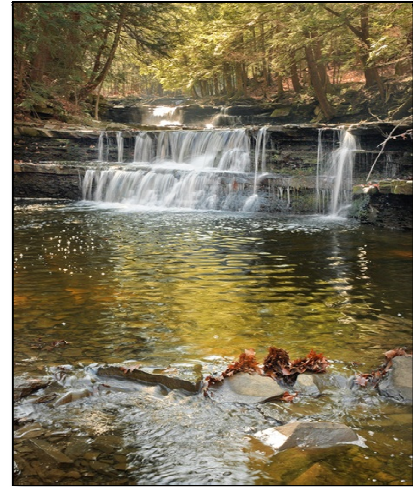


CHRISTMAN SANCTUARY

Description: Christman Sanctuary is located on the Bozen Kill (aka Bozenkill). There is one broad 20' waterfall, and many smaller falls and cascades. (Some books list this as Bozen Kill Falls, but this is incorrect. There is a much taller Bozen Kill Falls farther downstream, but it is located on private property and not accessible.)

Location: This property is now managed by The Nature Conservancy. The trails are well marked and maintained. The property was donated to the Nature Conservancy by Mr. Lansing Christman in 1970 in memory of his father, William Christman, a poet and nature writer who dedicated the property to nature conservation.



Directions*: The small parking area is just over 3 miles from the intersection of the Old Schoharie Turnpike and State Route 20 in Delanson, NY. After you cross the railroad tracks, the parking lot is at the top of the hill on the left. From the parking lot, the trail heads southeast; the sign in box is on the right as you enter the pine forest. This is the start of the Blue Trail, which is one long loop, so you take the same trip no matter which way you choose to go. The left trail goes toward the downstream end of the property. The right trail leads to a small bridge and toward the top of the main waterfall. I recommend the left trail on your first visit as I feel the presentation of the waterfalls is best when approached from downstream. There are several side trail indicated on the map, but these are not covered here as they have no waterfalls.

Photography: When water is flowing, every waterfall and cascade is worth photographing. However, the stream is seasonal, so the best times are during the Spring thaw, and in Fall after a good rain. The main trail parallels the stream, so there is little problem finding the waterfalls.

Take left trail down through a nice deciduous forest; when it finally meets the Bozen Kill, you will find the first cascade, pictured above. To the right is the Yellow Trail, which leads to Mr. and Mrs. Christman's memorial. If you visit in November, note the small yellow flowers on the Witch Hazel tree where these trails meet.

There are three nice cascades here. One of the side trails (Orange markers) crosses the Bozen Kill at the top of the third. The Blue Trail moves up to the right, away from the stream and into the mixed deciduous forest. About 100 yards along the trail, look carefully for the Yellow Trail which lead off to the left through a narrow split in the rocks, and down to the main waterfall.

The path through the split rock is steep, and in winter also very icy. A tightly strung cable has been installed here as a safety measure. While a good grip on it might prevent a long drop to the stream bed, it does not offer a great deal of stability. Instep crampons are recommended in winter. As the bottom of the descent is another cascade followed by a broad 6' waterfall before you reach the main waterfall.

* Use the accompanying KML file to generate your own driving directions in Google Earth!

Passing this second waterfall, you enter into a beautiful and fairly open pine woods. You will see a small lean-to ahead, and the main waterfall. There are many wildflowers which grow here including Trillium and Mountain Laurel. To the left you will see a broad shale cliff from which water seeps constantly; this forms an 'ice wall' in winter that is reminiscent of a bank of organ pipes.

The main waterfall offers many photographic opportunities. In winter, an 'ice cave' forms behind the water fall which can often be entered from one or both sides.

As you exit, and continue left up the Blue Trail, look for the sharp right turn as it heads back to the sign-in box. You will pass through a pine plantation just before arriving back at the small bridge and starting point.

Accessibility: This property is well maintained, and suitable for children. In the pine plantation section there is abundant poison ivy, which can be avoided by staying on the trail. The trail has a few steep sections, which can be slippery in wet conditions. The stream bed becomes exceptionally slippery as algae builds on the rocks, and the loose rock stream bed can be challenging as well. I have found poison ivy in the dry stream bed from time-to-time.

Web: The Nature Conservancy www.nature.org

Christman Sanctuary www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/newyork/preserves/art30293.html

Trail Map http://www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/newyork/files/eny_christman_map.pdf