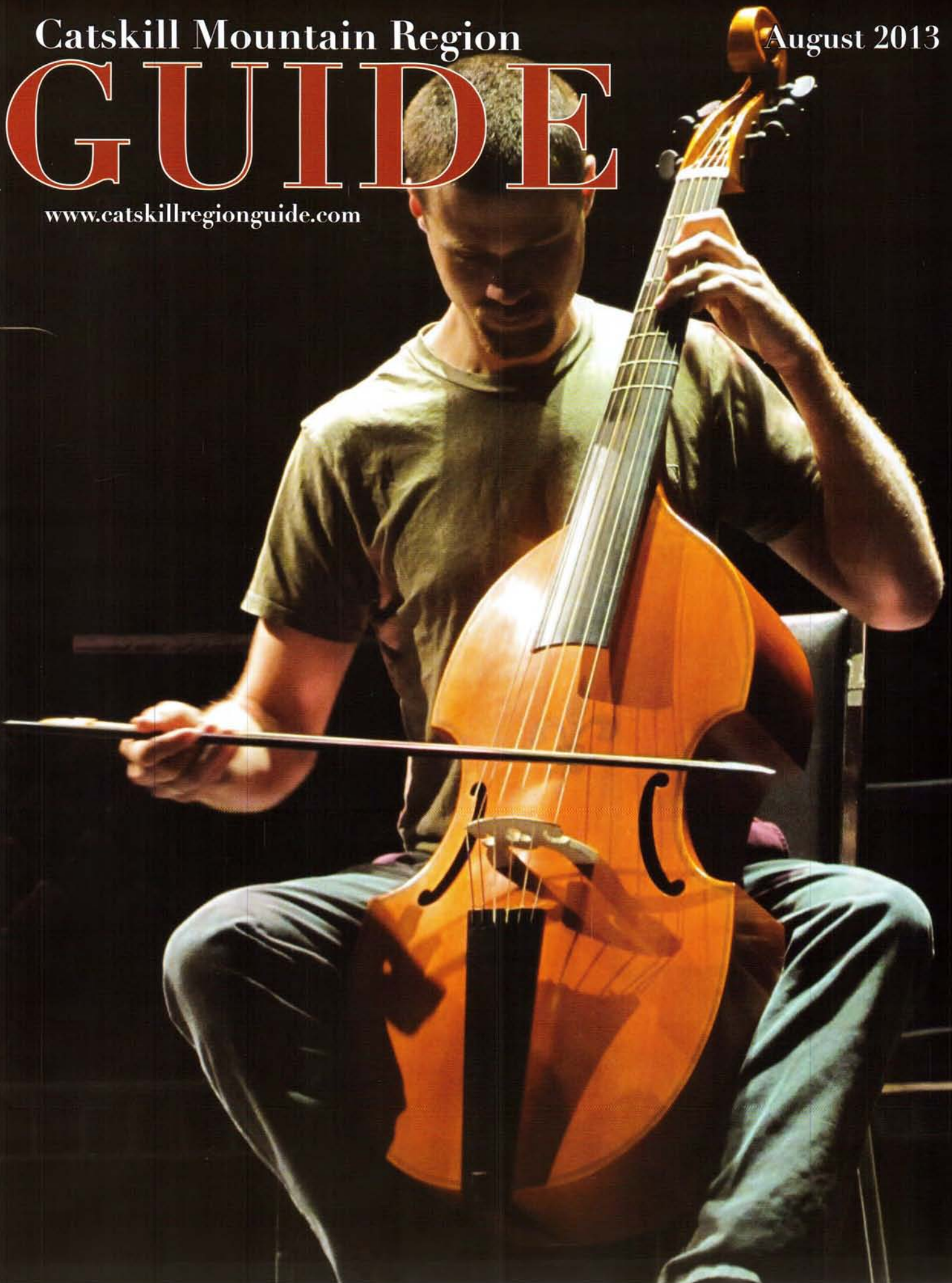


Catskill Mountain Region

August 2013

# GUIDE

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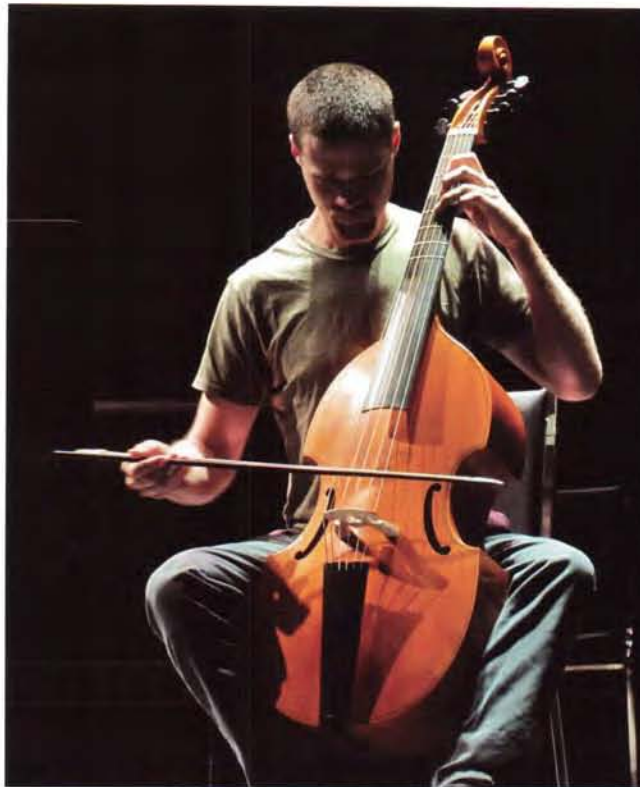
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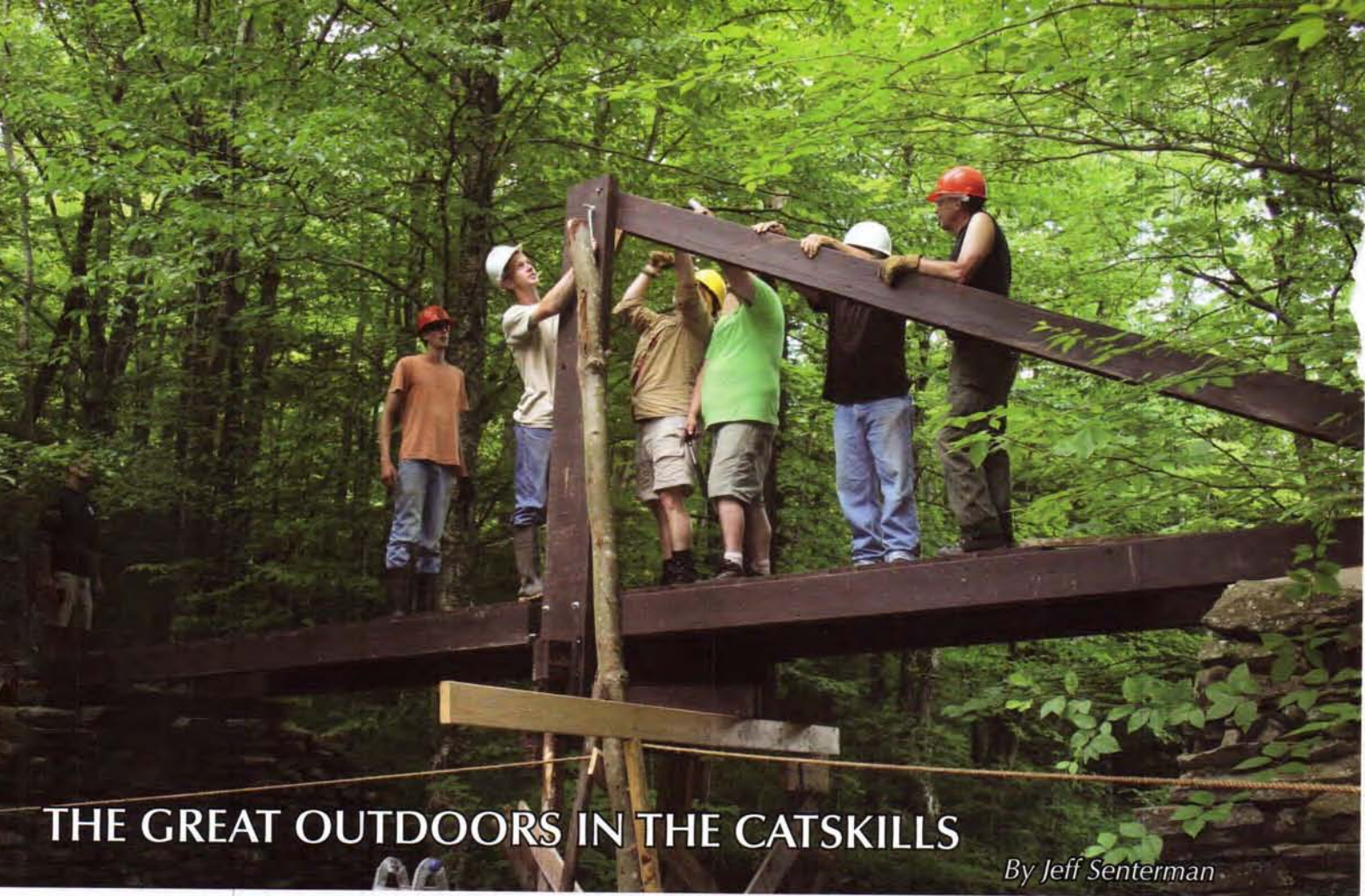
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*On the cover: The High Peaks Music Festival welcomes close to 40 young musicians to study under some of the world's most eminent classical artists this August. For more information, please see the article on page 16.  
Photo by Patty Donar*

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## THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN THE CATSKILLS

By Jeff Senterman

*Volunteers building the new bridge on the Long Path in Platte Clove. Photo by Jeff Senterman*

A new bridge for the Long Path, brochures and maps for the Catskill Park's five restored Fire Towers, the Great Outdoor Festival and the Lark in the Park is just around the corner. The summer is an exciting time for the outdoors in the Catskills!

### New Bridge for the Long Path in Platte Clove

Eighteen volunteers from the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference made quick work of building a new trail bridge over Platte Kill Creek in the Platte Clove Preserve on the last weekend of June. The volunteer crew completed a new 30-foot span that is an important link in the Long Path, the 350-mile trail that extends from the George Washington Bridge to Altamont near Albany. The bridge replaces one built in 2001 but recently found to be damaged.

The new bridge was designed and pre-assembled at home by volunteers Doug and Pete Senterman of Elka Park. Its parts were then moved to the site the day before final construction.

At the Platte Clove Preserve project site, volunteers first had to build a temporary scaffold across the stream to hold the centerpiece of the bridge; then the main support beams were installed and bolted in. The kingposts (the two vertical posts in the middle) were installed, followed by the angled support beams.

This bridge is a modern version of the kingpost design, a very popular bridge style used in the Catskill region in the 1800s. The location of the bridge and its abutments once supported a wider span that carried horse-pulled carriages over the creek.

Thanks go to all of the volunteers for making quick work of this new trail bridge. Material for the bridge was purchased with funds from the Trail Conference's Catskill Trails Program. The program provides training, support, and supplies for trail projects and trail volunteers in the Catskill Mountain Region. To support the Catskill Trails Program with a donation, please go to [www.nynjtc.org/product/donate-catskills-trail-program](http://www.nynjtc.org/product/donate-catskills-trail-program).

### Five Restored Fire Towers in Catskill Park Are Focus of New Hike Brochures and Maps

In the first half of the 20th century, observers stationed in 23 fire towers across the Catskill Mountains scanned the region looking for signs of forest fires. Today, more remote methods are used to detect fires. But five fire towers remain standing—their 360-degree views of the Catskill Mountains and beyond are still unparalleled—and they now serve as popular destinations for hikers.

To help visitors find their way to the fire towers and understand their history, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference,

working with the Catskill Fire Tower Project, developed a trail map brochure for each of the towers: the Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower; the Hunter Mountain Fire Tower; the Overlook Mountain Fire Tower; the Red Hill Fire Tower; and the Tremper Mountain Fire Tower.

Hardworking volunteer groups, together with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and nonprofit organizations including the Catskill Center and the Trail Conference, completed restoration of the five towers in 2011 and continue to maintain them and associated observers' cabins.

Each summer, thousands of people from all over the world visit the fire towers to enjoy the beauty and splendor of the Catskill Mountains. Volunteer interpreters welcome these visitors, sharing the history and lore of the fire towers and of the Catskill Mountains.

### Brochures and Maps for the Fire Towers

The map brochures produced by the Trail Conference are distributed by volunteers at the fire towers and by local business and organizations in the surrounding communities. Each brochure includes a map of the area surrounding the fire tower and a description of the most direct hike to the fire tower. They are available for free download at [www.nynjtc.org/news/catskill-fire-tower-brochures](http://www.nynjtc.org/news/catskill-fire-tower-brochures).

### Great Outdoor Experience Festival

The Central Catskills Great Outdoor Experience Festival ([www.centralcatskills-greatoutdoors.com](http://www.centralcatskills-greatoutdoors.com)) will take place from August 23-25 in and about the Central Catskills from the site of the soon to be built Catskills Interpretive Center in Mt. Tremper. The popular Central Catskills Great Outdoor Experience Festival will begin with a Friday Night Sky viewing through a high powered telescope at the lawn at the Delaware and Ulster Railride. On Saturday the festival will fill the streets of Margaretville with outdoor experiences like canoeing, lots of out-



## From the Catskills

The Catskills region abounds with hardy four-season produce and Pure Catskills is your source for finding those farm-fresh products.

Our website is updated weekly with information on **Farmers' Markets • U-pick Farms • Farmstands • Giveaways**  
**Tips on Buying Fresh and Local**  
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Completed bridge in Platte Clove. Photo by Jeff Senterman

door information from groups who will offer hikes among other activities on Saturday and Sunday and a Scenic Ride N Peak Bicycling ride around Pepacton Reservoir. Lots of food, shopping vendors, music and magic will fill out the day. On Sunday enjoy more scheduled outdoor recreation and top it off with a visit to the Stone Tavern Farm for the RoxFestNY concert extravaganza. Sister Sparrow and the Dirty Birds and many other live bands will fill the day with music from noon until 10 pm. Tickets and more information are available at [www.RoxFestNY.com](http://www.RoxFestNY.com), [www.belleayremusic.org](http://www.belleayremusic.org) or [www.centralcatskills.com](http://www.centralcatskills.com).

## Take a Hike!

If you are looking to get out on the trails, but are looking for some guided hikes to help you get your bearings on Catskill Mountain trails, the region has several different groups that lead guided hikes. The Catskill Mountain Club (CMC) offers members and non-members the opportunity to go hiking, paddling, biking and skiing throughout the Catskills. More information on the CMC and schedules of their activities can be found at [www.catskillmountainclub.org](http://www.catskillmountainclub.org). The Catskill 3500 Club leads hikes up the 35 peaks in the Catskills that reach above 3500 feet in elevation. Visit the 3500 Club's website at [www.catskill-3500-club.org](http://www.catskill-3500-club.org) for information on their activities. The Rip Van Winkle Hikers also lead hikes throughout the region and you can find out more information about the club check out their website at [www.newyorkheritage.com/rvw](http://www.newyorkheritage.com/rvw).

## Outdoor News, Events and Updates

### What's happening at the Balsam Lake Fire Tower?

On Saturday, August 24, The Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower crew will host a special presentation on geocaching at the summit of the mountain. At noon, Paula Repka, a veteran worldwide geocacher will explain what this phenomena is all about—its history and terminology, how GPS technology works, demonstrations

on navigation techniques to help you find geocaches, and several examples of containers. Paula will place several caches nearby for all to practice finding and set a permanent geocache. This event coincides with August being celebrated by geocachers around the world as the 31 Days of Geocaching! We hope you will plan on spending a couple of hours at the summit with us for this fun event. Bring your own GPS if you have one. Rain moves the event to the next day, Sunday. For more information, contact Laurie Rankin, the Volunteer Coordinator for the Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower at [laur090@yahoo.com](mailto:laur090@yahoo.com) or visit the tower on the web at [www.viewsandbrews.com/balsamlake](http://www.viewsandbrews.com/balsamlake).

### First Saturdays on the Trail with the Woodstock Land Conservancy

The Woodstock Land Conservancy will be hosting Monarch Butterflies on August 3, 2013 from 10 am to 12 pm, when you can join educator and naturalist Betty Boomer to experience the amazing secrets of nature up-close with this hands-on workshop featuring the life-cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. Wear proper footwear and clothing, and bring proper sun protection. The rain date is August 4, 2013. Please visit [www.woodstocklandconservancy.org](http://www.woodstocklandconservancy.org) for location and any updates.

### Woodland Valley/Romer Mountain Long Path Relocation

This summer, work continues on constructing what will be a 9 mile long new backcountry hiking trail in the Catskill Mountains between the village of Phoenicia and the existing Burroughs Range Trail. If you are interested in joining a trail crew to work on this trail (no experience or membership in the Trail Conference is necessary), want to learn how you can support this program or just want more information, visit [www.nynjtc.org/content/new-long-path-construction-catskill-mountains](http://www.nynjtc.org/content/new-long-path-construction-catskill-mountains).

### Learn about Woodland Management

On Sunday, August 11 from 10 am to 2 pm at Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith, come learn how you can connect to your woodland and see what it can be used for: wildlife habitat, wood products, maple sugaring, firewood, and more. The Catskill Forest Association's Education Forester, Ryan Trapani, will talk about the potential uses of one's woodland. Your woodland—like a garden—is capable of growing many different things. Knowing which trees to cut and which should be left to grow can have a tremendous impact on your woodland's potential uses and benefits. See how your woodlands can become more fruitful for many years to come. The cost for the Workshop is \$15 for Museum members, \$20 for non-members. Register at [www.hanfordmills.org](http://www.hanfordmills.org) or call 607 278 5744.

### 2013 Lark in the Park!

The Trail Conference, the Catskill Mountain Club and the Catskill Center have begun the planning for the 2013 Catskills Lark in the Park event, so it is not too early to make sure that you are in the Catskill Mountains between October 5 and October 14, 2013 to help us celebrate! The tenth annual Catskills Lark in the Park will bring exciting hiking, paddling, cycling, fishing, nature walks, and lectures, as well as cultural and social events throughout the entire region. As we get closer to October, be sure to regularly check the Lark in the Park website at [www.catskillslark.org](http://www.catskillslark.org) for schedules and other important information, including pre-registration for some events and follow the Lark in the Park on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CatskillsLarkInThePark](http://www.facebook.com/CatskillsLarkInThePark)).

### Adopt a Trail for Maintenance

The Trail Conference has several openings for Trail Maintainers in the Catskill Mountains. Individual trail segments for adoption range from 1 to 2 miles in length. Trail maintainers visit their trails at least twice a year and perform basic trail maintenance tasks such as weed and branch clearing, small blowdown removal and report on larger problems that will need the Trail Crew or additional work. If you are interested in becoming a Trail Maintainer, fill out the interest form at [www.nynjtc.org/vop/trail-maintainer-catskills-south](http://www.nynjtc.org/vop/trail-maintainer-catskills-south).

### Getting Involved

If you are interested in learning more about hiking the Catskill Mountains, joining a trail crew, adopting a trail for maintenance, or just finding out more information about stewardship of our recreational facilities in the Catskill Mountains, please contact the Trail Conference at 518 628 4243 or via e-mail at [jsenterman@nynjtc.org](mailto:jsenterman@nynjtc.org).

*Jeff Senterman was formerly an Assistant Forest Ranger for the DEC in Greene County, graduated with a degree in Environmental Science from Lyndon State College, has worked in the Environmental Planning field, is currently the Catskill Region Program Coordinator for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Catskill Mountain Club and the Friends of the Catskill Interpretive Center.*

*The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference partners with parks to create, protect, and promote a network of 2,000 miles of public trails, including 29 lean-tos and over 200 miles of trails in the Catskill Mountain region. We offer volunteer opportunities for people who love the outdoors, as well as publishing detailed hiking maps for the Catskill Mountain Region, along with a number of other regions. For more information on our maps and our Catskill Community Trails program please visit us on the web at [www.nynjtc.org/catskills](http://www.nynjtc.org/catskills) and follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NYNJTC.CatskillRegion](http://www.facebook.com/NYNJTC.CatskillRegion).*

# SHEPHARD HILLS GOLF CLUB

## LEAGUES

MONDAY & THURSDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUES

TUESDAY NIGHT LADIES' LEAGUE

FRIDAY NIGHT MIXED LEAGUE

## DAILY FEES

### WEEK DAYS

9 HOLES \$10 WITH CART  
18 HOLES \$20 WITH CART

### WEEKENDS

9 HOLES \$20 WITH CART  
18 HOLES \$32 WITH CART

562 SHEPHARD HILL ROAD, ROXBURY, NY

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SINGLE (ADULT) .....	\$500
COLLEGE STUDENT (UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE) .....	\$200
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT .....	\$100
COUPLE .....	\$700
FAMILY .....	\$750
MON. - THURS. (SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY) .....	\$325
THREE MONTH MEMBERSHIP .....	\$350

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