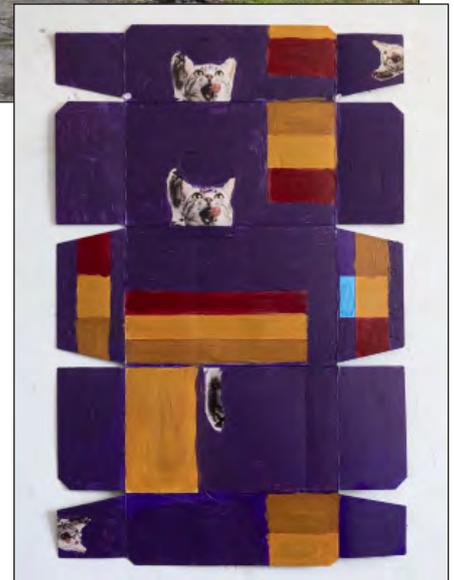
Rick Silva, Western Fronts: Cascade Siskiyou, Gold Butte, Grand Staircase, Escalante, and Devils Linn, 2019, courtesy the artist and Art Bridges.



The Mothership.

embraces the benefits of life in an artist community, despite his observation that when money arrived in Woodstock, some of the fun faded. Though he claims not to be a “careerist,” Paul’s journey is rich

and varied, spanning art, spirituality, performance, music, and community-building. His creative endeavors range from inventing a cat toy in the 1980s (still being sold) to designing clever bumper



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stickers, producing artwork, posters, music, and performing as The Rock and Roll Therapist on WFUV and WDST. His visual art has been exhibited in esteemed institutions such as The Whitney, The Met, and the 321 Gallery. And up next? A Museum of Pizza show.

If you’re looking for an experience, visit The Mothership for a look at a little old school Woodstock creativity. Have a conversation with Paul—you won’t regret it. Woodstock is made up of many heartbeats, and Paul McMahon is undoubtedly one of them.

Check out his website <https://paulmcmahon.tv/mothership> and on social media at: Mothership Gallery in Woodstock NY.

A native tree walk

Enjoy a stroll through SUNY New Paltz and its 25 native tree walk

by Erin Quinn

A tree is a poem that the earth writes upon the sky. — Kahlil Gibran

NATURE LOVERS NEED to go no further than the canopied campus of SUNY New Paltz to enjoy a rich variety of tree canopies, trunks, branches and blossoms getting ready to burst. There is a 1.5-mile self-guided tree walk through the campus that includes 25 native species of trees, all labeled on a map with their location, scientific names, a description of the tree’s bark or leaves, blossoms, needles and historical uses.

While the campus is home to hundreds of trees, some that stand alone, others that are in groves, a number of ornamental trees and the more forested trees in the southern woodlands of the SUNY grounds—these 25 species were selected to be part of the tour because they’re indigenous to the region. These include Sugar Maples and Silver Maples, Tulip Trees, Hemlocks, Eastern Red Cedar trees, White Pines, Red Oaks and massive Sycamore trees.

According to Eric Keeling, a Professor of Biology at New Paltz

as well as the Chair of the SUNY NP Tree Committee that helped create and design the Tree Walk, the idea came from local naturalist, activist and farmer, Dan Guenther. “He was a real visionary and made this presentation to us and we set to work right away, getting

students involved and members of the faculty and the community to get this project started.”

While there are tours where the public are invited, usually one in the Spring

and one in the Fall, the Tree Walk is set up so that residents and visitors alike

We all need to put down our phones and appreciate another species. This is an easy way to do it.



White magnolia.

PHOTOS BY ERIN QUINN

can grab a brochure, created by Carmen Calderone or follow one online and go at their own pace. There is even a shorter, ease-of-access route that does not include any stairs. For Keeling and members of the Tree Committee this walk is not only a way to showcase native trees and the campus itself, but also “a great way to engage with your environment,” he said. “We all need to put down our phones and appreciate another species. This is an easy way to do it. Trees don’t runaway, they do not require binoculars and they’re everywhere.” Keeling noted that trees are an easy subject for nature study skills.

“These trees were picked to represent the range of native trees that would be useful to be able to identify out in the woods in our

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The magnolia outside of the Old Main Building.

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region,” he said. To that end the first tree on the walk is a Red Maple located in the Old Main Quad off of Plattekill Avenue in the Village of New Paltz. Already the Red Maples are beginning to show the first signs of spring color with their red buds bursting before the other trees have leafed out. While it’s not officially on the list, there is a large Magnolia Tree that stands just outside the front doors of Old Main Building with its buds just beginning to unfurl. “One of the great things about going on the tree walk in the spring is that you’ll also see spectacular flowering trees along the path,” noted Keeling. One flowering tree that made the list is #18— Sweet Cherry Tree that’s near the Southwest entrance to campus.

The Old Main Quad also has a large Tulip Tree near the Old Library as well as Silver, Sugar and Norway Maples. From there the walk moves towards the Samuel Dorsky Museum and the Student Union building where there is a Sour Gum tree, cultivated as an ornamental tree but used as a shade tree. There is also a Hemlock tree with pine cones and a Grey Birch that has smooth, greyish-white bark with multiple trunks. From there, tree-enthusiasts can walk alongside the stream where there are a series of magnificent Sycamore Trees (*Platanus occidentalis*). They have massive trunks with distinctive, mottled bark flakes that leave green, grey, pale yellow and milky white spots beneath.

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A red maple in the Old Main Quad.



Magnolia.



Witch hazel bud.

While they are not on the list, the campus pond has several Weeping Willows around it as well as Black Walnut

trees with rich dark wood used to create stains. There is a small, but interesting Shagbark Hickory tree, #14, near the

Children’s Center, that was somewhat challenging to find. It’s shaggy, peeling bark is edible and according to the tree committee “sweet tasting,” and was used for smoking. There is also a rare, American Elm, #15 that somehow escaped the Dutch Elm disease that wiped out most of the species throughout North America.

As the walk wraps around the campus, there are three, stunning Eastern Red Cedar trees just outside of Lenape Hall. The bark is a reddish-brown, fibrous and peels off in narrow strips. The needles are flat and the canopy is broad. Keeling points to trees #20 and #21 which border the outdoor college track and turf field. “There is a White Pine and a Pine Oak with a view of the Shawangunk mountains that is stunning. The White Pine has soft needles that are bundled in groups of five. This was known as “The Tree of Peace,” for the Haudenosaunee Nation according to the information provided by the tree committee.

One of the last trees, is also one of the largest trees on campus—a Chestnut Oak that appears to be split in two. It sits right at the edge of the Athletic Center and has broad, wavy leaves that will begin to create a large shade-canopy. “When I think of the Shawangunks, I think of Chestnut Oaks and Pitch Pines,” said Keeling. “The Chestnut Oaks are a species that the Mohonk Preserve pays close attention to in terms of conservation because they’re unique and are a signature tree of the Gunks.” These are rugged trees that enjoy rocky soil and ridgetops.

The tree committee encourages people who take the walk to stop at each tree

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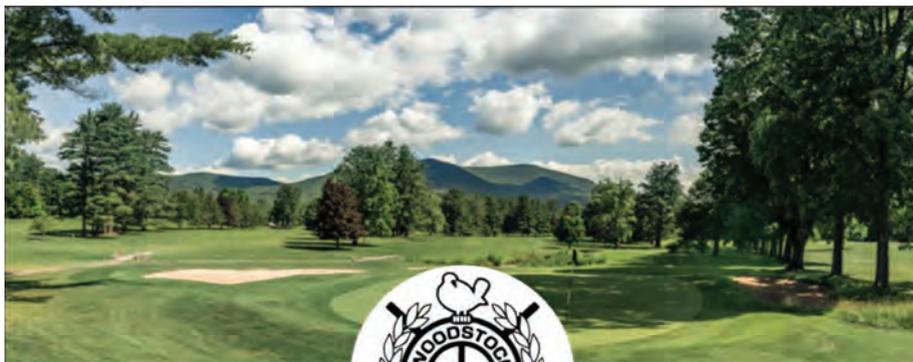


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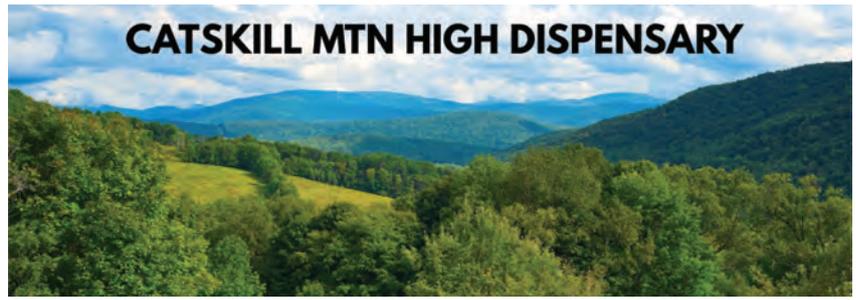
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and spend time observing the entire canopy, trunk and to study the leaves, their shapes, sizes and textures. "Look for flowers or cones and notice their intricate structures," said Keeling. "You may see fruit, on the branches or the ground, in the form of a nut, husk, berry or seed-pod." Trees are a full sensory experience, especially when pausing to listen for the sounds of insects, birds, or squirrels and other animals that find sanctuary amongst these wooded species. While each tree is unique, together they absorb 1/5th of our annual carbon emissions—a natural ecosystem service that helps to mitigate global climate change. They also bring flowers in the spring, shade in the summer and vibrant colors in the fall. For more information on the Tree Committee, the Tree Walk go to <https://www.newpaltz.edu/media/sustainability-import/240419%20Campus%20Tree%20Map%20UPDATED.pdf> or email Professor Keeling at keeling@newpaltz.edu.

The campus tree walk was planned by the SUNY New Paltz Tree Committee during 2018–2022. The route and map were initially designed by student members on the committee, Ryan Usai (Biology) and William Reilly (Geography). Funds for the project have been provided by the Office of Campus Sustainability.



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For use only by adults 21 years of age and older. Keep out of reach of children and pets. In case of accidental ingestion or overconsumption, contact Poison Center 1-800-222-1222 or call 9-1-1. Please consume responsibly. OCM-CAURD-24-000202

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UCRRA RECYCLING OUTREACH TEAM

NOW ACCEPTING VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS!

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APPLY NOW



UCRRA.ORG/VOLUNTEER

This year's 25-hour FREE volunteer training runs 4 - 6:30PM
Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
in June. Apply by May 12th 2025

HEADS UP, HIKERS!

BREAKNECK RIDGE TRAILHEADS ARE CLOSED FOR IMPROVEMENTS STARTING APRIL 21, 2025

SOMETHING EXCITING IS HAPPENING...

If you've spent any time in the area, you know that the Breakneck/Route 9D corridor is currently hazardous for both hikers and motorists, and downright untenable on busy hiking weekends.

But, coming in 2027, the Fjord Trail's Breakneck Connector will make the area safer, improve accessibility, add public restrooms, organize parking, include renovation of the Metro-North Breakneck Ridge train station, and much more!

Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc. is working with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Metro-North Railroad; and the NY-NJ Trail Conference to bring you these critical improvements.



**ALTERNATIVE HIKES
AND MORE INFO AT
WWW.BREAKNECK.INFO**

ft Hudson Highlands
Fjord Trail

learn more about the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail at hhft.org

CLOSURE IMPACTS

- **BREAKNECK RIDGE TRAIL** closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
WILKINSON MEMORIAL TRAIL closed from trailhead to Nimham Trail
BROOK TRAIL closed from trailhead to Cornish Connector
- **METRO-NORTH RAILROAD BREAKNECK RIDGE TRAIN STATION** closed — no train service at Breakneck.
- **NO PARKING ON ROUTE 9D** in the area north of Breakneck Tunnel