

Kaatskill Life

The background of the cover is a photograph of a waterfall cascading over a rocky ledge into a pool of water. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and foliage. The title 'Kaatskill Life' is written in a large, red, serif font with a slight shadow effect, positioned at the top of the cover.

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day. An Artist Talk will be held at CAS at 2 p.m. followed by a reception. For directions and gallery hours visit www.catskillartsociety.org

This year's theme, birds and wildlife from backyards and travels, will be represented in works by artists, photographers and sculptors from the Sullivan County and National



Snowy Egrets, digital photo by Rick Bunting.

Audubon, Artists for Conservation, Nature Conservancy, Mearns Bird Club, and the Bashakill Association. Each work will include a brief artist's commentary.

Award-winning artists will include David Kiehm (BBC Wildlife Artist of the Year 2013), Ron Orlando (grand prize winner Arts for the Parks), and regional/national award winner Bob Ripley, 2014 exhibitor in the Adirondacks. New creations from the Northeast Watercolor and Catskill Art Societies and the Wallkill River School will include Paula Baldinger, Janet Campbell, Donna Greenthal, Caroline Harrow, Ann Higgins, Elise Hornbeck, Kate Hyden, Lisa O'Gormann-Hoffsomer, Richard Price, Valerie Taggart, Scott Woolsey, and Jack Yelle. Among photographers: Rick Bunting, James Carney, Mary Collier, Stephen Davis, Russ Scheirer, Lance Verderame, Gloria Wagenknecht, and Barbara Ward-Blank. Celebrated sculptor Brian Harnett's medium is a chainsaw!

The featured group of bird, butterfly and wildlife interpreters will also include the Young Birders Club of New York State.

ULSTER COUNTY

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Phoenicia, the tiny hamlet in the Catskill Mountains with a world-wide reputation, once again is the centerpiece of a town-wide art studio and sculpture tour scheduled for July 17 to 19. The Phoenicia Art Studio Tour (formerly the



This year's poster designed by Dave Channon.

Shandaken Art Studio Tour) encompasses all dozen or so hamlets in the Town of Shandaken, from Mount Tremper to Pine Hill, but was renamed to reflect Phoenicia's growing reputation as an arts destination. The event highlights the work of over three dozen artists in studios, galleries, art parks, and special exhibitions.

On Friday, July 17, at 7 p.m., bring a lawn chair and enjoy the "Word of Mouth" kick-off party at Mama's Boy in Phoenicia. It's a free evening of spoken word, tall tales and stories by some of the region's favorite writers. (At Phoenicia Arts Upstairs, 60 Main Street, in case of rain.) Pick up a free 28-page tour catalog with detailed maps, photos and descriptions of the artists' work. On Saturday the 18th (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.), explore Shandaken's art studios, then return to Phoenicia Arts Upstairs by 6 p.m. for a reception.

Studios will also be open to visitors on Sunday, July 19 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.). For the adventurous, there's 49A sculpture park up in Highmount on Route 49A, just above the Belleayre Ski Center on the road in front of the Galli-Curci historic mansion.



Jerilynn Babroff in her studio. photo by Karen Charman



Carla Shapiro (left) in her photography studio. photo by Karen Charman

A highlight of this year's tour will be the CIC Sculpture Park at the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center on State Route 28 in Mount Tremper, just west of Boiceville. [See "360 Degrees," *KL Winter 2014*.] The 62-acre park hosts sculpture by several regional artists; and there are beautiful meadows and a nature trail through wetlands, over hills, and along the banks of Esopus Creek. At the visitors' welcome building you'll find a three-dimensional topographic map describing the region's history and interactive touch panels to help visitors and residents alike plan a visit to the Catskill Park and Forest Preserve. The CIC is a partnership with the New York State DEC, New York City DEP, Catskill Watershed Corporation, other local nonprofit organizations, and The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development, which will



"Steampunk Trike" steel sculpture and paintings by Dave Channon. photo by Dave Channon

oversee its operations.

To view e-galleries of the artists' works and get tour updates, visit www.ShandakenArt.com. For Tour information, contact Dave Channon at 845-688-2977.

The project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by Arts Mid-Hudson. The Catskill Heritage Alliance sponsors the event.

Editor's note: With thanks to tour organizers Judith Singer and Dave Channon for the information provided.

TOURISM GATEWAY

The early summer opening of the very first Catskill Interpretive Center is big news. Currently, the Catskill Park is the only park of its class without a Visitor/Interpretive Center. The Catskill Park spans 700,000 acres and is within a two-hour drive of Manhattan. It contains the 300,000-acre Forest Preserve with mixed-use recreational lands and forever wild wilderness for hiking and camping. The Catskills is also home to 90 percent of New York City's watershed, providing drinking water to 9 million people in the metropolitan area and as well as recreational access on City lands and waters.

The Catskill Region has received much positive press lately. *The New York Times* included the Catskills at #39 in its top 50 sites to visit in the world — ahead of the Sistine Chapel. Recent articles in *New York* magazine and *Travel + Leisure* are all touting the region as "not your Bubbie's borscht belt" anymore.

Closer than the Berkshires and the Adirondacks, the Catskills has world-class scenery and amenities. More and more New Yorkers are buying second homes in the Catskills or are coming here to play. This makes the opening of the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center all the more timely and relevant.

The Interpretive Center in Shandaken has been 30 years in the making. It was championed by Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey even when he was a local representative to the New York State Legislature. A center was almost built in the 1990s under then Governor Mario Cuomo. The mid-1990s financial problems caused it to be postponed during Governor George Pataki's tenure. But a loyal group of believers continued to work with Congressman Hinchey and by 2013 funds were found to begin construction.

New York State has two visitor/interpretive centers in the Adirondacks, but the state does not have the funds to staff and run these. To ensure success of our own Interpretive Center, the Catskills formed a unique public partnership. This partnership has allowed land owned by The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development (a regional nonprofit) to be leased to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). The NYS DEC has begun construction of the Interpretive Center, and the Catskill Center has created an Operating Group, made up of



Work in progress on the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center.

NYS DEC, Catskill Center, NYC DEP, Catskill Watershed Corporation, Catskill Mountain Keeper, NY-NJ Trail Conference, Catskill Mountain Club, and the Friends of the Catskill Interpretive Center.

The Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center will be the Gateway to the Catskills. Its mission is to interpret the natural and cultural resources our region has to offer. Various amenities of natural or cultural significance within the Catskill Park, New York City watershed, and regional communities of the Catskills will be displayed. Resource information will be communicated first and foremost by staff and volunteers, accompanied by state of the art technology. There will be access to a web-based microsite where a database of over 1,800 unique sites and features will be displayed on a map that can be filtered for specific points of interest. For example, a user could ask to see all of the Catskills' covered bridges. In this way, a visitor can custom-build his/her own itinerary. There will also be a three-dimensional model of the Catskills onto which will be projected various information and stories. The exhibits will incorporate video monitors, touch screens and light boxes to present content.

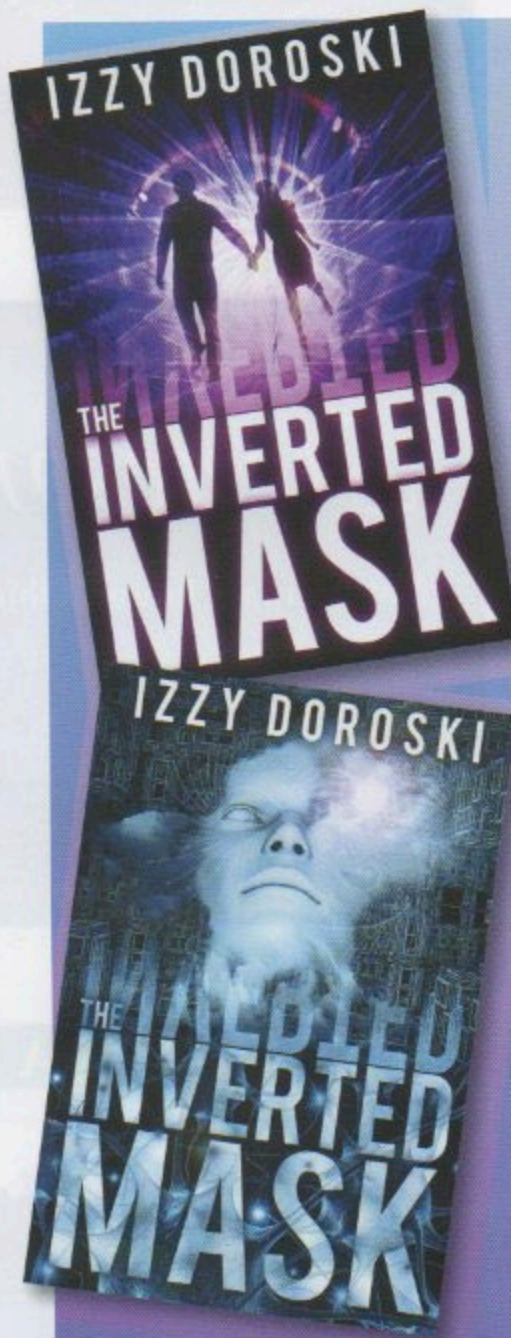
Outside of the building, rain gardens and pollinator gardens will be constructed using native plants. The site will be ADA accessible and include

a nature trail. There are future plans to install a Catskill fire tower and a model observer's cabin, and also an outdoor pavilion and an amphitheater.

The new Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center will play a vital role in promoting tourism in this

area that is so close to the New York Metropolitan area. It will be an important resource to both visitors and local residents.

Information provided by The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development.



THE INVERTED MASK

The Inverted Mask is a bold new Science Fiction book by Izzy Doroski.

Mystery, Suspense, Action and Romance. The Catskill Region is an integral part of the setting.

The Inverted Mask takes the reader on a thrilling adventure through the pine barrens of eastern Long Island, the heights of the Catskill Mountains, and the depths of subterranean particle-beam tunnels hundreds of feet below Long Island

The Inverted Mask explores the realms of what is perception, consciousness, reality and good and evil.

"The world that we see and feel is just an illusion. It doesn't exist at all, at least not the way we think it does."

Available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

www.theinvertedmask.com