

The

Lookout

April - May 2019



WE NEED YOU
TO GO DIGITAL

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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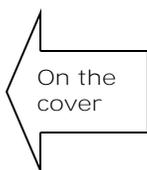
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On the
cover

We're getting close to converting to primarily digital Lookout Subscriptions. Please see Page 4.

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April - May 2019

The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

North Country Scenic Trail Work Moves Ahead

Marking and cutting new sections of the North Country National Scenic Trail in the Eastern Adirondacks is planned for this year by ADK volunteers. This will continue work of the last 10 years, in which Schenectady Chapter members have taken a lead role in developing regional elements of the 4,600-mile NCNST.

In 2017, the chapter adopted two existing trails in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness that will become sections of the NCNST: the Bailey Pond trail (0.9 miles long) and the south end of the Hoffman Notch trail (1.2 miles long).

This year, we plan to do maintenance on these trails in both the spring and the fall. Spring maintenance is scheduled for Saturday, May 18. Details can be found in the Outings section of this issue of Lookout. Fall maintenance will be done in September.

Over the past two years, the Schenectady Chapter has contributed to building a new 2.7-mile trail to the top of Jones Hill from the south. This new trail, in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness, will also become a section of the NCNST. We explored the route, helped DEC plan the new trail and organized a group of chapter volunteers to follow up on the DEC chainsaw crew and clear the trail corridor of dropped logs, smaller blowdown and brush. The efforts of 11 volunteers made it possible for the ADK Pro Crew and high school project team to finish the trail last summer within time and budget constraints. The building of the trail was greatly aided by a grant from the National Park Service, which funded the Pro Crew.

This year's plan is to begin extending the Jones Hill trail about 3 miles down the north side of the hill, to US 9 near Schroon Falls. Grant funding for the ADK Pro Crew has not materialized, so we plan to use more effort by ADK volunteers. Much of the route has already been explored, and the DEC forester will flag the route in May, after the snow melts.

Following this, Walt Hayes and I will organize a group of chapter volunteers to clear parts of the trail corridor of blowdown and brush, as we did for the previous section of the Jones Hill trail. Then, Mary Coffin is organizing an ADK Volunteer Trail Work Week (August 5-9), with ADK volunteers from several chapters, trained by ADK Trails Coordinator Andy Hamlin, doing the benching and water bar work to establish the trail's tread. It is unlikely that this trail will be completed this year, but a good start can be made. You can reach Mary at maryccoffin@gmail.com, or 315-687-3589.



*Volunteers Ray Sergott, Kraig Armstrong and Dave Loux muscle a log out of the trail during early work on the Jones Hill Trail.
Photo by Norm Kuchar.*

The NCNST is being completed piecemeal from North Dakota, across the Northern Plains and Michigan, through Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York to Lake Champlain. Currently about 2,600 miles are in public use and almost 2,000 miles are certified. The general path and scope of the trail was determined in the 1960s by the U.S. Forest Service and fell under the National Trails System Act in 1968, like the Pacific Crest and Appalachian Trails.

**--Norm Kuchar,
Chair, Trails Committee**

Chapter Offers Teen Trails Scholarship

Since 1986, thousands of volunteers have worked with trained ADK trail crew leaders on trail maintenance and reconstruction projects all over the Adirondacks and Catskills. Each year, the Schenectady Chapter of ADK sponsors a local teen, providing the \$285 fee so they can participate at no cost. The High School projects, detailed below, are designed for high school teens who want to spend a week in the woods camping in the backcountry and experiencing trail work.

Requirements:

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

To apply:

Go to the ADK webpage, below, to submit your application for the scholarship. Please choose "Scholarship Page" to access the application. Any questions please contact Project Coordinator Jacqueline McGinn at jeve3@aol.com or 518-281-3673.

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

Applications must be received by April 15. They are already coming in so please email the application to jeve3@aol.com and do not use the PO Box listed on the application if at all possible.

Projects List:

June 23-28 Johns Brook Lodge, HPWA

Install new trail and harden trail as needed. Participants will camp in tents and lean-to.

July 21-25 Cascade Mountain

Participants will stone turnpiking using native materials quarried on site. Participants will load all of the tools, food, and personal items, and hike 3 miles to reach their camp. Once there participants will hike 1/2 mile to and from the worksite each day. They will camp at a lean-to if space is available, if not they will be sleeping in tents provided by the ADK.

Aug. 4-9 Seventh Lake Canoe Trip

Rehabilitate and clean campsites. Participants will camp in tents.

\$500 High School Scholarship - Reminder

We have extended the deadline to no later than April 15

To apply:

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

Submissions should include the following (Please send in either word or pdf format):

Name

Address

Contact number and email address

Parent's Name(s)

Name of High School

Name of College attending in September

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

Send submissions to:

jeve3@aol.com (Subject Line: ADK HS Scholarship)

Questions? Call Jacqueline McGinn, HS Scholarship Project Coordinator, at 518-281-3673 or email her at jeve3@aol.com.

--Jacque McGinn

Whitewater Trips And Training Opportunities

Good news! The creeks are rising!

Yes, it is that time of year when whitewater paddling is just around the bend and we dream of those sunny days shooting the rapids with a few of our best paddle buddies. What a fantastic season we have coming up! We have 60 scheduled trips and classes, and no doubt a few more as opportunities arise. Yes we will be doing all of our old favorites including the Sacandaga, Schroon, Hudson and Deerfield, but we will also offer the Pork Barrel section of the Westfield and the Gatineau Festival in Canada.

And it is not just fun times on the river. We also take seriously skills development and sharing our skills and knowledge with others. Along with a great list of rivers to paddle we have provided a great list of classes. We will have basic skills classes, moving water classes, beginner white water classes and novice and intermediate level classes.

When you want to scout those rapids, make that line, hit that eddy, shoot those rapids or nail that roll you will do best and have the most success and fun when you have the right foundation and coaching. This is what makes the whitewater group of the ADK so special. And it is guaranteed to put a smile on your paddling face.

Here is a brief list of learning opportunities. For greater detail you can also check our whitewater page and schedule on the Schenectady Chapter web site adk-schenectady.org or contact me at rpascale@spendwood.com.

- Intro to Whitewater, The Battenkill - May 19 with Charles Murray (413-298-4598).
- Whitewater Paddle Skills, fit and equipment (fact vs. fiction of paddling), The Sacandaga June 16 with Pierre Cyr (518-744-6740).
- Novice Whitewater Class, The Deerfield - June 22, 23 with Sally Dewes and Anthony Lamanno. (518-346-1761)
- Introduction to Whitewater, The Deerfield - June 29 with Charles Murray (413-298-4598).
- Basic Paddling Skills and Equipment, Grafton Lakes State Park - July 13 with Ralph Pascale. (518-339-4810).

--Ralph Pascale, Whitewater Chair

Whitewater Schedule

3/31/2019	Sunday	Leaders Choice	III+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
4/6/2019	Saturday	Schroon	II/III	B.Wright, M. Plante	279-1428
4/13/2019	Saturday	Catskill Creek	III	Norm Labbe	877-0076
4/14/2019	Sunday	Westfield-Pork Barrel	III	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
4/20/2019	Saturday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	II/III	Mal Provost	399-1565
4/27/2019	Saturday	West Branch of Sacandaga/LC	III	Bob Wright	279-1428
5/4/2019	Saturday	The Fish	III+	Sally Dewes	346-1761
5/5/2019	Sunday	Hudson River White Water Derby Rescue	III	Mal Provost	399-1565
5/11/2019	Saturday	Lower Boreas/Hudson	II/III	Horst DeLorenzi	399-4615
5/12/2019	Sunday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
5/18/2019	Saturday	Riparius to the Glen	III	Bob Wright	279-1428
5/19/2019	Sunday	Introducton to White Water/Battenkill	I	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
5/19/2019	Sunday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	II/III	Tom Flynn	883-5922
5/25/2019	Saturday	Schroon/Leaders Choice	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
5/26/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
6/1/2019	Saturday	Esopus	II+	Marty Plante	201-444-3248
6/2/2019	Sunday	Riparius to the Glen	III	Anthony Cagino	727-1666
6/8/2019	Saturday	Swift Water Rescue & White Water First Aid	III	Rick Morse	morse2@gmail.com
6/9/2019	Sunday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Clarke Darlington,Nelson Miller	370-2144
6/15/2019	Saturday	Fife Brook Deerfield	I-II,III	Don Orr	421-3389

See chapter website for full season schedule (adk-schenectady.org).

We Need You! *Lookout* Shifts To Digital Format

Along Adirondack trails this is a transition, popularly known as the mud season, and it can be tough slogging. At *The Lookout* we are also going through a slower – but we hope easier to navigate -- transition season. For us, this is the change from publishing *Lookout* in hard copy – what you have in hand – to our electronic edition.

We think it is going to be pretty straight ahead, mostly involving encouraging individual members to confirm or update their email contacts with the Schenectady Chapter and the Adirondack Mountain Club, and for those who want to keep receiving a mailed hard copy to let us know. We intend to be fully available via e-edition in the next cycle: June-July.

Here's the easiest part: If you already receive information via email from the Schenectady Chapter – Young Member notices or our listings of hikes, whitewater trips and other events – you do not have to do anything. You are current and your subscription will continue in the electronic version (**but the hard copy mailing will end**). However, if you are not on our current email service, please contact Member Services, membership@adk.org, or the main membership phone 1-800-395-8080 ex.6. At this number you can talk with Manager Megan McLaughlin or Associate Sarah Spitzer.

If you want to continue with the hard copy version (content is identical, though the e-edition is full color), please contact the Schenectady Chapter's Publicity Chairman Richard Wang, at publicity@adk-schenectady.org, request continuation of your status and make sure your surface mail address is current. (If you have no internet capability, please send your information to Schenectady ADK, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY, 12301.)

Finally, we want to emphasize that conversion to the e-edition is important economically and environmentally. The chapter spends about \$6,000 – half its annual budget – on print and mailing costs for the hard copy. Cutting into that cost will allow us to enhance our most essential services, which are education, scholarships and outdoor skills activities, while sharply reducing consumption of paper and the fuel it takes to deliver it. **Please step up to the plate.**

--Mal Provost, *Lookout* Editor

Teen Trails Scholarship Winner's Experience

The Schenectady Chapter Board was privileged to have had last year's scholarship winner, Kieran Stone, share his experiences and some slides with us at a recent board meeting. His project took him and nine other volunteers and trip leaders, to Hurricane Mountain where they worked for five days.

The project included hiking more than a mile and one-half to the base camp with 80-pound pack of tools and camping gear. They were tasked with "quarrying" rocks for a retaining wall, meaning they dug the rocks out of the ground and rolled them down the hill to the work site. This involved a mile and one-half hike to and from the work site to camp each day, one of which was rainy. They had a great time.

The board truly enjoyed the presentation and appreciated the time Kieran put into the work week itself as well as sharing it with us.

--Jacque McGinn



Kieran Stone and friends on Hurricane Mountain during his trails week.

Conservation Report

NY State Working To Combat Climate Change

Mark Lowery describes himself as “The most depressing man in the Department of Environmental Conservation,” adding that this is not solely the opinion of his wife. But he comes by it honestly, focusing on climate change as an existential crisis. Now. So, not surprisingly, he carries a lot of bad news. But he also focuses on action, not worrying. And he is big on getting involved and promotes a list of local and state level contacts that offer a chance for engagement. (See below.)

In a talk at Reamer Auditorium on Union College the day following the president’s State of the Union message - which he noted contained “not one word” about climate change – Lowery cautioned that “apathy and hopelessness” will ensure failure to meet this crisis.

Lowery is policy analyst for DEC, working since 2007 in the Office of Climate Change (OCC). His focus is state and local actions to confront climate change, which include promoting the Climate Smart Communities program – the city and county of Schenectady are included -- pushing for renewable energy development, efficiency in heating and cooling buildings and recycling. What New York state is trying to do, he notes, is in cooperation with other state efforts but totally out of step with the Trump Administration’s inaction.

The Union College presentation – sponsored by the Kelly Adirondack Center – highlighted three reports issued in 2018 by United States and United Nations scientists. These are the Fourth National Climate Assessment; the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 Centigrade; and the Emissions Gap Report. The overview of Lowery’s comments states: “These reports provide the strongest warnings yet that failure to achieve rapid and significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions will have severe consequences for humanity.”

The warnings are heavy in statistics and seriously scary, even though their projections are now commonly known. Already, there has been a 1 degree centigrade increase in the world’s average temperature, which is the fastest increase in history. If the trend is not stopped or slowed radically, a 5 degree rise by the end of the century – 80 years – could see an end to ocean life, general die-off and “relic populations living at high elevations,” he said. Lesser impacts could see “climate refugees” coming to states such as New York, which may miss the most extreme events. New York, he said, could become “the Saudi Arabia of water” due to our natural resources.

Nationally and worldwide, the more prosaic consequences such as severe droughts, drenching storms and radical weather instability are already being experienced. It was this scientific research and real time events that prompted the 2015 Paris Climate Accords, which the Trump Administration is now abandoning. Adding to the problem, Lowery cautions, is the “tribalism” that now characterizes the climate debate. That tribalism has Republicans – to a large degree – falling in line with Trump’s refusal to acknowledge science.

Lowery’s immediate effort is for state and local action. New York is part of the U.S. Climate Alliance, which includes 20 states and Puerto Rico and which intends to meet the targets of the Paris Accords, despite Trump, especially including reductions in carbon dioxide and methane released into the atmosphere.

An immediate focus of New York, he said, is a 40 percent reduction of these greenhouse gasses (GHG), 50 percent reliance on renewable electric output and 23 percent drop in building energy use, all by 2030. These targets are expected to be detailed in a climate legislation package this year in Albany. Such targets are linked to reduction in gasoline and diesel emissions, less landfill waste -- particularly of food – and vastly increased renewable energy development. He hopes to see technical support, grants and training for localities. An array of web sites and links can be checked out under the topics of Climate Smart Communities and the Community Risk and Resiliency Act, the DEC web site and climatechange@dec.ny.gov



Mark Lowery, policy analyst with DEC, spoke on climate change Feb. 6 at Union College.

Conservation Report

Invasive Species Watch Heads Into Fifth Year

As the mud begins to solidify again and the sun offers promise of black flies and skeeters, it's time also to think of invasive species, the uninvited plants and insects that threaten the natural residents of the Adirondacks and Catskills and beyond. That's a downer, but awareness of these and the long-term project to at least monitor them and maybe control them is part of the job for volunteers and staff of the Adirondack Mountain Club. So the good news is that this year, the work continues.

Cathy Pedler, director of government relations and conservation in the Albany ADK office, reported at the March 9 Conservation Committee meeting that for the fifth year, the backcountry water monitoring project will continue this year. That is a cooperative effort with the Lake Champlain Basin Project, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and other non-profit and state departments. The water element sends volunteers out to check remote water bodies for invasives such as Eurasian watermilfoil and water chestnut; the dry land element looks for the hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borers and other damaging bugs.

This will be the fifth year of the monitoring work. So far, Pedler reported, 103 volunteers have checked 65 remote water bodies in the Adirondack backcountry, happily finding only a handful that have milfoil problems. (The greater problem exists in boat-accessible and heavily used lakes such as Indian, George, Great Sacandaga and Champlain, which have serious invasive infestations).

The work will continue, she said. "This year's project goals are to have 25 participants, survey 15 ponds, and have at least four staffed outings. The easy to access ponds are becoming fewer so next year's outings may be more along the lines of the bushwhack to Spectacle, or some of the ponds that are 5 miles or more distant from a trail head."

Ticks and Rangers

The bad news she reported is that state funding for other major issues is either in jeopardy or spiked already. Ticks and their diseases are more and more prevalent in the state, while research money to combat these has – as we go to press – been cut from the budget. That is a \$1 million project that can save lives and has been productive in understanding the problem. It is a good time to check the ADK web site and write a letter to the governor or your legislators about the importance of this funding.

And while there are far too many ticks around, there are far too few forest rangers, a longstanding problem growing worse as the popularity of Adirondack hiking and general outings expands. There are now 105 field rangers, many of whom are called in for searches and rescues; another 40 would help greatly and would cost \$4 million annually, Pedler said.

Staffing is so thin that while rangers traditionally have been shipped to crisis areas such as Southeastern flooding or the California wildfires, none were dispatched last year. There is virtually no chance that this will change for 2019-20, she said, but that is a serious unmet need.

– Mal Provost, Conservation Chair

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 budget issues such as how many forest rangers are employed. **Your voice counts.**

Following are the chairmen of environmental conservation committees for 2019 in the state Senate and Assembly.

Todd Kaminsky
Chair of Senate Environmental Conservation Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 302
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-3401
kaminsky@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

Outings

Thursday, April 4, from 7-9 p.m.
Young Member Social: Wolf Hollow
Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782
or pastor@messiahshenectady.org

If you're roughly in your twenties and thirties and looking to build some community, come and get the spring started off right 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 and all apps are free!

Friday, April 5, 12; Thursday, April 18
Bike Rides – Zim Smith Trail
Class A3D

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

This is a flat (except for 1 hill), easy bike ride over a paved and hard surfaced off-road trail (there are a few road crossings). We will start from Shenentaha Creek Park in Malta; the distance is 12 - 18 miles round trip depending on the trail conditions. Rain, snow, or cold weather will cancel. (Note this is a series of rides for the leader getting ready for a biking vacation.)

Saturday, April 6
Young Member: Peaked Mountain
Class B2C

Mary Zawacki, (Text) 914-373-8733

Peaked Mountain in the Central Adirondacks is a steep climb with fantastic views at the summit (7.2 miles with 1,245' ascent, moderate). We will be hiking at a moderate pace to enjoy the scenery. Please be prepared with microspikes and snowshoes for this hike. Text trip leader

Sunday, April 7
Young Member: Mt Van Hoevenberg and Cobble Hill
Class C2C

Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us for a relatively easy hike on two of the Lake Placid 9er mountain challenges. We will start at Mt. Van Hoevenberg which offers wonderful views of Lake Placid and the High Peaks. Very short 2.2 mile round trip hike. Then we will drive over to Cobble Hill for a short 1.6 mile hike with nice views of the village. Leashed dogs are always welcome. Please be prepared with microspikes and snowshoes.

Friday, April 12
Bike Ride – Zim Smith Trail
Class A3D

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

See April 5 description. Rain, snow, or cold weather will cancel.

Saturday, April 13
Young Member Outing: McKenzie & Haystack
Class A1B
Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782
or pastor@messiahshenectady.org

Join our Young Member Group as we bag two of the Saranac 6 over 11.9 miles of trail and 3,303 feet of elevation gain. Epic views of Lake Placid and the surrounding area will be had and this is definitely a puppy friendly hike. Get a good long hike in before mud season! All are welcome! Bring microspikes and snowshoes.

Saturday, April 13
Tongue Mountain Range – North Half
Class B2B

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

This hike starts at the Deer Leap Parking area on 9N and ends at the Clay Meadow Parking area. It will go over Brown, Huckleberry and 5 Mile Mountain for a total distance of about 7 miles. There should be good views of Lake George in many locations. These are three of the Lake George 12sters challenge. Winter hiking gear, snowshoes, microspikes and hiking poles may be needed.

Thursday, April 18
Bike Ride – Zim Smith Trail
Class A3D

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

See April 5 description.

Tuesday, April 23
Willie Wildlife Marsh in Peck Hill State Forest.
Class C3C

Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482

Ice should be just about gone from the marsh with waterfowl arriving. This will be a relatively flat trip of under 5 miles in this nearby Peck Hill State Forest just outside the Adirondack Park in the Town of Johnstown, Fulton County. New boardwalks were built and the Willie Marsh Nature Trail was improved in the past two years so there are good viewing places all around the Marsh. We may also cross the Blue Line into the Adirondack Park for a visit to Peck Creek. We will meet about 9am and back by 4pm.

Thursday, April 25
Pine Cobble & Eph's Lookout
Class B2B

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

This hike provides great views of the Williamstown and Mt. Greylock area with an option to hike up to the Vermont state line. We will go up the '98 trail and return via the Pine Cobble trail. The distance is 6 to 8 miles with approximately 2,000 feet of ascent.

Outings

Continued from Page 7

Saturday, April 27

**Young Member: Indian Lake Challenge 4-3-2-1 Hikes
Class A2C**

Jason Waters, 518-369-5516

We will do six of the Indian Lake Challenge Hikes. We will start with Blue Ledges, which is a 5 miles hike, and finish on Chimney Mountain. The other trails include Pashley Falls, Buttermilk Falls, Secret Falls (a.k.a. Death Brook Falls), and Sawyer Mountain. Canines are welcome. There is a fee for parking at Chimney Mountain.

Saturday, April 27

**Round Lake Paddle
Class B2C**

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

Round Lake is a great local paddle to get back into the paddling season. There are plenty of places to explore in this relatively small lake. Depending on the depth of the water, we may be able to go quite a way up the Anthony Kill. The shores of the lake and the Anthony Kill offer opportunities to see blue herons and other wildlife. We will launch from the boat launch on Route 9.

Saturday, April 27

Bike-Hike Trail Cleanup

Gillian Scott, 518-372-8478 or gvscott07@verizon.net

The Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail, in partnership with CREATE Community Studio, is sponsoring a Canal Clean Sweep event on the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail. We'll have two official shifts – one starting at 9 a.m. and another starting at noon. Participants will meet at the small unmarked parking area on Rice Road in Rotterdam, off Exit 3B of I-890. Bring your work gloves, boots and grungy clothes! We'll be picking up trash and beautifying the trail, including covering graffiti. Can't make it to Rotterdam? There are a variety of Canal Clean Sweep events taking place along the Erie Canalway Trail. See www.ptny.org/events/canal-clean-sweep.

Tuesday, April 30

**Tenant Creek Falls
Class B2B**

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

Moderate-sized Tenant Creek, in the Town of Hope, Hamilton County, has three nice waterfalls that can be reached by trail. The first is about 40 feet high, and while the two others are not as high, they all are attractive as they plunge into pools framed by dark hemlocks. At this time of year, the falls should be at their best. We'll plan to hike to all three, on a trail recently rerouted

and marked by DEC. Round trip distance is about 5 miles, with a total climb of about 500 ft.

Saturday, May 4

**Big Indian & Eagle
Class A2B**

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

Big Indian is considered one of the tailless peaks in the Catskills and has a canister even though the bushwhack is short. We'll hike in from the Seager trail head along one of the more scenic trails in the Catskills. Big Indian is #19 and Eagle is #29 on the list of Catskill 3500 peaks. The distance is approximately 12 miles (mostly on trail) with 2,000 to 2,500 feet of ascent.

Saturday, May 4

**Young Member: Pillsbury Mountain
Class C2B**

Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us for a 3.2 mile round trip hike up to one of the many beautiful fire towers in the ADK. This mountain is near Speculator. There are no views unless you climb the tower. The top is closed but you can still get a wonderful 360 degree view from the upper landing. Leashed dogs are always welcome.

Sunday, May 5

**Young Member: Tongue Range Loop
Class A1B**

Mary Zawacki, (Text) 914-373-8733

This is a fast-paced hike featuring a lot of climbing as we move through the Tongue Range Loop on Lake George, 12.6 miles with 3,000' ascent, difficult. The trail climbs over three peaks, and offers great views of Lake George. Be sure to pack plenty of water as this is a dry hike.

Saturday, May 11

**NCNST Scouting Bushwhack
Class C3C**

Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482

This is an opportunity to participate in determining the route of a short section of the North Country National Scenic Trail in the Adirondack Park. The total one way distance to be covered is under a mile but we may repeat that distance several times looking for the best route for the trail. The location is off Johnson Pond Road in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest in the Town of Schroon. We are looking for a good route from Johnson Pond Road to an old woods road that will be used for the NCNST. That road comes from private land so we need a route that bypasses the private land and some wet areas. Meeting time will be 8 a.m. with return by 6 p.m.

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Outings

Saturday, May 11

Young Member Outing: Jay Mountain

Class B2B

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

One of the best on the Adirondack 29er Challenge, Jay Mountain has some incredible views from the summit! Join our Young Member Group over 6.9 miles and 2,401' of elevation gain on what promises to be a beautiful mid-spring hike. Bringing your dog is strongly encouraged!

Friday, May 17

Paddle Middle Saranac Lake to Second Pond

Class A2C

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

This trip starts at the car-top boat launch on Middle Saranac Lake. We will leave cars at the boat launch just before the Rt. 3 bridge over the Saranac River (Second Pond) for our take out. We will paddle the South Creek inlet to Middle Saranac, and if the winds are not too high, we will explore Hungry Bay and Weller Pond on the far side of Middle Saranac. From there we will head over to Lower Saranac Lake by paddling past the big islands on Middle Saranac and then into the Saranac River. With a little luck, we might be able to operate the lock separating the Middle and Lower Saranac Lakes by hand. We will take out at Second Pond on the Saranac River. The trip length, depending on what we decide to explore, will be 10 to 12 miles. If the weather is extremely windy, we will move the trip to a more sheltered location or a smaller lake.

Saturday, May 18

Buck Mountain & Sleeping Beauty hike

Class B2C

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

For those who are working on their Lake George 12ster, this will help your progress. For Buck Mountain we will be hiking from the Sly Pond Rd/Shelving Rock Rd trail head. This is a 4.6 mile round trip. For Sleeping Beauty, we will start this trip from Dacy Clearing parking lot. This is a 3.4 mile round trip. Total for this trip is about 8 miles.

Saturday, May 18

Bailey Pond and South Hoffman Notch Trail Maintenance

Class C3C

Norm Kuchar, 518-399-6243 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 parts of the North Country National Scenic Trail. In 2017 our chapter took on the task of maintaining these short trails. This year we plan to do maintenance in the spring and fall. 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, loppers, 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 4.5 miles, with a total climb of about 450 ft. over gentle slopes.

Thursday, May 23, 7-9 p.m.

Young Member Social: Druthers

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

With tasty brews, incredible food and views of the harbor, Druthers has definitely become one of the ADK Schenectady's Young Member Group's new favorite spots! Join us as we plan another epic summer of adventures and answer any questions you might have. Members and prospective members alike are more than welcome and all apps are free!

Saturday, May 25

Young Member Outing: Pharaoh Mountain

Class A2B

Eric Woodruff, 518-588-5592 or eric@thewoodruffs.us

Starting from Crane Pond trail head, will pass by both Crane and Alder Pond as well as Glidden Marsh, before starting the ascent up Pharaoh; from the peak there are great views of the Adirondacks. This hike is a 9.1 mile out and back, located near Schroon. Rated moderate/difficult with about 1900' elevation gain, the hike is a main peak on the ADK 29er list.

Sunday, May 26

Young Member: Hike Pitchoff Mountain Traverse

Class B2B

Jason Waters, 518-369-5516

Pitchoff Mountain and Balancing Rocks Trail is a 5.2-mile trail located near Keene. Pitchoff is the 80th highest peak in the Adirondacks. We start at the west trail and come down the east trail. The Balanced Rocks, which is an Adirondack favorite, will be summited first before making the final ascent to Pitchoff Summit at 3,500 ft. All canines are welcome.

Friday, May 31

Bike Ride – Saratoga State Park Ramble

Class A3D

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

Join us for an 8.5 mi ride around the park. We'll see geysers, golfers, and maybe folfers (Frisbee golf). The route is mostly flat but there are a couple hills that will get your heart pumping. Rain or cold weather will cancel.

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Outings

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Saturday, June 1

Young Member: Owl's Head

Class B2C

Mary Zawacki, (Text) 914-373-8733

Owl's Head has outstanding and vast views from its cliffs, as well as a fire tower on the summit. This is a moderate-paced hike with steady climbs and traditional ADK mud, 6.3 miles, 1,530' ascent. Owl's Head is part of the Firetower Challenge.

Sunday, June 2

Young Member: Blue Mountain and Castle Rock

Class B2C

Mary Zawacki, (Text) 914-373-8733

Two relatively short hikes yield incredible views from the heart of the Adirondacks: 4.2 miles and 2.8 miles, 1,574' and 650' ascent. Blue Mountain is a steep and well-worn trail with excellent views from the summit's firetower. Blue Mountain is part of the Firetower Challenge. Nearby, the remote Castle Rock trail is a short hike along the banks of Blue Mountain to a rocky outcropping with incredible views of the lake.

Saturday, June 15

Young Member Outing: Kayaking: Cedar River Flow

Class A1

Eric Woodruff, 518-588-5592 or eric@thewoodruffs.us

A great kayaking outing for both novice and experienced paddlers, Cedar River Flow is a 640-acre lake created by Wakely

Dam, with great views of summits all around. A 8-9 mile round trip paddle, plan on launching from Wakely Dam, paddling upstream to possibly meetup with lean-tos along the NPT; after a break we will paddle back downstream. A PFD is required to be worn by all participants. If you have questions about equipment or do not have access to a kayak but are interested, I have extra kayaks, paddles, and PFDs.

Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23

Novice/Intermediate Whitewater Kayak Instruction

Class I-II, III

Sally Dewes, 518-346-1761

This two-day clinic is designed for boaters who have had some previous experience but still need more work to perfect the basic strokes and maneuvers. Students should have paddled class 1 or 2 whitewater five or more times and be able to perform eddy turns, peel-outs, and ferries on class 1 water. They should be able to paddle in a straight line, identify river features including eddies, waves, and holes, and self-rescue in class 1 and 2 water. 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 later and be over each day by late afternoon. Students must provide their own equipment including the boat. Cost for the two days of instruction is \$40.

Last day to sign-up is Friday, June 14.

Spring Programs By Kelly Adirondack Center

The Kelly Adirondack Center of Union College is a trove of resources such as history, maps and photos, and is active in developing programs to carry these elements to the public including movies, talks, and discussions, all with outstanding munchies and all free.

Upcoming:

Adirondack Place Names: How Come?

Friday, April 5, at 5 p.m.

Old Chapel, Union College

Author and long-distance hiker Erik Schlimmer will historically decode 100 Adirondack place names in rousing detail, supporting history with backdrop of gorgeous photos. He says, "Behind every name there's a story, and the story's usually pretty good."

Adirondack Fish Stories

Wednesday, May 1, 5 p.m.

Reamer Auditorium, Union College

Join us for a brief history of the fish communities of the Adirondacks, including the history of degradation that shaped the Adirondack Park Preserve, presented by Lisa Holst of the DEC. We will briefly touch on effects of acid rain and invasive species and I'll share profiles of some of the lesser known native species. We will wrap up by discussing the ongoing restoration of endangered round whitefish and conservation concerns for other species, including our rediscovered apparent endemic, summer sucker. Holst has worked for the Department of Environmental Conservation for 26 years. She has been the Rare Fish Unit leader since 2008, responsible for assessment, management, and restoration of imperiled species of freshwater fish statewide.

Trip Tales

**Ampersand
February 2**

The weather was ROUGH near the summit of Ampersand, with the wind so strong it was barely possible to stand up! Still, we had a blast and made it back in time to hit Blue Line Brewery in Saranac Lake, explore the Ice Castle and be treated to some of the best fireworks in the North Country! Trip participants included trip leader Dustin Wright, Jeff Newsome, Rich Rogers and Colin Thomas.



Colin Thomas and Rich Rogers hug the rocks as they brave the high winds to attain the summit of Ampersand.

**Wilton Wildlife Preserve – Camp Saratoga XC Ski
February 4**

A beautiful day for a ski - plenty of snow and temperatures in the 40s! Three adventurers had a very pleasant ski in the woods. Lots of solitude and stillness so close to Saratoga. Participants were Bob Boromisa and Jan and Marc Limeri.

**Moreau Lake State Park
February 9**

We had a sunny, but cold day for this hike, with a gusty north-west wind keeping the wind chills in the single digits. Still, eight of us enjoyed an easy hike along the shores of Moreau Lake and its smaller companion Mud Pond, covering nearly four miles. The trails were often icy, so microspikes were the order of the day. After a couple of hours in the cold, we arrived at the warming hut, operated by volunteers of the park's Friends group, just in time to enjoy our lunches by the fireside in the rustic and cozy cabin. Hikers were Bob Boromisa, Walt Hayes, Mary MacDonald, Bernie Mansbach, Nilde Marcinowski, Linda Neil, Anne Rokeach and leader Norm Kuchar.

**LeVine Preserve
February 20**

We had good snow conditions for snowshoeing, with about three inches of fluffy new snow on top of a foot of dense, firm base. So, we hiked on all four of the preserve's loop trails, passing through quiet hardwood and white pine forests and following Cadman Creek with its interesting ice formations. We saw lots of animal tracks and the carcass of a deer recently killed and partly eaten by coyotes. After a quick lunch at the cellar hole marking the 19th century home of the Taber family, we finished the hike in the early afternoon. Snowshoers were Bob Boromisa, Peter & Linda Fedorick, Walt Hayes, Mary MacDonald, Bernie Mansbach and leader Norm Kuchar.



*Trekking along the Levine Preserve, front to rear, are Peter Fedorick, Linda Fedorick, Bob Boromisa, Mary MacDonald, Bernie Mansbach and Walt Hayes.
Photo by Norm Kuchar*

**Camel's Hump
March 9th**

Dustin couldn't have asked for a more perfect day to finish up his Northeast 115 high peaks. The weather was sunny, in the 30s, with almost no wind and perfect packed powder all the way up the mountain. Being able to see Mount Marcy, Mount Washington and as far as Canada all from one spot, as well as a completely frozen over Lake Champlain, was an incredible experience! Trip participants included leader Dustin Wright, Jeff Newsome, Seth Merrill, Rich Rogers and Megan McLaughlin.

**Mount Marshall
March 10**

As the winter season drew to a close, our group of dedicated high peak baggers ventured out to summit Marshall. Conditions on the

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Trip Tales

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drive north were not ideal, though the snow and wind made for an interesting 7-hour hike. Our group made fast progress up the Calamity Brook Trail and switched to snowshoes at Herbert Brook, as the snowfall was accumulating quickly and we faced a long, steep ascent. Making our way up the frozen brook was a pleasure, though the ascent got tricky as winds picked up and the trail ended. We bushwhacked the last quarter mile through several feet of fresh snow, with the forested summit of Marshall a beacon in the storm. After a quick photo at the top, we descended, enjoying the fast pace and noting the beauty of the snow-covered forest. The walk out along the Calamity Brook was long (it always is), but the snowflakes and winds scented the forest with a crisp, conifer smell that kept us going. Participants: Scott Birdsey, Greg Mikulka, Mark Vermilyea, and leader Mary Zawacki.



The Marshall hikers pictured are Greg Mikulka, Mark Vermilyea, and Scott Birdsey.

Moose Survey Shows Healthy Population

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has announced the completion of its annual aerial Adirondack moose survey, part of a collaborative study of the health of New York's moose population. A total of 83 groups of one or more moose were observed during the survey's 175 sightings, with all appearing healthy.

After an absence of 120 years, moose recolonized New York in the 1980s. Since that time, biologists have been routinely monitoring moose in the state, informing the public about moose, and responding to situations where moose come into conflict with people.



DEC wildlife staff conducted helicopter flights in January over seven days and approximately 42 hours of flight time. The survey divides the Adirondack park into grids and records every moose or group of moose seen. The survey crew then flies over to the sighting location, takes a GPS point, determines the number of animals, the age and sex of each animal, and notes general habitat characteristics for each moose sighted.

Researchers are expected to use the data from the 2019 survey to refine DEC's estimate of the Adirondack moose population, which most recently numbered approximately 400 animals. In addition to estimating moose population size, scientists involved in the study also aim to improve the understanding of moose survival and reproductive rates and to assess moose diet and health.

Outside of New York, moose mortality has been linked to a parasite known as the winter tick (*Dermacentor albipictus*). High tick loads on moose can lead to fewer calves being born as well as poor condition from blood loss that can lead to death. While a few moose with winter ticks have been documented in New York in the past, there was no evidence of winter tick infestation noted in 2019's survey.

In New York, most moose are located in the Adirondack Mountains and the Taconic Highlands along the Massachusetts and Vermont borders, though young male moose occasionally will wander south of the Adirondacks.

--Reprinted Courtesy of Adirondack Almanack

Schenectady ADK
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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
- School _____

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List spouse & children under 18 and birth dates

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