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October-November 2007

# The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Annual chapter dinner slated for Oct. 23

The Schenectady Chapter hosts its annual dinner this year on Tuesday, October 23. The after-dinner speaker will be Fred LeBrun, columnist for the Albany Times Union for 41 years. Fred will talk about contemporary environmental and legislative issues of interest to the Adirondack Mountain Club.



LeBrun

The dinner will again be held at Schenectady County Community College, Van Curler Room. It will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour featuring wine, non-alcoholic

punch, cheese, crackers, vegetables and dip. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and includes a choice of sliced sirloin with a port wine demi-glace, seafood stuffed sole, or stuffed grilled portabella mushroom (vegetarian selection), plus spinach salad, fresh rolls & butter, berry

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### Chapter dinner

**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 23  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. social hour; 6:30 p.m. dinner  
**Where:** Van Curler Room, Schenectady County Community College  
**Cost:** \$18

## Inning explores winter school

On Nov. 8, Carl Klinowski will present "The ADK Winter Mountaineering School: 50 Years of Ice and Snow" at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library.

The ADK Winter Mountaineering School has been sponsored for over 50 years by the Adirondack Mountain Club. Learn how the Winter School program promotes enjoyable and successful winter mountaineering and camping through a learn-by-doing approach. This year's program will be based at Adirondack Loj from January 4-10, 2008.

Klinowski is an ADK Winter Moun-

### ADK Winter Mountaineering School

**When:** Thursday, Nov. 8  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park  
**Cost:** Free

taineering School Instructor, former chair and current member of the Winter School

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## Chapter forming young members group

Are you twenty- or thirty- something, like to hike, and want to meet other young people who share your love of the great outdoors? Then the Young Members Group is for you.

The Schenectady Chapter of the ADK is in the process of creating a group geared towards members from 18-40 years of age, or anybody who is young at heart. We'll

enjoy all types of activities, including hiking and camping.

Trips this fall include an October 20 trip to Snake Mountain in Vermont and a November 3 hike in the Tongue Mountain range.

If you are interested in joining, or have ideas to help get us started, e-mail Mike Libertucci at [mikelibertucci@yahoo.com](mailto:mikelibertucci@yahoo.com).

## Photo contest winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Schenectady Chapter's fourth annual photo contest.

Photos by chapter members Michael Libertucci and Janet W. Nordstrom to grace the cover of The Lookout in the coming months. Libertucci's photo of Avalanche Lake is on the current cover. In the spring, Nordstrom's photo of a loon and its chicks will be featured.

### New, reinstated members

Richard Clifford and Stacy Erbes  
Paula Crehan  
Eileen Daley  
Ronald Fleshman  
Hugh Graham  
Conrad Howe  
Maria LaPlante  
Richard McCall  
Blanche Mandel  
Jonathan Markowicz  
Jameson McCarthy  
Dwayne Soule  
Robert White

# 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](mailto: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 – October & November*

### **Tue 2 Oct**

#### **Bike Path walking series, Class C2D**

**Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or [adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net)**

Last spring, the series took us end-to-end on the Schenectady County section of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail. This time, we skip a few sections, add some others. We start at 7 a.m. each week and should finish up around 8:30. This week we hike from Lions Park in Niskayuna two miles east to the wooden bridge over Shaker Creek and back, about four miles. Strollers and leashed dogs are welcome.

### **Sat 6 Oct**

#### **The Wild Center, Tupper Lake**

**Ken & Nilde Marcinowski, 885-9400 or [Nildekens@msn.com](mailto:Nildekens@msn.com)**

Join us for a day trip to The Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks. A multitude of living and interactive exhibits, special programs, nature trails, and more makes this for a great family outing. A cafeteria is available on the premises, or pack a lunch or take a short drive into town. Sign up soon so we may have enough participants to take advantage of group rates of: \$12/adult, \$8/youth

## Innings and Outings, cont.

(4-14), \$10/senior (65+). There will also be a car pool fee, to be determined. For more information, see their website at [www.wildcenter.org](http://www.wildcenter.org). Please call or e-mail by Thursday evening prior to the trip. Heavy rain will cancel.

**Tue 9 Oct**

**Bike Path walking series, Class C2D**  
**Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or**  
[adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net)

7 a.m. start. Lions Park in Niskayuna two miles west to Lock 7 Road and back, about four miles.

**Sat 13 Oct**

**Northville-Placid Trail Steward Trip,**  
**Class B3D**  
**Rich Vertigan, 381-9319**

Join us for our semi-annual cleanup patrol on the Northville-Placid Trail, between McCane's and Lake Durant.

**TRAIL** Sidecutting, drainage clearing, light  
**MAINTENANCE** 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.

**Tue 16 Oct**

**Bike Path walking series, Class C2D**  
**Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478**  
 or [adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net)

7 a.m. start. Lock 7 Road in Niskayuna to Blatnick Park and back, about four miles.

**Tue Oct 16**

**Trip Leader and Prospective Trip**  
**Leader Meeting**  
**Herb Terns, 372-8478 or**  
[trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)

If you've ever thought about leading a trip for ADK, I encourage you to join us to see what it's all about. After four years of leading trips I can tell you that you'll meet and hike with some great people if you do. We'll have an informal meeting over snacks and drinks at Pinhead Susan's in Schenectady.

**Sat 20 Oct**

**First Day of Big Game Hunting Season -**  
**Northern Zone**

Remember to wear some blaze orange clothing in hunting areas.

**Sat 20 Oct**

**Snake Mountain, Vermont, Class C2C**  
**Mike and Meghan Libertucci,**  
[mikelibertucci@yahoo.com](mailto:mikelibertucci@yahoo.com) or  
**605-4269**

Come join us for a nice drive through the countryside of Vermont to an isolated "mountain" just outside of Middlebury. We will hike up a jeep trail to a ledge that overlooks the Champlain Valley and the High Peaks. Hopefully we will still have some colors to enjoy along the way. After the hike we will head into Middlebury to sample some of Otter Creek Brewery's fall offerings. The hike is 3.6 miles round trip with a total climb of 950 feet. A full day of enjoying the fall in Vermont.

**Sat 20 Oct**

**Peaked Pond and Mountain.**  
**Class B2B**

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

Hike from 13th Lake off Route 28 to the summit of this mountain with sensational views of the surrounding area. About 6 miles round trip with elevation gain of 500' to the pond and 700' additional to the summit.

**Sat 20 Oct**

**NPT Maintenance — Benson to Rock**  
**Lake, Class A3C**

**Kevin Cotter 762-7747 or**  
[kcotter@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kcotter@nycap.rr.com)

Come help out with the fall cleanup on this section of the Northville-Placid Trail. We will be clearing drainage ditches and smaller blowdown. It's rolling terrain through beautiful forest. Some water crossings are necessary to reach Rock Lake, where we'll stop for lunch. Please contact me by Oct. 15 if you wish to join in. Space is limited.

**Sun 21 Oct**

**Hunter Mt., Class B2C**  
**Herb Terns, 372-8478 or**  
[trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)

We'll head up the old Spruceton Road. Both my mother and my grandfather were firetower observers on Hunter when I was a kid and I'll try to get my mom up to the summit again on this trip. I've listed this as a moderate hike but we'll take a relaxed pace on the way up. Round trip is 6.8 miles with 1950 feet of gain on an old jeep road.

(Continued on page 4)

## Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

### Sun 21 Oct Pine Cobble and Mass. AT, Class B3B Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604

This is a thru trip. We start at the outskirts of Williamstown, Mass., and go to the summit of Pine Cobble (1894 feet) with 180 degree views dominated by Mt Greylock to the south. Continuing eastward to the summit of East Mountain (2300 feet) with more views, we then join the Appalachian Trail hiking down to Blackinton, Mass. Distance 4.6 miles. Ascent is 1580 feet.

### Tue 23 Oct Bike Path walking series, Class C2D Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or [adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net)

7 a.m. start. Blatnick Park in Niskayuna to St. Joseph's Lane and back. Be warned: there is a woodsy side-hike which has some hills and may be muddy. About four miles.

### Wed 24 Oct West Branch Sacandaga River bushwhack, Class B2B Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This is an exploring bushwhack along the river to find the condition of an old road going east from the Silver Lake outlet toward the Northville-Lake Placid Trail just west of Rock Lake. Be prepared to wade the river but it probably will not be necessary. We will be out about seven hours and probably cover about eight or more miles. We may start the exploration at the east end from the NP Trail. The west end of this old road goes through the extensive ruins of an old 19th century tannery just off Route 10 in Arietta.

### Sat 27 Oct Ashokan High Point, Class A2B Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or [nkuchar@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nkuchar@nycap.rr.com)

At an elevation of 3080 ft, Ashokan High Point has excellent views of the Devil's Path mountains, the Burroughs Range and the Shawangunks. A marked trail makes a loop over the summit, and a short bushwhack from the summit to a rocky cobble just to the east yields more views including an overlook of the Ashokan Reservoir. Total distance is about 9.5 miles, with 2750 ft ascent.

## Get to know your trip leaders

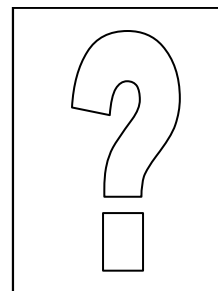
Your name here!

**Age:** Responsible adults 21 and older

**Occupation:** is irrelevant

**We say:** This could be you!

Do you enjoy hiking/skiing/snowshoeing/kayaking/canoeing with others and like meeting new people? Are there places you'd like to explore or share with others? Have you gone on ADK trips and thought, "I could do this?" Well, you can! If you'd like to be a trip leader for the Schenectady ADK, come to our trip leader and prospective trip leader's session scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 13 at Pinhead Susan's in Schenectady. Look for more details in the outings listing on page 3 or call Project Coordinator Herb Terns at 372-8478.



### Sat 27 Oct Brace and Frissell Mts, Class: B2C Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

We'll park below the Taconic Ridge near the NY/MA/CT corner, and climb steeply up the South Taconic Trail to Brace, with its giant cairn and views. Next, we'll continue on to the high point of Connecticut on the side of Mt. Frissell, passing the state tri-corner marker along the way. About 5-6 miles round-trip total, with one short steep climb at the start.

### Tue 30 Oct Bike Path walking series, Class C2D Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or [adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net)

7 a.m. start. St. Joseph's Lane in Niskayuna to the Rexford Bridge at Balltown Road and back, about four miles.

### Sat 3 Nov Big Marsh Mountain bushwhack and G Lake, Class B2C Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This is a small mountain of 2588 feet near Piseco Lake with an old unmaintained road to the summit. We will also explore the shore of nearby G Lake. Under 1000 foot ascent.

## Innings and Outings, cont.

### Sat 3 Nov Tongue Mountain Range, Bolton Landing, NY Class A2A

**Mike and Meghan Libertucci,**  
[mikelibertucci@yahoo.com](mailto:mikelibertucci@yahoo.com) or 605-4269

A nice fall hike through a popular stretch of the Lake George Wild Forest, we'll do this as part of Adirondack Quest. We will begin at Clay Meadows on Route 9N, head east toward Lake George then continue south over Fifth Peak, French Pt. Mountain, and First Peak. We will reach Montcalm Point and head back to Clay Meadows. The trip is 12.8 miles with approximately 2,000 feet of elevation gain.

### Sat Nov 3 Halcott & North East Halcott, Class B2B John Susko 383-1284

Halcott is unusual for a Catskill trailless peak in that it has a rock outcrop near the summit that provides a good view. I don't know exactly where the view is, so finding it will require some exploration. We'll bushwack up NE Halcott and follow the ridge over to the summit of Halcott and then attempt to find the view point. Halcott is #34 on the list of Catskill 3500 peaks and NE Halcott is #47 of the Catskill 100 highest. The distance is 5 to 6 miles all of it off trail with 2000 to 2500 feet of ascent.

### Sun 4 Nov Lisha Kill and Mohawk River State Park, Class C2D Ruth Schottman, 399-5728

A half day exploration of Lisha Kill and Mohawk River State Park (former Museum Preserve). There are some short, rather steep ups and downs. If the day is preceded by a lot of rain, the trails would be too slippery and I would offer the Ballston Bike trail with a diversion along a parallel woods trail. About 2-3 hours, but length of walk is adjustable to needs of participants.

### Tues 6 Nov Kibby Pond and Kettle Mountain bushwhack, Class B2B Walt Hayes, 399-8482

Follow the trail to Kibby Pond with bushwhack from the pond to Kettle Mountain. The trailhead is on Route 8 near Eleventh Mountain and the East Branch of the Sacandaga in the Town of Johnsbury, Warren County. About 6 miles with half off trail. There are two stream crossings. Be prepared to wade if the water is too high to rock hop.

### Tue 6 Nov Bike Path walking series, Class C2D Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or [adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net)

7 a.m. start. This week we hike the short trail along the river in Niskayuna's Aqueduct Park, right off Balltown Road at the Rexford Bridge. It's about two miles roundtrip.

### Sat 10 Nov Acra Point & Burnt Knob, Class B2B Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or [nkuchar@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nkuchar@nycap.rr.com)

Acra Point and Burnt Knob lie along the northern escarpment of the Catskills. They offer 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.

### Sun 11 Nov Schenectady Stockade-athon 15K Class A1A Herb Terns, 372-8478 or [trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)

I'm hoping to gather enough ADKer's to put together a team for this year's race. Last year I finished a mere 21 minutes off the leader's pace, so if those 200+ people who finished ahead of me falter this year, you could be running with the new Stockade-athon champion.

### Tue 13 Nov Bike Path walking series, Class C2D Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or [adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net)

7 a.m. start. From the Rexford Bridge in Niskayuna to Anthony Street in Schenectady and back, about three miles.

### Wed 14 Nov Hadley State Forest Preserve bushwhack, Class B2B Walt Hayes, 399-7482

There is an old road described in the 1998 "Natural Areas of Saratoga County" by ECOS on pages 60 and 61. We will follow a compass course and property line to get through the county forest to the old road. It will be a full day of exploring at an easy pace with under 1000 feet of ascent. Distance about 8 miles.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# 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
Sat	10-12 to 10-14	Moose Fest Weekend: This is a great weekend! Call early for a space the weekend rental.	3-4	Mal Provost	399-1565
Sat	10-20	Farmington River; There are three sections to the river. The top and bottom are class 2/3. The middle section is a very technical 3+. Paddle the sections you want to	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615

## Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 5)

### Sat 17 Nov First Day of Big Game Hunting Season - Southern Zone

Remember to wear blaze orange clothing in hunting areas.

### Sat 17 Nov Pharaoh Mountain, Class B2B Mary MacDonald, 371-1293 or [mmacdonald@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmacdonald@nycap.rr.com)

This mountain offers views of the area from the High Peaks to Gore Mountain. With some steep sections the trail is about 6 miles round trip starting from Crane Pond Road. Elevation gain about 1475'. Call leader for further information.

### Tue 20 Nov Bike Path walking series, Class C2D Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or [adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net)

7 a.m. start. Schenectady County Community College to Old

Lock 23 and back, about five miles roundtrip.

### Tue 27 Nov Bike Path walking series, Class C2D Gillian Scott Terns, 372-8478 or [adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net)

Walk off that turkey! 7 a.m. start. Lock 8 in Rotterdam to Kiwanis Park. About four miles.

### 12/31/07-1/1/08 Beebe Hill New Year's Eve Hike Class C2B Herb Terns, 372-8478 or [trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)

We'll ring in the new year on a summit for the fourth year in a row. We'll meet for dinner in East Greenbush (optional) and then head over to Northern Columbia County for our last hike of 2007 and first of 2008. It's roughly two mile round trip and a fairly short drive, so we should be home pretty early.

## Wilderness Affair fundraiser set for Nov. 3

"A Wilderness Affair: Bringing the mountains to you!" (formerly Harvest Moon Madness), ADK's annual live and silent auction gala event, will take place this year on Nov. 3 at the Saratoga Hotel in Saratoga Springs.

The fundraiser features outdoor equipment and apparel, artwork, gift certificates, get-away packages and more.

Proceeds benefit ADK's programs in conservation, advocacy, education and recreation.

The event takes place from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Dinner is included and there will be a cash bar.

The cost is \$55 per person.

For reservations, please call Virginia Etu at (518) 668-4447 Ext. 25, or e-mail [Virginia@adk.org](mailto:Virginia@adk.org).

# Trip tails and paddling parables

## Huckleberry Point — 6/20/07

After a night of heavy rains and thunderstorms, we started up the trail to Huckleberry Point under cloudy skies. But by the time we reached the point, the skies had cleared, and we were treated to one of the most spectacular vistas in the Catskills. We looked down the cliffs into Plattekill Clove, 1,400 feet below. Across the narrow valley rose Plattekill Mountain, Indian Head and the other Devil's Path mountains, while to the east we could see the white stripe of the Hudson River snaking through the green Hudson Valley. To top it off, the mountain laurels along the trail were in blossom, and we watched buzzards riding the winds below us in the gorge. Our long lunch on the open rocks was over too quickly.

Hikers were Colin Smith, Margaret Smith and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

## Ashuwillticook Rail Trail 7/10/2007

An oppressively hot and humid day set the scene for our 20-mile bike trip from Adams to Lanesborough in Massachusetts. The scenic rail trail runs through the Hoosic River Valley, offering fine views of a variety of wetlands and the surrounding mountains. We paused for a picnic lunch in Lanesborough and again for ice cream at a small shop where the Ashuwillticook and the Appalachian trails cross.

Participants were Betty Lou Bailey and the trip leader. (Gillian Scott)

## Square Falls on the East Branch of the Sacandaga River — 7/11/07

We took the route less traveled to this attractive falls with swimming hole. We bushwhacked down the river from the Siamese Ponds state trail. The rocky banks of the river slowed us down so we headed for the woods to find a level path. We enjoyed lunch at the lower falls and one of us took advantage of the large swimming hole. It was a

humid day so the few light showers were refreshing and the heavy rains did not come until we were on the way home.

Gail Gaskin, Len Maglio, Kathy Miles, Alicia Miller and the leader (Walt Hayes)

## Safety Practice Day 7/13/07

Our Safety Practice Day on the Sacandaga River was well attended. Our leader, Rick Morse, moderated us in discussions of events in our past that were related to self and assisted rescues. We went from this topic to the practice of unpinning boats utilizing a variety of techniques including the use of ropes.

We were fortunate to have 3 EMT participants when we utilized an upside down kayak to immobilize and then transport a "victim" suspected of neck or back injury. We then went to the water to practice assisted an individual walking in moving water along with rescue rope throwing to a stranded "victim."

Before we knew it the morning was over. After lunch most of us went to the put-in and had a delightful afternoon of paddling utilizing the safety procedure of paddling within our skill level and therefore not needing to do any rescues.

Participants were Horst deLorenzi, Judy Halstead, Carolyn Cyr, Gary Slusher, Anthony LaManno, Oscar LaRosa, Mary Pat Provost, Jim Palmer, Chuck Wilkison, and Practice Day Leader Rick Morse.

## Hudson Gorge 7/14/07

It was a beautiful day and the water was warm. Eight people enjoyed the day at a low summer level of 4 ft (with the release). The paddlers were Chris Norton, Garth Johnston, Mal Provost, Nelson Miller, Harrison, Chuck Wilkison, Rick Morse and the trip leader (Horst deLorenzi).

## Indian Kill early morning walk — 7/15/07

Four walkers rose early to join the trip leader on a pleasant walk through the Indian Kill Nature Preserve in Glenville. Within seconds of hitting the trail, a white-tail deer scampered across the trail in front of us. Good morning! The sky was overcast, but through careful planning by the trip leader, the rain held off until minutes before we returned to the cars.

Participants included: Christy O'Callaghan-Leve, Lois Happel, Rich Angehr, Leslie Robbins and trip leader. (Lois Leonard)

## Watermelon trip on the Batten Kill — 7/15/2007

This always pleasant Batten Kill trip was ably run by George Schmidt's family (George owns the take-out property). His sons, Lat and Phil were in the lead and sweep canoes. A grandson in a kayak would stop just above each tricky spot to coach people on the best procedures. With quite a large group, I believe we only had one upset. The water level (USGS gauge was 4.4 feet & 240 cfs) was high enough that little wading was needed. A few sprinkles of rain didn't seem to dampen our enthusiasm for this trip. We ate lunch in a light drizzle, watching the grey cloud disappear. Another grey cloud later on gave a few more minutes of light rain but it didn't last, so we took out at the A-frame cabin in sunshine and enjoyed the traditional watermelon. This was a joint trip with Schenectady Wintersports Club/Northern New York Paddlers. Attendance was very good.

At least 16 people came but I believe not everyone signed in on the clipboard. Thanks again to the Schmidt family for a fine tradition. Participants included A. Foster, G. Schmidt, L. Schmidt, G. Scott and C. Wilkison and the Schenectady ADK trip leader (Betty Lou Bailey).

(Continued on page 8)

## Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 7)

### **To the Roofs of the World: Climbing the Seven Summits — 7/18/07**

World-class climber Jin Fei Bao gave a fascinating talk about his quest to climb to the highest points on all seven continents, plus reach the North and South Poles, by the time of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Starting with Mt. Everest in May 2006, he has now reached the highest points in Asia, Africa, Australia, North America and Antarctica, as well as trekked to both poles. Fei Bao is planning to climb Mt. Elbrus (Europe) in late August and Aconcagua (South America) in November, which would give him a world record for the shortest time to climb the Seven Summits. The talk, attended by about 40, was accompanied by beautiful photographs of his adventures.

### **Siamese Ponds Wilderness ramble — 7/21/07**

This was a very pleasant and enjoyable bushwhack to a remote part of the wilderness. We followed the state trail from the Eleventh Mountain trailhead to the start of the bushwhack near Burnt Shanty Clearing. The guidebook instructions were easy to follow and we found the cable and wading place across the East Branch of the Sacandaga.

The old road to Curtis Clearing is used and maintained by someone, so route finding was easy. It was a perfect summer day to enjoy the woods and a quick dip in the river. I think the maps of the old road to Curtis Clearing are incorrect. The maps show the end of the path (old road) about 500 meters north of the actual location. We did a little extra bushwhacking to try to determine if the maps were correct on the location of Curtis Clearing.

Robin Ashley and the leader were the only participants. (Walt Hayes)

### **Hudson Gorge — 7/21/07**

This trip was a joined trip with NY/NJ AMC. There were 13 paddlers from ADK and 8 from NY/NJ AMC making

for a rather large group of 21 boats, mostly kayaks, but still a considerable number of canoes and two inflatable kayaks. This was the first trip down the gorge for a number of people. Due to some rain over the previous days, the water level had come up to 4.3 ft (with the release). The group split into various smaller groups that proceeded down the river at different speeds. There were a total of 5 swims. Another sunny and warm day on the Hudson. (Horst deLorenzi)

### **Kempshall and Blueberry Mountains — 7/25/07**

We followed the Northville-Lake Placid Trail north from Route 28N along the shore of Long Lake. It is a very pleasant trail in good condition, generally running far enough back so the lake is out of sight. There are several opportunities to stop at beautiful camping spots on the shore. It was a bright summer day with perfect temperatures but high humidity. The abandoned trail to the site of the firetower and observer's cabin gets regular use and most of the time is easy to follow. There is some confusion on the upper sections where blowdown has not been cleared and the route around it is not obvious. The old clearing at the top is open but there are no views without the firetower.

Paul Sirtoli and Doug Tinkler were the only ones to do the bushwhack to Blueberry. They reported less than great views. Charles Beach, Mark Janey, Norm Kuchar and the leader decided to spend more time in the water of Long Lake. (Walt Hayes)

### **Dryway — 7/27/07**

No sign-ups. (Robert Wright)

### **Falls on West Branch of the Sacandaga — 7/28/07**

Undaunted by threats of bad weather, 14 hikers set out from Whitehouse in the rain to find the falls that lie about three miles upstream. After about a half hour, the rain stopped, and by late morning the

skies were sunny and blue. But, the wet weather made for slippery conditions, and several in the group (notably the leader) took minor tumbles before we reached the falls. The first falls, at a place where the river squeezes through a narrow gorge filled with truck-sized boulders, were spectacular. Several of the more agile or adventurous hikers went on to the second falls, a few hundred yards upstream. On the return trip, we found it better to hop along the rocks at the water's edge rather than climb up and down the steep, slippery banks.

Hikers were Connie and Randy Cockrell, Gail Gaskin, Jim and Evelyn Hussey, Mark Janey, Harold McCumber, Kathy Miles, Mary Nicotera, Chris, Jackie and Neil Parker, Jane Riley and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

### **Millay Poetry Trail — 8/4/07**

On a moderately warm, clear day, the six of us stopped to read excerpts from Edna St. Vincent Millay's poetry along the trail, in a nice woods. We found a third grave, the poet's mother. Since I had visited in June, the gate to the trail how has a donation box and a box with folders about the area. This inspired us to go to the visitor center, where we saw some exhibits and got to talk to the very interesting executive director of the Edna St. Vincent Millay Society. They expect to use the money from the sale of 426 acres of surrounding woods to New York State to restore the poet's house and her extensive gardens. A guest house is available to rent to someone who likes living in the woods on a gravel road. Then we walked near the poet's home before heading for lunch in East Chatham.

This very different trip was enjoyed by guest Alice Mason, members John and Jeannette Robb, Jim Torriani, Jack Daniels and the leader, Betty Lou Bailey. Thanks go to member George Giokas, who furnished me with information about the poet, which enabled me to prepare a nice handout for participants which included interested personal characteristics. (Betty Lou Bailey)

## Trip tales, cont.

### Deerfield Dryway — 8/4/07

Four people enjoyed the warm sunny day on this class 4 river even though the water was very cold. The release was supposedly at 900 cfs, but the water level seemed unusually low, since one could walk in areas that normally are under water at this level. Despite the low water, the class 4 sections did not get any easier. Everybody had nice runs despite a flip that required 2 attempts to roll in Dragon's Tooth for one paddler and a full boat of water to negotiate the rapid with for the open boater.

The paddlers were Mal Provost, Norm Labbe, Anthony Lamanno and the trip leader (Horst deLorenzi).

### Goodnow Mountain and the Adirondack VIC — 8/8/07

Trip cancelled due to rain. (Norm Kuchar)

### Beebe Hill — 8/16/07

No sign-ups. (Gillian Scott)

### Warren County Bikeway 8/22/07

This bike path stretches for about 9 miles from Glens Falls to Lake George. After a little confusion about the Glens Falls parking area (a small portion of the Feeder Canal Towpath runs through the same neighborhood), we got going in the right direction.

The trail begins in a more industrial section of Glens Falls, but soon winds its way through the city's neighborhoods.

### Share your photos!

If you have photos of a Schenectady ADK trip you'd like to share, mail a print to Lookout Editor, 1231 Keyes Ave., Schenectady, NY 12309 or e-mail a digital file to [adklookout@verizon.net](mailto:adklookout@verizon.net). Include your name, the location and when the trip took place, and contact information.

One building in a backyard between Ridge and Hunter streets garnered particular interest for its fancy tilework and trim. A query to the Glens Falls historian later revealed that this building was once meant for livestock, but had nonetheless been decorated with terra cotta tiles made at the former "works" on upper Ridge Street.

After leaving Glens Falls (taking to the road for a piece) the trail enters a wooded area, climbing long, slow hills in some areas before beginning an equally long descent into Lake George. The trail was teeming with wildflowers, particularly Joe-pye-weed and jewelweed. Arriving in Lake George about 1.5 hours after our start, we sat at the lakeside and ate our lunches before starting back.

The brisk summer day was enjoyed by Theresa Ruth, Arden Rauch and the leader (Gillian Scott).

### Chapter picnic — 8/25/07

After a hiatus of some 15-20 years, the chapter picnic was revived. A total of 23 members and one person who arrived as a guest and left as a member enjoyed decent weather, (a major relief after the

heat wave of the preceding day), good food and beverage, and lots of good fellowship. Old acquaintances were renewed and new ones begun. The major sound was laughter.

Due to the hectic schedules of the two leaders, several other board members, spouses and friends all jumped in to keep things in the planning and eating department moving. Our thanks to you all; see you next year. (Judy Brandow, Bob Grimm).

**Chapter picnic bike ride** — Five bicyclists took part in the bike ride along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from Blatnick Park in Niskayuna, site of the chapter picnic, to the bridge over Shaker Creek in Colonie. We enjoyed pleasant temperatures and some fine wildlife viewing, including snowy egrets, blue heron, red squirrels and baby snapping turtles. One member gathered up two dented, seemingly lifeless turtle eggs to take home to her grandchildren. That evening, she reported they hatched! The bike path is a fine recreational resource and wildlife habitat close to home. (Stan Stoklosa)

**Chapter picnic hike to Ashford Glen** — Three of us plus the Stoklosa dog went to visit the Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy property near Niskayuna in Colonie. We enjoyed the shade of the mixed age forest, whose biggest trees are truly impressive. The stream in this ravine is appropriately called Whispering Brook. The dog was delighted at all the new things to explore and sniff.

Adults who also enjoyed this brief walk were Tess Stoklosa, Jan Huston and Betty Lou Bailey, leader.

## Calling all ADK artists

Do you have an artistic talent or skill that you enjoy?

Due to the generosity of our members, and to showcase their talents, the main club is once again requesting auction items donated by ADK member artists and artisans for *A Wilderness Affair*, ADK's annual silent and live auction gala (see page 6). Past donations included paintings, floral designs, quilts, wood carvings, photographs, candles, jewelry, needlepoint, pottery,

calligraphy, metalwork and music.

We invite you to support this fundraising event by donating a piece of your work directly to the event, or you may choose to donate your work for the Schenectady Chapter basket.

To donate your item directly, send your item (including description and value) to Virginia Etu at: Adirondack Mountain Club, 814 Goggins Rd., Lake George, NY 12845, no later than October 26. To donate your item for the Schenectady Chapter basket, contact Judy Brandow at 482-4610 or [hvesterh@nycap.rr.com](mailto:hvesterh@nycap.rr.com) no later than October 20.

# Vote for chapter officers by Oct. 23

The Nominating Committee has prepared the following candidate slate of officers for the 2007 Schenectady ADK Chapter Board:

- Chair — Horst deLorenzi**
- Vice Chair — Norm Kuchar**
- Treasurer — Gisele Sum**
- Secretary — Jacque McGinn**
- Director to ADK Board — Stan Stoklosa**
- Project Coordinator (2 yrs.) — Herb Terns**
- Project Coordinator (2 yrs.) — Jackie Parker**

No additional nominations have been made by petition, so the above candidates are presented for vote. The official ballot is below. Ballots must be received by Oct. 23, 2007 to be valid. They can be turned in at the annual dinner meeting on Oct. 23 or mailed to:

Jacque McGinn, Secretary  
Schenectady Chapter of the ADK  
P.O. Box 733  
Schenectady, NY 12301-0733

## 2008 Chapter Board ballot

Below is the ballot for members to vote for the 2008 Chapter Board.

If you have an **individual** membership, please cast your vote using the column to the left. **Family memberships** get two votes, and may use both columns. Clip the ballot and send it to: Schenectady ADK, Attn: Jacque McGinn, Secretary, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady NY 12301. All ballots must be received by Oct. 23. The new officers will be officially announced in the next issue of The Lookout.

***Schenectady Chapter officers — 2007***

Your vote	Position	Term length	Candidate	Second vote (if eligible)
_____	Chair	1 year	Horst deLorenzi	_____
_____	Vice Chair	1 year	Norm Kuchar	_____
_____	Treasurer	1 year	Gisele Sum	_____
_____	Secretary	1 year	Jacque McGinn	_____
_____	Director	2 years	Stan Stoklosa	_____
_____	Project coordinator	2 years	Herb Terns	_____
_____	Project coordinator	2 years	Jackie Parker	_____

## INNING: Winter Mountaineering School

(Continued from page 1)

Advisory Committee, and former chapter

chair, Albany Chapter of ADK. He is a winter and three-season Adirondack 46er. He has also completed the Northeast

113, the New England Highest 100, the three-season and winter Catskill 3500, the Adirondack Quest, and the Fire Tower Challenge.

## Conservation notes

# Lawsuit forces change in snowmobile grooming

In late July, the Department of Environmental Conservation rescinded the portions of the Jessup River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan dealing with snowmobiles. This was in response to Judge John Egan’s stipulation and order which, among other things, prohibited use of motorized tracked grooming machines (other than snowmobiles). I expect that Neil Woodworth will publish more about this legal outcome since “Adirondack Mountain Club et al” (“and others” in Latin) was the plaintiff in the suit. The others were Adirondack Council, Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks and Residents Committee to protect the Adirondacks. Neil was pleased that all

four dominant Adirondack conservation groups had joined together in this suit. Lately groomers for snowmobiles are sometimes almost the size of a cross-country truck.

### Guidelines for shore protection

J. Doug Sheppard of DEC wrote these for comment. Basically, he is trying to minimize use of very “man-made” shore protection except as a last resort. Since we paddlers often see places where banks are covered with concrete rip-rap and elaborate wooden structures, this was welcome. I pointed out that even on Scho-

harie Creek near Mill Point (NY161 bridge), where homes next to the “creek” were abandoned after losing the rear porch, the main-made rock work areas on the banks were covered with a metal net, which has led to vegetation which, as it grows, will look increasingly natural. I also requested that the guideline be expanded to cover work in the water as well as banks, because many projects are work in both bottom and banks. Because rivers vary so much in flow, the division between bottom and banks is constantly changing. Lake shorelines vary some in height also, but not as much.

— Betty Lou Bailey

## DINNER: Local columnist LeBrun will be speaker

(Continued from page 1)

shortcake, and coffee or tea.

At the dinner, we will hold a raffle for a \$50 gift certificate to Glen Sander’s Mansion. Raffle tickets will be sold at the dinner; proceeds will benefit the chapter’s scholarship program.

To make reservations, please fill out the reservation form and a check for \$18 per person made out to Schenectady Chapter ADK and mail to Horst deLorenzi, 34 St. Jude Lane, Scotia NY 12302.

The deadline for mailing the form and check is Saturday, October 13. In case of overbooking, the entries will be taken on a first-come first-serve basis.

Please Call Horst deLorenzi at 399-4615 if you have any questions.

### Schenectady Chapter Annual Dinner Reservation Form Dinner: Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at SCCC

Join us at the chapter’s annual dinner and meeting at Schenectady County Community College. Reconnect with hiking and paddling companions, learn about ADK activities, and hear Fred LeBrun, Albany Times Union columnist, discuss contemporary environmental and legislative issues of interest to the Adirondack Mountain Club. Enjoy a dinner at the Van Curler Room, prepared by the SCCC culinary arts program. The chapter is defraying part of the dinner cost so that attendees pay only \$18. Please send in the reservation will by **Saturday, October 13.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Choice:		No. of diners # _____
Sliced Sirloin		# _____
Seafood Stuffed Sole		# _____
Stuffed Portabella Mushroom		# _____
	Total #	# _____
		x \$18.00
	Total \$	\$ _____

Send this form and your check made out to **Schenectady Chapter ADK** and mail to:  
Horst deLorenzi, 34 St. Jude Lane, Scotia, NY 12302

Reserve by **Saturday, October 13, 2007.** Any questions, call Horst at 399-4615.

## Local news and announcements

### Wilderness First Aid, Dec. 8-9

Take Wilderness First Aid and enjoy sleeping in your own bed. This course will be offered locally in Menands. On Saturday and Sunday Dec. 8 and 9, 2007, the Adirondack Mountain Club's Winter Mountaineering School is offering a Certified Wilderness First Aid Course taught by Wilderness Medical Associates (WMA).

WMA has offered courses in Wilderness First Aid since 1981. In 16 hours, this course covers topics including patient assessment, fractures, hypothermia, hyperthermia and heat illness, fractures, dislocations, and backcountry medicine. Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by practical work and problem solving exercises. WMA instructors have extensive outdoor experience, and have been selected for their expertise in emergency medicine, as well as their teaching skills.

The fee for this course is \$185 and includes field guides and certification fees. Participants will earn a First Aid certification card upon successful completion of this course. This card is accepted by NYS if you are seeking to become a New York State licensed guide.

Wilderness Medical Associates has a web site at <http://www.wildmed.com>. For additional information, and to reserve a spot in the class, call Carl at (518) 274-8410. Class size will be limited to 20 students.

### Winter Mountaineering School

Are you a three-season hiker who's tired of watching your gear gather dust for five months out of the year? The Winter Mountaineering School has been helping hikers enjoy the mountains in winter for over 50 years. This year's program will be based out of the ADK Loj. Check out our website for program details, gear lists, photos, and more.

Weekend Day Hiking Section: January 4-7, Cost: \$310

Weekend Backpacking Section: January 4-7, Cost: \$275

Combo Section (Day Hikes & 3-night Backpack): January 4-10, Cost: \$375

For more information, go to <http://www.winterschool.org> or call 518-523-3441.

### Leave No Trace trainer course

On October 13 and 14, the Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center will offer a Leave No Trace Trainer Course. This course will have participants set up a Leave No Trace campsite to practice skills necessary to become a trainer in this overnight course. Call the center for more information at 658-2055. This course is suited to youth leaders or adults interested in developing these skills.

The Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center is located in Cropsyville, about 30 minutes from Schenectady.

### Outing for individuals with disabilities

On Sunday, Oct. 28, ECOS: the Environmental Clearing-

house, will sponsor a nature outing for individuals with disabilities from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar. The outing is free and will be led by nature educator and wildlife rehabilitator Dee Strnisa. Wheelchair accessible trails and restrooms are available. All ages and abilities are welcome.

For more information, call ECOS at 370-4125 or e-mail [ecos@global2000.net](mailto:ecos@global2000.net).

### ECOS plans fall nature walks

ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse will host a series of walks at a variety of local nature areas. All walks are free and begin at 9:30 a.m. (carpool meeting times vary). In October, the walks will be:

Oct 2 — George Landis Arboretum.

Oct. 9 — Schoharie Crossing/Yankee Lock

Oct. 16 — Christman Sanctuary

Oct. 23 — Corning Bioreserve

For more information on the walks or for directions to the parking areas, contact ECOS at 370-4125 or e-mail [ecos@global2000.net](mailto:ecos@global2000.net).

### Adirondack Research Library lectures

The Adirondack Research library has announced its series of fall lectures. All lectures will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the McChesney Room of the Schenectady County Public Library in downtown Schenectady. The lectures are free and open to the public; refreshments will be served after the program.

**Wednesday, Oct. 3** — Bill Schaefer, the current president of the Schenectady Wintersports Club and whose family has had a rich history with the club, will present a program entitled, "The First snow Trains from Schenectady." He will complement his lecture using 1930s movies, pictures and documents. His focus will be on the origins of the first trains from Schenectady as well as how they changed skiing and their developmental influence on the Adirondacks.

**Wednesday, Oct. 10** — Marty Podskoch, author of three books on the history and lore of the firetowers in the Catskills and Adirondacks, will tell us about the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). His presentation will contain pictures and stories he has gathered from interviewing CCC members and their families. Along with his delightful talk, he will involve the audience in role-playing activities. As an added bonus, Marty will relate stories from his new book, "Adirondack Stories."

**Wednesday, Oct. 17** — David Waite, an amateur photographer and historian who has had a lifelong interest in the Adirondacks, has prepared a program full of photographs and historical information of the southern Adirondacks entitled, "Ferris Lake Wild Forest, Yesterday and Today." He will put specific emphasis on biographical sketches highlighting the lives of early settlers and those still present in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest region in of the town of Arietta, Hamilton County.