

The **Lookout**

August - September 2018



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

*Dennis Wischman navigates Zoar Gap on the Deerfield River during a class on whitewater skills offered by Sally Dewes in June. See story Page 1.
Photo by Brad Walker*

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August - September 2018

The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Paddlers Green, Grizzled Share Skills Training

Training never really ends, most athletes will acknowledge. Taking part in a sport – or any other skill for that matter – is not something that you learn, then repeat and repeat. It's much better to get the basics right and then continue to try to improve.

Whitewater paddling is one unique offering of the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, and we incorporate both beginner training and "continuing education." Following are accounts of two training efforts this June, beginning with Sally Dewes' program.

Deerfield River

June 9-10

The annual novice/intermediate whitewater kayak instruction was a big success this year. Seven students participated; we were safe, learned a lot, and had tons of fun! The class met early on Saturday morning and caravanned to the Deerfield River in western Mass. We spent the morning practicing flat water strokes on a reservoir upstream of the Fife Brook section and then spent the afternoon on Fife Brook, a class I-II, III section of the Deerfield. Some students chose to take the plunge (so to speak) and paddle Zoar Gap, the strong, boulder-strewn drop at the end of the run. Most students camped overnight nearby and shared communal meals.

Sunday we ran Fife Brook again. Students had lots of opportunity to practice paddling skills up and down the river. Again, some chose to try their new skills at Zoar Gap. The students were awesome and not only tried their best but encouraged others. The weather was beautiful, the people were great, the river was flowing -- it doesn't get much better than that! Sally Dewes was assisted by Anthony Lamanno; students were Bill Ports, Cathy Darlington, Mandy Darlington, Ellen Fitch, Pam Martuscello, Dennis Wischman and David Williams

-- Sally Dewes

Hudson River Gorge

June 24

Ed Cunningham suggested at our paddling planning session in February that the club could benefit from a sharing of best practices from our senior HRG leaders. So this meeting and trip was scheduled for that purpose on June 24.



*Mandy Darlington takes the plunge on Zoar Gap during whitewater training.
Photo by Brad Walker*

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Paddlers Green, Grizzled Training

Continued from Page 1

Eleven paddlers met for breakfast in North Creek, and then reassembled at the Indian River put-in for the Gorge and made the 17-mile run. Following the trip, a summary meeting was held at Clarke Darlington's home in North River to discuss the events of the day and ideas for further improvements. Topics included: dividing paddlers into subgroups such as kayaks, inflatables and canoes, with leaders for each; best routes to take especially on the Indian; safety measures; and new leader recruiting and mentoring.

The paddlers who participated included Nelson Miller (trip leader), Ed Cunningham, Clarke Darlington, Mal Provost, Sally Dewes, Rick Gonzalez, Rick Morse, Tom Flynn, Derek Snyder and Morris Kopels. Ed Martuscello could not paddle but contributed to the discussion.

--Clarke Darlington

Late Season Note

There is a lot more to come. Check out the detailed paddling schedule in this edition and on the Schenectady ADK web site, including runs on the Sacandaga, Esopus, Hudson Gorge, the Ottawa and Gatineau, the latter two in Canada. For flat water paddlers, there is the Grafton Lakes State Park Kayak Day on Aug. 4 and our annual Whitewater Picnic on the Sacandaga Aug. 11.

We welcome new boaters and are eager to help people explore the Adirondacks as only whitewater paddlers can.

-- Ralph Pascale, Whitewater Chairman



*Ellen Fitch navigates Zoar Gap with other class members.
Photo by Brad Walker*

Adirondack Explorer Names New Editor

Brandon Loomis, a senior environmental reporter at the *Arizona Republic* since 2012, has been named editor of the *Adirondack Explorer*. He succeeds Phil Brown, who announced his retirement earlier this year.

Loomis began his career at a weekly newspaper in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where he covered the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks during the buildup to wolf reintroduction in that region. He has since worked at newspapers in Idaho, Utah, Alaska, and Arizona and at the Chicago bureau of the Associated Press. He was city editor of the *Juneau Empire* in Alaska during the mid-2000s.

His work at the *Republic* and, previously, at the *Salt Lake Tribune* won numerous national awards. His story about jaguars that cross from Mexico into the United States was part of a project by *Arizona Republic* and USA Today Network staff that won a Pulitzer Prize this year. The project examined President Trump's proposal for a border wall. Loomis also was part of a team named a Pulitzer finalist for coverage of a deadly 2013 wildfire. His series about the lingering effects of Cold War uranium mining on the Navajo Nation won the 2015 National Headliner Award for environmental writing, and his 2011 *Salt Lake Tribune* report on the link between climate change and a massive bark-beetle outbreak in western forests won the \$75,000 Grantham Prize for Excellence in Reporting on the Environment.

Loomis was born in Watertown and lived there and in nearby Adams Center until his family resettled in Alaska when he was in grade school.

-- Reprinted courtesy of Adirondack Explorer

Conservation Report

Access Issues Focus of Adirondack Projects

Improving the rocky and rutted former logging road that leads to the Boreas Ponds has been a state project this summer; it's needed, but also is an undertaking that illustrates some of the serious conflicts involving public use of wild areas.

The road grading is only one example of the projects under way and on the drawing table to make it possible for a greater range of people to enjoy the outdoors; it also opens discussion of the need to limit damage to unique natural areas such as the ponds and the expanded High Peaks Wilderness Area (HPWA). This is a continuing struggle among environmentalists, people living and working in the North Country and public agencies. It's not getting any easier, but there are some real positives in process.

Some major progress already is recent history: the designation of Wilderness and Wild Forest areas of the Boreas Ponds Tract and the consolidation of it and nearby areas – MacIntyre East and West, Casey Brook and Dix Mountain -- into the High Peaks Wilderness Area, totaling about 275,000 acres. But the devil is always in the details, which take the form of unit management plans (UMP). So now the public comment period on the draft plans has just ended and state officials are refining the UMPs.

That opens the issue of access into the Boreas Ponds, as one critical element among many administrative decisions shaping up. Currently the public can drive up Gulf Brook Road about 3.5 miles, park in a large graded lot, pass a barrier and hike to the ponds. Bikes are allowed on the dirt road and paddlers can carry or dolly their craft to the ponds. But the UMP proposal would add more parking about one mile from the ponds and a yet smaller lot virtually spitting distance from the pond access point. Neil Woodworth, ADK executive director, critiqued the UMP draft, terming the ADK "extremely disappointed" with the encroaching parking – unless it is by permit for persons with handicaps.

Woodworth's formal comments emphasized: "However, if DEC intends to make this lot available for universal access by the general public, then ADK rescinds support for this lot." Opposition is stated also to the proposed parking a mile from the ponds, unless it is reduced to 10 spaces on a permit basis. It is possible that the opposition to the draft plan will require further changes and public comment, according to Cathy Pedler, ADK public affairs officer.

But work is under way as *Lookout* goes to press to improve Gulf Brook Road. Tate Connor, DEC's high peaks land manager, in early July noted that Gulf Brook Road was getting repairs to frost heaves and erosion. The work will close the road to the public Monday through Thursday at least into August, while access to the existing parking at 3.5 miles will be allowed Friday through Sunday. Improvements also will be pushed to about one mile from the ponds, to help people vacating leased camps to pull out belongings. (These camps are to be vacated by the end of September as part of the state takeover of the Boreas Tract.)

(If you plan to use Gulf Brook Road in late July or August, please check the DEC website: dec.ny.gov/outdoor for backcountry information on the High Peaks. The Region 5 office at Ray Brook is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:45. The number is 518-897-1200.)

The ADK is also opposing strongly the DEC's plan for a snowmobile trail connecting Newcomb and North Hudson. An alternate route closer to Blue Ridge Road would mean less tree cutting and would avoid intruding into the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest just south of the Boreas Ponds, Woodworth wrote. The strength of this opposition may also delay finalization of the UMP.

There are many other significant changes under review in the draft UMPs, such as closing the Route 73 parking lot for the Cascade Trail and moving the trailhead to Mt. Van Hoevenberg, adding two miles to the popular trail. The intent is to diminish overuse and overparking along Route 73, an artery that is seriously clogged. **(For much more comprehensive looks at the UMP proposals and related issues, check out the July-August editions of *Adirondack Explorer* and *Adirondac*.)**

Decisions are being made, but it would be unrealistic to expect these planned changes to go as quickly or as quietly as desired, whether we are talking about major changes to popular access points or the ruts and jolts of Gulf Brook Road.

-- Mal Provost, Conservation Chairman

Outings

Saturday, Aug. 4

Hunter & Southwest Hunter

Class B2B

John Suskon, 518-383-1284 or jpsusko@nycap.rr.com

Hunter has a fire tower that provides excellent views. Southwest Hunter is one of the trailless peaks in the Catskills. We'll bush-whack over to Southwest Hunter first to find the canister and then head up Hunter to enjoy the views. Hunter is #2 and SW Hunter is #15 on the list of Catskill 3500 peaks. The distance is 8 to 9 miles with 2000 to 2500 feet of ascent.

Friday, Aug. 10

Boreas Ponds Paddle

Class A3B

Marc Limeri, 518-545-6456 or wwebbiec@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, Aug. 24

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 paddler's skills, we could paddle up to 14 miles.

Saturday, Aug. 25

Mt. Gilligan Trail Maintenance

Class C3B

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 blow down 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.

Saturday, Aug. 25-26

Young Member Backpacking -- Seward Range

Class A+2A

Jason Waters, 518-369-5516 or jwate78@gmail.com and

Amanda Gomez, 518-526-8932 or hurricanes706@yahoo.com

The Schenectady and Glens Falls-Saratoga chapters are leading a dual backpacking trip of the Seward range which features four of the 46 high peaks. The trip will include both official trails and herd paths on Seward, Donaldson, Emmons, and Seymour over a two-day hike on a roughly 22-mile route. Please reach out to Jason or Amanda who can provide a comprehensive gear list. Feel free to bring friendly canine friends!

Tuesday, Aug. 28

Pine Hollow Arboretum and Nature Preserve

Class C3D

Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482

An easy walk in a local natural area. Meeting about 10 a.m. and back to cars before 3 p.m. Under 5 miles of walking.

Tuesday, Aug. 28

Bog River Flow Paddle / Hike to Low's Ridge

Class B3C

Marc Limeri, 518-545-6456 or wwebbiec@yahoo.com

Looking for something to do on the dark day at the Saratoga Race Course? Join us on this multi-media excursion. The first half-mile of the 3 mile paddle provides scenery quite unlike most other Adirondack ponds or streams. The last half-mile provides a chance for bald eagle sightings. At the halfway point, we'll beach the boats and do a 1 mile hike to the top of Low's Ridge (450 ft. climb). The view from the top is expansive, taking in the Bog River Flow, Low's Lake, and several of the High Peaks. Perhaps a swim before we paddle back to the cars.

Thursday, Aug. 30 from 7-9 p.m.

Young Member Social: End of Summer Campfire & BBQ

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 another season of awesome hikes with us at an end of summer campfire & barbeque! Burgers (including vegetarian options) will be provided and just list if you're bringing a side dish on Facebook Event. All are welcome, members and prospective members alike!

Tuesday, Sept. 4

Haystack Mountain (Paulet, VT)

Class C2C

Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482

A repeat of last fall's trip except we will try a different trail to the summit. About 3 miles round trip with ascent of 1300 feet.

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Outings

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Hoping for better weather to improve the views. Meeting at 8:30 a.m. and back by 4 p.m. The summit is totally open with views in all directions.

Saturday, Sept. 8 Bailey Pond Trail and South End Hoffman Notch Trail Maintenance Class C3C

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com
The Bailey Pond trail (0.9 miles) and the south end of the Hoffman Notch trail (1.2 miles) in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness, will become part of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Last year our chapter took on the task of maintaining these short trails and we made our first maintenance trip in September of 2017. From the trail head at Loch Muller, we will hike in-and-out on both trails, doing side cutting, light blowdown removal and minor fixing of drainage problems using hand clippers, hand saws and a hazel hoe. The chapter has equipment, or bring your own. There is a great view of Hayes Mountain from the shore of Bailey Pond. Total round trip distance is about 4.2 miles, with a total climb of about 400 ft. over gentle slopes.

Saturday, Sept. 8 Young Member Outing: Wright, Algonquin & Iroquois High Peaks Class A2A

**Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782
or pastor@messiahshenectady.org**
Join our young member group for an incredible hike along the three highest peaks of the MacIntyre Range! Apart from all surrounding peaks, the MacIntyres stand above Avalanche Pass and offer amazing views. Round trip distance is 11.6 miles. This will be my last of the ADK 46 and the NE115 High Peaks so be ready to celebrate afterwards!

Sunday, Sept. 9 Young Member Hike -- Santanoni Range Mary Zawacki, 914-373-8733

The Santanoni Range features three high peaks: Santanoni, Panther, and Couchasagra. Some excellent views are atop Panther. This is a strenuous 15 mile hike with 4,500 feet in climbing; please be an experienced hiker prepared to move at a pace of 2 mph. To register, PM or text leader Mary Zawacki at number above.

Wednesday, Sept. 12 John Pond Ridge Class B2B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com
John Pond lies in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness, southeast of the village of Indian Lake. The pond has a lean-to and a view of the

rocky ridge to the west, almost 500 ft above the pond. After visiting the pond, we'll bushwhack up to the southern most of the three summits on the ridge, which offers views of the chimney on nearby Chimney Mountain. Then, heading north along the spine of the ridge, we'll cross the middle summit, with views of the pond, nearby Peaked Mountain and if the air is clear, north to the High Peaks. We may also visit the northern most summit before descending to the Clear Pond trail, which leads back to the starting point. The loop distance is about 5 miles, with 800 ft. of climb.

Thursday, Sept. 13 Paddling Fish Creek Ponds Loop (Saranac Lake area) Class A2B

Roy Keats 518-466-8544 or royskipaddle@gmail.com
The exact route would depend on the weather. With warmer weather we would do several short portages to give us a complete loop (put-in to Copperas Pond, Whey Pond, Rollins Pond, Floodwood Pond, and Fish Creek to take out - same as put-in), otherwise we would do an out and back on Fish Creek itself from Square Pond to Floodwood and return. The round trip mileage would be 8 to 9 miles. Contact by Tuesday, Sept. 11.

Friday, Sept. 14 Hike to Treadway Mountain Class: B2C

John Ravas, 518-852-6515 or adkkayaker140@gmail.com
Treadway Mountain is in the middle of the Pharaoh Mountain Wilderness area just west of Ticonderoga. We will start from the Putnam Pond State Park parking lot. This moderate hike offers beautiful views. The trip is 7.8 miles total for an out and back hike with 932 ft. elevation gain from Putnam Pond to the top. With the changing season we might even see some color.

Saturday, Sept 15 Young Member Hike -- Gothics, Armstrong, and Sawteeth Mary Zawacki, 914-373-8733

We will be taking the Range Trail route from the Garden up to Gothics, Armstrong, and Sawteeth (all High Peaks). This unusual route enables the trip to be dog-friendly. Excellent views are atop all three of these peaks. This is a strenuous 16 mile hike with 6,000 feet in climbing; please be an experienced hiker prepared to move at a pace of 2 mph. To register, PM or text leader Mary Zawacki at number above.

Thursday, Sept. 20 from 7-9 p.m. Young Member Social: Druthers Schenectady Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782 or pastor@messiahshenectady.org

It's finally open! Enjoy a nice early fall night at one of Schenectady's new gathering spots: Druthers Brewery & Restaurant! We'll spend the evening discussing the many opportunities

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Outings

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available through the ADK for young members and have an opportunity to help us brainstorm about how to increase our young member programming. All are welcome, members and prospective members alike!

Friday, Sept. 21-23

Young Member Backpacking -- Cranberry 50

Class: A+2A

Leaders: Jason Waters, 518-369-5516

or jwate78@gmail.com and Amanda Gomez, 518-526-8932 or hurricanes706@yahoo.com

The Schenectady and Glens Falls-Saratoga chapters are doing a dual hike of the 50-mile route around Cranberry Lake. The lake is the third largest in the Adirondack park. This will be a three-day

hike that features two nights of camping in lean-to or tents. Please reach out to Jason or Amanda who can provide a comprehensive gear list. Feel free to bring friendly canine friends!

Saturday, Sept. 22

Wittenberg, Cornell & Slide Mountains

Class A2B+

John Susko 518-383-1284 or jpsusko@nycap.rr.com

Sue Jordan 518-487-4698 or suej9999@yahoo.com

This will be a thru hike from Woodland Valley requiring a car spot. The summit of Wittenberg has possibly the best views in the Catskills. The trail to Cornell includes an interesting V-notch on the way to good views of Wittenberg. Slide mountain is the highest peak in the Catskills with good views near the summit. The distance is ~10 miles with 3500-4000 feet of ascent.

Save the date: Tuesday, Oct. 30

Annual Dinner

The Schenectady Chapter Annual Dinner will be at our traditional site, Schenectady County Community College. Details to follow in October Lookout.

Innings Return in November

Our fall-winter programs of speakers on environmental and outdoors topics will return in November.

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

Distance

- A+ 13 Miles or More
- A 8-12 Miles
- B 5-8 Miles
- C Under 5 Miles

Leader's Pace

- 1. Fast
- 2. Moderate
- 3. Slow

Terrain

- A Very Difficult
- B Strenuous
- C Average
- D Easy

Examples

- A+1A Most Difficult Trip
- B2C Moderate Trip
- C3D Easy Trip

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.

Whitewater Schedule

7/28/2018	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
7/29/2018	Sunday	Sacandaga - Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
8/4/2018	Saturday	Grafton Lakes Kayak Instruction	I	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
8/4/2018	Saturday	Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
8/5/2018	Sunday	Bike & Paddle - Sacandaga	II/III	Mal Provost	399-1565
8/11/2018	Saturday	Sac Release, Picnic, Gear Swap/Sale	III	Bob Wright	279-1428
8/12/2018	Sunday	Sacandaga - Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
8/17/2018	Friday	Mongaup	III+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
8/19/2018	Sunday	Leaders Choice	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
8/25/2018	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
8/24 - 8/26	Fri - Sun	Gatineau River Festival *	III	Rick Morse	morses2@gmail.com
				Sally Dewes	346-1761
8/26/2018	Sunday	Sacandaga - Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
9/1/2018	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Mal Provost	399-1565
9/2/2018	Sunday	Sacandaga - Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
9/3/2018	Monday	Esopus	II/III	Bob Wright	279-1428
9/8/2018	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
9/9/2018	Sunday	Sacandaga - Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
9/10/2018	Monday	Ottawa - details to be determined *	III	Mike Raley	797-3547
9/15/2018	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
9/16/2018	Sunday	Sacandaga - Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
9/22/2018	Saturday	West River Release	III+	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
9/23/2018	Sunday	West River Release	III+	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
9/29/2018	Saturday	Fall Foliage - Hudson River Gorge	III+	Bob Wright	279-1428
9/30/2018	Sunday	Esopus	II/III	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
10/6/2018	Saturday	Leaders Choice	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
10/13/2018	Saturday	The Middle Moose	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
10/14/2018	Sunday	The Lower Moose	III+	John Banevicius	256-7827
10/20/2018	Saturday	The Farmington	III+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
11/3/2018	Saturday	The Tohican	III+	Bob Wright	279-1428

***Ten Days Advance Registration Required.**

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 chairmen 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 Room 621
 Albany, NY 12248
 Phone: 518-455-4804
engles@nyassembly.gov

Projects Continue for National Scenic Trail

In late May, our volunteer group finished rough clearing work on the new Jones Hill trail, in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness west of Schroon Lake. This trail will become a section of the North Country National Scenic Trail and leads to a magnificent view of Hoffman Mountain and the surrounding wilderness.

Since last fall, the group made seven trips to clear logs left by the DEC chainsaw crew, clear other smaller debris and do side cutting in the new trail corridor. Altogether, we cleared about 2.3 miles of the planned 3-mile trail, preparing the way for the ADK Pro Crew and ADK High School Volunteer crew to complete the trail in July of this year. Thanks go to all of our volunteers: Kraig Armstrong, Tom Bolton, Peter Fedorick, Walt Hayes, Norm Kuchar, Dave Loux, Mary MacDonald, Mal Provost, Pete Seagle, Ray Sergott and Rich Vertigan.

Work Days Coming

In August and September, there are two opportunities to participate in our chapter's on-going trail maintenance activities. On Aug. 25 we will do annual maintenance on the Mount Gilligan trail in the High Peaks area near Elizabethtown. Our chapter built this short trail in the 1940s, and we have maintained it ever since. Then, on Sept. 8, we will maintain the Bailey Pond trail and the southern end of the Hoffman Notch trail, two short trails we have adopted in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness. Both of these will become sections of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

These opportunities provide easy introductions to trail maintenance. Our chapter has some trail maintenance equipment, or you can bring your own (no power equipment is used).

See the current Outings schedule for details and contact Norm Kuchar (518-399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com) to sign up.

-- Norm Kuchar, Trails Chairman

Scholarship Winner Thanks Chapter For Help

In June, 2014, Aaron P. Keegan graduated from Scotia-Glenville High School and was awarded a competitive scholarship of \$500 from the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, based on his plan to pursue environmental issues in college.

This spring he wrote: "I am emailing the chapter to update on my status. I have graduated from SUNY-ESF, Class of 2018, with a BS in environmental studies, with a focus on policy planning and law."

"I'll be applying for work in the Capital Region for asbestos abatement positions under the Department of Labor and see how I qualify for Department of Environmental Conservation positions. I am considering getting my MBA within the next 10 years so I can climb the ladder easier."

"An ADK-related goal of mine is to continue summiting all the High Peaks until I bag all 46. I have been stuck on 15 since 2011."

"I am also on LinkedIn and would love to connect to any ADK members of Schenectady or other chapters."

"Thanks again Schenectady ADK Chapter."

-- Aaron P. Keegan



Aaron P. Keegan

Trip Tales

Round the Mountain Paddle

May 18

Eleven paddlers (eight boats) from the Schenectady and Cold River chapters did a 10 mile paddle around Dewey Mountain. The blue sky day was filled with a variety of experiences from the beginning breath taking strokes across the windy waters of Ampersand Bay on Lower Saranac Lake into the relaxed waters of the Saranac River for inspiring observation and conversation. The Knollwood Club Camp on Shingle Bay of Lower Saranac was pointed out on our way up the lake. It was the summertime home of Bob Marshall as a youth where he grew into a noted wilderness advocate. We crossed Lower Saranac going between various islands to reach the Saranac River outlet, seeing eagles, mergansers and ducks. At the Lower Lock the master informed us we were the first to go through this season. Participants were: Dorie Valenti, Terry Tamer, Marti Townley, Sue Sliva, Doug Porschet, Barbara Kearns, Gail Gabriels, Rhea Nowak, Tim Ploss, and Sue and Roy Keats, leaders.



At the Lower Lock during their "round the mountain" paddle, boaters pause for passage and a photo. The lock master said they were the first to go through this season. Left to right are Rhea Nowak, Tim Ploss, Barbara Kearns, Doug Porschet, Gail Gabriels, Marti Townley, Dorie Valenti, Terry Tamer, Sue Sliva, Roy Keats, Sue Keats.

Schroon River - Whitewater

May 20

Ten paddlers met at the Schroon River take-out. The level was around 4 ft. It was a warm and overcast and everyone had a good time. The paddlers were: Clarke Darlington, trip leader; Mal Provost, Tom Flynn, Bob Brandt, Bob Wright, Marty Plante, Anthony Cagino, Mark Mershon, Nelson Miller, and Horst DeLorenzi.

Paddle to Lake Lonely

May 20

We launched from the relatively new Saratoga Waterfront Park and had the wind in our face (of course) until we got to the mouth of the Kayaderosseras Creek. The paddle up the creek was wonderful - many large turtles out sunning themselves on logs and one great blue heron. Some years ago the creek was narrow and twisty; now it is just twisty, although the entrance from the Kayaderosseras is mostly blocked by a tree. On Lake Lonely we saw Canada geese with goslings, a pileated woodpecker, and fishermen. The return trip went much quicker since it was downstream and, amazingly, downwind on Saratoga Lake. The total trip was about 7 miles. The participants were Sue and Roy Keats and Jan and Marc Limeri, leader.



Paddling up Lake Lonely creek. Left to right are Marc and Jan Limeri, then Sue Keats in foreground.

Photo by Roy Keats

Meade Mountain & Beckman Mountain

May 25

What a lovely day with sunshine and light winds and temperatures around 80s. We climbed these two mountains along a relatively steep trail and were offered wonderful views through a light haze. We could see Schroon Lake, Loon Lake, and various mountains in the distance. Our hike began about 10:30 a.m. and ended 2 p.m. We saw a pheasant probably trying to protect its young and various wild flowers including columbine. We also enjoyed a conversation with the property owner, F. Beckman. Hikers were Charlie Beach, Sharon Bonk, Marion Burns, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski and Mary MacDonald, leader.

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Warren County Bikeway to Lake George

May 25

Four of us had a great ride from near the Scoops' parking lot in Queensbury to Shepard Park in Lake George. On our way up to the high point on French Mountain we were able to study many of the historical markers from the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. It was hard to believe that in the 1700s so much activity occurred along our route. The ride is mostly on a nicely paved bike path with a mile or so on roads going next to a scenic golf course and later on past the outlet of Glen Lake. We had lunch in Shepard Park; toured along the boat docks down to Million Dollar Beach; then biked to the top of French Mountain again and flew down the other side to Scoops for a celebratory ice cream. The riders were Jan and Mark Limeri and Sue and Roy Keats, leader.



Bike trail outing participants from left, Roy Keats, Jan Limeri, Marc Limeri, Sue Keats.

Sacandaga River Whitewater

May 26

It was a busy day for ADK paddlers on the first day the SOC was open on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. There were 2 groups of paddlers (14 total). The first group was led by Clarke Darlington: Don Orr, Mal Provost, Horst DeLorenzi, Bob Wright, Tom Flynn, Anthony Cagino and his daughter, Kristen in a tandem ducky. The second group was organized for some serious surfing on the wave at the raft put-in and included Anthony Lamanno, Ralph Pascale, Mike Raley and several other paddlers.

Karner Blue Butterfly Hunt - Wilton Wildlife Preserve

June 6

A hardy group of 9 people went in search of the elusive Karner Blue butterfly at the Old Gick Farm parcel of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve. The day had temperatures in the 60s, which dampened the butterfly activity, but several were spotted and photographed. The blue lupine was in full bloom which made for a picturesque walk. The other highlight was the dozens and dozens of lady slippers in bloom; many more than had been seen in previous years on this trail. Participants included several long-time members of the club - Emily and Howard Hart and Evelyn and Gerhard Salinger (visiting from Albuquerque NM). Other participants were Ruth and Kate Schottman, Gini D'Andrea, and Jan and Marc Limeri, leader.

Hudson Gorge Paddle

June 10

The Hudson River Gorge is always an adventure, and it presented our group of eight-plus paddlers with a real challenge on this trip. We had a swimmer in the upper section of the Gooley Steps above Kenny's Hole, where the current is quick and powerful and the route rocky. The swimmer was helped out by the team of Bob Wright and Shelly Nevard in a Paddle Cat -- nice rescue platform and very well handled -- but the kayak pinned against a rock in downstream. Fortunately, several very experienced kayakers led by Pierre Cyr was behind our larger group and stopped to help assess the situation. The decision was that retrieving the kayak in strong water was too dangerous, so the only choice was to wait until the dam release ended to get the boat. Pierre waited with the individual whose boat was pinned, aborting the remainder of the trip, and they got it out safely. The rest of the paddlers completed the trip -- it was a bright and sunny day -- without incident. Pierre's generosity and the team effort resolved a serious incident. The other paddlers on the trip: Leaders Clarke Darlington and Ed Cunningham. Allison St. Pierre in a ducky, Dave Christi in a raft; Horst DeLorenzi, Tom Flynn and Ryan Kono-pinski in kayaks.

Moxham Mountain Hike

June 14

Unfortunately, only the leader and one participant chose this hike on this early summer day. Norm Kuchar joined Mary MacDonald as we drove north. The day was sunny, but near Lake George the clouds became more evident and a drizzle began to fall. Upon reaching the trailhead, we decided to drive back to a more southern destination, which led us to the new trails in Moreau Lake State Park beginning at the parking lot off Corinth Road near Exit 16 of the Northway. We hiked out to the overlook above Hudson River, where we enjoyed our lunches. We then took a different

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trail back to the car, passing Lake Anne and thus to the trailhead, covering about 6 miles altogether. No rain, some sun, and a lovely day.

Raquette Falls Paddle

June 15

A group of six paddlers put into the Raquette River at Axton Landing. We paddled upstream to the falls on a beautiful sunny day. The river had only a slight current. However, it picked up noticeably as we neared the falls with a little maneuvering around large boulders necessary before landing. From the landing we hiked up about a quarter of a mile to the falls. There was plenty of water coming over, making for great pictures. Participants were Austin and Kathy Fisher, Ron Karpfen, Dan Miller, Jon Ravas, co-leader, and Roy Keats, leader.



Coming into the Raquette Falls landing (above), front to rear, Dan Miller, John Ravas, Kathy Fisher and Ron Karpfen. Raquette Falls is a landmark in Adirondack paddling (below). Photos by Roy Keats

Deerfield River/Fife Brook

June 16

This was my first official scheduled trip as a whitewater leader and it went well, with a large group of 13. The weather was excellent and the release was about 900 cfs. We had a single ducky, two canoes and 10 kayaks with experience levels from novice to expert. We worked our way down and played and practiced along the way. Lunch was a welcome break but we had to watch our time to stay with the release. We stopped at the takeout above Zoar Gap to scout and decide who would run. Eight paddlers took the challenge and all got through safely. Thanks to all for a great day on the river! Paddlers were Cathy and Clark Darlington, Mandy Darlington and Will, Pamela and Ed Martuscello, Alan, Bob Wright, Mal Provost, Karl, Dennis, Anthony Cagino, and leader Don Orr.



Paddlers take a quick break during the July 3 run of the Hudson Gorge, just above Harris Rift rapid, about five miles from the end of the trip. Photo by Tom Flynn

Hudson Gorge paddle

July 3

Beating the heat during the steam bath of early July was a problem for dry-land outdoor activities, but no sweat for paddlers. Our trip down the Hudson Gorge was a day ahead of Independence Day due to the dam release schedule on the Indian River, but conditions were perfect. The Indian was very mild coming out of Lake Abanakee and the Hudson only a comfortable cool,

Trip Tales

which tempered the hot air. The water level was about 4 feet with the release and there were loads of rafts. We split into three groups – duckies, a group of two kayaks and two open boats and a group of three sweep kayaks – for safety. Everyone navigated the Indian successfully – always a relief. One boater tried a new route on the Narrows and took a swim, but no harm done. Afterward we enjoyed the generosity of Clarke and Cathy Darlington with a barbecue at their North River home, ending a great day. Paddlers were Sally Dewes and Bill Ports, Anthony and Diane Cagino, John Banevicius and Ellen Fitch, Clarke and Cathy in tandem duckies, Rick Morse, solo ducky, Horst DeLorenzi, Tom Flynn, Pierre Cyr, Derek Snyder and Ralph Pascale in kayaks, Charles Murray and Mal Provost, leader, in open canoes.

Deerfield River/Fife Brook

July 1

We had a small but earnest group on the Fife Brook section of the Deerfield River. The weather was hot but the water was cool. There were not a ton of other paddlers so we had parts of the river to ourselves at times. There were the usual rafts and groups, but they were spaced nicely. We played and practiced as we went. Paddlers included John Banevicius, Ellen Fitch and Don Orr.

Number Seven Mountain

July 7

A group of 10 hikers climbed Number Seven Mountain, in the Lake George Wild Forest near Warrensburg, on a beautiful summer day, with blue skies and temperatures in the low 70s, a

welcome change from the heat of the previous week. From the end of Alden Avenue, we followed an old logging road southeast on the Huckleberry Mountain Forest tract, recently acquired by the state, to get within about a half-mile of the summit. A bush-whack to the top then brought us to a magnificent open overlook of the Hudson River, 1100 ft. below. As we ate lunch (with dessert provided by the abundant blueberries surrounding us), we viewed mountains -- Hadley, Bearpen, Moose, Crane and many others -- to the south, west and north. Hikers were Charlie Beach, Barb Candee, Walt Hayes, Christine Holle, Dave Loux, Mary MacDonald, Ken Marcinowski, Kathy Miles, Linda Neil and the leader, Norm Kuchar).

Sacandaga Whitewater Trip

July 7

A beautiful summer day greeted us for a paddle outing on the Sacandaga River below Stewart's Dam. We had a new whitewater paddler and another paddler who had not been with the group for a while, getting back in the game. The water was warm and the weather perfect. The lower section is always interesting as there are so many places to play and big waves and multiple lines at the end. A very nice day with wonderful paddlers. Paddlers included Alan Wood, Pamela and Ed Martuscello, Anthony Cagino, Mike Pavlak, Ralph Pascale, Clarke Darlington, Horst DeLorenzi, Mark Merston, Anthony Lamanno, Pamela Scerba, and leader, Don Orr.

Conservation Groups Oppose Bikes in Wilderness

A coalition of 133 conservation and wilderness organizations from across America, including Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve, has asked Congress “to reject an unprecedented call to amend the Wilderness Act to allow for the use of mountain bikes in designated Wilderness.”

The sign-on letter from the 133 organizations was prepared ahead of a December hearing in the U.S. House’s Subcommittee on Federal Lands on a Republican-sponsored bill (H.R. 1349), which would open America’s 110-million acres of Wilderness to mountain bikes and wheeled contraptions. Designated wilderness comprises 17% of all federal lands.

Bicycles have been banned in Wilderness areas since the 1964 Wilderness declared: “There shall be...no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.”

1990 amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) allowed wheelchairs in designated Wilderness.

Both the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans define Wilderness like the federal Wilderness Act and prohibit bicycling there.

-- Reprinted Courtesy of Adirondack Almanack

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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:

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
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