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February—March 2007

# The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Club sponsors three-season hiking talk

Schenectady chapter members Maria Beurmann, membership chair, and Norm Kuchar, chapter chair, will present a program on basic three-season hiking at 7 p.m. Monday, March 26 at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library.

Are you new to hiking, or do you have questions about clothing, equipment, trails and hiking ethics? Maria and Norm, both experienced year-around hikers, will empty their backpacks and show equipment needed

for spring, summer and fall hiking. They will also recommend guidebooks to Adirondack, Catskill and Capital District trails and describe how to join scheduled outings in these areas.

This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions and learn more about hiking.

Refreshments will be served.

Don't forget the library is now at its new location at 475 Moe Road, 1/2 mile south of NY 146.

### Basic 3-season hiking

**When:** Monday, March 26

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Where:** Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park.

**Cost:** Free.

## Hey, campers!

If you wish to apply for a DEC camp scholarship through this chapter, you must do so by Feb. 1.

The Schenectady chapter will again be sponsoring 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: camps Colby, DeBruce and Rushford are for teens ages 12-14. Pack Forest Camp is for teens 15-17 years old. Camp sessions are for one week in July and August.

Applicants are requested to write an essay explaining why they wish to participate and send it to "Project Coordinator, c/o Schenectady ADK, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301-0733." Preference will be given to the families of Schenectady chapter members, then affiliates, other ADK chapters and then the public.

Applications should be received by Feb. 1, 2007.

**Teen trail crews: Page 11**

## Two chapter committee chairs sought

The Chapter Board is looking for members to fill open positions as chairs of two standing committees: Trails and Webmaster. Both would become full voting members of the Chapter Board.

The Trails Chair organizes and leads outings to maintain the chapter's three adopted trails on Porter Mountain and Mt. Gilligan. Trail maintenance includes trail marking, side cutting, blowdown removal, and erosion protection. Generally, a trail maintenance outing is planned for late May or early June, with a possible follow-up in late summer.

The Webmaster develops and maintains the home page and overall structure of the chapter's Web site; advises on good practices for publishing material on the Web site; posts chapter materials on the Web site; and maintains the chapter's e-mail lists. This position is particularly important since we would like to create a more attractive and informative Web site for our members.

If you are interested in either position, contact Norm Kuchar, 399-6243.

## New and reinstated members

Darryl Caron  
Van Judd

Catherine Klatt  
Emil Klymkow  
Jim Macklin  
Elizabeth Martin  
Timothy Higgins

Kim Maitino & Lori  
Burdick  
Brenda Arley  
Jerry Bernardi  
L. Timothy Brooks  
Evelyn Dufur  
Mark Havis

Terry Hayden  
Maria Hosmer-Briggs  
Michael Koronkiewicz  
Geraldine Kubek  
Margaret Litwin  
Ron Shaffer

# 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](http://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*

### Sat 3 Feb

#### Cliffs at Middleburg, Class C3C

#### Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

These cliffs are northeast of Middleburg on the Long Path. The ascent will be via the easier old Long Path route. Views of Vrooman's Nose and farmlands of the Schoharie Valley. The route follows an old road along the edge of the cliffs. Bring snowshoes and lunch. About 580 feet of ascent with a distance of 3.5 to 4 miles.

### Sun 4 Feb

#### No Bottom Pond & Beebe Hill, Class C2C

#### Herb Terns, 372-8478 or [trailhed@localnet.com](mailto:trailhed@localnet.com)

This is a short hike not far from home — you will be back in time for the Superbowl. According to local authors Russell Dunn and Barbara Delaney, Bigfoot has been reportedly spotted in this area — he is welcome to

## Innings and Outings, cont.

join us if he signs the liability waiver. The pond is a scenic spot that has an underground cave system, which sometimes causes it to drain quickly. From the pond we'll head up Beebe Hill, which has a tower and nice views for the ease of the climb. Approximately 3.5 miles total.

**Wed 7 Feb**  
**Shaker Mountain bushwhack,**  
**Class B2C**  
**Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

This mountain is the namesake of the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest located in Fulton County, Town of Bleeker. It is just over 2500 feet, with a 1000 foot climb. Total distance is about four miles. The trip will take about 7 hours.

**Sat 10 Feb**  
**The Dam Hill, Class B2C**  
**Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

This is a continuation of our effort to extensively explore the beautiful Pharoah Lake Wilderness Area. This small hill will be combined with another nearby summit, No 8 Hill or possibly No 6 Hill or even No 7 Hill based on conditions. Under seven miles and under 1500 feet of ascent.

**Tue 13 Feb**  
**Graham, Class A2B**  
**Norm Kuchar, 399-6243**

With 3868 ft elevation, Graham is one of the Catskill "high peaks" required for membership in the Catskill 3500 Club. Although officially trailless, the summit is reached by an old road which branches from the Dry Brook Ridge Trail.

Depending on time and interest, we may also include a short side trip to Balsam Lake Mountain (3723'), another Catskill "high peak" with a fire tower. Distance is 8 miles, with 1550 ft ascent (9.6 miles and 1975 ft if Balsam Lake Mountain is included).

**Sat 17 Feb**  
**(Bad weather date — Sat Feb. 24)**  
**Moreau Park, Class B3C**  
**Ken & Nilde Marcinowski, 885-9400 or**  
**[Nildekens@msn.com](mailto:Nildekens@msn.com)**

This hike will lead up and across the side of the Palmerton Range to a viewpoint above Moreau Lake and then back down to and around a portion of the lake. Lunch at the viewpoint and, depending upon group interest, a possible excursion across the ridge to a view point overlooking The Hudson. Snowshoes with crampons and winter clothing required. Approximately 5 miles with 600 ft. ascent. Please call or email

by Thursday Eve. prior to the hike.

**Sat 24 Feb**  
**Second Pond Snowshoe, Class B2B**  
**Norm Kuchar, 399-6243**

Second Pond lies in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness, just south of Gore Mountain. We'll follow the marked trail to the pond, traversing a beautiful forest with no steep grades. Assuming good ice, we'll then explore the half-mile-long pond and adjacent marshes. On a recent trip to the area, we saw signs of moose, so we'll be on the lookout for more evidence of these newcomers to the Adirondacks. Distance is about 7 miles, with about 750 ft total ascent.

**Feb 24 – Mar 2**  
**Moonlight Snowshoe,**  
**Featherstonehaugh SF, Class C3D**  
**Rich Vertigan, 381-9319**

The week before the full moon every month, the moon is at 70-80% of its brightness, and also rises early enough to light up the winter woods in the early evening. This will be a 1-2 hour moonlit walk (snowshoes only, please) through Featherstonehaugh SF, near Mariaville. Exact date, time, and route will depend on snow, temperatures, sky conditions, and my schedule. Please call a week or so in advance and let me know which nights you are/aren't available, and I'll coordinate the details as the weather evolves. Cancelled if no snow or cloudy all week. Kids welcome with parents. Snowshoes required, as are flexibility and a sense of adventure.

**Sunday, Feb 25**  
**Windham High Peak Snowshoe/Hike,**  
**Class B2B**

**Mary MacDonald, 371-1293 or**  
**[mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com)**

Hike begins at NY Route 23 and climbs from the west.

**CATSKILL 3500** Great views through the woods as we ascend this gradual trail to the summit at 3524'. Ascent 1784'. Round trip 6.6 miles.

This is a Catskill 3500 Club summit and a winter ascent. Full winter gear required. Early departure. Call leader or email [mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com) for further information.

**Thurs 1 Mar**  
**Hogback bushwhack, Class B2C**  
**Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

This small peak is located in the Towns of Caroga and Bleeker in Fulton County. Join the leader on an explore near Irving Pond. About 4 to 5 miles with ascent of less than 1500 feet.

(Continued on page 4)

## Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

**Sat 3 Mar**

**Pinnacle and Chase Lake  
Snowshoe, Class B2B  
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243**

The Shaker Mountain Wild Forest in northern Fulton County is a beautiful area for snowshoeing. We'll make a loop around Pinnacle Mountain from the end of Pinnacle Road. After following an old road on the west side of Pinnacle, we'll bushwhack up the valley on the mountain's north-west flank, passing a beautiful icefall and beaver meadow that we found on previous trips. After crossing a low spot on the Pinnacle ridge, we'll head for Chase Lake, which has good views of Pinnacle and its cliffs from the east shore. Finally, we'll follow the marked trail back to our starting place. Distance is about 7.5 miles, with 550 ft ascent.

**Sun 4 Mar**

**Kane Mountain Firetower, Clas C3C  
Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604**

Kane is northwest of Gloversville. We are going up the east trail (600 foot ascent) to the 2180 foot summit. Views from tower of many lakes. Bring snowshoes and lunch. The return will be by a different route down the red trail to the yellow trail. About 2.8 mile round trip.

**Wed 7 Mar**

**Little Holmes Lake and beyond,  
Class B2C  
Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

Snowshoe the trail to beautiful Little Holmes Lake in Bleeker (Fulton County). We will then explore (bushwhack) beyond the lake in an attempt to locate old roads and paths that take us deeper into the woods. It will be about six miles on the trail and two to four miles off trail.

**Sat 10 Mar**

**Ausable Lakes ski trip, Class A2C  
Nancy Slack, 377-7422  
or [NSlack@nycap.rr.com](mailto:NSlack@nycap.rr.com)**

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 is no answer.

## Get to know your trip leaders

Herb Terns

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** digital advertising manager at the Times Union.

**Herb says:** The trips I lead really run the gamut of difficulty and ability. I enjoy the longer, strenuous hikes in the High Peaks but also bushwhacks into quiet areas and easier hikes that my mom might be comfortable coming on. I find on many hikes it's the people that make the trip fun, more than where we happen to be going that day. For that reason, I try to find a pace that everyone is comfortable with and not make anyone feel like they have to struggle to keep up the group, especially on shorter hikes when time shouldn't be that much of a factor. My basic hiking guidelines are: keep the group together (and laughing if possible) and if it's over 50 degrees, we're going to stop for ice cream on the way home. In addition to hiking, I enjoy cycling, running and watching college basketball.



**Tues 13 Mar**

**Hunter Mountain Snowshoe/Hike,  
Class B2B  
Mary MacDonald, 371-1293 or  
[mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com)**

We will start at Spruceton Road and follow the Spruceton Trail, which is an old jeep trail to the summit and Fire Tower. Round trip 6.8 miles. This is a Catskill 3500 Club summit and a winter ascent. Full winter gear required. Early departure. Summit 4040'. Ascent 1950'. Call or email [mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com) for further information.

**Sat 17 Mar**

**Westkill Mountain, Class B2B  
John Susko, 383-1284**

This is one of the more attractive hikes in the Catskills with good views near the top and trails which follow two streams. It is also the only Catskill peak which has a sign to mark the top. If conditions are right we will spot cars and make this a through hike. The distance is 8 miles with 2000 feet of ascent. Crampons and/or snowshoes may be needed.

## Innings and Outings, cont.

**Sat 17 Mar**

**Indian Kill preserve ramble, Class C3D**  
**Ruth Schottman, 399-5728**

This trip is located at the Indian Kill, a Nature Preserve on Hetcheltown Rd. in Glenville. A Saturday morning outing with a duration about 2 and 1/2 hours. There are some short, steep hills. If conditions are too muddy, or icy the location will be changed to Woods Hollow Nature Preserve, in Ballston Spa.

**Tuesday, March 20**

**Bike path walking series Class C2D**  
**Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or**  
[Mtgrri03@localnet.com](mailto:Mtgrri03@localnet.com)

Starting at Niskayuna's Lions Park, we'll briskly walk two miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail to Lock 7 Road and back for a four-mile trip. I plan to do a different section each week until we've covered the entire length of the path in Schenectady County, from Colonie to Rotterdam. We'll be starting fairly early so we can see wildlife along the way and so I can make it to work on time. Heavy rain or icy conditions postpone the trip to Thursday. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

**Sat 24 Mar**

**Bear Pond, Otter Pond and Fernette Mt., Class A2B**  
**Herb Terns, 518-372-8478 or**  
[trailhed@localnet.com](mailto:trailhed@localnet.com)

I'm looking forward to discovering this northern edge of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness just south of Eagle Lake and I'm hoping you'll join me. We'll follow the state trail from Putnam Pond into Bear Pond and then begin a bushwhack over a small ridge to Otter Pond. From the pond we'll ascend up a ridge toward Fernette. Views from surrounding peaks have made me enthusiastic about a potential for views from the ridge. We'll then head over Fernette itself and rejoin the state trail back to Putnam Pond. Trip is approx 7+ miles with 2-3 miles being a bushwhack and roughly 1500 feet of gain.

**Mon 26 Mar**

**"Basic Three-Season Hiking" Inning**  
**Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library**  
**Clifton Park, NY**

Maria Beurmann and Norm Kuchar will show basic clothing and equipment needed for spring, summer and fall hiking. They will also recommend trails, guidebooks and hiking ethics. This program will be especially helpful to those new to hiking. See page 1 for details.

**Tues 27 Mar**

**Bike path walking series, Class C2D**  
**Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or**  
[Mtgrri03@localnet.com](mailto:Mtgrri03@localnet.com)

We'll briskly walk two miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from Lock 7 Road to Blatnick Park and back for a four-mile trip. We'll be starting fairly early so we can see wildlife along the way and so I can make it to work on time. Heavy rain or icy conditions postpone the trip to Thursday. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

**Sat 31 Mar**

**Eleventh Mountain, Class B2C**  
**Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

This is a 3000 foot trailless peak near Bakers Mills off route 8 near Gore Mountain. We know there are moose in this area. Never any promises but we expect to at least see evidence of the presence of moose. Four miles with 1500 feet of ascent.

**Tues 3 Apr**

**Bike path walking series, Class C2D**  
**Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or**  
[Mtgrri03@localnet.com](mailto:Mtgrri03@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.

**Tues 10 Apr**

**Bike path walking series, Class C2D**  
**Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or**  
[Mtgrri03@localnet.com](mailto: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. Heavy rain or icy conditions postpone the trip to Thursday. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

**Tues 17 Apr**

**Bike path walking series, Class C2D**  
**Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or**  
[Mtgrri03@localnet.com](mailto: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. Heavy rain or icy conditions postpone the trip to Thursday. Baby strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

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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
Wed	Feb. 21	Paddlers planning meeting at Chet and Kathy's: Call Horst deLorenzi or myself for directions. Pizza and soda provided.	6	Chuck Wilkison Horst deLorenzi	793-8041 399-4615
Sat	March 24	Leaders Choice: Pork Barrel section of the Farmington will be the first choice.	3	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
Sat	March 24	Hoosic River from Blackinton, Mass to Pownal, Vt. "An easy, scenic trip with intermittent sections of flat water and 'laughing' water. The shore is mostly wooded and seems remote, but towns and farms are nearby. Bring binoculars for several varieties of wild birds and maybe a river otter."	1+	Chet Harvey and Kathy Armstrong	346-4920
Sat	March 31	Catskill Creek	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615

## Whitewater Trip Planning Meeting

The annual whitewater trip-planning meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21 at Chet Harvey and Kathy Armstrong's home. Their address is 37 Oakmont St., Niskayuna. 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. Please call Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) or Chet and Kathy (346-4920) to RSVP.

## Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 5)

### Sat 21 Apr Clements Mountain, 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](mailto: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. Heavy rain or icy conditions post-

pone the trip to Thursday. 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](mailto:Trailhed@localnet.com)

We did this trip last year going from uptown to downtown. This year we'll reverse direction and start out in the Stockade and walk through some of the cities 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.

# Trip tails and paddling parables

## North Dome — 11/10/06

Skies cleared as we started up the Mink Hollow Trail, and headed off on the bushwhack to North Dome. Found canister easily, then headed for the 180 degree view that lay below to the east. Steep and challenging descent back to the trail from there, and back to the car by 4:30 p.m.

Participants were Kendra Pratt and the leaders. (Rich Vertigan and Holly Hawkes)

## Twin Mountain in the Catskills — 11/11/06

Departure 9:30 from the trailhead at Prediger Road. Climbed up Jimmy Dolan Trail reaching summit before noon. Lovely warm day with temperatures in the 60s, hazy views. After lunch 4 of our group hiked to summit of Indian Head. All were out by 3 p.m. Congenial group on fun day.

Participants were Walt Addicks, Walt Hayes, Lois Leonard, Nilde Marciniowski, David Pratt, Kendra Pratt, and the leader (Mary MacDonald)

## Height of Land Mountain bushwhack — 11/15/06

We met at the trailhead to Second Pond at 8:30 AM and quickly took the trail to the place where we started the bushwhack. It was the best weather of the week but without any blue sky all day. The woods was open hardwoods at first but soon turned to thick spruce with hidden blowdown.

After a short steep climb we reached the relatively flat top where there was extensive evidence of regular visits by a moose — lots of scat with browsed ends of witch hobble and balsam. The top varied from thick conifers to open spaces. The top is shown as just under 3000 feet on metric topos but over 3000 on the 15 minute maps.

Our GPS measurements indicated a height of over 3000 feet. On the descent we saw a snowshoe hare that was in the process of changing to his winter white color. We stopped for a late lunch at



Photo courtesy of Rick Dahlgren

ADK members ring in the new year (sort of) atop Harvey Mountain.

Second Pond then a quick trail walk to the cars. Out by 2:45 p.m.

Participants were Gail Gaskin, Norm Kuchar, Jan MacLauchlin, Nilde Marciniowski, Kathy Miles and the leader (Walt Hayes)

## Colonie Town Park — 12/2/2006

A party of eleven covered many of the trails of the Colonie Town Park on a windy and cloudy day. Though there was neither green nor white in evidence on this day, the walkers noted that the park offered many possibilities for the future: wildflowers and birds in the spring and skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. The day ended with the sun peering out just under the clouds.

Those enjoying the park were members Claire Schmitt, Lois Shapland, Arden Rauch, Inge-Lise and Chuck Pangburn, Connie and John Young, guests Marilyn Gannon and Robert Lalonde, and leaders Howard and Emily Hart.

## Holmes Lake — 12/2/06

Having good open parking at both ends and several cars we made this a through trip from west to east. We met two hunters in the parking area but heard no shots

nor saw any other hunters all day. Weather forecasts discouraged some participants but the storms missed us. The walk was easy along well defined trails and roads. Recent work had been done clearing blowdown and preparing for winter snowmobile use. The Irving Pond dam is out so the pond is smaller than maps show. We walked by Bellows Lake and stopped for lunch at Little Holmes Lake.

On the way out we visited Holmes Lake where there was evidence of the community and hardwood mill that produced chair rungs in the early part of the twentieth century. We enjoyed spending time trying to figure out the water source for the mill. We later learned it was powered by steam power. This would be a good ski trip.

Participants were Connie Cockrell, Gail Gaskin, Jim Hussey, Norm Kuchar, Kathy Miles, Mary Nicotera, Arlene Pericak and leader. (Walt Hayes)

## Kibby Pond and unnamed mountain — 12/6/06

After reading a report calling this unnamed peak an "extremely hard mountain" with "tough bushwhack" we were

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## Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 7)

amazed at how easy it was. We started from the formal parking area on the Bartman Road. We were on the summit in 90 minutes. The woods were mostly open hardwoods.

On the walk down to Kibby Pond we found a marked trail going toward the pond. The ice on the pond was thick. We did not test it with our bodies but a large test rock did not go through. After lunch at Kibby Pond we took the NYS trail to a spotted car on route 8.

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

### Tough Traveler factory tour — 12/7/06

About a dozen ADK members converged on the Tough Traveler factory on State Street in Schenectady for an after-hours tour of the facility. Owner Nancy Gold and several of her employees led us through the factory, explaining how products like backpacks and duffel bags are designed and made and showing us how some of the machines work.

Participants included Connie Danko, Holly Hawks, Dick Hughes, Karen Kast, Jackie Parker, Margaret Parks, Ruth and Tom Schottman, Herb Terns, Rich Vertigan, guests Dave Tobey, Heather Hutchinson and Jack Tobey, and the leader. (Gillian Scott Terns)

### Park Mountain — 12/17/06

This unheralded small peak in the Pharoah Lake Wilderness turned out to have two great lookouts with evidence of survey work (by Verplanck Colvin??). After a short trail walk we found a solid path on an old road to take us to the base of the mountain.

The bushwhack was an extremely nice one through an open mature hardwood grove. There were lots of large maples that Jim thought could be curly maple. We first came to the north peak with great views of Schroon Lake. That summit had eye bolts used by a surveyor and a hole that could

### 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 mtgrrl03@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.

have held a survey bolt.

A nice easy walk along the ridge took us to the higher southern peak where we had views over Brant Lake.

Jim Hussey, Mary Nicotera and the leader. (Walt Hayes as sub for Herb Terns)

### Cat Mountain — 12/27/06

Although this outing was billed as a snowshoe hike, the snowshoes stayed in the car since the snow depth was only about 3 inches. Nevertheless, we enjoyed an easy hike up old roads to the summit on a mild winter day. The views of Lake George and the surrounding areas were made more dramatic by the mix of dark clouds and bright sky.

Participants were Zack Bell, Bernie Mansbach, Mimi McGiver and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

### Prospect Mountain — 12/30/06

This would be no one's favorite hike, thanks to ice hiding beneath snow. Light snow throughout the trip was not a problem but it meant no summit views.

At the summit six ATVers had located the spot with best protection from the strong winds, so we had lunch at the same spot. They politely offered some hot dogs they were cooking.

To avoid much of the treacherous footing, we walked the toll road to the lower trail crossing which added significant

mileage but was easy walking as long as you walked where snow was deepest on top of the ice. We did get some murky views of Lake George at two parking pull offs on the toll road.

Margaret Parks and Bob Boromisa joined Betty Lou Bailey on this adventure.

### Harvey Mountain New Year's Eve hike — 12/31/06

This trip seems to get more enjoyable every time we do it. This year, 10 of us gathered for dinner before the hike at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in East Greenbush. It's great to get a group of people together who enjoy cycling, hiking and kayaking and get them together around a dinner table with some food.

We were all a little concerned about the driving conditions on the way back as freezing rain was forecast to start after midnight. We finished dinner and made the short drive over to the trailhead much quicker than anticipated where we met the 11th member of our group.

On the way to the summit we decided we'd celebrate New Year's on Newfoundland time since we'd be getting to the summit long before midnight. We left the trailhead just after 10 p.m. and got to the summit around 11 p.m. The wind was fairly stout and a light snow began at the top but it didn't prevent us from ringing in the new year with some champagne and my wife Gillian's home-baked brownies.

The weather which had concerned us never really turned out to be a problem. In fact, our biggest problem of the night was getting the register open to sign in. We made quick work of the trail down and got back to the cars just after midnight. A great way to start the new year!

Revelers/hikers were Rick Dahlgren, Ken Eckstram, Ann Fiore, Janice Joyce, Mary MacDonald, Kevin Mosher, Jan O'Hara, Gillian Scott Terns, Virginia and William Traver, Czar and Sidney the hiking dogs and the leader (Herb Terns)

## Main club events

For more information on any of these lectures or programs, call 518-523-3441 or visit at <http://www.adk.org>.

### Lectures

Lectures take place on Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. in the High Peaks Information Center (HPIC) located at the end of the Adirondak Loj Road, eight miles outside of Lake Placid, NY. All programs are open to the public and are free of charge.

**Walden by Henry David Thoreau, An Inspiration For All Time — Feb. 3.** Join Dr. Robert McLean in an informal discussion of Thoreau, and learn why Walden was one of the most inspirational and influential works to come out of America. No previous knowledge of Thoreau required, but if you have a copy of Walden please bring it.

**Avalanche Awareness: Avalanches in the Adirondacks — Feb. 10.** New York State Eastern High Peaks Forest Ranger Jim Giglinto will discuss some of the factors influencing avalanches and the history of avalanches in the Adirondack backcountry.

**Winter Landscape of the Presidential Range — Feb. 17.** Mountaineer and photographer Ryan Harvey will present his winter alpine photography of the Presidential Range in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest.

**Acoustic Music — Feb. 24.** Join us for a night of soulful, hard-driving acoustic blues, traditional and original tunes on guitar and harmonica. Steve Langdon's music is a mix of Piedmont and Delta Blues, Bluegrass, Irish tunes and finger-style originals.

**Original Folk — March 3.** Come inside and warm yourselves to the melodic tunes of Celia Evans. Her music, inspired by a love of nature's beauty, people, love and loss, will capture your heart and drive away the chill of old man winter.

**The Northville-Placid Trail — March 10.** Join hiker and outdoor enthusiast Tom Wemett, as he illustrates his 18-day southbound thru-hike of the 133-mile Northville-Placid (NPT) trail. Enjoy stories of the beautiful places visited, the interesting people he met, and the challenges of his adventures.

**Acoustic Folk Music — March 17.** Enjoy a night of acoustic folk music performed by Rebecca Sutter.

**Backcountry Bears — March 24.** DEC big game biologist Ed Reed will give a presentation on black bear natural history, conflicts and problems between bears and backcountry users, the DEC's High Peaks Wilderness Bear Project results, and the newly enacted bear-resistant canister regulations.

### Educational programs

**Trailless Peak Series — Esther, Feb. 3.** Esther (elev. 4240) is a strenuous 9 1/2-mile round-trip hike, and will require a full day of snowshoeing. Includes instruction. *Cost: \$50/\$57*

**Winter Peak Series — Algonquin, Feb. 4.** Algonquin (elev. 5114) is 8 miles round trip and is a strenuous full day of snowshoeing, includes instruction. *Cost: \$50/\$57*

**Winter Camping 101, Feb. 17–19.** This experiential, cold-

weather workshop will cover the fundamentals of equipment, nutrition, low-impact camping, and safety. We will travel by snowshoe to a backcountry camping spot where you will learn how to set up camp, cook, stay warm and dry, and be prepared for the unexpected in the demanding conditions of winter. Includes instruction, group gear, and food. *Cost: \$175/\$195*

**Winter Family Weekend I, Feb. 23–25, Heart Lake Program Center.** Treat your family to a late winter getaway at the Adirondak Loj. Join us for activities ranging from snowshoeing and skiing to looking for animal tracks, building snow forts, sledding, and creating works of art. This program is ideal for, but not limited to, families with children ages 8–12. Includes instruction, meals, and lodging. *Cost: \$169/\$188 members kids/adults, \$244/\$269 nonmember kids/adults.*

**Winter Family Weekend II, March 2–4, Heart Lake Program Center.** Come join us at the Adirondak Loj for round two of our Winter Family Weekends and treat your family to a late winter getaway at the Adirondak Loj. Includes instruction, meals, and lodging. *Cost: \$169/\$188 members kids/adults, \$244/\$269 nonmember kids/adults.*

**Family Snowshoe Day — March 10, Heart Lake Program Center.** Spend the day snowshoeing on Heart Lake Program Center trails. We will provide the snowshoes, instruction, natural history, and guided hikes. *Cost: \$30/\$35 adults, \$10/\$12 kids*

**Trailless Peak Series - Tabletop, March 11, Heart Lake Program Center.** Tabletop (elev. 4427) is a semi-strenuous 10 mile round trip and will require a full day of snowshoeing, includes instruction. *Cost: \$50/\$57*

**Peggy O'Brien Base Camp — March 14-16, Johns Brook Valley.** Based out of ADK's backcountry Camp Peggy O'Brien (3.7-mile hike from Keene Valley), this three-day course will offer great winter day hikes in the mountains surrounding John's Brook Valley with the luxury of returning to camp each evening. Includes lodging at Peggy O'Brien, group meals, and equipment. *Cost: \$198/\$219*

**Trailless Peak Series — Esther, March 17.** Esther (elev. 4240) is a strenuous 9 1/2 mile round trip and will require a full day of snowshoeing, includes instruction. *Cost: \$50/\$57*

**The Brothers and Big Slide Mountain — March 18.** This trip up Big Slide (elev. 4240) via The Brothers (elev. 2940 to 3681) from the Garden offers spectacular views. Returning on the Phelps Trail, we will complete a 9.5 mile loop if group ability, time, and weather permit. This is a strenuous full day of snowshoeing, includes instruction. *Cost: \$50/\$57*

**Wilderness First Aid — March 31–April 1, Heart Lake Program Center.** This intense workshop will teach students how to deal with medical emergencies when they are miles from help. Students will learn to assess patients, become certified in wilderness first aid, CPR, and anaphylaxis. Class time will be spent both inside and out, rain, shine, or snow. *Cost: \$198 includes instruction and materials. Package: \$272 includes instruction, materials, meals, and lodging for two nights.*

## Conservation notes

# Draft plans issued for two wild forest areas

Two wild forests near us have had draft UMPs issued and DEC held related public meetings. On Nov. 6, 2006, I attended the meeting on the Ferris Lake Wild Forest and on Dec. 13, 2006, I attended the meeting on the Lake George Wild Forest. Both were attended mainly by middle-aged male couch potatoes.

The Ferris Lake area (west of NY10 and mostly south of NY8), has few real mountains but quite a few lakes. Tammy Caulfield, who has a camp in the area, helped me with the comment letter, which I finished Dec. 6, 2006. Trail work on existing trails is a major need. Snowmobile trail closures very nearly balance the mileage of new ones. Most of the closed snowmobile trails will become hiking or cross-country ski trails. Plan seems to have management plans such as campsites and usage restrictions on land that New York state does not own in the Stewarts Landing area (outlet of Canada Lake).

The Lake George Wild Forest extends as far west as the Hudson River, so the UMP devotes a lot of attention to New York state lands along the Hudson, where partying and vandalism, dating back to the days of Niagara Mohawk ownership, are still problems. When I've read the 100+ pages and the more interesting appendices, a reply will be sent to DEC.

### New lands acquired

In late December, a 51,000 acre easement in St. Lawrence County, the Rayonies lands, meant that Gov. Pataki had reached his goal of 1,000,000 acres protected in New York state. Of special interest to us are the lands along the Grasse River — 26 miles are open to canoeing that previously were closed.

Roundtop Mountain, near Bearpen Mt. in the northern Catskills, was sold to New York state. It's a 337 acre parcel which includes part of the northern approach to Bearpen as well as the summit of Roundtop (3,450 ft). The trail to the

top of Roundtop is an old road, no tract markers, but easy to follow. The view is to the northwest but is only semi-open due to trees.

### Other new hiking opportunities

State Parks has a nice map of all the trails in expanded Moreau State Park. Stop in the park office, open year-round, to get one. The cost is \$2. From I-87, take exit 17 south and follow signs to the park.

New York City's Department of Environmental Protection has purchased a considerable amount of "wild" land, often adjacent to Forest Preserve, and now is opening this land to the public. You do need a permit, good for five years, no cost. Use <http://www.nyc.gov/dec> to get an application form. Once you get the permit, you can access the information about where you can now go hiking.

In the future, it is expected that the Long Path, were presently on a road parallel to Schoharie Reservoir, will be rerouted in the woods between the road and the reservoir. The DEP needs to have insurance concerns resolved.

### Snowmobile plan

Several years ago, the DEC had public hearings on a draft snowmobile plan, which basically was disliked by both the snowmobilers and the environmentalists. This fall, a new snowmobile plan was issued and adopted without any public hearings. While it is more definitive than the first effort, it still has many problems. It assumes changes in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and some people claim it requires amending the New York state constitution. Since there were not public hearings, copies are scarce.

### Land trusts

A recent (Nov. 30, 2000) article in USA Today stated that as land trusts multiply and improve their operations, the

national Land Trust Alliance says that they now protect 2.6 million new acres per year. In comparison, sprawl is less and is estimated to consume 2.2 million acres per year, based on the national Agriculture Department estimate of farm land converted to developed land. In total, land trusts now own or protect acreage about equivalent to all of New England. This is remarkable progress when you consider that many land trusts have no paid staff. While many transactions to protect land involve large acreages in western states, the very biggest single transaction was over 762,000 acres in Maine in 2001 involving the Pingree Forest.

### Local land trusts

The chapter recently added the Lake George Land Conservancy to the land trusts that we support with a nominal \$50 per year. This is the sixth land conservancy (or trust) in nearby counties that our chapter supports.

### Battenkill Conservancy

This conservancy centers its efforts on stream protection, although sometimes exercising its charter to deal in real estate. George Schmidt attended their annual meeting Oct. 12, 2006. They reported on vegetation buffers along the stream, as studied using aerial photos by an intern from Skidmore College, and continuing water quality testing by other college interns. Vegetation buffers on river banks are important in limiting erosion.

### 2006 Open Space plan

The plan has been issued and I have a copy if anyone wants to look anything up. It is much like the 2005 draft. It is jointly issued by DEC and OPRHP (Parks to most of you).

— Betty Lou Bailey

## Board of Directors

# Harvest Moon Madness declared a success

The Adirondack Mountain Club Board of Directors, meeting Dec. 2 at the club headquarters in Lake George, said the Harvest Moon Madness fundraiser was a great success.

The live and silent auction raised \$51,000 for the club, while the online auction that followed raised another \$10,000. In 2005, the event had raised \$45,000. For 2007, the club hopes to find a bigger venue and to maximize the online auction without hurting the live event.

Other Items of interest:

ADK is involved in its first U.S. Supreme Court case, as detailed in the ... edition of Adirondack magazine.

The board reported no change in fi-

nances. Income from membership and publications continues to be low. The open publications position has been left unfilled; the board discussed that while there have been short-term savings, there are also lost revenue opportunities. Development is close to on target, and the lodges carry the ball.

The sale of the spare lot in Lake George should be finalized soon for \$85,000.

Bob Grimm was recognized for his service as his director's term expires. He remains on the board as JBL chair.

The board also took the following actions:

- Approved a resolution supporting the upgrade of the Tongue Mt., Rich-

ards Vly (Ferris Lake), Big Alderbed (south of Rt. 8 at Morehouseville), and Shiras pond (Wilcox Lake), from wild forest to wilderness status. The directors expressed major concern that this upgrade and the buffers would deny owners of adjacent and inholding properties their current rights.

- Approved a resolution raising membership dues effective Jan. 1, 2007. See below for new rates.

- Approved the budget for 2007. Total revenue: \$3.438 million. Total expenses: \$3.437 million. Net surplus: \$1,000. We'll try not to spend it all in one place.

— Submitted by Bob Grimm and Stan Stoklosa, Directors

## Teens needed for trails program

The chapter will provide the participation fee for a high school-aged youth who would like to participate in Adirondack Mountain Club's Volunteer Trails Program. The applicant will be able to choose a project from the five listed in the schedule.

Participants will spend a week in the woods camping, participating in and experiencing quality trail work.

The project will start with arrival at base camp on Sunday evening for dinner and orientation. Food, group camping gear, tools and experienced leadership will be provided. The projects will end late afternoon either on Friday or Thursday.

Applicants are requested to write an essay explaining why they 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."

Preference will be given to the families of Schenectady Chapter members, then affiliates, other ADK Chapters and

then the public. Applications should be received by June 1, 2007.

The four- and five-day projects include:

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

A schedule with more extensive information will soon be available on ADK.org site.

For more information, call Jackie Parker at 371-9139.

## Membership dues increase

At the December board meeting, the ADK board of directors approved a resolution to increase membership dues. This dues increase took effect on January 1, 2007.

Individual	\$50
Family	\$60
Senior	\$40
Senior Family	\$50
Student	\$40
Individual Life	\$1,300
Family Life	\$1,950

## Ideas welcome

Do you know of a speaker you think fellow club members would be interested in? An activity they would enjoy?

Send your ideas for club activities to The Lookout, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301 or e-mail them to [mtgrrl03@localnet.com](mailto:mtgrrl03@localnet.com)

## Local news and announcements

### Volunteers needed for Northeast Great Outdoors Show

The chapter will again be hosting a booth at the Northeast Great Outdoors Show in March to answer questions and promote the Adirondack Mountain Club. This year we will also be joined by a representative from the main club, and will be selling ADK merchandise. This is a great outreach for our chapter and for the club and we need your help.

The show runs from March 16-18 (March 16, 4-9 p.m.; March 17, 10-6 p.m.; March 18 10-6 p.m.). Members are asked to sign up for a two-hour time period; there will be two people on each shift. After your shift, you can browse the show for equipment, art, clothes, food or information at the many exhibitors' booths. Volunteers receive free admission to the show.

Call Herb Terns at 372-8478 for more information or send an e-mail to [trailhed@localnet.com](mailto:trailhed@localnet.com).

### Adirondack tales sought

Carol and David White are compiling an anthology of Adirondack adventures and misadventures in all seasons, to be published by Black Dome Press. Your stories can be submitted via Word attachments/e-mails to [ccswhite@juno.com](mailto:ccswhite@juno.com) or can be sent to 28 Mulberry St., Clinton, NY 13323. Stories are generally two to four double-spaced pages in length, but may be longer.

Subjects include: Lessons learned in the wild, getting lost, accidents/injuries, the joys and trials of bushwhacking, extreme weather and challenging terrain, long daytrips, animal stories, coping with the unexpected, humor, why we do this, reminiscences, friends/family on the trail, and more.

No submission deadline has been set, but please let Carol and David know if you might submit a tale. Carol is currently vice president of the Forty-Sixers, while David is an ADK director. They have authored or edited two Catskill trail guides published by ADK. Carol also compiled *Women with Altitude: Challenging the Adirondack High Peaks in Winter*, and was guest speaker at last year's Schenectady Chapter annual dinner.

### Ice climbing presentation

Ice climber Nola Royce will give a presentation on ice

### 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](mailto:mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com).

### In memoriam

Al Fairbanks passed away on November 28, about one month after being struck by a car while bike riding on the bike path in Rotterdam. Al was a long-time member of the Schenectady Chapter, and served as treasurer for several years. He was also an Adirondack Forty-Sixer and served on the Board of Directors of the Environmental Clearing-house of Schenectady.

Many of our members recall Al's warmth, friendliness and enthusiasm, which made him such a good companion on trail and stream. We'll miss him.

climbing on Feb. 16 at 10:30 a.m. at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library at 475 Moe Road in Clifton Park. Royce will present a potpourri of slides taken while winter climbing in such diverse places as Alaska, Antarctica, Pamir in Central Asia and Corillera Blanca in Peru. Royce is also one of the women profiled in "Women With Altitude: Challenging the Adirondack High Peaks in Winter."

### Film festival

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour rolls into Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs on Feb. 16.

Hosted by the Skidmore College Outing Club, the festival will feature a variety of adventure-themed films. It takes place at Skidmore College's Bernhard Theatre, at 815 North Broadway in Saratoga Springs. Time and cost have yet to be announced, but tickets are usually sold through local Eastern Mountain Sports stores.

For more information, go to the Banff Centre Web site at <http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/tour/>

### Lost & Found

Found: in Herb Terns' car from a hike last winter, a pair of blue glove liners. Call 372-8478 if you think they're yours.

### St. Regis Canoe Outing

This year's St. Regis Canoe Outing will take place from July 16-26. Paul Smith's College is the base for daily paddles on Adirondack waterways, followed by other 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 same. ADK membership is required. Option 1: July 16-21, \$395. Option 2: July 21-26, \$395. Option 3: July 16-26, \$730.

Send your name, address, home phone number, date choices in order of preference, and a \$75 per-person nonrefundable deposit, payable to ADK, to: Marilyn Gillespie, 277 Lake St., Saranac Lake, NY 12983. For more information, call (518) 891-2626 or e-mail [petergil-marilyn@northnet.org](mailto:petergil-marilyn@northnet.org). Checks will not be accepted before Feb. 20.