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
518-383-3066
chair@adk-schenectady.org

VICE-CHAIR:
Vacant

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

TREASURER:
Mike Brun
518-399-1021
treasurer@adk-schenectady.org

DIRECTOR:
Roy Keats
603-953-8782
director@adk-schenectady.org

PROJECT COORDINATORS:
Horst DeLorenzi
518-399-4615
projcoord@adk-schenectady.org

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

Jason Waters
518-369-5516
projcoord@adk-schenectady.org

APPOINTED MEMBERS

CONSERVATION:
Mal Provost
518-399-1565
conservation@adk-schenectady.org

INNINGS:
Sally Dewes
518-346-1761
innings@adk-schenectady.org

LOOKOUT EDITOR:
Mal Provost
518-399-1565
lookout@adk-schenectady.org

MEMBERSHIP:
Mary Zawacki
914-373-8733
membership@adk-schenectady.org

NORTHVILLE PLACID TRAIL:
Mary MacDonald
518-371-1293
nptrail@adk-schenectady.org

OUTINGS:
Roy Keats
518-370-0399
outings@adk-schenectady.org

PRINTING/MAILING:
Rich Vertigan
518-381-9319
mailing@adk-schenectady.org

PUBLICITY:
Richard Wang
518-399-3108
publicity@adk-schenectady.org

TRAILS:
Norm Kuchar
518-399-6243
trails@adk-schenectady.org

WEB MASTER:
Rich Vertigan
518-381-9319
webmaster@adk-schenectady.org

WHITEWATER:
Ralph Pascale
518-235-1614
whitewater@adk-schenectady.org

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP:
Dustin Wright
603-953-8782
ymg@adk-schenectady.org

On the cover
Ray Sergott, Peter Fedorick and Tom Bolton clear brush and cut logs from the trail being developed up Jones Hill as part of the North Country National Scenic Trail. See story page 9.
Photo by Mal Provost
Trails, Boreas Work Promise Busy Summer

Hikers, paddlers, residents and all those with interest in the North Country are definitely going to hear a lot of talk and probably see a lot of changes, particularly regarding access to favorite spots, as the summer rolls into high gear.

The burst of activity is driven by both the opening of new areas to the public -- most notably the Boreas Ponds -- and the problematic popularity of the High Peaks and wilderness areas. These are being loved to death by hikers and paddlers, resulting in crowded conditions on the trails and dangerous traffic and parking conditions along Route 73, the artery for High Peaks access.

The Boreas Ponds Tract and the competing issues around it -- wilderness classification, access via Gulf Brook Road and the extent of parking near and virtually at the ponds, plus potential nearby snowmobile traffic -- is its own ball of yarn.

These issues are noted in a recent study by the Adirondack Council and local governments in the areas; the study cites parking at double and more than triple of capacities at trailheads along Routes 73 and 9N and the Adirondack Mountain Club’s Adirondack Loj. The trailheads for Cascade, Giant and Chapel Pond are overwhelmed.

While this has been a growing worry for years (see related article page 10), it has reached critical mass and state and local officials, plus groups such as the ADK, Council, Adirondack Wild and others are pushing for action. The Department of Environmental Conservation now has proposed changes to popular trails such as Cascade, new trails and enhanced parking in the Boreas Ponds area, expanded parking servicing High Peaks trails, trailhead privies and better canoe access on the North Hudson River. (These are covered in greater detail than possible here, in Adirondack Almanack, Adirondack Explorer, Adirondac, local press including The Daily Gazette, and are available via the Adirondack Park Agency, ADK and Council websites.)

These proposals -- changes to the unit management plans for the High Peaks Wilderness and Vanderwhacker Wild Forest -- were scheduled by the APA for public hearings May 23 (as Lookout goes to press); there is a 45-day response period, which can be made to the APA and DEC. The proposals are being fast-tracked, meaning the DEC and APA are simultaneously receiving comments (see Phil Brown’s article in the Explorer). Officials are hoping that this process will allow adoption of the proposals and start of work on some of the projects by July.

Continued on Page 2
Conservation Report

Continued from Page 1

Rail Cars Head South

Good news: Like a benighted and unwelcome flock of vultures, the derelict rail cars in the Adirondacks are all or nearly all gone: Reports in mid-May had the tankers stored near Tahawus and the Boreas River removed, hopefully ending an obnoxious chapter of intended misuse of that decrepit rail line. Also, Iowa Pacific Holdings, the rail line operator, announced earlier that it would no longer run the tourist line between North Creek and Saratoga Springs, which had been one of its unprofitable ventures.

The attempt by Iowa Pacific to make money by storing rail cars owned by others -- many of them oil tankers outmoded by new federal rules -- was met with fury and legal challenges from local governments, the state and environmental groups and has been covered extensively by Lookout and the publications cited earlier.

Now the issue will become what’s next for the rail line. The ADK is pushing the idea that the state purchase the line and convert it to a bike-hike trail, as it is largely unusable for rail traffic and that has been proven unprofitable in any regard already. That chapter is yet to be written.

--Mal Provost

Training Dates Set For Invasives Programs

Coming soon to a lake or pond near you: aggressive, damaging aquatic plants and animals that can overwhelm a water body’s natural balance. These are invasives, or more formally, aquatic invasive species or AIS.

How about learning what this problem is and perhaps lending a hand at keeping AIS – to the degree possible – from spreading? The unfortunate truth is that many water bodies are already infested. But the Adirondack Mountain Club works with many volunteer and public organizations including the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and the Department of Environmental Conservation to identify areas of infestation and develop the means to eradicate the species.

Two free training sessions are taking place on Friday, June 1, and Sunday, June 3. The June 1 session will be 9 a.m. to noon at the Saratoga County 4H training center, 556 Middle Line Road, Ballston Spa. The second is 9 to noon at the Kinderhook Lake Improvement Association, 15 Electric Park Road, Niverville. A third session is planned for July 12, with no site set yet.

Signup and more information is available from Cathy Pedler, cathy@adk.org, 518-449-3870, or Leah Gorman, lmg328@cornell.edu, 518-885-8995.

Examples are unfortunately common, including Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut and hydrilla. They are often similar to native plants but as aquatic invasive species (AIS) do not have a natural balance or predator, and tend to overwhelm ponds and lakes, destroying fish habitat, clogging waterways and supply systems. And there are animal versions also, such as the spined waterflea, zebra mussel and Asian clam. The same problem is encountered with land-based bugs such as the emerald ash borer and the hemlock woolly adelgid (a major North Country threat).

Become a citizen scientist. The ADK, the woods and waters need your help!
2018 Chapter High School 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. Eight area high schools received invitations to submit essays to apply for a $500 scholarship. This year's winners are Jacob Cleinman and Tyler Doherty, both from Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake. They will be presented with the scholarships at the BH-BL Awards Night.

Jacob Cleinman is an Eagle Scout who has spent his childhood hiking and fishing in the Adirondacks and aspires to be an environmental conservation officer once he completes his course of study at Paul Smith's College.

Tyler Doherty has been interested in alternative sources of clean energy ever since his childhood visit to GE's Renewable Energy Campus. Since then he has set his sights on a degree that would allow him to make a global impact in the energy field.

We were very impressed by all applicants, which makes the decisions difficult. We appreciate all applications and recognize the support they received. We wish all well in their futures, caring for our environment. Below are excerpts from the winning essays.

-- Jacqueline McGinn,
Project Coordinator

Jacob Cleinman

All of the time and experiences I have had in the outdoors have shaped my desire to help sustain the things that most influenced who I am today. The biggest influence on this desire was the Boy Scouts of America. The program started me on my journey to environmental conservation. It taught me how to make as little an imprint on the environment as possible. Earning the rank of Eagle Scout confirmed the fact that I want to help preserve the environment for future generations.

Through the research I have done, I have found that I want to be an Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO) with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. I am so determined that I will do whatever I have to do to be the best. I am going to study Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences: Wildlife Concentration because it will put me on the right path to become an ECO. My goal is to protect the environment and I believe that studying at Paul Smith's will enable me to reach my goal. I believe that I will gain the knowledge I need to make a difference in the environment, as well as in the world.

Tyler Doherty

Access to clean, affordable, and, most importantly, sustainable energy sources promises to be one of the most pressing challenges confronting humanity in the century ahead. Discovering new ways to address the depletion of our energy resources, as well as, the impact of some of those resources on our biosphere, has occupied my thoughts since a very early age. As a child, I had the opportunity to visit General Electric's Renewable Energy Campus. On our way we passed a large wind turbine blade that was an astonishing 120 feet long. The power and ingenuity that this piece of equipment represented motivated me to pursue environmental subjects both in and outside of school. I began to conduct micro-experiments in my own backyard to test different methods to harness natural resources to create energy. At the time, I did not know that such small scale experiments could be compared to multi-million dollar projects in today's energy market.

It remains my dream to pursue the opportunity to turn this childhood obsession into a meaningful and impactful career to impact our global society in a meaningful way by harnessing sustainable energy sources that will provide widely accessible power while protecting the environment for future generations.
Teen Trails Scholarship Winner Kieran Stone

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 2018, six trail projects have been reserved for high school students (ages 14-17) who want to spend a week camping in the backcountry and experiencing trail work. Each year, the Schenectady Chapter of ADK sponsors a local teen, providing the $285 fee so they can participate at no cost.

This year's winner is Kieran Stone of Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake High School. Kieran has previous experience hiking with family in the Adirondacks as well as trail work through the Pack Forest DEC Camp. We are happy to help Kieran give back to the Adirondacks. Below is an excerpt from the essay sent in with the application. Congratulations and thank you Kieran!

---Jacqueline McGinn

Essay:
The past three summers I have gone to the Pack Forest DEC camp. As it turns out, at the DEC camp last summer we had a choice of activities one day. I chose to do trail work with one of the senior counselors. I chose that activity because I was considering doing the Teen Trails Project the next summer and wanted to see if I liked the work. I loved it. We cleared overgrowth on part of the trail and then started to extend it. We cut branches from trees and cleared leaves, plants and other debris from the trail. I really liked creating the new trail. To me it symbolizes new places to explore and new things to find.

This year I signed up for one of the Teen Trails programs. I chose the Hurricane Mountain trip because I wanted to do stone work. On that trip we will be quarrying stone on site and building stone steps to prevent erosion. I wanted to do this trip because I hadn't done anything like it before and I like activities that require people to work together as a team to accomplish a common goal. I also like that we are repairing a trail for hikers, so they can have an enjoyable time hiking. If they have a good hiking experience then they will want to come back to the Adirondacks and maybe they will engage in conservation. I want the outdoors to stay and be there for people to enjoy for many generations to come.

--Kieran Stone

Ididaride! Offers 75-Mile, Dirt Circuits July 29

For bicyclists, a decent May followed a cold, wet April so by now everyone should be getting in shape for the summer's big rides. One of these of course is the Ididaride!, July 29, the premiere Adirondack Mountain Club fund raiser and classic bike tour in the North Creek, Speculator and Indian Lake circuit.

This year, the 13th annual Ididaride! will put a new wrinkle in its short ride, turning that into a mostly off-pavement 23-mile circuit, beginning and ending at the Gore Mountain Ski Bowl, while keeping its traditional 75-mile endurance road ride.

The ADK web site says "The new route is ideal for off-road riders, fat-tire bikes, gravel-grinders and overland riders. For those ididaride! cyclists who prefer being in the woods and a little closer to nature, rather than sharing the pavement and enjoying the expansive views along the traditional 75-mile road course..."

The 75-mile tour will be unchanged, passing through the towns and hamlets of Bakers Mills, Wells, Speculator, Sabael, Indian Lake, North River, and back to North Creek, along the way passing Mason Lake, Lewey Lake and Indian Lake. Rest breaks with fluids and energy foods will be provided per tradition.

For anyone not yet signed up, the registration fee from June 1 on is $75 for ADK members and $85 for non-members. The dirt circuit costs the same, and for those under 18 years the cost is $40.

Registration details are available at the ADK web site or from Sunday Conine, sunday@adk.org.

--Mal Provost
Friday, June 1
Blue Mountain Lake Paddle
Class A2B
John Ravas, 518-852-6515 or adkkayaker140@gmail.com
Blue Mountain Lake offers great views, islands to explore and up to 3 lakes to paddle (including Eagle and Utowana). Depending on the weather, winds and paddlers' skills, we could paddle up to 14 miles.

Wednesday, June 6
Karner Blue Butterfly Hunt, Wilton Wildlife Preserve
Class C3D
Marc Limeri, 518-545-6456 or wwebbiee@yahoo.com
Most people know that the Albany Pine Bush is a habitat for the endangered Karner Blue butterfly. However, most people don't know that the Saratoga Sand Plains is also an important Karner Blue habitat. Over the past 10 years or so, the DEC and Town of Wilton have put in a lot of effort to restore this habitat. We'll take an easy 1.6 mile hike on a sandy trail to hunt for Karner Blues. They should be out and about and the blue lupine abundant. As a bonus, we may spy some lady slippers in bloom.

Thursday, June 7, 7-9 p.m.
Young Member Social: Wolff's Biergarten in Schenectady
Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782
or pastor@messiahschenectady.org
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, June 14
Chester Challenge: Hike to Meade Mountain & Beckman Mountain
B2B
Mary MacDonald, 518-371-1293
or mmacondonald003@nycap.rr.com
This is a moderate hike with some steep sections and great views of Gore Mtn. and Loon Lake. Bring lunch to enjoy with the view.

Friday, June 15
Canoe Trip: Raquette River - Axton Landing
to Raquette Falls
Class A2C
Roy Keats, 518-466-8544 or royskipaddle@gmail.com
This trip starts and ends at Axton Landing, which is a few miles outside of the village of Tupper Lake. We will paddle up the Raquette for approximately 6 miles to the falls (note, round trip 12 miles). It is a flat water paddle with a lot of bays and blind channels depending on the water level. The river has a barely noticeable current at this time of year. Once at our destination, we will walk a short distance to the lower falls. If people are interested we could continue the hike over the portage (without boats) to explore some of the other falls along the river.

Saturday, June 16
Young Member Hike: Algonquin, Iroquois and Wright
Class A1A
Mary Zawacki, 914-373-8733
These three 46ers offer the very best of the Adirondack High Peaks: incredible views, beautiful forest trails, and windswept bald summits. It's about 10 miles round trip. Dogs welcome. Please PM or text leader Mary Zawacki.

Saturday, June 23
Young Member Outing: Owl's Head Fire Tower
Class B2B
Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782
or pastor@messiahschenectady.org
Owl's Head Mountain Trail is a 6.3 mile heavily trafficked out and back trail located near Long Lake, that features a great forest setting and a fire tower! Total elevation gain is roughly 1,500 feet and this trip is canine friendly. Young member outings are open to all ADK members no matter your age!

Thursday, June 28
Crown Point and Coot Hill: Hiking Through History
Class C2C
Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com
Crown Point, a strategic peninsula jutting into Lake Champlain, was fortified by French, British, and American troops during the 1700s. The French built Fort St. Frederic here in the 1730s. After capturing this fort in 1759, the British built one of their largest forts in North America at this spot. In 1775, American colonists captured the fort and its sorely needed artillery. On our trip, we'll first take a short trail (about 2.5 miles RT, with 600 ft climb) to Coot Hill, overlooking Crown Point, to take in the great view and see why Crown Point was such a strategic place. We'll then drive the short distance to Crown Point State Historic Site and explore the preserved ruins of the French and British forts. Crown Point is also the current eastern terminus of the North Country National Scenic Trail, so we'll see the kiosk marking this place and, if desired, walk across the new Lake Champlain bridge to Vermont. There is a small fee ($3 - $4) to enter the state historic site.

Continued on Page 6
Innings and Outings

Continued from Page 5

Saturday June 30
Kaaterskill High Peak,
Class A2B
John Susko, 518-383-1284, jpsusko@nycap.rr.com
Kaaterskill High Peak is one Catskill 3,500 peaks. We'll hike in from the Platte Clove Road trailhead along old woods roads, snowmobile trails and herd paths. The summit of Kaaterskill has no views; but, there are good views to the south from Hurricane Ledge near the summit. The distance is 9 - 10 miles with ~2,000 feet of ascent.

Saturday, June 30
Young Member Hike: McKenzie and Haystack Mountain
Difficulty: Hard 9 miles with Bushwhacking
Jason Waters, 518-369-5516 or jwate78@gmail.com
We will be hiking two more of the Saranac 6; McKenzie Mountain (3,861) and Haystack (2,864). This trail starts near the Whitleface Inn Lake in Lake Placid at the trailhead for the Jackrabbit Ski trail. We will go up to McKenzie first and then back to the junction and up to bushwhack Haystack. McKenzie offers excellent views from both a ledge on the trail and a ledge near the summit. On a clear day, Haystack offers views to the south of the High Peaks. All friendly canines are welcome, though inexperienced hikers are advised not to join on this hike.

Thursday, July 12
Boreas Ponds Paddle
Class A3B
Marc Limeri, 518-545-6456 or wwebbiee@yahoo.com
The Boreas Ponds offer a spectacular view of the High Peaks from Algonquin and Iroquois all the way to Gothics and Dix. However, you can't see the entire panorama from one spot on land. So that's why we're taking our boat! The challenge of this trip (and the reason for the "strenuous" rating) is the 3.5 mile carry from the parking lot to the ponds (and back at the end!). It is on a dirt road so you don't have to dodge any trees, but it is rather long and has some ups and downs. I have a canoe carrier that I'll be using. As a bonus, we can stop at scenic Blue Ridge Falls on the way home. Pack a lunch and bring your camera!

Friday, July 20
Paddling Cedar River Flow
Class A2C
Roy Keats, 518-466-8544 or royskipaddle@gmail.com
This trip starts and ends at Wakely Dam at the north end of Cedar River Flow. The flow extends as a lake for approximately 3 miles to the south. Even though there is public access at this end of the road, the lake has a very wild character. There are many coves to explore as well as beaver meadows and meandering streams. At the far end of the lake, the Cedar River provides an additional 1.5 mile paddle to a lean-to on the Northville Lake Placid Trail. Finding the inlet of the Cedar River is always a challenge. The south end of the lake is filled with weeds and false channels. The total round trip will be on the order of 10 miles. If the weather forecast

Continued on Page 7
Innings and Outings

is for extreme winds, the trip will be moved to a more sheltered location.

Saturday, July 21
Young Member Outing: Mount Marshall
Class A+2A
Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782
or pastor@messiahschenectady.org
Hike 13.3 miles with 2,890 feet of elevation gain. Awesome wildflowers and claim another 46er on the southernmost peak of the MacIntyre Range. It's going to be a long but incredible day. The trip is canine friendly and portions of the trip will be on unofficial herd paths. Young member outings are open to all ADK members.

Wednesday, July 25 (rain date July 26)
Mt. Francisco plus
Class C3C
Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482
This will be a series of three easy hikes in the Lake Pleasant area with a total walk of about five miles and total ascent of about 700 feet. Mt. Francisco is a bushwhack to an open summit for views to the south. We will explore a nearby quarry that is a rock climbing destination. At the end of the day we will stop to visit the grave of Colonel Loring Peck who served as a major during the Revolutionary War. We will meet at 8 a.m. and be back by about 5 p.m.

Thursday, July 26, 7-9 p.m.
Young Member Social: Wolf Hollow
Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782
or pastor@messiahschenectady.org
Spend an evening at one of the best local meeting spots discussing the many opportunities available through the ADK for young members and help us brainstorm about how to increase our young member programming. All are welcome, members and prospective members alike!

Thursday, July 26
Henderson Lake Paddle
Class B3C
Roy Keats 518-466-8544
We will start at the Upper Works parking area outside of Newcomb. There is an easy quarter mile carry to the lake. The lake has interesting cliffs, swampy areas and inlets along with great views of Indian Pass, Santanoni and Mt. Colden. Including all of the shoreline and inlets we could paddle about 6.5 miles total at a leisurely pace.

Saturday, July 28
Young Member Hike: Scarface Mountain
Difficulty: Moderate 7.6 miles
Jason Waters, 518-369-5516 or jwate78@gmail.com
It is one of the Saranac Lake 6ers but its view is the least open of all the mountains on that list. Scarface is a fun and unique climb, with plenty to see along the way. All friendly canines are welcome.

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Leader’s Pace</th>
<th>Terrain</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+ 13 Miles or More</td>
<td>1. Fast</td>
<td>A Very Difficult</td>
<td>A+1A Most Difficult Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A 8-12 Miles</td>
<td>2. Moderate</td>
<td>B Strenuous</td>
<td>B2C Moderate Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 5-8 Miles</td>
<td>3. Slow</td>
<td>C Average</td>
<td>C3D Easy Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Under 5 Miles</td>
<td></td>
<td>D Easy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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 Roy Keats at 518-370-0399 and let him know.
Annual Whitewater Kayak Course June 9, 10

One of the unique offerings of the Schenectady Chapter is the opportunity for whitewater boating, whether kayak, canoe or inflatable. It is a chapter tradition decades old and enthusiastically continued today, with trips organized from the icy waters in March through the autumn colors of October.

It's a great sport and while challenging, can be done safely with training, leadership, safety awareness and planning. Here's a chance to get your feet wet.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10, we will offer our annual novice/intermediate whitewater kayak instruction. This will be taught by Sally Dewes, one of our most experienced kayakers and a certified instructor (she has run the Grand Canyon about a half-dozen times, many other class IV-V rivers and taught this program for years).

This two-day clinic is designed for boaters who have had some previous experience but still need more work on basic strokes and maneuvers. Students should have paddled class I or II whitewater five or more times and be able to perform eddy turns, peel-outs, and ferries on class I water. They should be able to paddle in a straight line, identify river features including eddies, waves, and holes, and self-rescue. Kayakers should have or be working on a roll and must be comfortable with wet exits. We will start on flat water to refine paddling techniques as well as rolls. On the river we will work on performing crisp reliable eddy turns, peel-outs, angle control on ferries, and gaining overall experience. Instruction will start at 8 a.m. at a location to be determined and be over each day by late afternoon. Students must provide their own equipment including the boat, helmet and PFD. Cost for the two days of instruction is $40. For more information contact Sally Dewes at 518-346-1761.

Last day to sign-up is June 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whitewater Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/26/2018 Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/27/2018 Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/2/2018 Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/3/2018 Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/9/2018 Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/9 - 6/10 Sat - Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/10/2018 Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/16/2018 Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/24/2018 Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/29 - 7/01 Fri - Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/3/2018 Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/4/2018 Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/7/2018 Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8/2018 Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/14/2018 Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/15/2018 Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/14 - 7/16 Fri - Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/21/2018 Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/22/2018 Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/28/2018 Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/29/2018 Sunday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Advance Registration Required.
In Memoriam, Jeanne Place and Edith Pilcher

Two long-time and distinguished members of the Schenectady Chapter recently passed away.

Marian Jeanne Place died on February 3. A native of Colorado, Jeanne received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in aeronautical engineering, both from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She had a 40-year career with GE in Schenectady, becoming an expert in gas turbines and compressors. She was the first female engineering unit manager in the Gas Turbine Department. Jeanne loved the outdoors and was an active hiker, kayaker, and protector of nature and the Adirondacks. She was a member of the Schenectady Chapter for about 65 years, and served as the chair of the Program/Social Committee (1955) and Outings Committee (1956). In 1955, she was elected vice chair of the chapter board and became chapter chair in 1958.

Edith Pilcher, a member of the Schenectady Chapter for nearly 60 years, passed away on February 4. Edith was passionate about the Adirondacks, calling them her favorite place on earth. She was one of the founding members of the Adirondack Research Center. She authored several books on Adirondack history, including *Up the Lake Road: The First Hundred Years of the Adirondack Mountain Reserve; Castorland: French Refugees in the Western Adirondacks;* and *The Constables: First Family of the Adirondacks.*

--Norm Kuchar

Clearing Resumes for New Jones Hill Trail

Picking up where we left off last November, our volunteer group (mostly Schenectady ADK Chapter members) resumed clearing work on the new Jones Hill trail in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness near Schroon Lake on May 1. We broke into two teams. One team walked the 0.6-mile corridor between the west end of the new trail (intersection with the Big Pond trail) and Rogers Brook, clearing debris from the past winter. Fortunately, there was not a lot.

The second team, composed of the younger and more agile folks, was able to cross Rogers Brook, which was running fast and deep. They cleared winter debris from the 0.7-mile section east of the stream that we worked on last November, and then went farther, removing logs left by the DEC chainsaw crew for another half-mile and ending at the base of the Jones Hill ridge.

We still have to clear about one mile of the corridor, along the Jones Hill ridge to the summit. We plan to finish the rough clearing of the entire corridor to the summit by June, before the ADK student and pro crews arrive to complete the trail work in July.

May 1 participants were Tom Bolton, Peter Fedorick, Walt Hayes, Norm Kuchar, Mary MacDonald, Mal Provost, Ray Sergott and Rich Vertigan.

--Norm Kuchar

Contact State Legislative Chairmen

It never hurts to write to political leaders to make your positions known, and there are a ton of topics active this year for sure. Over time these will include the classification of the Boreas Ponds Tract, decisions regarding parking outdated oil tanker cars along the Boreas River, and budget issues such as how many forest rangers are employed. Your voice counts!

The following are the chairman of environmental conservation committees for 2018 in the state Senate and Assembly.

**Thomas O’Mara**  
Chair of Senate Environmental Conservation Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 307  
Albany, NY 12247  
Phone: 518-455-2091  
omara@nysenate.gov

**Steve Englebright**  
Chair of Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee  
Legislative Office Building 621  
Albany, NY 12248  
Phone: 518-455-4804  
engles@nyassembly.gov
Off The Beaten Path With Hiker Tom Folts

The lesser-traveled hiking routes in the Adirondacks can offer unique views, far greater privacy, swarms of black flies and spruce tangles dense enough to tear the flesh. It's all in a day's work for those wanting to get to spots even more remote than what the High Peaks offer.

That is the challenge that has occupied Tom Folts for some 40 years -- long ago he knocked off the 46 peaks higher than 4,000 feet -- and about which he spoke to a crowd of hikers April 19 at the Schenectady County Historical Society Museum. One tangent on his topic is that dispersing hikers -- focusing less on the High Peaks -- is favored by the Adirondack Mountain Club and others, but more on that in a bit.

Folts recalled his introduction to hiking as a 14-year-old Boy Scout in 1968 on a camping trip to Marcy Dam. The objective was Wright Peak in July and it sounded like a lot of fun on a bright summer day. But the trip up Wright became a struggle when an Adirondack squall brought in wind, rain and snow. Instead of being chilled and bummed out, he said, "I was hooked on the challenge of grunting and sweating up mountains."

So 50 years of hiking – to date – followed. In 1995 he completed the 46 with his daughter and faced the question: "Now what do we do?" Among his answers were the "next 54," the peaks within the Blue Line that are at least 3,425 feet but not 4,000, which constitute the 100 peaks when added to the 46. These, he said, allow hikers to roam away from the central High Peaks, hitting surrounding counties such as Hamilton and Clinton (the most northerly) but still finding spectacular views (mostly) and good hiking (variably, depending on one's tolerance for bushwhacking). There are 30 partial bushwhacks among the 54, and eight that are bushwhack all the way.

The toughest bushwhacks are peaks north of Route 73, he said, which often involve dense spruce thickets that can obscure a partner only yards away. His advice on that is to hike with a bigger and stronger person and follow him, and be ready to tolerate abrasions and frustrations. Spring and fall are recommended hiking periods.

Favorite peaks are Hurricane and the Jay Range, Kilburn in the Sentinel Range and Pitchoff, which is already heavily used just off Route 73. There are 103 routes up Gore Mountain in Warren County, but don't look for much privacy. Blue Mountain with its overlook of the lake of the same name is one of the most popular and beautiful, and has a fire tower.. He called a five-day hike to bag the Sawtooth Range "the final exam of the other 54." Wolf Pond Mountain marked his completion of the 100 peaks in 2015.

Club Perspective

Taking the broader view of hiking, it's worth noting that Folts is mostly in sync with a longstanding position of the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Adirondack Council and others, which is to encourage enjoyment of the mountains, lakes, rivers and trails throughout the region, not just the heavily traveled High Peaks.

Why mostly? Neil Woodworth, executive director of the ADK, was interviewed in connection with the Folts talk, and acknowledged the club's decades of encouragement of broader exploration of the Adirondacks, not to mention the Catskills. But the guidebooks do not list trailless peaks and there is concern about bushwhacking -- a Folts specialty -- as such routes generally don't have switchbacks and are not hardened, thus extensive traffic can lead to erosion.

That is a legitimate concern, but so is the intense traffic and overwhelmed parking along Route 73 near trailheads for the most popular peaks, where trail erosion is also a problem. That is emphasized in a report released in early May by the ADK, Council and local governments, calling for efforts to disperse hikers into areas less heavily used (see story on page 1).

The work continues, and Tom Folts is doing his part.

--Mal Provost
TR Mountain  
March 11  
The day started out at the LOJ, with plans to hike Table Top, Phelps, and bushwhack TR Mountain. As we ascended the Van Hoevenberg Trail, we were met with a winter wonderland scene. Table Top Mountain was a little icy but an easy hike. The initial route to TR Mountain was likewise easy, until we hit the bushwhack portion. It was a one step up and three steps back, with 4 feet of snow under our feet! We decided to bail on TR, and instead made our way to Phelps Mountain which was far easier. Snowshoes were a must for most of the hike. The group was Amy Hildreth and leader Jason Waters.

Fulton Chain Trifecta  
March 17  
We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a trip to the Inlet-Old Forge area to hike the Fulton Chain Trifecta. As we were driving up, we came upon four deer in the middle of the road. Our group began the trek at Black Bear Mountain, the longest of the three peaks. We had to break part of the trail because we opted to go the long way around. Next up was Rocky Mountain, the shortest of the three. The third and final mountain of the day was Bald (Rondaxe) Mountain, which features a 35-foot fire tower on top. The views from all three peaks were truly amazing. The group was Amanda Gomez, Laura Fiske, Jason Waters as trip leader and Hazel the dog.

Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve  
March 30  
On a beautiful Saturday, after being rained out on Friday, eight hikers walked in the Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve for about 2 ½ hours. We first walked south toward the Mohawk River, turning east on the bicycle path which continues to the new bridge over the Wager Pond outlet into the Mohawk River. This allows hikers and bikers to access the trails that continue into Halfmoon. We reviewed some of the historical aspects of the area as we walked. The birds were singing and the geese were plentiful. No babies yet. We also accessed a new trail across the old canal from Clute's landing. Hikers were Bob Grimm, Christiane Mulvihill, Sharon Gavitt, Thomas Sacer, Norm Kuchar, Spencer VanEpps, Ashley Wilson, and Mary MacDonald, leader.

Hunter Mountain  
April 7  
The Catskill area was hit with snow the night before the hike. Our group started the trek at Becker Hollow, and ended on the summit face with a 60-foot fire tower. We were not able to go into the observation deck but the view near the top was splendid nonetheless. We decided to bushwhack to SW Hunter, where we found we needed to cut trail through the fresh snow. Once we located the canister on SW Hunter we descended; the mountain had no view. The participants were Dan Kemp, Mike DeSocio, Amanda Gomez, Rich Rogers, trip leader Jason Waters and Hazel the dog.

Schroon River Paddle  
April 21  
Saturday's original trip to the West Branch of the Sacandaga River was changed to the Schroon River due to low water levels. So on a chilly although sunny April day we had 10 paddlers in eight kayaks and two open canoes ready to take on the mighty mighty Schroon. The fishermen were few so that in turn gave us a chance to surf and play to our heart's content. Lots of fun was to be had, and a few unexpected combat rolls as well. We all made it down to the take-out without a mishap. Paddlers were Pierre Cyr, Horst DeLorenzi, Rick Gonzales, Ryan Konopinski, Norm Labbe, Anthony Lamanno, Ed Martuscello, Don Orr, Mal Provost, and trip leader Robert Wright.

Stephens Pond hikers from left to right include; Ken Shea, Scott Grimm, Ellen Collins, Marti Townley, Andy Coney, Sue Keats and Roy Keats.

Stephens Pond - NPT – Trailwork/Ski  
April 19  
Because of the cold weather and snow all through early April, we decided to do a cross country ski into Stephens Pond instead of trail work. The skiing was great with the exception of a few rocky drainages that had to be detoured. We removed about a half dozen small blowdowns on our way in to facilitate our trip out. The pond appeared to be solidly frozen, but we returned up the trail instead of crossing the pond for safety sake. The participants were Marti Townley, Ken Shea, Ellen Collins, Andy Coney, Scott Grimm, and Roy and Sue Keats, leaders.

Continued on Page 12
Trip Tales

Continued from Page 11

**Wittenberg & Cornell**

**April 28**

Despite predictions of afternoon rain, four of us met for a hike up these Catskill peaks. The trail was wet from the previous night rain, but we made it to about 3,000 feet before encountering enough snow and ice to put on microspikes. The famous Cornell crack had just enough ice to provide excellent footing for the microspikes so we were easily able to negotiate it. The promised rain held off long enough for us to enjoy the views from both Wittenberg and Cornell. However, we did get caught by intermittent showers on the way down which weren't heavy enough to be more than a minor nuisance and provided us with a rainbow over the Woodland Valley. Hikers were John Nelson, Luke Nelson, Mike Brun and the trip leader, John Susko.

*The ice allowed an easy climb through the Cornell Crack. Photo by John Nelson*

**West Branch of the Sacandaga River**

**April 28**

Our club paddled the West Branch of the Sacandaga at a level of 5.1 feet on the Hope gauge. This made for a fun and fast trip that day. We were able to start out at the upper put-in by the deserted remains of Whitehouse although the road proved to be more hazardous than expected. The run down was quite enjoyable due to the nice weather that day and higher than average flows. Paddlers participating were Anthony Cagino, Dave Christie, Horst DeLorenzi, Gary Gazaille, Rick Gonzales, Ryan Konopinski, Mal Provost, Karl Von Heilman, and trip leader Robert Wright.

**Thacher State Park**

**May 5**

A large group of 15 hikers enjoyed a beautiful spring day in Thacher State Park, with sunny skies and temperatures in the upper 50s to mid-60s. After looking at the interesting geology and fossil exhibits in the new visitor center, we hiked a 5-mile section of the Long Path, from the visitor center north to the Old Stage Road parking area. We also hiked the short side trail to Hang Glider Point, where we enjoyed lunch with a view extending from the Berkshires, Taconics and Greens in the east to the southern Adirondacks in the north and west. After lunch, we proceeded north to High Point, where we took another long break to drink in the views. In places, the ground was carpeted with blooming trout lilies and spring beauties, but other spring wildflowers were just beginning to emerge. Hikers were Charlie Beach, Barb Candee, Stuart Fass, Denise and Michelle Garrah, John Hanley, Walt Hayes, Christine Holle, Mary Hussey, Roy and Sue Keats, Linda Neil, Karen and Richard Wang and the leader, Norm Kuchar.

*Hikers take a break to enjoy the Thacher Park overlook. Photo by Norm Kuchar*

**Zim Smith Trail Bike Ride**

**May 9**

This trip was rescheduled from May 6 due to rainy weather. May 9 was a gorgeous day and the participants had a thoroughly enjoyable bike ride – enough so to do an extra 6 miles at the end of the regularly scheduled trip (total of 18 miles in about 3 hours including breaks). Highlights included dozens of turtles sunning themselves on the logs in the pond at the eastern end of the trail and two bald eagles circling in the air above the trail near Round Lake village. Participants were Sue and Roy Keats and Jan and Marc Limeri, trip leader.
Schenectady ADK
P.O. Box 733 Schenectady NY 12301-0733
https://www.adk-schenectady.org

CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS: Are held regularly on the 4th 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 Richard Wang at 518-399-3108 or publicity@adk-schenectady.org. 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:

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

NAME_____________________________
ADDRESS_____________________________
CITY STATE ZIP_____________________________
HOME PHONE_____________________________
EMAIL_____________________________

☐ 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
Spouse ___________________________birthday________________________
Child ___________________________birthday________________________
Child ___________________________birthday________________________
Child ___________________________birthday________________________

Bill my VISA MasterCard Discover
Exp. Date_______/_______ Account #________________________

Signature (required for charge)

ADK is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Membership fees are tax deductible, as allowed by law. Please allow 6-8 weeks for receipt of first issue of Adirondac.