

Schenectady Chapter of the ADK

April/May 2004

Spring & Summer Hiking Seminar
Presented by
Maria Beurmann & Mac Stafford

Schenectady Chapter ADK Inning
"Hiking the Taconic Crest"
Colin Campbell

When: Monday, April 26, 2004

When: Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Shenendehowa Library
47 Clifton Country Road
Clifton Park, NY

Where: McChesney Room
Schenectady Co. Public Library
99 Clinton Street (at Liberty)
Schenectady, NY

Are you new to hiking and camping in the Adirondack wilderness and you need information on clothing, equipment, trails and hiking ethics? Join Maria Beurmann, Membership Chair, and Mac Stafford, Education Chair, at the Shenendehowa Library. This is an excellent opportunity to raise questions and to take notes and have an open discussion on spring and summer hiking and camping.

Refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes.

To make a reservation for this event, please call the Shenendehowa Library at 371-8622

Attendees will have an opportunity to apply what they have learned in the seminar on a day trip led by Harold McCumber on the Northville Lake Placid Trail.

Most of us hike in the Adirondacks and Catskills, but the Taconic Range, on the New York/Massachusetts border, is less familiar to many of us. A continuous 35-mile trails lies along the crest of the Taconics, offering views of the Adirondacks, Catskills and Green Mountains. Please join us as Colin Campbell speaks on "Hiking the Taconic Crest"

Colin, an affiliate member of the Schenectady ADK, is Trails Chairman of the Taconic Hiking Club, which has taken a lead role in the development and maintenance of the Taconic Crest Trail. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about year-round hiking opportunities in an area close to Schenectady.

For more information about the program, please call Norm Kuchar at 399-6243

**See page 14 for the Taconic Hiking Club's "End-to-End Challenge."*

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Leader's Pace</u>	<u>Terrain</u>	<u>Examples</u>
A+ 13 Miles or More	1. Fast	A Very Difficult	A+1A Most Difficult Trip
A 8-12 Miles	2. Moderate	B Strenuous	B2C Moderate Trip
B 5-8 Miles	3. Slow	C Average	C3D Easy Trip
C Under 5 Miles		D Easy	

Innings & Outings Schedule for April & May 2004

*FOR FURTHER DETAILS and TO SIGN UP, CALL TRIP LEADER. Try to call at least two days in advance.
Leaders may cancel on the day before an outing if there is insufficient interest.*

VOLUNTEER TO BE A LEADER or CO-LEADER FOR AN OUTING -- CALL WALT HAYES, 399-7482

In this *Lookout* we are including several Conservation Outings in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness Area. These outings are intended to help ADK members get more familiar with the area so that we may make constructive suggestions as input to the upcoming Unit Management Plan (UMP). *These trips for May and June will all be joint outings with Albany Chapter.*

Sat 3 Apr
Lake Ann, Class C3C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

An easy hike in the new area of the Moreau Lake State Park. We will climb about 700 feet to this small lake in the Park and then get views from the trail overlooking the Hudson River. About 4 miles round trip.

Sat 10 Apr
Big Marsh, Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Conservation Outing – Hoffman Notch Wilderness
Check out the trail from Loch Muller to Big Marsh for ADK input to the UMP. This will be a fact-finding trip. Come help and have fun. About 8 miles with little elevation gain.

Sat 24 Apr
McKenzie Mountain, Class B2B
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

With an altitude of 3861 feet, McKenzie just misses being one of the Adirondack High Peaks. Lying isolated just west of Lake Placid, McKenzie's summit offers extensive views of many of the High Peaks as well as of Lake Placid and the Saranac Lakes. We will do a loop hike from Whiteface Inn Road. Distance is about 7 miles, with an ascent of 1940 feet.

Sat 24 Apr
Whitewater Rafting
Laura Perrault, 664-6781

Guided rafting on the Hudson River Gorge with Wildwater Outfitters. Meet at 8:30 at The Glen, Rt. 28 near Warrensburg. Should be Class 2+ to 3+ depending on the river levels. Wetsuit, lunch on the river and dinner back at the Lodge provided. Back at 3:30. ADK members and friends welcome (age 16 and over). Cost: \$65 – Send check made out to Wildwaters to 5 Werner Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065. **Deadline: April 14th.**

Mon 26 Apr
"Spring & Summer Hiking Seminar"
Shenendehowa Library at 7:00 p.m.
Clifton Park, NY
Maria Beurmann & Mac Stafford

This seminar is similar to the one held last month at Boscov's in Colonie, but will be more involved to include backpacking and camping. Harold McCumber will lead a hike in May where attendees can apply what they have learned and he will demonstrate various equipment in a camp setting. See page 1 for details. If others are interested in the hike, call Harold at 274-3960 for date and to sign up.

Tues 27 Apr
"Hiking the Taconic Crest"
Schenectady County Public Library
7:30 p.m.
Colin Campbell

Join us for this Inning and hear Colin Campbell, Trails Chair of the Taconic Hiking Club, speak on this trail located close to the Schenectady area. This is a wonderful trail to hike year round. The Taconic Hiking Club has a Summer and a Winter End-to-End Patch and every other year holds an End-to-End Endurance Challenge and is presently scheduled for May 8, 2004. (See pages 1 and 14 for more information.)

Sat 1 May
Loch Muller to Trout Brook,
Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Conservation Outing – Hoffman Notch Wilderness
This former snowmobile trail is expected to be found in poor condition from lack of use and maintenance. Help ADK find the facts. About six miles. On a trail, but bushwhack-like conditions.

Sun 2 May
Castle Rock, Class C2D
Bruce Goodale, 584-0588

A nice, easy family hike to get warmed up for the season. Castle Rock is located along the northern shore of Blue Mountain Lake. The round trip distance is 4 miles and involves some gradual uphill. From the top of Castle Rock there are great views of the Lake and nearby areas.

Tues or Wed, 4 or 5 May
Big Marsh from north, Class B2C
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

Conservation Outing – Hoffman Notch Wilderness
UMP issues in this section of the area include possible trail relocation, private land crossing and location and destination of side trails. This is a great opportunity to see the Notch itself. Mostly on trails for about 8 miles. Very little elevation change.

Sat 8 May
Rock Lake Trail Maintenance,
Class A3C,
Ken & Nilde Marcinowski,
885-9400

Join us for "spring cleaning" on this section of the Northville Placid Trail (Stony Creek Barrier to Rock Lake). We will be concentrating on clearing drainage ditches and some side cutting with possible blow down clearing. We expect to lunch at Rock Lake. Rolling terrain with minimal ascent. Please call by Thursday Evening prior to hike.

Sat 8 May
Thomas Cole Mountain, Class B2B
Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

From Barnum Road, it's 4.8 miles (RT) and 1800 feet of ascent to one of the Catskill 3500. Summit itself has no view to speak of, but there will be great views and lots of spring wildflowers along the way.

Sun 9 May
Hadley Mt. FT, Class C3C
Ruth Schottman, 399-5728

Fire Tower Challenge

Annual Mother's Day wildflower pilgrimage up Hadley Mt. We climb the 1.8 miles with 1525 ascent, slowly, eat lunch at the top and descend more quickly. Hadley is a small mountain with great views, but the climb is steep and rocky. Coming down may be harder than going up.

Wed 12 May
Bailey Pond and Bailey Hill, B+
Tom McGuire, 479-0125

Conservation Outing – Hoffman Notch Wilderness

This trip is part of the series to explore some of the treasures in the area. This trip follows a marked trail in the Southern part of the Wilderness Area to Bailey Pond and we then continue up the ridge line to the summit of Bailey Hill. According to the map there should be some good views from this ridge. The total distance is 8 miles, 3 ½ of which is off trail. The total elevation gain is 1600 feet.

Sun 16 May
Auger Falls, Class C2C
Mary MacDonald, 371-1293

This outing is along the Sacandaga River off Route 30. It will be about 4 miles with little elevation change. An easy walk. The falls is spectacular.

Fri 21 May
New member Pizza Party
Maria Beurmann, 399-7409
RSVP by Monday, May 17

This will be a time for new members to become acquainted with some Board Members and ask questions about the Chapter. This is primarily geared to all new members in 2004 and 2003, however, long-standing members are also welcome. **See page 10 for details.**

Sat 22 May
Severance Hill Plus, Class B2C
Bob Ringlee, 374-6760

Conservation Outing – Hoffman Notch Wilderness

Discover the secrets of the SE section of the Wilderness area – NYS trails, former trails and informal paths. Our leader studied the area in the 1960's in the ADK effort to understand the impact of the proposed Hoffman Mountain Ski Center. Let him show you his recent discoveries and help with the input to the UMP.

Sat 22 May
Northville-Placid Trail Steward
Trip, Class B3D
Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

Join us for our semi-annual cleanup patrol on the Northville-Placid trail, between McCane's and Lake Durant. Sidecutting, drainage clearing, light blowdown removal. 5.7 rolling miles as a through trip, and a nice lunch spot at Stephens Pond. Easy introduction to trail maintenance.

Tues 25 May
Cascade Mountain, Class B3B
Nancy Slack, 377-7422

This is a wildflower hike up this Adirondack High Peak. The pace will be slow. About 1940 foot ascent with 4.8 miles round trip.

Sat 29 May
Big Pond, Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Conservation Outing – Hoffman Notch Wilderness
Explore trails and paths in the Big Pond area for ADK input to the UMP. About 4 to 5 miles with some bushwhacking. An easy day with possible swim at Big Pond if weather and time allow.

Sat 5 June
National Trails Day
Schenectady Bike Path Cleanup
Stan Stoklosa, 383-3066

Join Stan and Howard Halstead and celebrate the 11th Anniversary of NTD at the Chapter's Annual Bike Path Cleanup. Refreshments will be provided. More details will be in the next issue of *The Lookout*. If you want more information now, call Stan.

Sat 5 June
National Trails Day
Wanakena & Cranberry Lake Area
Wes Lampman, ADK's Director of Field Operations, 523-3441

Sidecutting, pit-privy relocation and rock waterbar construction are just some of the projects available at this event as well as a recreational hike and canoe trip. Barbeque at the end of the day. See Page 13 for details.

Wed 9 June
Washburn Ridge, Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Conservation Outing – Hoffman Notch Wilderness
Follow old roads to views from cliff tops. About 1000 feet of ascent with 6 miles. Some bushwhacking.

Wed 23 June
Marion Pond, Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Conservation Outing – Hoffman Notch Wilderness
Climb Hayes Mountain on informal path to explore area for UMP. Five miles with 700 ft ascent. Possible swim in the pond.

ADVANCED OUTINGS NOTICE
Fri 9 July – Sun 11 July, 2004
Mt. Katahdin
Mac Stafford, 381-6911
And Rene Lussier

We have reserved two camp sites in Baxter State Park, at Roaring Brook Camp Site. We will drive to Baxter on Friday, hike on Saturday, and drive home on Sunday. For further details call Mac. These trips have filled up quickly in the past so don't wait too long to sign up!

Advanced Outings Notice –June 20 to June 26, 2004
Presidential Range--White Mountains Hut to Hut Trip

We will stay at Pinkham Notch Visitor Center the first night; shuttle to Crawford Notch the next day where we will begin our hike to different AMC huts. The Presidential Range and a section of The A-T are just some of the activities on this exciting traverse. Climb higher and closer to Mount Washington each day through beautiful woods, waterfalls, summits and overlooks with ever changing great views. We will be doing short day hikes from the huts on our layover days. We will hike over rough and often steep trails with over 5000 feet of elevation gain. Each person carries their own gear to include: well broken-in boots, sufficient pack, and light weight winter wear for higher elevations. Hikers must be able to hike several miles with a pack with a weight limit of 30 lbs. over varied, strenuous terrain with varied elevation gains and weather conditions. Trip is limited to 12 hikers. Cost is \$600 and includes transportation to trailheads, lodging, breakfasts and dinners at all AMC facilities. *No spaces held without a deposit* of \$315. For more information, contact Frank G. Sorbero, Jr., 7 McClellan Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010-3424, 518/843-2786; e-mail fsorbero@nycap.rr.com

In Appreciation

Hike leaders for the year ending September 2003 who scheduled 5 to 13 outings are receiving gift certificates to use at the ADK Headquarters.

Harold McCumber	13 trips	\$80 gift certificate
Norm Kuchar	7	\$40
Betty Lou Bailey	5	\$40
Melinda Broman	5	\$40

Thanks to these leaders for their efforts!

I am looking for members interested in and qualified to lead trips on the AT in Massachusetts. We are hoping to offer 11 one-day trips over the next few years to complete the Massachusetts AT from north to south. Talk to Walt Hayes or Betty Lou Bailey if interested.

Walt Hayes, Outings Chair – 399-7482

Schenectady ADK
Offers
Novice/Intermediate Whitewater Instruction

Intermediate whitewater instruction for either kayak or solo open canoe will be available the weekend of June 5 and 6. This clinic is designed for boaters who have had some previous instruction, but still need more work to perfect the basic strokes and maneuvers. Students should have paddled class 1 or 2 whitewater 5 or more times and be able to perform eddy turns, peel-outs, and ferries on class I water. They should be able to paddle in a straight line with confidence, identify river features including eddies, waves, and holes, and self rescue in class I and II whitewater. Kayakers are working on, or have a flatwater roll, and are comfortable with wet exits. Learning goals would include skills that would bring students to solid class 2 or 2+ paddling ability. We will start on flatwater to refine paddling techniques as well as practicing low braces for solo open canoe and rolls for kayakers. On the river, we will work on performing crisp, reliable eddy turns, peel-outs, controlling the angle on ferries and gaining overall experience. Instruction will start at 9 a.m. at a location to be determined later and be over each day by late afternoon. Enrollment is limited to 6 people in each type of paddling. Students must provide their own equipment including the boat. Cost for the two days of instruction is \$20. For further information, contact either Chuck Wilkison for solo open canoe (793-8041) or Sally Dewes for kayak (346-1761).

2004 Schenectady ADK Whitewater Paddling Schedule

Lifejackets are required on all paddling trips. Dress appropriately for weather conditions. All trip leaders will screen prospective paddlers to be sure equipment and experience is appropriate for the trip. Misrepresentation or over estimation of skills is a common cause of whitewater accidents. Paddling skill should allow each boat to confidently eddy out regularly, thereby keeping the group together and for members to keep an eye out for each other. Boats should be appropriately outfitted for the level of water.

Date	Day	Trip location	Class	Leader	Phone
4-03	Sat	Catskill Creek	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
4-04	Sun	Batten Kill 1; from 7A to state line	1	Jack Daniels	864-5689
4-06	Tue	Normanskill; after work; meet at 5 PM	2	Sally Dewes	346-1726
4-10	Sat	Upper Esopus Creek to Elmer's Corner	3	Bob Wright	279-1428
4-11	Sun	Schoharie I; from N. Blenheim to Middleburg	1	Jack Daniels	864-5689
4-17	Sat	East and West Branches of the Sacandaga	3	Mal Provost	399-1565
4-18	Sun	East Branch of the Sacandaga up stream of Griffin Falls	2	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
4-21	Wed	Schaghticoke release on the Hoosic River starting in the afternoon and continuing until sunset. Run the falls or start lower.	3 or 5/3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
4-23 to 4-25	Fri to Sun	Paddlers weekend away to "Silver Staircase" or another great place to paddle. Paddle all three days.	3 3+	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
4-24	Sat	Whitewater rafting trip down the Hudson Gorge with Wildwaters Outdoor Center guides. Prior paddling experience not required. The cost of \$65 includes all equipment, wet suits and supper at the end of the trip. Reservations and Check deadline is 4/15/04.	2/3	Ken & Laura Perrault 5 Werner Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065 ncreek9@cs.com	664-6781
4-24	Sat	Schoharie 2; from Powerhouse Rd to Fort Hunter. This will be an afternoon trip	2	Betty Lou Bailey	355-0604
4-25	Sun	Leader's choice class 2 whitewater possibly the Sacandaga River from Wells to Hope	2	Larry Woods	271-0270

Date	Day	Trip location	Class	Leader	Phone
4-29	Thu	East Canada Creek	3	Betty Lou Bailey	355-0604
5-01	Sat	Hudson River; North Creek to the Glen	3	Chet Harvey + Kathy Armstrong	346-4920
5-02	Sun	Schoharie 3; Esperance to Powerhouse Rd	3	Betty Lou Bailey	355-0604
5-08	Sat	Hudson River II: North River to North Creek in the morning and from the Glen to Snake Rock in the after noon	2	Sharon Lamb	743-1707
5-08	Sat	West Branch of the Sacandaga from Whitehouse	3	Charlie Beach	459-9127
5-09	Sun	Kinderhook Creek	2/3	Jim Pirman	272-4996
5-15	Sat	Schroon River	3	Mal Provost	399-1565
5-22	Sat	Leader's Choice	3	Shelly Nevard & Larry Woods	783-7874 271-0270
5-23	Sun	Hoosic River: Williamstown, Mass. to North Pownal, Vt.	1+	Bob Wright	279-1428
5-29	Sat	Housatonic 2; exact trip will depend on water level and release schedule	2	Jack Daniels	864-5689
5-29	Sat	Deerfield River; Dry Way section	4	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
5-31	Mon	Hudson River from Raparius to the Glen; Lunch, swim and play time at the island	3	Judy Halstead	583-2504
6-05 6-06	Sat Sun	Beginning whitewater kayak instruction from Wildwaters Outdoor Center	1	Wildwaters	1-800- 867-2335
6-05 6-06	Sat Sun	Intermediate solo canoe & kayak instruction offered		Chuck Wilkison Sally Dewes	793-8041 346-1761
6-05	Sat	Esopus Creek	3	Kathy Magee	864-5675
6-05	Sat	Hudson River II: North River to North Creek in the morning and from the Glen to Snake Rock in the after noon	2	Tom Gibbs	583-1550
6-06	Sun	Hoosic River from Vt. State line to Hoosick Falls	1+	Bob Wright	279-1428
6-12 6-13	Sat Sun	Intermediate whitewater Kayak instruction from Wildwaters Outdoor Center	2	Wildwaters	1-800-867- 1761
6-12	Sat	Schroon River	3	Rick Gonzales	355-3403 356-6116 (w)
6-13	Sun	Deerfield River; Fife Brook section	2/3	Norm Labbe	877-0076

Trip Tales

Back Country Ski from Garnet Hill to Route 8 01/17/04

Seven hearty skiers got up early to meet at the trailhead on route 8 at 8:00 a.m. in order to set up the shuttle back to our starting point near the Garnet Hill Ski Area. We were on the trail by 9:00 a.m. and started quickly up the gradual incline for 2.5 miles. We reached this height of land and a bright sunny sky in about an hour and were down to the bridge crossing over the East Branch of the Sacandaga in 1.5 hours. After a short ten-minute break, we headed for the lean-to, but a lot of blowdown slowed our progress and we did not reach our lunch spot until noon. Trail conditions improved greatly as we left the lean-to and headed towards Route 8. The temperatures had risen by this time to mid 20 degrees and the sun was shining warmly in our faces. Some of us put on skins for the one-mile climb up our last hill. The snow here was adequate for the climb, but not really deep enough for fun downhill skiing. The thin snow cover did produce interesting ski techniques by our group in order to make it down this last steep hill. We were in our cars by 3:00 p.m. and headed to the Pine Tree Diner for strawberry shortcake and coffee. I have now done this trip going in both directions and feel going from 13th Lake to Route 8 is the more enjoyable. There are more miles of downhill going in this direction and facing the sun all day definitely elevated my mood. The steep downhill at the end can be a problem when there is thin snow cover or when the skiers do not have a solid snowplow. Either way, it is great backcountry ski!! Participants were Horst deLorenzi, Larry Woods, Shelly Nevard, Dave Legg, Morris Kopels, Jim Hanley. (Chuck Wilkison)

East Mill Flow Snowshoe 01/24/04

Ken and Nilde Marcinowski joined me on this brisk (-16° as we left the car) but absolutely perfect, gorgeous winter day — dark blue sky and brilliant sun. We were able to inspect an osprey nest that had been seen previously only from a distance. Many beaver lodges were seen — most not currently active. We had lunch at Bullpout Pond, a beautiful, small remote gem. (Walt Hayes)

Patria Forest Snowshoe 02/07/04

This trip turned out to be very nice, even after the previous days rain. Still plenty of snow to enjoy this beautiful section of the Long Path North. Snowshoers accompanying trip leader were Fred and Debbe Langevin, Rene Lussier and Walt Hayes. (Mac Stafford)

Bloody Mountain 02/14/04

A dramatic winter day with light blowing snow and limited visibility. We climbed Bloody (a minor peak of Hail Mountain) from Pine Pond after crossing Hammond Pond from the trail. We were delayed by the leader starting on the wrong trail and then falling through the ice near a beaver lodge. These delays kept us from reaching the summit, but it was a good day using a new route up Bloody. Participants were Bob Boromisa, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski and Berne Show. (Walt Hayes)

Harvey Mt. Snowshoe 02/16/04

This new state land isn't well known, but there were some tracks from prior usage. We had a glorious blue, clear sky although cold and windy on the summit. The Blackhead Range in the Catskills looked like one big mountain since we were due east. We could see the downhill ski area on the south side of Mass. 23. Couldn't find the state boundary marker; most likely covered by snow. Our lead snowshoe track maker was Karen Kast. New members were April VanHeusen and Darina Kafka. Others on the trip were Chuck Newland, Walt Hayes and Lois Leonard. (Betty Lou Bailey)

Ausable Lakes Ski 02/22/04

An absolutely wonderful day! Perfect weather, perfect snow (new powder), blue sky, moving clouds. Less wind than usual and snow-covered spruce and balsam trees on the "carry". The view of the range from Upper Ausable Lake — Haystack, Basin, et. al. — was spectacular. Why didn't more people come? Sherrie Lyons and Claudine Roseholy* participated. (Nancy Slack)

Garnet Hill Cross Country Ski 02/26/04

Wanting to ski closer to home, the destination was changed to Murphy Lake from Pumpkin Hollow Road. Warming temperatures throughout the day brought improved conditions for our ski in to the lean-to. The conditions brought some icy, as well as some sticky spots, with plenty of snow. Deer and coyote tracks and chickadees were plentiful along the trail. Prior snowmobile travel gave us a good base and a good skiable trail with few exposed rocks. No snowmobiles were heard or seen. The Leader's chronic rubbernecking problem caused him to see two bald eagles in a field in Northhampton on the way home. Roger and Liz Feuerstein joined me on this ski trip. (Frank Sorbero)

Spring & Summer Hiking Seminar 02/26/04

Thirteen individuals attended this seminar presented by Maria Beurmann and Mac Stafford at the Boscov's Auditorium in Colonie Center. They were a very interested group taking notes and asking a lot of questions. Marcia Metzger, who joined our Chapter after attending our previous Inning at Boscov's on "Wilderness Safety and Survival Skills" indicated she had already gone on a hike with Betty Lou Bailey. While attending the Trails Committee Meeting the following weekend, Neil recognized two of the attendees who were perusing the store at ADK Headquarters, so we had a little chat before they left. Thanks to Mary MacDonald who provided cookies for this event. (Jackie Parker)

Green Mountain 02/28/04

A sunny, but warm winter day with temperatures getting into the 40's by afternoon. A packed snowmobile trail to the lean-to at Stony Pond gave us a speedy start putting us ahead of schedule all day. We crossed Stony Pond, Center Pond and other unnamed ponds and swampy areas to start up the north peak of Green. We soon were on a marked and cut hunter's path taking us to the summit. Nice views of Snowy Mountain on the way up and the High Peaks just beyond the summit. The relatively flat top is crowned by a 30 foot knob where we had lunch. The high temperatures made the return trip more difficult by allowing snow to clump in our crampons. Participating were Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, April VanHeusen and Holly Woodworth. (Walt Hayes)

Clapper Hollow State Forest Ski 02/29/04

Again, on the second attempt poor snow and icy conditions in Schoharie County dictated a change from the scheduled trip to Bog Meadow in upper Warren County. Sunny skies and warm temperatures made for an enjoyable day of spring skiing. Lunch was eaten sitting on a downed tree on the Bog, after which we explored adjacent bog areas. Activities concluded with supper at Carl R's Café on the way home. Attending were Howard and Emily Hart, Roger and Liz Feuerstein, and dog Zoe. (Jack & Sheila Daniels)

Avalanche Pass Intermediate Ski 03/06/04

Trip cancelled due to warm weather and no sign-ups. (Frank Sorbero)

Giant Ledge 03/07/04

After careful consideration of scarce snow, two of us agreed (erroneously) that snowshoes would not be needed. Walt Hayes checked the two cars beside his and they both had left snowshoes behind. We did take full boot crampons, anticipating some ice. Ice was minimal, the sort one can walk around. Mostly the trails were bare or had slushy snow. Lunch on the first lookout of Giant Ledge was idyllic with warm sun, no wind and lots of mountains to identify. However, we were to take the bushwhack below Giant Ledge on our return. This was a protected area with considerable snow, knee-deep sometimes; other times it would support us some. Thus, the 0.8 mile bushwhack took two strenuous hours — and it would have been very easy on snowshoes. By using this route, it is apparent that Giant Ledge isn't a mountain, but simply one stupendous ledge. Fortunately no greenhorns on this one. (Betty Lou Bailey)

* *I apologize if this name is incorrect, but was not able to read the handwriting of leader or participant. Trip leaders, now that we are publishing the names of participants – please print names clearly on your trip report. Participants, please be kind to your trip leader and spell your name when signing up for an activity. Thank you! (J. Parker)*

Schenectady Chapter of the
Adirondack Mountain Club
Welcomes our New Members!

National Trails Days
Schenectady Chapter's 11th Annual
Bike Path Cleanup

Please come to a Pizza Party
(Casual Wear)

This will be a time to meet some of your Board Members, ask any questions you may have about the Chapter, the ADK, hiking, other activities, etc. (Youth are welcome.)

When: Friday, May 21

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Please call Maria Beurmann at
399-7409 for registration and
directions

Cost: Free!!

Although geared for new members,
also open to long-standing members.

This NTD project, close to home, will take place on the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in Schenectady.

Join Stan Stoklosa and Howard Halstead for a morning spent on trail cleanup. This is generally a half-day project, so you can spend the afternoon biking or hiking on the trail if you so desire.

Refreshments will be provided and more than likely, there will other goodies for all volunteers.

Call Stan at 383-3066
to get more details and to sign up.

Congratulations Betty Lou Bailey!

The following award was presented to Betty Lou at the
4th Annual Presidents Dinner held at the Albany Marriott, March 13, with
many of Betty Lou's friends from the Albany and Schenectady Chapters in attendance.

David L. Newhouse ADK Conservation Award

Betty Lou Bailey has been a member of the Conservation Committee since 1982. She has been active on the Canoe Routes and Catskill Park subcommittees as well as serving as liaison to various conservation and canoeing organizations such as the American Rivers Association and New York Rivers United. She has monitored every hydropower application submitted on New York waterways to the Federal Energy Regulating Commission, and has herself submitted comments, involved chapters and attended hearings. Six articles for *Adirondac* magazine between 1982 and 1988 attest to her concern for canoeing and water-related issues. Her involvement with the Catskill Forest Preserve has led to detailed comments on proposed unit management plans and authorship of most of the related resolutions and communications to ADK's Conservation Committee and Board of Directors.

Conservation Notes

Washington Co. State Forest On 2/10/04 DEC held a scoping meeting for these natural areas which in time will have a Unit Management Plan (UMP). Since there is now a foot trail in the Battenkill State Forest, I requested a visit to be cut to improve the summit view of the Battenkill Valley and Carters Pond Wildlife Management Area (a huge wetland). All of these four state forests are south of the Battenkill, a reasonable distance from Schenectady.

Main Club Conservation Meeting 01/31/04 The large land purchase at Tahawus by Open Space Institute (OSI) from National Lead (currently NL Industries) will mostly be bought by NY State. However, the historic building ruins and iron furnace ruins will not go to NYS. OSI is expected to retain the half acre under the Mt. Adams fire tower. NYS erected the fire tower, so they own it, but not the land underneath it.

ADK's Albany office will now also be representing the Catskill Center for Conservation & Development (Arkville, NY) as of late January, as well as NY-NJ Trail Conference and, of course, ADK.

At the end of 2003, ADK Main Club had lower accounts payable (unpaid bills) than in several years. However, deficits in past years means debt repayment still looms.

Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondacks Quite a few ADK members spoke at the February 9 hearing at the Guilderland Town Hall regarding this draft plan. It is basically too vague and general to satisfy anyone — and that includes the snowmobilers. The plan talks about connecting communities, but says details are to be in the UMP's which were supposed to have been initially written in the 1970's. About half of the Adirondack Wild Forests have no UMP's, although by now most of them have had scoping sessions and some work. Approved and

issued UMP's are another matter — not under control. Many of the plans require changes in APA regulations and some seem to require constitution Act XIV amendments.

Draft Management Plan for Saratoga Historic Park by the National Park Service The review of this has been completed and by the time this is read, I will have written a letter of encouragement. Also, I will recommend that they get easements for certain types of development rights from nearby landowners to the east of the battlefield.

The most noticeable change will be modification of open fields to forest and forest to open fields to better depict farm land and forest boundaries in 1777. Field to forest will take 30+ years. This should aid in understanding battle happenings. Properties to the north, largely ignored at present, will be quipped with signage and foot paths and a new visitor center will be added somewhere near Saratoga Monument. The main tour road through the battlefield will be rerouted to better follow the battle sequence. There will be more emphasis on touring important spots by bicycle or by foot. Furnishings in Schuyler Mansion are to be backdated to 1777, but the house will be left as added onto by the Schuyler family.

General Information

Great Hudson River Paddle July 6-15, 2004

This Albany to New York City paddle is sponsored by The Hudson River Valley Greenway and other co-sponsors. Call the Greenway at 518/473-3835 or fax them at 518/473-4518 or visit their website at www.hudsongreenway.state.ny.us.

Alternatively, call Marisa Iannacito at ADK's Albany office at 449-3870.

Submitted by: Betty Lou Bailey

Volunteer Trail Projects & Workshops

(offered by ADK Main Club Volunteer Trails Program)

April 17, Chainsaw Use & Safety Workshop

The workshop will cover topics related to chainsaw use and maintenance. Participants will gain knowledge of how to use a chainsaw with the primary focus on preparation and safety. The scope of material covered will range from cutting blowdown to sharpening saw chains. There will be a lot of information given regarding various techniques of using a chainsaw on the trail or at home safely. Pre-registration is required and there is a \$25 participation fee.

May 15, Trail Steward/Maintainer Workshop

This workshop is intended to give trail maintainers an understanding of basic trail maintenance concepts and standards. Topics that will be demonstrated and discussed are cleaning drainage, blowdown removal, sidecutting and trail marking. The workshop will be conducted on the main hiking trail that ascends Blue Mountain in the Adirondacks. Tools will be provided. A basic trail maintenance manual will be given to participants upon completion of the workshop.

May 21-23, Johns Brook Valley Trail Work Weekend

This annual trail maintenance trip involves cleaning existing drainage structures and removing blowdown in the Johns Brook Valley. The volunteer crew packs into the Johns Brook Lodge (3.5 miles) on Friday night and conducts maintenance on Saturday and a half-day on Sunday. Food, a bunk bed, tools and experienced leadership will be provided. Please call John Fritzen at 315/687-3371 to register and for more information. There is a \$25 participation fee.

June 5, National Trails Day

This National Trails day event will again be based out of Wanakena and Cranberry Lake region of the Adirondacks. There are multiple projects available to choose from. Sidecutting, pit-privy relocation and rock waterbar construction are just some of the options. There will also be a recreational hike and canoe trip available. After the days events, a barbecue will be held in Wanakena. Tools and experienced leadership will be provided. Participants will receive a NTD T-shirt upon completion of the event.

June 11-16, High School Project

This trail project is reserved for the high school aged teenager who has a desire to spend a week in the woods camping and to participate in some quality trail work. Taking place on the popular fire tower trail up Blue Mountain, participants will construct rock waterbars and rock steps. Arrive Sunday evening at base camp by 6:00 p.m. for dinner and orientation. Food, group camping gear, tools and experienced leadership will be provided. Participants will be out of the woods mid-afternoon on Friday. There is a \$250 participation fee. ADK Chapters and local communities/businesses have sponsored teenagers.

**The following projects will be listed in the next issue of *The Lookout* or
Check out the full list on our website www.geocities.com/schdyadk/
or on The Main Club's website at www.ADK.org**

July 23 - 27 Johns Brook Valley – An opportunity to work and stay at JBL. (\$150 fee)

August 22 - 27 Johns Brook Valley – An opportunity to work and stay at JBL. (\$150 fee)

Sept. 4, Landon G. Rockwell Memorial Project on Cascade Mt.

August 21, Edward L. Stanley Memorial Project on the Rooster Comb Trail.

October 23, Fall Trails Day in the Adirondack Loj area.

Taconic Hiking Club "End-to-End Endurance Challenge"

The Taconic Hiking Club has announced that it will hold its next long-standing End-to-end Challenge on Saturday, May 8, 2004. A 29-mile hiking event on the Taconic Crest Trail atop the Massachusetts - New York border "ridge". The trek must be accomplished in one day to earn a special trail patch and accompanying personal Certificate of Recognition.

This event has been held every other year for approximately the last 35 years. The total trail, stretching from Route 20 near the Hancock Shaker Village to Route 346 in North Petersburg, NY is 35 miles long and goes through a small portion of Vermont as well. The event will start in the Pittsfield State Forest in MA and end at Route 346.

Registration will be limited to 25 people. Prior hiking experience on backwoods trails is strongly recommended. The club will provide a nutritional hot breakfast early Saturday morning and the hikers will take on their personal challenge at 5:30 a.m., rain or shine. Sixteen of 25 registered for the previous challenge earned their trail patches. Complete trail sweeps and several support sites with water, food and other items along the journey will be manned by the club.

Those interested and wishing further information before registering with a \$25.00 fee should contact Colon Campbell, 924 New Scotland Road, Albany, NY 12208 or 518/438-9629, or holesinhead@aol.com

Thank You!

Thanks goes to Art Haberl who has repaired our old snowshoes until they "just plum wore out". Art has donated a new pair to the Chapter and has been given funds from the budget to purchase two additional pairs. We've become hi-tech! There is a snow storm brewing and you may want to rent a pair to try out snowshoeing on one of the hikes listed herein. To rent snowshoes, check out the inside back cover for Art's phone number.

ADK Spring Outing June 18-20, 2004

The Mid-Hudson Chapter will be hosting the Spring Outing with a return to the beautiful Hudson Valley for another weekend of hikes, paddles and historic sites. Hike the Catskills and the Appalachian Trail. Paddle rivers, marshes and creeks.

Headquarters: Poughkeepsie Best Western Inn for lodging, reception suite and Saturday evening dinner. Registration fee: \$25.00

For more information or to register, contact:

Ralph Pollard, 17 Horizon Hill Drive,
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
845/462-3389 or ralphpollard@att.net

For your Information

If you are considering hiking the Northville Lake Placid Trail—the new owners of McCanes have indicated that they want thru hikers to telephone prior to crossing their property. Also, they are presently concerned with hikers who park off road in front of their property then cross their property, especially close to their home. If you hike this section of the NPT, use the trailhead parking lot to park vehicles and follow trail staying as far from their home as possible. Please respect their property and privacy.

The Main Club's Trails Committee is suggesting DEC put in a temporary trail re-location. Currently the planned re-lo for this 5 mile section cannot be done until UMP is completed, hopefully by 2005, with another year passing while the permitting process is done.

Climbers mourn 'Amazing Grace'*

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Grace Hudowalski. As quoted from staff writer, Breea Willingham of the Times Union, "she was the first female member of the Adirondack 46er's and a pioneering High Peaks climber...an avid member of the 46er's for 67 years and its first president." For so many of us, we have lost a treasured friend.

* From the Albany Times Union