

Schenectady Chapter of the ADK

February/March 2004

Spring & Summer Hiking Seminar
Thursday, February 26, 2004

Presented by: Maria Beurmann, Membership Chair
& Mac Stafford, Education Chair
Of The Schenectady Chapter ADK

When: Thursday, February 26, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Boscov's Auditorium
Colonie Center Mall
(Second Level)

Maria and Mac, experienced year-round hikers and backpackers, will show and demonstrate equipment required for spring and summer hiking. They will also recommend books written by experts on hiking in the Adirondacks and the Catskill Mountains. This is an excellent opportunity to raise questions, take notes and have an open discussion on spring and summer hiking.

There is no fee for this seminar and it is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

New Member Walk & Coffee
Saturday, March 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Get a head start on spring. Join us in exploring a segment of the Schenectady Preserve. Ruth Schottman, a noted naturalist and long time member of the ADK, will offer her expertise on the Preserve's flora. We will gather for refreshments after our short hike.

This is primarily geared to 2003's new members, however, long-standing members are welcome.

Call Maria Beurmann, 399-7409, to register.

Northeast Great Outdoors Show
Empire State Plaza - March 19-21, 2004

The Chapter is looking for volunteers to work two-hour shifts at the ADK booth at this year's Outdoors Show. Hand out literature, answer questions and generally promote Schenectady Chapter and the ADK. After your shift, browse through the fishing, camping, equipment, travel and artistic booths free of charge.

Contact Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 to pick a prime spot on the schedule.

Schenectady Chapter Board 2004

The Board has been without a vice-Chair for some time now and we are pleased to announce that Norm Kuchar has volunteered for the position. As per bylaws, he was appointed by the chair to the position and approved by the Board.

Susan Bishop is unable to fill the duty of secretary and the Board is now looking for someone to fill this position. If you are interested, please call Frank Sorbero, 843-2786.

We offer our condolences to Al Fairbanks whose wife, Elaine, passed away on December 22, 2003. The Board will be making a donation to The American Cancer Society in her memory. Al has been active in The Schenectady Chapter and most recently served as Treasurer and Finance Chair.

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 February & March 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

Sat 7 Feb
Patria Forest Snowshoe,
Class C2B
Mac Stafford, 381-6911

We will be walking part of the Long Path north from Mallon Road to Patria, approximately 3+ miles. 600-800' ascent. This will be a through trip.

Sat 7 Feb
Mt. Tremper FT, Class B3C
Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

Fire Tower Challenge
This fire tower will be approached from the trailhead on Co. RTE 40. Although the ascent is 2000 feet, it is by a "jeep road" which makes it an easier climb with a total distance of 5.5 miles. There is a convenient lean-to for lunch. We might need snowshoes and/or instep crampons.

Sat 14 Feb
Bloody Mountain, Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Snowshoe to Bloody Mountain by a different route. About 4 to 6 miles with 1000 feet of ascent. Great views of the High Peaks from this open summit near Hammond Pond.

Sat 14 Feb
Windham High Peak, Class B2B
Al Knight, 827-8599

Catskill snowshoe trip. Icy conditions may require full crampons. This is one of the 35 3500' peaks.

Mon 16 Feb
Harvey Mt. Snowshoe, Class C3C
Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

This trip to top of Harvey Mt. ends with wide open views to the west and a picnic table on the highest point in Columbia County. It is just south of the B3 Thruway exit. We use old woods roads. About 4 miles round trip with 500 feet of ascent.

Sat 21 Feb
Santanoni Ski, Class B2C
Harold McCumber, 274-3960

Ski Santanoni Preserve in Newcomb off Rte 28N. We will ski on the unplowed access road through the woods, so the skiing is technically easy.

Sat 21 Feb
Stephens & Cascade Ponds
Snowshoe, Class A2C
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

This trip uses a scenic and relatively easy route to visit two ponds in the Blue Ridge Wilderness. We will do a loop, using a section of the Northville-Placid Trail, the Cascade Pond Trail; and assuming safe ice, finishing with a walk along Lake Durant. Distance is about 8.8 miles, with a total ascent of about 550 feet.

Sat 21 Feb
Lower Ausable Lake Novice Ski,
Class B
Frank Sorbero, 843-2786

See page 46 in Tony Goodwin's new book, "Ski and Snowshoe Trails in the Adirondacks". Ski along a graded road to Lower Ausable Lake in the Adirondack Mountain Reserve. Scenery is spectacular. An 8.2 mile round trip with a half-mile walk from the parking area to the trail.

Sun 22 Feb
Ausable Lakes Ski, Class A2C
Nancy Slack, 377-7422

Intermediate ski trip to both Lower and Upper Ausable Lakes. Wear warm, non-cotton clothing to protect against wind-tunnel high winds in narrow valley.

Thurs 26 Feb
Garnet Hill Cross Country Ski Center
Frank Sorbero, days at 843-2786
email fsorbero@nycap.rr.com

Garnet Hill offers 50+ kilometers of skiing on groomed trails from novice to expert. A shuttle bus brings you back to the ski shop at the end of your run.

Thurs 26 Feb
Spring & Hiking Seminar
Boscov's Auditorium, Colonie Center
Maria Beurmann & Mac Stafford

This program will be a helpful follow up to the Wilderness Safety & Survival Skills seminar presented at Boscov's in September and will be especially helpful to those new to hiking.

Sat 28 Feb
Green Mountain (Minerva)
Bushwhack, Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This trip will aim for the top of the cliffs of the north summit. The route passes through a valley with an extensive system of beaver ponds and dams; 8 miles with 1000 feet of ascent.

Sun 29 Feb
Clapper Hollow State Forest Ski,
Class B2C
Jack & Sheila Daniels, 864-5689

Second try for this Schoharie County location. Looking for better snow conditions in this beautiful State forest.

Sat 6 Mar
Avalanche Pass Intermediate Ski,
Class A
Frank Sorbero, 843-2786

See Tony Goodwin's new book, "Ski and Snowshoe Trails in the Adirondacks". We will begin at Marcy Dam truck trail from South Meadows. Depending on ambitions and conditions, we may continue on to Lake Colden, making a 12-mile round trip.

Fri 19 – Sat 20 Mar
Northeast Great Outdoors Show
Empire State Plaza
Stan Stoklosa, 383-3066

It's time again for the Outdoors Show in Albany. Volunteers are needed to staff the ADK booth. This is a great time of outreach for our Chapter. Call Stan to sign up for a spot on his schedule.

Sat 20 Mar
Jones Hill Snowshoe Bushwhack,
Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

The fifth annual of this great trip. Snowshoe to some good overlooks along the Jones Hill ridge. Great views of Hoffman Mountain from the ridge. 5+ miles with 1200 feet of ascent.

Sat 27 Mar
Piseco Mt. & Stacy Mt., Class C2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Explore these small bushwhack peaks near Piseco. About 3 miles with 1500 feet of ascent. A short steep climb. Good snowshoe crampons required

Sat 27 Mar
New Member Walk & Coffee
2:00 p.m.
Easy Walk at Schenectady Preserve
Maria Beurmann, 399-7409

Explore a local preserve and enjoy meeting new members. Refreshments will be provided after the walk. Open to all 2003 and 2004 new members. Call Maria to register.

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

This trip is a great introduction for those who have never been to the White Mountains and/or stayed in an AMC Hut. For over a century, the AMC Hut System has been well known for its mountain hospitality. We will stay at Pinkham Notch Visitor Center the first night, then shuttle to Crawford Notch on the next day where we will begin our hike to different AMC huts, finishing on Route 2 in Appalachia. 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. Trip cost is \$600 and includes transportation to trailheads, lodging, breakfasts and dinners at all AMC facilities. A deposit of \$315 is required to hold space. *No spaces held without a deposit.* For more information, contact Frank G. Sorbero, Jr., 7 McClellan Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010-3424, 518/843-2786; e-mail fsorbero@nycap.rr.com

Trip Tales

Stewart & Indian Lakes 02/15/03

The four of us went to the quiet northwest corner (no snowmobiles) of Shaker Mountain Wild Forest expecting no one except trailhead contact with people doing the east trail up Kane Mountain. This was partly correct because the trail to Stewart and Indian Lakes had to be broken. We were passed by two bushwhackers doing trailless Camelhump (2200 feet). On the way out, a large group who had had a hot dog roast on Stewart Lake met us. Indian Lake is nicer than Stewart Lake. On a sunny, but breezy day, it was good to be at low elevation to minimize the cold. Participants: Sheila Daniels, Bernie Mansbach, Mona Feingold and leader, Betty Lou Bailey.

Sanders Preserve 08/17/03

Five of us enjoyed a leisurely walk in the nearby Sanders Preserve. It was wet and muddy, but: Oh, what amazing mushrooms! Participants: Vicki Ragucci, Nancy and Amanda Connolly and leaders, Howard & Emily Hart.

Prospect Mountain 11/15/03

On a bright day, seven hikers found the way to the top of the mountain by way of a series of old roads. The route is not currently marked and is a little confusing at some road junctions. It is hoped that this will become a marked NYS trail. It is a much nicer route than the regular marked trail, with shaded glens along streams and nice open woods. Participants: Lin Neil, Susan Roberts, Judy Brandow, Dale Blanchet, Jeanette O'Hare and Roger Borgen. (Walt Hayes)

Monument Mountain 11/22/03

Temperature in the low 50's, brilliant sunshine, no haze, an interesting white quartzite mountain, an open summit, a forest of various species, legends about the mountain's name, a visit to the namesake pile of rocks and five friendly folks. It doesn't get better than this, especially in late November. The friendly folks: Marcia Metzger, Lois Leonard, Margaret Ettinger, John Hotchin and hike leader, Betty Lou Bailey.

Village of Schoharie Walk 11/28/03

A rainy forecast, yet there were 16 people on this day after Thanksgiving walk through the Village of Schoharie. There would have been 17, but we missed each other at the meeting place. Great walk, a bit rainy, but there was enough interesting things to see that we did the entire walk from one end of the Village to the other. Those participating: Pauline, Rick, Diane and John Masse; Sally Storman; A. Skinner; Natalie Smith; Marsha Metzger; Betty Lou Bailey; Linda Hart; Arden Rauch; Joe Platukis; Kathleen Wiley; Judy Lott; June Amyot and Mary MacDonald. (Winnie Balz)

Blue Mt. FT Hike 12/13/03

Cancelled due to no calls! (Harold McCumber)

Kane Mt. FT & Nine Corner Lake 12/13/03

Bernie Shaw and I climbed this fire tower peak with great views over Canada Lake and area. It was still as we climbed through a nice woods with especially large black cherry trees. There was a stiff breeze on top. The fire tower has been totally refurbished. We added a hike to Stewart Lake where we stopped for lunch. (Walt Hayes)

Panther Mt. Snowshoe 12/20/03

Another bright winter day for three hikers to snowshoe the trail to Echo Cliff where there is a 180 degree view of the Piseco Lake area. We then bushwhacked to the summit of Panther Mountain where the leader was surprised by a 20 foot cliff that enabled nice views to the west. Participants: Roman Laba and Norm Kuchar. (Walt Hayes)

Ski to Stony Pond 12/21/03 Ten hearty skiers who had their Christmas shopping done went on this backcountry ski to Stony Pond which is located off of 28N north of Minerva. This rolling 2 mile ski back to the pond was made easier by someone who had broken out the 2 feet of snow the day before. There was more "blowdown" than I had ever seen on previous trips, but we were still able to make it to the lean-to in about an hour. The trees were all decorated with a nice coating of snow and the sun came out when we reached the pond. We had hoped to ski along the edge of the pond, but a 3 inch coating of slush was just below the powder snow. The trail along the pond had even more blowdown so we made the decision to have lunch, ski out, and explore other trails in the area. By the time we got to the bottom about half of the group had decided they had enough and went home. The rest of us checked out the Lindsey marsh trail and found it with even more trees blocking the trail. We did not give up, however, and went on to ski the road to Vanderwacker Mountain. It was in pristine condition which meant we had to break trail. We made it back to Vanderwacker Creek in about 50 minutes where fatigue began to set in and we headed home on our beautiful tracks. The trip out took about 30 minutes and ended with a delightful downhill to the road. Participants were: Horst deLorenzi, Ellen Elting, Lois and David Legg, Morris Kopels, Mal Propost, Carolyn, Pierre and Woody Zyr, and trip leader Chuck Wilkison.



Santanoni Expedition 12/27/03

Twenty-six climbers started out for Couch, Santanoni and Panther in the dark on Saturday, December 27. The waist-deep snow from the previous weekend had settled and the team was able to move at a brisk pace. Times Square was reached by 10:14 a.m. by the initial group under sunny skies. With the help of Doug McCarthy, Claudia Warren, a compass and rabbit tracks, a path to Couch was made that closely followed the summer herd path. (Rabbits love to run in herd paths in winter snows!) Our initial group of approximately 12 reached the summit of Couch just past noon and later returned to Times Square where some went on to Santanoni and Panther to which other groups had by then made a path. In all, 10 climbed all three peaks, 8 climbed two peaks and 8 climbed one peak. Our group returned to the parking area at 6:45 p.m. after 12 ½ hours. Thanks to Steve Barlow for coordinating the climb among the Albany/Schenectady/Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapters. We should do this again!! (Al Knight, Team Leader/Coach)

Adirondack Survivor 01/10/04

Cancelled due to no calls! (Harold McCumber)

Hammond Pond Snowshoe 01/10/04

On a cool, but brilliant sunny day, Norm Kuchar, Bernie Shaw and I found the route very easy with about 3 inches of powder over an 8 inch base. The temperatures, as we left the car, was minus 26 degrees. We had to use face masks and thick mittens even though there was very little wind. The temperature went up to the zero range by noon where we enjoyed a lunch break by the side of Pine Pond. (Walt Hayes)

Dry and Dexter Lakes 1/11/04

Less than adequate snow in Schoharie County dictated a change from the scheduled Clapper Hollow State Forest trip to this one in southern Hamilton County. Seven skiers and one dog enjoyed a relatively mild (+12 degrees p.m. high) day with light snow. After a stand-up lunch at Dry Lake, the two adventurous, speedy skiers and the dog forged on to Dexter Lake, where one of the skiers had an interesting and prolonged encounter with a tree. The others turned back for the leisurely, mostly downhill return. One participant persisted in making snow angels, one just off the trail, the other in a travel lane on Route 10. The end result was that all came back safe and sound. It is hoped the same can be said for the large group of disoriented snowmobilers who arrived at the parking area as we were leaving. They were running low on fuel. (Jack & Sheila Daniels)

(At the request of our Outings Chairs, we are adding participants names to the Trip Tales & Paddling Parables. Please bear with us as we can only put in information received and hopefully read names correctly for proper spelling.)

Whitewater Trip Planning Meeting

The annual whitewater trip-planning meeting will once again be held at Chet Harvey's and Kathy Armstrong's home, which is at a new location since they have moved. The date for the meeting is Wednesday, February 25th at 6:30 p.m. A pizza and soda supper will be provided. We need everyone's help and input to have a full schedule with the rivers and streams you want to paddle. There will be paddling in March if the weather cooperates. Please contact Chuck Wilkison, Whitewater Chair, at 793-8041 or wilkison519@msn.com for directions to the planning meeting.

Early Paddling Schedule

Date	Day	Trip Location	Class	Leader	Phone
3-20	Sat	Kinderhook Creek	2/3	Bob Wright	279-1428
3-27	Sat	North Branch of the Westfield (Pork Barrel)	2/3	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
4-03	Sat	Catskill Creek	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615

Impromptu Paddling Coordinator

Horst deLorenzi, who paddled more than 120 days in 2003, has agreed to be the "go-to" person to contact if you want to paddle something and are looking for some companions. He can be reached at 399-4615 or e-mail at **delorenzih@msn.com**

The Lookout has a new cover! Many thanks to Maria Beurmann who worked with the graphics designer at Sir Speedy to create our new, updated look! Maria is also the photographer of the picture that "looks out" over a very familiar scene to those who hike in the Adirondacks.

Because of the new cover which, hopefully will be more mailer friendly going through the US Post Office procedure, printing and mailing will take a few more days than usual.

Conservation Notes

Catskill Park Centennial In 2004 we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the creation of the Catskill Park. Expect to hear more about this as the year progresses. There will be new signs as you enter, crossing the Catskill Blue Line, erected by NY State. Various programs and events are scheduled. You may see brochures on recommended auto tours of the Catskills. The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development will be publishing a new Catskill book by Chris Olney of their staff and will update their excellent Catskill map which has not been revised since 1986.

Invasive Species Resolution The Main Club Board of Directors did meet December 6, despite the storm, and passed the invasive species resolution proposed from our Chapter.

Battenkill Conservancy NY This organization has funded Kelly Nolan to sample the Battenkill in several areas, both checking water quality and invertebrates. The water showed persistent chemicals and the "bugs" included species usually present in degraded streams. Kelly has trained older school children to help in this effort. At the Conservancy's annual meeting, a member of the audience told Kelly there seemed a good chance that this "non-point pollution" could be due to changes in agriculture in the last ten years, going from dairy farming to crop farming. Fishermen have been complaining that trout were fewer for some years. The DEC is so underfunded that they concentrate on heavily polluted streams.

Belleayre Resort This proposed immense four-season resort would have two areas of development. Just east of Belleayre Ski Area would be Big Indian Resort and Spa. Just west of Belleayre would be Wildacres Resort and Highmont Golf Club. These are sponsored by Crossroads Ventures whose primary figure is Dean Gitter. DEC is the lead agency on the proposal, although the NY City Department of Environmental Protection (manages the NY City reservoirs) and Towns of Shandaken and Middletown are deeply involved. ADK opposes this for environmental reasons. When built out (after eight years) the resort would employ 542 people full time and 330 people seasonally or part time at low wages. However, no effect on auto traffic volume is predicted.

Submitted by: Betty Lou Bailey, Conservation Chair

Chapter Philanthropic Spending

At the December 9 Board meeting, the Finance Committee presented their recommendations for philanthropic giving. The Board approved the following which represent the final balance of fiscal year 2003:

1. John's Brook Lodge (JBL) "Bill Matthews" Memorial Roof Fund	\$ 500.00
2. JBL General Maintenance	\$ 500.00
3. Membership - The Adirondack Conservancy & Land Trust	\$ 300.00
4. ADK Backcountry Stewardship Program	\$ 100.00
5. Adirondack Loj Maintenance/Improvement	\$ 300.00
6. Offset costs at JBL for Trail's Volunteer Work Week	\$ 300.00
7. <u>Adirondack</u> Research Library	\$ 100.00
Total	\$2,100.00

Club Day - Wednesday, March 10

ADK members
Get **15% off** in stock Canoes & Kayaks
20% off Snowshoes, Telemark & XC Skis, and everything else in store.

Proof of membership is required
Store is open 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Adirondack Paddle 'n' Pole
2123 Central Avenue, Colonie, NY
(518)346-3180
<http://pages.prodigy.net/apnp>

NYS DEC Environmental Summer Camps Scholarships Are Still Available!!

See the Dec 03/Jan 04 "Lookout" for full article describing the four co-ed environmental camps and application requirements. Call Bob Briggs, 765-3117, to get information ASAP. Applications will be submitted to the DEC starting February 14.