

The **Lookout**

April - May 2017



Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter

Dedicated to the preservation, protection and
enjoyment of the Forest Preserve

<http://www.adk-schenectady.org>

Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter Board

ELECTED OFFICERS

CHAIR:

Stan Stoklosa
8 Archer Drive, Clifton Park NY 12065
chair@adk-schenectady.org

VICE-CHAIR:

Vacant

SECRETARY:

Jacque McGinn
518-438-0557
secretary@adk-schenectady.org

TREASURER:

Mike Brun
4001 Jockey Street, Ballston Lake NY 12019
518-399-1021
treasurer@adk-schenectady.org

DIRECTOR:

Dustin Wright
4 Oak Street, Schenectady NY 12306
603-953-8782
director@adk-schenectady.org

PROJECT COORDINATORS:

Horst DeLorenzi
34 Saint Judes Lane, Scotia NY 12302
518-399-4615
projcoord@adk-schenectady.org

Jacque McGinn
79 Kenaware Avenue, Delmar NY 12054
518-438-0557
projcoord@adk-schenectady.org

APPOINTED MEMBERS:

CONSERVATION:

Mal Provost
93 Kingsbury Road, Burnt Hills NY 12027
518-399-1565
conservation@adk-schenectady.org

LOOKOUT EDITOR:

Mal Provost
lookout@adk-schenectady.org

MEMBERSHIP:

Dustin Wright
membership@adk-schenectady.org

NORTHVILLE PLACID TRAIL:

Mary MacDonald
27 Woodside Drive, Clifton Park NY 12065
518-371-1293
nptrail@adk-schenectady.org

OUTINGS:

Larry Woods
1120 7th Avenue, Watervliet NY 12189
518-810-7552
outings@adk-schenectady.org

PRINTING/MAILING:

Karen McKenney
518-399-6606
mailing@adk-schenectady.org

PUBLICITY:

Roy Keats
1913 Baker Avenue, Schenectady NY 12309
518-370-0399
publicity@adk-schenectady.org

TRAILS:

Norm Kuchar
60 Fredericks Road, Glenville NY 12302
518-399-6243
trails@adk-schenectady.org

WEB MASTER:

Rich Vertigan
1804 Van Cortland Street, Rotterdam NY 12303
518-381-9319
webmaster@adk-schenectady.org

WHITewater:

Ralph Pascale
50 Johnston Avenue, Cohoes NY 12047
518-235-1614
whitewater@adk-schenectady.org

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP:

Dustin Wright
ymg@adk-schenectady.org

On the
cover

*Pierre Cyr (right) and friend at play in the Hudson Gorge. See
white water schedule on Page 7*

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April - May 2017

The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Boreas Ponds Classification More Complex

A new and surprising twist has been added to the stew over what activities – motorized or not? close vehicle access? perimeter road access?-- will be approved around the Boreas Ponds.

The twist is a proposal from Gov. Andrew Cuomo that a site near the ponds be considered for "glamping," -- glamour camping – as part of the overall classification decision, which is now under debate at the Adirondack Park Agency and among environmental advocates and state legislators. Such a "glamping" site would include multiple tent platforms, an all-season service shelter for cooking, toilets and ready access for service and supplies.

"There will be pressure from here in Albany to accept these. These ideas are coming straight from the governor's office. I know they are serious proposals."

~Neil Woodworth

This newest and increasingly controversial element was discussed by ADK Executive Director Neil Woodworth at the March 4 meeting of the Conservation Committee at the Schenectady Library. He said putting such facilities on forest preserve land would be clearly illegal as a violation of the "forever wild" article of the state Constitution. Neither the state nor private entities can maintain rental units or other permanent structures in the forest preserve (this is distinct from facilities located on state park land). Woodworth said the ADK will be prepared for a court challenge if this proposal goes forward.

Gov. Cuomo proposed the plan as part of his series of State of the State messages delivered early this year. It is envisioned as an element of a "Hamlet to Hut" complex of trails that would increase foot traffic while diminishing the need for hikers to carry tents, cooking gear and such. Although many of the lodging sites identified in the plan already exist and are on private land, which would not be a problem, there are about 25 proposed sites in the plan where lodging is not yet established and the plan proposes that these could be on forest preserve, including on the Boreas Ponds site, and on the Essex Chain of Lakes Tract.

In an earlier interview, Woodworth said, "There will be pressure from here in Albany to accept these. These ideas are coming straight from the governor's office. I know they are serious proposals." He said the Adirondack Park Agency is the focus of the pressure, as it is now preparing its recommendation on Boreas Ponds classification. That is not expected until at least late spring and will then be subject to modification by the governor. Requests to APA spokesman Keith McKeever for comment were not answered.

Overall, the plan is part of Cuomo's "Adventure NY" proposal for other projects such as boat launches and a \$32 million plan to redevelop the old "Frontier Town" complex at North Hudson into biking, horse riding, lodging and other facilities plus a brewery. These are contained in his Executive Budget proposal, which was posted in January. The final budget which will reflect input by the Assembly and the Senate should be enacted by April. 1.



*View of the High Peaks last fall from the Boreas Ponds.
Photo by Mal Provost*

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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 Larry Woods at 518- 810-7552 and let him know.

Wilderness First Aid Course

The Schenectady Chapter Board agreed to provide partial 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 reimbursement. For further information, call Larry Woods at 518-810-7552.

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	

Wednesday, April 5

Walk Vischer Ferry Preserve in Clifton Park.

Class: C2C

Contact: Mary MacDonald

at mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com

or 518-371-1293.

We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the preserve entrance. We will likely walk a couple of hours (2-4 miles) in this area which is flat. Many interesting sights along the old Erie Canal. Wild flowers should be abundant at this time of year. Later we may go to the Vischer Ferry General Store for lunch.

Tuesday, April 11

Willie Marsh

Class C3D

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

A short walk without significant elevation change in a State Forest just outside the Blue Line in Fulton County. We will cross into the Adirondack Park to get to the outlet of Peck Lake. The pace will be very relaxed - hopefully a good day for wildflowers.

Friday, April 14

Bike ride Mohawk-Hudson Bike Path - Niskayuna Railroad Station to Schenectady for lunch.

Innings and Outings

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Class: B2B 21 mile round trip with a couple of hills

Contact: Mary MacDonald

at mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com or 518-371-1293

Join me for a ride along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Path to Schenectady. We will go to the area of Union College and then dine on the patio at Perecca's Restaurant, including pastries and gelato! We will then pedal back to our cars.

Friday, April 28

Canoe/Kayak Trip Fish Creek of Saratoga Lake

Class B2C

Roy Keats 370-0399 or royskipaddle@gmail.com

This trip starts at the Marina at Staffords Bridge. From the bridge we will paddle north, away from the lake. This part of Fish Creek is much narrower than the portion nearer the lake. If the water is high enough, we will explore up narrow, winding Sucker Brook which often has a lot of waterfowl early in the year. We may also continue our paddle down to the Grangerville Dam about 1.5 miles past Bryants Bridge. We will then return to our put-in. The total length of our trip will be from 6 to 9 miles. If the day is extremely windy, we will move the trip to a more sheltered location.

Saturday, April 29

Huckleberry Mountain and Joe Baker Sag

Class B2B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

These two small mountains lie in the Lake George Wild Forest, just east of the Hudson River in the Town of Warrensburg. We'll start at the winter parking area on River Road, north of Lake Luzerne. After passing by the Bear Slides, a scenic series of rock slides on Buttermilk Brook, we'll climb the south ridge of Huckleberry, which has many open patches giving limited views across the Hudson River. From Huckleberry, we'll descend a bit, cross the southeastern knob of Joe Baker Sag, and try to find the open ledges just below the summit. These ledges have nice views across the Hudson to Hadley, Roundtop, Baldhead and Moose and Mountains. Although this hike is classified as a bushwhack, we'll use trails, dirt roads, old logging roads and herd paths in places. Distance is about 5 miles, with about 1,350 ft. of climb.

Sunday, April 30

Round Lake (Malta) - Flatwater paddle

Class C3D (about 3 to 4 miles)

Jacque McGinn 518-438-0557 or jeve3@aol.com

We will put in at the Round Lake Boat Launch on Rte 9 and cross the lake to travel the Anthony Kill that meanders through a wetland filled with wildlife and plant-life of all kinds. Then we

will return to the put in. We have been very fortunate in the past to be able to see herons, eagles and a host of other birds. We will be meeting in the morning, exact time to be determined. Trip will be rescheduled in the event of rain.

Saturday, May 6

Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area

Class C3D

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

In the old days there were many farms on this state land. We will see what evidence remains from the farming era. There is a cemetery and we should find cellar holes on farmhouse sites and stone walls.

Saturday, May 6

Big Indian & Eagle

Class A2B

John Susko 383-1284 or jpsusko@netzero.net

Big Indian is considered one of the trailless peaks in the Catskills and has a canister even though the bushwack is short. We'll hike in from the Seager trailhead along one of the more scenic trails in the Catskills. Big Indian is #19 and Eagle is #29 on the list of Catskill 3,500 peaks. The distance is approximately 12 miles (mostly on trail) with 2,000 to 2,500 feet of ascent.

Thursday, May 11

Stephens Pond Northville-Placid Trail Work

Leader: Roy Keats at royskipaddle@gmail.com or (518) 466-8544

Difficulty: Moderate (B2B)

Please join Sue and I for our spring cleanup patrol on the N-P Trail, between Lake Durant and Stephens Pond. Side-cutting, drainage clearing, and light blow-down removal are expected. It is an easy introduction to trail maintenance. This is an out-and-back trip of about 6 miles with a nice scenic spot by the lake for lunch.

Tuesday, May 16

Keystone Arches-- Hiking Through History

Class B2B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

On this hike, we'll visit the first arch railroad bridges built in America. The stone bridges, about 70 ft. high, were built in the 1830s to carry the Western Railroad, the longest and highest railroad in the world at the time, across the West Branch of the Westfield River, on the eastern slopes of the Berkshires. Marvels of engineering at the time, some of the bridges are still in

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Innings and Outings

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use today. They are reached by a trail that follows the winding and scenic river, a classic whitewater stream. Round trip distance is about 5 miles, with a total climb of about 500 ft.

Wednesday May 17 Hurricane Mt . Fire Tower

Leader: Elie Bijou adirondacks@ verizon.net (518) 873-2119,
9am-9pm
Class: B2B

We'll follow the new trail to the summit and it's overlooks. Trail approximately 3.1 miles Ascent 1,640 ft. To elevation of 3,694 ft. Inclement weather postpones till the following day. Pace: Slower moderate. Please bring lunch and water.

Friday, May 19 Warren County Bikeway to Lake George Class: 20 mile round trip.

Contact: Roy Keats at 370-0399 or royskipaddle@gmail.com
This is a nice ride from Glens Falls to Lake George and return to Glens Falls. It has a variety of scenery and was a historic path during the French and Indian War. This historic path is on our gradual climb to a high point going over French Mountain with historic signs along the way followed by a gradual downhill to Lake George. The path is well paved and a great ride. Rain will cancel. Please sign up by Wednesday, May 17.

Tuesday, May 23 Stevens Pond and beyond - a bushwhack Class C2B

Walt Hayes, 399-7482
This will be under five miles but it is a bushwhack so not easy. This is an exploration to see if there is a potential trail route for the revision of the Unit Management Plan for the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. The whole trip will be on land 1,080 to 1,660 feet above sea level. If there is time we will be looking for a good site for a bridge to cross Berrymill Brook.

Tuesday, May 30 Iron Mountain Leader: Elie Bijou adirondacks@verizon.net (518) 873-2119 9am-9pm Class: B2B

Iron Mountain is a new trail in Elizabethtown, approximately a 2 mile hike and 1,740 foot ascent. From the summit we will follow a ridgeline -- part herd path, part whack -- to an impressive overlook. Pace slower moderate. Please bring lunch and water. Inclement weather postpones to the following day. Leader: Elie Bijou adirondacks@ verizon.net (518) 873-2119 9-9

Thursday, June 1

Owl's Head Lookout

Leader: Elie Bijou adirondacks@ verizon.net (518) 873-2119
9am-9pm
Class: B2B

An easy to moderate hike of 2.8 miles each way to the summit and nearly 360° sweeping views. Ascent 1,300 ft Please bring lunch and water, Pace: slower moderate.

Sat June 3 Street & Nye

Leader: Elie Bijou adirondacks@ verizon.net (518) 873-2119
9am-9pm
Class: A2B

Among the easier of the trailless 46ers, it is a 9 mile round trip with steep climbing as one approaches the ridge and decent views. Pace slower up the climbs and then a slower moderate on the flats. Please bring lunch, snacks water and rain gear.

Young Members Group Activities

(Jointly with Albany and Glens Falls/Saratoga chapters)

Saturday, April 8

Young Member Outing: Bearpen & Vly Mountains Class B2B

Dustin G. Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782
Enjoy the spring and snag two Catskills 3,500 footers on this young member outing! The trip is roughly 6.5 miles over two of the western-most of the Catskill High Peaks. Bearpen used to be a ski mountain so there's a wide variety of trails with stellar views, while Vly will be an awesome bushwhack. Please join us and bring a friend!

Thursday, April 27; from 7 to 9pm

Young Member Social: Van Dyke Restaurant and Lounge
Dustin G. Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782
If you're roughly in your twenties and thirties and looking to build some community with other like minded young adults, join us for a good food, delicious brews and great conversation! We'll spend an evening at the Stockade's top meeting spot, discussing the many opportunities available through the ADK for younger members. All are welcome, members and prospective members alike!

Saturday, April 29

Young Member Outing: Crane Mountain hike
Class: C2B - Steep 3.2 mile loop with 1,384 feet in elevation

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Innings and Outings

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Mary Zawacki 914-373-8733

A not-to-miss mountain in the Southern Adirondacks, this loop offers breathtaking views, cliff ladders, rock scrambles, and steep sections. Hiking experience required for this. Bring microspikes or other ice gear, just in case!

Saturday, May 13

Young Member Outing: Gore Mountain

Class A2B

Dustin G. Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782

Join our young member group to bag another fire tower mountain! Roughly nine miles over trail, old roads and ski trails reach a summit that provides phenomenal views. Not only that, but there's a beautiful waterfall on the way! Please join us and feel free to bring friendly canines as well!

Thursday, May 18, from 7 to 9pm

Young Member Social: Wolff's Biergarten in Schenectady

Dustin G. Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782

If you're roughly in your twenties and thirties and looking to build some community, come celebrate the warm weather with ADK Schenectady's Young Member Group! Delicious brats and brews + fantastic conversation about all the many opportunities available through the ADK for young adults await! Members and prospective members are welcome!

Sunday, May 21

Young Member Outing: Twin Mountain hike

Class: B2B - Difficult 6 mile hike with 1,580 in elevation

Contact: Mary Zawacki 914-373-9833

One of the best hikes in the Catskills, with outstanding panoramic views. Twin Mountain follows the Devil's Path -- one of the most difficult and dangerous hiking paths in the world. Hiking experience required for this.

Young Members Group Numbers Looking Strong

Our chapter's investment of time and funds in reaching out to folks in their twenties and thirties is definitely paying off! We've brought in ten young member households in the last three months alone! Not only that, but with Mary Zawacki coming on as a trip leader we'll now be offering two young member outings each month in addition to our monthly social. Mary has also been hard at work sprucing up our Facebook page to attract younger audiences. I recently sat down with a Daily Gazette reporter to do a story on our group that will run as weather gets warmer. Furthermore, Chandra Geremick taking over as membership chair is a huge blessing, as this will allow me to focus on additional YM outreach and leader training. Thanks so much for all you do to support the next generation of ADK leaders!

--Dustin Wright

Dudley Marple Trail Fund Gets A Boost

Clark and Millie Gittinger have generously given a gift of \$5,000 to the chapter's "Dudley T.F. Marple Trail Maintenance Fund." The fund was established as a memorial to Dudley Marple, a member of the ADK Schenectady Chapter from 1967 until his death in 2014. Dudley was a superb hiker who was an Adirondack 46er (#412) and also a Northeast 111er (#50). He was active in maintaining the chapter's adopted trails on Porter Mountain and Mt. Gilligan, as well as in leading chapter outings.

The Gittingers were long-time hiking partners and friends of Dudley Marple. They have been chapter members for more than 55 years. Clark served on the chapter board as chair of the Trails and Outings Committees and as a chapter director. He is an Adirondack 46er (#103) and Winter 46er (#8). Millie is also an Adirondack 46er (#3331) and has been a 46er correspondent for many years. Both also completed the Northeast 111 (Clark #80 and Millie #238) and have hiked the entire length of the Appalachian Trail.

The fund will be used for items such as purchase of materials for bridges, kiosks, and trail signs; purchase of trail maintenance equipment; and partial support of ADK's Professional Trail Crew for building sections of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

--Norm Kuchar

Chet Harvey Memorialized

Adirondack Mountain Club members lovingly remembered Chet Harvey leading whitewater canoe trips in the North Country and above the Arctic Circle, ski patrolling, tennis, friendship, music and humor at his memorial Feb. 25 at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady.

Chet – Chester H. Harvey, 94, husband of Kathie Armstrong – died Feb. 10 in Schenectady after a life marked by adventures on mountains, rivers and the wilds of Africa, Brazil, Finland and Norway. Chet and Kathie were long and faithful members of the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club; Kathie survives him and remains active and vibrant.

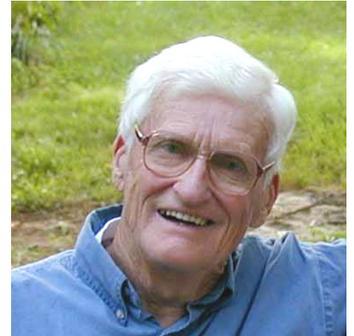
Chet was remembered as focused on environmental issues such as overpopulation and carried that message to his professional circle in engineering work at American Locomotive and General Electric in Schenectady, after his education in Berkeley and earlier work in Ohio and Connecticut.

Always, his children and friends recalled, he was kind, patient, curious, strong and centered. His love of music included singing and violin playing; he could always build a campfire in a rainstorm.

His daughter Pamala Ballingham and son-in-law Tim Ballingham spoke of his reverence for the beliefs of Native American cultures and the appreciation of the connectedness of life and nature central to those beliefs. This helped guide his leadership of friends and children toward similar appreciation, as well as his strength and resolve in wilderness exploits. No doubt that strength and resolve was also forged in the Coast Guard during World War II, including seven crossings of the Atlantic on a destroyer escort ship.

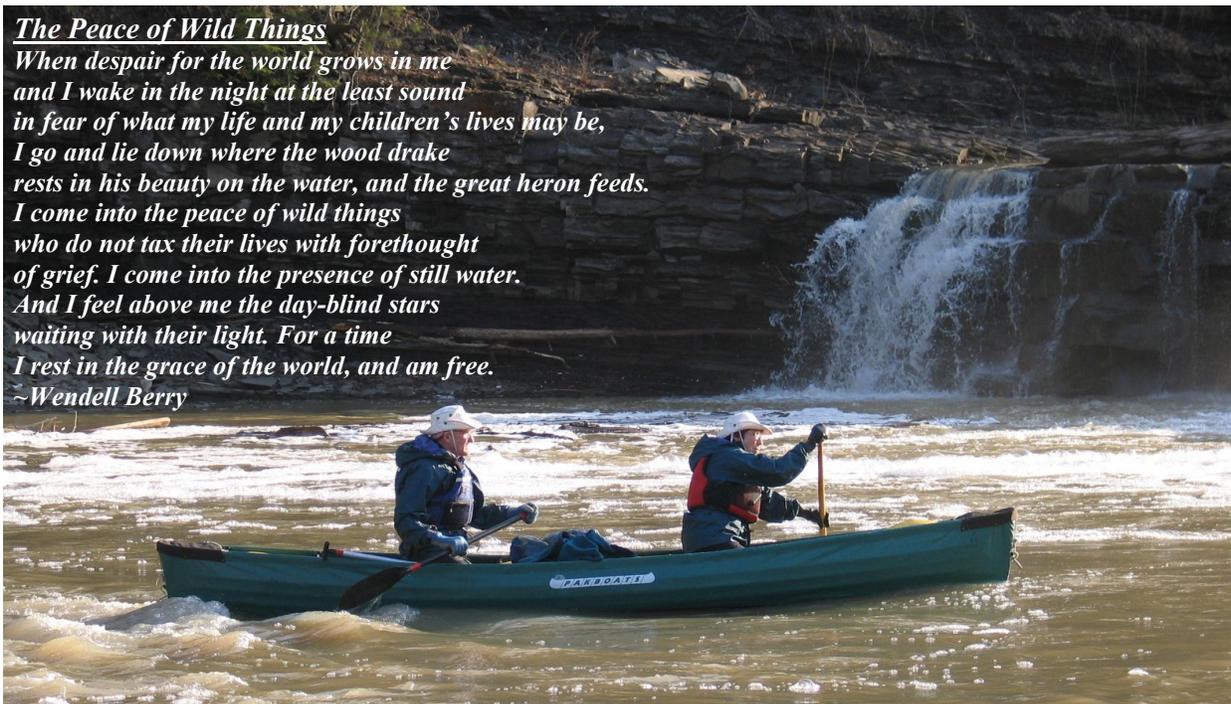
Many in the Adirondack Mountain Club knew him primarily through his local whitewater paddling – always in a tandem canoe with Kathie – or skiing, which included Gore Mountain, 50 years of dedicated patrol work at Hickory Hill as well as annual ventures to the West, such as Grand Targhee in Wyoming. He served for a time on the board of the Schenectady Chapter of the ADK. He and Kathie assembled and edited a guidebook for whitewater paddling: the ADK's Canoe & Kayak Guide, East Central New York.

-- Mal Provost



The Peace of Wild Things

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.
~Wendell Berry*



Chet Harvey and his wife Kathie Armstrong on the icy Normanskill in 2005. The Wendell Berry poem was read at his memorial service on February 25th.

Photo by Sally Dewes

Whitewater Season Opens; Derby a Highlight

Whitewater season is upon us again – and not a moment too soon after a long winter – so by the time folks are reading this some river trips have been taken already (see trip schedule).

The Schenectady Chapter is the traditional center of whitewater activities in this region, and we are hoping for a good year. Last year was sketchy, as there was so little snow and therefore very disappointing runoff. Many trips that had been scheduled were impossible due to low water and that remained throughout the season. Still, we had good runs from dam releases on the Sacandaga, Deerfield and Indian/Hudson Gorge.

But hopefully we will have a bit more natural flow and a wider variety of trips this year, though late-winter thaws drained off much of the snow pack.

One event in particular is worth noting:

This year, the Hudson River White Water Derby is celebrating year 60, the longest running slalom and downriver races in the United States. Every year a group of Schenectady ADK paddlers helps with safety downstream of the "Staircase," the first significant set of rapids in the downriver race Sunday, May 7. This also

is called "The Hot Dog Run," as we traditionally roast hot dogs for a quck lunch before the racers reach that point.

This is a great time and very rewarding as we help rescue the unfortunate paddlers who fail to navigate the rapids – conditions vary and sometimes there are multiple swimmers and other times none. The river has a way of sorting out those ready for the run and those not, who then provide us with practice of our rescue techniques. The safety function is serious, so experienced paddlers only should plan to take part.

But all levels of paddlers are welcome for the events of the Derby. Slalom races are conducted Saturday in North River, followed by a new, novice-level downriver race. The major downriver race is Sunday, North Creek to Riparius. For registration, schedule, cost and equipment rules: info@whitewaterderby.com

As this is an anniversary year, organizers are trying to make it a memorable one. So think about participating in the race or volunteering; make your plans early and call Whitewater Chairman Ralph Pascale with questions.

~Ralph Pascale

Whitewater Schedule

3/25/2017	Saturday	Catskill Creek/ Leaders Choice	III	Bob Wright	279-1428
3/26/2017	Sunday	Tenendoah	II/III	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
4/1/2017	Saturday	West Branch of Sacandaga	III	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
4/8/2017	Saturday	Catskill Creek	III	Mile Raley	797-3547
4/9/2017	Sunday	Westfield-Pork Barrel	III	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
4/15/2017	Saturday	Catskill Creek	III	Norm Labbe	877-0076
4/16/2017	Sunday	Westfield-Knightville	III	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
4/22/2017	Saturday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	III	Mal Provost	399-1565
4/23/2017	Sunday	Riparius to the Glen	III	Bob Wright	279-1428
4/29/2017	Saturday	The Fish	III+	Horst DeLorenzi	399-4615
4/30/2017	Sunday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	III	Bob Wright	279-1428
5/7/2017	Sunday	HR White Water Rescue	III	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
5/7/2017	Sunday	Sch'dy Co Historical Woods & Waters Day Demo	I	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
5/13/2017	Saturday	Lower Boreas/Hudson	II/III	Horst DeLorenzi	399-4615
5/14/2017	Sunday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	III	Bob Wright	279-1428
5/20/2017	Saturday	Riparius to the Glen	III	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
5/21/2017	Sunday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	II/III	Norm Labbe	877-0076
5/27/2017	Saturday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	III	Mal Provost	399-1565
5/28/2017	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
6/3/2017	Saturday	Esopus	II	Bob Wright	279-1428
6/4/2017	Sunday	Riparius to the Glen	III	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
6/10/2017	Saturday	Leaders choice	III	Mal Provost	399-1565
6/17/2017	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546

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Whitewater Schedule

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6/18/2017	Sunday	River Rescue and Leading a Trip at SOC	II/III	Rick Morse & Clarke Darlington	370-2144
06/23-25 2017	Friday/ Sunday	Deerfield Festival and Zoar Demofest	III	Open Event	
6/24/2017	Saturday	Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
6/25/2017	Sunday	Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
7/1/2017	Saturday	Battenkill	II	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
7/4/2017	Tuesday	Hudson River Gorge/Clark's House	III+	Horst DeLorenzi	399-4615
7/8/2017	Saturday	Bike & Paddle-Sacandaga	II/III	Mal Provost	399-1565
7/9/2017	Sunday	Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Ed Martuscello	843-5581
07/15-16 2017	Saturday/ Sunday	Novice/Intermediate Kayak and Canoe Class	II/III	Sally Dewes Larry Woods	346-1761 810-7552
7/15/2017	Saturday	Leaders Choice	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
7/16/2017	Sunday	Esopus	III	Marty Plante	321-8277
7/22/2017	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
7/23/2017	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
7/29/2017	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
7/30/2017	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
8/5/2017	Saturday	Bike & Paddle-Sacandaga	II/III	Sally Dewes	346-1761
8/6/2017	Sunday	Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Ed Martuscello	843-5581
8/12/2017	Saturday	Sac Release, Picnic, Gear swap/sale & Introduction to Playboating	III	Bob Wright and Mike Raley	279-1428 797-3547
8/13/2017	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
8/19/2017	Saturday	Mongaup	III+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
8/20/2017	Saturday	Lehigh	III+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
8/21/2017	Sunday	Leaders Choice	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
8/26/2017	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
8/27/2017	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
Late August	TBD	Gatineau River Festival	III	Sally Dewes	346-1761
9/2/2017	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Horst DeLorenzi	399-4615
9/3/2017	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Martuscello	843-5581
9/4/2017	Monday	Esopus	II/III	Bob Wright	279-1428
9/9/2017	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
9/10/2017	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
9/11/2017	Monday	Ottawa	III	Mike Raley	797-3547
9/16/2017	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
9/17/2017	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
9/23/2017	Saturday	West River Release	III+	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
9/24/2017	Sunday	West River Release	III+	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
9/30/2017	Saturday	Fall Foliage - Hudson River Gorge	III+	Bob Wright	279-1428
10/1/2017	Sunday	Esopus	II/III	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
10/7/2017	Saturday	Leaders Choice	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
10/14/2017	Saturday	The Middle Moose	III+	Horst DeLorenzi	399-4615
10/15/2017	Sunday	Leaders Choice	III+	Horst DeLorenzi	399-4615
10/21/2017	Saturday	The Farmington	III+	Mal Provost	399-1565
11/04-05 2017	Saturday Sunday	The Tohican	III+	Horst DeLorenzi	399-4615

\$500 College Scholarships Available

In keeping with the Adirondack Mountain Club's (ADK) dedication to the conservation and preservation of New York State's parks, preserves and wild spaces, each year the Schenectady Chapter of the ADK offers two (2) College scholarships. Each scholarship, worth \$500, is awarded to a High School senior in the Schenectady area who shows an interest in the preservation and protection of the environment and will be pursuing, in September of the upcoming academic year, a course of study in a field such as, but not limited to, forestry, marine biology, conservation or environmental science.

Please share this with any and all high school students you know who are showing an interest in studying any of those areas in the upcoming year. This is open to all area HS students, not just ADK members and their children.

Interested candidates should submit an essay describing their motivation for pursuing their particular course of study, their future goals and any current or past activities that show their commitment to protecting the environment.

Submissions should include the following information:

Name, Address, Contact Number and Email Address, Parent's Name(s), Name of High School and Name of College attending in September.

Please also include the name, phone number and/or email of a reference we may contact who is able to validate the commitment described.

Send submissions, no later than **April 15th, 2017** to: jeve3@aol.com (Subject Line: ADK HS Scholarship) or
Schenectady Chapter ADK
PO Box 733
Schenectady, NY 12301-0733

Questions? Call Jacqueline McGinn, HS Scholarship Project Coordinator at 281-3673 or email her at jeve3@aol.com.

Schenectady Chapter Teen Trails Scholarship

Since 1986, thousands of volunteers have worked with trained ADK trail crew leaders to give back to the trails they use by completing trail maintenance and reconstruction projects all over the Adirondacks and Catskills.

In 2017, thirteen trail projects have been reserved for high school aged teenagers (ages 14-17) who want to spend a week in the woods camping in the backcountry and experiencing trail work. Each year, the Schenectady Chapter of ADK sponsors a local teen, providing the \$275 fee so they can participate at no cost.

Requirements:

Must be between the ages of 14 and 17 and live in the Schenectady region. Must have an interest in nature and outdoor activities, be willing to camp out in the backcountry and to participate in a physically and mentally challenging trail project.

Deadline:

April 15th

To Apply:

See the ADK webpage provided below for choices and to submit your application for the scholarship.

Copy the link below and click "Scholarship Page" to access the Schenectady Chapter Teen Trails Scholarship (listed at bottom).

<https://www.adk.org/high-school-projects/>

Complete the application from website and return it to:

Jeve3@aol.com

or

Jacqueline McGinn, Teen Trails Project Coordinator
Schenectady ADK, P.O. Box 733
Schenectady, NY 12301-0733

Trip Tales

Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area January 16

This hike was moved up by one day to avoid a forecast of freezing rain and sleet. So, we had a beautiful winter day for the trip, with sunny skies, light breezes and temperatures in the upper 20s and low 30s. The only thing missing was snow. This area, in southwest Albany County, usually has abundant snow. But we only saw a few patches of thin, crusty snow in heavily shaded areas. We made a loop through the western end of the WMA, mainly using old roads, many bordered by stone walls from the time when the area was farmed. We passed several ponds and explored the old Turner cemetery, which contains the grave of a woman suspected of being a witch. Enjoying a nice winter day in the woods were Charlie Beach, John Susko and the leader, Norm Kuchar.

Hawkwood Preserve January 28

We had a mostly cloudy but mild day to explore the Town of Ballston's new 246-acre Hawkwood Preserve. After visiting the foundations of the Hawkwood Mansion, dating from the late 1700s, and several outbuildings, we hiked around the heavily-forested preserve using mainly the yellow-marked Hemlock Trail and the blue-marked Stonewall Trail. There was only about one inch of snow and the top layer of soil was not frozen, very unusual for late January. The small streams were running full, so we made use of the new bridges. Hikers were Charlie Beach, Bob and Laurie Boromisa, Holly Hawkes, Lin Neil, Linda Nowak, Rich Vertigan and co-leaders Walt Hayes and Norm Kuchar.

Boreas Ponds Ski February 17

We arrived at the Gulf Brook Road access to find about 8 inches of fresh snow, and no evidence of the town plowing into the parking lot. However, we were able to drive through the scraper bank and continue on up into the lot to start our ski. After that there were no problems. The day was perfect -- clear blue sky, light winds, and nice temperatures. The first mile from the parking was mostly uphill. After that there were occasional ups and downs, but it was a wide road similar to the Camp Santanoni access only longer with more climbing. The scenery at the ponds was spectacular. Allen, Skylight, Marcy, Haystack, Basin, Gothics, and Sawteeth all in a row. It was even better than expected. It was about a 14 mile round trip, but well worth the effort. The participants were Jeanne Quattrochi, Marcia Hansen, Ron Karpfen, and leader Roy Keats.

Pinnacle Icefalls February 18

We had a beautiful day to snowshoe to the icefalls on the northwest slopes of Pinnacle, with sunny skies and temperatures from the low 20s in the morning to the mid 40s in the afternoon. In contrast to last year's trip, we encountered lots of snow, about 24 inches. The trail toward County Line Lake was broken out and well packed, but the 1.5 mile bushwhack from the trail to the three icefalls required some energy. Although the icefalls were smaller than in previous years, they were still spectacular with their butterscotch, pale blue and pale green colors. After the hike, in what has become a tradition, Gail Livingston treated the group to pies and coffee. Snowshoers were Colleen Armani, Peter Fedorick, Roman Laba, Gail Livingston, Mary MacDonald, Ken Marcinowski, Nancy Morey, Linda Neil, Nick Ringelberg, Karen and Richard Wang and the leader, Norm Kuchar.

Garnsey Park February 19

It was a beautiful day for a snowshoe! The sky was clear and blue and, though cold, it was not frigid as the sun was shining strong. Seven hearty souls tramped through Garnsey Park, which lies close by in Clifton Park. There are approximately 2 miles of trail loops along rolling meadows and a wooded nature trail marked by the Boy Scouts. We started snowshoeing up to and along a ridgeline and then hiked the 1 mile loop on the nature trail. We looped back around to the parking lot where some continued on for another mile loop within the meadows. This is a nice spot for a local easy hike or snowshoe with really nice views. Luckily we were able to get this in before the snow melted! Participants: Paul McGinn, Robert Boromisa, Laurie Boromisa, Charlie Beach, Norm Kuchar, and Mary McDonald. Leader: Jacqueline McGinn.



From left, Ron Karpfen, Marcia Hansen, Jeanne Quattrochi and leader Roy Keats at the Boreas Ponds Road.

Trip Tales

Continued from Page 10



Hikers along the Pinnacle Icefalls in Fulton County.

Black Mountain

Four ADK young members and three members of the "ADK Canine Chapter" had an awesome time hiking Black Mountain a couple Saturdays back! We lucked out

with catching a bit of a warm spell, thus had a crisp, clear, but not too cold day. Snowshoes weren't needed but microspikes proved helpful, especially when we hit a couple steeper pitches near the mountain summit. It's amazing how far away you can hear the wind turbine at the top! Everyone had a safe, fun time and the day proved a nice preview to the warmer weather we hope to have soon.

Woodcock Preserve

March 5

The Woodcock Preserve is another great little local area with approximately 2 miles of loops within a forested wetland. Luckily, it was cold enough, about 18 degrees, that we were walking on ice crystals protruding through the crusty mud rather than sinking in the goopy wet stuff. It did make walking a little more labored however. The group hiked through the entire preserve, which included a trail that is closed during spring and summer for nesting for the Woodcocks. I imagine that it would be impassable during that time in any case, as there were many frozen wet patches and a sweet little frozen pond. I recommend exploring this area during all seasons but it was especially nice in winter. Participants: Paul McGinn, Robert Boromisa, Laurie Boromisa, Lin Neil, Charlie Beach, Norm Kuchar, Bernard Mansbach and Celia Campos Tobaldini. Leader: Jacqueline McGinn.

Boreas Ponds Classification (Cont.)

Continued from Page 1

The classification designation – how much would be Wilderness? how much would be Wild Forest open to motorized use? and where would the boundaries be? – clearly was going to be contentious from the git-go. The five North Country towns that encompass the ponds, purchased by the state last year, lobbied through a series of classification hearings for access by snowmobiles, other motorized vehicles and drive-to rules for cars; their argument was that the economic survival of their communities is reliant on added traffic. The Adirondack Mountain Club, Adirondack Council and numerous other conservation advocates want Wilderness protection for the ponds proper and much of the surrounding land in the 21,000-plus acre tract; this argument focuses on the unique beauty and nature of this and the High Peaks area, plus that as a draw for tourism. (Numerous articles discussing the hearings and details of the options are available from Lookout, Adirondack Explorer, the ADK and others.)

--Mal Provost

“The five North Country towns that encompass the ponds, purchased by the state last year, lobbied through a series of classification hearings for access by snowmobiles, other motorized vehicles and drive-to rules for cars; their argument was that the economic survival of their communities is reliant on added traffic.”

Plotterkill Survey for Invasive Bug Underway

The Plotterkill Preserve in Schenectady County is the focus of a survey by volunteers, county and state officials to check whether a particularly worrisome invasive insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), is getting a foothold.

The Capital Region is of immediate interest as it is potentially a gateway to the Adirondacks for the bug, which already has been identified in the lower Hudson Valley, Long Island and the Finger Lakes. According to the Department of Environmental Conservation, the HWA has been in the more southerly regions of New York for more than 30 years but has slowly been spreading north and west. By 2005 it had been identified in 16 states from Maine to Georgia.



*Paul Gallery of The Nature Conservancy examines a hemlock in the Plotterkill Preserve on March 4th.
Photo by Mal Provost*

The Adirondacks are of particular concern as the hemlock is a dominant tree species throughout and is essential to forest ecology. The hemlock grows along streams and in steeply sloped areas, providing erosion control, shelter for wildlife and cooling shade for streams, which aids the fish population.

HWA attacks hemlock trees and can damage infested trees in four to 10 years, according to DEC, faster in warmer areas. The aphid-like bug attaches itself to the base of hemlock needles and feeds on starch reserves, damaging and potentially killing the tree. It is most easily identified by whitish egg sacs that form at the base of needles; the sacs tend to be generated through the fall and late winter.

In the Plotterkill, the survey is being done with cooperation of the DEC and the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council as part of a broad state effort to identify and control invasive species, both bugs and plants. Part of the survey was done in early March, with the remainder scheduled for roughly the production schedule of Lookout. The effort is intended to establish whether HWA is present and to train volunteers for further work.

The primary contact is Mary Werner, mhwerner4@aol.com (518) 370-3099 or www.nyis.info.

--Mal Provost



Schenectady ADK
P.O. Box 733 Schenectady NY 12301-0733
<http://www.adk-schenectady.org>



CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS: Are held regularly on the first Tuesday of the month. No meetings are held in July or August. Any concerns members have may be expressed to any board member listed on the inside front cover, or attend the meetings which are open to the membership. Call a board member for date, time & directions.

CHAPTER DISCLAIMER: People who attend outings reminded that such activities entail a certain degree of danger; and persons participating do so at their own risk. This disclaimer is for both whitewater and regular outings of the chapter.

SCHENECTADY CHAPTER PATCH: This lovely patch (shown at right) can be purchased by mailing a check (payable to Schenectady Chapter ADK) to Mary MacDonald, 27 Woodside Drive, Clifton Park NY 12065. The cost is \$3 per patch, which includes the mailing cost.

TRIP LEADERS: If you do not want your trip listed in the local newspapers, call Publicity Chair Roy Keats at 518-370-0399, or roysueski@yahoo.com. This newsletter goes out over the Internet.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL: The chapter has hi-tech snowshoes and one pair of universal fit crampons available to rent at \$5/trip. Call Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 to arrange for pick-up.

WEBSITE: <http://www.adk-schenectady.org> — All of the latest information will be posted on the Web, i.e. any changes or corrections. Please review our website and related Internet resources Acceptable Use Policy.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you move, you must inform the ADK in order to continue receiving The Lookout. The Lookout is sent via bulk mail, which the Postal Service will not forward. Send changes of address to the Main Club to ensure uninterrupted delivery.

Membership Application

To join the Schenectady Chapter, send this form with payment to:

Adirondack Mountain Club 814 Goggins Road, Lake George, NY 12845 or drop it off at Adirondack Loj or Headquarters.

Check Membership Level:

- Family Life \$1950
- Individual Life \$1300
- Adult \$50
- Family \$60
- Senior (65+) \$40
- Senior Family 65+ \$50
- Student (full time 18+) \$25
- School _____

Please save paper and postage and ONLY receive an electronic version of the Chapter newsletter *The Lookout* via email.

List spouse & children under 18 and birth dates

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the Lookout

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