

Schenectady Chapter of the ADK

February/March 2005

New & Reinstated Members

Baker, Jonathan
Beach, Charles F.
Black, Corenne
Broman, Melinda
Burns, John W.
Busse, Anne
DiCaprio, Phil
Fontijn, Arthur
Geren, Marylou

Havis, Mark
Hess, Eric
Klaeyen, Helen
Kolapakka, Barbara L.
McLane, Warren J.
Murawski, Mark
Myers, James and Sarah Bilofsky
O'Brien, Tim
Olbrych, David

Olsen, Craig
Panish, Geraldine
Roberts, Susan
Schaller, James W.
Skolnk, Jacqueline
Smith, Don
Woodworth, Neil

Schenectady Chapter ADK Inning

"Saving the Spruce Mountain Fire Tower" Jack Freeman

When: Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Where: McChesney Room, Schenectady County
Public Library, 99 Clinton St. (at Liberty)

Located in northern Saratoga County, Spruce Mountain has the closest fire tower to Schenectady. In his 2001 book on fire tower trails, *Views From on High*, Jack Freeman listed this tower as endangered. But today, the future of this fire tower is much brighter, due to great efforts by Jack, the Saratoga PLAN (Preserving Land and Nature) land trust, and others.

Join us to learn how permanent access to the hiking trail up the mountain has been gained, as well as glimpse the vision for restoring the fire tower. Our speaker is an ADK activist who has been in the thick of the action.

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

Campers Wanted for DEC summer camps

There's still time to apply! The chapter will sponsor two teenagers for a week at a DEC summer camp. Those selected will have the opportunity to enjoy a blend of learning and recreation. Activities may include hiking, trail building, water sports and environmental workshops.

There are four camps available: Camp Colby, DeBruce and Rushford for ages 12-14 and Pack Forest Camp for 15-17 year olds. Camp sessions are one week long in July and August.

Applicants must write an essay on why they wish to participate, and send it to Horst deLorenzi, 34 St. Judes Lane, Scotia, NY 12302-4920. Preference will be given to the families of Schenectady chapter members.

Applications will be submitted to the DEC starting Feb. 12, 2005. If there is no response from ADK members by this date, campers will be selected from the general public applications.

For more information, contact Horst deLorenzi at 399-4615.

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 and March 2005

*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 5 Feb
Ski Flowed Lands and Lake Colden
Frank Sorbero, 843-2786

Ski from Upper Works. Possible thru trip key swap if enough participants.

Sat 5 Feb
No. 8 Hill, Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

(No. 8 Hill at 1877 feet should not be confused with the taller No. 8 Mountain at 1946 feet.) This peak near Pharoah Lake has been admired from afar for its apparent open shelf just below summit that should give us great views of the area. About seven miles with about half off-trail bushwhacking with ascent of about 1000 feet.

Sun 6 Feb
Panther, Class B2B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous marked-trail hike of one mountain at an easy pace with a total distance of 6.5 miles and ascent of 1500 feet. This peak is included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest". Full winter gear is required. Plan on an early start. Please contact leader for details.

Sun 6 Feb
Ski trip to Rock Lake @9.25 miles
B+2C
Jim Amell, 370-2040

Fun, rolling terrain on the southern end of the NP trail, with an elevation gain of 600 feet before dropping to Rock Lake. Rock Lake is a beautiful destination, especially enjoyable on a wind-less sunny day (no guarantees!). After lunch we'll explore the area around the lake, or perhaps continue another mile or so towards Silver Lake. Nice intermediate level tour under normal snow conditions. Bring typical winter gear - extra clothes, hot drink, lunch, flash light. No pets please. I just hope we get some snow. Even before the January thaw, there wasn't enough snow on the NP trail; it needs at least 18" of snow and 2' is preferred.

Sun 6 Feb
Superbowl Sunday rock-climbing fun
Class C3D
Gillian Scott, 372-8478

Not a football fan? Tired of "wardrobe malfunctions"? Join us for a few hours of fun at a rock climbing gym in downtown Schenectady. No experience necessary - safety instruction will be provided. Cost is \$10 per adult, plus \$5 for equipment rental.

Sat 12 Feb
Bennett Hill
Class C3C
Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

This trip was rescheduled from Jan. 2, when bad weather caused a cancellation. Bennett Hill is nearby; just south of Clarksville. It is owned by the Albany County Land Conservancy and makes an easy snowshoe trip with rewarding views. The top is flat, so there is a one-mile loop around the circumference. There is a one-mile access trail, initially almost flat, then climbing 340 feet. Total trip is three miles.

Sat 12 Feb
Cooper Kiln (or Kill) Pond and peak,
Class B2B
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

We will snowshoe the trail to the pond and lean-to near Whiteface. Then we'll bushwhack to the highest summit (unnamed at 3457 feet) in the Wilmington Range. About seven miles with ascent of 1650 feet.

Sat 12 Feb
Glenville skiing
Nancy Slack, 377-7422

Skiing and hot chocolate at Slacks' and the Sanders Preserve. A convenient place for local skiing on trails off Ridge Road. Please leave a message if there's no answer.

Sun 13 Feb
Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary
Herb Terns and Gillian Scott,
372-8478 or
Trailhed@localnet.com

Join us as we explore this preserve just south of Albany either by ski, snowshoe or bare boot, as weather conditions and group interest dictate. The sanctuary is operated by the Audobon Society, so even in winter we should see some interesting birds. There's seven miles of trails, including one to an old quarry and one along a creek.

Wed 16 Feb
"Saving the Spruce Mtn Fire Tower"
Schenectady County Public Library
7:30 p.m.
Jack Freeman

Join us at this Inning to hear about the efforts to gain permanent access to the hiking trail up Spruce Mountain and to restore the fire tower. Jack Freeman, an ADK activist, has been in the thick of the action. (See page 1 for more information.)

Sat 19 Feb
Partridge Run
Class C2D
David Geisinger, 887-3030

The Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area is a good area for skiing close to the Capital District. Located in western Albany County at an elevation of 2000 feet enhances the chances of finding good snow cover. Terrain is gently rolling. Depending on conditions, this will be a trip of two-three hours duration once we arrive at the destination.

Sat and Sun 19-20 Feb
Allen Mtn backpack, Class A1A
Al Knight, 827-8599

We will hike to Allen Brook, set up camp, climb Allen and return to camp for overnight. Call for equipment needs and details.

Sun 20 Feb
Balsam, Class B 2 B
Sid Borthwick, 347-2901
or e-mail sborthwi@nycap.rr.com

This outing is a moderately strenuous marked-trail hike of one mountain at a moderate pace with a total distance of 5.5 miles and ascent of 1700 feet. This peak is included in the Catskill 3500 Club "35 Highest." Full winter gear is required. Please contact leader for details.

Mon 21 Feb
Belleayre Mountain
Class B3C
Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

This will be a snowshoe trip using the Lost Clove trail (an old woods road) for the initial 1300 foot steady climb which is spread out over 1.3 miles. After reaching the east summit of Belleayre (a former fire tower site) the ridge is practically level. We'll have lunch at the lean-to with the better view. The real joy of this trip is watching the snowboarders and skiers on the downhill trails which parallel our path. Total ascent 1870 feet. Total distance 8.7 miles. Plan on stop at Big Indian general store afterwards. It is a really classic one.

Wed 23 Feb
Hadley Mtn snowshoe, Class B2C
Roger Borgen, 371-1128

FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE

Enjoy a winter trip to this popular peak. If conditions are right, an additional ridge walk to Round Top may be done.

Sat 26 Feb (date change)
Five Mile Mtn Snowshoe
Class B2B
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

This snowshoe hike (originally scheduled for Feb. 19) will follow the Tongue Mountain Range trail from its north end, across Brown Mountain to the summit of Five Mile Mountain. Along the way there are great views of Lake George and the mountains on the east side of the lake. Five Mile Mountain also overlooks Northwest Bay. Round-trip distance is about 7.2 miles, with a total ascent of about 1500 feet.

Sat 26 Feb
Buck Mt. from Shelving Rock Rd.
Class C2B
Ken & Nilde Marcinowski
885-9400
or nildekens@msn.com

A pretty snowshoe/hike to a popular Lake George Peak with great views of the lake and beyond. A perfect outing for beginner snowshoers who want to get off the "flat lands" and try something a little more interesting. Round trip is 4.6 miles with only one steep spot and 1,100 feet of ascent. Please call or email by Thursday evening prior to trip.

Sun 27 Feb
Bearpen, Class B3C
Keith Martin, 869-3692
or kdm46r@aol.com

This is a nice "trailless" peak in the Catskills and the former site of an old downhill ski area. There are wonderful views from the top. Actually the "trail" goes up an old road, at times it's a tad steep for skis - so we'll probably ski most of the way (especially the long downhill). Whoo-Hoo! Icy conditions turn this into a snowshoe trip only. Meet at 7:00 a.m. outside Dunkin Donuts at Star Plaza (just west of intersection of Rtes. 20 and 155 in Guilderland).

Sat 5 March
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 the narrow valley. Please leave message if there's no answer.

Sat 5 March
Adirondack snowshoe to pond or small peak
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Leader will choose based on participant interest. Under six miles with less than 1000 foot ascent. Call early to help pick location.

Sat 12 March
Pinnacle Rd – Upper Benson Traverse
Class B2C
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

We will snowshoe from the trailhead at the end of Pinnacle Road to the Northville-Placid trailhead at Upper Benson. The exact route will depend on snow conditions. Both ends of the trip will be on trails, but at least half will be a bushwhack. This trip crosses parts of the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest and the Silver Lake Wilderness. Through distance will be from 6 to 7.5 miles, depending on the exact route, with total ascent between 700 and 850 ft.

Sat 19 March
Treadway Mt.
Class A2C
Herb Terns, 372-8478
 or Trailhed@localnet.com

Enjoy the last day of winter and help me keep my New Year's resolution to explore the Pharaoh Lakes Wilderness area. Treadway has an open, rocky summit and terrific views. 8 miles round trip with 830 feet of gain.

Sat 26 March
Jones Hill
Class B2C
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

A favorite winter trip of the leader in Hoffman Notch Wilderness. Nice views of the Hoffman Mountain ridge from ponds and the ridge of Jones Hill. We have often found extensive moose evidence in this area but no moose yet. Five miles and 1200 foot ascent.

Hear about trip updates/changes or schedule private (not club-sponsored) hikes by joining the outings e-mail list at groups.yahoo.com/group/schdyadk_outings

2005 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
March 1	Tue	Whitewater Planning meeting		Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
March 19	Sat	Kayaderosseras	2	Betty Lou Bailey	355-0604
March 26	Sat	Kinderhook Creek	2/3	Bob Wright	279-1428
April 2	Sat	Catskill Creek	3	Horst de Lorenzi	399-4615

Whitewater Trip Planning Meeting: The annual whitewater trip-planning meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 1 at Chet Harvey and Kathy Armstrong's home at 37 Oakmont St., Niskayuna (this is a new location, since they have moved). Supper will be provided via pizza and soda. 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. To reach Chet and Kathy's home, take Balltown Road to Consaul Road. Turn left (coming from the north), drive one block, then take a left on Oakmont. Theirs is the last townhouse on the right.

Impromptu Paddling Coordinator: Horst de Lorenzi, who paddled more than 120 days in 2004, 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 via e-mail at delorenzih@msn.com

Submitted by: Chuck Wilkison, Whitewater Chair

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

Snowy Mountain Slide 11/17/04

This bushwhack to the 1995 slide on Snowy Mountain was tougher than its 3.5 mile length might indicate. Following Griffin Brook up to the base of the slide, we encountered quite a bit of blowdown. The smooth, icy slide was too steep to climb, but we got to the top by bushwhacking through spruce thickets to the south. There were great views to the east and to the High Peaks in the northeast. We descended by an easier route to the north of the slide, finding a cut path and evidence that the slide is perhaps used for backcountry adventure skiing. Participants were Walt Hayes and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

Pigeon Mountain 12/04/04

We conquered the highest peak in Fulton County at 2780 feet. It is located off Pinnacle Road in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest in the town of Bleeker. The nearby area provides a variety of exploring possibilities off an old woods road through an interesting valley. We found old cellar holes and a laid up stone lined dug well at the site of a former sawmill. At site of the hunting camp (closed up although it was the last day of the hunting season), we started climbing under a cobalt blue sky. A perfect day, with snow-covered ground. Lunch on top. Participants (all ADK members) were Randolph Franklin, Gail Gaskin, Tom Gibbs, Kathleen Gill, Jim Jacob, Janet Judd, Van Judd, Mimi McGiver, Ki McGiver, Kathryn Miles, Neil Parker, Jackie Parker, Colin Smith and the leader (Walt Hayes).

Harrington Mountain 12/11/04

The forecast was not optimistic, but there was no rain. Two of us drove up to search for a possible entry place in the woods along Route 8. Norm Kuchar and the leader found an unmarked trail to Eagle Pond. We assume the route beyond that point to the summit would be a bushwhack, but we did not try to find it. The overcast foggy day gave us little hope for views from the top. We took a bushwhack route to the north to a pass where we had lunch. The temperature was cooler as we climbed until the trees were ice-covered rather than water-soaked. Back toward the car we found evidence of a long abandoned snowmobile trail. (Walt Hayes)

Hurricane Mt. Hike 12/18/2004

We put on our snowshoes at the Crow Clearing trailhead under bright blue skies with temps around 20 degrees. Two members of our group, Mark and Scott, were training for a winter trip up Mt. Washington so they, along with Jim Hussey, kindly broke trail for us all day. We saw many snowshoe hare tracks on the way but no hares. As usual, Hurricane's summit provided us with a stiff breeze, but we braved it long enough to take in the views. A wall of clouds hung over Giant and the Great Range but to the south and west, views of Pitchoff, Whiteface and the Jay range were plentiful. Temps warmed to near 30 on the way down, enough to make our stream crossings on the way back a little more interesting

than they had been on the way up. We had two snowshoe malfunctions, but the trail was packed down enough to allow bare-booting. We were out early enough to stop at the Mountaineer for some last-minute holiday shopping. Participants were Roger Borgen, Patti Carroll, Bill Coons, Jim Hussey, Mark Murawski, Scott Murawski and the leader (Herb Terns).

Balsam Mountain 12/21/04

Walt Hayes and the leader traveled ourselves to the trailhead for Balsam Mt on the first day of winter. We found another soul to hike on that Tuesday morning in the Catskills. We were able to hike and did not carry our snowshoes. A nice but chilly day and our circle route took about 5 hours with no particular difficulties. A pleasant day in the mountains with some good views of surrounding area and mountains. (Mary MacDonald)

Hadley Mt. Hike 12/31/2004-1/1/2005

A lot of early signups for this trip but the group sized whittled down to five for this New Year's hike. Temps were an unimaginable 40 degrees at the Hadley trailhead at 10:30 p.m. when we set off. Luckily for us, Brian had been up the week before and advised us crampons, not snowshoes, would be the footwear of choice. The trail was very icy but our crampons dug in nicely. We arrived at the summit by headlamp at 11:50. Only one of our party braved the winds to climb the tower. 2005 was rung in with chocolate chip cookies (baked by Gillian) and hot chocolate. The moon was out and it silhouetted the tower nicely in the darkness. There was also a nice array of stars visible when we turned our headlamps off. The moon was bright enough that two of us made the trip down just by the light of the moon reflecting off the snow. We were back at the trailhead by 1:30 a.m. One member of our party was headed to the High Peaks to climb Algonquin later that day, while another had plans for a 50 mile bike ride, also later that day. The leader had much less ambitious plans ... sleep. Revelers were Brian Kapelle, Jim Hussey, Cliff Prewencki, Gillian Scott and the leader (Herb Terns).

Twin Lakes Mountain 01/08/05

This was the sixth hike in the snow this season for the leader but the first trip using snowshoes. We started out carrying the snowshoes for the trail portion and first half mile of the bushwhack. The woods off the trail was very open and easy to traverse. Light snow fell most of the day so views were limited. We climbed to a broad flat shelf about 240 feet below the summit for lunch and turnaround. We had agreed to head for the cars at 1 p.m. A very nice, easy wooded mountain worth another explore. The group included ADK members from Albany, Iroquois and Schenectady chapters and two guests including an AMC member. The roads were snow-covered on the way home. Some of us stopped for hot chocolate and soup at the Arietta Hotel. Participants included Gail Gaskin, Peter Jennes, Jim Knapp, Norm Kuchar, Jill Mehan, Kathy Miles, Jackie Parker, Neil Parker, Sylvie Wickstrom and the leader. (Walt Hayes).

Santanoni Camp Ski (Listed as Whortleberry Pond Ski) 1/15/2004

My apologies to anyone unable to sign up. Freezing rain knocked our phone out for the three days leading up to this trip and I may have missed some calls. There was a lack of snow in the Pharaoh Lake area so we skied into Santanoni Camp instead. A couple inches of fresh snow on Friday made for nice conditions under a sunny, blue sky. Temps were in the 20s and the trail past the Moose Pond junction was unbroken. Bright sunshine reflected off the snow like diamonds as we skied the last downhill section to Newcomb Lake. Little Santanoni Mt. was visible across the frozen lake but big Santanoni's summit was hidden in mist. We had the Santanoni Great Camp all to ourselves except for chattering red squirrels, who wanted us to share our lunch with them. After some exploration of the camp we made our way back, enjoying the long downhill grades and easy skiing. We broke up the trip home by stopping in Warrensburg for coffee. Participants were Bob Boromisa, Jim Hussey, Lynn Neal, Gillian Scott, Hooch the skijoring dog and the leader (Herb Terns).

In memoriam

The Schenectady Chapter regretfully notes the passing of three of its members: Al Fiore, Donna Marie Quinn and Sonia Mansbach. Contributions have been made to the main club in memory of each.

Sonia Mansbach passed away in early December 2004. For many years Sonia was the chapter's Publicity Chair; she attended countless chapter outings and innings. Her cheerful presence is missed, the chapter extends its condolences to her husband, Bernie.

Former chapter Chair and former chapter Secretary Doris Quinn passed away in early January; she was the first woman to serve as the chairman of the Schenectady chapter. She led countless hikes, canoe and ski trips and was an inexhaustible advocate of bringing youth into the outdoors.

Chapter member Alfred Fiore, an avid camper, passed away in September.

New board members welcomed

The Schenectady Chapter welcomes two new members to the board in the new year.

Fort Johnson resident **Beth Lasher** joins the board as chairman. Formerly a member of the Genesee Valley chapter of ADK, Beth returned to the area in May. She is an active paddler and also enjoys cross-country skiing.

Also, Scotia resident **April VanHeusen** has taken over the post of Printing/Mailing chair.

Sailing rig available

The Taconic Hiking Club has (most of) a sailing rig for a 15' or 17' Grumman canoe. They include: sail, spars for the sail, mast step, rudder, rudder attachment and lee boards. Missing are the mast and the lee board thwart.

The rig is FREE in return for a voluntary monetary donation, amount of your choice, to any local youth group associated with the outdoors and the environment.

Contact Colin Campbell at 438-9629 or at holesinhead@nycap.rr.com.

Photography exhibit

Maria Beurmann's photography "Adirondack Visions" was displayed at the Shenendehowa Library during the month of January.

In addition, Maria, the chapter's membership chair, was part of a panel of wilderness photographers – including Nathan Farb, Carl Heilman II and Mark Bowie – at the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. This three-day conference took place in October at Lake George's Fort William Henry Conference Center.

Philanthropic giving 2004

In 2004, the Schenectady chapter gave a total of \$2105 to a variety of groups, including:

Bill Matthews Roof Fund (JBL)	\$500
Wilton Wildlife Park & Preserve	\$300
Hadley Mt. Fire Tower Committee	\$200
ADK Main Club proposals	\$1105

The main club proposals included \$260 for canoe gear for education programs (full funding), \$315 for camping gear for backcountry education programs (full funding), \$530 for signage for directions at Heart Lake (partial funding).

Many thanks to chapter members who sent in contributions for our giving challenge.

Thank you, EMS

Special thanks go to Niskayuna's EMS for sharing with the Schenectady Chapter of the ADK the proceeds (\$89) garnered during The Telluride Mountainfilm Festival held at Union College in September.

Schenectady Chapter members Maria Beurmann and Jackie Parker joined the Union College Outings Club in selling raffle tickets for outdoor equipment provided by EMS. The two groups then split the proceeds of the raffle.

Conservation Notes

Old Growth Forests in the Northeast. i.e., from PA to ME. Interest in old-growth forests here was slow to develop because people assumed all had been cut at one time or another. Wrong! Interest was building in the 1980s and in 1993, Mary Byrd Davis released "Old Growth in the East, A Survey," listing over 250 sites in the Northeast. In her 2003 revised inventory, she added 164 new sites. Well-attended conferences on old growth in the Northeast have been held since 1993. New York's Forest Preserve accounts for about 80 percent of the Northeast total.

Present totals are:

Adirondacks	300,000 acres
Catskills and Shawangunks	70,000
Others (i.e., Zoar Valley)	5,000
New York total	375,000 acres

Other states with more than 1,000 acres include:

Maine	30,000 acres
New Hampshire	20,000
Pennsylvania	10,000
Massachusetts	3,700
Vermont	2,100
Rough total	440,000 acres

Mountain summits often have old growth, since such deformed trees have no commercial value.

Kingston Conference - Salt in Hudson Tributaries. Dec. 6. Organized by Hudson River Environmental Society, this was a very fine program. Critters in streams have higher values of salty peaks that are survivable than the value for chronic exposure. Traditional grab samples usually miss the peak salt times, so continuous data loggers need to be used. There is a "between" area of salt concentration too salty for fresh water critters and not salty enough for marine organisms. Road salt is the biggest source of salt in streams. Salt going into groundwater reappears later in surface water. People in the flat portion of Ithaca, NY, decided that since salt was a pollutant, they would not allow salting of roads in the flat part of the city. After several years of ruts in snow, and getting stuck in soft snow, etc., they voted to bring back the salt. The DOT speaker spoke about techniques to minimize salt and still do an excellent job of clearing roads, simultaneously reducing the cost of salt and pollution.

ECOS (Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady) has moved to the Niskayuna Community Center (2682 Aqueduct Rd.) due to heating plant failure at Aqueduct House. There is no change in phone numbers or address (P.O. Box 9118, Niskayuna) or hours. ECOS gave their first Rachel Carson award to Clare Schmitt.

Schenectady County State Park. I'm still interested in proposals for a state park in Schenectady County.

Conservation Committee. I'm looking for some new blood, i.e., new members for the chapter's Conservation Committee. We work mostly on the Adirondacks. Catskills and local natural areas. Most of the active members have developed a special interest or two. For more information, call Betty Lou Bailey at 355-0604.

Submitted by: Betty Lou Bailey

Forest Preserve violation forms available

The Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks now has a "Potential Violation Report" form posted on its Web site (<http://www.rcpa.org>). Members of the public can use the form to make the DEC aware of any violations to Forest Preserve rules, including illegal hunting camps and log cabins, illegal clearing of shorelines, illegal widening of hiking and snowmobile trails, the blazing of illegal trails, etc. The state is required to investigate each complaint.

Garden parking lot to remain

Good news! The APA has seen the error of its ways and returned to the path of righteousness. The organization withdrew the ill-conceived idea of moving the Garden shuttle parking lot from its site at Marcy Field in Keene Valley to the intersection of Rtes 73 and 9, the Hurricane Road. The proposed site was on a designated wetland and three miles farther from the Garden. Instead, the Town of Keene will improve the existing lot by placing a stone dust surface (used for bike paths), planting screening vegetation and improving the Blueberry-Porter trailhead, (maintained by the Schenectady Chapter) and adding a trailhead register.

Submitted by: Bob Grimm

Main Club Classes, Exhibits & More

Adirondack Mountain Club Member Services Center, Lake George

Feb. 12 – Hadley Mountain Guided Snowshoe. Cost: \$31 (members)/\$35 (non-members); includes instruction.

Adirondack Mountain Club Adirondack Loj, Lake Placid

Feb. 5 – Introduction to Telemark Skiing. Cost: \$45 (members)/50 (non-members); includes instruction.

Feb. 6 – Jackrabbit Trail Guided Ski – Keene to Lake Placid. Cost: \$36/\$40; includes instruction.

Feb. 19 – Introduction to Backcountry Skiing in the High Peaks - Cost: \$45/50; includes instruction.

Feb. 20 – High Peaks Guided Backcountry Ski. Cost: \$36/40; includes instruction.

Feb. 21-22 – Snowshoe above Timberline. Cost: \$100/110; includes instruction and snowshoe use.

Feb. 25-27 – Winter Family Weekend. Cost: \$90/100 kids, \$166/185 adults; includes instruction, meals, lodging for two nights and all materials except ski rentals.

March 4-6 – Winter Family Weekend II. Cost: \$90/100 kids, \$166/185 adults; includes

instruction, meals, lodging for two nights and all materials except ski rentals.

March 11-13 – Winter Family Weekend III. Cost: \$90/100 kids, \$166/185 adults; includes instruction, meals, lodging for two nights and all materials except ski rentals.

April 9-10 – Wilderness First Aid with Wilderness Medical Associates (at Weizel Cabin). Cost: \$175; includes instruction and materials. A package including instruction, materials, meals and lodging for two nights is \$235.

April 16-17 – Wilderness Medical Associates Recertification Course (at Weizel Cabin). Cost: \$200; includes instruction and materials. Package including instruction, materials, meals and lodging for two nights costs \$260.

Camp Peggy O'Brien

Feb. 14-16 – Johns Brook Valley Snowshoe Exploration. Cost: \$150/165; includes instruction, equipment use, meals and lodging for two nights.

March 14-16 – Peggy O'Brien Guided Backcountry Ski. Cost: \$149/165; includes instruction; equipment use, meals and lodging for two nights.

For more information on these events and classes, call the ADK Member Services Center at 668-4447 or e-mail adkinfo@adk.org.

High Peaks Information Center Lecture Series

These programs take place on Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. in the High Peaks Information Center at the end of the Adirondack Loj Road. All programs are open to the public and are free of charge. For more information, call 523-3480.

Feb. 5 - Magical Mountain Music

John Doan, a virtuoso on guitar, banjo, and Dobro, plays a variety of musical genres ranging from bluegrass to the blues.

Feb. 12 - Cold Weather Emergencies

Howard Glass, an expert on cold weather emergencies, will talk about the treatment of these emergencies, with an emphasis on the recognition and prevention of hypothermia and frostbite.

Feb. 19 - American Rock

Don Mellor, a local climber and Rock and River guide, is the author of well-known books on rock and ice climbing. This slide show will combine pictures and important geological information for the rock and ice climber.

Feb. 16 - The Hudson River Valley and Scenic Hudson

Molly Shubert will focus on the Hudson River Valley and the work Scenic Hudson, Inc. does to protect, preserve, and restore the Hudson River and its riverfront as a public and natural resource.

March 5 - March Madness

Local musician Steve Langdon will ski out of the remote Lake Colden Interior Outpost to play a variety of original and classic tunes.

March 12 - Woodheat Acoustic Music

"Woodheat's" acoustic folk music duo, Chuck Brumley and Karen Loffler will perform a mix of country, folk, and bluegrass songs, blended with traditional music from the Adirondacks and the Appalachian hills.

March 19 - Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses

Robin Kimmerer discusses mosses, a beautiful, but often overlooked, element of Adirondack ecosystems.

March 26 - Adirondack Plants – A Park Full of Diversity

Daun Dahlen, biology professor at Paul Smiths, and Dan Spada, project analyst for the APA, will be discussing the life histories and protection status of various plants of interest and the communities they live in.

St. Regis Canoe Outing July 18-28, 2005 Paul Smith's, New York

Paul Smith's College will be our base for daily paddles on Adirondack waterways, followed by the "traditional" activities.

Cost includes lodging and three meals daily – dinner on your first day through a box lunch on your last day. Cost does not include canoes, kayaks, or transportation of boats.

Option 1: July 18-23, cost \$350

Option 2: July 23-28, cost \$350

Option 3: July 18-28, cost \$660.

Please send leader your name, address, home phone number, date choices in order of preference, and a \$75 per person non-refundable deposit, payable to ADK.

For more information, contact:
Marilyn Gillespie, 277 Lake St., Saranac Lake,
NY 12983, 891-2626, or e-mail to
petergil-marilyn@northnet.org

Save these dates!

Northeast Great Outdoors Show

When: March 18-20

Where: Empire State Convention Center, Albany

We need members to answer questions and promote the Adirondack Mountain Club at the ADK booth at the Outdoors Show. This is a great outreach for our chapter and we need your help.

Members are asked to sign up for a two-hour time period with two people on each shift. After your shift, you can browse the show for equipment, art, clothes, food or information at the many exhibitor's booths.

Volunteers receive **free admission** to the Great Northeast Outdoors Show. Call Horst deLorenzi at 399-4615 for more information.

ADK Spring Outing

When: June 17-19, 2005

Where: Long Island, "The Undiscovered Island"

Explore the rich diversity and scenic beauty of a unique area that may be new to many ADK members. There will be hikes, beach walks on the Sound and Atlantic, kayaking and canoeing, lighthouse tours, bike rides, sailing and winery tours as well as visits to such areas as Shelter Island, Montauk, the Pine Barrens, Fire Island, Oyster Bay, the North Fork, Cold Spring Harbor, the Hamptons and much more. Details and a registration form are available on the ADK web site (www.adk.org) under Recreation, Seasonal Outings, [ADK Spring Outing](#).

For information, contact Sue Stricker at 69 Thadford Street, East Northport, NY 11731, (631) 368-5167; or e-mail Sue Koehler at adkspringouting2005@yahoo.com.

Club Days at Adirondack Paddle 'n Pole

Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, ADK members get 10% off kayaks and canoes and 20 percent off everything else in store including snowshoes, cross-country skis, paddlesport accessories and clothing.

Proof of membership is required.

Adirondack Paddle 'N' Pole is located at 2123 Central Ave. in Colonie

Banff Mountain Film Festival

The third annual Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, hosted by the Adirondack 46er Conservation Trust (Grace Hudowalkski's legacy) and the Skidmore Outing Club, will take place at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

Electronic newsletter available

Would you prefer to receive your copy of The Lookout via e-mail? If so, send your name, e-mail address and snail mail address to Gillian Scott, Lookout editor, at mtgrrl03@localnet.com