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April-May 2007

The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Walking the walk

ADK relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities. As an example, our chapter has adopted trails on Porter and Blueberry Mountains and on Mt. Gilligan. In addition, several of our members have taken the lead for maintaining sections of the Northville-Placid Trail. Rich Vertigan has scheduled a "spring cleaning" trip on the McCane's-Lake Durant section of the N-P Trail on April 28, while Kevin Cotter has planned a similar trip on the Upper Benson-Rock Lake section on May 6.

It's important that we "walk the walk" and help with these efforts. Trail maintenance is a great opportunity to give back something to places we all love, while enjoying an outing. You'll perform a good service, hike a beautiful section of trail, and have lunch at a wilderness lake. Please lend a hand to Rich and/or Kevin. See the "Innings and Outings" schedule for more information.

Inning to detail Adler adventures

Join Virginia and Mike Adler on April 30 as they share their experiences from a 2005 trip to Peru, where they hiked for five days along the historic Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, and made additional trips to the Amazon and the Galapagos Islands.

The Inca trail is 40 miles long and involves 12,000 feet of up and down hiking through the Andes along the path followed annually by Incas carrying their king from Cusco to the temple at Machu Picchu. Following the Inca Trail, the Adlers took a 3-day trip to the Amazon region with its diverse wildlife and jungle ambiance. Their journey ended with a 5-day boat trip to the wonders of the Galapagos Islands and its extremely varied wildlife ranging from giant turtles, iguanas, frigate birds, sea lions, and tropical fish.

Journey to the Land of the Incas, the Amazon and the Galapagos

When: Monday, April 30

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: McChesney Room, Schenectady County Public Library, 99 Clinton St., Schenectady.

The Adlers lead an active lifestyle, with homes in the Adirondack Mountains and the Tetons of Wyoming. Within the last several years, they have sailed to Newfoundland and the Leeward Islands and traveled to New Zealand and Egypt, Switzerland and Italy. The couple has also done extensive travel and hiking/

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Teens needed for ADK trails program

High school-aged teens looking for outdoors work experience can apply to the chapter for a sponsorship to the Adirondack Mountain Club's Volunteer Trails Program. The chapter will provide the \$200-\$250 participation fee for one high school-aged youth.

Participants spend 4-5 days in the woods camping and participating in quality trail work. Food, group camping gear, tools and experienced leadership are provided.

To apply, write an essay explaining why you wish to participate in a trail project and send it to "J. Parker, Project Coordinator, c/o Schenectady ADK, PO Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301-0733" by June 1, 2007.

Participants can choose a project from the five listed below:

- July 8-12 – Ampersand Mountain, 4-day. Water bars, stepping-stones.
- July 15-20 – Pigeon Lake Wilderness, 5-day. Blowdown removal and sidecutting.
- July 22-27 – Prospect Mountain, 5-day. Install new trail, drainage
- July 29-August 3 – Wanika Falls, 5-day. Define section of Northville-Placid Trail; intensive sidecutting and blowdown removal
- August 5-9 – St. Regis Mountain, 4-day. Rock water bars, steps

More information is available at <http://www.adk.org> or call Jackie Parker at 371-9139.

New & reinstated members

Jon & Joan
Allison
Irene Coburn
Lisa Cousineau
Michael Gillin
Jason Keith
Oscar & Susan
LaRosa
Leo & Amie
Lindermann
Alan and Barbara
Madaus
Meghan McCarthy
Raub & Elizabeth
Smith
Walter & Margaret
Urbanski

Innings and Outings

How do I sign up for a hike?

For further details or to sign up for a hike, call the trip leader. Try to call at least two days in advance, as leaders may cancel on the day before an outing if there is insufficient interest. Leaders reserve the right to refuse participants for any reason, including lack of experience and/or lack of physical fitness. All equipment and supplies are the sole responsibility of the trip participants.

What do I need to bring?

The trip leader will let you know if any special equipment (crampons, snowshoes, etc.) will be needed. But in general, you should always carry food, water, rain gear, map and compass, headlamp, first aid kit and extra clothing, including hat and gloves in case temperatures drop. Clothing for wet or cold weather should not be made of cotton — use a synthetic fleece or wool. If in doubt, ask the trip leader.

How can I lead a hike myself?

To volunteer to be a leader or co-leader for an outing, call Walt Hayes at 399-7482.

Should I reimburse drivers for gas?

Yes! Each rider should pay their driver four to five cents per mile, depending on the current cost of gasoline. With gas at \$2 per gallon, four cents per mile should be used and at \$2.50 per gallon, five cents should be used (\$3/gallon – six cents, etc).

The kind of hikes I'd like to do aren't listed here — what can I do?

Trip leaders may be willing to plan trips based on member suggestions. If there's a specific trip you'd like to do, contact Walt Hayes at 399-7482 and let him know. Or you can organize an outing of your own using the chapter outings e-mail list. Join the list at groups.yahoo.com/group/schdyadk_outings. These trips are not considered club-sponsored and the club is not liable for any mishaps that may occur on these trips. Always plan carefully and be prepared.

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 information.

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 and Outings schedule – February & March

Tues 3 Apr

Bike path walking series, Class C2D

Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or

[Mtgrl03@localnet.com](mailto:Mtgrrl03@localnet.com)

We'll briskly walk two miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from Blatnick Park to St. Joseph's Drive and back for a four-mile trip. Early start. Heavy rain or icy conditions postpone the trip to Thursday. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

Sat 7 Apr

Park Mountain, Class B2C

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Bushwhack to this small mountain in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness that has great views from both peaks. The bushwhacking is from the north thru very open woods. About 7 miles with 1200 feet of ascent.

Innings and Outings, cont.

Tues 10 Apr

Bike path walking series, Class C2D

Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or

Mtgrri03@localnet.com

We'll briskly walk two miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from St. Joseph's Drive to the Rexford Bridge and back for a four-mile trip. Early start. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

Sat 14 Apr

Fir Mountain, Class B2B

John Susko 383-1284

This is one of the trailless peaks in the Catskills so it's for anyone interested bagging a peak, helping to find the canister or just going for a walk in the woods. The distance is ~7 miles, half of which is off trail, with ~1500 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes may still be needed.

**CATSKILL
3500**

Tues 17 Apr

Bike path walking series, Class C2D

Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or

Mtgrri03@localnet.com

We'll briskly walk about 1.5 miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from the Rexford Bridge to Anthony Street and back for a three-mile trip. Early start. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

Sat 21 Apr

**Clements Mountain Bushwhack,
Class B2C**

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This mountain is located in Essex County just west of the Jay Range and east of the Sentinel Range. About three miles with 1500 foot ascent.

Tues 24 Apr

Bike path walking series, Class C2D

Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or

Mtgrri03@localnet.com

We'll briskly walk 1.5 miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from Anthony Street to Nott Street and back for a three-mile trip. Early start. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

Sat 28 Apr

**Urban Trek through Schenectady,
Class B2D**

Herb Terns, 518-372-8478 or

Trailhed@localnet.com

**HALF-DAY
TRIP**

We did this trip last year going from up-town to downtown. This year we'll reverse direction and start out in the Stockade and walk through some of the city's finer historical areas as we make our way to Upper Union St. We'll visit the Jay Street area, Union College, Proctors and the GE Plot. We'll stop for lunch on Upper Union St. There are a number of good delis here or you can bring your own lunch. Round trip will be roughly 7 miles with approx. 150 feet of gain. If anyone is interested in just doing half the "trek" we can spot a car on Union Street.

Sat 28 Apr

Kettle Mountain, Class C2C

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or

nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

Kettle Mountain lies on the north side of the Hudson River gorge, near the Blue Ledge. Its burned and open summit offers views into the gorge, as well as across the gorge to 250 ft OK Slip Falls. We'll bushwhack from the North Woods Club Road, across rolling, but not steep, land to the summit and then explore to find the views. On the return, we may visit the edge of a large, dismal cedar swamp, which may have interesting spring flora. Distance is about 3.5 miles, with 550 ft total ascent.

Sat 28 Apr

**Northville-Placid Trail Steward Trip,
Class B3D**

TRAIL Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

MAINTENANCE Join us for our semiannual cleanup patrol on the Northville-Placid Trail, between McCane's and Lake Durant. Sidecutting, drainage clearing, light blowdown removal. 5.7 rolling miles as a through trip, and a nice lunch spot at Stephens Pond. Easy introduction to trail maintenance. Limited to 6 participants.

Tues 1 May

Bike path walking series, Class C2D

Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or

Mtgrri03@localnet.com

We'll briskly walk about 2 miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from Schenectady County Community College to Lock 8 and back for a four-mile trip. Early start. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

Sat 5 May

Sucker Hole Hill, Cotters Pond and Blue Hill (Pharaoh Lake Wilderness), Class B+2B

Herb Terns, 518-372-8478

or trailhed@localnet.com

The Pharaoh Lake Wilderness sees a lot of traffic each year but this northern section near Pyramid Lake is lightly visited. We'll bushwhack from the state trail to the unfortunately named Sucker Hole Hill which has a promising look-out spot if we can find it. From there we'll retrace our steps to Cotters Pond and the cliffs of Blue Hill which should have good views. 6+ miles with 1400 feet of gain, mostly off-trail.

Sun 6 May

NPT Maintenance — Benson to Rock Lake, Class AC3

Kevin Cotter, 762-7747

or kcotter@nycap.rr.com

Come join in and help out with some trail cleanup on this section of the Northville Placid Trail. We will be working on clearing drainage ditches and smaller blowdown. It's rolling terrain through beautiful forest. Some water crossings are necessary to reach our destination of Rock Lake, where we'll stop for lunch. Please contact me via email or telephone by May 1st if you wish to join in. Space is limited.

Tues 8 May

Bike path walking series, Class C2D

Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or

Mtgrri03@localnet.com

We'll briskly walk about 2 miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from Lock 8 to Kiwanis Park and back for a four-mile trip. Early start. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

Thur-Fri 10 & 11 May

Trail Clearing - Porter & Blueberry Mts.

Jackie & Neil Parker, 371-9139

Trail Work

Blowdown removal/side-cutting on Porter Thursday, then on Blueberry Friday. Chapter provides

TRAIL

MAINTENANCE

tools, dinner Thursday and breakfast Friday. Call for details.

Get to know your trip leaders

Norm Kuchar

Age: 67

Occupation: retired GE R&D manager

Norm says: Although I climbed my first Adirondack peak over 50 years ago, I really became serious about hiking when I retired six years ago and started going on chapter outings. Since then, I've learned a lot from experienced ADK hikers. A few days at the ADK Winter Mountaineering School turned hiking into a year-around activity. Walt Hayes introduced me to the joys and woes of bushwhacking, and Colin Smith became my guide to the Catskills. Walt has also been my mentor as a trip leader. Since I like to explore, many of the trips I lead go to places where I haven't been before. I plan hikes that I think everyone will enjoy and that offer something special, such as good views, beautiful forests, or a sense of adventure. It's a successful trip if, at the end, the hikers tell me they enjoyed the day.



Sat 12 May

Acra Point & Burnt Knob. Class B2B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243

or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

Acra Point and Burnt Knob lie along the northern escarpment of the Catskills. They offer great views of the Blackhead Range, Windham High Peak, and the lands north and east of the Catskills. Starting at the end of Big Hollow Road near Maplecrest, we'll first hike up to the Escarpment Trail, then head east along the escarpment to viewpoints on Acra Point. Retracing our steps, we'll head west along the escarpment to several viewpoints on Burnt Knob, before descending back to the trailhead. Total distance for this trail hike is about 6 miles, with 1500 ft ascent

Sat 12 May

Long Path, Middleburgh Cliffs, Class B2C

Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

We'll park on Durfee Road, NE of Middleburgh, and head back SW toward the village. Spectacular views over Schoharie Valley from the cliffs. Return via same route or car spot in village, depending on group size and parking avail-

Innings and Outings, cont.

ability. About 6-7 miles total either way.

Sat 12 May

Lock 23 Clean-up

Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or
mtgrrl03@localnet.com

Union College professor Andy Morris is leading a clean-up of the old Lock 23 site in Rotterdam, visited earlier this year during a Schenectady ADK trip. We'll spend the morning clearing some brush and exploring the old lock site starting at 9 a.m. Wear long pants, long sleeves and bring some gloves.

Sun 13 May

Mothers Day Wildflower Hike, Class C3C

Ruth Schottman 399-5728

Nancy Slack 377-74222

This annual outing will have two leaders this year. The location will be either Hadley Mountain or Pitchoff Mountain. Both are steep but the pace will be easy. Call for further information.

Tues 15 May

Bike path walking series, Class C2D

Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or
[Mtgrrl03@localnet.com](mailto:mtgrrl03@localnet.com)

We'll briskly walk 2 miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from Kiwanis Park to the dead-end at Scrafford Lane and back for a four-mile trip. Early start. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

Sat 19 May

Macomber Mountain and Hayes Flow, Class B2C

Harold McComber and Walt Hayes

for reservations call Harold at 274-3960

This trip will originate from the Speculator Tree Farm off Route 30 just north of the intersection with Route 8. There is a trail to Hayes Flow and then a bushwhack up Macomber Mountain.

Total distance will be about six miles with 1500 feet of ascent.

Sun 20 May

Marshall, Class A2C

Jay Summerson, 673-2664

Marshall via Herbert Brook from the Upper Works. Call leader for further information.

Tues 22 May

Bike path walking series, Class C2D

Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or
[Mtgrrl03@localnet.com](mailto:mtgrrl03@localnet.com)

We'll briskly walk the final orphan mile of the Mohawk-Hudson

Bike-Hike Trail from Woestina Street to Route 5S and back for a two-mile trip. Early start. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

Sat 26 May

Hadley State Forest Preserve, Class B2C

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

There is an old road described in the 1998 "Natural Areas of Saratoga County" pages 60 and 61. This ECOS guide says that "Adirondack wildflowers abound." I have not been there without snow on the ground so I have not seen the flowers. There is a bushwhack thru the county forest to get to the old road. It will be a full day at a leisurely pace looking for wildflowers and exploring the road. The road does climb but the ascent will probably be under 1000 feet in total. Distance about 6 to 8 miles.

Sunday 27 May

Cascade, B2C

Ken & Nilde Marcinowski, 885-9400 or
Nildekens@msn.com

This will be a leisurely paced trail hike up one of the most popular and easily accessible of the Adirondack 46 High Peaks. A **HIGH PEAK** 2.35 (4.7 RT) mi. hike with 1940' ascent to a magnificent 360 degree vista at 4090'. An excellent sampler of the Adirondack High Peaks. Depending upon time and group interest, we may also make a .7 (1.4 RT) mi. excursion to Porter. We will meet at the Cascade Trailhead Parking Area on Route 73 at 9:30 a.m.. Please call or e-mail by Thursday evening prior to the hike. Rain will cancel.

Mon 28 May

Big Indian — Catskills, Class B+2B

Mary MacDonald, 371-1293

or mmacdonald@nycap.rr.com

Visit the spring blooms during our ascent of this Catskill 3500 **CATSKILL 3500** mountain. This is a gradual climb along the Dry Brook Trail to Biscuit Brook - Pine Hill Trail junction. We will then head south to the summit of Big Indian at 3700 feet. Ascent is 1110' and about 4 miles each way.

Sat 2 June

Little Holmes Lake, Class A2C

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This will be a through bushwhack from Pinnacle Road via Little Oxborn Pond and Fisher Vly Lake in the Town of Bleecker, Fulton County. Ten+ miles with 1200 feet of ascent. We will traverse various surfaces including marked snowmobile trail, marked foot trail, unmarked old roads and pure bushwhack.

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2007 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 are 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 allowing members to keep an eye out for each other. Boats should be appropriately outfitted for the level of water. Do you want to learn how to paddle white water? Call Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) for canoe or Horst deLorenzi (399-4615) for kayak. We can help you get started.

Day	Date	Trip location	Class	Leader	Phone
Sun	April 1	East Canada Creek: from Stratford to Dodgeville	2/3	Betty Lou Bailey	355-0604
Thu	April 5	Normanskill: Plan A: an exciting Class I/II section, which will require a shuttle. Too much or too little water will cause us to switch to Plan B: a mild Class I Section which does not require a shuttle. In either case be prepared for strainers and cold water. Trip limit is 5 boats plus the 2 leaders. To ensure enough daylight we will have to meet early (5:15 p.m.). Location TBA.	2	Sally Dewes And Larry Woods	346-1761 271-0270
Sat	April 7	Catskill Creek	3	Norm Labbe	877-0076
Sun	April 8	Easter			
Sat	April 14	East, West, and Middle Branches of the Sacandaga "The Triple Play"	3	Mal Provost	399-1565

Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 5)

Sat 2 June National Trails Day

Save the date for National Trails Day event. We are planning a morning along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in Schenectady. Look for details in the June/July Lookout.

Sat 9 June Crane Mountain Pond Bushwhack, Class B2C Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Bushwhack to the pond on Crane Mountain from the north. We will get views from the western summit of Crane Mountain. Depending on weather a swim in the pond will be possible. Optional climb to the firetower site. After circling the pond we will descend on an ATV trail to the site of an old paint mine and back to the cars. Up to seven miles with 1900 foot ascent.

Thurs 21 June Sleeping Beauty Sunset Solstice Hike, Class C2B

Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
Trailhed@localnet.com

This will be an after-work hike in the Lake George area to kick off the summer. We did this trip the past few years and had a great time. This year we'll hike the marked trail up Sleeping Beauty in the early evening to watch the sunset on the summit. We'll hike back down by headlamp. A headlamp is required. Call or e-mail by Wednesday June 20 at the latest. Round trip is 3.5 miles with 1150 feet of gain.

Friday-Saturday August 3rd+4th The Bitter Pill Adventure Race Herb Terns, 518-372-8478

I'm looking to get some ADK members together to form a team for the Bitter Pill in the Bolton Valley near Burlington, Vt. It's a 12 hour multi-discipline adventure race (think mini-Eco Challenge) that includes navigation, mountain biking and canoeing. The website is <http://www.gmara.org/bitterpill/index.html>.

Whitewater schedule, cont.

Day	Date	Trip location	Class	Leader	Phone
Sun	April 15	East Branch of the Sacandaga upstream of Griffin Falls: This is a very scenic paddle that feels remote even though it is never far to Rt. 8. There is a lot of flat moving water where you can relax and get ready for the 3 different class 2 sections. These class 2 sections are usually more technical in nature than big volume wave trains.	2	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
Sat	April 21	Hannacrois Creek: This creek is the outlet of Alcove Reservoir below Delmar and goes east towards the Hudson River below Ravina	2/3	Jon Allison	383-1465
Sat	April 21	The annual Hoosic River Release at Schaghticoke.	3 or 5	Steve Brabetz	843-5566
Sun	April 22	Sacandaga River from Wells to Hope	2	Dave Avigdor	654-6609
Sat	April 28	West River Release; from dam to East Jamaica	3	Bob Wright	279-1428
Sun	April 29	West River starting in East Jamaica. The West River from Ball Mt. Dam can be pretty exciting even for solid class III boaters. At Jamaica State Park it settles down to a continuous class II. Much of the run is away from roads, so the scenery is very nice and the water quality is excellent. This section is often paddled by "newbies" looking to step up to their first class II. It still has enough action to be fun for more experienced paddlers.	2	Larry Woods	271-0270
Sun	April 29	Schoharie River; North Blenheim to Middleburgh	1	Jack Daniels	864-5689
Sat	May 5	Hudson River: North Creek to the Glen	3	Dave Avigdor	654-6609
Sun	May 6	Hudson River: North Creek to Rapparius. We will start before the race and find a place to watch where the action is exciting and we are in the sun. When we reach Rapparius we will take the train back to N. Creek with our boats on the flat bed. Possible group dinner afterwards.	3	Larry Woods	271-0270
Sun	May 6	Battenkill from Rt. 7A to NYS line	1	Jack Daniels	864-5689
Fri	May 11	Leader's Choice	3 or 4	Bob Wright	279-1428
Sat	May 12	West Branch of the Sacandaga	3	Charlie Beach	459-9127
Sun	May 13	Schroon River	3	Norm Labbe	877-0076
Sat	May 19	Leader's Choice	3 or 4	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
Sun	May 20	Hudson River; North River to North Creek in the morning where there are 2 rapids of note. Both are scoutable from the road. We will have a picnic lunch before we set up shuttle for the afternoon section from the Glen to Snake Rock. There is one class 3 rapid near the start of this section and we will take time to scout it.	2	Betty Lou Bailey	355-0604
Sat	May 26	Leader's Choice	3	Larry Woods	271-0270
Sat	May 26	Instruction in paddling for those new to moving water: topics of instruction will include an understanding of river dynamics and techniques of maneuvering safely on a river or stream	1	Rich Macha	346-3180
Sun	May 27	Housatonic River from Falls Village to Cornwall Bridge which is approximately 11 miles	2	Jack Daniels	864-5689
Sat	June 2	Schroon River	3	Rick Gonzales	461-2718

Trip tails and paddling parables

Shaker and Holy Mtns — 09/16/06

We had a beautiful day to explore the two mountains used by the Shakers for their special feast days — both summits posted as "Holy Ground." Horse drawn carts brought provisions to the edge of the holy ground. That meant fairly wide paths at moderate but significant grades. Trails are now maintained by Boy Scouts, and marked in one direction (counter clockwise on the circuit).

Unfortunately we were too early in the fall for any chestnuts in the chestnut trees on Shaker Mountain. Our sociable group included Geraldine Kubek, Eileen Spuck, Regine Brate, and Ronald McLagan. We got done hiking before 2:30 p.m. so all four went across US 20 to the restored Hancock Shaker Village after the hike, while I (Betty Lou Bailey, leader) went directly home to pack for vacation, which started the next day. We all agreed that the hike exceeded the 3.5 miles that was given in the guide book.

Monument Mountain — 11/18/06

Although not sunny, it was a good day for late November with good views of far distant peaks on the summit. The geology and history of the mountain are always interesting. There are always other people on these well maintained trails. Those rock steps on the summit really help. Participants were guests Fred Bergman and Bob Luther and members Jan O'Hare, Linda Nowak, Bill DeWitt, Margaret Parks and Betty Lou Bailey, leader. Five of us stopped for hot soup en route home.

Park Mountain — 12/17/06

This is a post script to a trip report that appeared in the February-March Lookout. In the March/April issue of the Adirondack Explorer, Don Lehman wrote about the arrest of a man on Jan. 10 who had been living in a shelter on the upper slopes of Park Mountain and



Photo courtesy of Gisele Sum

ADK members — from left, Jim Hussey, Herb Terns, Gillian Scott Terns, Ian Kelly and Jeanne Haubrich catch some winter rays below the Beebe Hill firetower.

surviving by burglarizing area camps. Jim Hussey, Mary Nicotera and I were on top of Park Mountain less than a month prior to the discovery of his campsite. We were surprised to see stumps of trees on the ridge between the two peaks. The stumps were of small diameter and the trees had been cut when they were alive. It did not seem to be the kind of cutting campers or hikers would do to gather firewood. I assume the campsite was not far below where we walked. See follow-up trip in this Lookout. (Walt Hayes)

Bennett Hill — 01/06/07

After a scenic drive (including Rock Hill Rd) we arrived at the trailhead in lovely clear, warm weather. Trail was muddy at low elevation but dry on top. Although we couldn't distinguish Cope-land Hill to the south, we could see the tall Empire State Plaza to the east and nearby escarpment to the northwest. It was like a balmy late spring day, with a mild breeze - shirtsleeve weather in January. When leaving the trailhead for lunch in Altamont, it was 69 degrees F. All seven of us opted for lunch at the Home Front Café, which is half restaurant and half World War II museum. (I explained the V-mail letter under the plastic at our table to the two Union College students.) All of us were at one long table. Food was excellent as usual. Those on this enjoyable, social/

hiking outing were the Daniels [Jack, Sheila & Zoe (dog)], Robbs (John & Jeannette), David Grossman-Poneman, Michael Gillin, and Betty Lou Bailey (leader). Note three were new members.

Exploring Svalbard — 1/09/07

David Golibersuch gave a fascinating talk about his trip to the Svalbard archipelago, in particular the island of Spitsbergen. He showed some wonderful slides of this arctic area located between the northern tip of Norway and the North Pole. Anybody who was not able to attend Dave's presentation can enjoy his pictures and write-up of the trip on his website: <http://www.exploringsvalbard.blogspot.com>. They can also get additional information on the outfitter's website: <http://www.dogsledding.com> (Wintergreen Dogsledding Lodge, outfitter Paul Schurke). For those who prefer books to the web, an excellent guide is "Spitsbergen" by Andreas Umbreit published by Bradt Travel Guides.

The presentation was attended by about 60 people.

Pine Hill, Orange Hill, Franks Hill and No 7 Hill — 01/10/07

Snow depth at parking area about

(Continued on page 8)

Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 7)

one inch with maximum depth at higher elevations about two inches. Lots of animal tracks in the fresh snow. Cloudy day with full sun out by noon lunch on top of Franks Hill. Best views of the day were on Franks Hill. The west end was steep and mostly treeless so views were good on the ascent.

The lunch spot was on a rock slab with views of Park Mountain, Number 8 Mountain and Stevens Mountain. About 6 miles with ascent of 1600 feet. Participants Norm Kuchar, Mike Perry, Jim Spring, Bob Werthmuller and the leader.

We found a tree with a stainless steel marker "Charles E. Bush, RD3 Box 305, Monroe, NY 10952, May 5, 1923 to Nov 30, 1982" near side trail at 601253E and 4849033N. Does anyone know about this man? (Walt Hayes)

Buck Mountain 01/13/07

The day started with a fine sleet which soon ended but, unfortunately, it never cleared out enough to allow for the wonderful views Buck Mountain has to offer. All in all, it was a pretty hike up the somewhat icy trail. With the capable assistance of regulars Randolph Franklin and Walt Hayes, we did a partial bushwhack on the way down to avoid the worst of the ice. We were also joined by college students David Grossman-Poneman and Michael Gillin. Always a special treat to have young folks join us! Thanks to all for making the day enjoyable. (Ken and Nilde Marcinowski)

Trout Lake Mountain — 01/20/07

Four hardy hikers braved a cold (12F), windy, but sunny day to bushwhack to the top of Trout Lake Mountain, in the Silver Lake Wilderness north of Arietta. We were pleasantly surprised to find enough snow — nearly a foot deep at the top of the mountain — to use our snowshoes.

Dense spruce and blowdown caused us to change the intended route, but we found a way which passed under very impressive sheer cliffs on the west side of the mountain.

Participants were Walt Hayes, Kathy Miles, Jerry Perregaux and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

State Brook Mountain — 01/24/07

After a short snowshoe on the snowmobile trail to Dexter and Dry Lakes we left the trail and aimed for the ramp up the south face of the mountain. There was eight to ten inches of snow with no base. The ramp was an easy route through open woods. I was expecting to climb the summit from the west on an easy grade as shown on the map. The easy grade did not materialize. We had a steep climb next to sixty foot cliffs and then a scramble through thick conifers with small cliffs to bypass until we reached the relatively open top. There were no views but the thick conifers covered with snow were a gorgeous setting for lunch.

As we descended the eastern slope the woods were again open — an easy walk. We tried to find views from a NE summit but there were no clear views. On the way back to a snowmobile trail we had one casualty as ice on a small stream gave way after several of us had crossed. The best snowy day of the winter so far.

Participants were Walt Addicks, Zack Bell, Connie Cockrell, Randy Cockrell, Evelyn Dufur, William Dufur, Gail Gaslin, Norm Kuchar, Anneliese Lawson, Kathy Miles, Mary Nicotera and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Partridge Run — 01/27/07

The leader scouted out Partridge run before the scheduled date and found the snow cover very marginal for cross country skiing. So instead five of us skied at the Geisinger property in Princetown and were very pleased to find adequate snow provided an enjoyable trip. Bob Boromisa, Jack & Shelia Daniels, Randolph Franklin and the leader. (David Geisinger)

Featherstonehaugh SF Moonlight Snowshoe

Dec 27-Jan 2: No snow, no moon, no

calls, no trip.

Jan 25-Feb 1: This was a very unsettled period weather-wise, with few forecasted clear nights, little snow, and no calls for this trip. On Monday, Jan 29, I arrived home at 5:30 to an unexpectedly bright moon, and I knew there was 3-4" of snow at Featherstonehaugh. I ate a quick dinner and hit the trail alone, without snowshoes. Pale hazy moonlight with soft shadows for the first half of the walk, and then no moonlight and a snow squall for the second half, as the sky clouded over. Wednesday, Jan 31, then unexpectedly turned out to be a very clear and bright night, but with no other interested parties, I stayed home. (Rich Vertigan)

Ely Mountain — 01/31/07

Temperature was about 10 degrees as we left the trailhead going toward Jockeybush Lake. At the east end of Jockeybush Lake we started the climb south up the western ridge of Ely. It was fairly thick and steep but beautiful with heavily snow covered trees. We stopped for lunch short of the top and then after finding the top went down to the east. A valley heading north took us back to the trail and out to the cars. Participants: Betty Lou Bailey, Lynn Filarecki, Gail Gaslin, Norm Kuchar, Kathy Miles, Stephen Ras, Susan Roberts and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

The Cliff — 02/03/07

A plumbing emergency brought us down to only two participants, on a 20ish windy, clear day. The ascent up to "The Cliff" is a gradual to moderately steep lumber road (drivable by car in summer). Then we were on a pleasant level old road along the edge of The Cliff. There are still remnants of Christmas lights there, although the generator that likely was there was removed. Mostly there are trees along this road, but several places are completely open for photo type views. After about an hour going back and forth we (Sandy Gordon and BLB) descended and visited Stewart's en route back. (Betty Lou Bailey)

(Continued on page 10)

Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 9)

Shaker Mtn — 02/07/07

This Shaker Mountain is located in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest in Fulton County. We started from the parking area at the end of Pinnacle Road with temperatures about minus two degrees. Old maps showed a trail or road going west toward Shaker Mountain but we never found any sign of it. We had about a foot of snow with a little more base than we found on previous trips. It was a partially cloudy day but we had a lot of nice sun.

We came across some trail markings for a short distance and then later found tape (marking a camp site?) as we climbed the valley north of the peak. There were a couple of short steep sections but most of the grade was easy. The top was broad and flat. After victory photos on top we retreated to a lunch spot out of the wind where temperatures were about 12 degrees. After about 4 miles and 4.75 hours we were back at the cars.

Participants were Gail Gaskin, Linda Kolnick, Norm Kuchar, Kathy Miles, Stephen Ras and the leader. (Walt Hayes).

The Dam Hill — 02/10/07

The day started cool but by noon was in the high twenties. Some sunny periods but mostly cloudy when long views would have been available. Very pleasant weather overall. As we were looking for a stream crossing to get to The Dam Hill we came upon a beaver dam that allowed us an easy crossing. Slides indicating otter activity were seen on and near the dam.

As we entered the woods west of the stream we came upon a bloody scene. A hawk had been beheaded with lots of blood and feathers around. By the time we returned to the scene in mid afternoon the body of the hawk had been finished off. We thought we might have interrupted the predator in the middle of his meal, though we never saw the culprit.

We climbed a smooth easy slope to the top of The Dam Hill and then continued down the north side to go up the southwest ridge of No 8 Hill. The ridge opened up and the wind made it feel very cool on the upper part of the ridge where we had excellent views to the south of the mountains

Share your photos!

If you've got photos of a Schenectady ADK trip that you'd like to share, mail a print to Lookout Editor, 1231 Keyes Ave., Schenectady, NY 12309 or e-mail a digital file (please, no larger than 2 MB) to mtgrl03@localnet.com. Be sure to include your name, the place of the trip and when it took place, and your contact information in case we have more questions.

just north of Brant Lake (Park, No 8 Mtn, Little Stevens and Stevens). The summit rock with its memorial plaque was less windy so we stopped for lunch and views. The view of the southern and western cliffs of Pharaoh Mountain are sensational from that vantage but the High Peaks were under cloud cover.

We returned by bypassing The Dam Hill to the northeast and picked up our morning trail just before it passed a four foot diameter white pine tree and the crime scene. We saw the bounding footprints of what we assumed was a large member of the cat family. The leaps were about 6 feet normally with a maximum approaching 14 feet on a slight downhill section. All four feet were hitting the ground in a single square shaped pattern. The snow depth was about 4 inches so snowshoes were left in the cars. Hot drinks at Stewarts capped the day.

Jim Hussey, Lin Neil, Mary Nicotera, Herb Terns and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Graham and Balsam Lake Mountains — 02/13/07

A group of seven hiked to the 3868 ft summit of Graham from the Dry Brook Ridge trail and the unmarked old road which branches from it. There was about 8 in of snow near the summit, and several of the group used snowshoes to advantage. The summit was windy and cold, so we didn't linger long. After lunch at a milder location, four in the group also hiked the short distance to the 3723 ft Balsam Lake summit and its fire tower. With very clear conditions, the views from the tower were spectacular and included the entire Cats-

kills from the Blackhead Range in the north to Peekamoose and Table in the south.

Hikers were Betty Dykstra, Phil Fountain, Sharon Getman, Linda Kolnick, Mary MacDonald, John Susko and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

Second Pond — 2/24/07

Cancelled – no signups. (Norm Kuchar)

Moonlight Snowshoe - Featherstonehaugh State Forest — 2/28/07

Wednesday Feb. 28 was crystal clear with an 87% full moon, and snow was plentiful on a beautiful evening to be out. We walked on the snowmobile trail (easy) and broke trail alongside the ski trail (not so easy) for about an hour, enjoying the moon and stars above. This was another period of fickle changeable weather, with forecasts changing daily, and only this one clear night.

Seven people originally called early to express interest, but the eventual short-notice and scheduling conflicts knocked that number down to Bernie and Celia Mansbach and the leader. (Rich Vertigan)

Hogback — 03/01/07

The leader was worried about snow depth and parking but neither turned out to be a problem. Snow was consolidated since the big snow. Dark blue sky, views through the trees, open woods, just a great day. About 5 hours. Coming down the western ridge was just a delight. Open woods, little blowdown, no cliffs. Participants: Connie Cockrell, Randy Cockrell, Norm Kuchar, Kathy Miles and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Pinnacle & Chase Lake — 3/3/07

Seven of us snowshoed from the end of Pinnacle Road and bushwhacked into the valley north of Pinnacle. The massive turquoise and green ice fall on the northwest slopes of the mountain seemed even larger and more beautiful than in past winters. Instead of following the planned route past Chase Lake, we climbed up the

Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 10)

mountain ridge to search for cliffs that we learned about from Larry King. An hour of searching failed to locate the cliffs, but the trek was nevertheless memorable. On this day after an ice storm, we passed through a crystal palace, with the sun reflecting off ice covering every branch and twig. By afternoon, we listened to the tinkling music of countless ice shards falling from the tree tops. The snowshoers were Walt Hayes, Jim Hussey, Kathy Miles, Jerry Perre-gaux, Steve Ras, Wyatt Waterman and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

Added note: Walt and Norm hiked to Chase Lake on 3/9/07, took a bearing on the cliffs, and bushwhacked to both their base and top. The cliffs are sheer and about 75 ft high — a good destination for a future hike. It turned out that the hikers on 3/3/07 passed only about 0.1 miles above the cliff tops, but did not spot them because of the ice-covered trees.

Kane Mountain — 3/4/07

Judging from the register sheets and the several groups we saw on the summit, this is a popular hike. People liked the climb — always upward but never terribly steep. The trail had the traditional "snowshoe trench" of a popular winter trail. The summit had an extra thick crust to the new snow as well as attractive ice on the trees. Snow on the landings of the fire tower was almost a foot deep. After close inspection, Bob Boromisa gave us a report that steps (like everything else) were ice crusted, too much to be a safe climb. It was cloudy anyhow but we could see Green Lake and Canada Lake thru the trees.

We found the intended northern trail for the descent, but it was not broken out, so we had to find the dark red blazes for guidance. Even with Liz Hogan-Feuerstein's eagle eyes we were sometimes puzzled on where to go. It was also windy on the north side, so it seemed better to return on the east trail we'd used in the a.m.. After "signing out" at the register we explored a little, seeing where we would have come out if we hadn't turned around, visiting the little pond that

had been a fish hatchery, and noting the trail to Stewart and Indian Lakes to the east.

Others who came were Laurie Boromisa and Roger Feuerstein, our photographer. (Betty Lou Bailey)

Little Holmes Lake and beyond — 3/7/07

The weather forecast resulted in three cancellations leaving Walt Addicks and the leader as only participants. The wind died down from the day before and the starting temperature was positive, rising to about 15 degrees by lunchtime. Most of the trail was packed by snowmobiles and even while bushwhacking the crust supported us most of the time.

We covered about eight miles in a little over five hours — perfect conditions for snowshoeing. The trail to Little Holmes Lake is not marked and there is no sign at the junction so we missed it on the first pass and then lost it on the way in. The sky was a dark blue all day with a few clouds. We found an old road past Little Holmes but could not locate the ruins of the old logging camp described

When a sweep canoe did not sweep

*Ready for whitewater season?
Schenectady Chapter member Art Fatum, now living in Florida, recently wrote in to tell us about one whitewater trip that left a big impression:*

Many years ago, Ken Robbins, Bob Spencer and I were part of an ADK spring training run on the Hudson. The river was very high. The group included a club canoe leading, two canoes of inexperienced canoeists, an inexperienced kayaker, Ken Robbins paddling alone and Bob Spencer and me in the sweep canoe.

Ken was running just ahead of Bob and me. Suddenly, Ken dropped out of sight. Both Bob and I hollered, "We are going to get wet."

Next we watched Ken riding up the side of a huge standing wave as we started down into a big hole. As we went into the standing wave, I still remember Bob standing up in the bow of the canoe in water up to his neck, while I was still dry — but only for a moment.

We came floating around a bend in the river and found the group waiting for us. They quickly pulled us in. As a result of our poor sweep performance, the inexperienced kayaker decided to pull out at that point. I must say that the hole was the deepest one I have ever seen.

Have an adventure to share? Send it to The Lookout, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301.

by Barbara McMartin. Only three snowmobiles sighted all day. (Walt Hayes)

Beebe Hill and No Bottom Pond—2/4/07

We were lucky to have clear blue, sunny skies for our trip. There was not enough snow to warrant snowshoes as six of us and a hiking dog made our way into No Bottom Pond. The ice on the pond was thick enough for some of us to head out to the middle and get the full enjoyment of the sun. From there we went back the way we came to head up the hiking trail to Beebe Hill. A fairly short climb to the top but with very good rewards. From the tower on the summit we got a good view down to downtown Albany in the west and the Berkshires to the Northeast. Instead of heading back down the trail we took the road back down. A nice outing that burned enough calories to let everyone indulge a little at the Superbowl parties later in the day. Hikers were Jeanne Haubrich, Jim Hussey, Ian Kelly, Gillian Scott, Giselle Sum, a hiking Newfoundland and the leader (Herb Terns)

Main club events

New lodging rates effective Jan. 1

The Adirondack Mountain Club has announced new rates for its Heart Lake and Johns Brook facilities.

Adirondak Loj

(Includes full buffet breakfast)

- Private room.....\$145.00 per night
- Four or Six-person bunkroom.....\$55.00 per person
- Twelve-person loft.....\$45.00 per person

Meal Prices (Breakfast included in Loj rates)

- Breakfast.....\$7.50
- Lunch.....\$7.50
- Dinner.....\$16.00

Wilderness Campground

Tent Sites (Up to six people)

- Summer.....\$28.00 for two people
- Winter (Nov.-April)..... \$15.00 for two people (\$3.00 for each additional person)

Lean-Tos (Up to six people)

- Summer..... \$32.00 for two people
- Winter (Nov.-April)..... \$16.00 for two people (\$3.00 for each additional person)

Canvas Cabin.....\$36.00 for two people (\$3.00 for each additional person)

Additional vehicles..... \$5 per day

Cabins

- Campground Cabin (four people) \$140.00 per night
- Wiezel Trails Cabin (16 people) \$350.00 per night

Johns Brook Lodge

Johns Brook Lodge Caretaker Season

- May - June / Labor Day-Columbus Day
- Ten-person bunkroom.....\$24.00 per person
- Four-person bunkroom.....\$28.00 per person

Johns Brook Lodge – Full service

- (July – August)
- (Including all meals)
- Ten-person bunkroom.....\$55.00 per person
- Four-person bunkroom.....\$60.00 per person

Cabins

- Grace Camp (six people)..... \$165.00 per night
- Camp Peggy O'Brien (12 people)...\$285.00 per night

Johns Brook Lodge Lean-Tos

- \$24 for two people
- (3.00 for each additional person)

ALL ADK FACILITIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
ADK MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT

For reservations, call 518-523-3441
Visit our web site at www.adk.org

Do you love the Adirondacks? Tell ADK

For some ADK members it is their appreciation of a mountain view; for other the desire to protect the wilderness; others enjoy the physical challenge of a hike in fresh air while exploring the backcountry; still others look for birds, animals, flowers and tree; and for most of us it is a little of each of these that inspire our common love for wilderness.

The ADK is looking for members to share what the wilderness means to them.

Send your responses via e-mail to adkinfo@adk.org.

INNING: An Incan journey

(Continued from page 1)

climbing in the west, including trips to the Grand Canyon, the Grand Teton in Wyoming and the Canadian Rockies. In addition, Mike has climbed Mt. McKinley in Alaska and has done extensive kayaking and sailing in northern Labrador.

The Adler family has also spent 16 summers sailing in Newfoundland.

The talk, titled "Journey to the Land of the Incas, the Amazon and the Galapagos," will take place starting at 7 p.m. in the McChesney Room at the main branch of the Schenectady County Public Library on Clinton Street in Schenectady. As always, there is no charge to attend.



MACHU PICCHU

Main club events

For more information on any of these programs, contact the ADK at 668-4447 or go to <http://www.adk.org>.

Education programs

Map & Compass Bushwhack — May 5-6. Heart Lake.

Learn the basics of map and compass skills. The first day will be an introduction to the fundamentals of map reading, compass use, triangulation, and identification of terrain features. On day two, participants will put their newfound skills to the test with a half-day guided bushwhack in the Heart Lake area. *Cost: \$94/\$106; includes instruction and use of equipment.*

Guide License Training – May 9-11. Heart Lake. All certification courses needed for the guide license are included, plus additional workshops to prepare you for the guide license exam and hone your skills in leading others in the backcountry. *Cost: \$153/170; includes instruction, NYSOGA presentation, and CPR, First-Aid, and Basic Water Safety certification.*

GPS 101 – May 19. Member Services Center/Lake George. This course will provide an introduction to Global Positioning Systems. We'll discuss how GPS works, the associated terminology, explain the uses and limitations of GPS, and of course conduct some field exercises to solidify our new skills. *Cost: \$68/\$75; includes instruction.*

Wildflower Weekend w/ Ruth Schottman – May 19-20.

Heart Lake. Intended for beginner wildflower enthusiasts, or those who are looking for a review, this workshop will familiarize participants with Adirondack wildflowers. Led by renowned expert Ruth Schottman, author of Trailside Notes, we will study botanical structures, relationships among plants and various environmental factors as well as identification and use of field guides. *Cost: \$68/\$75; includes instruction and use of equipment.*

Hudson River Gorge Guided Raft Trip — May 20. The Hudson River Gorge offers 16 miles of spectacular whitewater and beautiful scenery. This full day, class III-V trip, will provide you and your group with an exciting adventures as well as great memories. Fun for office and school groups, clubs, scouts, and, of course, friends and families. *Cost: \$72/\$79 includes instruction and equipment use.*

Guided hikes

High Peaks Traverse — July 29-31. = This program combines good company and spectacular hikes with the convenience and comfort of home-cooked meals at Johns Brook Lodge. Explore the beauty of the "Great Range" with experienced leaders and take part in a bit of ADK history. *Cost: \$240/\$265; includes instruction, and meals and lodging at JBL for 3 nights.*

Trailless Peak Series — Summer Hikes

These one-day courses will introduce you to the nuances of hiking off trail through guided trips to the summit(s) of various "trailless" high peaks. We'll discuss safe low-impact travel, route selection, off trail navigation, and the rich natural history

of the Adirondacks. As with any course, learning new skills will be our primary focus, and although every effort will be made to do so, there are no guarantees of reaching summits. Participants should have prior hiking experience, be in good physical condition and prepared to spend (in some cases) up to 12 hours hiking. *Cost: \$50/\$57; includes instruction.*

Street & Nye — 8+/- miles round-trip. June 23, July 11, August 5, August 22 and September 15.

Tabletop Mt. — 10 +/- miles round-trip. June 24, July 18, August 26, September 16

Esther Mt. — 9.5 +/- miles round-trip. July 4, August 1, September 1.

Mt. Marshall — 17 +/- miles round-trip. July 8, July 25, August 15 and September 2.

Beginner Backpacking – Pharaoh Lakes Wilderness

Area. June 8-10. Enjoy learning the tips and tricks of backpacking and low-impact camping with a NYS Licensed Guide. Three days and two nights will be spent in the Pharaoh Lakes Wilderness covering topics such as proper gear, food planning and preparation, safety considerations, map reading, camp set-up, low-impact techniques, water treatment, waste management and stove use. *Cost: \$135/\$150; includes instruction, meals, and use of group gear.*

Trailless Peak Backpacking

These trips are designed for those who have experience hiking and backpacking and who are looking for guided backcountry experience in pursuit of climbing "trailless" High Peaks. This course will be a cooperative group camping experience led by a NYS licensed guide with the shared responsibility of camp chores, cooking, and decision-making. As with any course, learning new skills will be our primary focus, and although every effort will be made to do so, there are no guarantees of reaching summits. Participants should have prior hiking experience, be in good physical condition and prepared to hike (in some cases) up to 12 hours per day. A quick hiking pace will be required in order to reach our destinations each day.

All backpacking trips are field based, except Cliff & Redfield Mts. and Allen Mtn., which are based out of the Heart Lake Program Center. *Cost: \$146/\$163; includes instruction, meals, and use of group gear.*

The Santanonis — 17 +/- miles round-trip. June 29 - July 1 and July 27-29

The Dix Range — 15+/- miles round-trip. July 6-8 and September 7-9

Cliff & Redfield — 20 +/- miles round-trip. July 13-15 and August 10-12.

The Swards — 20 +/- miles roundtrip. July 20-22 and August 17-19.

Allen Mountain — 20 +/- miles roundtrip. August 3-5 and August 24-26.

Conservation notes

Draft plans issued for two wild forest areas

At present, Unit Management Plans for Wild Forests primarily are concerned with reshaping the snowmobile trail network per the snowmobile plan created without public review. The use of groomers is the subject of a suit mentioned in the last Lookout. (Large groomers basically resemble a truck pulling a trailer in size.) Larger and faster snowmobiles want wider trails to pass safely. The present description of a snowmobile trail is to have the character of a footpath and a maximum width of 8 feet. Latest types of snowmobiles lead to trails with the character of roads. This likely will also lead to legal action and, presumably, would require changes in the Adirondack State Land Master Plan, possible also Article XIV of the NYS Constitution.

The matter of “no increase in snowmobile mileage” is being dealt with unit by unit. This seems to be beneficial. In practice, a number of snowmobile trails are not cleared of blowdown and are unusable. They are not being cleared by the DEC or local snowmobile clubs that really do the majority of this their trail maintenance. In effect, the clubs concentrate on their favorite trails, essentially voting on which to continue and which to drop. The objective here is to get back to pre-1972 mileage, add community connector trails along the edges of a unit, and close enough trails to achieve pre-1972 mileage in each unit.

Many, but not all, snowmobile trails are wet in warmer months, leading to problems as used by hikers. Snowmobile markers are expected to be further apart than for other trails. Wet sections show no evidence of a footpath or trail so lead to lost hikers and frustration. Some of the so-called roads in the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest are problematic even with a jeep and dangerous if you intend to use the fords to cross streams at high water. (Snowmobile bridges usually parallel the fords.)

The most discouraging proposal in the Wilcox Lake UMP was to use the Murphy-Middle-Bennett Lakes trail as a com-

munity connector trail. People had expected this to become a ski and snowshoe trail rather than a snowmobile trail. Although officially a snowmobile trail now, its use has been primarily for foot traffic. The objectives section of the Wilcox Lake UMP called for designating and segregating usage, but that was not done. Instead, the proposal is to reroute the trail away from Murphy Lake and away from the present terminus with a nice parking area to improve it for snowmobiles. I recommended a new parallel trail between the Murphy-Middle-Bennett Lakes Trail and NY30 for snowmobiles in a valley already in the Forest Preserve. The objectives section also gave two examples of desired new hiking trails, both ignored. One was a trail north of Crane Mountain Pond, where a herd path with fine views already exists. The second was a trail to Baldhead Mountain, where a new snowmobile trail is proposed along Kidder Brook. This trail essentially takes one halfway to the Baldhead summit. The Wilcox Lake UMP does propose two new short hiking trails with summit views:

1. Moose Mt.—opposite Sacandaga campground on the east side of NY30.
2. Rand Mt. — overlooks East Stony Creek south of Tenant Creek.

The Lake George Wild Forest UMP did not call for maintaining vistas on Sleeping Beauty and Shelving Rock Mountains. Without this we are apt to lose our views. The Lake George Wild Forest area handled the Prospect Mt. area poorly. Only the summit and toll road are intensive use areas excluded from the Wild Forest. Both the Rattlesnake Cobble and snowmobile trail were ignored, although mostly in the Wild Forest. The current Prospect Mt. trail was included although mostly in the intensive use area. The proposed new trail from the south was mentioned but not illustrated. The Lake George Wild Forest extends west to the Hudson River, where the tradition of partying dates back to Niagara Mohawk ownership. After ownership changed, there was a brief period of control with

on-site supervision, but that cost money and was dropped.

I sent lengthy letters to the DEC on both the Wilcox Lake and Lake George Wild Forest UMPs. Melinda Broman sent an e-mail on the Wilcox Lake UMP, protesting conversion of the Murphy-Middle-Bennett Lakes trail from a de facto foot trail to an “improved” snowmobile trail.

Albany city landfill

The city has applied to DEC for a permit change to allow the landfill to be extended to the east and also to stack garbage higher. I sent a letter to DEC saying Schenectady ADK favored no expansion laterally, but would favor the vertical increase in capacity. We recommended a search for other sites since a copy of the letter went to the city.

Open Space committee

The current (2005) Open Space Plan includes karst cave areas in Region 3. I wrote Peter Innes, DEC Region 4, that our Region 4 should likely include karst areas (think Howe’s Cave) in northern Schoharie and western Albany counties in the next (3 year by law) revision of the Open Space Plan.

Renewable energy

There are a wide variety of development projects in the renewable energy world at present. Some, but not many, reach the stage of actual construction. Hence, it is remarkable when a plant using tidal energy or water current is proposing to go “on the grid” as a provider of electricity. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has announced that they have received their first license application for such a project. It happens to be in New York state. Verdant Power has been testing prototype generators in the East River between Manhattan and Roosevelt Islands. They now have applied to build a 10 MW complex of their units, which are 33 KW each. That means about

(Continued on page 15)

Board of Directors

Harvest Moon Madness

At the annual meeting March 10, club officers reported some highlights for 2006:

- Our trails crew received national attention in Backpacker magazine.
- We helped present a Clean Air Act case to the Supreme Court.
- The quality of Adirondac is improving.
- Three new books were released: "No Place I'd Rather Be," "Adirondack Alpine Summits," and the West Central Trail Guide.
- Customer satisfaction is high at the lodges.
- Volunteers again accomplished great things at Loj, JBL, Harvest Moon Madness, trailwork, and elsewhere.

Other news:

At the quarterly Board Meeting, the Boston Chapter was disbanded; no one from the 97 registered families stepped up to fill the chapter officer positions.

Approval was given to Neil Woodworth and John Million to continue negotiations with DEC on a new Visitor Services Facility just north of the current hiker's building.

Finances received a clean audit.

A National Trails Day event will be at the Heart Lake property and will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Northville-Placid Trail.

A "Cabin Fever" online auction was launched in March for Bed and Breakfast items.

— Stan Stoklosa

Conservation notes, cont.

(Continued from page 14)

300 units, each 5 meters in diameter. I was concerned about boat and ship traffic when they first began the development work, but apparently the units will be deep enough to avoid that problem. FERC has assigned one of their most experienced project coordinators to this. The titles of the paperwork may be conventional, but the words won't be the same as conventional hydropower using dams.

Battenkill Camping Adventure Program

The Battenkill Conservancy, in collaboration with the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences is planning an 8-day, 2-week program for kids who will enter 6th, 7th or 8th grade this fall. It tentatively will be four days a week in late July and early August. The plan is to do a "bio-blitz" of the Battenkill Watershed identifying and cataloging flora and fauna. This means hiking and canoeing to gather and photograph species as well as lab work. For further information, check the web site at <http://www.battenkillconservancy.net>, clicking on "education," or send an e-mail to Kelly Nolan at jkn@rwaa.us. Kelly has been doing this type of program for several years with plaudits for the scientific results as well as fun for the participants.

— Betty Lou Bailey

Announcements

New Webmaster appointed

Howard Halstead has joined the Schenectady Chapter board as the appointed Webmaster.

Howard is no stranger to the board, having previously served as chapter Treasurer, Secretary and Webmaster.

Howard replaces Tom Kindler, who served as Webmaster since 2003. Thanks go to Tom for four years of service in maintaining our website.

Niskayuna EMS donates gear

Thank you to Niskayuna's EMS store for providing the Schenectady Chapter with door prizes and samples of current camping equipment for the March 26 Inning (Three Season Hiking and Camping in the Adirondack Preserve), which was held at the new Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library.

EMS's next club days, when club members get special discounts, will be April 21-22. Special preview for ADK members April 20.

Members at Large rep needed

Members at Large (ADK members unaffiliated with a chapter) who are interested in the governance of ADK are needed. A nominating committee will propose three members-at-large to be elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2008. Four meetings per year plus committee assignments are required. Most expenses will be reimbursed.

For additional information and to express your interest, contact the nominating committee chair in writing by April 30:

Adirondack Mountain Club
Att: Nominating Committee Chair
814 Goggins Road
Lake George, NY 12845

Up-to-date reminder

Would you like an e-mail reminder of upcoming events? Send your e-mail address to Mary MacDonald at mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com.

Local news and announcements

Save the date! Trails Day June 2

Saturday, June 2 is National Trails Day. The Schenectady ADK is planning a morning picking up trash and clearing brush along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in the city of Schenectady. This event will also be part of a statewide Canalway Trail Celebration with many events along the bike-hike trail from Albany to Buffalo. Look for more details in the June/July Lookout.

Spring work day

This year's headquarters workday will take place from 9 a.m. to approximately 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 28.

Join fellow ADKers and friends to spruce up ADK headquarters property off Exit 21 of the Northway.

Every spring, volunteers help ADK by doing a little spring-cleaning. The decks get treated, trim is painted, the lawn is raked, and other projects are done to maintain the property. It's fun to meet new people and take part in a community project. You don't have to bring anything other than work gloves if you have them. Bring a friend along also to make it more fun! Bagels, Mo's scones, coffee and lunch will be provided!

Call Maureen Coutant for more information and to sign up at 745-7834 or email: mojim@adelphia.net (If you can come a different day to do a project, let me know)

Step it Up 2007 — fight global warming

Saturday, April 14 has been designated as a national day of action to combat global warming. Step It Up 2007, created by naturalist Bill McKibben, is asking Americans to hold public events to highlight climate change, promote public awareness and press public institutions, government and corporations to take action.

The Schenectady Coalition Against Global Warming, a coalition of local environmental groups, will meet at the bus station on State Street in downtown Schenectady (opposite the YMCA) at 1:30 p.m. and march to the train station on Erie Boulevard. There will be speeches, music, exhibits, petitions and more.

Events are being scheduled around the country; New York state alone has more than 60 gatherings planned. In the Adirondacks, events include a hike up Mount Marcy organized by ADK and Adirondack Explorer magazine to highlight how winter conditions in the High Peaks have changed.

Go to <http://www.stepitup2007.org> for more information.

Ride of Silence

On May 16, cyclists across the globe will gather for a silent, slow-paced evening ride to honor those killed or injured while cycling on public roadways.

A local ride is being organized and will take place in Niskayuna starting at 6:30 p.m. to honor local cyclists Al Fairbanks, Joel Melnikoff, David Ryan, Robert Zayhowski and others. The Ride of Silence, which is held during Bike Safety Month, also aims to raise awareness among motorists, police

In memoriam

Bill White, a long-time Schenectady Chapter member and leader, passed away on February 9 at the age of 83. Those who hiked or skied with him remember his imaginative trips throughout the Adirondacks and his skills as a trailside cook. He was world class at steaks, boiled coffee and practical jokes. Last year, Bill was presented with the ADK's distinguished volunteer award in recognition of his many years of outstanding service to the club. Bill was also active in The Nature Conservancy and played an important role in the preservation of Lake George's Dome Island. Bill has left a superb legacy to all who love the Adirondacks.

and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways.

For more information on the local ride, including start location and route information, call Sue Troll at 782-4982 or e-mail trollasko@aol.com.

Paddle 'N' Pole announcements

- **Paddling Video Series:** On Tuesday, April 2, *ABC's of the Surf Zone*, of interest to those who would like to kayak coastal areas or bigger lakes, will be shown starting at 7 p.m. at Adirondack Paddle'n Pole, 2123 Central Ave. in Colonie. The showing is free — just bring a chair to sit on. Rich Macha 346-3180.
- **Club Day:** Wednesday, April 4 is Club Day. Club members get 20% off regular price on everything in stock (except canoes and kayaks which will be specially priced) including x-c skis, snowshoes, clothing and paddlesport accessories. Proof of membership required.
- **Kayak Classes:** Classes take place at Niskayuna High School pool on Thursdays from 8:15 to 9:45 p.m. in April and May. There is a discount for ADK members. Go to <http://www.niskayunaschools.org> & click on "Community Ed" for more information. Instructors include Horst Delorenzi, Larry Woods, Sally Dewes, Alan Mapes. Adirondack Paddle 'N' Pole is located at 2123 Central Avenue in Colonie. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information on any of these events, call Rich Macha at 346-3180 or go to <http://www.onewithwater.com>.

Book signing

Nancy G. Slack will be signing copies of her new books, "Adirondack Alpine Summits: an Ecological Field Guide" and "AMC Field guide to the New England Alpine Summits" from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 at The Open Door Bookstore in Schenectady.

The Open Door is located at 128 Jay St. For more information, call the store at 346-2719.