

**Westchester Photographic Society
Field Trip
Turkey Mountain, Yorktown NY
Sunday, May 31, 2009 9:00 am**



Elevation: 831 ft above sea level

Round Trip Climb: about 2.5 miles

Required time: 2-3 hours (total climbing time will be about 40 – 75 min, depending on walking speed). This is a moderately challenging walk!

On the flat ground before the climb, you can walk through and photograph old stone foundations of a former restaurant and summer camp, swampland, and deciduous forest flora. I've taken great photographs of ferns, trees, mushrooms, bracket fungi, etc. On the climb up, and the return down, there will be many opportunities to photograph rock outcroppings with interesting striations and fracture patterns, fallen trees in various states of decay and with interesting fungal growths, bird nests, woodpecker carvings, budding and flowering shrubs, and occasional vistas. At the summit, the real fun begins. See the articles below:

From the New York Times 11/19/2000

“If you want great views with a relatively short climb, Turkey Mountain is a terrific choice. Pick a clear day, and from the summit you can see Manhattan’s skyline as well as views of the Croton Reservoir and Dam and the Hudson River. It’s a lot of bang for your buck, as the round-trip climb is only 2.5 miles long.

Named for the wild turkeys that still wander the park, the mountain has three trails: red, white and blue. You can begin on the red trail, then hook up with the white, which will take you to the top. On the way, you’ll pass through oak and maple woods and the foundations of an old summer camp. The summit not only affords great views of the surrounding area but it is ideal for spotting hawks. Take the blue trail down, which will bring you along ridges, beautiful rock formations and more open areas.

Be warned: it’s a popular spot on a pretty day, but worth sharing”

From The Journal News 12/6/2005

“On a cool, clear day, I walked up Turkey Mountain. It’s a short hike, maybe 20 minutes. After all, the “mountain” is really nothing more than a glorified hill, reaching only 831 feet above sea level. But size isn’t what makes Turkey Mountain special. No, what makes it one of the county’s true gems is the panoramic view it provides.

From the peaceful, wind-swept summit, you can see a rolling, tree-covered countryside. Immediately noticed are the white silos of a farm, the blue waters of the Croton Reservoir and the green iron bridge that spans the reservoir for the northbound traffic of the Taconic State Parkway. The Hudson River can be seen to the west. To the south, seemingly suspended on the horizon like a shimmering mirage, is the New York City skyline.”

What to bring:

Camera Gear: I would suggest two lenses covering the range of approximately 28 – 200 mm (or 300) along with a close focusing macro. Although this is a moderately challenging hike, if you pack well, I'd bring along a lightweight tripod as well. It will be very helpful on the climb if you keep your hands free so only take what you can comfortably pack in a wearable backpack or shoulder bag.

Clothing: The summit is pretty much bare, windswept rock. If it is a breezy day, it is likely to be windy on the summit. If it is a clear day (the only condition under which we should go), you will be exposed to strong sunlight. Sunscreen and a hat are advisable.

If it is a warm day, a bottle of water and a candy, granola, or power bar will be valued possessions.

Directions:

Taconic Parkway to Underhill Ave. Turn Right and go East on Underhill Ave for Yorktown, NY; 1.3 miles to Rte 118. Turn Right, heading South for 1.5 miles. Entrance is on the right, across from sign for "Peter Pratt's Inn."

Please note, onsite parking is very limited so carpooling is advised.

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