

WATERFALL CHALLENGE CONTINUED:

second railroad bed in North River along Route 28 as the highway leads up and away from the Hudson River. The trailhead is located on the north side of Route 28 west of the parking area. Hikers will walk along the highway for 0.2 miles and then cross the road.

Parking Area GPS: 43.46.296N, 74.07.849W

Date/Comment:

DUG MOUNTAIN BROOK FALLS • SPECULATOR DIFFICULT • 4 POINTS

Located on the south end of Indian Lake, best reached by canoe from the Indian Lake Islands DEC boat launch. There is a small falls where the brook enters the lake, and a larger, 40-foot falls farther upstream to the east.

LOCATION: From Speculator, drive north on Route 30 for 12.5 miles to the DEC Indian Lake Islands boat launch on the right. Paddle 2 miles across the lake and veer around Long Island to the right, heading southwest into the narrow part of the lake. Continue for 5.5 miles to the end of the lake, and take out where Dug Mountain Brook enters the lake — you'll see a picnic area with a table and a small, 4-foot waterfall. Follow the north side of the stream for 0.4 miles to get to the base of the larger falls. Alternate route: You may access the falls via a shorter, 2.5-mile paddle along the Jessup river, 6 miles northeast of Speculator. This river is very narrow, and in low water it can be difficult to navigate. From the four corners in Speculator, drive 6.4 miles north on Route 30 and look for the Jessup River. Park on the side of the road and paddle downstream on the eastern side of Route 30, toward Indian Lake. Look for Dug Mountain Brook entering Indian Lake on your right.

Indian Lake Islands boat launch GPS:

43.6520743N, 74.3880910W

Dug Mountain Brook on Indian Lake landing GPS:

43.5959927N, 74.3911204W

Route 30/Jessup River put in GPS: 43.5824503N, 74.4063647W

Date/Comment:

WHISKEY BROOK FALLS • SPECULATOR

EASY • 1 POINT

This very small and easily accessible gem sits right along the eastern (right) side of the road. The falls is 5-6 feet tall and is surrounded by large boulders.

LOCATION: From the intersection of Route 8 and Route 30 in Speculator, drive 2.2 miles north on Route 30 and look off to the right for the stream that flows under Route 30 through a large culvert. Pull off to the right, park, and follow the southern bank of the creek upstream for 50 feet, where you will see the falls.

Falls GPS: 43.52668N, 74.38611W

Date/Comment:

AUGER FALLS • WELLS

EASY/MODERATE • 2 POINTS

This 40-foot falls is at the beginning of a series of drops, plunges, and cascades totaling over 100 feet through a narrow gorge lined with hemlocks on the Sacandaga River. Many potholes can be seen along the edge of the gorge when the water level is low. Please be careful around the falls area, as the banks are steep and slippery.

LOCATION: From Wells, drive north on Route 30 to the junction of Route 30 and Route 8. Continue another 1.7 miles on Route 30 and turn right into a dirt parking area. Park and walk back toward Route 30, then follow the old dirt road to the left as it parallels Route 30. At the end of the road, look for the DEC trail register marking the beginning of the trail. You'll hear the falls shortly after you start the hike.

Trail Head GPS: 43.469084N, 74.252366W

Date/Comment:

AUSTIN FALLS • WELLS

EASY • 1 POINT

Austin Falls is a long, sliding waterfall surrounded by beautiful rock formations that does not require a long hike to reach. The river is calm above the falls, but as the sides of the stream narrow and the elevation drops 40 feet in a couple hundred yards over a rocky base, the water accelerates rapidly and creates a spectacular show. A large rock near the base of the falls hurls the water several feet into the air like a natural fountain.

LOCATION: Drive north from Wells on Route 30 to the intersection of Route 30 and 8. Continue another 6.5 miles and make a right onto Old Route 30, an unimproved road, then drive 2.7 miles and pull off to the side of the road to park. The road is paved but very bumpy, so use caution and drive slowly! The falls are off to the right, can be heard from the road, and are reached with an easy, 50-foot walk. The surrounding banks of the stream are very slippery, so use caution when walking alongside the falls.

Trailhead GPS: 43.4999600N, 74.2785800W

Date/Comment:

EAST JIMMY CREEK FALLS • WELLS

EASY • 1 POINT

Jimmy Creek contains two small, lovely waterfalls that are less than 200 yards from Route 8. You'll find a series of small drops and flows upstream from the main falls that are also worth looking for. The first waterfall is near the beginning of the hike, the second is just upstream and towers 10 feet over the surrounding area, plunging into a small swimming hole at its base.

LOCATION: From Wells, go north on Route 30 for 3.5 miles until you come to the intersection of Route 30 and 8. Turn right onto Route 8 and proceed 1.2 miles. You will reach a point where parking areas are visible on both sides of the road, with the stream crossing under Route 8 through a culvert. Park on the right and take the path along the south side of the stream. The hike up to the second falls is just a few hundred yards upstream.

Trailhead GPS: 43.4534000N, 74.2335936W

Date/Comment:

GRIFFIN FALLS • WELLS

EASY • 1 POINT

The falls area consists of several drops, large blocks, many potholes, and an 8-foot cascading waterfall on the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. A small swimming hole sits at the base of the falls.

LOCATION: From Wells, proceed north on Route 30 for 3.5 miles. Turn right on Route 8 and drive northeast for roughly 2.5 miles. Turn left onto a seasonal road (opposite a pull-off on the right side of the road) and drive 0.2 miles, crossing the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. Park in the clearing just past the bridge. Follow the path paralleling the west side of the river, going downstream to reach the falls.

Route 8/Turnoff GPS: 43.4704125N, 74.2247728W

Parking Area GPS: 43.4736066N, 74.2234590W

Date/Comment:

WEST BRANCH OF THE SACANDAGA RIVER AND COLD BROOK FALLS • WELLS

DIFFICULT • 4 POINTS

This is a 2.5 mile hike over uneven terrain to the West Branch Gorge, and it should only be taken mid-summer when water levels are low. The West Branch of the Sacandaga River cascades through a narrow gorge that is over 400 feet tall in spots!

LOCATION: Just south of Wells, turn off Route 30 to the right and drive onto Algonquin Road past the dam for 0.7 miles to West River Road. Continue for approximately 8.3 miles on West River Road to a large clearing, where the road ends. The trail starts in the woods, and parallels the river for most of the way. From the trailhead, hike approximately 0.6 miles, where the path takes a left. Follow the path and cross Hamilton Lake Stream at 1.2 miles, which will be difficult in high water. Continue and cross Cold Brook at 1.8 miles, where you can see Cold Brook Falls upstream. Follow the river on the north bank until you see the first waterfalls (10-12 feet) on the West Branch at approximately 2.5 miles. The second, smaller falls (8 foot) is located several hundred yards upriver from the first, but it cannot be seen due to the rough topography of the walls.

Trailhead GPS: 43.3723213N, 74.4315859W

Falls GPS: 43.3764500N, 74.4729300W

Date/Comment:

For more information on waterfalls
in Hamilton County, go to
www.AdirondackExperience.com

Hamilton County Tourism

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Waterfall CHALLENGE



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Waterfall Challenge

Visit the cascades listed here to collect 12 or more points and receive a Waterfall Challenge patch. To submit, complete the challenge, fill out the form, and mail to:

Hamilton County Tourism
P.O. Box 57
Lake Pleasant, NY 12108

Your Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ ZIP: _____
Email: _____
Total Points: _____

Easy: 1 point **Easy/Moderate: 2 points**
Moderate: 3 points **Difficult: 4 points**

To complete the challenge, visit the falls listed here and fill in the date and a brief comment about your journey. Collect a total of 12 or more points to earn your patch!

BRAY HOUSE FALLS • ARIETTA

EASY • 1 POINT

Also known as "The Potholers," this section of East Canada Creek has a series of waterfalls, chutes, and potholes that drop over 15 feet. The area is a beautiful spot for a picnic and is easily accessed via a short walk.

LOCATION: From Speculator, head west on Route 8 and drive 12.2 miles to Route 10, then make a left heading south. Drive 1.2 miles and make the first right onto Powley Road (dirt road), which may or may not have a sign. Continue on Powley Road for 10.4 miles and look for Brayhouse Brook, just before passing into Fulton County. Stay on the north bank of the stream and head downstream until you get to where Brayhouse Brook enters East Canada Creek. Head upstream for 0.1 miles to the falls.

Trailhead GPS: 43.275357N, 74.662351W

Date/Comment:

BUCKHORN LAKE OUTLET • ARIETTA

EASY/MODERATE • 2 POINTS

This waterfall is on a small stream that is the outlet of Buckhorn Lake. The hike to the falls follows the famous Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) and is 1.3 miles one way, with a slight elevation gain as you travel toward the falls. Buckhorn Lake, also known as "Fiddler's Pond," is a birder's paradise and is home to nesting loons and great blue herons.

LOCATION: Take Route 8 west from Speculator and watch for the DEC trailhead signs marking the NPT on the left, just past the Town of Arietta Highway Department. Follow the trail markers for 1.3 miles. When you get to a wooden footbridge, look right and you will see the top of the cascade about 25 feet downstream. Paths on both sides lead to the bottom of the falls. Follow the creek upstream from the wooden footbridge for a scenic view of Buckhorn Lake.

Trailhead GPS: 43.42889N, 74.49605W

Date/Comment:

WEST STONY CREEK FALLS • BENSON

MODERATE • 3 POINTS

A fairly level, 1.5-mile walk along an old dirt road to a small, 4-foot cascade at the southern end of the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT). **LOCATION:** From Wells take Route 30 south for 11.7 miles, from Northville take Route 30 north for 3.2 miles, then turn onto Benson Road. At 5.8 miles, bear right to stay on Benson Road at the fork after the iron bridge, following signs for the NPT. Continue for 0.6 miles, then turn left on Godfrey Road (dirt road) and continue for another 0.5 miles. The parking area is on the right. Walk on the road for 1.2 miles to the northwest. As the dirt road ends, you will be at the North Branch of West Stony Creek. Follow a blue-blazed tote road northwest for 0.3 miles and you will soon come to the falls, which are just downstream from a large log footbridge that crosses the creek.

Trailhead GPS: 43.2551443N, 74.3469554W

Date/Comment:

GROFF CREEK FALLS • HOPE

DIFFICULT • 4 POINTS

There are a series of three waterfalls along Groff Creek, all of which take some extra effort to see. The first two are more difficult to get to than the third.

LOCATION: Take Route 30 for 11.7 miles south from Wells or for 3.2 miles north from Northville. Turn onto Benson Road and make an immediate right onto River Road. Drive north for 4.6 miles until the drivable road stops. From here, it is a 1.8 mile hike to the top of the falls. The first waterfall, 30 feet high, can be heard at approximately 1.6 miles from the trailhead. Follow the stream farther upstream to reach the other two waterfalls; both require a hike downhill to see them.

Trailhead GPS (End of road): 43.3123337N, 74.2559280W

Date/Comment:

TENANT CREEK FALLS • HOPE

EASY/MODERATE • 2 POINTS

Also known as "Hope Falls," this 40-to-50-foot-high falls forms at a very sharp bend in Tenant Creek. The first falls consists of a series of slippery, low sloping drops and cascades that end into a refreshing plunge pool at its base. The area surrounding the falls is the site of the former village of Hope Falls, which was once a thriving community of tanneries and mills that disappeared in the early 1900s.

LOCATION: From Northville, take Route 30 north and turn right on Old Northville Road after 4 miles. Drive 1.4 miles and turn left on Hope Falls Road. Continue for 7 miles (the road is paved except for the last mile) and look for the large parking area on the right. From the parking area, follow a trail to a small stream crossing at 0.8 miles, then it reaches Tenant Creek and the first falls at 0.9 miles. Passing the falls, the trail continues to the second falls at 2 miles and the third falls at 2.1 miles.

Trailhead GPS: 43.346557N, 74.190272W

Date/Comment:

SQUAW BROOK FALLS • INDIAN LAKE

EASY • 1 POINT

Squaw Brook Falls is a small roadside falls located in a rocky gorge on Squaw Brook. The falls are on private property and should only be observed from the road.

LOCATION: Take Route 30 south from Indian Lake for 3.5 miles to a small bridge. The falls lies between the road and Indian Lake, to the east of the road.

Falls GPS: 43.7407841N, 74.2952104W

Date/Comment:

CASCADE FALLS • INLET

MODERATE • 3 POINTS

Cascade Falls is a pretty, 12-to-15-inch ribbon of water that drops over 40 feet into a beautiful shade pool.

LOCATION: Drive north out of Inlet on Route 28 toward Old Forge for approximately 2.1 miles and turn right on Big Moose Road, just past the Eagle Bay sign. Drive 1.4 miles to the trailhead and park on the right side of the road. From the trailhead, follow a footpath southeast to the intersection with a tote road at about 0.3 miles. Turn left to head northeast along the tote road. Follow the tote road, bearing right at the fork at 0.9 miles, until reaching a swampy clearing at 2.7 miles. A spur trail on the right leads a short distance to the falls.

Trailhead GPS: 43.7783138N, 74.8256812W

Date/Comment:

LIMEKILN FALLS • INLET

EASY/MODERATE • 2 POINTS

On this walk you'll find a series of easy-dropping falls flowing along the trail, which is surrounded by a dark forest of cedar and hemlock. The falls are 15 feet wide and almost a half-mile long.

LOCATION: Head south on Route 28 from Inlet for a mile and make a right at the golf course, heading south on Limekiln Road. Drive for another 1.8 miles to the Limekiln Lake DEC Campground entrance. The trail starts at campsite #87. Travel across the large open field to find a register box at the old fish barrier dam, where the self-guided nature trail starts. Travel to the right for 1 mile around the old beaver valley, until the trail bears right after a series of bridges. Follow the outlet for Limekiln Lake for about 0.75 miles as the trail crosses the brook several times and you'll come to the start of the falls, which continues for another half mile. There is a day-use fee to enter the campground.

DEC Campground entrance: 43.7220437N, 74.7921920W

Date/Comment:

BUTTERMILK FALLS • LONG LAKE

EASY • 1 POINT

The falls are a series of short and wide cascades on the Raquette River totaling more than 40 feet. An interesting phenomenon occurs here that makes the river appear to be elevated above the surrounding bedrock.

LOCATION: From Long Lake, take Route 28/30 south for 3 miles

to North Point Road, or north 7.7 miles from the hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake. Turn onto North Point Road (there's a sign that says "Buttermilk Falls") and follow it for 2.1 miles. Look for a sign on the right, where there will be a parking area and a short path to the falls.

Parking Area GPS: 43.9141626N, 74.4830220W

Date/Comment:

DEATH FALLS • RAQUETTE LAKE

EASY • 1 POINT

Also known as "Secret Falls," this cascade is located on a tributary into Death Stream, and it drops almost 70 feet over a broad-faced cliff. Best viewed during high water, this easily accessible falls takes only 5 minutes to walk to. You will start hearing the falls shortly after leaving Route 28.

LOCATION: This trail starts on the south side of Route 28, near the southern shore of Raquette Lake. Look for a yellow gate marking the start of the path about 10 miles west of the village of Blue Mountain Lake or 3.6 miles east of Sagamore Road in Raquette Lake. Note that parking is sparse here, but you can park nearby at the Golden Beach State Campground for a day use fee. From the barrier, walk on a perfectly flat trail to a grass clearing and cross to the other side. The trail is a straight shot to the falls through a wet area that you might want to avoid, and is just 0.2 miles from the road.

Trailhead GPS: 43.812694N, 74.595999W

Date/Comment:

CHRISTINE FALLS • SPECULATOR

EASY • 1 POINT

These falls are easily accessible from Route 30, just east of Speculator, slightly downstream from the power dam on the Sacandaga River. There are two small waterfalls, dropping approximately 20 feet to a great local swimming hole.

LOCATION: From the intersection of Route 30 and Route 8 in Speculator, drive south on Route 30 for 3.1 miles, passing Old Route 30 on your left. Continue on another 0.3 miles around a short bend in the road and look for the parking area on the left side of the road. Park and walk down the slope to the waterfalls.

Falls GPS: 43.5128021N, 74.3085344W

Date/Comment:

OK SLIP FALLS • INDIAN LAKE

DIFFICULT • 4 POINTS

This is one of the highest waterfalls in the Adirondacks. In the summer of 2014, a new trail to the falls opened, making this hidden gem accessible to the public. The trail to OK Slip Falls is 3 miles long; adding the 0.2 miles walk from the parking area makes the round-trip distance 6.4 miles. The falls has a beautiful 200-foot drop into a gorge.

LOCATION: The parking area for OK Slip Falls is located 7.5 miles east of the intersection of Routes 30 and 28 in Indian Lake on the south side of Route 28. There is a wooden sign for the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area at the parking lot. If you are traveling from the east, the parking area is located 4.4 miles west after crossing the