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# Birds-Eye View of the Catskills



contributed by Barb Palmer  
Indigo Bunting

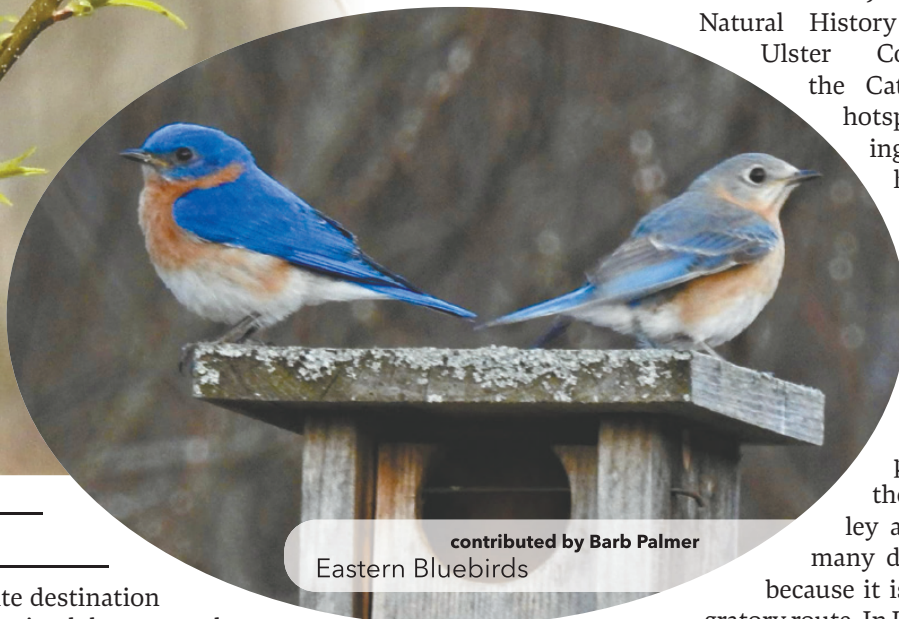


contributed by Barb Palmer  
Yellow Warbler

Schoharie County resident Barb Palmer has been a bird lover since she was a child, a fondness that was passed down from her mother. She later became more serious about birding after meeting a friend whose passion for the hobby was contagious. That was about 10 years ago, and Palmer has been hooked ever since.

"My friend and I get very engrossed in watching and listening to the birds," Palmer said. "Time flies, but also stands still. I enjoy being outside, especially in the woods. Birding gets you outside, which is where I want to be."

Mark DeDea of the John Burroughs Natural History Society in Ulster County said the Catskills are a hotspot for birding because the higher elevations and robust plant life make it a good breeding habitat for many species. The proximity to the Hudson Valley also brings in many different birds



contributed by Barb Palmer  
Eastern Bluebirds

because it is a major migratory route. In Ulster County alone, approximately 300 different species of birds have been observed which is significant considering there have been approximately 450 species observed in the entire state.

*By Alyshia Korba*

The Catskills are a favorite destination of many naturalists and animal lovers, and birders are no exception. Whether they are observing backyard birds from the comfort of their home or hiking up a mountain at the crack of dawn to search for an elusive species, birding appeals to people of all ages and skill levels.

For more event details and latest listings go to [www.CatskillCountry.com](http://www.CatskillCountry.com)

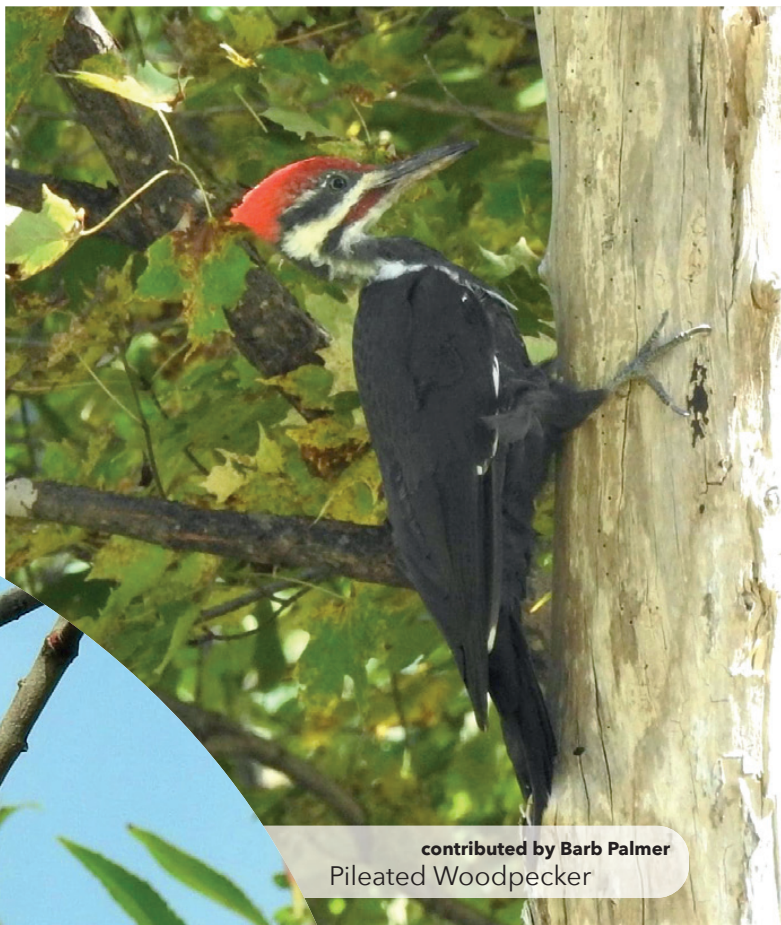


Spring is an especially active season for birding in the Catskills because that is when the neotropical migrant birds return.

"They're in their most colorful plumage, they're all singing, the boys are really showing off and trying to stake their territory," DeDea said.

At Landis Arboretum in Esperance, Schoharie County, spring is also the breeding season for their most popular bird, the Eastern bluebird. The arboretum, a New York State Birding Trail site, has a "bluebird trail" with 40 nesting boxes built to support the population of the Eastern Bluebird — New York's state bird. They even host a "bluebird lottery" each spring where participants guess which nests will be occupied by bluebirds for a chance to win various prizes.

Shayne Mitchell, a  
volunteer at  
t h e



contributed by Barb Palmer  
Pileated Woodpecker



contributed by Barb Palmer  
Cedar Waxwings

arboretum tasked with monitoring and maintaining the nesting boxes, said although the boxes are made for and mostly used by the bluebirds, they also often get tree swallows and house wrens settling into their nesting boxes. Apart from the nesting boxes, the arboretum is attractive to over 100 species of birds because of its diverse landscape with old growth forests, wetlands, ponds and fields.

"There's really a wide variety of habitats, so it supports a lot of different birds," Mitchell said.

One of the Catskills' biggest attractions for birders is the Bicknell's Thrush. The species was discovered by John Burroughs when he observed a bird that looked almost identical to a Gray-Cheeked Thrush but did not have the same song. The John Burroughs Natural History Society now makes an annual trip to Slide Mountain



to observe the species as it is one of the few places in the Catskills where they breed. Known for and identified by their song, birders make sure they reach the top of the mountain before the sun rises to hear the birds' dawn chorus.

While Bicknell's Thrush may be the "it" bird of the Catskills, it may not be a very beginner-friendly species. For those starting out, DeDea said, warblers are often a popular bird because they are colorful and very vocal, making them flashy and easier to spot.

For Palmer, the Cedar Waxwing is always a favorite to observe.

"They are beautiful, the song is sweet, and they're so sociable among themselves," Palmer said.

These are a fairly easy bird for casual birders to observe because they can be attracted to backyards with some fruit and berries.

Mitchell said, aside from his bluebirds, he also gets excited to encounter the Pileated Woodpecker. These large, noisy birds are hard to miss and can be found in mature forests with plenty of dead trees to forage from.

DeDea said any hike on Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)



contributed by Barb Palmer  
Great Blue Heron

property will provide beginner birds with an abundance of species to observe, even if they stay at the trailhead. Palmer also recommended people take a walk around bodies of water and in

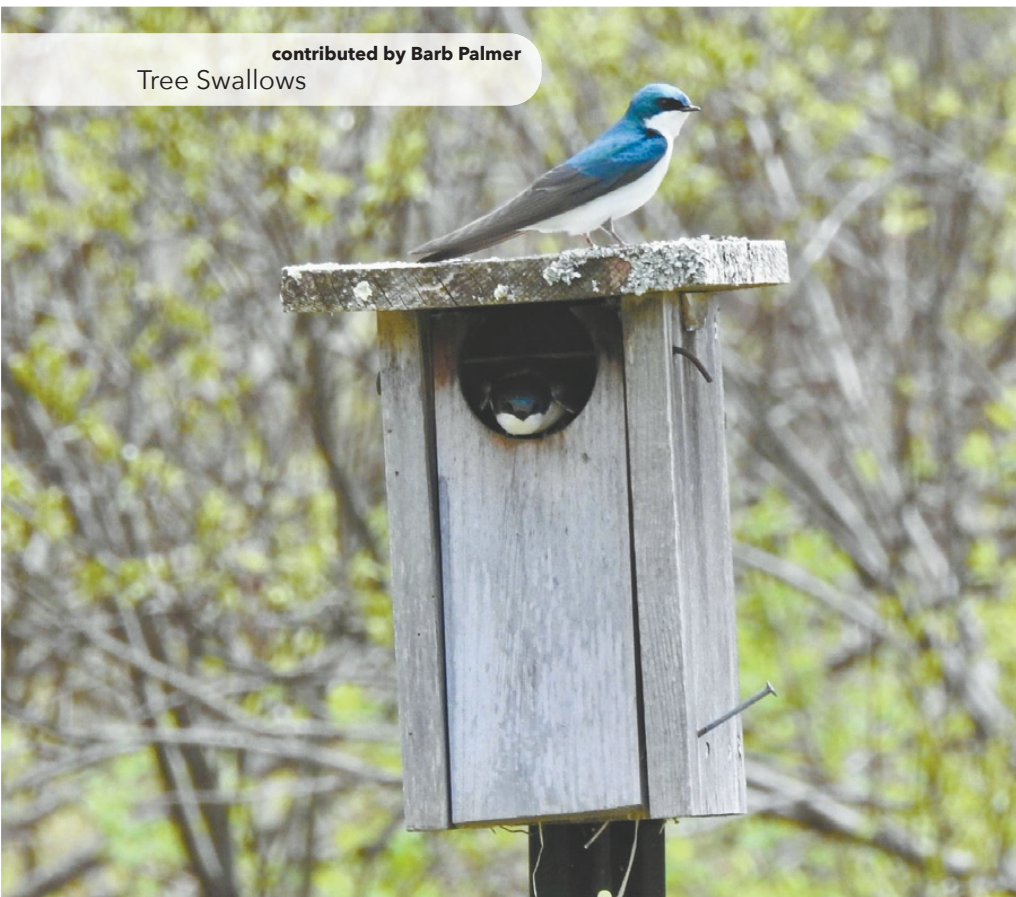
parks to find a variety of birds. There are also many sites in the Catskills that are part of the DEC's New York State Birding Trail, like Landis Arboretum.

Mitchell said technological advancements have made it easier than ever to get started with birding. With endless information available online and identification apps, birding has become more accessible than ever. Mitchell, DeDea and Palmer all recommend Merlin — a free app created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology that identifies birds by sound or image.

For people starting out, DeDea recommends joining a bird walk or another guided birding activity because they can learn from a guide and may be able to borrow equipment like binoculars.

"I think with birding, the initial draw for a lot of people is the solitude — being by yourself with nature," DeDea said, "but then it kind of comes full circle a lot of times where it is then cool to be, and fun to be out with folks as weird as you are ... 'bird nerds', as my wife like to call us."

John Burroughs Natural History Society and Landis Arboretum both offer a variety of birding events throughout the year, like John Burroughs's Ulster County bird count and Landis Arboretum's American Woodcock search. More information can be found at [jbnhs.org](http://jbnhs.org) and [landisarboretum.org](http://landisarboretum.org)



contributed by Barb Palmer  
Tree Swallows





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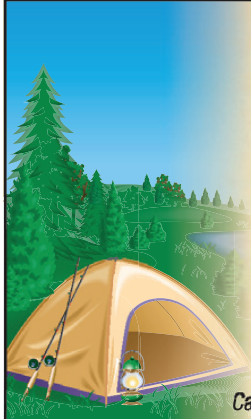



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[www.margaretvillefiredept.org](http://www.margaretvillefiredept.org)

Margaretville Village Park behind FreshTown Market

*Schedule of Events by Day*

## **TUESDAY, JULY 2**

Carnival & Rides | Open 6pm  
Pay one Price | 6pm-10pm

## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 3**

Carnival & Rides | Open 6pm  
Pay one Price | 6pm-10pm

## **THURSDAY, JULY 4**

Rides | open 1pm-11pm  
Chicken BBQ | Noon til Sold Out  
Local Cider & Beer Tasting | 6pm-10pm  
Rockland Cider &  
Woodstock Brewery  
BAND-ROUNDHOUSE ROCKERS | 6:30-10:30pm  
**GIANT FIREWORKS - 9:30**

## **FRIDAY, JULY 5**

Carnival & Rides | Open 6pm  
Car Show | 6pm  
Local Beer Tasting | 6pm-10pm  
Catskill Tap & Ladder Co &  
Calico Outlaw Brewing  
BAND | 6pm-10pm **JASON WICKS**

## **SATURDAY, JULY 6**

Carnival & Rides | 1pm-11pm  
Chicken BBQ | Noon til sold out  
WRIP RADIO on grounds | 11am-2pm  
Local Cider & Beer Tasting | 6-10pm  
Awestruck Cider & Catskill Brewery  
BAND - 90 PROOF | 6:30pm-10:30pm  
**GIANT FIREWORKS 9:30pm**  
Benefit Raffle drawing following fireworks for  
George Hendricks, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund



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# 'Glamping' in the Catskills

Contributed photo from Bellfire

The interior furnishings of Bellfire's romantic glamping tent is an artist's palette of rich reds, sunny yellows and forest greens.

By Leigh Infield

Imagine camping under the stars in a spacious tent pitched on a real wooden floor instead of hard-packed dirt. Leave your sleeping bag and air mattress at home. This tent comes with a comfortable bed with a state-of-the-art mattress and top-of-the-line bedding. Fall asleep under a luxurious comforter and wake to the sounds of nature while brewing your morning coffee. In the evening, relax in an Adirondack chair on your own private deck and watch the sunset over the mountains. Now, that's camping in style.

It's called glamping – a trend that is right at home in the Catskills. A clever combination of two words – “glamour” and “camping” – the word perfectly describes an elevated camping experience ideal for those who want the adventure and joys of traditional camping without the “roughing it” part. Glamping sites have sprung up throughout the Catskill region, offering additional types of accommodations along with platform tents. Air stream campers, tipis, tree houses, small cabins and circular-tents called

yurts, have all come under the glamping umbrella.

Prices vary according to the level of amenities offered. Private bathrooms, showers, and fully-equipped kitchenettes are available at many sites, with others offering additional perks such as hot tubs, saunas, soaking tubs, and yoga facilities. Hosts often require a two- or three-day stay and reservations are a must, with accommodations filling up fast in the busy spring/summer season.

Check out these options for a unique glamping experience:

## ***Bellfire in the Catskills, Roxbury***

At Bellfire in the Catskills, an artist-inspired glamping site in Delaware County, guests can choose from four very different types of accommodations, each with its own personality. The off-grid, back-to-nature retreat is home to a luxurious platform tent, a spacious tipi with cedar floor, a Victorian-style caravan and a small dwelling, painstakingly crafted from scratch by the owners themselves.

Bellfire was born ten years ago when

artists Richard Tazzara and his wife Mina Teslaru realized that they had outgrown their Brooklyn digs. The couple had always dreamed of moving to the country. They purchased an historic 19th century farmhouse nestled on ten acres of woodland and wildflower meadow in Roxbury's Meeker Hollow, an area cited as one of the state's best stargazing spots.



Contributed photo from Bellfire

Mina Teslaru and Richard Tazzara enjoy a walk through the woods at Bellfire, their popular glamping site in Roxbury. Together they maintain the property, greet guests, split wood, pick flowers and are on hand to make sure guests have a wonderful time.





**Leigh Infield/Catskill Country Magaziine**

Bellfire's caravan is warm and inviting inside. It has a custom-made circular window – perfect for stargazing.

Walking the grounds, the couple envisioned creating an artists' retreat and hideaway where people could relax from daily pressures while reconnecting with nature. Tazzara, a master woodworker and media artist, and Teslaru, a fine art photographer, combined their talents to make their vision a reality, designing structures from their own drawings, then doing the construction work themselves, using reclaimed and locally sourced materials.

"We were neophytes and had never done anything like this before. We learned from the ground up," Teslaru recalls. A visiting friend came up with the name Bellfire – marrying the flickering flames of an evening spent around the campfire with an old iron bell spotted on the property.

Teslaru, raised in Romania, has drawn on her artistic and design background, plus her love of vibrant color, in creating decor for the four structures. The interiors of Forest Belle, the romantic platform tent, and the bright red Victorian-style Caravan reflect her passion for vibrant color, as do the bold colors and strong graphic designs native to Sioux Indians that she has used in the tipi. Unique design elements in the small structure known as the Birdhouse include a whole wall of antique windows and an oversized skylight perfect for stargazing.

Each dwelling comes with a private loo, fire pit, grill, picnic table, and Adirondack chairs, as well as access to a

solar-powered shower, sauna, and a large floating deck in the wildflower meadow, perfect for yoga. Guests from all parts of the world return again and again.

"One of the best parts of running a glamping retreat is meeting new friends," says Teslaru.

In addition to singular reservations, Bellfire also books groups for glamping getaways, corporate retreats, art retreats, wellness workshops as well as photo shoots. Group bookings start as early as March.

email [mina.teslaru@gmail.com](mailto:mina.teslaru@gmail.com)

607-326-6193

[www.bellfirefarm.com](http://www.bellfirefarm.com)

## ***Stony Creek Farmstead, Walton***

When Kate and Dan Marsiglio took over the management of his parents' farm more than fifteen years ago, glamping was a trend still in its infancy. The couple brought to the farm not only lots of muscle, but new ideas, among them the thought of creating farm stays for guests in comfortable, roomy tents with real wooden floors and space for many of the comforts of home. "We started glamping long before it became a hot new trend," Kate recalls.

Located on 90 acres of beautiful farmland just outside of Walton in Delaware County, Stony Creek Farmstead

### **Contributed photo from Stony Creek Farmstead**

A view into a glamping tent at Stony Creek Farmstead. Its many amenities make it feel like a "home away from home".



**Leigh Infield/Catskill Country Magaziine**

Kate & Dan Marsiglio, proprietors of Stony Creek Farmstead host Pizza Night. Glamping guests can enjoy all-you-can eat pizza and fresh salads every Saturday night when the staff fires up the outdoor, wood-fired brick oven.

was ideal for this undertaking. A real working farm with beef cows, sheep, pigs, innumerable chickens and ducks, Stony Creek had everything needed for an enjoyable farm stay. Guests can hike the fields, lounge by the creek, visit farm animals, gather eggs from the hen house for breakfast, or participate in any of the farm activities whether it's just watching, feeding the animals or help tending the garden.

Set back in the woods and accessible across a wooden footbridge, just steps away from the farm's 100 year old red barn, are six spacious plush-rustic platform tents. Each accommodates



up to six people in a comfy bunk bed, cabinet bed and king size bed.

The tents also come with a flushing toilet, fully-equipped kitchen, cooking stove, and a dining area where families can enjoy meals prepared with home-grown meats and produce purchased at the farm's on-site store.

Stony Creek supplies each tent with the works: towels, linens, kitchen equipment, dining utensils, cooler with ice packs, outdoor hibachi grill, LED lanterns and lounge chairs. Nearby is the spa-like shower house, built by Dan from cedar.

Guests and locals gather on Saturday night at outdoor picnic tables set up in a secluded grove for a popular all-you-can-eat, wood-fired pizza and fresh salads event. Ingredients are picked that day from the farm's garden. Book online the preceding Friday or by calling the office for reservations.

607-865-7965

[www.stonycreekfarmstead.com](http://www.stonycreekfarmstead.com)

As the popularity of glamping has grown, so too have the number of sites in the Catskill region. For more options, look into these unique spots for a memorable glamping stay.

## Delaware County

### ***Wolf Hollow Camp, Andes***

Tucked away on 40 wooded acres is an off-grid glamping site conceived by Gary Feazell, a New York-based figurative artist and clothing designer. Wolf Hollow Camp has custom canvas tents on elevated cedar platforms - each outfitted with wood burning stoves, comfortable queen-size beds, Adirondack chairs, and café tables. Names for each tent were drawn from the indigenous language of the Lenape Indians who once inhabited this area.

Campers are welcomed upon arrival with a complimentary bottle of local cider. In the morning, a light breakfast with coffee or tea is served. Staff is very helpful, making campfires for your enjoyment upon request and providing grills and charcoal for outdoor cooking. Sitting outdoors at night is a pleasure as the woods are softly illuminated with LED lanterns.

By day, guests can hike up the mountainside, forage for mushrooms, dip in the stream or splash under a secluded waterfall. Amenities include a heated spring-fed outdoor shower and mod-

ern composting toilet.

917-497-7670

[www.wolfhollowcamp.com](http://www.wolfhollowcamp.com)

## Otsego County

### ***Coyote Hollow Park, Mount Vision***

Coyote Hollow Park in Mount Vision has two glamping platform tent sites in a beautiful cleared meadow on the camp's 50 acres. Guests can hike the property, stopping to take in the reflective trout stream and small pond. Coyote Hollow Park has 200 blueberry bushes with an additional 50 plants added to the strawberry bed this season. Guests can pick their fill.

The first tent site has a queen-size bed, two twin beds and a foldout futon in the second. The hosts provide basic necessities such as linens, towels and soap. There is an outdoor shower house with hot and cold running water and a flush toilet. Guests can relax in the outdoor soaking tub. Free breakfasts are included in the price of your stay.

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## Greene County

### ***Treetopia Campground, Catskill***

Treetopia in the Hudson Valley has literally taken glamping to new heights. While the site offers traditional camping facilities, it is their glamorous tree-top tents that provide an extraordinary glamping experience - one that could be said to bring out the child in its guests. Climbing the stairs to a spacious elevated platform tent is, for many adults, like revisiting treasured childhood memories of a beloved treehouse and often a new experience for children as well.

Treetopia's two-story treehouses have an open-air camp kitchen and living room on the lower floor. The platform tent on the second floor can accommodate three guests in a queen-size bed and cot. Regular ground-level glamping platform tents come with a double bed or two twins. A bathroom with toilet and shower are just steps away.

Guests can also stay in airstreams - a standard with a double bed plus dinette convertible bed, or a jumbo with



Contributed photo from Treetopia

Treetopia in Catskill, NY has taken glamping to new heights with its elevated platform tents.

queen, double, twin bunk or convertible beds. Both the standard and jumbo have kitchenettes. The campsite has a pool, playhouse, game room and store on its grounds for guests' enjoyment.

518-943-4513

[www.treetopiacampground.com](http://www.treetopiacampground.com)

## Sullivan County

### ***Willowemoc Wild Forest Yurt, Livingston Manor***

Start your glamping adventure in a yurt and get back to nature. You'll feel at one with history as these circular tents were used by nomads in Mongolia, Turkey and Siberia for thousands of years. Modern versions are built on a wooden platform and are covered in high-tech fabric. Comfortable and spacious, today's glamping yurts have many modern-day amenities.

The Yurt at Willowemoc Wild Forest is impressive. Set in the forest on a raised platform, it has a large deck with a barbecue grill, outdoor wash sink and picnic tables. Inside the yurt are two sets of queen-size bunk beds made of logs cut from trees on the property, and a queen-size sofa bed. A bathroom with a composting toilet, shower and sink is inside the yurt as well.

Guests can also choose to stay in a light, airy safari-themed tent. It has a double bed and a separate bathhouse with shower and composting toilet nearby. In addition to the site's 50 acres, guests have exclusive access to the Willowemoc Wild Forest's 14,800 acres for hiking.

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# OUT & ABOUT

## IN CATSKILL COUNTRY

The Out & About calendar of events is a (by county) list of events that were available at the time of publication.  
To check for weekly updated event listings please visit [www.catskillcountry.com](http://www.catskillcountry.com)

### DELAWARE COUNTY

#### JUNE 1

**28th annual Delhi Bridge Run 5K:** 9 a.m. at Hoyt Park, Delhi. 5k that starts and finishes in Hoyt Park in the middle of the village. Parking in the county parking lots behind 111 & 99 Main street which are connected to the park by the river-walk trail. Award ceremony in the park immediately following the race. Proceeds benefit scholarships to high school seniors graduating from Delaware County schools. [runsignup.com/Race/NY/Delhi/DelhiCoveredBridgeRun](https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Delhi/DelhiCoveredBridgeRun)

**World Wide Family Festival:** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Courthouse Square, Delhi, WIDE (Womxn for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity) will host a multicultural festival that educates the children of Delaware County about the World using crafts, music, food and fun! Every child receives a passport to travel from table to table to experience activities from countries such as Iran, Mexico and Ukraine, as well as sports from Brazil and the Native Americans. [wideny.org](https://wideny.org)

#### JUNE 2

**Pink Street Festival:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Bovina Center Montessori School campus, 2121 County Road 5, Bovina Center. Families and folks are invited to an interactive, fun day for all who love arts, crafts, food, music, education, animals, kids programs, environmental awareness, small business, and farming. This event aims to raise funds for kids scholarships to educational, environmental, and enrichment opportunities in the Catskills Region.

#### JUNE 5

**Delhi Farmers' Market:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Courthouse Square, Main Street, Delhi.

Visit the bustling Delhi Farmers' Markets **each Wednesday** for weekly grocery essentials. Farmers, producers, herbalists, craftspeople, and more.

#### JUNE 7

**Hobart Festival of Women Writers:** Friday 10 a.m. through Sunday, June 9, 5 p.m. Hobart Book Village, Hobart. This annual festival is an opportunity for women writers all over the country to showcase their work, insights and skills. The festival centers on the work of women writers but is open to participants of all genders. Three days of public readings, writing workshops, writing intensives, and art shows. Diverse workshops offer something for everyone. [www.hobartfestivalofwomenwriters.com](http://www.hobartfestivalofwomenwriters.com)

#### JUNE 8

**Meredith Dairy Fest:** 3575 Honest Brook Road, Delhi, Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Come learn about the Dairy Industry. Sample local dairy products, food and beverages. Explore local, handmade products and meet the people who created them; find unique gifts, local fare, visit with neighbors, and treat yourself to something weird and wonderful that can't be found anywhere else.

**Vintage Base Ball:** Delhi Polecats v. Bovina Dairy Men at Meredith Dairy Fest Saturday at 1 p.m. Vintage base ball is an ode to the way base ball was played in the 1800s, when rules were changing yearly and only the catcher wore a mitt. The game is competitive and fun, focused on bringing the community together for an exciting afternoon. Pack a picnic, grab your friends, sip something refreshing and cheer your favorite team. Visit the Bovina Dairy Men Facebook and Delhi Polecats Facebook for information.

**June 9 Songwriter's Circle:** 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Bushel Collective, 106 Main

St, Delhi. Engage in discussions about works-in-progress, connect with fellow songwriters, and gain insights from veteran musicians. The Songwriter's Circle meets the second Sunday of each month. Open to all levels; no fee to attend.

#### JUNE 14

**Headwaters Hangouts:** 66 Main Street, Stamford, 6 - 8 p.m. Join us for our new monthly series of social arts experiments, from exquisite corpse drawings to performative workshops. Headwaters Hangouts will offer creators of all disciplines the opportunity to work on expression in new and different ways in a social setting. Headwaters Hangouts programming is open to everyone. Try new things and make new connections. Free to all participants on the second Friday of the month, from 6 - 8 p.m.

#### JUNE 15

**Wet Plate Tintype Photo with Kevin Q. Gray:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. West Kortright Centre, 49 W Kortright Church Road, East Meredith; \$125 (all materials included). In this hands-on workshop, students will learn the process of 19th century wet plate photography, specifically tintypes or photographs printed on metal. Gray will discuss cameras, chemicals, and supplies, and each student will have an opportunity to make at least one tintype photo of their own. [westkc.org/workshops](https://westkc.org/workshops). Let's Grow!

**Exploration Day Hanford Mills Museum:** 51 Co Rd 12, East Meredith; 11 a.m. The day will feature explorations of pollinators, agriculture and native ecosystems.

**Porchfest 2024:** 11 a.m. Walton. Various genres, performers and venues across Walton. All day. [www.musiconthedela-ware.org](http://www.musiconthedela-ware.org)

*continued on page 20*



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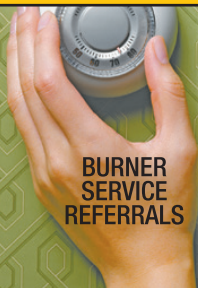
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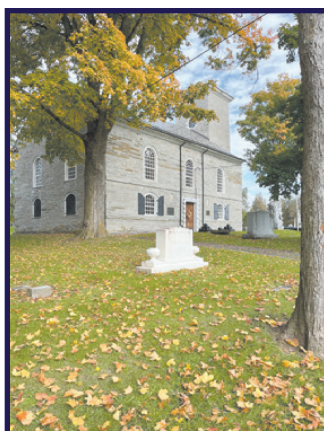
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# Delaware County's Art Scene

## an Artistic Renaissance

Northeastern Delaware County is poised for transformative economic resurgence, propelled not by traditional industries, but by the vibrancy of its burgeoning arts scene. As the region diversifies its reliance on tourism, a new narrative had unfolded - one of creativity, collaboration, and cultural vitality.



from LongyearGallery.org

"Blue Mountain Lake" by Wayne Morris.



from LongyearGallery.org

"Rocky Terrian" by Robin Halpern.

Anchored by institutions like the Longyear Gallery, the Open Eye Theater and 1053 Gallery, the town of Middletown's artistic renaissance is palpable, reverberating through the narrow streets of Fleischmanns and Margaretville. These once-sleepy villages now teem with a galleries, theaters, and performance spaces, each contributing to the town's new identity..

Since its inception in the mid-90s, the Open Eye Theater has served as a showcase for emerging talent of community of actors and playwrights. At it's Main Street, Margaretville home, its permanent residence provides a stage for everything from avant-garde plays to classics, interspersed with original readings and recitals.

The arts community is inclusive and plays host to a myriad of events, from open mic nights to historical presentations by the Historical Society of Middletown, located on Cemetery Road. a nexus of creativity, community and history.

The Longyear Gallery, in the Commons Building on Main Street, Margaretville, is a shining example of the power of collaboration. A cooperative endeavor since 2007, the gallery showcases diverse talents of local - and not so local - artists, with exhibits serving as a celebration of the region's creative spirit. From solo



showcases to themed exhibits, the gallery offers a glimpse into the soul of community, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in a world of imagination and expression.

It's not just galleries and theaters that define Middletown's artistic landscape. From the eclectic offerings of Zada's Bar to the culinary delights of Oda's Wine Bar, the convergence of art and hospitality draws visitors and locals alike into the embrace of creativity.



from Zada's Bar facebook page

Across the village of Fleischmanns, a similar transformation has unfolded - catalyzed by visionary entrepreneurs like Mark Birman and Joe DeVito. Birman's 1053 Gallery curates a diverse array of works that bridge the gap between rural tradition and urban innovation. DeVito's Print House offers a culinary excursion filled with music, where classic cuisine mingles with live performances, showcasing the symbiotic relationship between art and commerce.

As the summer unfolds, Delaware County's artistic renaissance takes center stage, with festivals like the AMR Open Studio Tour further showcasing the region's creative talent. From the studios of emerging artists to the galleries of established masters, the curated self-driving tour can take a full or half day, or an entire weekend.

With each brushstroke and each note, Delaware County artists shape not only their own futures, but the economic landscape of their towns.

The art scene continues to redefine the Catskills.



from The  
Print House  
facebook page

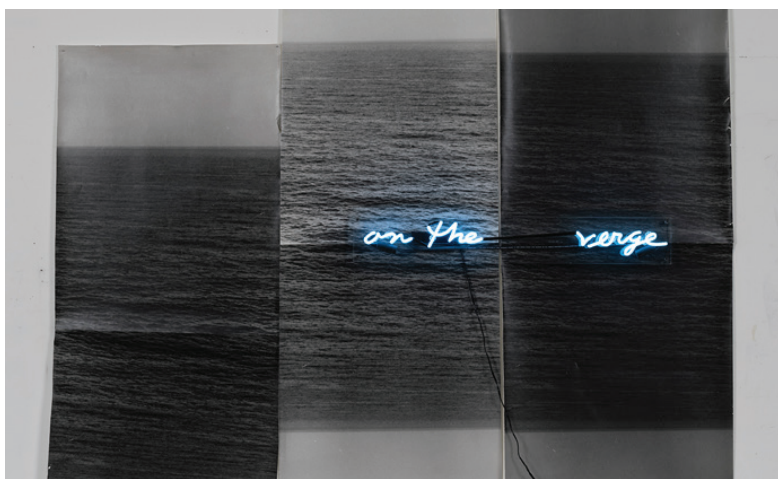
### And, more

- **KIPNZ**, 150 Delaware Street, Walton. Founded in 2022, it provides a place and forum for art, KIPNZ exhibits emerging and underrepresented artists, both local and international, and is dedicated to exhibiting work of high quality and creative integrity. [kipnz.com](http://kipnz.com)
- **Caroline Fay Studio (formerly Big Little Art Studio)**, 51 North Street, Walton. The studio is a personal art studio, workshop space and gallery, open for workshops and art events throughout the year or by appointment. Classes for the beginner to the seasoned artist are designed to guide you through a process that should be fun, friendly and enjoyable. [carolinefayart.com](http://carolinefayart.com)
- **Hawk + Hive**, 61 Main Street, Andes. Established in 2021, the gallery presents six weekly shows throughout the year, featuring the work of emerging and mid-career artists in a range of media. [hawkandhive.com](http://hawkandhive.com)
- **Headwaters Arts Center**, 66 Main Street, Stamford. The Headwaters Arts Center is a creative learning and arts space managed by the Roxbury Arts Group. They offer classes, workshops, and events on site and around Stamford, NY. They have rotating art exhibitions in the space with opening receptions and viewing hours. 607-214-6040
- **Roxbury Arts Group**, 5025 Vega Mountain Road, Roxbury. Founded in 1979, the Roxbury Arts Group is a non-profit multi-arts organization dedicated to making the arts an integral part of the life of all segments



from 1503 Gallery facebook page





"On The Verge" by Jeri Coppola.

from bushelcollective.org

of our Catskill communities by offering public performances, exhibitions, workshops, classes, presentations and demonstrations for both adults and children. roxburyarts-group.org

- **Bushel Collective**, 106 Main Street, Delhi. Bushel is a nonprofit, volunteer-run, interdisciplinary collective dedicated to growing community and discourse via art, action, agriculture, and events. Bushel explores relationships and conversations that can be forged in a low-population area by offering a space for gallery exhibitions, literary readings, musical performances, film screenings, discussions, meetings, co-working, classes and workshops, and other

as-yet unexplored happenings. bushelcollective.org

- **Franklin Stage Company**, 25 Institute Street, Franklin. Franklin Stage Company is a fully professional admission-free theater housed in historic Chapel Hall, built in 1853 and formerly the home of the Delaware Literary Institute. The summer season runs from July 4 to Labor Day and is comprised of two professional Actors Equity Association productions. They produce classic and modern plays bringing audience and artists together to share the enduring power of stories.

franklinstagecompany.org

- **West Kortright Center**, 49 West Kortright Church Road, East Meredith. Live music, theater, art gallery, exhibits, and more. West Kortright Center sponsors performances, workshops, gallery exhibits, and community gatherings in an historic country church in a rural valley. westkc.org



"Catskill Creek" by Doug Maguire.

from LongyearGallery.org



from West Kortright Center facebook page



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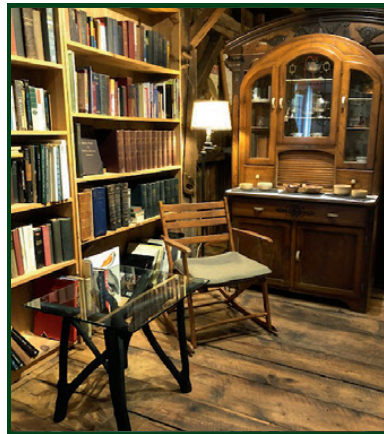


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## Land & Water REALTY



## JUNE 16

**Pegasus, the Orchestra:** Brandenburg Concerti 3 - 5 p.m. First Presbyterian Church and Stamford United Methodist Church, 96 Main Street, Stamford. Suggested donation: \$15 adults, \$10 students and seniors, free for ages 13 and under. No reservations required. Pegasus: an exciting and resourceful nonprofit professional orchestra that harnesses the transcendent power of music to bring musicians and audiences of diverse backgrounds and cultural heritages together. Its mission empowers rising musicians with artistic freedom and promotes performances of inventive repertoire in an environment that supports creative thought and expression. Director and principal conductor Karén Hakobyan - Pegasus performs Hakobyan's arrangements in various ensembles of world-class musicians.

## JUNE 23

**Landscape-8-garden-tour:** 11 a.m. The 33rd annual tour to benefit the West Kortright Center will be a journey along beautiful country roads. Get a look at how local garden enthusiasts have enhanced the natural beauty of their outdoor environments. A myriad of design sensibilities incorporating flowers, shrubs and trees, stonework, water elements, artwork, vegetable beds, and more. Rain or shine. No dogs. To give everyone a good experience during this popular self-guided tour, pick your starting time slot at check out. Detailed informational directions will be sent before the weekend. Contact info@westkc.org or 607-278-5454 with questions. Get tickets at: app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=233893

## JUNE 29

**Plant foraging identification walk and wild food tasting:** with Marguerite Uhlmann-Bower 1 - 5 p.m. West Kortright Centre, 49 W Kortright Church Road, East Meredith; \$20. Identify plants and trees easily for their food, qualities, crafts and traditional folk remedies in how they benefit humans, animals, land and place. Bring water, pen and paper, and wear tick/insect repellent. Pre-registration is required. Learn more here: www.plantpioneers.org or 3moonsisters@gmail.com

## JULY 4

**Sacred Fire 20th year celebration:** Thursday, July 4 through 11 a.m. - Sunday, July 7: 11 a.m. Blue Deer Center, 1153 county Hwy. 6, Margaretville; join in a great festive reunion weekend celebrating 20 years since sacred fire came into being. A weekend filled with great activities, opportunities to connect, and a special audience with Grandfather Fire.

## JULY 6

**Stagecoach Run Art Festival:** Saturday - July 6 at 10 a.m. - Sunday, July 7, 6 p.m. The Stagecoach Run Art Festival is a free, self-guided open studio and gallery tour of some of the area's best artists, performers and makers stagecoachrun.com

## JULY 19

**48th Deposit Lumberjack Festival:** Front Street, Deposit. For those who are not familiar with this craft & vendor fair, it is part of a 3 day festival, July 19 - 21 with the Craft & vendor fair being Saturday, July 20. Playing at the Street Fair - The Rick Hine Experience from noon-3 p.m.

## AUGUST 12 - 17

**Delaware County Fair:** Fair Street, Walton. The Delaware County Fair is the largest agricultural fair in the region and has something for everyone. Over 80,000 people flock to the six day spectacular in Walton to enjoy local events, shows, contests, rides, cuisine and more. If you're looking for family friendly local events, mark Delaware County Fair for family fun and excitement! delawarecountyfair.org

## AUGUST 24

**Old Franklin Day:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. two bands - Off the Record and Country Express, food trucks, pancake breakfast 7 - 10 a.m. at Baptist church; pie sale, fashion show, clown with balloon art, town wide lawn sales and more. franklinny.org

## SEPTEMBER 1

**Bovina Farm Day:** Crest Valley Road, Bovina. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet farmers, buy local food, watch butchering demonstrations, corn maze, hayrides, scarecrow contest and more. Adults, \$5, children under 12, free. No dogs.

## SULLIVAN COUNTY

## JUNE 7

**The Warren Haynes Band & The Dreams And Songs Symphonic Experience:** 7:30 p.m. GRAMMY® Award-winning vocalist, songwriter, guitar legend, producer, and Gov't Mule front man Warren Haynes has announced the Now Is The Time Tour featuring The Warren Haynes Band & The Dreams. Bethel Woods. bethelwoodscenter.org

## JUNE 8

**18th Annual Trout Parade:** Trout on the Range. 10 a.m. Main Street, Livingston Manor.

## JUNE 13, 20, 27

**Music in the Park:** 6:30 p.m. Veterans Park, 3rd and Sullivan Street, Wurtsboro. www.wurtsboro.org

## JUNE 14

**Drag me to the Catskills:** 8 p.m. Forestburgh Playhouse, 39 Forestburgh Road.

## JUNE 15

**Science Cabaret:** 7 p.m. Neuroscience and Performance. Waters Lab at Mt. Sinai and Farm Arts Collective. In collaboration with scientists and researchers at Mount Sinai, Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Farm Arts Collective presents an evening of science talks and performances on the topic of mental health. Six clinical neuroscientists will give a brief presentation of their most cutting-edge research in neurotechnology and mental health treatment. Presentations are in the form of a "flash talk," the style of science communication popularized by TED. Each scientist is paired with one performer from the Farm Arts Collective ensemble who will use the flash talk as inspiration for a new performance artwork. The lively evening will explore themes unearthed by current advances in neuroscience research such as: Cyborgification - The promise of brain implants to treat severe depression and OCD; why ketamine was once a party drug but is now a medical treatment for depression; how to give your brain deeper sleep and slow diseases of

*continued on page 39*



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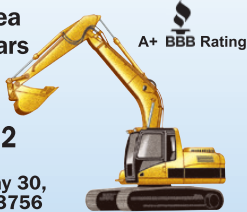
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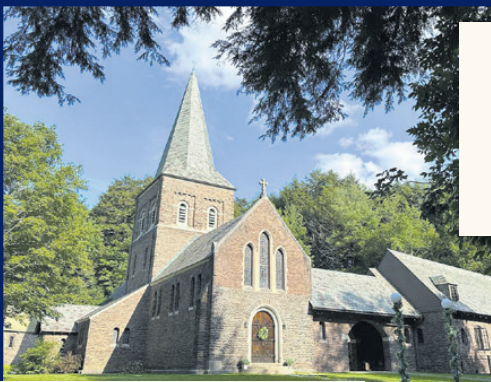
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# FARMERS' MARKETS

As summertime rolls around, the Catskills come alive with farmers' markets. Offering organic delights and always-fresh produce, these markets are a haven for food enthusiasts. From succulent fruits to crisp vegetables, farm-fresh eggs, and savory meats, there's something to satisfy every palate.

It's not just about the essentials – these markets also showcase an array of artisanal products. Visitors can indulge in homemade jams, exquisite wines, artisan cheeses, and mouthwatering baked goods.

So, grab a big basket and head to the stands brimming with delicious offer-

ings. Not only will you fill your pantry with wholesome treats, but you'll also have the opportunity to connect with the farmers behind the bounty and immerse yourself in the rich culture of the region.

## Delaware County

- **Delhi Farmers Market**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wednesdays through October. Farmers, producers, herbalists, craftspeople, and more at 3 Courthouse Square in Delhi on Main Street.
- **Bovina Farmers' Market**, 4 - 7 p.m. every Thursday beginning June 1, 50 Creamery Road, Bovina. Featuring local agricultural and craft products from community artisans and farmers. Live music, children's activities.
- **Market on the Green**, Walton, first Friday of the month, starting in July. 4-7 p.m., rain or shine. Veterans Plaza, 181 Delaware Street, Walton.
- **Stamford Farmers' Market**, every Sunday starting June 30, 1 - 4 p.m. Fisher Road and state Route 23, local vendors, local produce, meats and more.
- **Hobart Farmers' Market**, 101 Maple Ave., Hobart, Friday's from 4 - 7 p.m.
- **Hancock Farmers' Market**, Hancock Town Square, 20 East Main Street, Hancock, Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Franklin Farmers' Market**, Institute Street, Franklin, Sunday's 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## Ulster County

- **Saugerties Farmers Market**, Cahill School Parking Lot 115 Main St., Saugerties, Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Local produce, including fruits and vegetables, pasture-raised meats, artisanal cheeses, eggs, maple syrup, honey, wines and spirits, baked goods, jams and jellies, prepared foods, and more.
- **Phoenicia Farmers Market**, Pine Hill Community Center 287 Main Street, Pine Hill, Sundays, starting June 2, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Locally grown produce and artisanal, handmade foods. Enjoy free kids' activities and live music on Parish Field, adjacent to the Tanbark Loop Trail.

## Sullivan County

- **Callicoon Farmers Market**, A. Dorrer Drive, Callicoon, Sundays through November, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Liberty Farmers Market**, Creekside Park, 119 N. Main Street, Liberty, through September, Fridays, 3 - 6 p.m.
- **Kauneonga Lake Farmers Market**, 3594 State Route 55, Bethel, Saturday through September, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Narrowsburg Farmers Market**, 7 Erie Avenue, Narrowsburg, Saturdays through October, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## Otsego County

- **Eastern Otsego Farmers Market**, 8498 State Route 7, Schenevus, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Cooperstown Farmers Market**, 101 Main St., Cooperstown, Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. through September.





# Summer Sojourns: Catskills' Festivals

Benjamin Patton/Catskill Country

View of the West Branch of the Delaware River where the raft float is held as part of the Deposit Lumberjack Festival.

The Catskills are alive with festivals and events each summer, where music, delectable cuisine, art and fresh country air mingle. A variety of festivals and events are available to residents and tourists to immerse themselves in Catskills' culture, cuisine, and community. From the rustic charm of Woodstock in Ulster County to the quaint allure of Franklin in Delaware County, the Catskills come alive with festivals and events, each offering a unique glimpse into the region's traditions and talents.

## Ulster County

- **My Kingston Kids 2nd annual Children's Summer Gala**, held at Energy Square, 20 Cedar Street, Kingston. Calling all young adventurers! Join us at Energy Square Outdoor Terrace. It's a free day of fun and excitement. 5 - 8 p.m. [Info@Mykingstonkids.com](mailto:Info@Mykingstonkids.com)
- **35th annual Blueberry Festival**, August 10 @ 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Canal Street and Liberty Square, Ellenville. Vendors, food court and music in the village of Ellenville. [info@ewcoc.com](mailto:info@ewcoc.com)
- **Hudson Valley Garlic Festival Saturday**, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 29, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Cantine Veterans Memorial Complex, Washington Avenue Extension, Saugerties. Tickets \$15 day of event. [www.hvgf.org](http://www.hvgf.org)
- **Ulster County Fair**, July 30 - Aug. 4. Ulster County Fairgrounds, 249 Libertyville Road. Car Load Night: Tuesday, July 30, \$50 per car. Open 4 - 10 p.m., Tuesday only, maximum of eight people per car. Senior Days: Wednesday and Thursday, July 31 and Aug. 1, seniors enter free 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sensory safe hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 10 - 11 a.m. with no rides, and Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. with rides available without lights or music. General admission is Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 11 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pay one price for admission of \$20 from 10 a.m. until closing, rides open at 11 a.m. Wristband sales end one hour before closing. Admission tickets can be purchased online for \$18. [ulstercountyfair.com](http://ulstercountyfair.com)



## Delaware County


- **Stagecoach Run Art Festival**, Treadwell, July 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, rain or shine. Artists in and around Treadwell and Franklin will open their studios, homes, barns and galleries to host friends and visitors. "Stagecoach" is a self-guided tour and entirely free to the public. Many visitors begin their journey at the Bright Hill Literary Center in Treadwell where a salon-style exhibition of participating artists' works can be found. The exhibit will remain for the month of July. [stagecoachrun.com](http://stagecoachrun.com)
- **Hobart Rotary Sausage and Brew Festival**, Aug. 24, 1 - 7 p.m. at Town Park, 101 Maple Ave., Hobart. Free admission, craft beers, hard cider, wines. Fresh farm-to-table sausages and locally grown vegetables served up with a variety of local brews have made this annual festival an anticipated tradition in the Catskills. This year's celebration includes music and dancing. Children's games, hayrides, raffles, vendors and more, all nestled between the Catskill Scenic Trail and the Delaware River. Stop by for dinner after enjoying DelCo Family Farm Day or spending an afternoon browsing the shops of the Hobart Book Village. Proceeds support community service programs. [hobartrotary.com](http://hobartrotary.com)
- **Deposit Lumberjack Festival**, Front Street, Deposit. July 19 - 21. Craft and vendor street fair July 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A three-day event with lots of fun, excitement, lumberjack competitions, carnival rides, food vendors, parade, live music, fireworks, and other events.
- **Sidney Center Tractor Parade**, Sept. 21, Noon sharp. Starts and ends in the middle of town. Come see neat vintage tractors, cars, doodle bugs and more. Kids activities, chicken BBQ, and live music.
- **Sidney Center Maywood O&W Depot Sunday Night Ice Cream Socials**, beginning May 26 - Sept. 1, 6 - 8 p.m., county highway 35. Musical entertainment every Sunday evening.



## Schoharie County

- **7th annual Schoharie Lily Festival Saturday July 13,** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fort Road, Schoharie. All day festival in the Schoharie Lily Park with vendors, crafters, food, entertainment, children's activities, and much more. Enjoy the Lily Park in full bloom.
- **The Schoharie County Sunshine Fair Aug. 6 - 11,** 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. 113 Sunshine Drive, Cobleskill. This wonderful fair began in 1866 and returns each August for authentic fun. Historic treasures and a large wooden grandstand where you can enjoy demolitions, tractor pulls and other events. Horse show competitions, as well as lovely exhibits of life as it was in Schoharie County, can be seen every day. This is the kind of country fair you remember and loved as a kid. Come and enjoy rides, shows, farm animals, great food and more - something for everyone in the family. [sunshinefair.org](http://sunshinefair.org)
- **40th Annual Iroquois Art Festival,** Sept. 2 and 3 Caverns Road, Howes Cave. Preserving and displaying the history and culture of a band of six Native American tribes, the Iroquois Indian Museum is located in Howes Cave. The facility is housed in a traditional Iroquois longhouse and has an amphitheater on its premises for cultural performances. The diverse exhibits display the culture of the tribes, with traditional art being the highlight. The interactive facility is open throughout year. There is a separate level for kids. The nature park is an additional attraction. [iroquoismuseum.org](http://iroquoismuseum.org)

## Sullivan County

- 
- **2024 Bagel Festival,** Sunday, Aug. 11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Broadway, Monticello. Get ready for a day filled with delicious food and beverages, incredible live music and entertainment, the stunning Car Show, and much more. [thebagelfestival.org](http://thebagelfestival.org)
  - **Kansas City Barbeque Society Barbeque Contest,** June 15, 12 - 6 pm. The smell of smoking meat will fill the air at Walnut Mountain in Liberty when the Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS) brings its world-renowned barbeque contest to town. Liberty will host its own KCBS-sanctioned contest, where the country's best barbeque pitmasters will compete for glory and bragging rights. The sizzling competition will feature mouthwatering chicken & rib categories prepared low and slow, with secret rubs and sauces. Walnut Mountain Park. [catskillsbarbeque.com](http://catskillsbarbeque.com)
  - **144th annual Little World's Fair/Sullivan County Youth Fair,** Aug 16 - 18 at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, state Route 55, Grahamsville. The Grahamsville Little World's Fair is the longest running independent fair in New York, hosted by the Neversink Agricultural Society - offering three days of old-fashioned family fun! Come celebrate all that Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County 4-H youth members, leaders, volunteers, and clubs have accomplished throughout the year. From creative still exhibits to entertaining live animal shows, there is something for everyone. [grahamsvillefair.com](http://grahamsvillefair.com)  
For a complete listing of fairs and festivals, visit [CatskillCountry.com](http://CatskillCountry.com)

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Visitors to the Catskills often find themselves stumbling over some of the unique names found in the mountains — there is a good reason why Mount Utsayantha is commonly called “Mount U” — but while they may be troublesome, they also provide insight into the rich history of the area.

One of the main reasons why places in the Catskills and other parts of New York get such strange names is because they combine indigenous and European languages. When Europeans like the English and Dutch came to explore and map the northeast, they would attempt to transcribe the names given to landmarks by the Haudenosaunee and the Algonquin-speaking Lenni Lenape.

As the indigenous pronunciation gets put into European orthography, it leads to names that are difficult to intuitively pronounce. To further complicate matters, the European explorers were not always the most educated people, meaning their handwriting was sometimes illegible. This led to conflicting records of names and their spellings.

Some names of towns, villages and natural landmarks are not well-documented enough to know for sure where they came from, but some interesting etymologies can still be found in the area.

**Catskill:** “Kill” is a common suffix in this region, and while it may look sinister, it is actually derived from Middle Dutch meaning “creek”. “Catskill” is most likely a variant of “Kaaterskill” — the Dutch name for a creek and waterfall in Greene County meaning “wildcat creek”. This would likely be in reference to bobcats seen near the water.

**Schoharie:** Derived from a Mohawk word meaning “driftwood” or possibly “a bridge formed by driftwood”, the Schoharie Creek is known for collecting driftwood and other floating debris which often piles up across the river like a bridge.

**Ashokan:** A Dutch translation from the Lenni Lenape's name for the area meaning “place of fish”. The hamlet of Shokan gets its name from another recorded spelling of this word.

**Pepacton:** Another name of Lenni Lenape origin, Pepacton is derived from a word meaning “marriage of waters” which was the Lenni Lenape name for the east branch of the Delaware River.

**Rondout:** Derived from a Dutch word, “reduyt” meaning “fort” or “redoubt”. The name stems from a fort that was located at the mouth of what is now known as “Rondout Creek”.

**Shawangunk:** This ridge of bedrock derives its name from a Lenni Lenape word meaning “in the smoky air”, possibly in reference to the burning of a Munsee Lenape fort by the Dutch.

**Peekamoose:** The name of this mountain deceptively has nothing to do with moose, but is instead a translation of an Algonquin word meaning “broken off smooth”.

**Callicoon:** Named by Dutch hunters, Callicoon is a variation of the Middle Dutch word “Kollikoonkill” meaning “wild turkey creek”. During this time, the area was notable for its population of wild turkeys.

**Onteora:** Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, an American geographer, used a Haudenosaunee word similar to Onteora meaning “hills of the sky” to refer to the Catskill Mountains. While the Catskills clearly did not retain the name, it was later given to Onteora Mountain.



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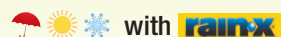
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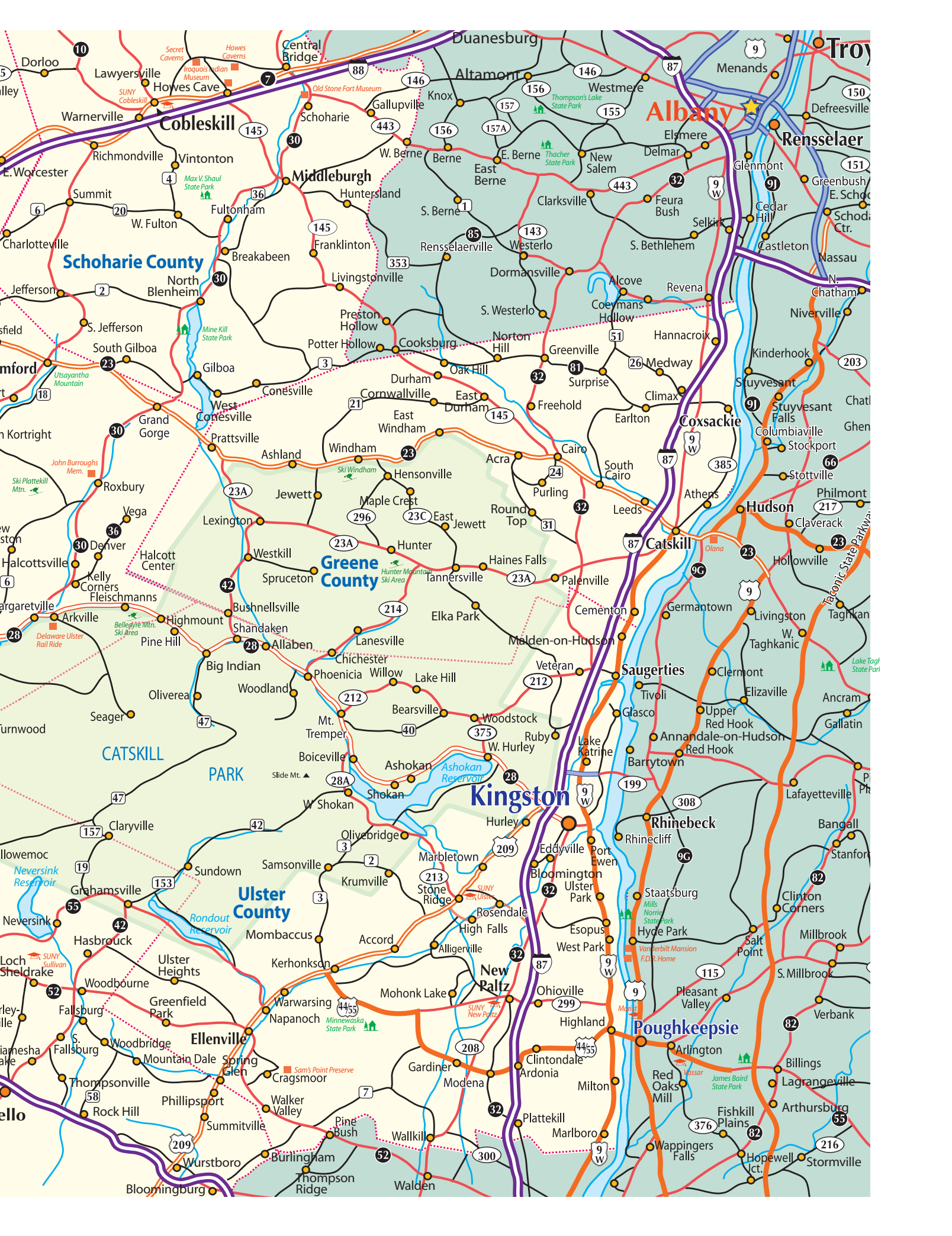


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# The Catskills on Canvas



Contributed by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site

The Catskill Creek and its depiction in Thomas Cole's *View on Catskill, Early Autumn*

The beauty of the Catskills has been inspiring art for centuries, but none so famous as the Hudson River School movement of the 19th century. The group of artists, like Thomas Cole who is regarded as the founder of the movement, are known for their landscape paintings of the Hudson River Valley, the Adirondack Mountains, the White Mountains and, of course, the Catskill Mountains.

The Hudson River School Art Trail offers fans of the movement the opportunity to step into their favorite painting with a guide to the sites that inspired the artists. The sites range from intense hikes to a (literal) walk in the park, making the experience accessible to anyone.

The trail was created by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site with the goal of giving people the opportunity to experience the region through the eyes of the United States' first great

landscape artists.

While the trail includes sites from all over eastern New York and part of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, people visiting the Catskills may be especially interested in the following locations.

*Catskill Creek:* The subject of many Thomas Cole paintings, this creek spans the northern Catskills before joining the Hudson River in Catskill. There are many places along this creek to visit, but one of the most famous views can be seen from Route 9W where it crosses the creek in Catskill.

*Mohonk Mountain House:* This resort in New Paltz houses several sites on the trail, including Mohonk Lake, Eagle Cliff and the Shawangunk Mountains. Sanford Robinson Gifford and Thomas Worthington Whittredge were especially keen on the views in this area, although Thomas Cole did start (but not finish) a painting of Mo-

honk Lake here. Visitors can purchase hiking passes for \$35 per adult and \$30 per child.

*Kaaterskill Falls and Kaaterskill Clove:* These sites, largely untouched since the time they were painted, were some of the most popular among the Hudson River School artists. Kaaterskill continues to be one of the biggest attractions in the region, being the state's highest cascading waterfall. The safest way to access the views of the clove is via the Kaaterskill Falls viewing platform.

North-South Lake, Sunset Rock, and Catskill Mountain House: Located in Haines Falls, a Thomas Cole painting from this lake and present-day campground was one of his claims to fame in New York City. The view from Sunset Rock, accessed by a hike from the campgrounds, was the subject of paintings by Thomas Cole, Jasper Cropsey and Sanford Gifford. Several





Contributed by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site

Kaaterskill Clove by Asher B. Durand's

Hudson River School artists used to stay at the Catskill Mountain House at what is now North-South Lake, and

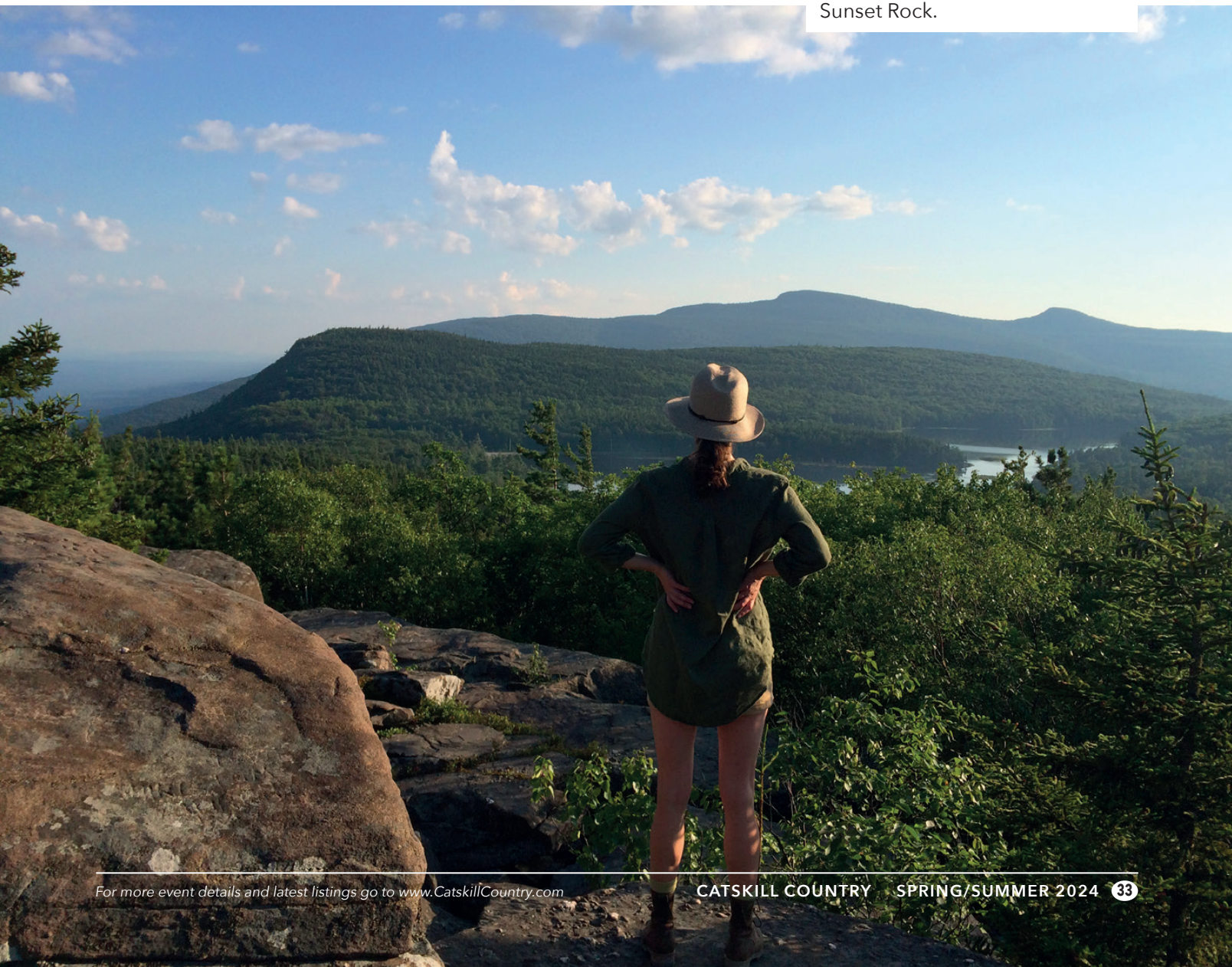
they often painted the surrounding landscape while there. While the hotel was demolished in 1963, the site is still

marked and accessible by a trail from the campgrounds. Visitors may be required to pay a day-use fee to access these locations.

*Platte Clove:* This preserve located in Hunter was the subject of Thomas Cole and Asher B. Durand pieces, and it remains nearly untouched since their time. Being such an untamed natural area, the sites painted by the artists can be dangerous, and visitors should exercise caution when exploring the cliffs and ravines.

The trail website, [hudsonriver-school.org](http://hudsonriver-school.org), has more information about these sites including their Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, directions to the specific views found in the paintings, and the historical and artistic significance of the locations.

Contributed photo by Rachel Stults  
Sunset Rock.





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contributed photo

Brian Mulder of Union Grove Distillery on the set of Moonshiners.

# DISTILLING THE CATSKILLS

## A TOAST TO CATSKILL DISTILLERIES



### From Grain to Glass

Arkville, in Delaware County, now boasts an official “master distiller” as co-owner of **Union Grove Distillery** Brian Mulder has won the Discovery Channel competition show. During an episode of “Moonshiners: Master Distillers,” Mulder beat out two other spirit-making pros in a series of distilling challenges.

The distillery, which he owns with his wife Penny, caught the attention of the show as they were casting a ginseng episode, and one of Union Grove’s spirits, their FirGin, features wild ginseng.

Having never used moonshining equipment until the cameras were rolling, he said it was helpful to have the more experienced competition around. Inspired by the distillery’s Catskill Mountain Maple spirit, he used a maple base for his moonshine.

He then put the spirit on wood chips for a barrel-aged effect, sweetened it with more maple syrup and flavored it with ginseng.

The show-winning concoction, called maple ginseng moonshine, will soon be available for purchase at Union Grove Distillery. [uniongrovedistillery.com](http://uniongrovedistillery.com)

contributed photo

Union Grove FirGin, distilled in Arkville at Union Grove Distillery.



• **Strickland Hollow Farm & Distillery**, Strickland Hollow is a working cider apple farm, artisan distillery and event space built in the 1800s. [stricklandhollowfarm.com](http://stricklandhollowfarm.com)

• **Do Good Spirits**, 10 Union Street, Roscoe. The tasting room is open year round where you can sample and buy the latest spirits in their collection. Spring through fall, there is live music, food, and cocktails on the weekends. [dogoodspirits.com](http://dogoodspirits.com)

• **Kerr’s Creek Distillery**. Kerr’s Creek Distillery began almost 100 years ago in a tiny hamlet of the Catskills, where bootleg alcohol was

distilled and shipped to the “Big City” under the guise of a piano moving business. Packed in pianos the bottles were moved, undetected, delivered to countless speakeasies. [kerrscreekdistillery.com](http://kerrscreekdistillery.com)

• **Muddy River Farm Brewery** offers farm-fresh craft beers brewed at the headwaters of the Susquehanna River. The Unadilla taproom offers a brewery experience like no other from May to October. Enjoy the laid-back vibe, a rotating menu of farm fresh craft beers, guest NYS wines and cider, a variety of delicious food trucks, and more. [muddyriverfarmbrewery.com](http://muddyriverfarmbrewery.com)

contributed photo (below)

On set while filming Moonshiners, Brian Mulder of Union Grove Distillery in Arkville appears with cast and crew of the show.







from Antrim Streamside facebook page

# Exploring the charms of Livingston Manor

## *A weekend visitor guide*

Tucked away in Sullivan County is the charming hamlet of Livingston Manor. While the hamlet itself may be small in size, it features enough unique breweries, restaurants, shops, and recreational activities to fill an entire weekend - and then some.

### Lodging

Where you start and end your days away can make or break a trip. Luckily, Livingston Manor offers a variety of different lodging locations from inn-style options to “glamping” to highlight whichever features of the hamlet speak to you most.

- **The Arnold House**, 839 Shandelea Road. The Arnold House offers 16 guest rooms across four buildings on the property; the main building, the garden house, Shandelea post, and Bobbie’s farmhouse. All rooms feature natural cork or original wood floors, antique furniture, and vintage fixtures, and include complimentary breakfast, daily snack bar, full service tavern and bar, WiFi, multiple common guest areas, and private hiking trails. 845-439-5070, thearnoldhouse.com
- **Antrim Streamside**, 408 DeBruce Road. The Antrim Streamside offers upscale cottages and cabins settled on a property with two ponds, an apple orchard, and 250 acres of woods filled with wildlife and hiking trails to explore. Each cabin or cottage comes with private entrances, kitchens or kitchenettes, heat, air conditioning, WiFi, device charging stations, complimentary continental breakfast, and more. To book: 845-747-0704, antrimstreamside.com
- **Boheme Retreats**, vintage RV camping at 68 Conklin Hill Road.

From May 3 to Oct. 30, Boheme Retreats offers six vintage campers circa 1963 to 1978. The vintage campers range in size to hold one to four people, and include amenities such as wetbaths, toilets, sinks, and either outdoor or indoor showers. River access is available on site for fishing or tubing, and the campsite features an on-site waterfall accessible by hiking trails. 347-415-9890, bohemeretreats.com

### Dining and drinks

Livingston Manor is home to an abundance of eateries, restaurants and cafes that range from easy grab-and-go options to a more upscale, sit-down dining experience. If you’re looking for craft brews or specialty cocktails to pair with your dinners, you’ve come to the right place.

- **Main Street Farm Market Cafe**, 36 Main Street. Main Street Farm is more than just a market filled with a variety of local seasonal vegetables, farm-bottled milk, fresh eggs, cheese, house-baked goods, meats, smoked native trout, and much more. The market is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., but from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. the cafe kitchen is open to serve breakfast and lunch made from their market-fresh ingredients. With raw, vegetarian, and vegan options, Main Street Farm Market Cafe offers breakfast sandwiches, old-school style breakfast plates, yogurt bowls, soups, sandwiches, melts, salads, coffee, tea, and steamer drinks, as well as draft kombucha. 845-439-4309, mainstreetfarm.com

- **Van Smokey Meat Shop Restaurant and Bar**, 87 DeBruce Road. Van Smokey Restaurant and Bar offers a casual dining experience with hearty sandwiches, tacos, and wings on the menu and made-to-order.



from VanSmokey.com

Pulled Pork Sammy.





from  
TheWalk.In

For those who don't eat meat, don't worry - Van Smokey offers a variety of vegetarian sandwich, taco, and side options. To pair with your meal, Van Smokey offers a full list of house and classic cocktails, beer, wine, and more. Van Smokey Meat Shop Restaurant and Bar is open Wednesday and Thursdays 12 - 9 p.m., Fridays 12 p.m. - 12 a.m., Saturdays 12 - 10 p.m., and Sundays 12 - 8 p.m. 845-439-1432.

- **The Walk In**, 67 Main Street. The Walk In is the perfect place to find comfort breakfast and lunch foods, including breakfast sandwiches, buttermilk biscuits, salads, lunch sandwiches, vintage sodas, coffee and espresso drinks, and boozy brunch cocktails. The Walk In is open Thursdays - Sundays 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. 845-439-1018, thewalk.in

## Things to do

Whether you hope to connect with nature through the many outdoor recreational activities available in Livingston Manor, or shop its unique stores and boutiques, the hamlet is full of spring and summer activities sure to keep visitors busy.

- **Nest**, 34 Main Street. Owned and operated by former W Magazine Art Director and Vogue Design Director Anna Bern, Nest is a furniture and clothing boutique full of unique, high-end furniture, art, lighting, rugs, clothing, outdoor furniture, and jewelry curated by Bern. Nest is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday, and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

845-588-5316; nestcatskills.com

- **Livingston Manor Farmers Market**, 62 Main Street, Every Sunday May 29 to Oct. 9, the market features farm goods, hanging baskets, veggie and flower starters, pork, beef, chicken, smoked cheese and trout, jams and jellies, seasonal fruits and vegetables, pickles, flowers, and more. The market is open from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### • Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum, 1031 Old Route 17.

Recognized as the birthplace of fly fishing, Livingston Manor houses the Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum on a 53-acre campus. With many features like the welcome center and gift shop, fly fishing hall of fame, Wulff Gallery and Heritage Craft Center. The Heritage Craft Center includes a fully operational bamboo rod making shop including historical rod making equipment and artifacts from the Garrison-Carmichael rod shop, and the Wulff Gallery, dedicated to both temporary and permanent exhibits of Lee and Joan Wulff. serves as a multi-purpose event space used for seminars, film festivals, and more. The campus also offers access to Willoemoc



from Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum  
facebook page

Replica of Lee Wulff's Bush plane.

Creek, a covered pavilion, casting fields, and a trail system to explore. Grounds are open daily to the public, without admission, from sunrise to sunset. Open Friday to Monday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 845-439-4810, cffcm.com

- **Catskill Art Space**, 48 Main Street. Catskill Art Space aims to explore contemporary art practices while fostering a creative community through rotating and ongoing galleries, artist-talk events, classes, and more. Catskill Art Space is open Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. catskillartspace.org



from Catskill Art Space's facebook page



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aging. Following the presentation we will have a conversation with farm fresh food. [farmartscollective.org](http://farmartscollective.org)

## JUNE 22

**Warrior Companion Golf Tournament:** 100 Fairway View Dr., Roscoe. [warriorgolf.us](http://warriorgolf.us)

## JULY 1

**P.L.A.Y. All Day:** 9 a.m. One week art immersion summer programs for ages 5-6. Imaginations will be hard at work in this interactive and rewarding introduction to the creative process. 200 Hurd Rd., Bethel. [bethelwoodcenter.org](http://bethelwoodcenter.org)

## JULY 13

**Founders Day Street Fair:** Noon - 5 p.m. Vendors, Food, Crafts. Any Model Car Show and Live Mural Painting by Catskills Revibe. Music by Steady Pulse and more. Sullivan Street, Wurtsboro.

## JULY 18

**Music Talks:** Become Breath. 7:30 - 9 p.m., The enchanted flute of guest artist Carol Wincenc is at the center of this program of short, intimate works arising from the earth, just like us. 4906 Main Street, Jeffersonville. [wcmconcerts.org](http://wcmconcerts.org)

## JULY 20

**Water, Land, Life:** 7 - 10 p.m. Catskill Art Space, 48 Main Street, Livingston Manor. Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Earth, water, shifting weather patterns and the Arctic stars all resound through this program of works that move with the planet. Come to be shaken, comforted, mesmerized and transfixed by music as varied as the natural world itself. [wcmconcerts.org](http://wcmconcerts.org)

## JULY 21

**We Love Liberty!:** 4 - 6 p.m. Liberty Museum and Art Center, 46 South Main Street, Liberty. Artists return to the Liberty Museum for an unpredictable program of solos, duos and improvisations. [wcmconcerts.org](http://wcmconcerts.org)

## JULY 27

**Become Music:** 7 p.m. Eddie Adams Barn, Jeffersonville. North Branch Road. Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Three works rooted in the earth: Trevor Weston's cel-

ibration of land, legacy and culture, Juba; the Hunt quartet of Mozart.

## AUGUST 18

**Cabaret:** 7 p.m. An Evening With Ann Hampton Callaway. Platinum award-winning writer Ann Hampton Callaway returns to The Bradstan Cabaret series at 7 p.m. From Lincoln Center and Broadway. The Eldred Preserve, 1040 State Route 55, Eldred. [theeldredpreserve.com](http://theeldredpreserve.com)

# ULSTER COUNTY

## JUNE 2

**Touch a Truck:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Ulster County Fairgrounds, 249 Libertyville Road, New Paltz. Touch a Truck is a fun family day where kids of all ages can see, touch and climb into the big rigs that service our community. The price of admission includes access to the trucks, bounce houses, face painting, and plenty of activities.

## JUNE 5

**Esopus Family Fun Day, Car Show and 5K:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Esopus Family Fun Day is a free event with games, prizes and music. Entries for 5K and car show are available on EventBrite. Food, vendors and local organizations. Ross Park, 208 Bowne Street, Port Ewen, 12466. [esopuscommunity@gmail.com](mailto:esopuscommunity@gmail.com)

## JUNE 15

**American Cancer Society, Ulster County Relay For Life:** Noon - 3 p.m. A free event is dedicated to helping our community by supporting cancer patients and raising awareness. Kiwanis Ice Arena, 6 Small World Ave., Saugerties.

## JUNE 18

**Food Truck Fiesta:** 5 - 9 p.m. Live music, food trucks, beer, wine, and water sold by Bloomington Fire Department. The rain date is June 25. For additional information call 845-338-2794. 14 Taylor Street, Bloomington.

## JUNE 30

**Manhattan Chamber Players with David Fung:** 4 - 6 p.m. The Manhattan Chamber Players are a chamber music collective of New York-based musicians who share the aim of performing the

greatest works in the chamber repertoire at the highest level. Maverick Concert Hall, 120 Maverick Road, Woodstock.

## JULY 6

**Frederic Chiu and David Gonzalez' Carnival of the Animals:** 11 a.m. to noon; a dazzling performance of the piano transcription by Frederic Chiu, with funky family-friendly poetry by David Gonzalez that gives The Carnival of the Animals a new twist. Maverick Concert Hall, 120 Maverick Road, Woodstock.

**Tracy Bonham concert:** 8 p.m. She is a classically trained violinist and pianist turned alternative singer-songwriter who rose to fame in 1996 with her twice GRAMMY™ nominated album, Maverick Concert Hall, 120 Maverick Road, Woodstock.

## JULY 13

**The Four Nations Ensemble:** 6 - 8 p.m. Founded in 1986, The Four Nations Ensemble brings together soloists, frontrunners from several generations, who are leading exponents of period instrument and vocal performance. With a core ensemble of soprano harpsichord or fortepiano, 2 violins, flute, and cello, Four Nations' repertory runs from the Renaissance through Viennese Classical masterpieces of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. Maverick Concert Hall, 120 Maverick Road, Woodstock.

## AUGUST 2

**Music on the Belle:** 6 - 9 p.m. Kickoff your weekends in style this summer at Belleayre Mountain, where you're invited to join the free Music on the Belle concert series. Every Friday night during the summer. [belleayre.com](http://belleayre.com)

## AUGUST 10

**35th Annual Blueberry Festival:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Canal Street and Liberty Square, Ellenville. Vendors, food court and music.

## AUGUST 17

**Birds of Prey with Ravensbeard Center:** 11 a.m. - noon. Learn about the natural history, habitat, unique hunting styles and the rehabilitation stories of some of Ravensbeard's resident birds of prey through an up-close interaction with five live birds. [ravensbeard.org](http://ravensbeard.org)



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# A Pig's Paradise

*Arthur's Acres gives sanctuary to the misunderstood and mistreated*



**contributed from Arthur's Acres Sanctuary**

Todd Friedman welcomes Arthur as the sanctuary's first and namesake resident.

*By Alyshia Korba*

Although Todd Friedman was working on starting a pig sanctuary, he did not expect it to start so suddenly when he found an abandoned pig, Arthur, while touring what would become the site of his sanctuary. Arthur was left by the previous owners who ran a slaughterhouse on the property, but he will now live out the rest of his days in peace on the land he

was expected to die on.

That rescue took place nearly six years ago, and Arthur's Acres Animal Sanctuary in Parksville has since grown to house 44 pigs, 16 chickens, six cats, three dogs and a pond of bullfrogs. Friedman, volunteer and founder of the sanctuary, said he is not quite sure what it is that draws him to pigs but knows they are a special animal.

"When I look at them, they just do something to me," Friedman



**from Arthur's Acres Sanctuary's Facebook page**



said. "They just really feed my soul. I see something in them that just...I don't know.."

He said pigs are widely misunderstood animals, saying people are often impressed to learn how clean and intelligent they are when they visit the farm.

Unfortunately, misinformation about pigs is the reason why many of the residents ended up at the sanctuary, Friedman said. He said many breeders advertise their baby pigs as "teacup" pigs or "micro-mini" pigs, which are not actual breeds of pig. After spending hundreds or even thousands of dollars on a pig that was advertised to grow to only 30 pounds, buyers are soon dealing with a 200-pound animal that they cannot properly provide for.



contributed from Arthur's Acres Sanctuary

"You have a better chance of buying a unicorn than you do a teacup pig," Friedman said. "It does not exist. There is no healthy pig at 30 pounds. It's not a thing."

Arthur's Acres Sanctuary only takes in pigs who would be especially difficult to rehome, such as those with disabilities or special medical needs. While this ensures that these pigs get the care that they need, it also ensures that the sanctuary is consistently racking up vet bills at Cornell University's Nemo Farm Animal Hospital.

Friedman said they are able to cover all medical services, feed, farm supplies and other sanctuary expenses entirely through donations, including their \$203,000 bill from the Cornell animal hospital for 2023. Friedman attributed these donations not to big donors, but to many small donations, with the average donation they receive being \$10.

Many of these donations come from their social media audience as the sanctuary has hundreds of thousands of followers from around the world on their Facebook, YouTube and Instagram pages. Friedman connects these followers to the sanctuary and their mission by going live on each page every night with the pigs and other animals. The sanctuary also makes frequent posts so followers can keep up with their favorite residents.





"We call it 'Arthur's Acres Village'... so that's what our followers are called, the village, because we truly believe it takes a village," Friedman said.

The sanctuary offers many ways for people to support the farm including their sanctuary shop which has



contributed  
from Arthur's  
Acres Sanctuary



from Arthur's Acres Sanctuary's Facebook page

sanctuary merchandise, books about their pigs, and even their own sanctuary-scented candle. People who want a more personal experience with the sanctuary can buy personalized video messages from Friedman and their fa-

vorite residents, work as volunteers or get tours of the sanctuary. Friedman offers both in-person and virtual tours all year long.

During each private tour of up to five people, visitors will get to meet each resident, spend time with the pigs, learn about pigs and learn how they are mistreated by various industries. Many visitors find themselves connecting with a particular pig, Friedman said, and end up spending most of the tour hanging out with their new four-legged friend.

Friedman said he hopes people walk away from their experience at Arthur's Acres with a new compassion for animals. He said they have yet to have someone come to the property without it making them reconsider how pigs, or animals in general, are treated.

"We've had hunters and fishers that come on the property that are just blown away," Friedman said, "that they didn't know a place like this existed, that this is the way animals act because a lot of what we've learned is wrong."

People who are interested in supporting the sanctuary, booking a tour or learning more about the residents can visit [arthursacresanimalsanctuary.org](http://arthursacresanimalsanctuary.org) or find them on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.



contributed from Arthur's Acres Sanctuary





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# Shopping Local in WOODSTOCK



Photo from Tinker Toys' Facebook



Photo from Woodstock Blues's Facebook

Woodstock, located on the eastern side of the Catskills in Ulster County, is sometimes called the most famous small town in the country due to its legendary namesake music festival. Although locals would be quick to tell you that the festival was actually held an hour and a half away in Bethel, the spirit of "peace and music" defines Woodstock to this day. As a hub for creatives, it is no surprise that it is also one of the best places for shopping small in the Catskills. Over 30 shops can be found in the town, including some of the following gems:

## **Woodstock Blues**

It is not possible to mention Woodstock without mentioning its namesake music festival, just how a trip to Woodstock is not complete without a trip to Woodstock Blues. The souvenir shop at 7 Mill Hill Road embodies the Woodstock spirit with its festival-themed apparel and, of course, endless tie-dye. 7 Mill Hill Road, [woodstockblues.com](http://woodstockblues.com)



## **Tinker Toys**

A paradise for children and children at heart, Tinker Toys is packed with unique gifts. Browse classic games, new toys and unusual finds in an ever-changing collection. Stop by 5 Mill Hill Road to indulge your inner child. 5 Mill Hill Road, 845-679-8870



### **Three Turtle Doves**

Woodstock is home to several secondhand and vintage clothing shops including Three Turtle Doves. This high-end vintage store carries a curated collection of clothes, jewelry and accessories. To add some unique pieces to your wardrobe, visit the shop at 62b Tinker Street or shop online at [threeturtledoves.com](http://threeturtledoves.com)

### **Anatolia Tribal Rugs & Weaving**

Anatolia houses a unique collection of handwoven antique and new carpets imported from around the world including the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The shop has been supplying the Catskills with original rugs, kilims, sumaks and other woven goods since 1981. Whether you need a new rug or you just don't know it yet, stop by the shop at 54G Tinker Street to browse the collection. 845-679-5311

### **Candlestock**

One of Woodstock's most well-known shops, Candlestock is home to an iconic 8-foot-tall wax drip mountain that has been growing since 1969. The



Photo from the Golden Notebook's Facebook

shop, located at 16 Mill Hill Road, offers an impressive variety of candles, candle holders and other accessories which are also available online at 845-679-8711, [candlestock.com](http://candlestock.com)

### **The Golden Notebook**

Whether Woodstock has inspired you to read about local history or you're looking for that book everyone is talking about, chances are The Golden Notebook has what you're looking for. With knowledgeable staff and a

broad selection of genres, it is impossible to walk out empty handed. The shop is located at 29 Tinker Street or visit [goldennotebook.indielite.org](http://goldennotebook.indielite.org) to search the inventory and see what author events are coming up.

### **Woodstock Emporium & Holiday Haus**

Anyone looking for unique gifts or souvenirs need not look further than Woodstock Emporium & Holiday Haus. This year-round Christmas shop, gift shop, souvenir shop and chocolate shop has something for everyone. Grab a souvenir, a quirky gift or a sweet snack to fuel your shopping trip at 27 Tinker Street. 845-679-9627

### **Mower's Saturday Sunday Flea Market**

Weekend visitors can find a variety of vendors at the Mower's Flea Market at 11 Maple Lane. The market has been operating for 47 years and is open Saturday and Sunday from May 18 through October. The many vendors change throughout the season, but you can expect to find handcrafted art pieces, antiques, collectibles, farm produce and more.



Photo from Mower's Saturday Sunday Flea Market's Facebook



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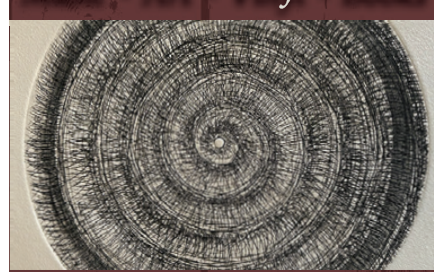
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**Submission Rules:**

- Submit online using the form on [CatskillCountry.com](http://CatskillCountry.com)
- Be at least 2 megabytes or 300 dpi at 8 1/2 x 11, no filters
- Feature the Catskills - outdoors, activities, animals, food, farms or shopping
- Include your name, mailing address, date and location where your photo was taken along with a brief description of the photo.
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# PERFORMING ARTS TAKE CENTER STAGE FOR THE SUMMER



contributed from Forestburgh Playhouse

Clue was one of Forestburgh's 2023 productions.

*By Alyshia Korba*

While the Catskills are a year-round attraction, everything really comes alive in the summer, including the area's many performing arts centers. For local theaters, summer is the "on" season for many of their performances, events and workshops, so there is no shortage of entertainment for locals or tourists.

One of the more well-known theater groups in the Catskills is The Forestburgh Playhouse in Forestburgh, Sullivan County. Founded in 1947, The Forestburgh Playhouse is the oldest continuously-operating professional summer theater in the state. Producing Artistic Director Franklin Trapp said this will be the theater's 78th season.

"We've been around a long time,"

Trapp said, "and not only do we have the age thing going, but we're also a professional theater on top of that, so it's pretty exciting that we've been operating at that level for so long."

Forestburgh contains three operations: The Playhouse, The Tavern and The Academy. The Playhouse puts on the mainstage productions while The Tavern offers dinner cabarets and smaller productions. The Academy is responsible for the workshops and summer sessions available for the young stars of Forestburgh.

While programming continues through the fall, Trapp said summer is the big season for theater in the area because of the peak in tourism during the warmer months.

Casts for Forestburgh productions are primarily hired through the Actors Equity Association with actors based in New York City, but they also hire a

resident company each year with actors from all over the country. Some local actors are also cast in shows, especially young actors from the area.

While Forestburgh brings the talent of the city to the Catskills, the Phoenicia Playhouse in Phoenicia, Ulster County, brings out the talent from within the Catskills. The Phoenicia Playhouse is home to the Shandaken Theatrical Society, a community theater made up entirely of local actors and crew.

Michael Connor, president of the Phoenicia Playhouse Board of Directors, said providing opportunities to locals to be involved in the performing arts is important because it is a creative outlet that is not always easy to find in rural areas.

"It is a vehicle for creativity on the part of local residents — adults and children," Connor said. "There's real



creativity and craft among our local residents.”

Connor said it can be difficult balancing the desire to stay local and the ability to put on a good production, but they manage to pull it off with a combination of adults reminiscing on their former acting careers and young performers hoping to start theirs.

There is no lack, however, in the interest in theater in the Catskills, Connor said. He noted that their 150-person theater gets sold out shows, and there was even a market for scalped tickets for their 2023 production of *The Addams Family*. He said having community theaters is especially important in this area because it makes the performing arts more affordable and accessible to locals.

“People love theater,” Connor said. “They love to see it and they love to perform in it and if you live in the Catskills, it’s challenging to get to Broadway.”

Trapp noted that the increase in “transplants” to the Catskills during the COVID-19 pandemic has also led to more demand for performing arts events.

“It’s been a good time for us in terms of getting new people into the doors,” Trapp said.

One of the major benefits of these



contributed from Phoenicia Playhouse

Phoenicia Playhouse’s youth “make-a-play” workshop encourages kids to get creative.

theaters is the opportunities provided to local youth who otherwise do not have many options to practice an art during the summer. Both Forestburgh and Phoenicia Playhouses offer summer workshops for young people of various age groups. In 2024, the Forestburgh Playhouse is hosting a week-long musical theater intensive, a two-week musical theater summer session and a fall cabaret session. During these workshops, youth work with professional directors, choreographers and

music directors from around the country to put on a show for friends, family and patrons.

Phoenicia Playhouse will be doing a week-long music and songwriting workshop and a two-week make-a-play workshop. These sessions encourage youth to explore their creativity to dream up and put together original shows to be performed at the end of each workshop.

“It challenges them to imagine things that don’t exist and to create things that don’t exist,” Connor said.

Practicing a performing art like theater also teaches young people skills like creative thinking, public speaking and confidence, Trapp said.

“It may lead to a career but also can just provide cultural enjoyment and most importantly, confidence — I think that’s one of the hugest things,” Trapp said.

Each theater company has a full program for their 2024 seasons with a wide variety of performances that are guaranteed to entertain any audience. Forestburgh Playhouse’s main-stage productions include Jimmy Buffett’s *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Rock of Ages* and *How I Learned to Drive* among others. Phoenicia Playhouse’s big shows this year are *The Wizard of Oz*, *Always... Patsy Cline* and *Brother’s Keeper*. Both playhouses have much more going on this summer — like Forestburgh’s “In the Woods, In the Woods” theater festival and Phoenicia’s various film series — and more information can be found on their websites: [fbplayhouse.org](http://fbplayhouse.org) and [phoeniciaplayhouse.com](http://phoeniciaplayhouse.com)



photo from Phoenicia Playhouse’s Facebook

Phoenicia Playhouse’s production of *The Addams Family* was a fan favorite last season.



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