

# Preliminary Botanical Survey of the Lucas Tract, Kaaterskill Clove, for the Catskill Center.

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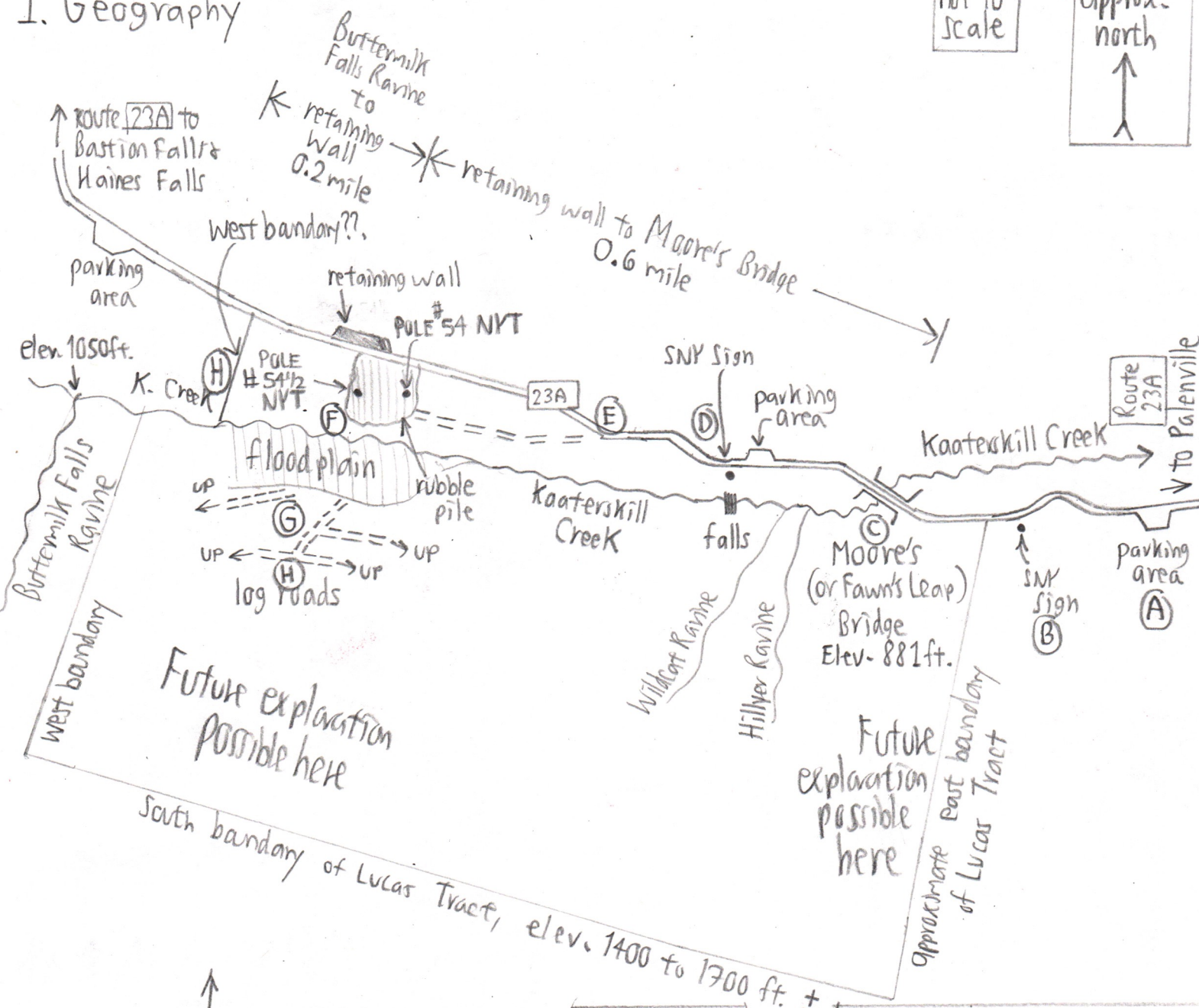
5057

June 4, 1994

## I. Geography

not to scale

approx. north  
↑



The log road above the "G" has been eroded into the glacial till to a depth of 3 feet by runoff.

Approximate elevations via barometer:  
 Moore's Bridge (from U.S.G.S. Maps): 881 ft.  
 Point (E) 1010 ft.  
 Point (G) 1045 ft.  
 Point (H), highest explored, 1120 ft.

## 505-8 Interpretation, Continued

Along the south bank of the Creek between the Bridge (C) and the falls (D), the topography is a near-vertical cliff with exceedingly steep slopes above. The forest above these cliffs is probably old growth because of its inaccessibility, although renewed landslides most surely are a frequent natural disturbance.

From point (B), the slopes are steep but climbable in the vicinity of the east bandary. A future expedition to confirm or deny old growth here is possible.

The August 1900 burn, and probably many earlier forest fires, apparently swept up the north wall of the Cove only. The south (Lucas) side has not burned.



## III. Interpretation

505-8

### 1. Lucas Tract Boundary:

At the Catskill Center Annual Meeting, Norm VanValkenburgh informed me that the land between the Kaaterskill Creek and State Highway 23A from Moore's (Fawns Leap) Bridge westward most, but not all, of the way belongs to Lucas.

At point D, a sign indicated State Land and the Catskill Trails (1989) Map #40 → also suggests all public land between the Kill and the Highway. The 1983 Catskill Land Map (by D.E.C.) agrees <sup>north Lucas</sup> so does the Catskill Center map.

We need to find at where the present <sup>^</sup>bandary lies. If the maps are correct, then the list of plants on the reverse side of this sheet, from point E to point F describes public land.

The blaze marking the east line of the Lucas Tract we could not find from the Highway, but a sign at one point B <sup>^</sup>did inform us that we were on State Land. Whether the sign marks the east bandary I do not know.

2. From Point E to Point F: This area has been much disturbed by highway reconstruction in 1988 and earlier. The old road in is blocked by a huge noble boulder pile at Pole #54. We were forced to ford the Creek there and explore the south side. The north bank under the highway is dominated by many pioneer native species and European weeds, plants which thrive in abundant sunlight.

North bank

3. Point G, south bank. Although the flood plain is quite open and filled with pioneer disturbance species and weeds (due to numerous re-ratings of the Creek), the south bank above it is much less disturbed. It is a logged forest, but only logged, not cleared. Species are listed on the right side of the reverse side of this page. Cables, old drums, steel plates, other debris, and stumps probably dating back to the 1950s or 1960s are the only evidence of human disturbance. We could not find the tannery ruins. Log roads branch & run up the slopes

South bank

4. Rare plants and Old growth forest: No rare, endangered nor threatened plants were found. If desired, another exploration could follow up each log road, pursuing it until it ends and measuring that elevation. Above these log roads, the forest is probably old growth.

(continued)



# III. Floristic Listing

505-8

North side of Kaaterskill Creek from Point (E) to Point (F)

South side of Kaaterskill Creek at areas (G) & (H)

TREES	DICOT HERBS
Trembling aspen	* Bedstraw
E. Cottonwood	* Common St. Johnswort
Bigtooth aspen	* Tansy
Bebb's willow	Red raspberry
Stiff willow	Rough-leaved goldenrod
Gray birch	Wild sarsaparilla
Yellow birch	Golden Alexanders
① • <u>Black birch</u>	* Burdock
Paper birch	Common cinquefoil
* Black locust	White woodland aster
E. Hemlock	Agrimony
E. white pine	Virginia waterleaf
② • <u>N. red oak</u>	Canada goldenrod
Beech	Blackberry
Striped maple	Whorled loosestrife
Red maple	⑤ <u>Wintergreen</u>
Sugar maple	Early golden-red
Serviceberry	Purple-flowering raspberry
Hop hornbeam	Strawberry
White ash	
Staghorn sumac	
Basswood	
American elm	
• Sycamore	
	<u>MONOCOTS</u>
<u>SHRUBS &amp; LIANAS</u>	* Orchard grass
③ • <u>Mantain laurel</u>	* Quack grass
④ • <u>Dogwood</u> (probably rough-leaved)	* Blue grass
Meadowsweet	* Thin grass
Grape	British Soldier lichen
Bush honeysuckle	
Poison ivy	
<u>FERNS</u> - Polypody	
Marginal shield	
Sensitive	

TREES	DICOT HERBS
Yellow birch to 24" D.B.H.	Sharp-leaved aster
• <u>Black birch</u> ①	Common speedwell
Beech	Sweet-scented bedstraw
White ash	Blue cohosh
Sugar maple	Jewelweed
Striped maple	Toothwort
• <u>N. red oak</u> ②	Climbing buckwheat
Basswood	* Hemp nettle
Red maple	Strawberry
* Ailanthus on flood plain	Herb Robert
• Red spruce (one) at (C)	White snake root
	Rattlesnake root or wild lettuce (??)
<u>SHRUB</u>	* Colts foot
Red elderberry	<u>MONOCOT HERBS</u>
	Jack-in-the-pulpit
	Purple trillium
	Canada mayflower
	Mantain-leaved sedge
	<u>FERNS</u>
	Intermediate woodfern
	Christmas fern
	Interrupted "
	Marginal shield "
	Silvery spleenwort "
	Lady fern
	Hay-scented fern

Bum index 5

* Mullein
* Dame's rocket
* Crucifer (not I.D.)
Pussy toes
Golden Ragwort
* Crown vetch?
* Forget-me-not
* Tall meadow buttercup

HORSETAIL  
Common field

Point (B) area: Large-leaved aster  
Mantain maple  
Witch hobble  
Racemose Aralia  
Fragile fern  
Solomon's seals

\* introduced & naturalized