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August-September 2008

The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Inning: Forest preserve planning project

The future size and character of the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves will likely be determined over the next twenty years, as high land prices, property taxes and development pressures cause large blocks of private land to be put on the market.

Anticipating this, ADK, together with the Open Space Institute, launched the Forest Preserve Planning project in early 2007. The goals are to make recommendations about future land and easement acquisition by the state, nonmotorized recreation development and management of the Forest Preserve. The project uses inputs from experts, on-site visits, and a high-tech Geographic Information System

(GIS) that links maps with data on topography, wetlands, endangered species habitats, soils and other key factors to assess land use potential.

Although still under way, the Forest Preserve Planning project has already shown its value in the recent agreement between DEC and The Nature Conservancy to [protect former Finch, Pruyn lands in the Adirondacks](#). The project provided a basis for recommendations about lands that should be added to the Forest Preserve and those that should be kept for sustainable timber harvesting with conservation easements to protect them from development.

On Tuesday, September 16, Stuart

Forest Preserve planning

When: Tuesday Sept. 16

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

Cost: Free

Mesinger, the project leader, will give us a presentation on the project. He will discuss preliminary project recommendations as well as show how the GIS can analyze and display complex environmental data.

Stu holds a degree in geology and

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Chapter board nominees

The Nominating Committee has prepared the following candidate slate for the 2009 Schenectady ADK Chapter board:

Chair — Horst deLorenzi

Vice Chair — there is no nominee at this time

Treasurer — Gisele Sum

Secretary — Michelle Garrah

Project coordinator — Jacques McGinn

Project coordinator — Norm Kuchar

The chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary serve one-year terms. Project coordinators serve two-year terms.

The chapter by-laws specify that "additional nominations may be made by petition, signed by five members, and accompanied by a signed statement

of acceptance from all such nominees.

Such nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by the deadline of The Lookout preceding the annual meeting." This year, additional nominations must be sent to the following address by Sept. 8:

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

The ballot will be included in the October/November issue of The Lookout. Votes will be tallied at the annual meeting in October.

This year's nominating committee was chaired by Gillian Scott and included Mary MacDonald and Lois Leonard.

Photo contest!

It's time for the Schenectady Chapter's fifth annual photo contest.

To participate, members of the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club may submit a hard copy of a black/white or color picture. (High-resolution digital shots are okay, but please print out a copy for us). We're looking for photos from all seasons, and would love to see shots of club members in action — hiking, snowshoeing paddling, etc. — though landscape photos are also acceptable. Include your name and a description of what the photo depicts.

Mail to: Maria Beurmann, 5 Wing Road, Rexford, NY 12148 by Sept. 1.

Sorry, pictures will not be returned. The Schenectady Chapter board will determine the winning picture, which will grace the cover of The Lookout.

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. In general, you should always carry food, water, rain gear, map, 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 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 \$3 per gallon, six cents per mile should be used and at \$4 per gallon, eight cents should be used.

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.

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	

Sat 26 July

Muddy Boots Book Club

Indian Head and "The Reserve"

by Russell Banks— Class A2B

Herb Terns, 372-8478 or

trailhed@verizon.net

We'll read Russell Bank's newest book "The Reserve" which is set in an Adirondack enclave that sounds a lot like the Adirondack Mountain Reserve — which is where we'll do our hike into Indian Head. We'll follow the wide lake road where hikers can walk two or three abreast to hopefully promote good conversation. We'll climb to the top of Indian Head with its great views of the Ausable Lakes. Then we'll cross over the Ausable River to Rainbow Falls and take the scenic river trail back. Ice cream at the Noonmark afterwards is pretty much a sure thing. Hike is roughly 9 miles RT with 1900 feet of gain.

Sat/Sun 2 and 3 August

Bushwhacking backpack in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, Class A2B

Herb Terns, 372-8478 or
trailhed@verizon.net

There's a great campsite with terrific views in the northern Pharaoh Lake area that I'll share with those going on the hike. We'll hike in about 1.5 miles on a state trail and then bushwhack a little over a half mile to set up camp on Saturday. After we set up camp we'll bushwhack a little more and explore the area around Goose-neck Pond, including a small rock peninsula that juts out into the pond and looks like a great spot for lunch. We'll

Innings and Outings, cont.

then explore an old mine near Rock Pond and take in a small waterfall and a couple of more ponds on our way back to the campsite. We should awake to fantastic views and if there is group interest we'll climb Ragged Peak (1 Mile RT) on Sunday morning on our way out. Camping off trail will provide us with a few challenges but should be well worth it. Saturday distances: 2 miles with 900 feet gain with full pack, 6 miles with 1400 feet of gain without full pack. Sunday: two miles out with full pack.

Sat 2 Aug Canoe Trip – Raquette River – Axton Landing to Raquette Falls, Class A2C Roy Keats 370-0399

This trip starts and ends at Axton Landing which is a few miles outside of the village of Tupper Lake. We will paddle up the Raquette for approximately 6 miles to the falls. It is a flat water paddle with a lot of bays and blind channels depending on the water level. The river has a barely noticeable current at this time of year. We should be able to explore some of the side channels such as the outflow from Stony Creek Ponds. There are usually ducks and herons around many of the bends in the river. Once at the shallows just before the falls, we will pull in to shore and hike up the portage trail a little ways to actually get to the base of the falls. The return trip will be slightly aided by the current.

Mon 4 Aug Grace & Carson via Grace Slide, Class A+, moderate pace Elie Bijou, 873-2119 or 523- 6434, adironacks@verizon.net

We will walk about 4 miles on unmarked woods paths, passing small pools; then we will ascend the slide to the summit of Grace (4012 ft) and then over to Carson (4060 ft). We will retrace our steps back to the cars. Distance, about 10 miles. All Registrants must supply phone number. Register to Aug. 1; no calls after 9 p.m.

Sat 9 Aug Sleeping Beauty, Class C2C Ken & Nilde Marcinowski 885-9400 or Nildekens@msn.com

Join us on this 4.5 mile loop from Dacy Clearing, over Sleeping Beauty and around Bumps Pond. Only a 1038 ft. elevation gain to some of the most rewarding views of the Lake George area and beyond. Depending upon group interest, we may also make a side trip to picturesque Fish Brook Pond (additional 1.6 mi. RT). Call or e-mail by Thursday

evening prior to the hike. Don't hesitate! Group size will be limited. Rain will cancel.

Tues 12 Aug HIGH PEAKS High Peaks area mountain Mary MacDonald, 371-1293 Mountain to be decided. Call leader for details.

Thur 14 Aug Couchsachraga (3820 Ft.), Class A+ moderate pace Elie Bijou 873-2119 or 523- 6434 adironacks@verizon.net

An early start and trail hike to Bradley Pond, four and a quarter miles, then up unmarked herd paths to Herald and Times Square, then the mile and a half or so to "Kook". descending 900 feet to the Panther – Couch col and then an ascent of 350 feet to the summit. Several subpeaks on the ridge with good views. Due to the remote nature of this hike, extra food, water and clothing are essential. About 14 miles. Possible side trip to Panther if there is enough time. This outing is very strenuous. All registrants must supply phone number. Register to Aug. 10; no calls after 9 p.m. Thunderstorms postpone to 15 August

Sat 16 Aug Bald Pate and Owl Pate Bushwhack Class A2B Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

Bald Pate and Owl Pate are two trailless mountains lying in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest, east of Northway Exit 29. Though neither summit reaches 2500 ft, both have good cliff-top views north to the High Peaks and south over the Pharaoh Lake area. We will begin on Ensign Pond Road and take the marked trail to Moose Mountain Pond. Near the pond, we will begin to bushwhack south about one mile to the top of Bald Pate to catch the views and perhaps find blueberries on the ledge tops. We'll then circle under the cliffs and head for Owl Pate, about a mile to the west, which has more views from two sets of cliff tops. Finally, we'll bushwhack north about 1.5 miles back to the Moose Mountain Pond trail. Total distance is about 9.5 miles (about 4 miles of bushwhacking) with about 2000 ft total climb.

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Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

Sat 23 Aug Black Mountain, Class B2B John Susko, 383-1284

Black Mountain is the highest peak on the shores of Lake George and provides excellent views of the lake and the Adirondacks to the west. Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains of Vermont are also visible to the East. We will take the trail which loops over the top of the mountain and passes Black Mountain and Lapland ponds on the trip back down. The distance is 7 miles with 1200 feet of ascent.

Wed 10 Sep Hadley and Roundtop Mountains, Class B2B Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

Hadley Mountain, the highest point in Saratoga County, has a restored fire tower on its summit, but wonderful views of much of the southeastern Adirondacks and even north to the High Peaks are also visible from the open, rocky area around the tower. We'll take the popular 1.8 mile trail, steep in places, to the top of Hadley. After enjoying the views, we'll bushwhack north along the ridge to Hadley's lower neighbor Roundtop. This route, occasionally marked with cairns, passes through several open areas and requires some scrambling up ledges near summit of Roundtop. This summit is also open, with good views to the north. Round trip distance is about 7 miles (half on a marked trail), with about 2250 ft total climb

Sat 13 Sept Canoe Trip – Cedar River Flow, Class A2C Roy Keats, 370-0399

This trip starts and ends at Wakely Dam at the north end of Cedar River Flow. The flow extends as a lake for approximately 3 miles to the south. Even though there is public access at this end of the road, the lake has a very wild character. There are many coves to explore as well as beaver meadows and meandering streams. At the far end the Cedar River provides an additional 1.5 mile paddle to a leanto on the Northville Lake Placid Trail with the possibility of further upstream paddling depending on the water level. Finding the inlet of the Cedar River is always a challenge. The south end of the lake is filled with weeds and false channels. Once you find the correct channel, you feel elation at solving the puzzle. The total round trip will probably be on the order of 10 to 11 miles. If the weather forecast is for extreme winds, the trip will be moved to a more sheltered location.

Tue 16 Sep "Forest Preserve Planning Project" Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library 475 Moe Rd., Clifton Park

Stuart Mesinger will describe the ADK/OSI planning project on the future of the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. Details, page one.

Wed 17 Sept Corner Mountain, Class B2C Walt Hayes, 399-7482

About five miles with ascent of about 1000 feet to this small mountain with great views from its cliffs. Be prepared to wade the East Branch of the Sacandaga.

Sun 28 Sept Baldface Mt. (Indian Lake), Class B2B Herb Terns, 518-372-8478 or trailhed@verizon.net

Baldface Mt. is a trailed peak that's supposed to have great views of Indian Lake. The reason I haven't climbed it before is that the trailhead is accessible only by water. I don't have a canoe but I do have feet so we'll bushwhack from the north along Jerry Pond to the trailhead. It should be about a 1.5 mile bushwhack to the state trail at Norman's Cove then 1.1 miles to the summit. If we get a particularly warm day (or you're a member of the Polar Bear Club) Norman's Cove is supposed to have excellent swimming. Ice cream in North Creek or Indian Lake to follow. RT roughly 5+ miles with 850 feet of gain.

Sat 4 Oct Northville Placid Trail Maintenance - Benson to Rock Lake A3C Kevin Cotter 762-7747 or kcotter@nycap.rr.com

Join in and help out with some fall maintenance of this section of the NPT. We'll work on drainage cleaning, sidecutting, and the removal of smaller blowdown. It's rolling terrain through beautiful forest, with some water crossings along the way. Lunch at Rock Lake. Space is limited.

Sat 18 Oct Hunter Mt., Class B3B Herb Terns, 372-8478 or Trailhed@verizon.net

The fifth year we've done this trip although we hope to take a different route this year. Both my mom and grandfather were tower observers on Hunter in the 70's and 80's and

Whitewater 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.

Date	Date	Trip description	Class	Leader	Phone
7-25	Fri	Leader's Choice			
7-26	Sat	Deerfield River (Fife Brook section) Zoar Gap (class3) is an option for those who want to try it. This dam release river offers plenty of spots to practice ww maneuvering. If you want to improve your skills or just have fun, this section of the Deerfield is a great place to go.	2/3	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
7-27	Sun	Leader's Choice	3+	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
8-02	Sat	Deerfield River (Fife Brook section) Zoar Gap (class3) is an option for those who want to try it. This dam release river offers plenty of spots to practice ww maneuvering. If you want to improve your skills or just have fun, this section of the Deerfield is a great place to go.	2/3	Judy Halstead	583-2504
8-09	Sat	Leader's Choice		Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
8-16	Sat	Leader's Choice		John Banevicius	256-7827
8-23	Sat	Leader's Choice		Chuck Wilkison	793-8041
8-30	Sat	Leader's Choice		Larry Woods	271-0270
9-06	Sat	Leader's Choice	3?	Mal Provost	399-1565
9-13	Sat	Leader's Choice	3?	Mal Provost	399-1565
9-27	Sat	West River in Vermont	3	Bob Wright	279-1428

Innings and Outings, cont.

if my mom's knee is good this year she'll join us on the hike. I'm hoping to get permission to use the old Taylor Hollow trail which starts at Deming Rd. just outside the town of Hunter. This trail has been closed to the public for a while and was the route I rode up many times as a kid with both my mom and grandfather. It's slightly longer than the Spruceton side but saves us the long drive through the Westkill Valley. Our hike will be on old roads which permit good conversation and will be at a slower pace. RT is just over 7.5 miles with 2500 feet of gain.

FIRETOWER CHALLENGE

*Now I see the secret of the making of
the best person,
It is to grow in the open air and to eat
and sleep with the earth...*

Walt Whitman

Trip tales and paddling parables

Leader's choice – 5/9/08

On Friday May 9, three kayakers chose to paddle the Hudson Gorge at a level of 5.1 feet. The day was mostly sunny with temperatures in the high 60s. Lots of excitement and fun, with the trip taking four hours including a short lunch. The paddlers were Horst Delorenzi, Nelson Miller, and Robert Wright.

North Creek – 5/10/08

Due to low water, the scheduled W. branch Sacandaga trip was changed to the North Creek-Glen section on the Hudson. The 4.66' level was more than adequate for a fun run. Participants were Larry Woods, Shelly Nevard, Matt Platt, Chuch Wilkison, Mal Provost, Casey Switen, Lauri Casey, Helge Klockow, Mike Ryan and Charlie Beach (leader).

Hudson River – 5/11/08

Ken Perrault and Ed Ashley signed up for the class II trip scheduled for this date. Ed is new to whitewater in his kayak starting with pool sessions in late winter. We decided to do the Hudson River from the just above where they start the slalom course in North River and take out at the parking area below the last class two rapid in the slalom course. Ken is a veteran of this area having paddled the Derby a number of times. We made two trips of this section. On the first trip I lead Ed on a conservative line through the two rapids in this section. On the second we went for the 'Gusto' paddling the bigger waves. Ed paddled well and successfully. I think he is hooked. It was a nice day of paddling! Trip leader: Chuck Wilkison

Schroon River trip — 5/11

This trip on Mothers Day had both a good turnout of paddlers and great weather. The river level was 4.5 feet on the gauge which is a good level as you won't be bouncing off of too many rocks and you also have plenty of eddies to use on the way down. There were no mishaps or swims on the day and we had plenty of time to play as we made our way down.



Photo by Roy Keats
Paddlers on the May 24 Round-the-Mountain canoe trip pass through a lock on the Saranac River.

Paddlers included Clark Darlington, Judy Halstead, Bob Wright, John Banevicius, Carolyn Cyr, Kamal Kalafala, and the leader, Norm Labbe

Hadley Mountain — 5/11/2008

A most beautiful Mother's Day wildflower walk up Hadley Mt — blue sky, gentle breeze, just the right temperature and moderate amount of biting black flies. I was overwhelmed by 34 participants, 11 from our chapter, the others from Glens Falls ADK Chapter. We examined at least 38 plants — most of them in bloom. For many participants this has become an annual celebration. Schenectady participants included Minna Broman, Lynne Christensen, Emily and Howard Hart, Ken and Nilde Marciniowski, Lorraine Plauth, Arden Rauch, Tom Schottman, Peg Wallingford and the leader. (Ruth Schottman)

Schroon River whitewater trip — 5/17/08

The Schoharie Creek was too low, so we went to the Schroon River, which was at a nice level, about 3.1ft. It turned out to be a pleasant, sunny day, with very few black flies. Enjoying lots of play on the river were Larry Woods & Shelly Nevard in solo canoes; and Mary Pat Provost, Rick Gonzales, and Mike Ryan & John Banevicius (trip leader) in kayaks. We had no swims, plenty of surfing and ferrying practice, and some excellent practice rolls in the not-too-cold water. We stopped at the big drop to relax in the sun on the rocks, and watch everyone run a variety of routes. Some climbed back up to run it again. It was another great day on the river!

Plateau Mt. via New Warner Creek Trail/Long Path — 5/17/08

After spotting a car at Notch Lake, where the Devil's Path crosses NY 214,

Trip tales, cont.

we drove to the lower end of Notch Inn Road to start our hike. We followed the abandoned and eroded road south to Silver Hollow Notch, where the Long Path intersects the road. From here, we turned east on the new 3-mile section of the Long Path, also called the Warner's Creek Trail, up Daley Ridge to the summit ridge of Plateau Mountain. We were fortunate to meet Doug Egeland, one of the creators of the new trail and currently its volunteer maintainer. Doug and his colleagues should be thanked for creating one of the most beautiful and enjoyable trails in the Catskills. This path, well marked with blue DEC disks, passes about six viewpoints with magnificent vistas. Once on the Plateau ridge, we made the quick trip over to the summit, where one of our party bagged the peak as part of a 3500 Club quest. We returned to the spotted car via the Devil's Path, enjoying a lunch at Danny's Lookout before dropping steeply down to our spotted car. Despite a dire weather forecast, the day turned out to be perfect, with blue skies and only a few white puffy clouds in the afternoon. Hikers were Judy Brandow, Marcia Hanson, Mary MacDonald, Karen McKenney, Dan Pekrol, Lorraine Plauth, Linda Veraska, Wyatt Waterman and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

Wine, Women and (Bird) song in the Finger Lakes — 5/17-5/18/08

A rain-filled forecast was probably partially responsible for dwindling our group number down to three. Since the rain hadn't started on our way out, we decided to skip the extra driving to Taughanic Falls and instead visit Howland Island Game Refuge, which was on our way to Cayuga Lake State Park. In some ways, we found Howland Island better than the more publicized Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge we visited on Sunday. Howland Island is a collection of walkable dirt roads bordered by the Erie Canal on the south and the Seneca River on the north. We didn't see any real exotic birds at Howland Island, but those we did see were plentiful. Several osprey, great blue heron, yellow warblers, Ameri-



Herb Terns and Eric Scott enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the Caroga Lake State Park campground near Seneca Falls during a May outing.

Photo by Gillian Scott.

can redstarts and bluebirds were seen repeatedly. After a short hike, we were escorted back to the car by rain showers.

The rain meant it was time to visit Swedish Hill Winery, just a short drive from our campsite at Cayuga Lake State Park. We all sampled several varieties while waiting for the rain to stop so we could set-up our tents without getting soaked. The clouds parted and we left the winery with a case of wine for future sampling (one bottle would not make it until the morning.) We were happy to find the RV section of the campground and the tent section were separated and there were not many tent campers. We were able to set up camp and have dinner while staying dry. A walk down by the lake gave us a terrific sunset over the water. On the way back, we spotted several deer right near our tent and we were surprised to hear coyotes yipping and howling through the night.

On Sunday morning we did a hike at Montezuma in the spritzing rain but saw a variety of sanderlings, hummingbirds, redstarts, warblers and a couple of grebes. When the rain picked up, we did the car tour to see a variety of ducks and what I had really come to see, a group of black terns. We had a quick lunch and short tour in Seneca Falls before heading back in the early afternoon.

Campers were Eric Scott, Gillian Scott Terns and the leader (Herb Terns).

Whitewater Trip report — 5/18/08

The Schroon River was substituted for the Hudson River due to low water levels there. We usually consider the Schroon a class 3 trip and today's trip was listed as a class two paddle. The skill level of the paddlers who signed up and the low 3.07 level of the Schroon made it a reasonable choice.

Ken and Laura Perrault (tandem canoe), Rich Macha and Elyssa Macura (tandem canoe), Clark Darlington (kayak) and trip leader Chuck Wilkison in solo canoe put in below Starbuck Dam. The first real rapid below route 8 provided a place for Clark to practice some self rescue skills.

Everyone enjoyed the long class 2 section along the road and the group kept together by eddying out at appropriate times. We met up with Larry Woods and Shelly Nevard paddling solo canoes just upstream of the "drop." Our group got out to scout and watched Larry and Shelly paddle the center route over the initial drop. I told the group to wait to see my river right sneak route and then make up their minds of where to go, including the option of a portage. Ken and Laura took the big water center route and paddled it with skill and smiles. Clark took the portage option. Rich and Elyssa had a differ-

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Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 7)

ence of opinion of which route to paddle. Rich wanted to take my river right route and Elyssa wanted to go for the big water down the middle. They made up their minds to also go down the middle after seeing Ken and Laura's success. Unfortunately they went for a swim. I had set up safety on river right and made a great rope throw which Rich got. Unfortunately, I had not thought ahead to find a place to plant my feet so I could swing Rich, Elyssa and the canoe into the eddy. I was about to be pulled into the water and become a swimmer myself when I let go of the rope. Larry Woods paddled out to them and advised them to let go of the boat and swim to shore. They both did so successfully and Larry got the boat to shore at the bottom of the rapid on river left. Unfortunately, Rich and Elyssa were on river right. Ken Perrault had the solution as he dropped Laura off and made successive solo paddles to ferry both Rich and Elyssa to the same side as their canoe. Fortunately, no one was injured and everyone was looking forward to the next trip.

Snow Mountain — 5/24/2008

We had a fun time exploring Deer Brook Gorge, checked out one cave, and the falls were running nicely. Great views from Snow Mountain. Two continued on to Rooster Comb while the rest of the party returned from Snow. Participants were Fred & Michi Lieber, Ruth Kuo & daughter Lauren (age 9) who was great scrambler. Your leaders, Ken & Nilde Marcinowski.

Round-the-Mountain Canoe Trip — 5/24/08

We started at the Ampersand Bay state boat launch on Lower Saranac Lake after leaving one car in Saranac Lake Village at Lake Flower. The day was beautifully sunny with only a slight wind to start.

We paddled west along the south shore past many lovely islands. We turned left by Bluff Island to head into the Saranac River and First Pond. After



Hikers watch the sun set from the summit Sleeping Beauty on June 21.

Photo by Gillian Scott

crossing under the Route 3 bridge, we entered Second Pond with a wonderful view towards the High Peaks. Paddling down the Saranac to the lower locks was a nice respite from the North West breeze which had come up. It also added nice variety to the trip with the twists and turns of the river and the float through the locks.

After passing through the locks, we continued up Oseetah Lake. This direction gave us a great view of the McKenzie Mountain Range. We stayed generally on the west sides of Oseetah and Lake Flower to keep out of the fairly brisk breeze. The participants were Chuck and Inge Pangburn, Richard and Karen Wang, Bob Kastraveckas, Robin Ashley, Evan Daigle, and Sue and Roy Keats (the trip leader).

Memorial Day (Leader's Choice, Schroon) 5-26-08:

Everyone had a great time on this unique trip. Why unique? Four of the five paddlers were women!

Also, the Schroon was at an unusually low level. While the gauge level was over the AWA minimum recommended level of 2.60 ft when I made the decision that the trip would be the Schroon, it was a low 2.51 ft by the time I got home after the run. While no one in the group would encourage folks to paddle the Schroon at levels much lower than this, we all agreed it was very doable at this level and we had a really fun day.

Everyone paddled the first rapid well, eddying out and politely avoiding the fishermen. (Actually the fishermen said the fishing improved after a previous group of boaters went by. They claimed the fish were "stirred up".) We stayed and practiced ferries and eddy turns and noted that Carolyn and I were particularly active (another unique aspect of this trip). Through the "long rapid," some eddies we were used to had vanished or had guard rocks while other new ones appeared. We scouted "the drop." (Despite her extensive experience on this river, Carolyn had never scouted the drop before so add that to our "unique" list too.) Ken, Abby and I all ran the main route uneventfully while Carolyn gracefully guided Laura through the river right route. I believe this was Laura's first time on this river in a kayak and she paddled well.

At this lower level I could ferry back and forth below the drop catching eddies on both sides. This was particularly delightful since it is a challenge I am not up to at higher levels. Today's trip was also Abby's first time paddling whitewater since recently moving to our area. Paddlers were: Ken Perrault (OC-1), Laura Perrault (K-1), Carolyn Cyr (K-1), Abby Burbank (OC-2 paddled really well as an OC-1) and trip leader Judy Halstead lounging in her IK-1.

Trip tales, cont.

Owls Head Fire Tower — 6/1/2008

Great day despite a few showers. All enjoyed the excellent trail and the cool temperature with some wind. Our two hour climb to the summit was rewarded with panoramic views of nearby lakes and mountains. Most of the group climbed up the fire tower for a better look at surroundings. The tower has been recently repainted and the stairs secured. Rain began to fall toward the end of the trip so some of the group retired to Long Lake and satisfied a desire for some sweets. David Golibersuch, Pat Peebles, David, Marion Luce, Rory Baxter, Bob Carter, Sue Purdy, Mike Purdy, Bijan, Monica Ricardi, Margaret Litwin and the leader. (Mary MacDonald)

Sleeping Beauty Loop — 6/6/2008

Cancelled due to thunderstorms. (Mary MacDonald)

Hudson Gorge — June 7

Originally two trips were planned for this weekend, one leader's choice on Saturday June 7 and another trip on the Schroon for Sunday June 8. The two trips were combined to one trip on the Hudson Gorge on Saturday June 7 with the two trip leaders John Banevicius and Horst deLorenzi. Including the bubble, the Gorge was at a nice level of 4.9 ft and with fairly warm water and air temperatures in the upper 80s it was a great day to be on the river. Participants were Bob Wright, Mal Provost, Garth Johnston, Judy Halstead, the two trip leaders and another person we picked up at the put in.

NP Trail Steward - McCanes to Lake Durant — 6/7/2008

Rescheduled from 5/31 because of stormy weather. With a crew of 6, we got a lot done on a hot steamy day. A nice breeze kept the bugs down and an ice cream stop on the way home was the reward. Thanks to all who helped out! Mary MacDonald, Steve and Betsy Sandberg, Paul Weinstein and the lead-



Photo provided by Roy Keats

Raquette to Blue Mountain Lake paddlers at the finish at Blue Mountain Lake Beach. Blue Mountain is in the background.

ers. (Rich Vertigan and Holly Hawkes)

Waterfalls of East and West River Trails — 6/7/2008

Despite a threatening forecast of high heat and storms, six of us had a fantastic day along the shaded river trail. A pleasant breeze coming through the river valley was refreshing and kept the flies down to a low level. The waterfalls were running nicely, benefiting from remaining snow melt on the Eastern slopes. Participants were: Jake Bortscheller, Dave Golibersuch, Michael Goot, Dorothy Anne & Robert Todd and "temporary" leader Ken Marcinowski.

Eleventh Mountain - West- ern Cliffs Bushwhack — 6/14/08

Three of us started out from the Eleventh Mountain parking area on NY 8 on a warm, very humid morning. We initially followed the East Branch Sacandaga trail under the western cliffs of Eleventh Mountain. About a half mile beyond the height of land, we began bushwhacking, following the base of the cliffs to a spot

where we felt we could find a safe route to the top. Our chosen route turned out to be a bit more aggressive than we had hoped, but soon we were safely on top of the cliffs. Following the line of cliffs southward, we found an open ledge which gave extensive, though hazy, views south over the East Branch valley to Diamond, Big and Little Hopkins, Square Falls and Black Mountains. On the return trip, we crossed the bench of Eleventh Mountain to the north of the line of cliffs. Here we spotted signs of bear and moose, but, alas, didn't see the animals themselves. Hikers were Dave Golibersuch, Mark Klein and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

6/21/08 — Hudson Gorge

Mixed weather, no real surprise for people who play in the Adirondacks, marked our Gorge Run Saturday, 6/21. Bright, hot sun had everyone's spirits high as we assembled at 9:30, but each time a cloud blocked the sun even briefly the air was cool. Sun dominated however, and the group -- seven boats including two skilled kayakers on their first Gorge experience, plus a solo kayaker who was

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Trip tales, cont.

(Continued from page 9)

looking for company at the put-in -- ran the Indian without incident. We took a break at the Hudson confluence under hot sun and at least one — trip leader — shed the wetsuit. About 15 minutes down the Hudson, a heavy black cloud started chasing us with deep rumbles. It caught up and a thunderstorm swept over us with chilly driving rain, high arcing bolts followed only by seconds with a thunderclap and gusting wind. Visually it was striking, with the forward boats only half visible in the spray and mist on the river — ghost images. It was also chilling, so the group stopped for the leader to get back into the wetsuit and we went on. By the time we got to the usual rest stop above the Blue Ledge rapid the rain had stopped and the weather was pleasant the rest of the trip.

Gauge reading that day at North Creek was just under 4', but a good workable level and a fine workout. Gorge inductees Laurienn and Helge enjoyed the trip.

Participants included: Laurienn Casey and Helge Klockow, Alex (add-on), Oscar (big-time surfing in the Narrows), Horst, Rick and Mal (leader, only open boat). Another fine day on the river. (Mal Provost)

Wilton Wildlife Preserve - Camp Saratoga — 6/21/08

After waiting 15 minutes for a no-show member, 7 of us took off for a leisurely stroll of the blue trail, adding Opdahl Farm for good measure. There were ripe wild strawberries to be enjoyed and we were happy to introduce 4 people to the gentle trails that are great for cross country skiing as well as biking and walking. Lunch at the lake ended the morning.

Geraldine Kubek, Tom Schottman, Eileen Spuck, Peg Wallingford, Sue & Ted Wright and the leader. (Ruth Schottman)

Raquette Lake to Blue Mountain Lake Canoe Trip — 6/21/08

After leaving one car at the Blue

More photos available!

You've been reading about fellow club members' adventures and seeing a few of their photos in the Lookout. More photos are available for viewing at <http://www.adk-schenectady.org>.

Mountain Lake public beach, we started canoeing at the boat launch in Raquette Lake Village. We paddled out on an unusually calm Raquette Lake under blue skies at about 9:15 a.m. The day was forecast to have possible thunderstorms in the afternoon. We headed north east past the tip of Big Island. We paused to look at the wooden St. Williams Church about a quarter mile from the tip of Lone Point. The church dates from 1890 and was part of the Long Point community at that time. As we paddled up the Marion River, we noticed that a slight wind had succeeded in pushing clouds over us from behind. About a mile from the portage, the skies opened up. Fortunately, the rain started when we were alongside the only dry land access in the entire Marion River. Thus, we got onto shore, in our raingear, and under a little shelter as the thunder, lightning and rain hit about 4 hours sooner than predicted. After about 20 minutes, the sky cleared and we continued on. Just before the portage, we came upon a deer on the side of the river. From the portage, we continued on through Utowana and Eagle Lakes to Blue Mountain Lake. The views of Blue Mountain were very nice.

With absolutely no wind after the thunderstorm, we had to paddle unaided by the usual westerly winds to Blue Mountain. This made the trip very relaxing. We were able to talk and stay grouped together through all of the lakes. Note: many times this trip has been accompanied by a strong west breeze especially in the afternoon, making the last few miles to the Blue Mountain Lake beach exciting.

Participants were Chuck and Inge Pangburn, Richard and Karen Wang, Bill and Norma Eades, and Sue and Roy Keats (the trip leader).

Sleeping Beauty Sunset Hike — 6/21/08

I had been worried that adding dinner at Davidson's Brew Pub in Glens Falls would make this trip too complicated and that we might miss the sunset. Instead, the crew at Davidson's was great about getting us in and out quickly. After dinner we headed up the Northway to make the drive into Hogtown and Dacy Clearing. We made fairly short work of the trail up to find a fantastic view at the top. It was a bit cloudy but this seemed to add to the effect, reflecting the reds and oranges.

As promised, Gillian made her chocolate brownies, which were well received. We stayed on top for nearly an hour but everyone seemed reluctant to leave such a great spot. We made it back down in the dark without any problems and most people hopefully made it home by 11:30 p.m. or so. Hikers were: Linda Faulkner, Sonya Fischer, Cliff Prenwicki, Larry, Jason, Kathy Shang, Alison Sauble, Helene Isen, Cathy Sheppard, Gillian Scott and the leader (Herb Terns.)

Sacandaga — 6/28/08

Seventeen paddlers showed up to run the Sacandaga at Hadley (Stewart's Bridge Reservoir dam release to Hudson), so we subdivided the group. It was especially nice to have a few new paddlers join us. A few of us did two runs. A good time was had by all on this warm sunny day. Jim Palmer, Jim OKeefe, Todd Nolte, Carolyn Cyr, Shelly Nevard, Larry Woods, David Ray, Walt Addicks, Mary Pat Provost, Mal Provost, Chuck Wilkison, Anthony Lamanno, Bob Wright, Rick Gonzales, Horst deLorenzi and Judy Halstead (trip leader).

Porter Mountain trail clearing — 6/28/08

Volunteers faced humid conditions, rain showers, and steep slippery slopes to trim back branches on the chapter's adopted Porter Mt. trail. Kathleen Wiley and John Wood offered a running commentary on the trees and plants, while Neil Parker cleared out some fallen trees. Followed by delicious lasagna at Noonmark Diner! Stan Stoklosa, Trails Chair.

Trails Day volunteers get bike-hike trail in tip-top shape

The Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club would like to thank the many volunteers who worked along the City of Schenectady section of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail from Seneca Street to Nott Street on Saturday, June 7. In partnership with Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) Mohawk Commons store, we enjoyed the fellowship of working together to trim back overgrown trees and clean up litter.

Members of the Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail also joined in the clean-up. In all, 19 volunteers worked in the bright (hot!) sun, cutting back brush and picking up trash not only on the trail, but also on the short underpass trail that runs under the nearby Freeman's Bridge.

The Schenectady Chapter of ADK and Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail would like to thank everyone involved in making the event successful. Special thanks to EMS for their ongoing

support and assistance. We also had the cooperation of the Department of Neighborhood Revitalization (trash collection and grass cutting) in the city of Schenectady.

The event was one of several, part of the 5th annual Canalway Trail Celebration for National Trails Day along the Erie Canalway Trail to celebrate that the trail is more than halfway completed! Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), the New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC) and the Canalway Trails Association of New York (CTANY) organized the statewide celebration.

After working hard each Saturday morning, we really enjoyed the refreshments and the continued conversations. What great way to end a trail clean but with refreshments and friends!

For more photos from this year's Trails Day cleanup, go online to <http://www.adk-schenectady.org>.



Photos by Howard Halstead



INNING: Author Stu Mesinger to speak

(Continued from page 1)

environmental studies from St. Lawrence University. A planning and environmental consultant with more than 25 years experience in land use planning in the Adirondack region, he is currently on sabbatical with ADK. An avid hiker, paddler, and angler, Mesinger is also the author of *No Place I'd Rather Be: Wit and Wisdom from Adirondack Lean-to Journals*.

This program is co-sponsored by Schenectady ADK and the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library and will take place at the library's new location on Moe Road, Clifton Park, beginning at 7 p.m..

Board of directors report

From the June Board of Directors meeting:

ADK finances seem to be OK despite the tough economy. Revenues and reservations at Heart Lake and JBL are up as people seem to be choosing the Adirondacks over more distant vacation spots. (Special thanks to volunteers such as Bob Grimm who help maintain and upgrade these facilities.) However, preliminary results indicate donations and membership renewals may be down this year. Our current comptroller has agreed to stay on part time as we restart the search for his replacement.

There was discussion on the 46ers proposal to approach the US Geological Survey to rename East Dix and South Dix for Grace Hudowalski and Russell Carson. While some feel Herb Clark, mountain guide to the Marshalls might be more deserving than the author Carson, Sch'dy Chapter will support the 46er proposal as is. They have moved the process along while ADK was napping. The formal vote will be at the Sept BOD meeting to allow further discussion at the chapter level.

— Stan Stoklosa,
Sch'dy Chapter Director

Local news and announcements

Trail ambassadors needed

The Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and Parks&Trails NY are partnering to develop a trails ambassador program for the bike-hike trail. The program will be piloted in Niskayuna in August and September.

Trail ambassadors would actively promote and monitor the bike-hike trail, interacting with other trail users to provide directions, assistance, distances to trailheads, restrooms and water sources and other key information. Other skills, such as basic bike repair and basic first aid, would be helpful but not necessary. Ambassadors would also report back to a coordinator on the condition of the trail and any problems they encounter (branches down, etc). Ambassadors would not be expected to enforce trail rules.

If you are interested in serving as a trails ambassador, please contact Gillian Scott at 372-8478 or e-mail gvscott07@verizon.net.

Save the date!

This year's annual chapter dinner and meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, at Schenectady County Community College. Our featured speaker will be Phil Brown, editor of the Adirondack Explorer, a regional magazine focusing on environmental issues and non-motorized outdoor recreation. Phil, an avid hiker, paddler, backcountry skier and slide climber, will give a presentation on his book *Bob Marshall in the Adirondacks*. Bob Marshall, a passionate advocate for wilderness, spent his boyhood summers in the Adirondacks, and he, his brother George, and their guide, Herb Clark, are listed as the first three Adirondack Forty-Sixers

Ididaride Aug. 17

The Adirondack Mountain Club has taken over the Ididaride, a one-day Adirondack bike tour. This year's ride has been dedicated to the memory of Schenectady chapter member Betty Lou Bailey, who died last year.

The ride offers two options: a 75-mile loop beginning and ending in North Creek and a 20-mile ride with a shuttle that runs from Indian Lake to North Creek. All proceeds from the tour will go to ADK's conservation, education and recreation programs.

To register or for more information, contact ADK at <http://www.adk.org> or call (800) 395-8080, ext. 14.

Fall Outing

The Fall Outing will take place Sept. 19-21 in Wilmington. Co-hosted by the Hurricane Mountain and North Woods Chapters, the 60th ADK Fall Outing headquarters will be at the Whiteface Mountain-Wilmington KOA Campground.

Forty exciting high peaks, low peaks, paddles, climbs, and even a fishing trip are scheduled, along with a presentation on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and a musical performance by Steve Langdon. The outing is open to ADK members and guests.

Registration booklets can be obtained by contacting Peter Gillespie, 891-2626 or petergil@roadrunner.com. All information will also be available via adktravel.org/fallouting.htm.

Nature photography workshop

The Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady (ECOS) is sponsoring a workshop on nature photography entitled "How Film and Digital Imaging Can Capture the World Around Us" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15 at the Corning Bioreserve in Bethlehem.

The talk will cover popular subjects for nature photography, acquiring and using equipment, exposure and composition, digital imaging workflow, panoramics, bird/flower/insect photography, waterfalls, behind the near— to really close, and how flash can be your friend.

The class is limited to 15 students. Anyone interesting in getting more out of their camera is welcome. Bring a camera, digital or film, and lunch. Water, juice and soda will be provided. Course fee is \$5.

To register, contact ECOS at 370-4125 or ecos@global200.net.

ADK lectures

ADK Headquarters at 814 Goggins Road in Lake George is offering the following free lectures:

Aug. 12 — Backcountry preparedness. Pete Fish, retired forest ranger, will offer valuable information regarding hiking preparedness and ethics, based on his experiences and observations in the Catskills and the Adirondack High Peaks wilderness. Using his day pack, he will focus on contents, attire, rules and regulations as well as other concerns associated with backcountry recreation.

Sept. 9 — Be Wise on Owls. Nancy Kimball, of North County Wildlife Rescue, will give a Powerpoint presentation on the rescue network, which cares for local wounded or orphaned wildlife. There will be a special visit by Noah, a non-releasable Barred Owl.

Oct. 14 — Adirondack Environmental Landscaping. Bert Weber, a teacher, will discuss sustainable garden practices for the Adirondack Gardener.

All lectures are free and open to the public and take place at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the headquarters in Lake George. Please call ahead for reservations at 668-4447.

New additions

Chapter board members Norm Kuchar and Walt Hayes announce that in the last week of June they both became grandfathers for the first time. In each case, a daughter gave birth to a son by C-section after many hours of labor. Norm's grandson is Brendan James Meagher living near Boston and Walt's grandson is Dean Hayes Ayotte living in Concord, NH.

In addition, board member Gisele Sum and her husband Tom Bush welcomed their daughter, Rachael Hannah Bush, on March 31.