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February-March 2009

# The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Inning to discuss Churchill polar bears

"I have traveled to many places throughout my life, but one place that I still would like to visit is Churchill, to see the polar bears."

This statement by Jean Quattrocchi's 83-year-old aunt was all that was needed to set the wheels in motion for an unforgettable adventure. After much planning, organizing and investigating, the two women set out for the small village of Churchill, Manitoba, on the shores of Hudson Bay, just south of the Arctic Circle.

In November, Churchill becomes the "Polar Bear Capital of the World." During the summer, when the Hudson Bay ice has melted, hundreds of the bears inhabit the tundra near the town, living on their fat reserves. As winter approaches,



the bears congregate near the town, waiting for the bay to freeze so that they can begin an eight-month period on the sea ice, hunting for seals, their main prey.

Jean and her aunt spent nearly a week in the Churchill area, observing the bears and the local culture. Now, Jean will

### Polar Bears of Churchill

**When:** Tuesday, March 3

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** McChesney Room,  
Schenectady County Public Library  
Main Branch, Clinton Street,  
Schenectady

share their exciting experiences and photos with us, as well as tell us about the natural history of polar bears. Polar bears are the world's largest land predators, but they are now threatened by global warming as the sea ice shrinks.

Jean teaches science at Farnsworth

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Chapter to sponsor campers

Hey Campers!

If you wish to apply for a DEC camp scholarship through this chapter, you are urged to do so by Feb. 7.

The Schenectady chapter will again be sponsoring two teenagers for a week at a DEC summer camp. Those selected will have the opportunity to enjoy a blend of learning and recreation. Activities include hiking, trail building, water sports and environmental workshops.

There are four camps available: camps Colby, DeBruce and Rushford are for teens ages 12-14. Pack Forest Camp is for teens 15-17 years old. Camp sessions are for one week in July and August. Visit

[www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us) (keywords: summer camps) for more information on the different camps.

Applicants are requested to write an essay explaining why they wish to participate and send it to "Kendra Pratt, Project Coordinator, 999 Grooms Road, Rexford, NY, 12148" by February 7.

Preference will be given to the families of Schenectady chapter members, then affiliates, other ADK chapters and then the public.

Applications for selected sponsored campers are accepted by the DEC beginning February 7. Processing of applications is first-come, first-served, based on postmark dates.

## Participation fee available for high school trail project

High school aged teens (ages 14-17) looking for an outdoor work experience can apply to the chapter for the \$250 participation fee for the ADK's Volunteer Trails Program. Participants will spend 4-5 days in the woods camping and participating in quality trail work. Food, group camping gear, tools and experienced leadership are provided.

To apply, write an essay explaining why you wish to participate in a trail project and send it to Teen Trails Project Coordinator, Schenectady ADK, PO Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301-0733 no later than April 15. This is available to the public with preference given

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# 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.

## What if I don't have snowshoes/crampons?

The chapter has hi-tech snowshoes and one pair of universal fit crampons available for rental at \$5/trip. Contact Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 to arrange for pick up from his convenient location in Clifton Park. Gear is also available to rent at local retailers..

## 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 Herb Terns at 372-8478 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 Herb Terns (372-8478) 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	

## Sun 1 Feb

### Elephant Mt. Bushwhack (Lake George)

#### Class B2B

Herb Terns, 372-8478 or

[trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)

Elephants have been absent in the Adirondacks for some time but I'm hoping this little peak north of Black Mt. has a view we'll remember. We'll follow the state trail in towards Lake George to avoid private property and then bushwhack north. Round trip is approx 7 miles with roughly 1500 feet of gain.

## 2-9 Feb (Mon-Mon)

### Moonlight Snowshoe

#### Featherstonehaugh SF

#### Class C3D

Rich Vertigan, 381-9319

In the days before the full moon every month, the moon is at 70-80% of its brightness, and also rises early enough to light up the winter woods in the early evening. This will be a 1-2 hour moonlit walk (snowshoes only, please) through Featherstonehaugh SF, near Mariaville. Exact date, time, and route will depend on snow, tem-

## Innings and Outings, cont.

peratures, sky conditions, and my schedule. Please call a week or so in advance and let me know which nights you are/aren't available, and I'll coordinate the details as the weather evolves. Cancelled if no snow or cloudy all week. Kids welcome with parents. Snowshoes required, as are flexibility and a sense of adventure.

### Sat 7 Feb Big Indian Mountain Class A2B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or  
[nkuchar@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nkuchar@nycap.rr.com)

Big Indian, with an elevation of 3700 ft, is one of the Catskill peaks required for membership in the Catskill 3500 Club. Starting at the Seager parking area, we'll follow the Seager trail up the beautiful valleys of Dry and Shandaken Brooks to the ridge line north of Big Indian. The Pine Hill-West Branch trail then leads south along the ridge line, passing close to the summit of Big Indian. A short bushwhack should put us at the Catskill 3500 Club canister. Winter gear is required. Total round trip distance is about 9.5 miles, with about 1750 ft total ascent.

### Sun 8 Feb Southwest Hunter Class B2A

Elie Bijou, [adironacks@verizon.net](mailto:adironacks@verizon.net)  
Or 873-2119 (No calls after 9 p.m.)

Moderately paced trail hike and bushwhack. Heavy snow cancels. Must bring snowshoes. Joint with  
**CATSKILL 3500** ADK / 3500 Club. Distance 6 miles Ascent: 2000'; Elevation 3740 Please contact leader to register no later than Fri. 6 Feb

### Sun 8 Feb Pharaoh Lake Ski Tour Class A2C Roy Keats, 370-0399

This ski starts at Beaver Pond Road just north of Brant Lake. The trail has only one sustained uphill grade, but has enough ups and downs to make things interesting. There is about 250 feet of elevation gain throughout the trip, so it will be mostly down on the way out. The view at the lake is quite nice especially if we can continue out on the lake to get a good view of Pharaoh Mountain. The trip is 9 to 10 miles round trip if we include a mile of skiing on the lake for extra views.

### Need snowshoes?

Want to try snowshoeing but don't know what pair to buy? The Schenectady Chapter has a variety of snowshoes available for rent: traditional wood, aluminum Sherpas and hi-tech plastic from MRS. The cost of rental is \$5 per weekend. I'm conveniently located near Northway Exit 8 for easy pick-up and drop-off. Contact Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066.

### Sat 14 Feb Balsam Mountain Class B2B

John Susko, 383-1284

Balsam mountain is one of the required winter peaks in the Catskills for the Catskill 3500 Club and has good views from the summit. We'll take the trail from  
**CATSKILL 3500** Rider Hollow. Depending on conditions and the interest of the group we could make this a loop hike. The distance is 5 - 6 miles with 1600 feet of ascent. Snowshoes and crampons or stabilicers may be needed.

### Sun 15 Feb Balsam Lake Fire Tower Class B2B

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

**FIRETOWER CHALLENGE/ CATSKILL 3500** Access from Mill Brook Road DEC parking area along Dry Brook Ridge Trail 2.2 miles south to Balsam Lake Trail for .6 mile. We will turn west toward the summit (3723 ft) which has a renovated fire tower. Round trip about 6 miles. Full winter gear required.

### Sun 15 Feb Buck Mt. from Shelving Rock Rd. Class C3C Ken & Nilde Marcinowski, 885-9400 or [Nildekens@msn.com](mailto:Nildekens@msn.com)

A pretty snowshoe/hike to a popular Lake George Peak with great views of Lake George and beyond. A perfect outing for beginner snowshoers who want to get off the "flatlands" and try something a little more interesting. Round trip is 4.6 miles with 1,100 feet of ascent. Snowshoes with crampons and winter gear is required. Please call or e-mail by Friday evening prior to the trip. Rain will cancel.

## Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

**Tues 17 Feb**  
**Slide Mountain, Class B2C**  
**Phil Fountain, 371-8585**

This is considered to be one of the most enjoyable hikes in the Catskill's. A good section of the marked trail is on an old cobblestone woods road, where the grade gradually becomes moderate. The trek will be about 5.5 miles round-trip, with ascent of 1700 feet. Full winter gear required. We will meet at the Elm Avenue P&R in Delmar. Please contact Phil for the meeting time.

**CATSKILL**  
**3500**

**Sat 21 Feb**  
**Old Maid Woods and "The Wild Trees"**  
**Class C2C**  
**Herb Terns 372-8478 or**  
[trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)

"The Wild Trees" by Richard Preston is a combination science and adventure non-fiction book about a group of guys in search of the tallest trees in the world through uncharted forests in California. In keeping with the theme we'll do a short hike through old growth forest in the Old Maid Woods. The absence of tree cover should give us a great view of how impressive these trees really are. No need to have read the book to join the hike! Three to four miles of easy hiking with a possible optional lunch afterward.

**MUDDY BOOTS**  
**BOOK CLUB**

**Sat 21 Feb**  
**X-C Skiing, Rockwood State Forest**  
**Class: beginner/intermediate**  
**Rich Vertigan, 381-9319**

Rockwood State Forest is just west of Johnstown, and usually has good snow. Variety of terrain available, from beginner to "challenging." Some trails groomed by Fulton County. We'll do this as an afternoon trip from Schenectady, about an hour drive each way. Expect to spend a couple of hours skiing, with the ski route depending on the group.

**Sun 22 Feb**  
**Ski Sanders Preserve and Slack acres**  
**Nancy Slack, 377-7422**

A local cross-country ski trip. Ski on the leader's 50 acre property plus Sanders Preserve 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. with hot chocolate provided by leader.

**Mon 2 Mar**  
**Berlin Mountain, Class B2C**  
**Phil Fountain, 371-8585**

We will start from Petersburg Pass and hike up and over Berlin Mountain and come out via the Southeast Hollow Trail, to a pre-spotted car. We will hike about 6.75 miles with an ascent of 1200 feet, full winter gear required. Meeting place will be at Wal-Mart's off Hoosick street (Route 7) In Brunswick, please call Phil for meeting time.

**Tues 3 Mar**  
**"Polar Bears of Churchill" Inning**  
**Schenectady County Public Library**  
**99 Clinton St., Schenectady**

Jean Quattrocchi will speak about her adventures with the polar bears along the Hudson Bay. See page 1 for details.

**March 4-11 (Wed-Wed)**  
**Moonlight Snowshoe**  
**Featherstonehaugh SF**  
**Class C3D**  
**Rich Vertigan, 381-9319**

This will be a 1-2 hour moonlit walk (snowshoes only, please) through Featherstonehaugh SF, near Mariaville. See Feb. 2-9 listing for more details.

**Sat 7 Mar**  
**Taconic Crest Trail Winter Section Hike**  
**Class B2B**  
**Rich Vertigan, 381-9319**

This will be another section hike in pursuit of the winter TCT patch offered by the Taconic Hiking Club. The exact section will be determined by conditions, but will involve a distance of 7-9 miles and total elevation gain of 1500-2000 feet. Full winter gear required.

**Sat 7 Mar**  
**Sherrill & North Dome**  
**Class A2A+**  
**Elie Bijou [adironacks@verizon.net](mailto:adironacks@verizon.net) or**  
**873-2119 No calls after 9 pm**

Moderately paced bushwhack starting from Rt. 42; through hike, shuttle required. Must bring snowshoes. Heavy snow cancels. Joint trip with ADK / 3500 Club. Please contact leader to register before March 6. Distance 6.5 miles, Ascent is 2500'; Elev. 3540' and 3610 respectively.

**CATSKILL**  
**3500**

(Continued on page 5)

# Whitewater schedule

## Whitewater Trip Planning Meeting:

At this time, no trip leader's meeting is planned. Chuck Wilkison will be contacting paddlers via e-mail to fill in the paddling schedule for April, May and Beyond.

Do you want to learn how to paddle whitewater? Call Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) for canoe or Horst deLorenzi (399-4615) for kayak. We can help you get started.

Date	Day	Trip location	Class	Leader	Phone
3-21	Sat	Leaders Choice: possible choices are Pork Barrel section of the Westfield, Kinderhook, Esopus	3	Horst deLorenzi	399-4615
3-28	Sat	Leader's Choice	3	Chuck Wilkison	793-8041

## Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 4)

### Sat 14 Mar

#### Ski Trip to Hour Pond

#### Class B2C (intermediate)

#### Roy Keats, 370-0399

This ski starts at the end of Thirteenth Lake Road. It is about an 8 mile round trip. There are quite a few interesting ups and downs with at least one stream crossing. The view of Bullhead Mountain from the pond should be excellent.

### Sat 21 Mar

#### Whiteface Mountain highway

#### Class A2B (novice to intermediate)

#### Roy Keats, 370-0399

We missed this trip in the fall, so I wanted to try it in the spring. It is a beautiful ski tour up a road with great scenery all the way up (and down). It is approximately an 11-mile round trip, including a quarter mile stair climb at the top. There is a total of approximately 2500 feet of vertical ascent. A fairly constant 8 or 9 percent grade makes for a continuous downhill run out. Everyone should come layered (no cotton) because the long

uphill will warm you up, and the downhill will cool you off.

### Sat 28 Mar

#### Hail Mt. Bushwhack, Class A2A

#### Herb Terns, 372-8478 or

#### [trailhed@verizon.net](mailto:trailhed@verizon.net)

We did nearby Bloody Mountain last year (see Lookout cover) and Hail Mt. looked close enough to touch. We'll go back this year to climb Hail and hopefully get some good views. RT. 10+ miles (mostly off trail) with over 2100 feet of gain.

### Sat 4 Apr

#### Ski Trip – Camp Santanoni

#### Class A2C (novice to intermediate)

#### Roy Keats, 370-0399

This ski tour follows a road into Camp Santanoni. There is a gradual uphill from the parking lot to a high point of land after which there is a nice downhill to the camp. The camp is an historic Great Camp with many interesting buildings. About 10 miles round trip. This is generally one of the last skiable areas in the Adirondacks.

## TRAILS: Chapter seeks teen participants to sponsor

(Continued from page 1)

to those affiliated with ADK.

The teenager selected can choose a project from those listed below:

July 6-10 — Hurricane Mountain.

During this week long project, participants will work on projects such as building wooden piers for a bridge.

July 13-17 — Clements Pond. A new trail will be constructed to this remote

pond located south of Upper Jay. Participants will learn how to and take part in creating a properly designed trail.

July 20-24 — The Kunjamuk-Long Pond Trail. This will be a new connector trail from the Kunjamuk Trail to Long Pond. This is a remote location and the crew will camp next to Long Pond.

July 27-31 — Lyon Mountain. Rock steps will be placed on the new trail that

was created during the summer of 2008.

August 3-7 — Marble Mountain connector trail. Continuing with the development of mountain bike and hiking trails in the Wilmington Wild Forest nearby the Flume on the Ausable River, a new trail will be constructed that will connect to the Marble Mountain trail.

Anyone having questions can call Jackie Parker at 371-9139.

# Trip tails and paddling parables

## Ashokan High Point — 11/15/08

Trip cancelled because of heavy rain.  
(Norm Kuchar)

## Whiteface Highway/ Santanoni Great Camp — 12/6/08

The Whiteface ski trip became a ski into the Santanoni Great Camp because of concerns for the ice conditions on the highway. The ski into the camp was crusty with a little powder in spots up to the Moose Pond/Santanoni intersection. The snow improved noticeably from that point on. However, because of the gentleness of the grades, the crustiness was not too much of an issue. Also, there had been vehicular traffic on the access road which left tire ruts in the trail all the way to the Camp. Apparently these were from work crews at the Camp. This was not the first time an early ski found such ruts. Normally these ruts are not present after the last day of big game season. We found the views excellent, and even toured the inside of the rebuilt boathouse. Trip participants were Inge and Chuck Pangburn and Sue and Roy Keats (leader).

## Moreau Lake State Park — 12/6/08

Eight of us enjoyed a dry, brisk morning hike up to the ridge overlooking Moreau Lake. After a short snack break, we went down for lunch at the lake, then crossed over the bridge to return to our cars. Participants were: Ralph English and Sally Olson, Neil and Jackie Parker, Susan Roberts, Colin Smith and the leaders, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski.

## Winter Hiking and Camping Inning — 12/8/08

Chapter members Maria Beurmann and Norm Kuchar demonstrated clothing and equipment needed for safe and enjoyable winter hiking and camping at this Inning held at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library. The program was tailored to the audience by using a question-and-answer format. Attendance was 29.



Photo by Herb Terns  
Hikers enjoy the view from Good Luck Mountain.

## Good Luck Mountain — 12/20/08

This trip was originally listed as Panther Mountain. A snowstorm on Friday and into Friday night meant we were either going to have lots of fresh snow to snowshoe in or a cancelled trip because of poor driving conditions. It was very close but we elected to brave the roads and go. Because the roads were snowy we elected for the shorter drive to Good Luck Mountain for a semi-bushwhack to the cliffs near its summit. Flurries were letting up as we plunged into fresh powder on our way into Good Luck Lake. There are a lot of snowmobile trails in the area and we were expected motorized company with the fresh powder but didn't have any all day. What was a pretty easy summer trip was hard work in the fresh snow but well worth the effort. With the leaves off the trees the cliffs from the bottom were spectacular covered in ice and snow. From the top we got great views and it had started to clear. A slight breeze blew into the cliffs and for a while on top we had snow blowing up towards us for a visual treat. We made the short hike out in bright sunshine and shared some of Kathy's fantastic brownies. A quick stop at Stewarts where we had coffee and some ice cream on the way back. For photos of our trip go to <http://community.webshots.com/user/Ternshike?vhost=community> and click on Good Luck Cliffs. Participants were: Andy Janz, Kathy Pacuk, Barbara Northrup and the leader (Herb Terns).

## Kaaterskill High Peak — 12/23/2008

After an early start on a lovely, sunny but cold day, we began hiking about 9 a.m. We found the going tough as we had to break trail through over a foot of snow the whole trip in to the mountain. The day was short and we did not accomplish our climb of the desired peak, but we had fun climbing to the mountain and trying to follow the sometimes elusive trail. Hikers were Norm Kuchar, Judy Brandow, Tom Sausville, Jerry Perregaux and the leader, Mary MacDonald

## Fir Mountain Bushwhack — 12/27/08

Trip cancelled because of freezing rain. (Norm Kuchar)

## Beebe Hill New Year's Eve Trip — 12/31/08-1/1/09

With a forecast calling for temps around zero and 20 plus mile an hour winds some people in my office decided it was too cold to do Saratoga First Night. They were aghast to find that our plans to climb a mountain in these conditions were still on. We ADKers are a hardy bunch and 11 of us gathered at the Cracker Barrel in East Greenbush for pre-hike dinner. After a fun meal we car-pooled over to the trailhead, arriving about 11 p.m..

There may have been doubts in some of our hearts as we were greeted by no degrees and a stout wind. We set off in a couple of inches of fresh snow in good spirits. Our spirits stayed high as most of us got to the summit a couple of minutes before midnight. We were all so bundled up it was hard to tell who was who but we still enjoyed a glass of champagne and cookies to ring in 2009. We made short work of the hike down and were back in East Greenbush a bit after 1 a.m. A short movie of our trip will soon be available on the chapter website <http://www.adk-schenectady.org/> Participants were: Donna Charette, Henry Fruel, Barbara C, Janice Joyce, Cliff Prenwicki, Theresa Ruth, Gillian Scott, Bill and Virginia Traver, Dan Vanultinhausen and the leader

## Trip tales, cont.

(Herb Terns).

### Featherstonehaugh State Forest — 1/9/09

This month's full moon was billed as the brightest to come in 2009, with the moon at perigee and also full. It was expected to appear 14 percent bigger and 30 percent brighter than average, and would be the third brightest in 25 years. On a crystal-clear night, seven of us tramped around Featherstonehaugh State Forest by moonlight, and bright it was. We only had to use lights a couple of times when the direction of the trail became unclear. Nobody had skied the ski trail since the last snowfall, and the only clue to its location, aside from the occasional trail marker, was a shallow depression where the ski tracks had been. We strayed a couple of times, but managed to get back on track for a little over an hour's walk. Trees glistened with ice in the moonlight, and the whole scene was somewhat surreal. This was one of the better moonlight trips we've had at Featherstonehaugh.

Thanks to Chuck and Dorlian for the hot chocolate at their home afterwards! Participants were: Phil Fountain, Holly Hawkes, chuck and Dorlian Johnson, Gaye Smith and Rick Smith and the leader, Rich Vertigan.

### Taconic Crest Trail — 1/17/09

Six intrepid adventurers braved 0-degree temperatures for a short outing on the TCT north of Petersburg. This trip was relocated further north after reports of extensive ice storm damage on the original route. We started at Prosser Hollow and hiked up to the ridge, then north on the TCT to its northern terminus on NY346. It was a short 3.2-mile outing, but it worked out for the best on a very cold day. Ideal snow conditions and some nice views from the ridge made for a pleasant trip. Hikers were Mary MacDonald, Dave Cole, Norm Kuchar, Judy Brantow, Terry Tamer, and the leader, Rich Vertigan.

## Board of directors report

The Adirondack Mountain Club held a Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 6, 2008. The Schenectady chapter's director reports:

The club's finances are in good shape despite the tough economy. Shortfalls in membership dues and donations were offset by strong sales in publications, merchandise, lodgings, and parking. In addition, the state paid its trails contract on time.

While we had approved a deficit budget in December 2007 to improve member services and better position the club for future growth, we expect to end the year with a \$15K deficit easily covered by our savings. Other nonprofits are largely dependent on dues and donations and do not have the alternate revenue streams that ADK does.

We are looking to expand our campgrounds, but will not get approvals in time for the 2009 season.

The investment portfolio took a 20% hit, compared to a general 40% decline in the market. Prudent management limited our losses and we have sufficient reserves to cover expenses during low revenue months as well as our annuities obligations.

A conservative 2009 budget was adopted.

Conservation and Advocacy is helping to promote the Bigger, Better Bottle Bill in NYS. On the national level, the Bush Administration was appealing a Clean Air ruling to the Supreme Court. The case may be dropped or rejected before then as the filing deadlines were extended into the Obama Administration.

Mark your calendars for the Black Fly Auction on May 30, and the Spring Outing in Long Island June 26-28.

— Stan Stoklosa, Director

## Local news

### Chapter awards local grants

The Schenectady Chapter's Philanthropic Giving Committee met in December to review funding requests. The following awards were made:

- \$300 to the Boy Scouts of America for their Okpik winter camping program.
- \$200 for the Friends of Mohawk-Hudson Bike Hike Trail to fund vests for the Canalway Trail Ambassador Program.
- \$1,000 to the main club to fund the kitchen renovation at Johns Brook Lodge.
- \$1,000 to the main club to fund window replace at Johns Brook Lodge.

The committee reviews funding requests once each year. If you are interested in applying for a grant, send a letter to the Schenectady Chapter at P.O. Box 733, Schenectady NY 12302. Requests will be reviewed again next December.

## BEARS: Inning on March 3

(Continued from page 1)

Middle School in Guilderland. She has always enjoyed travel, and her greatest pleasure comes from being in the outdoors. She is an Adirondack 46er, Catskill 35er and is working on her Northeast 111. She climbed the Grand Teton in July 2007 and is planning to climb Mt. Rainier in July of this year.

The talk, titled "The Polar Bears of Churchill," will take place on March 3, starting at 7:30 p.m., in the McChesney Room of the main branch of the Schenectady County Public Library on Clinton Street in Schenectady.

## Local news and announcements

### Ski at Indian Meadows

The town of Glenville's Indian Meadows Park, 155 Droms Road, is offering groomed cross-country ski (and snowshoe) trails for the first time this year.

A volunteer ski enthusiast will be grooming the lengthy trail system which will soon result in approximately three miles of usable surface for both traditional and skating style skiing, as well as snowshoe racing.

Snowmobile use for grooming will only occur in the early evening time period, and that no other motorized, off-road vehicle use is allowed in the park. Park hours are sunrise to sunset.

Additionally, cross country ski and snowshoe "citizen's races" will be held in the park in conjunction with Winterfest, scheduled for Feb. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m..

### For sale

Adirondack Life, Summer 1972 thru 2008, very nearly complete, excellent condition, \$50

Conservationist, Summer 1970 thru 2008, Very nearly complete, excellent condition, \$50

Both sold as full units only, will not sub-divide. Call Bob Grimm at 842 -7436 or e-mail [grimmbob@capital.net](mailto:grimmbob@capital.net).

### Trail volunteers needed

The Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail is seeking volunteers to serve as Canalway Trail Ambassadors.

The role of ambassadors is threefold: to assist and inform trail users, offering directions and details about the trail and the surrounding area; to promote courtesy, safety and awareness of the trail as a valuable public resource; and to monitor the trail and the conditions around it.

The trail ambassador program began last summer in the town of Niskayuna. Over a two-month pilot, ten volunteers logged 58 trips, had more than 150 contacts with trail users and provided direct aid in 12 instances.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Gillian Scott at 372-8478 or e-mail [gvscott07@verizon.net](mailto:gvscott07@verizon.net).

### ACC opens Keene facility to ADK

The Alpine Club of Canada, Keene Farm Inc., a 501 (C)(3), has a 105-acre rustic, mountainside property in Keene. To encourage use of the facility, the club has decided to allow Adirondack Mountain Club members to use it also. The ACC will contribute the difference between what their members pay and what ADK guests pay to the ADK when ADK

members stay in the hut or camp on the property. Guest cabin rates are \$25 per person per night and camping rates are \$12 per person per night.

Contact Murray at [acckeeene-farm@gmail.com](mailto:acckeeene-farm@gmail.com) for full information concerning this offer. The Keene Farm's Web site is <http://accmontreal.ca/facilities/keenefarm.php>

### A plea for trail safety

On the beautiful fall evening of Oct. 17, while bicycling on the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail in Colonie, I suffered a compound fracture to my arm. The accident was caused by an unleashed dog and an inattentive owner who let the dog wander into the path of my bike. Several weeks of lost work and rehab were in my future.

Whether you are a bicyclist, in-line skater, or walker, please remember:

- Stay to the right
- Pass on the left
- Use a bell, whistle, or voice as you approach other users
- Dogs must be on a leash. (A short leash)

Use common sense and common courtesy and we can all share and enjoy this great recreational resource safely.

— Stan Stoklosa

## In memoriam

Schenectady Chapter member **Almy Coggeshall** died Jan. 1 at age 91. He had a life membership in the Adirondack Mountain Club, having joined in 1945. He served on the Conservation Committee from 1950 through 1990 and as its president from 1980 to 1982. In 1960, he became the club's chairman for its Clean Trailsides Committee, and promoted a new policy for campers and hikers to carry out whatever trash they created. He then persuaded the DEC to adopt carry-in, carry-out as its official policy.

Coggeshall and his wife Ann co-authored several skiing guide books. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Plotterkill Preserve in Rotterdam, renamed the Almy D. Coggeshall Plotterkill Preserve in 1990.

**Ruth Tallmadge Riford** passed away on Nov. 11, 2008, at age 97. Ruth was a charter member of the ADK Schenectady Chapter, then known as the Bouquet River Lodge Chapter. An

avid mountaineer, she became 46er #85 in 1950 and climbed Mt. Rainier. She also wrote poetry and published the book "Ruth Riford's Rhymes" in 2003. Here is one of her poems.

### I Belong to the Mountains

Just to see the mountains and to know that they are there,  
Cradling the peaceful valleys within their friendly care,  
Makes me feel I'm home again, and that those kindly heights  
Will smile on me through sunshine and through starry nights;  
Or, when the storms are raging, they still will seem to say  
Amidst the thundering darkness there they'll always stay;  
It's in my heart that all these things can be  
For I belong to the mountains, and they belong to me.  
I can hear the very stillness of their deeply wintered wood  
And almost see the winds rush on peaks where I have stood.  
There's balsam-scented dreamland beneath the trees and sky,  
And humanity in knowing that such a one as I  
Can freely love and climb them where'er it pleases me,  
For I belong to the mountains, and they belong to me.