

The **Lookout**

June - July 2017



Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter

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

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

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On the
cover

*Young Members Group hike up Crane Mountain.
See activities on page 4.*

Inside this issue:

Outings	2-5
Eleanor Brown Memorial	6
Whitewater Report	7-8
Conservation Report	9
Trip Tales	10-11

June - July 2017

The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

High School Chapter Scholarship Winners

The Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club has, since 2008, offered scholarships to local high school seniors who will focus on the sciences and the protection of the environment as freshmen in college. Selection is based on submission of an essay and academic/personal reference.

This year's winners of \$500 scholarships are Emilie McClymonds, Ballston Spa, and Max Hooper, Niskayuna.

Emilie plans to attend SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse in the fall and study Sustainable Energy Management or Natural Resource Management. Her International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems and Societies course Instructor recommended her highly and stated that, "she is an excellent role model for her peers and a person who will have a great, positive impact on our world."

Max will be attending the Honors College at the University of Vermont to study Environmental Sciences. His Environmental Science teacher strongly recommended Max for our scholarship and stated, "Max's work ethic, personality, integrity, and strength of character make him a deserving candidate of your scholarship."

Below are excerpts from the winning essays. We wish them both well in their futures caring for our environment.

Emilie McClymonds:

At a young age my parents instilled in me a strong sense of awareness of the environment, and a responsibility to protect it. Because my father works for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, my brother and I were raised to be very environmentally aware, and to appreciate nature. We live very close to the Adirondacks and I grew up going on hiking and annual camping trips.

In my junior year I attended town meetings, as a student representative, in which we talked about the implementation of a micro grid system into Ballston Spa. At these meetings I learned a lot about this more efficient way of getting energy, and I learned that it is much more environmentally friendly than the system we have now. This really sparked my interest and led me to do more research on this topic. At this moment I realized that I wanted to concentrate in the environmental field in college. Now, in my senior year, I am working with other students from my school as well as teachers to organize a local Youth Climate Summit. Students from across the Capital District and beyond will be able to attend workshops and lectures focusing on climate issues and environmental conservation.

I intend to major in sustainable energy management or natural resource management, which focuses on a large range of renewable natural resources, including water, soils, wildlife, and recreation. I appreciate the importance of having nature preserved for all to enjoy.

Max Hooper:

I've loved camping, hiking and enjoying all the outdoors has to offer since I was carried on my parent's backs in a kid carrier. Recently, I have undertaken longer trips in the woods such as my 2016 hike of the 133 mile Northville-Lake Placid Trail end to end in 11 days with my dad. For 5 plus years I have been a co-adopter of lean-to #1 on Cedar Lake in the Adirondacks with my father. My dad has taken care of this lean-to for longer than I have been alive and we now visit and work on it together. Last year, I became interested in preservation techniques and took the 2016 seed collecting training course at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. My volunteer seed collection of purple lupine and other plants are crucial to replanting and restoring the Pine Barren environment and ensuring the reproduction of endangered Karner Blue butterfly populations.

Continued on Page 12

"At a young age my parents instilled in me a strong sense of awareness of the environment, and a responsibility to protect it."
~Emilie McClymonds

"I've loved camping, hiking and enjoying all the outdoors has to offer since I was carried on my parent's backs in a kid carrier."
~Max Hooper

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	

Thursday, June 1

Owl's Head Lookout

Contact: Elie Bijou adirondeacks@verizon.net or 873-2119

Class: B2C

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. Please call 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday, June 3

Street & Nye

Contact: Elie Bijou adirondeacks@verizon.net or 873-2119

Class: A2B

Among the easier of the trailless 46ers. Nine mile RT with steep climbing as one approaches the ridge and decent views. Please

bring lunch and water. Pace slower up the climbs and then a slower moderate on the flats. Please bring lunch, snacks water and rain gear. Please call 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday, June 10

Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve

"Hiking Through History"

Class C3D or B3D with longer option

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

This trip is a repeat of the one offered last November. That hike attracted so much interest that the trip filled up, and not all those who wanted to go could be accommodated. So, we'll do it again, this time in the 200th anniversary year of the start of construction

Innings and Outings

Continued from Page 2

of the original canal. This trip combines an easy hike with some interesting local history, as we'll walk along the towpaths of the original (1825) and the enlarged (1842) Erie Canals. We'll pass an old drydock, the site of a 1728 ferry across the Mohawk, and other 19th century structures related to the canal. Along the way, there's always a chance to spot waterfowl and other wildlife in the preserve's ponds and marshes. Distance is about 4 miles, with no elevation gain. Longer option (additional 2 miles) to visit an abandoned lock will also be offered. Approx. meeting time 9 a.m.

Saturday, June 10

Lyon Mt. Firetower 3,830 ft.

Class B2B

Contact: Elie Bijou adironacks@verizon.net or 873-2119

Nice hike in woods on switchbacks, and then burst out onto an opening and the firetower appears. 360° views and Montreal in the distance, a truly international view. Please bring lunch water and snacks. Trail is approximately 6 miles RT with 1,800 ft. ascent. Pace slower moderate. Please call 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Sunday, June 11 (rescheduled from April 30)

Round Lake (Malta) - Flat Water Paddle

Class C3D

Contact: Jacques 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 as it meanders through a wetland filled with wildlife and plant-life of all kind. We have been very fortunate in the past to be able to see herons, eagles and a host of other birds. It will be interesting to see what is growing and flying about. We will be meeting in the morning, exact time to be determined. Rain reschedules.

Saturday June 17

Westkill Mountain, Class B2B

Contact: John Susko 383-1284 or jpsusko@netzero.net

This is one of the more attractive hikes in the Catskills with good views near the top and trails which follow two streams. The trail over Westkill provides the opportunity to spot cars and make this a through hike for more variety. The distance is 8 miles with 2,000 feet of ascent.

Thursday, June 22

Canoe/Kayak Trip "Explore Blue Mountain Lake."

Class B2C

Contact: Roy Keats 370-0399 or royskipaddle@gmail.com

Come and explore the shoreline and some islands of Blue Mountain Lake by paddling most of the lake. There is beautiful clear water, loons, and great scenery all around. We will also go a little

way into Eagle Lake to explore the unique Durant Bridge. This will be about a 7 mile paddle. If the day is extremely windy, we will have an alternative location.

Saturday, June 24

Cascade Porter Blueberry Thru Hike

Class B2B

Contact: Elie Bijou adironacks@verizon.net or 873-2119

We'll meet to do this truly unique hike, park cars at either end and hike 7.8 miles, beginning with Cascade, then Porter then the many bumps of Blueberry and a steep descent to the parking lot at Marcy Field. Pace here will be fairly slow on the ascent and more moderate on the steep descent with many views. Please bring lunch, snacks, plenty of water as the ridge is often dry. Rain gear, too. Please call 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Tuesday June 27

G Lake hike

Class C2C

Contact: Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This will be a walk around G Lake, which is located just west of Piseco Lake. This was the site of an estate and there is evidence of the history to explore. The water level is above the natural level - raised by a concrete dam that is in good condition. We will mostly be on trails with short bushwhacks to connect trails or explore. There may be a chance for a swim if conditions are right. Under five miles with minimal ascent.

Saturday July 8

Peekamoose & Table Mountains, Class A2B

Contact: John Susko 383-1284 or jpsusko@netzero.net

Peekamoose & Table Mountains are the 11th and 10th highest peaks in the Catskills. We'll take the trail from Peekamoose Road which has good views along the way. The distance is 10 miles with 3,000 feet of ascent.

Tuesday, July 11

Pilot Knob Bushwhack

Class B2B

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

The objective of this hike on the east side of Lake George is not the gazebo on the LGLC Schumann Preserve, nor the viewless summit of Pilot Knob, but rather an open 1,900-ft. knob to the northwest of the summit. This knob has wonderful views over the southern part of the lake and the mountains to the west. We will reach the knob from the Buck Mountain trailhead on Pilot Knob Road, but most of the rather steep ascent is on a

Continued on Page 4

Innings and Outings

Continued from Page 3

faint path that climbs the northwest ridge of Pilot Knob. Open ledges offer nice views on the way. To return, we will probably bushwhack down to the Butternut Brook trail, which then goes back along the stream, past several small cascades, to the trailhead. Distance is about 5 miles, with about 1,600 ft. of climb. Approximate meeting time 8 a.m.

Thursday, July 13

Le Vine Preserve

Class C2D

Contact: Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This site is in the Town of Providence in Saratoga County just north of Galway. We will cover most of the trails with a hike of under 4 miles. If you do not know this preserve it would be a nice addition to your list of easy nearby destinations. Children welcome with an adult.

Saturday, July 15

Mt. Gilligan Trail Maintenance

Class C3B

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

Mt. Gilligan is a low peak rising above the Boquet River south of Elizabethtown, but its short trail leads to ledges that have great views of the Boquet Valley, Rocky Peak Ridge and the Dix Range. Our chapter was involved with building the Mt. Gilligan trail in the 1940s, when the nearby Bouquet River Lodge was used as an outings base, and we have maintained the trail ever since. On this annual stewardship trip, we will do side cutting and light blowdown removal, using hand clippers, loppers and hand saws. This is an easy introduction to trail maintenance, with lunch at a scenic ledge. Round trip distance is about 3 miles, with about 800 ft. of climb. Approximate meeting time 8:30 a.m.

Friday, July 21

Paddle Kunjamuk River

Class A2B

Contact: Roy Keats, royskipaddle@gmail.com or 251-3673

This trip starts just south of Speculator on Route 30. We will paddle across the Sacandaga River into the outlet of the Kunjamuk River. This is a flat water stream with some current and occasional beaver dams to navigate. We will paddle up to Elm Lake and possibly look for the Kunjamuk Cave on our way to the lake. The river has many nice twists and turns to make it interesting. The scenery is very wild and beautiful. It is about a 9 mile round trip paddle. Be prepared to get wet feet at beaver dams.

Young Members Group Activities

(Jointly with Albany and Glens Falls/Saratoga chapters)

Sunday, June 11

Mt. Colden Hike

Class A+2B (Difficult 14 mile hike with 3,211' in elevation)

Contact: Mary Zawacki and Mike Diana 914-373-9833

Join us for a loop hike to Mount Colden through Avalanche Pass and returning via Lake Arnold. The hike features diverse terrain, picturesque lakes, lowland views, and breathtaking summit views! Mount Colden is #11 of the ADK High Peaks. This hike is strenuous at parts and features some scrambling. We will be moving at a moderate pace; experience and appropriate footwear are required.

Thursday, June 15, 7-9 p.m.

Young Member Social: Wolff's Biergarten in Schenectady

Contact: Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org 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! Great conversation awaits about how we can better protect the beautiful natural places we have a blast in! All members and prospective members are welcome!

Thursday, July 6, 7-9p.m.

Young Member Social: Van Dyke Restaurant and Lounge

Contact: Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org or 603-953-8782

Join us for a good food 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 and help us brainstorm about how to increase our young member programming. All are welcome, members and prospective members alike!

Saturday, July 22

Young Member Outing: The Santanoni Range

Class A+2A

Contact: Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org or 603-953-8782

Come join our Young Members as we hike the three high peaks in the Santanoni Range: Panther, Santanoni & Couchsachraga. The trip is a roughly 17-mile hike on both official trails and herd paths located near Newcomb. Even in the trailhead is interesting, as it's right near the abandoned mining town of Tahawus. Some members will be car camping nearby the night before. Feel free to bring friendly canine friends as well!

Continued on Page 5

Innings and Outings

Continued from Page 4

Sunday, July 23

Mount Skylight & Gray Peak hike

Class A+2B (Difficult 18 mile hike)

Contact: Mary Zawacki and Mike Diana 914-373-9833

Join us for a (very) long day on the trail as we summit two high peaks, wander amongst the wildflowers, and enjoy the breeze off the mountains' alpine lakes. This is a long hike; experience required.

Thursday, August 10, 7-9 p.m.

Young Member Social: Centre Street Public House

Contact: Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org

or 603-953-8782

Join us for a good food and great conversation! Spend an evening discussing the many opportunities available through the ADK for younger members and help us brainstorm about how to increase our young member programming. All are welcome, members and prospective members alike!

Friday, August 11 - Saturday, August 12

Young Member Overnight: The Seward Range

Class A+2A

Contact: Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org

or 603-953-8782

We'll be hiking the four high peaks of the Seward Range (Seward, Donaldson, Emmons, and Seymour) over two-day hike on a roughly 21-mile route. The trip will include both official trails and herd paths, a beautiful waterfall and provides an excellent backcountry camping opportunity. Some overnight camp gear can be borrowed; please reach out to Dustin who can provide a comprehensive gear list. Feel free to bring friendly canine friends!

Monday, September 4

Young Member Outing: Sawteeth

Class A2B

Contact: Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahschenectady.org or 603-953-8782

Sitting near the Great Range, Sawteeth offers a great view of almost every other high peak nearby! A roughly 13-mile hike along with views of Lower Ausable Lake and Rainbow Falls before a steep climb to the summit. Unfortunately, this will be a dog-free trip as canines are not allowed in Ausable Club property.

Young Members Group Update: Hikes, Socials Popular

The hard work we've been putting our Young Member Group is beginning to take hold in a very big way. Mary Zawacki has stepped up in a big way assisting with our social media presence, especially on Facebook, and beginning to lead Sunday hikes (I'm a pastor so leading hikes on Sundays is pretty difficult). In the coming months we'll be welcoming two new trip leaders to our team: Chandra Geremick, who's interested in leading more family friendly outings, as well as Jason Waters.

Finally, based solely on folks who put their age down on their ADK applications (many people don't), it's worth mentioning **we currently have forty-five young member households in our chapter, two-thirds of which joined in the last two years alone!** Let's keep rocking it, and thanks for your support!
~Dustin Wright

New Membership Committee Chair

We are pleased to welcome the newest member of our Board of Directors, Chandra Geremick. She will be serving as the new Membership Committee chair. Chandra is a Rotterdam native with a passion for sharing her love of the wilderness with others.

She is especially interested in bringing her love of the great outdoors to inner city youth. Her internship work with Girls, Inc. in Schenectady has especially inspired her to find ways to help the young in the city appreciate nature.

Chandra has raised three girls and home-schooled them "in the woods." She is a grandmother who went back to school and is now looking to give back and help others. Currently, Chandra works for Catholic Charities and is finishing her associate's degree in social work. She also runs her own house cleaning business on the side.

She has been a very active hiker for the past 10 years and has completed the Fire Tower Challenge as well as 18 out of the 46 High Peaks. She is looking to conquer Street and Nye next. Her goal is to finish the 46 by the time she turns 46. We won't tell when that is. Welcome to the team Chandra!

--Jacque McGinn

Remembering Conservationist Eleanor Brown

Eleanor Brown, dedicated outdoor enthusiast, conservationist and a member of the Schenectady Chapter for about 65 years, passed away on February 24. Eleanor was one of the great conservationists from the Schenectady Chapter. She leaves a legacy of service for the protection and responsible use of our wild areas.

Eleanor joined the Schenectady Chapter in the early 1950s. She was active on the chapter's Conservation Committee and served as secretary (1953), membership chair (1954) and director (1957-58). Eleanor was also a member of the ADK state Conservation Committee for nearly 20 years, with involvement with all environmental issues.

She worked extensively in publications, beginning with Princeton's Alumni Weekly and McGraw-Hill Publishing following her graduation from Smith College in 1946. From 1967 to 1973 she edited ADK's magazine "Adirondac." She compiled "The Forest Preserve of New York State: A Handbook for Conservationists," which became influential as a guide for the protection of the Forever Wild lands in the Adirondacks and Catskills. She contributed articles to "Adirondac," "The Conservationist" and "Adirondack Life." In recognition of her contributions, ADK established the Eleanor F. Brown ADK Communications Award.

In 1995, Gov. George Pataki appointed Eleanor as a commissioner of the Adirondack Park Agency, a position she held for four years. Eleanor also served as a member of the state Canal Recreationway Commission and co-chaired the Organization for Action for the Riverfront, which led the effort for the bike path along the Mohawk River in Niskayuna, where she lived. She was a member of the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council, a trustee of the Schenectady County Public Library and president of the Friends of the SCPL. She moved to Vermont in 2015 to be closer to family.

Eleanor met her husband, John Brown Jr., through the ADK after she moved to Schenectady in 1950 to work at General Electric. They owned a camp in Stony Creek and loved hiking and canoeing in the Adirondacks, the U.S. West and internationally. (Compiled also using Daily Gazette and Adirondac notes.)

--Norm Kuchar

Boots on Ground for Trail Exploration/Rehab

With the onset of warm weather and black flies, trails work is under way, including the long-term objective of developing the Adirondack elements of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

On April 25, Trails Chairman Norm Kuchar and Walt Hayes accompanied DEC Forester Corrie O'Dea on an exploration of the possible NCNST route through the central part of the Hammond Pond Wild Forest, which we identified on several previous trips. The outing was successful, and this route will appear in the update of the Unit Management Plan, which is necessary before trail construction can begin. Other similar explorations in the HPWF will take place.

Scheduling of trail maintenance on the Bailey Pond and southern Hoffman Notch trails (to become parts of the North Country National Scenic Trail) is awaiting closing some loops with the state forester for the Hoffman Notch Wilderness and possibly with a current trail maintainer. Hopefully, this work can take place during August and September.

Maintenance on our adopted Mt. Gilligan trail is scheduled for Saturday, June 24 and is cited in the Outings schedule.

The NCNST is a hiking trail complex of about 4,600 miles from Crown Point in the Adirondacks to Lake Sakakawea State Park in North Dakota, en route also passing through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. As of early this year 3,009 miles of the trail is in place.

-- Norm Kuchar

Whitewater Season Opens With Creeks Rising

After a dry and frustrating paddling season last year, the river gods have decided so far to be more generous in 2017, and good groups of paddlers have taken advantage of a wet spring.

The 60th running of the Hudson River White Water Derby on May 6 and 7, for example, found the river running at 6.5 feet and above, which is a lot of water. In some cases it was a bit too much, and the ADK's safety group waiting at the bottom of the first significant rapid between North Creek and Riparius – known as Ord Falls or Staircase – was busy helping swamped or overturned boaters make it to shore. (We were fortified by the traditional hot dog cookout as we got on the river early and waited for the racers to make it downstream.)

What at lower water is a fairly technical run – picking your way around boulders in moderate current – was a big water run with the boulders becoming pourovers with powerful holes and standing waves. An informal count was about seven swimmers below that rapid out of perhaps two dozen boats in the race, which is quite a few. No injuries, thankfully, and the swimmers got sorted out and continued downstream to finish the seven mile stretch of river.



*ADK safety kayakers cook hotdogs before the Hudson White Water Derby. From left: Rick Gonzales, Rick Morse and Don Orr.
Photo by Mal Provost*



US Rep. Paul Tonko congratulates ADK kayaker Alyson Slack after her win at the Tenandeho White Water Derby in March.

Trip leaders for the safety group were Rick Gonzales and Rick Morse, assisted by Horst DeLorenzi, Don Orr and Mal Provost.

Happily, the good conditions started early in the season, providing an exciting day for the earliest competition, April 2, the Tenandeho White Water Derby on the Anthony Kill, running about 4.5 miles through Stillwater and Halfmoon into the Hudson at Mechanicville in Saratoga County. Thirty-seven boats took part on a cold day, with a handful of swims also. ADK kayaker Alyson Slack took first place in her category and received congratulations from U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko.

ADK paddlers have gotten back to popular runs that were simply too dry last year, with club trips on the West Branch of the Sacandaga, the Catskill Creek, Poughkeepsie in Vermont and the Fish in the Rome area. It's been a blast and we can only hope favorable – perhaps a bit warmer – conditions prevail as we get into the heart of the season.

--Mal Provost

Whitewater Schedule

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
6/18/2017	Sunday	River Rescue and Leading a Trip at SOC	II/III	Rick Morse & Clark Darlington	370-2144
06/23/17 - 06/25/17	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
07/15/17 - 07/16/17	Saturday/ Sunday	Novice/Intermediate Kayak Class	II/III	Sally Dewes	346-1761
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	Clark 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 & 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	Sunday	Lehigh	III+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
8/20/2016	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	Clark 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	Clark 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	Clark 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
11/04/17 - 11/05/2017	Saturday Sunday	The Tohican	III+	Horst DeLorenzi	399-4615

Conservation Report

Boreas Ponds Decision Delayed, Worrisome

The status of the Boreas Ponds was expected to be decided before now, but has become obscured for the present. Unfortunately this is not by the mist off a lake on an Adirondack morning, rather the deep fog of Albany politics.

The classification of these linked ponds offering remarkable views of the High Peaks was the subject of a series of hearings that ended last December before the Adirondack Park Agency; these were to be followed by an APA recommendation on what level of protection the remote tract of land and water would be afforded. The debate centered around environmentalists' desire for wilderness status, prohibiting motorized access, and wild forest classification, allowing motorized access favored by surrounding towns in the hopes of promoting tourist traffic. That decision was expected about March.

Now, according to Neil Woodworth, Adirondack Mountain Club executive director, any decision – which is only a recommendation to the governor anyway – may be delayed to the late summer or fall, if then. The primary reason for the delay is a wild card introduced early this year by Governor Andrew Cuomo. That proposal: Leave about 5 acres near the access road to the ponds unclassified, presumably to accommodate glamour camping or "glamping" -- permanent tent and service facility development – to further enhance tourism and a "hut-to-hut" trail complex. This idea is favored by local officials for economic reasons, and is pushed by the Department of Environmental Conservation as part of the governor's package, Woodworth said. "They're trying to make everybody happy, which means they're going to screw it up."

Speaking at the May 6 meeting of the ADK Conservation Committee, Woodworth termed the proposal "spot zoning" of the Forest Preserve, in violation of the State Land Master Plan and the state Constitution. "This is the most significant and damaging proposal for managing the Forest Preserve that I have heard in 30 years." Woodworth said.

"This is the most significant and damaging proposal for managing the Forest Preserve that I have heard in 30 years."

~Neil Woodworth

One positive effect of the delay can be noted: Motorized access to the ponds remains prohibited under current rules and the Gulf Brook Road dirt/gravel access off Blue Ridge Road remains open. Driving to a parking area three miles off Blue Ridge is still allowed, with hiking, canoe carry and mountain biking permitted the last three miles to the ponds.

New training dates and money for a "bug factory" at Cornell University are highlights of the ongoing fight against invasive species as summer rolls around.

Invasive Species Training Coming in July, August.

The Adirondack Mountain Club has been involved with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and related back country efforts over recent years, sharing in training programs and spreading the word about both weeds and critters that can overwhelm the native habitats. These include aquatics such as Eurasian milfoil and the hemlock woolly adelgid, an aphid-type insect that is a threat to one of the most critical tree species of the mountains. Numerous articles have referenced these in detail.

At the recent Conservation Committee meeting Cathy Pedler, ADK government relations director, said the next training sessions will be July 10 at the Heart Lake Program Center and August 4 at the Lake George Land Conservancy office for the Back Country Water Monitors Project funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Details are available at www.adk.org. There also will be training on reporting on June 19 in Bolton Landing; information at nyimpainvasives.org.

The "bug factory" at Cornell has received \$1.1 million in the 2017-18 state budget to breed a predator of the hemlock woolly adelgid. That bug is known as "Little Larry" for its Latin name of *Laricobius nigrinus*. While breeding of these insects in sufficient quantity to stop infestations is not yet possible, the Cornell work is considered the best shot at present to intercept a northward infestation of the adelgid, which is active in the lower Hudson Valley and Finger Lakes areas already.

~Mal Provost

Trip Tales

Vischer Ferry April 5

This was an eventful hike. We walked in the morning when the temperatures stayed in the upper 40s. The Mohawk River was rising that day and the flow of the extra water was filling the ponds. We first walked near the trail to the new bridge which crosses the Wager Pond outlet and goes into Halfmoon. The bridge is now near completion but the men were still working on the trail, which is closed during working hours. Watch for the grand opening soon.

Our group of 15 hikers followed the road toward the Mohawk River but found that the water was flowing over the road and this prevented us from proceeding. We backtracked over to the Whipple Bridge and tried that route but it was also blocked by flowing waters. So, we walked out to the old locks and back. By that time the morning had passed and we went over to the Vischer Ferry General Store to have some lunch.

The day was cloudy but we had no rain. We saw many pairs of geese honking and making noises. A few beaver were swimming around, likely confused by all the water. Many other birds flew by and we checked out the wood duck houses along the trail. No flowers yet but we are beginning to see some green leaves.

Hikers were Janet Twardzik, Mary Hussey, Susan Roberts, Walt Hayes, Celia and Bernie Mansbach, Kendra Pratt, Jane McCloskey, Harlene Smalkin, Norm Kuchar, Roy and Sue Keats, Ray Henrikson (with his new knee), Charlie Beach, and Mary MacDonald, leader.



Hikers at Vischer Ferry encounter flooded conditions that force changes in their planned route. April 5th.

Willie Marsh April 11

This nearby state forest is a worthwhile destination for an easy outing. The bridges are being replaced so currently there is no access to the views from the middle of the marsh but there are nice views from the edges. Ice remained on most of the marsh the day we were there and water birds were active.

We walked to the dam where there is a bench and views of the island, then walked out of Peck Hill State Forest crossing the Blue Line into the Adirondack Park and Shaker Mountain Wild Forest. We walked to the outlet of Peck Lake where we had lunch and watched the roaring spring runoff.

Back to the cars by a different route after a sunny day in the woods. Dale Blanchet, Robert and Laurie Boromiso, Norm Kuchar, Roman Laba, Gail Livingston, Susan Roberts, and the leader, Walt Hayes.

Bike Ride Niskayuna Railroad Station to Jay Street April 14

Eleven bikers were available for this adventure. We left the parking area about 10:15 a.m. and had a comfortable ride with stops along the way to learn about the origins of the trail and the extended efforts to bypass GE and KAPL (that is what it was at the time) around 1980.

We reached our destination, Civitello's, just at noon. They were very busy on this lovely day, so some of us took a tour of the Stockade while waiting for the crowd to clear out. The ladies at the restaurant were most helpful and were able to open the garden area for us. After a yummy lunch, we returned to the RR station with a stop at Lock 7, where we visited for a short time with former Schenectady ADK Chapter Chair, Howard Hart and his spouse, Emily.

A fine day with our friends. Participants: Nancy Morey and two friends from Onandaga Chapter: Colleen Armani and Sandy St Phillips. And Cathy Karp, Rob Bayly, Laura Fiske, Karen Lydon, Bernie Mansbach, Charlie Beech, Ginny Parsons, and Mary MacDonald, leader.

West Branch of Sacandaga April 22

This time of the season, a run on the West Branch of the Sacandaga River often means a carry down the muddy road and then a boat drag through woods to get to the stream. It's still worth it, as the river is open, scenery beautiful and having the right water level dicey, as it quickly drains out. But the river spirits were smiling for this trip.

The road had dried out and been raked when we got there, so we could drive up to the best put-in at White House and the river was at a full but friendly level of about 4'6" at the Hope gauge. That made it easier than what was experienced by several of our crew a few days before, when the river was running at a tough 6' and

Continued on Page 11

Trip Tales

Continued from Page 10

someone's boat took a long ride, with the paddler taking a long walk.

This trip went much more smoothly, with seven boats and paddlers having a great day. Participants: Bob Wright, Horst DeLorenzi, Norm Labbe, Ed Martuscello, Rick Gonzales and Nelson Miller in kayaks, plus leader Mal Provost in open boat.



Kayakers launch for the West Branch of The Sacandaga River. From foreground: Bob Wright, Nelson Miller, Ed Martuscello, Norm Labbe, Horst DeLorenzi and Rick Gonzales. Photo by Mal Provost

Paddle - Fish Creek - Saratoga Lake Outlet April 28

Six of us picked a beautiful sunny day to paddle from Stafford's Bridge to the dam and return. We saw a bald eagle soaring overhead as we got through the remains of an old railroad bridge. After that we saw an osprey, a hawk, many great blue herons, a few geese and mallards, and several belted kingfishers. The current was with us on the way down, and on the way back to the launch both the current and wind were against us, making for a little more work on the return. It was a great early season paddle. The participants were Marc and Jan Limeri, Jerry White, Lynda Hutchins, and Sue and Roy Keats, leaders.

Huckleberry Mountain and Joe Baker Sag April 29

We had a mostly cloudy, but mild and rain-free day to climb these two small mountains lying just east of the Hudson River between Lake Luzerne and Warrensburg. After passing the long, smooth Bear Slides on Buttermilk Brook, we bushwhacked up Huckleberry through surprisingly open oak woods and along a

ridge with many open rock areas that gave limited views of the surrounding mountains. From Huckleberry, we descended west to the ridge of the higher of the two summits near oddly-named Joe Baker Sag. This summit was viewless, but just to the west we found a lovely lunch spot on an open ledge with great views across the Hudson River to Spruce, Hadley, Bearpen and Moose Mountains. The slopes were painted lime-green by the leafing-out sugar maples and pale red by the swelling beech and red maple buds. Hikers were Colleen Armani, Bob and Nancy Buckley, Walt Hayes, Gail Livingston, Dave Loux, Nate Mack, Ken Marcinowski, Kathy Miles, Nancy Morey, Richard and Karen Wang and leader Norm Kuchar.

Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area and State Forest May 6

We had a weather forecast that predicted over 50 percent chance of rain but included some sun and blue skies. There was not even a sprinkle all day and lots of blue sky. The day was spent finding and exploring six cemeteries in the area. Three cemeteries are on public roads but three family cemeteries were found by bushwhacking off roads and trails. One cemetery required wading small stream. Instructions for finding the cemeteries were incomplete and sometimes misleading. It was an interesting day learning a little about the people who lived and farmed in this inhospitable setting. Many (and in a few families most) of the children did not make it to adulthood. We found graves of soldiers from the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. We also found cellar holes from homes of two of the families. We walked a little over two miles in our explorations. It was a good day in the woods for Dale Blanchet, Norm Kuchar, Mary MacDonald, Susan Roberts and leader, Walt Hayes.



Paddlers navigate the scenic Fish Creek near Rome, NY. From left: Horst DeLorenzi, Rick Gonzales, Anthony Lamanno and Pierre Cyr. Photo by Norm Labbe

High School Chapter Scholarships (Cont.)

Continued from Page 1

I have also volunteered over 200 hours during the past two years on trail crews working to improve and maintain trails in the White Mountains and Adirondacks so that they can be enjoyed without being greatly impacted.

My adventures in the outdoors have helped me realize that what I like to do for fun is directly connected to the environment's health and that it is imperative that nature be preserved and protected for current and future generations to enjoy. I think the best way to accomplish this goal is to pursue a career in environmental science. Participating in research in college is very important to me; in fact I want to be involved as soon as possible. I learned that this can be achieved starting my freshman year

through volunteer/internship opportunities in labs and hands-on class work at the University of Vermont. My acceptance into the Honors College at UVM gives me more ways to gain research experience with the mentorship program they provide.

A college education will prepare me to play a relevant role in the research community as the world and science changes. I look forward to helping keep the environment safe for all to enjoy while working in the setting that I enjoy most - the Great Outdoors.

-- **Jacque McGinn**

Chapter's Teen Trails Scholarship Awarded

Since 1986, thousands of volunteers have worked with trained ADK trail crew leaders to give back to the trails they use by completing maintenance and reconstruction projects all over the Adirondacks and Catskills. In 2017, thirteen trail projects have been reserved for high school students aged 14-17 who want to spend a week in the woods 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.

This year's winner is Alex Cherry of Niskayuna High School. Alex has previous experience backpacking with his parents in the Adirondacks as well as hiking in Yellowstone National Park, the Appalachian Trail and elsewhere. We are happy to help Alex to give back to the Adirondacks.

Below is an excerpt from his essay.

Essay:

I am excited to be considered for a scholarship from the Schenectady Chapter of ADK. I am currently a sophomore at Niskayuna High School and hope to pursue studies in botany when I go to college. I love exploring and working with the inter-

esting and wonderful flora and fauna in the Adirondacks. We live in such an amazing world that I want to see it all and want to share it with others. By helping with trail maintenance, I can give others the opportunity to experience and fall in love with the Adirondacks just as I have.

By educating people we can give each person the initiative to help save our environment, and what better way to do that than by letting them see what exactly they have and what we could lose if we don't protect it. These days fewer people are motivated to get up and go on a hike, so they don't even know what they are missing. By helping to make the trails as clear and accessible as possible, we can motivate those people to go out and enjoy our beautiful planet.

As Rachel Carson said, one way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, "What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?" I hope that by working together we can open others' eyes so that all of us may work for a better tomorrow for ourselves and future generations.

-- **Jacque McGinn**

McKibben Addresses Union College Gathering

Bill McKibben threaded some points of hope through a seriously dark assessment of the challenges facing the world environment in an address to 300 in the Nott Memorial at Union College April 17, sponsored by the college's Kelly Adirondack Center.

The world renowned activist and opponent of fossil fuels – and the business culture that pushes and profits from them – spoke of the alarming rate of carbon dioxide buildup in the atmosphere and the global warming that is linked to it, challenging the audience to be active. "The planet is way outside its comfort zone," he said, "it is running a serious fever."

Global warming is acknowledged by most of the scientific community as being the result of many decades of burning carbon fuels. But McKibben also ripped the social and economic structure behind it, stating that worldwide, climate change follows "the inverse laws of justice," in that the ones creating the problems are not the ones who will suffer from them.

While individuals have relatively little impact on economic systems, he said, organized opposition – political and economic activism – are needed to move the needle, and time for delay or indecision is long past.

Schenectady ADK
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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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