

General Information...Directions...Map of Property....Lodging....Area Attractions

General Information

Welcome to North Harpersfield. George Rand and Pamela Ryder invite Fyke members to come visit two adjacent parcels totaling 135 acres of forest, field, stream, and pond in upstate NY. It's not far: 160 miles from N. Bergen County NJ, and a scenic approximately 3 ½ hr trip (longer on weekends summer through fall due to Thruway traffic). Feel free to come anytime and walk or hike on the property wherever you like. Or consider a mini-vacation for a night or two in nearby lodging (see following information). If you have any questions about where to stay, eat, or buy black oil sunflower seed in bulk—don't hesitate to call.

There are several trails to explore—downloading **the property map** will make hiking easier, so do that before you go. Below you will find directions, places to stay, things see in the area. We ask that you call and leave a message (name, phone) for George Rand at 917-687-5762 informing us when you will come, but there is no need for you to wait for a call-back or an OK. Dogs are permitted, fires are not. Trails are marked on the **property map**, but the terrain is varied, so hike safely. And for added safety, wear a piece of blaze orange clothing (such as a scarf or cap) during fall hunting season.

Please read the following WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT, to which you agree before your visit: In consideration for receiving permission to visit on the property of George Rand and Pamela Ryder (hereinafter referred to as releasees), I and anyone accompanying me hereby release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue the releasees for any liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury, including death, that may be sustained to me, or any property belonging to me, while participating in such activity, while in, on, or upon the premises where the activities are being conducted, regardless of whether such loss is caused by the negligence of the releasees or otherwise and regardless of whether such liability arises from tort, contract, strict liability, or otherwise, to the fullest extent allowed by law.

See the next pages for directions, lodging information if you want to stay over, and other attractions in the area. And don't forget to download a copy of the property map to enhance your visit.

DIRECTIONS

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The property is 765 Streeter Hill Rd, North Harpersfield, NY 13786.
The mailing address is 765 Streeter Hill Rd, Jefferson NY 12093.
We suggest you look at our directions below and check/carry an actual NY State map.
Mapquest is often inaccurate out in the sticks.

Here are 2 sets of directions - which may sound complicated, but are just detailed:
1-**EASIEST route** with the fewest turns and changes. But it is not the most scenic.
2-**SCENIC route (11 mi shorter, but more twists and turns)** follows beautiful Schoharie Creek and passes through Kaaterskill Falls on Route 23 A. Heading upstate, the Kaaterskill Falls are just beyond Palenville on the right side of the road. You can see a part of the lower falls from the road, but it is dangerous to slow down to look. In order to see the spectacular upper tier of falling water, you must park and hike. There is a small parking area ¼ mile on the left, up the hill from the falls. You must walk down to the falls along the road from the parking area, then hike up the ½ mile falls trail to see the entire 2 tiers of falling water. The upper waterfall drops 175 ft, higher than Niagara. If you want to do this (it's great) allow 1 ½ hour for dawdling your way up and down the falls trail—enjoyable and not terribly strenuous, taking it slowly. The entire area is spectacular. For information on the falls, see next pages or Kaaterskill Falls online.

1-**EASIEST route** - from Northern NJ:

Route 17 North to NY Thruway (Route 287) North to Exit 21.

Take Route 23 West (not 23 A) all the way to Stamford NY.

Passing through Stamford, you will cross Route 10.

(there is a Stewart's MiniMart at intersection Route 10 and 23).

From this point, stay on Route 23 West for 3.4 Miles to Middlebrook Hill Road.

Make a right onto Middlebrook Hill Road and stay on this for 3.4 miles to the end.

Make a left onto County Road 29 (there may not be a sign there) for 1.1 mile.

Make a right onto Streeter Hill Road and go up the hill for 0.8 mile.

Driveway is on the left at the top of the hill; cabin is set back from the road.

If you go too far, you will come to the next intersecting road which is Champlin Rd.

Park in the driveway or spaces near the cabin.

2-**SCENIC route (11 mi shorter, but more twists and turns):**

From Northern NJ:

Route 17 North to NY Thruway (Route 287) North to Exit 20.

Go through tolls; make left off exit, and you are on Route 212 West for only ¼ mile.

Make next right onto **Route 32 North** and stay on this for 6 miles.

After 6 miles, bear left onto **Route 32 A** for 2 miles.

After 2 miles, make a left onto **23 A** and stay on 23 A for the next 27 miles.

You then will come to the intersection of 23A and 23. Here 23A ends. Continue straight ahead on **23 West**. (Don't turn right onto 23 East.)

Continue straight ahead on Route 23 for 6 ½ mile through Prattsville and Grand Gorge.

In Grand Gorge make a right (blinker light) to continue on Route 23 to Stamford.

Use above directions after Stamford.

LODGING INFORMATION

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If you decide to stay overnight, Oneonta NY is your best bet. Hotels and motels in Stamford are not good. But Oneonta (20-25 minutes away) has restaurants, a Hampton Inn on the far side of town, and the closer Christopher's Restaurant and Country Lodge. Christopher's has a bar and restaurant steps away from the motel, Adirondack décor and is cozy despite the specimens of taxidermy in the dining room. For a look: christopherslodging.com.

Directions to Christopher's Restaurant and Country Lodge

716 Route 28 Southside, Oneonta NY 13820

(One web site says it's on Route 23 – NOT TRUE—it's on route 28!)

From the Rand property:

Make a left out of driveway on to Streeter Hill Rd. Go up hill.

Make your next left onto Tedle Brook Road.

Take Tedle Brook Road to the end.

Make Right onto Route 23 and stay on Route 23 for about 25 miles.

After 25 miles, you will come to the intersection of Route 23 and Interstate 88.

At this location Route 23 is a right turn.

The right turn takes you onto Interstate 88 and Downtown Business District Oneonta.

DON'T TURN RIGHT TO GET TO CHRISTOPHER'S!

Instead, continue straight ahead on what is now ROUTE 28.

Christopher's is just up ahead on Route 28 on your left.

If Christopher's is full (they get very busy, so reserve early), there is also food and lodging at: Sabitini's Little Italy 416 State Highway 28 South, Oneonta NY www.sabatinislittleitaly.com (607-432-3000). Same directions as Christopher's.

Both places have same owner. We have stayed in both and like Christopher's better for both food and lodging.

1) **Kaaterskill Falls** is the highest two-tiered waterfall in New York State. Its upper tier measures 175 feet, while its lower tier is 85 feet. The falls are the symbol of the Catskills and well worth the side-trip.

If you pass by the falls on your drive, don't think that what you see from the road is all there is. From the road you can view lower Bastion Falls, where the trailhead up to Kaaterskill Falls starts. If you decide to take the trail all the way up to Kaaterskill Falls, you will be walking along the stream and through woods. This is a lovely hike and you are really in for a treat if you go all the way up (½ mile.) The falls are truly spectacular, explaining why this is a very popular area. Water level varies significantly at Kaaterskill Falls. In late summer, the water flow can be reduced to a trickle, or even virtually dry up. Springtime snow-melt is wonderful.

Directions: The trail to Kaaterskill Falls is located on NY State Route 23A, near Palenville. Traveling from east to west, the start of the Kaaterskill Falls Trail is 3.4 miles from the intersection of NY 23A and NY 32A in Palenville. Parking is 0.2 miles further ahead, on the left (south) side of the road. Be careful for cars as you walk down back down the road to the trailhead. At the trailhead (visible from NY 23A) is the lower Bastion Falls. The upper tier—Kaaterskill Falls—is reached by walking ½ mile up The Trail.

The Trail: starts somewhat steeply along the stream. You pass many small waterfalls at the start. Then the grade eases, with the trail mostly staying close to the water. Then the trail moves slightly away from the stream and as it returns again streamside, you are at Kaaterskill Falls and the end of the trail.

Safety Issues: First, the trail itself initially climbs rather steeply from the road, along the sometimes steep and rocky slopes alongside the creek. Second, when you park up the hill past the trail head, you must take a short walk on Route 23A back down to the trailhead at Bastion Falls (lower tier of falls). Due to the rugged surrounding terrain and the limitations placed on Forest Preserve, NY Dept Transportation has been unable to expand the narrow shoulder on either side of the road, requiring that visitors walk on the road with vehicular traffic. Be careful.

2) **Cooperstown NY** is a beautiful town with wonderful old homes/architecture, and several interesting museums including the Fennimore Museum and the Farmer's Museum. There is also the Baseball Hall of Fame. Despite this tourist attraction, it is not a honky-tonk town. Check out Cooperstown NY on line.

3)**Emmons Bog Pond** (run by the Nature Conservancy) in Davenport NY is especially wonderful in the fall when the maples are red and there are cranberries in the bog. This bog pond is a small, classic kettle-hole bog, dug by the receding glaciers that covered the area more than 15,000 years ago. It was formed when soil moved from the surrounding hillsides toward the pond and was held together by several types of plants to provide the delicate surface. The acidic nature of the water allows for only a few types of plants to grow on the bog, such as the carnivorous pitcher plant, which is state-protected, and cranberries. The preserve loop trail starts downhill across a meadow, crosses a brook and enters the woods. Here you will find the sign-in box and an interpretive sign. Follow the trail down to the bog to a 200-foot boardwalk loop. This short trail allows you to look at bog plants up close without damaging the sensitive vegetation. Once you complete this loop, return to the sign-in box and follow the orange markers. This 1.4 mile long trail circles the pond in a counter clockwise direction. When the trail returns to the open meadow, walk to your left to get back to the starting point.

Directions to Emmons Bog Pond from N. Harpersfield cabin on Streeter Hill Rd:

Turn Left out of driveway onto Streeter Hill Rd.

Make next Left onto Tedle Brook Rd and take this to the end.

Make a Right turn onto Route 23.

Stay on Route 23 approx 16 miles until you come to Christopher's Country Lodge on Left side.

DO NOT TURN OFF THE ROAD YOU ARE ON.

DO NOT BE CONFUSED THAT THE SIGN SAYS ROUTE 23 IS A RIGHT TURN.

Continue going straight –Route 23 will turn of to the right into the town of Oneonta Business District, but don't turn off—Continue straight and you will now be on Route 28. Stay on this continuing straight ahead and now this road is called ROUTE 28.

Pass Home Depot on the right side.

The next Left after Home Depot is SOUTHSIDE DRIVE (MAY BE UNMARKED!)

Turn Left onto Southside Drive and stay on Southside Drive for 0.8 miles.

Make a right onto Swart Hollow Road (unmarked!).

There should be an Audubon sign at the turn for Swart Hollow Rd.

Go 2.7 miles on Swart Hollow Road, and go Left onto White Hill Road for 1 mile.

Emmons Bog Pond is ahead 1 mile on the left. Park by small sign. Go slowly or you will miss it.

The trail to the bog is just beyond the sign.