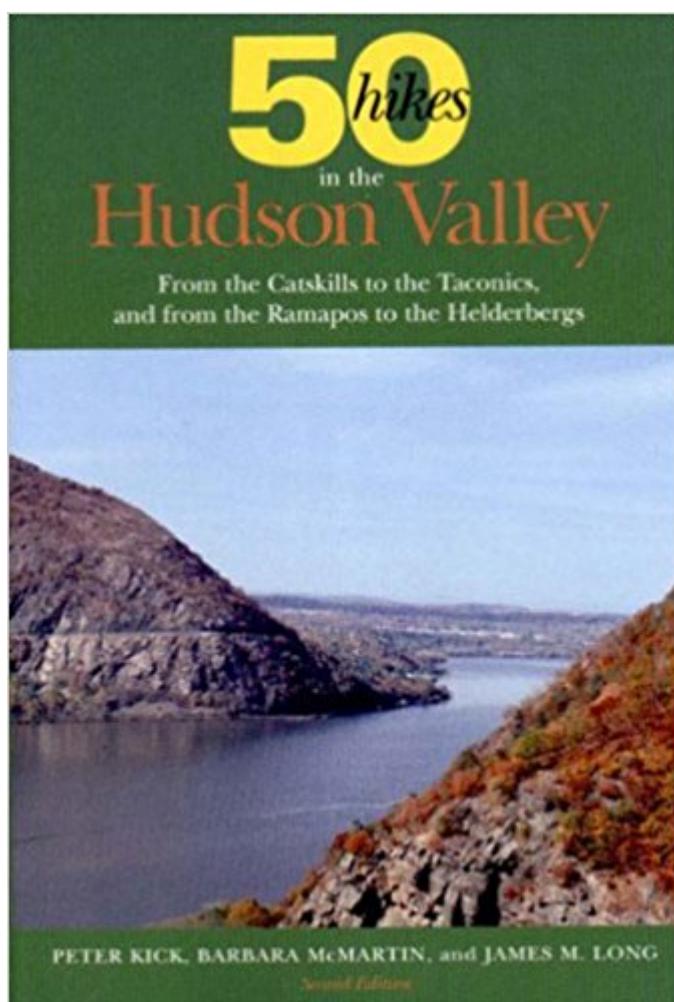


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Fifty Hikes In The Hudson Valley: From The Catskills To The Taconics, And From The Ramapos To The Helderbergs



Book Information

Paperback: 221 pages

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Customer Reviews

This book is outdated and has been out of print for years. Please do not rely on it for wilderness use. Written at a time when there was little if any reliable information about longer hikes in the Catskills, this book was very popular and soon became a classic on the subject. It did very well over the years. It was a great book while it lasted. This title should not be sold any longer, as it is so badly dated, nor should it be reviewed as a contemporary volume, though it continues to be.Â

I love this book. It gives so many details not only in directions and how to find it but also in the hikes themselves. The book tells you if the trail has blueberries growing along the way, an old plane wreckage to explore and other details like that. My first copy was so used by me that it fell apart. So it was time to replace it. There may be some differences in this book as it was written more than 10 years ago such as the trail head entrance may have been moved to accommodate the large number of cars you may find at the trail head. But those changes are clearly marked once you arrive to the location you have selected. I recommend this book for anyone who wants to explore the Catskill Mountains (which btw aren't actual mountains but a huge plain that had been eroded over the years creating these majestic peaks).

This book is over 20 years old. The "new" author who joined Peter and Barbara did not update the book, as required by Backcountry contract, and the publisher didn't enforce it. so what you have

here is essentially a 20-plus year old book with 2 newer hikes than the original edition and NO updated field information. The book is also out of print. Still, it remains an excellent book if used intelligently. Why would allow/encourage reviews of out of print books as if they were current books? Of course such reviews are going to be come in from disoriented, angry hikers. Consider this.

Two weekends ago, a friend and I decided to enjoy the fall foliage by doing some hiking. We picked up "50 Hikes in the Hudson Valley" and were on our way. We chose to hike Mount Taurus, outside of Cold Springs (Hike #7). We carried the book with us, and never strayed from marked areas. Nonetheless . . . BY TRYING TO FOLLOW THIS BOOK'S INSTRUCTIONS, WE ENDED UP STUCK ON MOUNT TAURUS IN THE COLD, DARK NIGHT FOR FOUR HOURS!!! If we had not had cell phones, and if the Cold Springs rescue team had not been as fabulous as it was, we would probably be dead. The worst part, was that after the rescue team pulled us off Mount Taurus, they told us that during the last year FIVE GROUPS OF PEOPLE had been rescued -- after trying to hike using this book! Unsurprisingly, I would advise that NO-ONE buy this book.

The writeups on the hikes are entertaining and informative. There is a considerable amount of history, botanical, and geological information here. I have found that when hiking the descriptions are not always accurate. Some of the landmarks, for example, didn't seem to be where they are explained. Also, some of the color markings for certain trails are either inaccurate or outdated. I recommend it as a good place to start for suggestions on places to hike. However, I would try to obtain more up to date maps or guides of the specific areas you're interested in before venturing out.

I know the Catskills very well. And I will tell you that this book is among the very best when it comes to the Catskills. I don't know about the Hudson Valley area too much except to say that those are the areas that change the most. But the Catskills don't change that much--because it's all state forest preserve and Forever Wild. Still a good deal for enthusiast, especially at the price! Kick's History and original research has been copied by many other writers.

My friend and I have attempted five of the hikes described in Kick's book, and there have always been difficulties. Often, the trail continues accordingly, the scenery reflecting what Kick has described. Once you are deep into the wilderness, quite isolated from civilization, the descriptions in the book no longer match what you are seeing: yellow trails, red trails, blue trails, all disappear, (...)

My advice to those courageous enough to use this imaginary hiking guide: bring a week's worth of water and provisions, and a cell phone. Perhaps this book needs serious updating - or termination of publishing. Good luck and God bless.

Come On! This book is 20 years old and people are reviewing it as if it's new! DUH! This book needs to be taken off the list, but doesn't want to do that, and why? Because they still have books to sell. Nevermind the fact that it draws stupid reviews from all sorts of idiots who think that material this old should still be accurate. Duh, Duh, duh, people.

I can't fully judge this book yet, but if the first hike we did was any indication, this book isn't worth it. We tried the Storm King hike (#9 I believe), and there was no trail to speak of. We managed to trail blaze a way up to the top of Butter Hill, but could not find the supposed yellow blazed trail at all. After searching for over an hour, we gave up and headed back. Very disappointed.

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