DO STAY ON MOWED PATHS AND ROAD because of poison ivy and nasty bugs.

1. **From the Picnic Table.**
   What is the view? —see field, woods, mountains, sky?
   What is the character of the mountains, compared to the Adirondacks, Rockies or any higher mountains you know?? *Our Catskills were actually formed by the erosion of a plateau and are very old, therefore soft and rounded.*

   **Looking at the woods behind the Picnic Table.**
   What are woods like at the edges of fields?
   *Because of the sunshine there are more bushes, undergrowth; it is a place for birds, insects, and small animals. Above are oaks, maples, elms, basswood, and ash trees.*
   *Looking across the road you can see darker, denser woods, less undergrowth, with Cathedral-like vertical trees and light shining through from beyond.*

2. **The two streams.** Walk on the road to the left toward the bridge and small house. You will see left and right at the bridge the small stream—*the Fontayne Kill*, a tributary of *the Sawkill*. Where does it join the Sawkill? Look right, *turn right and about 40 yards down find the rocks on the right and the view. There are steps you can go down at the end of the rocks.* You can see the convergence of the two streams. What is it like?

3. **Retrace steps to the picnic table.** On the way notice the big spray of grape vines to your right.

4. **At the table join the nature path to the far right to walk along the field.** Just beyond the first big telephone pole, find a huge stand of *mugwort* with its silvery backed leaves. Close up it has a slightly sage-like smell. *Mugwort is an invasive species.* What does that mean? *Invasive species are plants that have been introduced from outside, propagate very fast and edge out the native flora.*
   See down below to the right of the mugwort, the lovely *clematis vines* with tiny white flowers.

5. **Between the two telephone poles, find the numbered 5 spot.**
   See how many different kinds of vegetation you can count. You may find *chickweed* (with tiny white flowers that look like a daisy; it is called “chickweed”, because chickens like to eat it), *jewelweed* (with tiny orange flowers), and the taller *milkweed* (some with pods as you go; *lots of the shorter plants in the field, which has been mowed.*)
6. **By and beyond the second telephone poll.** Find the **American hornbeam birches** with grey bark and fluted trunks, draped with **grape vines**, which fall over the path and curve up gracefully, growing up under the trees. 

*As you walk further you will see more views of the Fontayne Kill to your right and another big stand of mugwort.* Follow the path going right through the mugwort. What do you hear?

As you walk beyond that how much more of the mountains can you see?

7. **A young white pine tree.** Walking beyond the mugwort, come upon the medium sized white pine tree on the right with its spray of needles at the end of every branch. **White pines can become 100 feet tall and live 200 to 250 years.** **There are some that live to 400 years old.** **White pines and cedars are the first come into open spaces as early species in the development of a forest.**

8. **Walk quite a ways to the last view spot of the Fontayne Kill.**

You will see lots of bushy **multiflora rose bushes** along the way with their prickly branches. **They are pleasant when they flower but are another invasive species.** At the mowed look-out spot, find to your right an **American winterberry tree** with its green berries. **These berries will turn red in the fall!**

Looking at the stream you can see stream grasses and a stony island.

*From here you can continue on the path to the end where it curves around and returns.* **Or you can retrace your steps until you find the path that directly leads to the other main events.** *(You will have to cross a bit of unmowed meadow to get to that cross path)*

ENJOY!!