

The **Lookout**

June - July 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

On Jay Mountain, hikers Megan McLaughlin, Matt Guadagnino, Eric Woodruff and Laurean Rabideau work their way back down the trail. See Trip Tales Page 10

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June - July 2019

The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Plotterkill, Anchor Diamond Hemlocks Sprayed

Pesticide technicians and volunteers in the long-term fight to control a pest threatening hemlocks in the Capital Region finally got a weather break in early May. In a rare dry window in a drizzly, cool spring, they hoofed it into a 10-acre tract in the Plotterkill Preserve and sprayed about 250 trees to try to slow down a hemlock woolly adelgid infestation. The pesticide application needs dry trees and time for the bark to absorb it.

In April, a similar foray treated about 200 trees in Anchor Diamond Park off Middle Line Road in the Town of Ballston, Saratoga County. The Lisha Kill Preserve in Niskayuna may be next, if funding can be found, and further rounds of spraying are on the agenda for hemlock groves in these and other area preserves in coming years. The pest is also present in the Indian Kill Preserve, Glenville.

Mary Werner, co chair of the Schenectady County Invasive Species Committee with Kathy Fisher, said, "The overall idea is to preserve the hemlocks through chemical treatments until biological controls can be effective." These are in development through the state Hemlock Initiative located at Cornell University, involving predator beetles referred to as "Little Larry" for its Latin scientific tag and a species of flies that also attack the adelgid, an aphid-like insect that infests and kills hemlocks.

The adelgid has done serious damage in the Great Smokies and Appalachians and is not-so-slowly migrating north, having already established itself in Long Island, the lower Hudson Valley and the Finger Lakes. Werner said the spraying locally is protective of these groves as an end in itself, as well as because this area is a gateway to the Adirondacks. The hemlock is a critical tree there, stabilizing steep slopes and protecting stream environments, and thus is a high priority for protection and a focus of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

In the Plotterkill the hemlocks along the steep slopes of the creek, downstream from the waterfalls, provide the same protection, noted Jessica Cancellieri, with the Forest Health Unit of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Hemlocks help prevent slumping and slides, which are a characteristic problem there, and keep the stream environment shaded and cool. Fortunately, she said, the adelgid infestation remains limited there and it is hoped that treating about 25 percent of the hemlocks so far will help contain it.

Werner notes that the invasives committee is the only such at the county level in the state, working as a volunteer corps under the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council (SCEAC). The committee includes state Department of Environmental Conservation personnel and those of the Capital-Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. The DEC is funding the chemical application in the Plotterkill and Anchor Diamond. That work cost about \$4,000 for the 2017 spraying in Plotterkill – chemical cost and staff time – to treat about 250 of perhaps 2,000 hemlocks there. The treatments are hoped to be effective for about 5 years.



Robert Slocum of the state Department of Environmental Conservation sprays insecticide onto a hemlock in the Plotterkill Preserve May 7. Photo by Mal Provost

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Willie Thacker Awarded Chapter Scholarship

The Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club has, since 2008, offered scholarships to local high school seniors who plan to focus on the sciences and the protection of the environment in college. Eight of the area's high schools received invitations from Jacqueline McGinn, Project Coordinator, to submit essays to apply for a \$500 scholarship and a one-year membership to the Schenectady Chapter of the ADK.

This year's winner is Willie Thacker from Niskayuna High School, who will begin studies at Middlebury College, VT, this year, focusing on environmental economics. He will be presented with the scholarship at his school's Awards Night.

Willie Thacker has, per his advisor at the High Mountain Institute, "demonstrated a commitment to sustainability and environmental activism." Besides being highly active in the wilderness, whether hiking or paddling, he has shown a sincere interest in creating real and lasting change in the realm of environmental protection.

We were very impressed by all applicants; however, we were especially impressed by Willie. Below is an excerpt from the winning essay. We wish him well in his future, caring for our environment.

Essay Excerpt

I began to whitewater kayak when I was 14, and started going with the Adirondack Mountain Club this fall. Despite being the youngest person there, I quickly felt at home with the other boaters and refined my technical skills on the Sacandaga River, the Hudson River Gorge, and the West River. I look forward to paddling with the ADK this spring.

Last spring, I attended the High Mountain Institute (HMI) in Leadville, Colorado. HMI is an independent, outdoor focused, academically rigorous semester school. I studied and lived there from January to May of 2018 with 48 other students. The experience consisted of challenging academics, along with two, 12-day wilderness expeditions to canyon country in Utah and one backcountry skiing expedition in the nearby Sawatch Range. In addition to the standard classes, HMI had a unique ethics class, Practices and Principles: Ethics of the Natural World. In that class, we read a lot, and tried to develop a personal environmental ethic and take actions to realize it.

The ethics class represented a stark transition for me. Before taking that class, I generally interacted with the environment recreationally. I do not think it is immoral to do that, and in fact the very strong correlation between going outside and caring about the environment leads me to believe that promoting wilderness recreation is an effective, if indirect, method of promoting conservation. My thru hiking and kayaking both certainly have motivated me to protect the environment. That said, I did little to fight climate change or conserve resources before taking that class. Since then, I stopped eating meat due to its environmental impact, as well as organized a campaign to get HMI to divest its endowment of fossil fuel companies.

HMI, somewhat surprisingly, is not divested, and a student group did not exist to try and change that when I got there. I, with the support of my math teacher, Dylan Kane, founded and presided over the divestment club. We informed the student body about the issue, wrote a petition urging the board to divest, and got every single student and teacher to sign it.

At Middlebury College, I plan to study environmental economics, which is a joint major between environmental studies and economics. After graduation, I would like to enter the US Foreign Service as an economic officer who would negotiate treaties to mitigate climate change.



Willie Thacker out on the trail.

Volunteers Needed on Jones Hill Trail Extension

Last year, a team including ADK volunteers and the ADK Pro Crew, plus help from the Department of Environmental Conservation completed a new trail to the top of Jones Hill (near Schroon Lake) from the south. This trail will become a piece of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

It's now time to set in motion the 2019 plan to extend this new trail about three miles down the north side of Jones Hill to the DEC parking area on Route 9 near Schroon Falls. Since grant funding for the ADK Pro Crew has not materialized, we plan to use more effort by ADK volunteers to establish this trail. Much of the route has already been explored, and a DEC forester will flag the route, expected for completion by the end of May.

Following flagging, in June and July, Walt Hayes and Norm Kuchar will organize a group of ADK volunteers to clear parts of the trail corridor of blowdown and brush, as was done for the previous section of the Jones Hill trail. This will be done in a series of day trips, using hand tools such as saws, loppers and mattocks. If you are interested in helping on one or more of these day trips, please contact either Walt (518-399-7482 / Whayescbpb@aol.com) or Norm (518-399-6243 / nkuchar@nycap.rr.com). Our chapter has some trail maintenance equipment, or bring your own.

Then, following the rough clearing work, Mary Coffin of the Onondaga Chapter is organizing an ADK Volunteer Trail Work Week (August 5-9), with help from several chapters. After training by Andy Hamlin, ADK trails coordinator, these volunteers will do benching, water bar work and tread establishment. Volunteers will provide their own lodging and meals, but free camping at a nearby DEC campground or backpack camping near the work site are available on a limited basis. If you are interested in helping during this week, please contact Mary (315-687-3589 / maryccoffin@gmail.com).

Although it is unlikely that this trail will be completed this year, a good start can be made.

--Norm Kuchar
Chair, Trails Committee

Lookout Digital Format Shift Now In Effect

If you are reading this as ink and paper, having received the June-July edition in the mail, you are among only a handful of such folks. We are happy to have you and want you to stay connected to us, but our change to primarily digital is now a reality, as publicized over the last couple of editions.

We know this will still come as a jolt to some, as there are always glitches. If you know of Schenectady Chapter members who have missed the print copy and don't know why, please let them know. Also, feel free to contact us, as noted below.

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 digital edition is important economically and environmentally. The chapter has been spending 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, but let us know of any problems.

--Mal Provost,
Lookout Editor

Conservation Report

Environmental Amendment Has Legislative OK

The right to clean air and water and a healthy environment has long been common sense and also protected by law – think of the Clean Air Act and many restrictions on pollutants. But now New York State is moving toward making those values and goals the basic law of the land. The state Legislature April 30 completed first passage of a constitutional amendment for environmental rights.

This amendment, as cited in *Adirondac*, “would amend Article 1, the Bill of Rights, of the New York State Constitution to insert a new Section 19, recognizing the inalienable and self-executing right of all New Yorkers to clean air and water, and a healthful environment.” The next step is for the Legislature to pass the amendment again following the general election of 2020 (two successively elected Legislatures must pass an amendment) after which it will be placed before the voters in a constitutional referendum in 2021. Similar rights now exist in the Pennsylvania and Hawaii constitutions, among others, according Neil Woodworth, ADK executive director, at the May 11 Conservation Committee meeting.

Woodworth said a central aspect of the amendment would be to give all state citizens standing in court to sue for a clean environment. This could, for example, broaden the scope of citizen action in cases such as Hoosick Falls, where industrial contamination has polluted drinking water. A lot of detail work will be required for this to come into clearer shape, he said, but once enshrined in the state Constitution, the amendment should enhance citizen power to call for corrective actions.

Leave No Trace

The High Peaks Information Center, ADK and the Department of Environmental Conservation will host a week-long “Leave No Trace” outreach and educational event Aug. 7-14 at the HPIC. Volunteers are needed for work such as talking to hikers along trails in the High Peaks and on waterways about Leave No Trace principles. This follows the designation of the High Peaks region as a Leave No Trace “Hot Spot” for 2019, meaning it will draw a concerted effort for education and problem solving. (The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national nonprofit organization protective of responsible outdoor recreation.)

The annual retreat of the ADK Conservation Committee will take place Aug. 8-9 at the HPIC and coordinate with the Hot Spot program, focusing on the new trail from Mt. Van Hoevenberg to Cascade Mountain. Volunteers are needed for this on Thursday, Aug 8. Contact Seth Jones at programs@adk.org or 518-523-3480, or Cathy Pedler at cathy@adk.org or 518-449-3870.

--Mal Provost
Conservation Chair

Plotterkill, Anchor Diamond Sprayed (Cont.)

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Invasives Training

Training sessions for identifying invasive species and guided outings to spot them in the wilds sponsored by the ADK will take place through July and August in the Adirondacks and Catskills, according to Cathy Pedler, legislative director. On July 11, training in Aquatic Invasive Species Backcountry Water Monitoring (AIS BCWM) will take place at the Adirondack Loj, Heart Lake. There is an outing scheduled the following day July 12 to hike and bushwhack to Winch and Marsh Ponds in the Sentinel Range Wilderness (Two mile hike round trip).

We also have an HWA outing on the Taconic Crest Trail on July 8 and a training and outing on July 26 in the Catskill Park. The training on July 26 will be to have volunteers adopt one or more of 16 old growth hemlock stands to monitor for HWA. Most of these will involve some level of bushwacking.

Sign-up on-line for these events at:

<https://www.adk.org/protect/volunteer/volunteer-as-a-citizen-scientist/>

--Mal Provost

Outings

Saturday, June 1

**National Trails Day-Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail
Class C3D**

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

On National Trails Day, volunteers across the country step outside to improve trails in their area. The Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail will be tackling an overgrown section of the bike trail in Schenectady, starting at the Maxon Road Extension crossing and heading east to the Niskayuna border. There will be some litter pickup but a lot of brush cutting. Please bring work gloves and wear long sleeves and pants (there is poison ivy in places along the trail). Bring loppers if you have them. We can provide trash bags and baked goods. We'll be working 9 a.m. to noon but if you can only come for part of the time, that's fine, too. Please RSVP – if there are no signups this event will be canceled.

Sunday, June 2

**Young Member: Blue Mountain and Castle Rock
Class B2C**

Mary Zawacki, Text: 914-373-8733 to register

Two relatively short hikes yield incredible views from the heart of the Adirondacks - Blue Mountain Lake. Blue Mountain is a steep and well-worn trail with excellent views from the summit's fire tower. Blue Mountain is part of the Fire Tower 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. Trip details: 4.2 miles and 2.8 miles, 1,574' and 650' ascent.

Sunday, June 2

**Karner Blue Butterfly Hunt, Wilton Wildlife Preserve
Class C3D**

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

Most people know that the Albany Pine Bush is a habitat for the endangered Karner Blue butterfly. However, most people don't know that the Saratoga Sand Plains is also an important Karner Blue habitat. Over the past 10 years or so, the DEC and Town of Wilton have put in a lot of effort to restore this habitat. We'll take an easy 1.6 mile hike on a sandy trail to hunt for Karner Blues. They should be out and about and the blue lupine abundant. Last year we also spied many lady slippers in bloom. This is a great hike for children.

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

Young Member Social: Frog Alley

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

If you're roughly in your twenties and thirties and looking to build some community this summer, come and get the spring started off right with ADK Schenectady's Young Member Group! All members and prospective members are welcome and all apps are free!

Friday, June 7

**Warren County Bikeway to Lake George
17 mile round trip**

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

This is a nice ride from Glens Falls to Lake George and return to Glens Falls. It has a variety of scenery along the way from residential to Golf Courses, and a historic path for battles during the French and Indian War. The path is well paved and a great ride. Rain will cancel. Please sign up by Wednesday, June 5.

Saturday, June 8

Kaaterskill High Peak

Class A2B

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

Kaaterskill High Peak is one of Catskill 3500' peaks. We'll hike in from the Platte Clove Road trailhead along old woods roads, snowmobile trails and herd paths. The summit of Kaaterskill has no views; but, there are good views to the south from Hurricane Ledge near the summit. The distance is 9 - 10 miles with ~2000 feet of ascent. Sign up from 5/28/19 to 6/6/19.

Saturday, June 8

Young Member Outing: Noonmark Mountain

Class B2B

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

Join our Young Member Group as we bag one of the best of the ADK 29er peaks on a puppy friendly route! Noonmark via Round Pond is a 6.4 mile lightly trafficked out and back trail located near Keene, New York that features a lake, great views and only 2,086 of elevation gain. Depending on time we might even bag nearby Round Mountain, another ADK 29er as well.

Sunday, June 9

Young Member Hike: Hurricane Mountain

Class B2B

Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us for a moderate hike up Hurricane mountain which is located near Keene. This mountain is part of the ADK fire tower challenge as well as a Lake Placid 9er. We will be taking the southern trail up which is well marked. There is some light rock scrambling near the top where we will be rewarded with a wonderful 360 degree views of the Adirondacks. Families with older children and 4 leashed friends are welcome.

Thursdays, June 13, 20, July 11, 18, 25, and August 15, 22

ECOS Seven Nature Preserve Challenge Series

Class C1C

Mary Zawacki, Text: 914-373-8733 to register

The ECOS Seven Preserve Challenge is designed to encourage folks to explore seven of our beautiful local natural areas. Once

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Outings

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you have visited each of the preserves and completed a form, you're eligible for a patch from ECOS! On seven Thursday evenings throughout the summer we'll be exploring the seven nature preserves. These will be leisurely walks, and photography is encouraged! Following the completion of the series, participants can submit their photographs for inclusion in an art exhibition at the Mabee Farm Historic Site that will highlight the beauty of Schenectady County's incredible nature preserves.

All of the preserves are within 30 minutes of downtown Schenectady. We will meet at the trailheads at 5:30 p.m. Be sure to bring a headlamp, sneakers or hiking boots, and water.

Meeting time at trailhead: 5:30pm - Contact Mary to register or for more information.

Dates/Locations:

June 13 - Bozenkill Preserve, Bozenkill Rd., Altamont
 June 20 - Schenectady County Preserve, Lake Rd., Duanesburg
 July 11 - Christman Sanctuary, Schoharie Turnpike, Delanson
 July 18 - Indian Kill Preserve, Hetcheltown Rd., Glenville
 July 25 - Plotterkill Preserve, Rt. 159, Rotterdam
 August 15 - Sanders Preserve, Sanders Rd., Glenville
 August 22 - Lisha Kill Natural Area, Rosendale Rd., Niskayuna

Details on the challenge are at: ecosny.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CHALLENGE-FLYER-2.pdf

Saturday, June 15

Young Member Outing: Kayaking: Cedar River Flow Class A/I

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 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, please reach out – I have availability of extra kayaks, paddles, and PFDs.

Wednesday, June 19

Crown Point and Coot Hill – Hiking Through History Class C2C

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

This trip was canceled twice last year due to bad weather, but we're persistent. Crown Point, a strategic peninsula jutting into Lake Champlain, was fortified by French, British, and American troops during the 1700s. The French built Fort St. Frederic here

in the 1730s. After capturing this fort in 1759, the British built one of their largest forts in North America at this spot. In 1775, American colonists captured the fort and its sorely needed artillery. On our trip, we'll first take a short trail (about 2.5 miles RT, with 600 ft climb) to Coot Hill, overlooking Crown Point, to take in the great view and see why Crown Point was such a strategic place. We'll then drive the short distance to Crown Point State Historic Site and explore the preserved ruins of the French and British forts. Crown Point is also the current eastern terminus of the North Country National Scenic Trail, so we'll see the kiosk marking this place and may walk across the new Lake Champlain bridge to Vermont. There is a small fee (about \$3) to enter the state historic site.

Friday, June 21

Lake Abanakee Paddle Class B2C

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

Lake Abanakee is on the way to the town of Indian Lake. We put in a little past the town beach and paddle up the lake past several Osprey nests, many loons and some interesting camps. At the far end of the lake we continue into a wide swampy area with two small inlet streams to explore. Depending on how much exploring the group wants to do, the total mileage could vary from 7 to 10 miles.

Saturday, June 22

Snow Hole – Taconic Crest Trail Class B2C

Rich Vertigan, 518-522-1844 or vertiganr@gmail.com

Snow Hole is a deep cleft in the Taconic ridge that often contains snow year-round. We'll carpool to Petersburg Pass and follow the Taconic Crest Trail along the ridge, with some gentle ups and downs and viewpoints, 3 miles to Snow Hole, and return via the same route.

Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23

Novice/intermediate whitewater kayak instruction Class I-II, III

Sally Dewes, 518-346-1761

Intermediate/Novice whitewater instruction for kayakers will be offered on June 22 thru 23 by Schenectady ADK. 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

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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.**

Sunday, June 23

Young Member Hike: Vanderwhacker Mountain Class B2B

Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us for a 5.1 mile out and back hike up Vanderwhacker. We will travel across a few small creeks and then hit a steep and steady incline. Without climbing the tower at the top you can get a view to the north of Algonquin Peak and Avalanche pass. If you choose to climb the tower there is a beautiful 360 degree view. Families with older children and leashes four legged friends are welcome. Note: the road to the trailhead is not good for low clearance vehicles.

Tuesday, June 25

Nine Corner Lake hike, bushwhack and swim Class C2C

Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482

We will take the trail to the lake and then bushwhack on the east side of the lake looking for the rock climbers boulder site, views and swimming spots. This is a very popular destination for swimmers with lots of nice ledges for getting into the water. We should find fewer people on a weekday with the bushwhack separating us from others. Total trip will be under five miles with total climb of about 500 feet on the trail to the lake.

Tuesday, July 2

Schroon River Paddle Class B3D

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

We'll put in at the Schroon Falls on Rte 9 north of the village and paddle to the village lakeside park, a distance of 8 miles. The river is flat water except for an optional small rapid right at the put in (you can put in downstream of the rapid). There are plenty of sandbars for a quick dip at the mouth of the river. This will require a car shuttle.

Saturday, July 6

Indian Lake Challenge 4-3-2-1 Hikes Class A2C

Jason Waters, 518-369-5516

We will be hiking six of the Indian Lake Challenge Hikes; Blue Ledges, Chimney Mountain (2,721), Pashley Falls and some of the smaller trails. We will start with the Blue Ledges hike which

is a 5 mile hike and finish on Chimney Mountain. The other trails could include Buttermilk Falls, Secret Falls A.K.A. Death Brook Falls, and/or Sawyer Mountain. Canines are welcome on the hike. There is a fee for parking at Chimney Mountain.

Saturday, July 6

Southwest Hunter Class B2B

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

Southwest Hunter is one of the trailless peaks in the Catskills. We'll take the trails from Spruceton to the view at Geiger Point before bushwhacking over to Southwest Hunter to find the canister. SW Hunter is #15 on the list of Catskill 3500 peaks. The distance is about 8 miles with 1500 to 2000 feet of ascent.

Thursday, July 11, 7-9 p.m.

Young Member Social: Back Barn Brewing Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782 or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

After Mary's hike at Christman Sanctuary join us down the road in Duanesburg at the Schenectady area's newest brewery! Come hear about an epic summer of adventures and answer any questions you might have about how to getting started out on the trail. Members and prospective members alike are more than welcome and food is free!

Sunday, July 14

Young Member Outing: Giant/Rocky Peak Ridge Class A2A

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

Capture two high peaks and bag two ADK 29er's in the process in this 11 mile jaunt to Rocky Peak Ridge and Giant Mt. With a total elevation gain of 5300', expect to get a great workout while taking in some of the best summits in the Adirondacks. As we will be working this as an end-to-end, will need to coordinate vehicles at both trailheads.

Friday, July 19

Garnet Lake Paddle and Hike to Lizard Pond Class B3C

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

Come take a leisurely paddle on Garnet Lake from the Keats' beach. We'll tour the lake with great views of Blue, Ross and Crane Mountains, and look for all the wildlife on the lake. The hike into Lizard Pond lean-to is only 1.25 miles one-way and puts us at a pretty wilderness pond. Total trip mileage (paddling + walking) would be about 6 miles.

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Saturday, July 20

Foxlair Estate - explore and swim

Class C2C

Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482

This will be an explore of the remains of the estate of the cosmetic businessman Richard Hudnut. Rudolf Valentino visited here with his future wife, the stepdaughter of Mr Hudnut. Rudolf had failed to get a divorce from his prior wife and used Foxlair as a hideout from reporters. We will have a chance to swim at the end of the day in the old family swimming hole carved out of the East Branch of the Sacandaga River.

Saturday, July 27

Pole Hill Pond Thru-Hike

Class C2C

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

Last November, this trip was cancelled due to heavy rain, so we'll try again. The area near the head of Lake George's Northwest Bay is a great place to hike, and we'll visit two parcels preserved by the Lake George Land Conservancy. Distance is about 4 miles, with a total climb of about 500 ft, although there is a net loss in elevation of about 700 ft from start to finish.

Thursday, August 1, 7-9 p.m.

Summer All Member Social: Great Flats

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

After such an awesome response to our all member holiday social our YM's organized last December we thought returning this summer to Great Flats for another opportunity to meet club members of all ages was in order! We'll essentially be organizing this as a "snack potluck" so simply bring a dish to share, grab a brew, meet some new friends, swap hiking stories and take part in a simply advocacy action to protect the Adirondacks! Join us for this epic summer night!

Saturday, August 3

Young Member Outing: Big Crow and Nun-Da-Ga-O Ridge

Class B2B

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

Join our Young Member Group for an epic hike that'll be great for relative beginners and longtime hikers alike! Big Crow and Nun-Da-Ga-O Ridge Loop Trail is a 5.8 mile moderately trafficked loop near Keene, New York that features a lake, wonderful views south to the High Peaks Region of the Adirondacks and 1,417 feet of elevation gain. Big Crow is on the Lake Placid 9er list so it'll be a bit of a peak bagging trip as well!

Whitewater Schedule

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
6/16/2019	Sunday	White Water Paddling-Equipment, Fit & Skills	II/III	Pierre Cyr	744-6740
6/22/19 - 6/23/19	Sat-Sun	Novice/Intermediate Kayak Class Deerfield *	I-II, III	Sally Dewes	346-1761
6/23/2019	Sunday	Hudson river Gorge Trip Leading	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
06/28/19 - 06/30/19	Sat-Sun	Deerfield Festival and Zoar Demofest			
6/29/2019	Saturday	Fife Brook section of the Deerfield	I-II, III	Don Orr	421-3389
6/29/2019	Saturday	Introduction White Water Deerfield Shunpike	I	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
7/4/2019	Thursday	Hudson River Gorge/Darlington Camp	III+	Mal Provost	399-1565
7/6/2019	Saturday	Sacandaga	II/III	Don Orr	421-3389
7/7/2019	Sunday	Fife Brook Deerfield	I-II, III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
7/13/2019	Saturday	Leaders Choice	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
7/13/2019	Saturday	Grafton Lakes State Park Kayak Day	0	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
7/14/2019	Sunday	Esopus	II+	Bob Wright	279-1428
7/20/2019	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
7/21/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
7/27/2019	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Tom Flynn	518-883-5922

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

**Advance sign-up is required.*

Help ADK Continue Work to Protect Wilderness

You know there are many good reasons to join ADK, like fun social and recreational activities, member discounts, and fulfilling volunteer opportunities. The benefits alone are well worth the dues, but you can also be proud that your membership supports your chapter's activities and helps protect New York State wilderness. We are so glad you're an ADK member!

Do you also know ADK depends heavily on donations in addition to membership? ADK must raise about \$1 million in charitable contributions each year, separate from dues revenue, to sustain the educational outreach, recreational opportunities, and stewardship and advocacy programs that you believe in and enjoy. ADK program expenses surpass \$3.8 million on an annual basis. Membership provides \$600,000 after chapters receive one-third of their members' dues. Fortunately, ADK can rely on lodging and retail revenue to help some but, like all charities, ADK depends upon the generosity of individuals, businesses, and grant sources to fund its mission-related activities. The bottom line? ADK's critical work can only be accomplished with the support of both donors and members like you.

The next time you receive an appeal for support or renew your membership, please consider an additional donation to help us reach that \$1 million annual goal. Thank you for working for wilderness. We are grateful for your ongoing dedication to the lands we all hold dear.

To learn more, view ADK's annual report at ADK.org/annual-report. ADK is a qualified not for profit organization under IRS section 501(c)(3), so contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

--**Sunday Conine**
ADK Annual Fund Manager

Search Continues for Neil Woodworth Successor

Finding a successor to the current Executive Director Neil Woodworth hit a roadblock in the late winter, as reported at the March 30 ADK Board of Directors meeting in Lake George.

ADK President John Gilewicz and Woodworth reported that after review of 30 applications for the position, it was offered to one individual, but terms including job description and salary were not reached and the applicant withdrew. The process will continue, it was stated.

Woodworth last year announced his intention to pull back from the day-to-day direction of the ADK, serving more in an oversight and advisory role as a new executive is trained through this year; after that transition period, Woodworth said he would remain an adviser but live in his Cranberry Lake home. Woodworth's role for years has involved being a lawyer and extensive work with legislative, state and national environmental issues. He is a highly regarded voice in these areas.

No update on the status of the continued search was available for this edition of Lookout.

--**Mal Provost**

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@nyenate.gov

Steve Englebright
Chair of Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 621
Albany, NY 12248
Phone: 518-455-4804
engles@nyassembly.gov

Trip Tales

Loon Lake Fire Tower Sunday March 17

It was a beautiful morning with fresh snow covering the trail. We wore our snowshoes for the entire 5.8 mile hike. The first half of the trail was pretty easy and flat but the last mile was straight up! The tower at the top was coated with beautiful ice but isn't in climbing condition as the first two sets of stairs are missing. This was by far the best mountain to butt slide down, making our return trip much shorter. The participants were Jennifer Kasper, Amanda Gomez, and the leader, Kristin Cimmino.



The Loon Lake Mountain hikers are from left Jennifer Kasper, Kristin Cimmino and Amanda Gomez.

Zim Smith Trail Bike Ride (Part 1) April 6

This trip was originally scheduled for the previous day but got snowed out. Three riders did the maximum 18 miles under sunny and increasingly warmer temperatures. As the day got warmer, more and more people came out to enjoy the first really nice day of spring, so by the end of our ride, the trail was quite crowded. The participants were Roy Keats and Jan and Marc Limeri, leaders.

Mt. Van Hoevenberg and Cobble Hill April 7

We hiked two mountains that are part of the Lake Placid 9er challenge. We started off on Mt. Van Hoevenberg's new trail. The weather was warm, and the new trail was well marked. Once we reached the top we were greeted with stunning views of the high peaks. Then we all headed over to Cobble Hill. We loved the little cable to help on the rock scramble. The ice was pretty slick in most spots so spikes were required. Once we reached the top we had great views of the town below. We then proceeded to loop down by Echo lake for a beautiful finish to a

beautiful day. The hikers were Corey and Trevor Weakly, Kate Percival, and the leader, Kristin Cimmino.



On Cobble Mountain, Kate Percival makes good use of the assist cable.

Tongue Mountain Range - North Half April 13

We decided to do an out-and-back trip to Five Mile Mountain from the Deer Leap Trailhead instead of a through trip to the Clay Meadow Trailhead. We had very little snow or ice most of our way, but did use micro-spikes when we got near Five Mile Mountain. There was a nice view of Lake George from Brown Mountain. From the Lean-to clearing we had a great view of the snowy High Peaks. When we neared the summit of Five Mile Mountain, the route to the top appeared to be blocked deliberately with debris, so we followed footprints in the snow on the trail left by some faster hikers that day. We descended a ways, crossed a stream, stopped, looked at our GPS, and realized that we had passed the top of Five Mile Mountain (as did the other hikers). So we retraced our steps, climbed over the pile of debris, hiked another tenth of a mile and got to the survey marker on the top of Five Mile Mountain. The participants were Laura Fiske and Roy Keats, the leader.

Schroon River April 13

We had a large group of 16 paddlers looking to get out on the river on this perfect Saturday. The Schroon was running at a relatively high level at 6.74 feet. We had a very fun quick run with strong current and large waves and no swims. The most difficulty we had was walking on the ice and snow to get a quick scout at "The Drop." One of the group slipped on icy leaves, skidded down a slope and took out a small, standing dead tree;

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Trip Tales

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happily, no injury. Paddlers for the trip were Bob Wright, Horst DeLorenzi, Mal Provost, Tom Flynn, Anthony Lamanno, Sally Dewes, Don Orr, Ed Martuscello, Nelson Miller, Mark Mershon, Karl Heilman, Clarke Darlington, Willie Thacker, Greg Gerbi, Susan Mack, and trip leader Norm Labbe.

Willie Marsh

April 23

A perfect sunny spring day at Willie Marsh - temperature high was 75 degrees. Ice and snow had melted on the trails. Migrating birds must have passed by earlier. There were a few pairs of Canada Geese squawking at each other but no other water fowl. We followed an old road to the outlet of Peck Lake where we had lunch. We returned to the marsh by visiting the dam where we could see a half dozen turtles or so sunning on a log. The northern boardwalks took us back to the handicapped accessible picnic site. A great day at Willie Marsh with Ronda Anderson, Norm Kuchar, Karen and Richard Wang and the leader Walt Hayes.



The cleanup crew with ponchos for the wet weather along the Bike-Hike Trail in Rotterdam. In the middle are Rep. Paul Tonko, left, and Canal Corp. President Bryan Stratton.

Canal Clean Sweep

April 27

We had great turnout at our Canal Clean Sweep event, held in partnership with Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and CREATE Community Studio. Canal Corp president Brian Stratton and Congressman Paul Tonko both came out and lent a hand, along with a representative from Parks & Trails NY, Cub Scouts from Pack 7 and other volunteers. Starting at the small Rice Road parking area in Rotterdam, we worked east toward SUNY Schenectady, picking up trash along the trail. We stopped at the old tunnel entrance leading under I-890, where we covered graffiti on the concrete entrance. Leesa Perazzo's Give Graffiti the Brush program donated the paint for the base coat and Marty's True Value on Van Vranken tinted it for us at no

cost. Thank you everyone who helped make our event a big success! ADK participants included Gillian Scott, Nakita Scott, Stan Stoklosa and Herb Terns.

West Stony Creek

April 27

A whitewater trip on West Stony Creek for 13 paddlers included air temperature in the lower 40s, showers of snow pellets, gusty winds and plenty of icy water for a good lesson in preparation. West Stony flows into the Sacandaga Reservoir above Northville and is a pretty, interesting run that we began using regularly only last year. The water level was perfect (dangerously high water had scrubbed an attempt a week before) so our crew jumped on the chance and had a fine day, fortunately with no swims. Paddlers: Horst DeLorenzi, Ed Martuscello, Mark Mershon, Rick Gonzales, Greg Gerbi, Pierre Cyr, Derek Snyder, Karl Heilman, Anthony Cagino and Greg Mikulka in kayaks, plus Andrew Lederman, Charles Murray and Mal Provost, leader, in solo canoes.



Taking a photo break at the first falls on Tenant Creek are from left, Melinda Rielly, Walt Hayes, Judy Brandow, Linda Neal and Charlie Beach.

Photo by Norm Kuchar

Tenant Creek Falls

April 30

We took the new trail from the new (2016) parking area on Hope Falls Rd., going over a shoulder of Rand Mountain before descending to the first of three waterfalls along Tenant Creek. This is the highest (over 40 ft.) of the falls. It was roaring and spectacular. After a lengthy period for photos and gawking, we decided to go on to the two upper falls, about 1.3 miles further along the trail. This section was rough in spots, but both of the two upper falls were well worth seeing. The third falls was particularly beautiful, falling about 25 ft down a rocky ledge into a dark pool surrounded by large hemlocks. Despite a

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Trip Tales

cloudy day, with possibilities for showers, we stayed dry. Hikers were Charlie Beach, Judy Brandow, Walt Hayes, Linda Neil, Melinda Rielly and the leader, Norm Kuchar.



Paddlers on the East Branch of Fish Creek run May 4: Ed Martuscello, left, and Mark Mershon, with Derek Snyder in background.

Photo by Sally Dewes.

East Branch Fish Creek

May 4

A great time was had by all paddling the East Branch of Fish Creek in Taberg. The weather was great. The water level was such that there was fantastic surfing all the way down the river! We all started out at Point Rock and surfed about four miles to the dam. Walking around the dam we had a quick lunch and hopped back on the river for four more miles of stellar paddling. The paddlers surfed their hearts out for six and a half hours!! Participants included trip leader Sally Dewes, Anthony Lamanno, Derek Snyder, Ed Martuscello, Karl Heilman, Mark Mershon, Mike Raley, Pierre Cyr, Rachel Raley, and Sozanne Solmaz.

Whitewater Derby Safety

May 5

The Schenectady Chapter provides safety support for the annual Whitewater Derby run from North Creek to Riparius on the Hudson River on the first weekend in May. It is a fun project for our experienced paddlers and a chance to support this decades-old festival of the river, which includes a slalom course in North River on Saturday and the down-river race Sunday. Some of the racers each day are excellent paddlers and some have more spirit than skill, which can lead to a cold swim on tricky rapids. We are happy to stand by in our boats and help the swimmers get safely to shore and then continue on their way. Our crew this year was Ed Martuscello, Rick Morse, Greg Gerbi, Clarke Dar-

lington, Dennis Wischman, Anthony Cagino, Tom Flynn and Rick Gonzales, all in kayaks, with Mal Provost, leader, in open canoe.



The Adirondack Mountain Club, Schenectady Chapter, safety crew awaits the arrival of racers during the Whitewater Derby on the Hudson River below North Creek.

Photo by Mal Provost

Jay Mountain

May 11

So here's the deal... Jay Mountain is one of the best hikes in the Adirondacks. Eight young members plus the ADK's "First Dog" Willard Excelsior Bear hiked the epic "highway in the sky" all the way to the peak on the Jay ridge line for total of eight miles over the course of six hours. The weather was a bit chilly but perfect for keeping the bugs away and we could only see snow in a few little shaded crevices. Participants were: Richard Rogers, Megan McLaughlin, Lauren Rabideau, Jason Waters, Eric Woodruff, Carrie Agne, Matt Guadagnino, and Dustin Wright, the leader.

Schenectady ADK
P.O. Box 733 Schenectady NY 12301-0733
<https://www.adk-schenectady.org>



CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS: Are held regularly on the 4th Tuesday of the month. No meetings are held in July or August. Any concerns members have may be expressed to any board member listed on the inside front cover, or attend the meetings which are open to the membership. Call a board member for date, time & directions.

CHAPTER DISCLAIMER: People who attend outings reminded that such activities entail a certain degree of danger; and persons participating do so at their own risk. This disclaimer is for both whitewater and regular outings of the chapter.

SCHENECTADY CHAPTER PATCH: This lovely patch (shown at right) can be purchased by mailing a check (payable to Schenectady Chapter ADK) to Mary MacDonald, 27 Woodside Drive, Clifton Park NY 12065. The cost is \$3 per patch, which includes the mailing cost.

TRIP LEADERS: If you do not want your trip listed in the local newspapers, call Publicity Chair Richard Wang at 518-399-3108 or publicity@adk-schenectady.org. This newsletter goes out over the internet.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL: The chapter has hi-tech snowshoes and one pair of universal fit crampons available to rent at \$5/trip. Call Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 to arrange for pick-up.

WEBSITE: <http://www.adk-schenectady.org> — All of the latest information will be posted on the Web, i.e. any changes or corrections. Please review our website and related Internet resources Acceptable Use Policy.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you move, you must inform the ADK in order to continue receiving The Lookout. The Lookout is sent via bulk mail, which the Postal Service will not forward. Send changes of address to the Main Club to ensure uninterrupted delivery.

Membership Application

To join the Schenectady Chapter, send this form with payment to:

Adirondack Mountain Club 814 Goggins Road, Lake George, NY 12845 or drop it off at Adirondack Loj or Headquarters.

Check Membership Level:

- Family Life \$1950
- Individual Life \$1300
- Adult \$50
- Family \$60
- Senior (65+) \$40
- Senior Family (65+) \$50
- Student (full time 18+) \$25
- School _____

Please save paper and postage and **ONLY** receive an electronic version of the Chapter newsletter *The Lookout* via email.

List spouse & children under 18 and birth dates

Spouse _____

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Bill my VISA _____ MasterCard _____ Discover _____

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 Signature (required for charge)

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

the Lookout

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