

The **Lookout**

December 2018 - January 2019



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

Stephens Pond trail work has Roy Keats cutting some deadfall from the path. (See Trip Tales Page 11)

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December 2018 - January 2019

The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Engagement is Focus of Annual Dinner Speakers

An important change is coming to the leadership of the Adirondack Mountain Club, but its guiding purpose of advocacy for protection of the mountains and streams remains, as does the call for engagement by its members. Those messages were the theme of both speakers to the Annual Dinner of the Schenectady Chapter Oct. 23 at Schenectady County Community College.



Neil Woodworth

environmental leader has eroded seriously, he said. That calls for active engagement on the part of citizens to stop backsliding.

Schneider called his presentation "Fire Tower Fever," recalling the founding of the Fire Tower Challenge in 2000 and the 2001 publication of the first edition of the book, under the Publications Committee of the ADK. That was in response to plans by the state Department of Environmental Conservation to dismantle the Hurricane Mountain tower, which was part of a broad scheme to remove man-made structures from wilderness areas. Activists opposed this both as diminishing the experience of the Adirondacks – and Catskills – and degrading the history the towers represent over the last 100 years.

Preservation of the towers has even more positive functions, he said, noting that Ameri-corps students are brought in for restoration work, which engages young people in an environment they otherwise would not experience. The towers also are dispersed through the Adirondacks and Catskills, and as destinations they help to promote hiking away from the overused High Peaks. Popular towers are in Old Forge, Woodstock and Hadley, he noted.

Beyond the practical there is the critical need for engagement. "We are a political and economic force," Schneider said of Adirondack volunteers and ADK members, "Make your voice heard."

--Mal Provost

The speakers were Neil Woodworth, executive director of the ADK, and Jim Schneider, active in the Adirondacks and Catskills for more than three decades, a librarian, publications professional and co-founder of the Fire Tower Challenge, which promotes preservation of and hiking to the 23 historic towers remaining.

Woodworth's role in the ADK is to change, as he becomes chief executive officer and oversees a period of transition through 2019, he told the gathering. This will allow him to retain oversight of the club but prepare to hand off the heavy day-to-day demands of the executive director; that role requires law skills and extensive state legislative involvement. The plan is to hire an executive director before the end of this year and provide a year of training before the job is formally handed off. After that, Woodworth will have an advisory role with the ADK and his successor.

He noted that his work with the ADK began in 1989 and he took his current role in 2004. The ADK has a budget of \$4.2 million, 27 chapters statewide and 42 full-time employees, though volunteers swell that number to 100 in the summer. Legal work and advocacy are essential, he said, particularly in the difficult current political realm which has included weakening of standards on clean air and this country pulling out of the Paris climate accords. America's role as an



Jim Schneider

Haberl Honored for Service, School Program

Art Haberl, a member and officer of the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club for more than 40 years, received the ADK Trailblazer Award at the Fall Outing President's Dinner in Watkins Glen in October.

In addition to his long service, Art was recognized for his impact on the ADK Education Program. That began almost 20 years ago when he helped establish the Marie L. Haberl Outreach Program in memory of his wife. That is an inquiry based environmental education curriculum that weaves together elements of responsible recreation, wellness and the natural and cultural history of the Adirondacks. Its goal is to transform students through outdoor experiences. The approach meets state science, literacy and physical ed standards while helping teachers promote environmental education, wellness and community service. The program is used by a dozen schools in the North Country. Art's role in its establishment and his continued support of the program have created an enduring gift to future generations of children.

“Its goal is to transform students through outdoor experiences.”

Art joined the Schenectady Chapter around 1973. His service includes chairman in 1980 and 1982, ADK Main Club board director, 1984-86 and trails chair 1978-79.

-- Robert Grimm

Will Holt: ADK Paddler, Skier, Volunteer

Will Holt, a long-time member of the Schenectady Chapter, who was a whitewater and lake paddler, skier, hiker and Lake George sailor, died Oct. 2. He was 93.

Will was among the early generation of canoeists who helped establish the Schenectady Chapter as the center of whitewater paddling for the Capital Region. He was active with our historic figures such as Cathy Armstrong and Charlie Beach, as well as Cathy's late husband Chet Harvey, Betty Lou Bailey and Jim Pirman. They loved the Hudson River runs, from the Gorge through the lower trips in the North Creek and Riparius sections. Will was also a member of the National Ski Patrol for more than 50 years, much of his service at the Hickory Ski Center in Warrensburg.

Like many of the early members of this ADK chapter, Will was an engineer with General Electric for many years. He worked at the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory as part of the nuclear reactor core design program. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, having served with the SeaBees in the Pacific Theatre.

Will is remembered as a gentle soul, kind, quiet and always smiling. He is survived by sons Bill and Andrew, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Will Holt alongside his wife Heather.

--Mal Provost

Conservation Report

Invasives Work Continues, But Issues Loom

Work to identify and contain invasive species in the Adirondacks continued at a good clip this past summer, with training sessions for volunteers and surveys made of 20 remote ponds, plus the ongoing work of monitoring for the hemlock woolly adelgid and other destructive terrestrial pests.

The Schenectady Chapter of the ADK did a survey of Spectacle Pond, in the drainage off the shoulder of Sleeping Beauty. That was a bushwhack to that remote little pond that has had few visitors, with the accompaniment of a videographer preparing a broader piece on invasives survey work. He is Vince Franke of Peregrine Productions, working for the Champlain Basin Program, which is part of the network of environmental groups doing the invasives programs and funds the Backcountry Water Monitors Project. These groups include the ADK since 2015, Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute, Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, the NY Natural Heritage Program and Cornell University's Hemlock Initiative, plus state agencies.

Norm Kuchar and Walt Hayes provided the bushwhack skills and guided us in perfectly using their GPS and mapping experience. The bushwhack was a bit more than a mile after leaving the Sleeping Beauty trail. Otherwise the survey was typical, revealing local aquatic species and no evidence of invasives, which is good.

But according to Cathy Pedler, the ADK specialist on conservation in the Albany office, other surveys this past summer turned up three ponds with Eurasian watermilfoil: Rush Pond, Bartlett Pond (Essex County), and Penfield Pond. Assessment of follow up action on these is in process. Much greater detail on these invasives programs is contained in Pedler's article in the September-October *Adirondac*.

Conservation Committee

The reduction of environmental regulation standards under the Trump Administration and New York's need for a beefed up forest ranger force were highlighted at the Nov. 3 meeting of the ADK's state Conservation Committee at the Pine Bush Discovery Center.

Woodworth briefed the committee on the current federal plan to replace the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan (CPP) – which was

stalled in court - with one known as the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) plan put forward by Trump. This proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency would severely reduce the restrictions on release of carbon dioxide, mercury and other smokestack emissions from power plants. That would be in conjunction with Trump's plan to sharply cut back vehicle emission standards, adding to pollutants that are driving not only climate change, but the more localized problem of acid rain. A final sorting out of these proposals is facing legal challenges. For a detailed discussion, please see the November-December *Adirondac*.



*During the survey of Spectacle Pond for invasives, videographer Vince Franke worked on a project to record the trip. Here he captures Norm Kuchar, middle, and Walt Hayes.
Photo by Mal Provost.*

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Kayak Rolling, Whitewater Skills Start January

Summer is over, winter is here. Time to put away the boats and gear. Hell NO! Time to get ready for next year. Time to hone those whitewater skills and pick up some new ones. Again this year we are offering the winter pool sessions (which also helps to ward off the winter no-river blues.)

We have lined up the Duanesburg YMCA and are looking for another pool to round out the week. We have volunteers ready to help with new skills or improve the old ones. We can introduce newbies to basic skills and practice rolling in a nice warm and safe environment. There are plenty of friends to meet and fun to be had in the pool this winter.

The Duanesburg YMCA pool practice sessions will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30, but plan to exit the pool at ~9:15 to leave time to reset lanes and finish up in the locker room.

The pool sessions begin on Thursday Jan. 10 and will continue every Thursday through April 18.

Free admission for Capital District YMCA members, \$15 per person per session for non-members, or you may purchase a discount four session pass card for \$50 (\$12.50 per session). These may be purchased at the Duanesburg YMCA main entrance desk. Call ahead and reserve a spot on or before the day that you plan to attend. Space will be limited to ~15 paddlers.

The Duanesburg Y may close early during winter storms, so it is best to call and confirm they are open before making the drive if the weather is questionable. Contact the Y at 518-895-9500 to reserve a spot or check for closings. Kayak instruction is available with reservation (to ensure instructors and equipment are available). There is no charge for instruction. For recreational/touring/sea kayak-ing, basic strokes and/or rolling contact: John Ozard ozardjw@netscape.net or Ralph Pascale rpascale@spendwood.com

Be sure also to watch the Schenectady whitewater calendar on the web for the winter schedule. And you are invited to join in the planning for next year. We will be meeting early February to put together a schedule and would love to have your input. Check the website for more information: <http://www.adk-schenectady.org/whitewater>

Make sure your boats are clean – no leaves or debris in the pool!

-- Ralph Pascale, Whitewater Chairman

Conservation Report

Invasives Work Continues, But Issues Loom

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-- More forest rangers are needed critically, Woodworth reported. He supports the union push for 40 more rangers in the field, beefing up the current 106. With 5 million acres of public land in the state – including the Catskills and other parks and holdings – that works out to one ranger for each 50,000 acres, he said. The popularity of hiking means there will be more lost or injured hikers and each emergency draws four to eight rangers for extended shifts. There were 260 search and rescue missions in 2017, he said, and this year seems headed for 300. This will be a subject for budgeting for 2019-2020.

-- A piece of good news for flat water paddlers: The Nature Conservancy is purchasing about 100 acres along the West Branch of the Sacandaga River in the Caroga Lake area, which will put about 12 miles of calm paddling under state control and mean improved access via Good Luck Lake and the Shaker Place takeout. This ultimately will become Forest Preserve land. (Caution: Past the Shaker Place takeout the river enters a gorge area that is class 4-6 whitewater with dangerous waterfalls.)

-- The buildings of the inner Gooley Club on the Essex Chain Lakes have been removed. This is in accord with the unit management plan set after the state purchased the tract from the Nature Conservancy in 2012. The buildings were to be removed after September 2018 and this has been accomplished, despite opposition that sought historic status for the structures.

-- Mal Provost, Conservation Chairman

Iditarod Racer First Innings Speaker for 2019

Our Innings programs for 2019 opens with a howl on Jan. 17 in the Clifton Park Library with a slide talk from an Iditarod competitor, Ken Hamm. Ken raised and trained a team of sled dogs during his 13 years in Alaska.

Planning to make the classic race, Ken competed in three Kuskokwim 300 races in southwest Alaska, then the Iditarod in 1983. He finished in 27th place, in a race for which even getting to the starting line takes a huge commitment. Ken will show photos he took during the race and explain what it's like to travel night and day for 1,100 miles through the wilds of Alaska with a team of 16 huskies. He will talk about the 1925 serum delivery to Nome that started the competition, treacherous canyon runs and getting through minus-85-degree wind chills on the Yukon River, plus dog care, sleep deprivation and what it's like to cross the finish line. The free program begins at 7 p.m. in the upstairs lecture room and includes cookies, juice and coffee.

Ken grew up in Catskill, got his law degree and went to Alaska to work on native land claims, hunting and fishing rights, and later on natural resource issues and tribal-state relations. He returned to New York in 1990 and joined the Department of Environmental Conservation's Office of General Counsel. His work with DEC included solid waste and state lands issues. He retired in 2014 and continues to work part-time on Forest Preserve topics.

-- Sally Dewes



Ken Hamm during his 1983 Iditarod race.

Outings

Saturday, Dec. 1

**Young Member Outing: North Dome & Sherill Bushwhack
Class B2A**

**Dustin Wright (co-led by Mary Zawacki), 603-953-8782
or pastor@messiahschenectady.org**

Join our young member group for a partial bushwhack to two of the most remote of the Catskill High Peaks! After starting out on the tail end of the Devil's Path we'll bushwhack up a ridge to the summit of North Dome and then bushwhack through a relatively mellow col to Sherill before bushwhacking out. The trip will be approximately 2,500 feet of elevation gain over 7.3 miles. This is a canine friendly hike!

Thursday, Dec. 13

**Partridge Run Snowshoe Hike
Class C2B**

Norm Kuchar, 518-399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

DEC's Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area, in the Town of Berne, Albany County, is a great place to hike. We'll make a loop through the eastern part of the area, using old roads and trails, including a section of the Long Path. The route will pass a couple of ponds as well as a nice waterfall on Partridge Run. Distance is 3.5 miles, with about 400 ft. of elevation gain.

Snowshoes and/or traction aids (e.g., microspikes) as well as winter clothing will probably be needed.

Saturday, Dec. 15

**Plotter Kill Nature Preserve
Class B2C**

John Ravas, 518-852-6515 or adkkayaker140@gmail.com

The Plotter Kill Preserve is a nice scenic trail in Rotterdam. There are 3 beautiful waterfalls that will likely be partially frozen in December. There are several hiking options within the preserve, but we will likely hike the main loop. Starting on the red trail returning the last quarter of the trip on the green trail. The trip is about 5 miles with an 800' elevation change from the far end of the loop. Microspikes will be required and should we have lots of snow, we may use snowshoes. We will plan to meet at the parking area on Mariaville Road.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

**Hennig Preserve Bushwhack
Class B2C**

Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482

Meeting time at 9 a.m. and back before 4 p.m. The listed feature of this trip will be visits to the known charcoal production "pits"

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Outings

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on the property. There are marked pits on trails and unmarked pits off trails. This will be about five miles of hiking and bushwhacks to see where charcoal was produced in the 19th century. The preserve is in the Saratoga County town of Providence - close to home with a real Adirondack feel. We may need winter foot gear.

Thursday, Dec. 20 from 7-9 p.m.

ALL Member Holiday Social at Great Flats Brewery

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

Or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

So here 's the deal. We've had a rapidly growing young member group in our ADK Schenectady Chapter, but most of our young folks haven't gotten to know everyone else in the chapter. Here's the opportunity! Dustin's dear friends who own Great Flats Brewery have offered to host us for a big blowout holiday party and membership drive all at once! There 'll be free brewery tours, free food and awesome opportunities to learn more about and sign up to join the Adirondack Mountain Club and even learn some basic outdoor skills. Especially if you 're a long time member, be sure to bring friends and family who might want to join the ADK!

Saturday, Dec. 22

Ski Trip Camp Santanoni

Class A2C

Roy Keats 518-370-0399 or royskipaddle@gmail.com

This ski tour follows a road into Camp Santanoni. There is a gradual uphill from the parking lot to a high point of land after which there is a nice downhill to the camp. It is considered a novice level ski under normal conditions. This is an historic great camp with a lot of interesting buildings. The trip length is about 10 miles round trip. This is generally one of the earliest skiable areas in the Adirondacks. This is a joint trip with the Cold River Chapter.

Saturday, Dec. 22

Young Member Hike -- Gothics & Possibly Armstrong

Class A2A

Mary Zawacki, 914-373-8733

Kick off the winter hiking season with a solstice hike up Gothics, and possibly Armstrong, two ADK 46ers. We'll be taking the Beaver Meadow trail from the Ausable Club out and back, to make this a shorter day hike, due to the limited daylight. This is a challenging 10-12 mile hike with 4,000 feet in elevation gain. Winter hiking experience and gear is required, including snowshoes, microspikes, and cold weather clothing. To register, text leader Mary Zawacki at 914-373-8733.

Thursday, Dec. 27

Hunter

Class B2B

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

Hunter is the second highest peak in the Catskills and has a fire tower that provides excellent views. We 'll take the Becker Hollow trail which is the most scenic route to Hunter. The distance is ~5 miles with ~2000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes and crampons or other traction devices may be needed.

Saturday, Jan. 5

Ski Trip to Pharaoh Lake

Mike Brun, 518-487-8054 or brunmcts@verizon.net

Distance is 8.5 miles round trip, mostly flat, and we will be moving at a moderate pace. We will ski to the first lean-to on the southern side of the lake. With lunch stop it should take 5 hours or less. The trip is suitable for novices (not beginners because of a long bridge crossing). The view of the mountain over the lake is spectacular.

Friday, Jan. 11

XC Ski Wilton Wildlife Preserve - Camp Saratoga

Class C3D+

Marc Limeri, 518.545.6456 or wwwebbie@yahoo.com

This is an easy XC tour on mostly wooded trails. The trails are groomed for classic or skating style (but if you're skating, we are very slow!). The distance is just under 4 miles with one moderate hill (you need to go up and down the hill).

Saturday, Jan. 12

McKenzie and Haystack Mountain

Difficulty: Hard 9 miles with Bushwhacking

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

We will be hiking two of the Saranac 6; McKenzie Mountain (3,861) and Haystack (2,864). This trail starts near the Whiteface Inn Lane 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 and snow gears will be needed.

Saturday, Jan. 19

Moreau Lake State Park Snowshoe Hike

Class C2C

Norm Kuchar, 518-399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

We 'll do a loop hike around Moreau Lake and its smaller companion, Mud Pond, using park roads and trails. If conditions

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Outings

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allow, we may snowshoe across a portion of the lake. Distance is 4.3 miles, with about 150 ft. of elevation gain. Snowshoes and/or traction aids as well as winter clothing will be needed.

Saturday, Jan. 19
Young Member Outing: Saint Regis Mountain
Class B2B

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

Join our young member group for an incredible hike that 's both on the Firetower Challenge and one of the Saranac 6! This relatively short, steep climb to the summit yield magnificent views in nearly all directions with McKenzie and the High Peaks visible to the south. Directly below the mountain is also an outspread of lakes and ponds within the St. Regis Canoe Area. Distance is 6.6 miles roundtrip with 1,266 feet of elevation gain. This is a canine friendly hike!

Saturday, Jan. 26
X-C Ski Clear Pond and John Pond Loop
Class B2B

Roy Keats, 518-466-8544 or royskipaddle@gmail.com

This ski uses the hiking trail to Clear Pond, and then a newly cut connector trail to John Pond with a ski out on the regular John Pond Trail. The total trip is about 6 miles. It is 1.1 miles to Clear Pond with a delightful view. The new trail then follows the southwest shore of the pond and climbs gradually to attain a narrow ridge, which leads, with a few interesting downhills, to John Pond. There is a lean-to and resting spot with a great view across John Pond. After lunch at the pond, we'll ski to the cars on the

regular John Pond Trail. We may stop to visit the graves of 2 children in a small clearing, which mark the only remains of "Little Canada."

Saturday, Jan. 26
Doubletop Mountain
Class B2B

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

Doubletop is one of the trailless peaks in the Catskills. For this hike we will start on the Seager-Big Indian trail before bushwhacking up the ridge to the summit and the canister. The distance is ~ 6 miles, over half off-trail, with ~2,000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes and crampons needed.

Saturday, Feb. 2
Young Member Outing: Ampersand Mountain & Saranac Winter Carnival!
Class B2B

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

Join our young member group for one of the best of the Saranac 6! At first the trail is mostly flat, providing an ideal walk in the woods. The second half is steep and rugged while the bald summit offers stunning 360 degree views. Distance is 5.4 miles roundtrip with 1,775 feet of elevation gain. This is a canine friendly hike AND here's what 's really exciting: at 7 p.m. will be the incredible opening fireworks of the annual Saranac Lake Winter Carnival for those who want to stick around! Please join us.

Iroquois Chapter Winter Outing Jan. 18-20

Hosted by the Iroquois Chapter, experience cross country skiing or snow shoeing at the annual ADK Tug Hill winter outing January 18-20, (Martin Luther King weekend). The Tug Hill region is noted for the East's heaviest snowfall, just waiting for you to explore the numerous groomed and back country trails minutes from the club house. (skis and snow shoes not provided)

You will "rough" it at the Mad River Club in Sandy Creek. Full package includes floor space for pad (or cot) and sleeping bag, snacks Friday evening, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and a catered dinner Saturday. For general information and registration contact David White at ccswhite@juno.com. Full registration is \$110. Saturday activities and dinner is \$45. All but \$20 is refundable to Dec. 31. For general information, contact Paul Sirtoli at alexsirtoli@outlook.com

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	

Trip Tales

Sacandaga Release - Whitewater

August 26

Two new paddlers joined our group for a beautiful day at the SAC. Our newest members paddled very well. The group was small but had a very nice time together. The group consisted of: Clarke Darlington, trip leader, Mandy Darlington, Cathy Darlington, Todd Nolte, Ike Fitz, Willie Thacker, Strom Thacker, and Mike Riccardi.

Sacandaga Release - Whitewater

September 2

It was a fun trip on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. It was a warm end of summer kind of day. We had ten paddlers; Ed Cunningham, Mark Stolzenburg, Jim Meinecke, Allison St.Pierre, Todd Nolte, Mal Provost, Clarke Darlington, George Bushes, Andres Harnecker and leader Ed Martuscello. A few of our members assisted in a rescue. There were two paddlers we encountered outside of our group, and poorly prepared; one was not even wearing a helmet. We informed them of the need for safety gear and cautioned them on the upcoming rapids. They disregarded our advice and compromised our trip by requiring a rescue. The incident served as a reminder to all of us to always be prepared and aware of our own actions and how they might impact others. Our club had one swimmer on the last rapid. It was a swift rescue without injury or loss of equipment. It was a good day for everyone involved.

Hudson Gorge - Whitewater

September 8

Nine kayakers enjoyed a cool September paddle on the classic Gorge trip. The release of warm water from Lake Abanakee always makes the fall trips more enjoyable. Most paddlers took the left line through the Narrows rapids and some of us went over Bus Stop rapid before the full release arrived. Paddlers on the trip were Horst Delorenzi, Tom Flynn, Clarke Darlington, Ed Martuscello, Bob Wright, Don Orr, Carl Heilmann, Nelson Miller co-leader, and Rick Gonzales leader.



Fall is a great time to run the Hudson Gorge, and the group relaxes a bit on a flat water stretch.

John Pond Ridge

September 12

A group of nine enjoyed an adventurous day in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness near Indian Lake. We first hiked in to John Pond, passing the graves of two youngsters who perished in the diphtheria epidemic of 1897. We then bushwhacked up the ridge to the west of the pond, coming out on top of the first set of ledges, which gave nice views of Bullhead Mountain to the east. After lunch on the ledges, we walked along the ledge tops to the south, with views of Puffer and Chimney Mountains, including the rock column "chimney" on the latter. Hoping to find even more views, we ascended the narrow, rocky ridge to the north, which has sharp cliffs on both sides. We did find a view to the northeast, across the greenish water of John Pond, 400 ft. below us. Further progress northward was blocked by steep drop-offs, so we backtracked to the lean-to before hiking out using our morning route. Hikers were Roy Keats, Ken and Nilde Marciniowski, Kathy Miles, Jerry Perregaux, John Susko, Richard and Karen Wang, and the leader Norm Kuchar.



The Fish Creek flotilla enters the creek from Floodwood. Not in order they are: Andy Coney, Sue Keats, Greg Clark, Laurie Hughes, Barbara Kearns, Bronna Romanoff, Hester McCarthy, Ron Karpfen, Carol Karpfen, and Judy Thomson. Photo by Roy Keats.

Fish Creek Ponds Paddle

September 13

Eleven enthusiasts started out on a perfect day for paddling with no wind and warm weather. We started at the Fish Creek boat launch in the Fish Creek Ponds Campsite. After a little over a mile we took a left into Copperas Pond, seeing the unusual greenish water. Next was a portage to Whey Pond, then a short portage to Rollins Pond. We had an idyllic lunch on a vast sandy beach on Rollins before setting off to our last portage into Floodwood Pond. Some opted to walk their boats down the short connecting

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stream. We then paddled Floodwood to Fish Creek, and entered the creek. It was very exciting wending our way down Fish Creek avoiding logs and rocks to our put in. It was a great day having seen loons on each pond, a bald eagle, a heron, mergansers and mallards. The participants were Andy Coney, Barbara Kearns, Bronna Romanoff, Hester McCarthy, Judy Thomson, Greg Clark, Laurie Hughes, Ron and Carol Karpfen, and leaders Roy and Sue Keats.

Sacandaga Release - Whitewater

September 16

This was a great trip by 12 paddlers on a beautiful sunny day. They were: Clarke Darlington, trip leader, Mandy Darlington, Ed Cunningham, Allison St. Pierre, Tom Flynn, Dennis Wischman, Anthony Lamanno, Horst DeLorenzi, Mark Abendroth, Mark Stolzenberg, Anthony Cagino, and Bob Wright. There were two swims as paddlers challenged themselves in the commercial wave and experimenting with ferries through large wave trains.

camp at Cowhorn Pond. The group was amazed by the Adirondack sunset colors above the lake, as we enjoyed dinner next to the campfire. It was in the low 50s the second night with the nearly full moon illuminating the mist-covered pond through the trees. We covered 15.5 miles for our last day, and took a pit stop at High Falls to enjoy the beautiful blue bird day we were having. While enjoying a celebratory beer in the parking lot after our finish, two trail workers (husband and wife) walked past us. The man asked us what chapter we were from and as he walked away, he was Neil Woodworth! What a pleasure to say hello to him, the executive director of the ADK! On the way home between Tupper and Long Lake, a moose was spotted roadside, only to duck back into the woods as we drove past. What a fabulous trip with excellent company! Participants: trip leaders Jason Waters and Amanda Gomez,, Sarah Gutenmann, Jim Zwynenburg, David Trestick, Ashlyn Miranda, Collette Levinstein and Michael Popp. And Hazel the wonder dog.



The Cranberry 50 trekkers had a great time. The group included trip leaders Jason Waters and Amanda Gomez, Sarah Gutenmann, Jim Zwynenburg, David Trestick, Ashlyn Miranda, Collette Levinstein, Michael Popp and Hazel the Wonder Dog.

Cranberry Lake 50

September 21-23

We started our adventure with an 18.5 mile hike the first night, and set up camp next to Cranberry Lake where we enjoyed a swim and dinner before the wind and rain picked up. It was comfortable sleeping weather while the lake splashed next to our campsite. The second day, we did the same mileage and set up



For the West River Festival, shuttle transport to the top is by truck. Our crew included Ed Martuscello, foreground left, and Don Orr, right.

Photo by Ralph Pascale.

West River Festival - Whitewater

September 22 and 23

One of the ADK favorites came through again! The West River Festival at Jamaica State Park in Vermont did not disappoint! Hundreds of paddlers including families and friends, young and old, two legged and some four legged and every kind of boat imaginable, all came together for a great time on the water. The beautiful sunshiny day with great water shared with those people drawn to white water. The trip included a great family new to ADK along with the old. We had a baker's dozen on Saturday and

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five on Sunday. Paddlers included: Tom Flynn, Ed Martuscello, Horst DeLorenzi, Mal Provost, Norm Labbe, Bob Wright, Ryan Lane, Carl Heilmann, Don Orr, Todd Nolte, Martin Plante, Nelson Miller, Strom and Willie and Caroline Thacker and trip leader Ralph Pascale

Hudson Gorge - Whitewater **September 29**

Eleven paddlers in 9 kayaks and 1 inflatable tandem kayak traveled down the Gorge at a level of 4.5 feet on a beautiful sunny fall day to close out the ADK season on the gorge. We had a newbie with us to enjoy the day and they did fine even showing us a back deck roll or two in times of trouble. After a season with unusually low levels, today's level was a rare treat for sure. Paddlers on this trip were Ed Cunningham, Clarke Darlington, Kathy Darlington, Horst DeLorenzi, Rick Gonzales, Rick Morse, Don Orr, Derek Snyder, Willie Thacker, Carl Heilmann, and trip leader Robert Wright.



*Paddlers on the Esopus run take a break below Railroad Rapids.
Photo by Mal Provost*

Esopus River - Whitewater **October 6**

Nine paddlers headed down the Esopus on a nice a fall day. There was one swim on the trip. Although everyone likes the Esopus, we have had many challenges with the take-out. Referred to by the group as a 'class 5' take-out, this exercise involved scaling up rocks on a very steep, densely forested river bank with poison ivy. So after our last trip this summer on the Esopus, Bob Wright and Anthony Lamanno found a much better take-out with easy exit from the river and good parking. The paddlers were trip

leader Clarke Darlington; Bob Wright, Anthony Lamanno, Ed Martuscello, Mark Mershon, Horst DeLorenzi, Mal Provost, Nelson Miller, and Don Orr.

Moreau Lake State Park **October 6**

Although it was overcast, eight of us were able to enjoy a dry day with comfortable hiking temperatures. Starting at the Corinth Mountain Rd. Parking Area, we went down and headed west, at a leisurely pace, on the Lake Bonita Trail to pick up The Waterfall Trail. Shortly after passing the waterfall we connected with a flagged "possible future trail" heading north which allowed us to bypass a steep descent and ascent onto the Western Ridge Trail. At this point we made a detour to The Hudson River Overlook where we enjoyed lunch and nice views down to the river, but were unable to see any distant views due to low clouds. After lunch, we continued on a clockwise loop connecting with the Lake Ann Trail making another stop at Lake Ann and the lean-to. We then continued onward to Lake Bonita making another stop to enjoy the lake before continuing on to our cars. Participants were: Adam Burn, Laura Fiske, Norman Kuchar, Jerry Perregaux, Karen & Richard Wang and leaders Ken and Nilde Marcinowski.



Sleeping Beauty hikers: Kaela Wallman and Jan and Marc Limeri.

Sleeping Beauty Loop **October 12**

Three adventurers had a nice swim up and down the trails to Sleeping Beauty. A soaking rain from the previous day resulted in streams flowing down much of the trails, some giant ponds to cross on the flatter sections, and even an impromptu waterfall over one rocky ledge. We expected to be all alone at the top.

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However, literally within 5 minutes after we summited, three other groups arrived; and in the hour or so we were on top, a total of eight other groups arrived and we met several others going up as we were going down. The first group to arrive after us brought us some interesting news - they couldn't drive into Dacy Clearing (where our car was) because a large tree was blocking the road. Fortunately a good Samaritan with a chain saw cleared it and we drove out easily. Our timing was great - the view from the top was wonderful as usual and the colors were at peak. Participants were Kaela Wallman and Jan and Marc Limeri, leader.



Stephens Pond trail work team included Sue Keats, Roy Keats and Paul Burns.

Lake Durant to Stephens Pond (NPT) Trail Work October 20

Three stalwart souls carried saws, loppers and hoes into Stephens Pond from Lake Durant. The day went from a little cloudy at the start with the potential for on/off showers to a beautiful blue sky day at the pond much to our relief. We cleared out quite a lot of blowdowns, cleared some drainages, and did some side cutting to widen the trail a little for skiing. We had to leave two big logs untouched. Hopefully DEC will send someone to take them out before the snow. Trip participants were Paul Burns, and Sue and leader Roy Keats.

Farmington River Saturday, October 20

With little natural flow, paddling the upper reaches of the Farmington River in western Massachusetts is completely dependent on Otis Reservoir releasing enough water to bring the flow up to

300 cfs or a level of four feet. Knowing that there would be a release, but with no guarantee of what conditions would prevail, a group of four met up at 10 AM at Reservation Road in Otis, MA to paddle down to the Bear's Den, about 7.5 miles downriver, in Connecticut. The group consisted of Bob Wright, leader Charles Murray, Anthony Lamanno, and Mike Raley, a first timer down. When we got on the water, it was cloudy with temps in the mid-50s, and the river had reached 300 cfs, which was runnable, albeit with much bumping and grinding, and many expletives. Still, a good day.

Northville-Placid Trail - Benson to Godfrey Road Hike November 8

After a quick shuttle to drop two cars off at the Godfrey Road trailhead, eight adventurers set out on the Northville-Placid trail from Benson Road to Godfrey Road. The trail began by winding its way around Woods Lake through pines and open hardwoods. There were many brook and stream crossings that were flowing well from the past several days of rains. Some were crossed with log bridges, others were rock-hopped or leaped. The trail was leaf-covered and soft underfoot. The leaders had to carefully search out trail markers at various spots along the trail to make sure we stayed on our route. A welcomed lunch was eaten at the Abner Brook bridge with a Halloween treat for dessert. We were warmed up after lunch by some small elevation gain while we looked down on West Stony Creek with the bridge that was our landmark to cross back to the Godfrey trailhead. Signs at the junction to the next section whetted our appetites for doing more of the trail...perhaps in the spring. It was a great day. Participants were Austin and Kathy Fisher, Gail Gabriels, Anne Bernat, John Susko, Mary MacDonald, Jane McCloskey, and the leader, Roy Keats.



Hikers in the Benson-Godfrey trip: Bottom row: Jane McCloskey, Roy Keats; next row: Gail Gabriels; next row: Kathy and Austin Fisher; top Row: Mary MacDonald and Anne Bernat.

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Mount Francisco Plus November 7

The day was cool and breezy with periods of sun for this outing in the Lake Pleasant/Speculator area. We first made a short visit to see the Lake Pleasant Quarry where we saw evidence of rock climbing activity but no climbers. After a short distance of rough bushwhacking we found open woods and old logging roads that made for easy walking to the top of Mt. Francisco. The view spot just southwest of the summit was good but there was a little too much cool wind for a relaxed lunch. After an easier route on the return to the cars we decided to do part of the Sacandaga River Pathway in Speculator. It was less windy and the extensive trail system was a nice addition to our easy peak. Sandy Gordon, Norm Kuchar, Roman Laba, Mary MacDonald, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Kathy Miles, Wayne Virkler and the leader Walt Hayes.

Treadway Mountain Hike November 12

After delaying our trip by a couple of days due to snow and soaking rain, two of us were treated to a beautiful day of hiking in the Pharaoh Mountain Wilderness area. The weather was almost ideal for mid fall hiking. Temps in the upper 30s, light winds at

the top only, cobalt blue skies and bright sunshine. We started our trip at the parking lot at Putnam Pond State Park. The first part of our trip was around Putnam Pond. All of the tributaries were flowing. There was about 2" of snow on the ground with icy areas, so microspikes were needed. Since we hiked on a Monday, we basically had the trail to ourselves. The views from the top of Treadway were spectacular as the skies were very clear. The participants were Dan Miller and John Ravas, leader.

New and Prospective Trip Leader Workshop November 13

We had a great time at Pinhead Susan's. We discussed what is expected of a trip leader and what to take on your outings to ensure a safe and successful trip. Several leaders shared experiences from previous trips including coping with injuries on the trail, and dealing with individuals who should not have been on the outing in the first place. It was pointed out that pre-hike screening of new participants can be difficult, but is very important. We had seven experienced leaders, and two prospective leaders attending. Hopefully, the prospective leaders will come on board shortly as leaders. The attendees were Kristin Cimmino, Walt Hayes, Norm Kuchar, Marc and Jan Limeri, John Ravas, Rich Vertigan, Eric Woodruff, and Roy Keats, outings chair.

Trust Expands Wilmington, Jay Biking Trails

The Adirondack Land Trust has announced the purchase of Four Peaks, a 600-acre tract in the towns of Jay and Wilmington adjacent to Wilmington Wild Forest's Beaver Brook Tract (the Hardy Road trails), which is popular for mountain biking.

In Wilmington, mountain biking is powering a revival of small businesses catering to cyclists. In 2017, Wilmington was named one of "America's 20 Best Mountain Bike Towns" by National Geographic. The community hosts a variety of trail systems built primarily by Barkeater Trails Alliance (BETA) in partnership with the Adirondack Mountain Club and Student Conservation Association. BETA is a volunteer-driven organization that maintains over 100 miles of ski and bike trails across six Adirondack towns.

New York State has identified the Four Peaks tract in its Open Space Conservation Plan for the potential to expand multi-use recreational opportunities from the Beaver Brook trail network, which features 8.5 miles of single-track bike trail. The Land Trust is expected to conduct an ecological inventory to provide that future trails can be sited with consideration of conservation values.

The Land Trust is planning to consult with BETA, the towns of Jay and Wilmington, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to plan trails that connect the Wilmington network to Jay. In the meantime, the land remains closed to the public.

Lake Placid Land Conservancy last year acquired land that enabled construction of a new 1.5-mile mountain bike trail connecting Wilmington's community center to Hardy Road.

The Adirondack Land Trust worked with the estate of the late Martin Schwalbaum to honor his wish to conserve Four Peaks, which he had managed as a low-impact cabin resort. The purchase price was \$509,000; the Adirondack Land Trust expects to incur \$700,000 in cumulative costs before anticipated transfer to New York State as Forest Preserve.

Founded in 1984, the Adirondack Land Trust works to protect farms and forests, undeveloped shoreline, scenic vistas and other lands contributing to the quality of life of our communities as well as the wildness and rural character of the Adirondacks. The land trust has protected 23,637 acres to date.

--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:

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