

BOOTPRINTS

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NEW YORK CITY BUS TRIP - SATURDAY APRIL 14, 2012

By Cindy Dolgoff

First, a flashback. Do you remember what you were doing on October 28, 2011? I do. Jane Glushik and Gary and I were discussing whether the next day's NYC bus trip would happen. Cancelling an event is not an easy decision to make. Whoever heard of a blizzard in October in Massachusetts? Then again, whoever heard of a tornado, earthquake or hurricane in Massachusetts. Luckily, calling it off turned out to be a wise decision because we all know what happened on October 29.

Our weather karma was rewarded. The reschedule bus trip day featured sunshine, no rain, and a spectacular 70+ degree day. 47 hikers attended the bus trip.

This year's trip provided a variety of activities. The activities that Jane arranged were a Circle Line Boat Tour of Lower Manhattan and a tour of the Metropolitan Art Museum, guided by PVHC member Joan DeIPlato. I heard rave reviews of Joan's interactive art museum visit. Other hikers struck out on their own, visiting the Empire State Building, the 9-11 Memorial, and reconnecting with NYC friends and family. Gary and I chose to lead a walking tour, with the goal of a lot of eating, walking and time outdoors. We dubbed our tour the Four Fs - "Food, Fields, Faith and Food"!

Our bus driver dropped us off in the upper West 80s and our first destination was Central Park and Strawberry Fields. Although the park was crowded, I did manage to get a photograph of the John Lennon Imagine Circle, with only one set of (unknown) legs in it. Gary led us on a free form stroll down various paths. My favorite was a clearing with boulders that overlooked city skyscrapers.

After our jaunt through the park, our group headed over to our luncheon destination - BIG NICK'S. Although it looked crowded, all 17 of us were able to secure a seat, albeit scattered throughout the restaurant. BIG NICK'S had quite the variety of food. The selection is so vast that instead of a menu they have a booklet, complete with an index!

Upon finishing our tasty lunch, we had a real hike ahead of us - 30+ city blocks uptown to the cathedral - St. John The Divine - at West 112 Street (Harlem).

For me, the cathedral was the best part of the trip. Built in 1892, it is the largest cathedral in the world. I was awestruck by the massiveness of the building, the ceilings that stretched up to the sky, and the magnificent stained glass windows. We wandered through the Cathedral in small groups and individually, taking in its beauty and spiritual presence. The Cathedral gardens were a treat

also - especially the three resident peacocks, including an all-white peacock, which I have never seen before.

Gary herded us down the street and onto the NYC subway, where we disembarked at 28th Street. Our walk in this area took us through Florists' Row, where wholesale flowers and plantings can be purchased for NYC gardens and rooftops. Then, along we went to Little India, including a stop at Kalustyan's a NYC landmark for fine specialty foods since 1944. I purchased some Moroccan Mint Tea, Himalayan Red Rice, and Mango Licorice. I think those of us that like to cook had an interesting time picking out treats to bring home.

As we walked towards the Lower East Side (our dinner destination), we noticed an area packed with people dressed to the nines and limos pulling up. It was the TV Land Awards. Supposedly, Mary Tyler Moore and Betty White were there but it was impossible to get too close. A few of the hikers said they did see minor celebrity Pee Wee Herman. But I didn't.

We ate dinner at Marcora's, a Peruvian restaurant. I thought the food was tasty and a good value but the waiters messed up our bill and we were overcharged for two dinners and two beverages that no one ordered. After a protracted argument, we were able to head back to the sidewalks, but our time was dwindling. We entered a bakery but after calculating our numbers and the time we had left and the people in front of us, Gary declared "Mission Aborted". We hustled back to the bus and settled back into our seats to enjoy our ride back to the Pioneer Valley, some of us asleep with our mouths agape (a new word I learned that day).

I hope everyone had a great time!

CT AT HIKE- SECTION 1&2

By Marie Babbitt

The first of Cindy and Jeanne's AT series hikes for Connecticut took place this past weekend. This year's sunny, humid and nearly 70 degree temperature was in stark contrast to last year's start in 40 degree temperature and a light snow. We gathered together in the Enfield parking lot and were on the road a little after the 7am meeting time. Eva and I made the correct turn out of the parking lot this time and we were on our way. We spotted cars at the end of section 2 and headed for the trailhead of section 1, which was in New York. By 9:30 we were on the trail. We would be hiking approximately 11.6 miles according to Dick Forrest who apparently did not want to be cheated out of one tenth of a mile. The hike would consist of 4 peaks with a total elevation gain of 2200 feet.

Our first mountain was 10 mile Hill and it was great to be back out on the trail. With the lack of cold weather this year everything in the forest is a bit early and I was enjoying the greens of all the new budding trees, brush and flowers. The small pointed leaves emerging from the ground were especially delightful. The group of 21 of us, who I want to know was that extra person who snuck in, were all pretty well spread out and gathered together for our first photo opportunity at the Ned Anderson Memorial Bridge. The Housatonic River was a bit low but we saw ducks which we were unable to confidently identify and I was looking at the schools of tiny fish in the river. Across the bridge we went, and we walked along the path which overlooked the river. The view was spectacular and we saw a number of different small flowers, I especially liked the Fringed Polygala, purple flower which is in this issue of Bootprints. We saw our first Columbine of the season as well, just beyond were the trail left the river's edge.

The trail leading to Schaghticoke Mt (no one knew the correct pronunciation of this word) was fairly level. The trail up the mountain, our biggest elevation gain of the day, consisted of switch backs and our motivation up the mountain was that lunch would be at the summit. We were rewarded with a spectacular view of the surrounding mountains and farmland. The sun was shining and there was plenty of room for all us to pull up a piece of the rock. I am not sure if this was a ploy but someone in the group (I won't mention any names Jeanne) forgot their lunch and was handsomely rewarded with a sandwich from a fellow hiker. Rick was a bit upset since he was not able to cash in on the available food.

After lunch the trail basically followed the ridge line and was mostly flat or downhill. There would be two additional smaller mountains to climb but the real work of the day was done. There was a bit of a rock scramble through the next section which I always find invigorating. The day was fairly bug free but as the day wore on the bugs began to come out and play. We took a break at the base of the second to the last mountain and when I sat down and looked at my hands and legs I was bleeding from the bites I had received. My fellow hikers were also becoming an afternoon snack for our pesky forest dwellers.

The last two peaks were a combined 700 foot elevation gain with no views and then down to the cars. As part of the last group of hikers to finish, when we reached the road our fellow hikers applauded us. The trail for section 3 loomed in front of us with a flat field walk to the base of the next mountain which awaits us for the next hike in the series. We of course headed for ice cream in town after picking up our cars.

Thank you Cindy and Jeanne for a great day and I look forward to the next hike in the series.

NEW CLUB TEE-SHIRTS

The new club t-shirts are in and there are plenty of extra t-shirts available if you did not order one and now wish to purchase one. There are a variety of colors and styles to choose from. The t-shirts range from \$11 to

\$15.00, we even have a few of our older t-shirts for a cost of \$20. Along with the t-shirts the club also sells patches and car decals. This is a courtesy and goodwill gesture and not a fundraiser. The shirts are available at club meetings which are held every first Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. at our Piper Road meeting hall of First Baptist Church.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<u>February</u>	<u>April</u>
Robert Maselak Amy Cohen	John Bien Luci Bolduc Lisa Crogan Isabella Dellolio Michael Fiat Sue French Laurie Long Sharon & Mark McDonald John Occhialini Susan Young
<u>March</u>	
Jeannie Jones Donna Dunn Jay & Kathy Taylor Donna Mages Shari Dorman Debbie Bombard/ Cheryl Stevens	

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

Chip Pray, President
 Marcia Kelly, Vice President
 Cindy Hibert, Co-Secretary
 Cindy Dolgoff, Co-Secretary
 Carol Vanderheiden, Treasurer
 Scott Cook, Wilderness Experiences
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Schedule: Sue Forest & Chip Pray
Backpacking Coordinator: Rick Briggs
Trail Maint: Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman
Web Page Editor: Dick Forrest
Non Member Email Coordinator: Rob Schechtman
Club E-mail Coordinator: Mike Reed
Quartermaster: Mike Carrier
Bootprints Editors: Marie Babbitt & Mike Reed

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Send your story/event contributions to the editor at: marie_babbitt@hotmail.com

MAY CLINIC

WILDFLOWERS . by Tierney Rosenstock, Berkshire Natural Resources Council intern.

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

March Renewals:

James & Diane
Brown
Eleanor Chase
Steven & Amy Dane
Brenda Doucette
Marcella & Paul
Fisher
David Herships
Steven Hilbun & Kelly
Turney
Joan Huhtanen
Betsy Loughran
Peggy McLennan
Ron Morrisette
Crystal Nepus
Karen Markham
Michael Reed
Sean St. Marie
Robert & Georgene
Trombley
Kerry Trucan
Janice & Paul
Mayberry
David Vibber
Bruce & Jennifer
Wade
Joe Zawrotney &
Family
Celeste Ziemba

April Renewals:

William Bates
Jay & Christine Buckley
Bill Burgart
Allison Cook
Gina Geck
David Goldfarb
Sonja Goodwin
Bill Grygiel
Leonard Jasionkowski
Cathy Kaszowski
Eva Kealey
Edward Kleciak
Elaine Moses
Rochelle Newbert
Mary Parker
Marianne Swiatek
Susan Turnbull
Lirong Wen
Christopher White
Carolyn Young



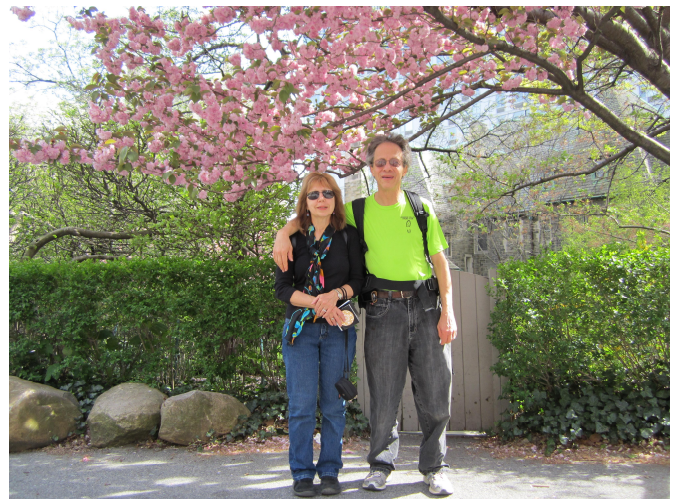
Dennis & Peacock at the Cathedral Gardens



Rock Climbing in Central Park



AT Section 1 & 2 Hike



Cindy & Gary - Cathedral Gardens

UPCOMING EVENTS AND THE USUALS

- Every Mon. (MA) Morning Hike . various locations
- Every Tues (MA) Tuesday evening hikes with Carol
- Every Wed (MA) Wednesday
- May 5 (MA) Bartholomew Cobble Work Day
- May 6. (MA) Mt. Toby
- May 12 (CT) AT (2 of 5) Sect. 3&4
- May 26 (MA) Bike Ride . Helmets required
- June 2 (MA) National Trail Day Farley Ledge& Hermit Castle
- June 9 (NY) Vanderbilt Estate
- June 10 (MA) Yoga Hike @ Mt. Holyoke
- June 15-17 (NH) White Mt. Sampler (\$, Res.)
- June 21 (MA) Special Northampton Mill River Walk & Dinner
- Late June Hiking Camino de Santiago (Pilgrims Way Spain into France)
- July 8 (MA) Gloucester Whale Watch (Res & \$30)
- July 27-29 (NY) Adirondack Heart Lake Car Camp & hikes(\$, Res)
- Sept. 14-16 (NY) Adirondack JBL Lodge Backpack (\$, Res.)



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IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
June 5, 2012, 7pm at **FBC**
July 3, 2012, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for the next BootPrints is June 18, 2011

FBC - First Baptist Church, West Springfield

*** **Check out our web page at:**
www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org

Members may join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to:
pvhc.hikingclub@gmail.com



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