

Schenectady Chapter of the ADK

October/November 2004

New & Reinstated Members

Auster, Morris, Martha & Fam.
Barbera, Sharon, Sean & Fam.
Bates, Kerin, Lynn & Fam.
Billion, Jeanne
Ciolino, Joe
Cusano, Margo
Dargush, Anthony
Gilhooly, Chris
Going, Dale

Gruver, Amy, Tom & Fam.
Hatalsky, Aaren
Hutchins, Peter, Elaine & Fam.
Ives, John, Cathy & Fam.
Kapelle, Brian
LaValley, Gary
Obercon, Susan, James & Fam.
Palmer, Mary, Bill & Fam.

Quick, Kathryn, Garry & Fam.
Rogers, John, Holly & Fam.
Selby, Jeffrey
Tammar, Karl, Patricia & Fam.
Ward, Douglas, Susan & Fam.
Wolf, Cindy, Robert & Fam.
Woods, Norbert
Zugalla, Sharon

Nomination of Chapter Officers

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|----------------|
| Chair | 1 yr | * |
| Vice Chair | 1 yr | Norm Kuchar |
| Treasurer | 1 yr | Jeff Farbaniec |
| Secretary | 1 yr | Lois Leonard |
| Director | 2 yrs | Bob Grimm |
| Project Coordinator | 2 yrs | Bob Grimm |
| Project Coordinator | 2 yrs | Sally Dewes |

The position of Director was inadvertently overlooked as presented in the last *Lookout*. As per the Chapter's by-laws, Robert Grimm has been nominated, by petition, to fill this vacancy. There being no other write-in nominations, the above slate of officers for the year 2004 is presented for vote. The official Ballot for voting is on page 13 of *The Lookout*. Ballots must be received by October 26, 2004 to be valid. They may also be turned in at the Annual Dinner meeting prior to the ballot count.

Please forward the ballots and any nominations to the following address:

Lois Leonard, Secretary
Schenectady Chapter of the ADK
PO Box 733
Schenectady, NY 12301-0733

* *This position still remains open at this time. If you are willing to fill the position of Chair please call Frank Sorbero, 843-2786.*

Chapter Annual Dinner

When: Tuesday, October 26, 2004

Social Hour - 5:30 p.m.

Wine, non-alcoholic punch, cheese, crackers, vegetables and dip.

Dinner - 6:15 p.m.

Menu: Choice of Poached Salmon with fall vegetables, Herb Encrusted Game Hen with ratatouille, or Vegetarian Souffle (layered eggplant with roasted vegetables), with mesclun greens, fresh rolls & butter, puff pastry filled with berries and cream, and coffee or tea.

Where: Schenectady County Community College Casola Dining Room

Program: This year we celebrate the centennial of the Catskill Park. Tom Alworth, Executive Director of the Catskill Center for Conservation & Development, will speak on the future of the Catskills, a beautiful area under intense pressure from development and overuse.

Reservations: Please enclose check made out to Schenectady Chapter ADK along with reservation form on page 13 and mail to:

Norm Kuchar, 60 Fredericks Rd, Glenville, NY 12302

Questions: Call Norm at 399-6243

Deadline: Friday, October 15, 2004

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 October, November & December 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 2 Oct
Castle Rock, Class C2D
Harold McCumber, 274-3960

Four mile round trip. Great views. Lunch on top. Leisurely hike up and down.

Sat 2 Oct
Good Luck Cliffs, Class B3C
Bob Ringlee, 374-6760

Kids Hike (for children with parent or grandparent)
This is in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. 700 ft. climb to nice view from the cliffs. Side visit to Good Luck Lake. 4.4 miles.

Sat 2 Oct
Pitchoff Mountain, Class B2B
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

This trip was cancelled last fall due to bad weather. Pitchoff offers great views of the High Peaks and the rest of the Sentinel Range to the north. Starting near Upper Cascade Lake, we will climb steeply up to the ridge and then go over open rock to a series of summits. Depending on interest, we can do a through hike to the northern trailhead or an up-and-back trip. Either way, it's about 5 miles with 2000' total ascent.

Sun 3 Oct
Noonmark & Round Mountains, Class B2B
Jay Summerson, 673-2664

Two popular peaks with views in Keene Valley. Noonmark will be climbed first and if the group has enough desire Round will be done on the return. Total 3000 ft. ascent. 8 miles RT

Sat 9 Oct
Fir & Big Indian, Class A3A
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901 or
email sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

Part of the outing involves strenuous bushwhacking to two summits at an easy pace. Plan on a round-trip distance of approximately 12 miles; total ascent of 2500'. These peaks are included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest". Please contact leader for details.

Sat 9 Oct
Appalachian Trail, MA, Class A2C
Neil & Jackie Parker, 371-9139

Massachusetts Appalachian Trail
This segment of the AT picks up at Grange Hall Road, runs 10.9 miles over Tulley and October Mts. ending at County Road. Total elevation gain is 1200 feet with 700 feet gained within the first two miles.

Sat 9 Oct
Second Pond, Class B3C
Howard Hart, 374-3229

Join us for a relatively gentle hike to a lovely Adirondack pond in the Central Adirondacks. The trail is south of Wevertown, just off Route 8. The round-trip distance is 5 1/2 miles with a total ascent of about 600 feet.

Wed 13 Oct
Bald (Rondaxe) Mountain & Vista Trail, Class B2C
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

Fire Tower Challenge

Bald Mountain, with its open, rocky top and fire tower, offers great views of the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Because it's a short hike (and a long drive), we'll add a scenic section of the Vista Trail, which starts from the same trailhead and passes a couple of ponds on the way to more views. Total distance about 6 miles, with 1000 ft. ascent.

Sat 16 Oct
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 McCanes' 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. Limited to 6 participants.

Sun 17 Oct
Plateau, B2B
Mary Mac Donald, 371-1293

In the Catskill's - leaving from Devil's Tombstone Campground. Ascent 1840'. Approximately 6.8 miles round trip.

Tues 19 Oct
Huckleberry, Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Easy climb of this ridge to view vegetation recovery since fires of 2002. 1000 ft. ascent; 5 miles. Route follows path with some easy bushwhacking. Great views from cliff tops.

Sat 23 Oct
Tripod, Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

3300' Keene Valley trailless peak, with good views. About 1800 foot ascent. Under 6 miles. Will involve tough bushwhacking as we near summit.

Sat 23 Oct
Appalachian Trail, MA., Class A2C
Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Fernside Road to Lake Buel Road. This 9.8 mile section is mainly in Beartown State Forest and has two lean-tos, one close to the trail. There is an interesting boulder wall (we go around it) and a fine lookout at "The Ledges". Trail goes by east end of Benedict Pond and then thru a 1995 tornado area just north of MA 23 Highway. Total ascent of 1900 feet is chopped up into doable bits, no more than 400 feet at a time.

Sun 24 Oct
Rock Lake Trail Maintenance, Class A3C
Ken & Nilde Marcinowski, 885-9400
Nildekens@msn.com

Join us for "fall clean up" on this section of the Northville Placid Trail in the Silver Lake Wilderness (Stoney Creek Barrier to Rock Lake). We will be concentrating on clearing drainage ditches and may encounter some blowdown. Rolling terrain with minimal ascent and lunch at Rock Lake. Please call or e-mail by Thurs. Eve prior to hike.

Wed 27 Oct
Trout Brook Explore, Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Hoffman Notch Wilderness. Hike trail to Trout Brook then bushwhack up brook looking for waterfalls. About 7 hours.

Sat 30 Oct
Halcott and Westkill, Class A3A
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901 or email
sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

We will bushwhack at an easy pace to the summit of Halcott. The RT distance is 5 miles with total ascent of 1700'. We then will regroup and go to the trailhead of Westkill 7 miles away from the Halcott parking area. We will also experience a moderately strenuous trail hike at an easy pace to the summit where actually a Westkill sign exists. Plan on a RT distance of approximately 8 miles with a total ascent of 2000'. These peaks are included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest". Please contact leader for details.

Sat 31 Oct
Hunter Mt., Class B3B
Herb Terns, 372-8478

Join my Mom and me on this trip up the Devil's Path in the Catskills on Halloween. She was the Hunter Mt. fire observer back in the '70s and will offer a unique perspective to this hike. We'll start at the Devil's Tombstone and go at an easy pace to the summit tower. Nice views from ledges near the east summit as well as from the tower. RT 6.8 miles; 2040' of ascent.

Mon 1 Nov 7:00 p.m.
Basic Winter Camping
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library
Maria Beurmann & Mac Stafford

Maria & Mac will present their very popular hands on seminar that is a must for anyone who is considering hiking/camping in the winter. Refreshments will be served and a door prize is being donated by EMS of Mohawk Commons. See page 9 for more information.

Sat 6 Nov
Plotterkill Trail Run
Herb Terns, 372-8478

November's generally not a great month for hiking so we'll change things with a trail run in Schenectady County's Plotterkill Nature Preserve. We'll avoid the steep ravines and waterfalls of the western area of the preserve for the undulating and rugged eastern trails leaving from Coplon Road. For those interested in a short run, we'll do a mile out to a scenic overlook and back to the parking lot at a very easy pace. Anyone hungry for a longer run can join me as we head back out for a more challenging 3-5 mile trip to Jacob's Ladder.

Sun 7 Nov
Blackhead, B2B
Mary MacDonald, 371-1293

In Catskills from Big Hollow Road. 4 miles with ascent 1740'.

Tues 9 Nov
Prospect Mountain, Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Take the interesting, but not difficult, route to the top from the south on a series of old roads with some limited bushwhacking. It is hoped that this route will eventually become a marked NY State trail. Great views of the southern end of Lake George

Sat 13 Nov
Southwest Hunter & Hunter,
Class A3A
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901 or email
sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous combined trail hike with a short bushwhack. Plan on an easy pace and a round-trip distance of 10 miles with total ascent of 2100'. If agreeable to the group, we could extend the outing by adding a 3 mile, round-trip bushwhack with an additional ascent of 1300' to the summit of Rusk Mountain. These peaks are included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Please contact leader for details.

Wed 17 Nov
Snowy Mountain Slide, Class C2B
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

We will explore a slide on the shoulder of Snowy Mountain formed in 1995. This is a bushwhack which will also require some rock scrambling, but no technical climbing. The open rock offers good views of the steep upper part of the slide as well as overlooks of Indian Lake. Distance is about 3 miles round trip, with an ascent of 1000 ft.

Sat 20 Nov
Appalachian Trail, MA, Class A2B
Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Lake Buel Road to South Egremont Road. This 9.3 mile section goes thru East Mountain state forest, crosses, then follows the Housatonic River. The last three miles are almost flat. Total ascent 1500 feet mostly at the north end (beginning). One lean-to with superb view.

Fri. 26 Nov
Sch'dy 6 Mile Walk, Class C
Winnie Balz, 372-3663

This is the day after Thanksgiving calorie-burning walk. We'll be leaving at 9:00 a.m. in the morning for a 6 mile walk around Schenectady. Some points of interest will be Vale Cemetery, Union College grounds, GE Realty plot and the Stockade. Call for meeting place.

Sat 27 Nov
Marshall, Class A2B
Al Knight, 827-8599

Via Indian Pass with a return by way of Herbert Brook. 14 miles. 2600 vertical feet. Call by November 23rd to sign up.

Sat 4 Dec
Pigeon Mountain, Class C2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Climb the highest peak in Fulton County at 2780 feet. The route follows an old road through an attractive valley with a bushwhack to the top from the road. About five miles with an ascent of about 1240 feet.

Sat 4 Dec
Kaaterskill High Peak, Class A3B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901 or email
sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous combined trail hike with a short bushwhack. Plan on an easy pace with a total round-trip of approximately 8 miles and total ascent of 1730'. This peak is included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Please contact leader for details.

Sat 11 Dec
Harrington Mountain, Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Bushwhack this 2613 foot peak in the Town of Thurman off Route 8 on the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. The route will be via Eagle Pond. About 5 miles with an ascent of about 1300 feet. Hopefully there will be views of Mt. Blue to the east.

Sat 18 Dec
Hurricane Mt., Class B2B
Herb Terns, 372-8478

Warm up to winter with what will hopefully be a snowshoe trip to Hurricane's scenic, open summit. We'll take the somewhat longer, but not quite as steep trail from Crow Clearing near Keene. Winter gear required. If there's time and group interest we'll stop at the Mountaineer for some last-minute holiday shopping. 6 miles RT at a moderate pace.

Tues 21 Dec
Balsam Mountain, B2B
Mary MacDonald, 371-1293

Loop from Rider Hollow Road. 5.2 miles with some climbing.

Sun 26 Dec
Blackhead, Black Dome & Thomas Cole, Class A3B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901 or email sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous trail hike at an easy pace. Plan on an end-to-end distance of approximately 9 miles with total ascent of 2400'. Full winter gear will be required. These peaks are included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Please contact leader for details.

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 |
|-------|-----|--|--------------|----------------|----------|
| 10-02 | Sat | Esopus release | 2/3 | Larry Woods | 271-0270 |
| 10-09 | Sat | Hudson River from Thurman Bridge near Warrensburg to Thousand Acres Resort – <i>Great Fall Foliage!!!</i> | 1 | Chuck Wilkison | 793-8041 |
| 10-16 | Sat | Moose Fest Lower Moose | 4 | Chuck Wilkison | 793-8041 |
| 10-23 | Sat | Farmington River: Paddle the top and bottom class 2 sections only or also include the class 3+ middle section with trip leader | 2 and/or 3 + | Chuck Wilkison | 793-8041 |

Wilderness First Aid Course – The Schenectady Chapter Board agreed to provide partial (\$150) tuition refund for outings leaders who take Wilderness First Aid courses. The program is modeled after the 46ers current program so people who are both 46ers and Schenectady trip leaders can get a total of \$200 reimbursement. Call Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) or Walt Hayes(399-7482) for further info.

Trip Tales & Paddling Parables

Mt. Adams 07/17/04

We had a nice day to climb this fire tower peak nestled close to many of the High Peaks. I believe I counted at least 17 of the 46 High Peaks of the Adirondacks from the top of the fire tower. The tower itself is in good shape and work has been done by replacing some of the wooden steps. It looks like someone, state, DEC, etc. wants this tower to stay and be restored. It is one of the towers that's strategically located in the heart of the High Peaks region and a tremendous view. It is popular based on what the trail looks like; we also met approx. 10 hikers going for the summit. This is a worthwhile climb for anyone. John Ives, Sid Borthwick and the leader. (Jay Summerson)

Long Path – Ryan Road Loop 07/24/2004

On a delightful cool day, with gray skies in the a.m. and sun/few clouds in the p.m., we took a nice section of the Long Path north of Thatcher Park to a "hang glider lookout" for a snack and another lookout for lunch just above Altamont. Both lookouts had rewarding views. The trail then continued to former farm fields, now half grown in, with lots of birds and then to the old quarry where Sheila Daniels explained the fossils. We then took old roads back to the cars, a short distance compared to the wandering trail. Other participants were Jack Daniels, Elizabeth Berberian, Jim Torriani; potential members Betsy Voss and Lucy Rafalik; ADK At-Large-Member, Marion McBride and the leader. No, we did not see any hang gliders (need decent wind from the northeast) and we stopped at Stewart's for ice cream afterwards as is often done. There is now a sign for Ryan Road at the turnoff of County RTE. 256! Hoorah! (Betty Lou Bailey)

Battenkill Watermelon Trip 07/25/04

This trip was co-listed with SWC, which resulted in about 25 people showing up at the put in about a mile south of Shushan on a warm sunny day. My co-leader and I split the group in two with Lat taking the first group and mine followed about 15 minutes later. The trip seemed to be enjoyed by everyone. We took out about a mile down river of East Greenwich at the camp of Lat's dad where we enjoyed a couple of watermelons. Trip participants were: Tom and Anne Bielawski, Hank Bielawski, Ricki Scheeder, Janet Huston, Betty Lou Bailey, Mary Jo Bracken, Dan Schmidt, Adrienne Davis, Jack and Sheila Daniels, Donna Minassian, Dan Mehlman, Chet Harvey, Kathy Armstrong, Sharon Lamb, Prissela Dean, Margaret Shick, and a few others where the signature could not be read. (Co-Leaders Chuck Wilkison and Lat Schmidt)

Crane Mountain 07/28/04

Cancelled – no signups. (Walt Hayes)

Ampersand Mountain 08/02/04

A gorgeous day for this 50th anniversary hike. The parking lot was filled and spilled over along the road. There is an amazing amount of rock work done by the ADK professional trail crew going up the steep slot. Norm and I found that there were many maps of the trail that disagreed with each other so we decided to do a little GPS work. We found that all maps we had (included the new ADK map) were incorrect in significant ways. The trail generally runs north of where the maps show it. It was a perfect day with great views from the top of lakes and High Peaks. Participants were (all members) Jean Hayes, Norm Kuchar, Ken Marcinowski, Nilde Marcinowski, Jerry Perregaux, Al Peters, Joan Peters, Colin Smith, Ron Van Denburgh, Martha Zibro and the leader. (Walt Hayes)
(Some of the staircase and rock waterbar work on this trail was also done by volunteers – J. Parker)

Hedgehog Hill 08/05/04

Cancelled – no signups. (Walt Hayes)

Goodnow Mt. 08/10/04

Two hikers, one doing her first ever hike with ADK, joined the leader for the hike up this popular destination. Lots of other hikers, human and canine, were also on the trail. Raindrops chased us from the summit before we had a chance to explore the tower and cabin, but we still had a good day. Marion Burns, Kathryn Quick and the leader. (Barbara Kolapakka)

Sleeping Beauty 08/14/04

We were joined by four people and one dog on a rare-dry day between two tropical storms. As usual, the views on Sleeping Beauty are great. Thanks to Joe Platukis and the Constanino family of Rick, Jennifer, Sophia and Coco for joining us. (Ken & Nilde Marcinowski)

AT, Mill Road (VT) to Pattison Road (MA) 08/14/04

The good news was that the Vermont access road was drivable to the AT. The bad news was that recent heavy rain meant lots of mud, but we expected that. Colin Smith had full length gaiters and I wore rubber bottom Bean boots. By going southbound we met several thru hikers (from Georgia, that is) as well as hikers starting to do the entire Long Trail, a three week or so backpack. The views from open areas are growing in, but are still worthwhile. Trail "neighbors" as we walked through Blackinton were quite friendly. (Betty Lou Bailey)

Hudson River Gorge 08/21/04

It was raining pretty hard as we drove to the take out and having checked the gauge earlier there was the possibility that the river would go over 5 feet. That would be quite a bit higher than we normally run this section. We hesitated some, but finally decided that we would go for it. The Indian River that gets us down to the Hudson is usually the hardest part of the trip and today was no exception as it was also higher than the normal release. The trip leader had a short swim in the middle of the Indian Head rapid when a rock came out of nowhere as I was going for a must make eddy (having filled up my open canoe in the hole I had just come through). The lesson I should have remembered was to look short after looking long for your planned route. The rest of the trip was very pleasurable as the rain stopped before we got to the Hudson. We had the river to ourselves after our lunch at the bottom of "the Narrows" as the few rafts were gone from our sight. Participants were: Mal Provost, Horst deLorenzi, Bob Wright and trip leader. (Chuck Wilkison)

Moreau Lake State Park 08/24/04

We had perfect weather for this midweek trip in the new area of the park. Trails and junctions still need better marking, but it is a beautiful nearby destination with nice overlooks of the Hudson River and the Southern Adirondacks, including Hadley and Crane Mountains. We saw no one all day on the trails. Ann Fiore, Colin Smith and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Kilburn Slide 08/28/04

After a half-hour bushwhack along an abandoned road, we followed the course of the 1995 slide about a mile to the upper headwall, gaining nearly 1200 feet of elevation. Beyond the lower headwall, which requires an adventurous rock climb, the slide is mostly smooth bedrock. The open slabs gave great views to the west, from the Sawtooth Range, to McKenzie, Moose and Whiteface. On the return, we avoided a descent of the lower headwall by finding a steep herd path on the north side. Participants were Walt Hayes, Herb Terns, Wayne Virkler and the trip leader. (Norm Kuchar)

Deerfield (Fife Brook) 08/28/04

Didn't have to get up early for this one. The release wasn't until noon, but it lasted until seven. Only had three paddlers this trip, two solo canoes, and one kayak; however, Bear did join us for a while in his canoe. It was the leaders second time on this river. The other two participants were very familiar with it and as always fun to paddle with. The only way to slow Larry Woods down, I think, would be to fill his boat with rocks. We had full sun all day, and after the first two hours, almost had the river to ourselves. Shelly Nevard was a sweetheart, as tired as she was from the previous weeks work she didn't complain once about us playing on every wave in the river. To top off the day, we all shot the gap upright and Shelly did it bow first. All in all it was a fantastic six hours of fun and good company. (Larry Kaempff)

Kayaking in New York 09/08/04

Sally Dewes gave a great overview of kayaking equipment, techniques and outing opportunities in the Adirondacks and other surrounding areas at a Chapter program held at the Shenendehowa Public Library. Sally illustrated her talk with a spectacular set of her slides that conveyed the excitement of whitewater kayaking as well as the beauty of the Adirondack rivers. There were 21 attendees. (Norm Kuchar)

AT, Cheshire to Dalton 09/11/04

A nice hike in ideal weather conditions. Seven participants enjoyed the rolling hills in this AT section; some down, some up and a bake sale stop in Cheshire with another refreshment stop in Dalton. Beautiful view from The Cobbles south of Cheshire. Participants: Charles Beach, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Colin Smith, Tom Snyder, and leaders. (Jackie & Neil Parker)

Fish Creek 09/11/04

Ten boaters enjoyed a beautiful trip. Water level was only 1.75 feet, but Fish is very runnable at that gauge reading now. Highlights included the waterfalls along the upper section along with mild temps, ideal water temp and a bright, clear day. There was also an intersection with a porcupine pup... apparently stranded by high water of days ago...we wished him the best and left him to his dilemma. Same true of an injured fawn. Nature is not easy on its critters. Other highlights included the spectacular surfing skills of Pierre Cyr and son Woody, who are an example to try to emulate. Their leadership on the trip helped make it exceptional. Some among the participants were generously willing to offer a chance to retrieve a pinned canoe for additional practice, and a kayaker offered two ... two ... opportunities to practice rescue skills. As the day entered late afternoon, the sun was bright on the westbound water, a fiery close to a super day. Participants: The Cyrs, plus Caroline, Rick Gonzales, Bob Wright, Horst deLorenzi, Norm Labbe, all in kayaks, Larry Woods and Shelly Nevard in tandem and Mal Provost solo open.

Niagara 09/13/04

Cancelled – no signups. (Walt Hayes)

*Basic Winter Camping
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library
Monday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m.*

Maria Beurmann, Membership Chair, and Mac Stafford, Former Education Chair, will speak on trails, equipment, books and wilderness ethics to benefit the beginning winter camper. This hands-on seminar is a must for anyone who is considering hiking/camping in the Catskill or Adirondack Forest Preserves.

Refreshments will be served and a door prize will be given courtesy of Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) of Mohawk Commons in Schenectady.

**ADK Volunteer Trails Program
October 23, Fall Trail's Day**

This is the last chance to clean drainages of fallen leaves and other debris before the snow arrives. Cleaning drainages in the fall ensures that they will be open during the springtime runoff. The major concentration of work will be on trails of the High Peaks Region at Adirondack Loj. Tools and experienced leadership will be provided. To sign up, call 518/523-3480 or adkinfo-admin@northnet.org

Thank you Letter from Camp Colby Camper

"I'd like to thank you for sponsoring me to Camp Colby. I learned a lot of things there such as the 8 concepts - caring, community, change, diversity, interrelationships, adaptation, and the other 2. I learned about natural selection, hypothermia, how to debate about natural discoveries, like oil under a lake. I also learned about PCB's in fish that river otters eat and that kills them. I did a lot of fun activities, too. I swam in a bog, canoed from a lake to a river, swam in the water, hiked in the trails by our cabins, played different games and met a lot of new friends. The counselors were very entertaining and funny at night around the fire circle. I took a whole camera full of pictures and probably will go there again next year."

Sincerely,
Amber Heath

Conservation Notes

Open Space Plans The three year time cycle for the review and revision of the NYS Open Space Plan is starting. I am on the Region 4 committee and at the August 17 meeting, I raised the issue of a potential state park in Schenectady County. (Schenectady is one of two counties without a state park.) It would be logical to put it in the Open Space Plan if people could agree on the site, which is a wide open question at present. What would you like? It could be presently in public ownership or be privately owned. Call Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604, with any ideas you may have; preferably before our next meeting October 19 or later if that is when you get inspired.

Vanderwhacker Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Comments on this UMP were submitted July 31. Trail maintenance is a major problem. A lot of thought went into a group of snowmobile trail proposals, but ADK wants to wait until the overall Snowmobile Plan is reviewed and accepted before blessing any single design between Newcomb and Minerva. This was a high quality UMP, except there was no sign inventory. We suggested doing that inventory in conjunction with the planned campsite inventory.

Feeder Canal Alliance This was misprinted in the last *Lookout* as Federal Canal Alliance which probably puzzled those who know that there are no federal canals in New York, only a single federal canal lock in Troy. The fine organization known as the Feeder Canal Alliance works on the Feeder Canal (formerly a linear trash dump) which flows about 100 cfs of water from the Hudson River, through Glens Falls, Hudson Falls and down to the Champlain Canal. Without this water, the Champlain Canal would not get water to replace that lost as the locks open during navigation season. The Feeder Canal has turned into a popular canoe trip with its water guaranteed during summer droughts.

Woodlawn Preserve The City of Schenectady's property that attracted a potential housing developer is now closed to all types of usage. Volunteers had made a start at much needed site clean-up and had put up signs forbidding motorized use, but these were replaced by "No Trespassing" signs by late June. Basically, this city land had become the local ATV "heaven".

Submitted by: Betty Lou Bailey

Highlights Sept. Board of Directors' Meeting

President Tom Wheeler introduced new Executive Director, Neil Woodworth. For Neil to continue involvement in Advocacy, Marisa Iannacito was promoted to Conservation Director and will have assistance from a legislative intern; John Million promoted to Deputy Executive Director; Robert Rudolph, Director of Finance, will become full time; Virginia Etu promoted to Executive Assistant.

Neil's message to Chapters: 1.) ADK is being managed in a fiscally conservative & prudent fashion; 2.) Individuals and Chapters are urged to make generous donations to sustain the Club, and 3.) He would like to visit with each Chapter.

Development Karmel DeStefano is leaving ADK and a new Director of Development & Membership being sought.

Resolutions Approved: 1.) Sale of Lot #2 for \$85,000 and 2.) Revision of Gift Acceptance Guidelines and Policies (to avoid issues for the Club).

Budget Summer revenue was good. Revenues from Publications, Heart Lake and JBL exceeded budget expectations. Advertising sales for the *Adirondac* have been strong with several new major accounts.

Possible concerns: membership levels flat; high percentage of donations come in at year end (*better at beginning of year for better budget management*). Again, Chapters and members are urged to be generous. Biggest fundraiser, Harvest Moon Madness takes place Saturday, November 13.

Education A very successful year with high attendance at school outreach and programs at Heart Lake. A new web site will be online soon. HPIC lecture series had near capacity attendance; three were offered at JBL.

Trails Program The 14 member Professional Trails Crew finished another outstanding season; Volunteer Trails Program had 140 participants completing 2670 hours of work.

*Submitted by:
Kathie Armstrong & Stan Stoklosa*

Philanthropic Giving Challenge - Items for ADK Main Club -

The Schenectady ADK will be donating \$1000 for items needed by the Main Club for trail work, education and maintenance. We are challenging *every member* of the Schenectady Chapter to help us double this amount by donating one dollar. One hundred percent participation would give us a match for a total of over \$2000 to contribute towards these items. Let's meet this easy challenge!

We are interested in helping to defray costs on some of the items listed below:

| | <u>Total Cost</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| <u>Lawn Mower</u> for maintenance of Heart Lake property grounds | -- \$ 1,000.00 |
| <u>Canoe Gear for Education Programs</u> to include: six PFD's, four paddles, four dry bags, and six canoe straps | -- \$ 260.00 |
| <u>Camping Gear for Backcountry Education Courses</u> : MSR Dragonfly stove, two new stove pumps, a new water purifier (PUR Hiker), and two replacement filters | -- \$ 315.00 |
| <u>Signage for Directions at Heart Lake Property</u> | -- \$ 1,500.00 |
| <u>Needed Roof Replacement at Lake George Property</u> | -- \$25,000.00 |
| <u>Washhouse Renovations</u> – Campground upgrades | -- \$ 3,500.00 |

We also have some additional funds and Members are invited to suggest philanthropic projects that are consistent with ADK's goals of Conservation, Education and Recreation. Your written request should include: a detailed description, any Chapter involvement, amount of funds required to make a meaningful impact, your name, address and phone number.

Donations and/or requests may be mailed to:

Frank Sorbero, Chair
7 McClellan Avenue
Amsterdam, NY 12010-3424



Through its philanthropic giving this past year, Schenectady Chapter donated this tent (blue) which houses the volunteer campground hosts at Adirondak Loj campground. Photo courtesy of Jacque Crowe (Albany Chapter) who took it while at the Loj Volunteer Work Weekend.

Tom Andrews, Chair of the Heart Lake Property Committee, sent a thank you letter for the purchase of the tent.

Thank yous were also received for our philanthropic giving from Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady (\$200), ADK Main Club (\$1,000), JBL Bill Matthews Roof Project (\$500), Republication of Nancy Slack's book, "85 Acres".

*The Adirondack Mountain Club
Cordially Invites You To*

"Harvest Moon Madness"

ADK's 8th Annual Silent & Live Auction

When: Saturday, November 13, 2004
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Where: The Gideon Putnam
Saratoga Springs, NY

The gala evening features a silent and live auction, auctioning of each chapter's donated basket of local goodies, art sale, hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting, full dinner, and much social fun with members and friends of all ADK Chapters.

Tickets: \$35.00 per person
Cash Bar

Winners of Canoe, kayak and patchwork quilt raffles will be announced. If you have not received raffle tickets in your membership renewal mailing, call Member Services at 518/668-4447 and help support ADK. Also, you can check the raffle and auction items out at www.ADK.org

All proceeds will benefit ADK's
Conservation, Advocacy, Education
& Recreation programs.

To make reservations or get more information:
Contact Virginia at Virginia@adk.org
or 1/800-395-8080 ext. 25

Congratulations to our photo contest winner, Kimberly Newsom, whose photograph is on the cover of the current *Lookout* and will appear on the next several issues. Kimberly's picture was taken along Route 73 near Lake Placid.

*Adirondack Research Library
2004 Fall Lecture Series*

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. - McChesney Room
of the Schenectady Public Library

Wednesday, October 13

Evelyn Greene, a self-taught naturalist will present a slide program "Bog Life in the Adirondacks". The program will explore the development of bogs and how plants adapt to the cool, wet, acidic conditions in these common Adirondack wetlands.

Wednesday, October 20

Janet & Mark Barlow, two of the twelve members of the Big Moose Lake History Project, will provide an entertaining program, "Coaxing History from Oblivion: The Story of Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks". Their discussion will include tales of the earliest hunters and guides, the coming of the railroad, the rise and decline of hotels and the influence from the influx of private camp owners.

Wednesday, October 27

Bill Gates, author of five regional history books, will present his program, "History of the Fort William Henry Hotels - 1854 to the Present". His program will focus on the history, grounds, people and life at all three hotels and transportation to the region.

All lectures are free and open to the public.
Refreshments will be served.

We are very fortunate to have two new volunteers on the Chapter Board. Thank you David Wardle for filling the position of *Lookout* Editor and Gillian Scott of Printing/Mailing.

Below is the ballot for members to vote for year 2005 Chapter Board

- **Individual** membership: please cast your ballot using the column to the **left**.
- **Family** memberships have two votes: please use **both** columns.

Chapter Officers – 2004

| | | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| _____ | Chair | (1 yr) | | _____ |
| _____ | Vice Chair | (1 yr) | Norm Kuchar | _____ |
| _____ | Treasurer | (1 yr) | Jeff Farbaniec | _____ |
| _____ | Secretary | (1 yr) | Lois Leonard | _____ |
| _____ | Director to the ADK Board | (2 yrs) | Bob Grimm | _____ |
| _____ | Project Coordinator | (2 yrs) | Bob Grimm | _____ |
| _____ | Project Coordinator | (2 yrs) | Sally Dewes | _____ |

Forward ballots to the following address:

Lois Leonard, Secretary
Schenectady Chapter of the ADK
PO Box 733
Schenectady, NY 12301-0733

Ballots must be received by October 26, 2004 to be valid.
They may also be turned in at the Annual Dinner meeting **prior** to the ballot count.

Please join us at the Chapter's Annual Dinner and Meeting at Schenectady County Community College. Talk with friends about hiking and paddling, learn about ADK activities, and hear a talk on the future of the Catskills. Enjoy a dinner at the Casola Dining Room, prepared by the SCCC culinary arts program. The Chapter is defraying part of the \$21.85 dinner cost so that attendees pay only \$15.00. Please send in the reservation form below by October 15.



***Schenectady Chapter Annual Dinner Reservation Form
Tuesday, October 26, 2004 at SCCC***

Name (s) _____ **Phone** _____

Dinner Choice:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Poached Salmon | # _____ |
| Herb Encrusted Game Hen | # _____ |
| Vegetarian Souffle | # _____ |
| Total \$15.00 x | # _____ = \$ _____ |

Please enclose this form and your check made out to *Schenectady Chapter ADK* and mail to:
Norm Kuchar, 60 Fredericks Road, Glenville, NY 12302

Reservation deadline is Friday, October 15, 2004. Any questions, call Norm at 399-6243.

Adirondack Fire Towers Past, Present & Future

Silver Bay Association
Silver Bay, NY
Saturday, October 23, 2004

Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) and ADK will cosponsor a conference devoted to the region's fire observation stations. The day long conference will bring together fire tower enthusiasts from all over the region to explore the past, present and future of these distinctive mountain top structures. Presentations will include history, lore and first-hand accounts by former observers; successful strategies by NYSDEC and various "friends" organizations to adopt and restore more than ten towers; and discussions on the long-term future of fire towers from different perspectives.

The conference will feature several speakers, including: Marty Podskoch, author of *Adirondack Fire Towers: Their History and Lore*; ADK's Jack Freeman; Wes Haynes, who wrote the National Register nomination of the region's fire towers; representatives from friends organizations in the Adirondacks and Catskills; and DEC forest rangers. Erin Crotty, Commissioner of NYSDEC will give a lunchtime keynote address and Michael Camoin will show a preview of his video fire tower documentary. The day will close with a roundtable discussion about the long-term future of fire towers.

This conference is part of AARCH's and ADK's on-going efforts to bring recognition to and preserve Adirondack fire towers. AARCH's work has included placing ten fire observation stations on the National Register of Historic Places, sponsoring four fire tower "friends" organizations and advocating for the preservation of the remaining towers in the region. ADK has a long history of supporting the preservation of the region's towers by lending staff and organization support to several efforts. In 2000 ADK published *Views from on High: Fire Tower Trails in the Adirondacks and Catskills* by Jack Freeman and launched its "Fire Tower Challenge" to encourage hikers to climb to the summits of mountains topped by fire towers.

Conference fee is \$60.00 and includes lunch. For a complete program, more information or to register for the conference, contact Adirondack Architectural Heritage at (518) 834-9328. Pre-registration is required.

Our Chapter is putting together a basket to be auctioned off at the Harvest Moon Madness event. EMS of Mohawk Commons has been very generous by donating a sleeping bag and members of the Board have donated or offset the cost of books, maps and a hydration system. If you would like to donate something that would complement the theme of "Mountains, Trails & Rivers", contact Frank Sorbero, 843-2786 or Bob Grimm, 842-7436.