

The **Lookout**

August - September 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

*Ray Sergott enjoys the peace and quiet of Bailey Pond, a reward for participating in Norm Kuchar's trail maintenance outing. See Trip Tales Pg. 9.
Photo by Mal Provost*

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August - September 2019

The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Whitewater Class Leaves 'em Happy, Wet

A very successful and fun novice/intermediate whitewater kayak class was held the weekend of June 22-23. The motto of this class is safety first; safety, learning and fun! The class had a full roster of 10 eager students with varying skill levels. We had three instructors this year which was very helpful.

We spent the first morning practicing our strokes and skills on flat water with drills and games. Next we moved to the river, Fife Brook section of the Deerfield River in western Massachusetts. We practiced maneuvers, skills, and goofed around a bit. Quite a few students ran the class 3 drop at the end with varying degrees of success but all were smiling at the end.

Several of us went out to dinner together and camped at a local campground. Many whitewater stories and laughs were shared at dinner!

The second day started with some dry land practice and then we went to the river to be safe, learn more, and have fun! Everyone really gave it their all and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



David Williams slides by OS Rock in Zoar Gap, completing that run in Sally Dewes' whitewater kayak course.



Jason Greene powers through Zoar Gap, the most challenging drop on the Fife Brook section of the Deerfield.

In and out of eddies, surfing waves, ferrying, attaining, spinning, and shooting rapids. Both days had great sunny warm weather to make it even better. We were also lucky because the heavy rains the week before filled the upstream reservoir and allowed the river to run all day both days, which is atypical. Again, many of the students elected to run the final drop – Zoar Gap – and everyone finished happy and wet!

The instructors were gratified to hear many students remark that they learned something new and enjoyed the class, even those that had had taken lessons before. Some even described having an epiphany. The class included Ellen Fitch, Andres Harnecker, Jason and Aubrey Greene, Jordon Martin, Pam Martuscello, Bill Ports, Liz Schou, Dave Williams and Alan Wood. Instructors were Sally Dewes, Anthony Lamanno, and Ed Martuscello.

--Sally Dewes

Chapter Whitewater Traditions Offer Legacy

I would be lying if I said we whitewater junkies didn't love the thrill of catching the surf wave or riding the wave train and that rush if gives, rocking and rolling on the river. But it is more than that. There is the fantastic scenery we see, scenes and beauty you only see on the water. And there is the camaraderie of the group: The people that have your back and you theirs. As they say, you never know which end of the throw rope you may be on.

But the ADK paddlers are even more than that. They love sharing their knowledge and skills. They take the newbies under their wing and make sure they have a fun and safe run while gaining their whitewater skills. You can see this every day on the river and you can see this in the ADK schedule, the moving water and easy water trips we have and the classes we run.

They take the newbies under their wing and make sure they have a fun and safe run while gaining their whitewater skills.

This year alone we have several Battenkill River runs for beginners, a Grafton Lakes State Park kayaking basics instruction and our annual novice/intermediate class on the Fife Brook section of the Deerfield River instructed by Sally Dewes. We helped three new paddlers gain a roll in the winter pool sessions; we had six to eight new paddlers in each of our moving water runs, we had 11 paddlers in our novice/intermediate class and nearly two dozen in our Grafton Day beginners class. As I have said before, we explore the Adirondacks and other fantastic wilderness areas in a very special way, but as ADK paddlers we share that knowledge, skill, experience and the love of whitewater paddling.

**--Ralph J. Pascale
Whitewater Chair**

Whitewater Schedule

7/28/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
8/3/2019	Saturday	Fife Brook Deerfield	I-II, III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
8/4/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Mal Provost	399-1565
8/10/2019	Saturday	Sac Release, Picnic, Gear swap/sale	II/III	Bob Wright	279-1428
8/11/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
8/17/2019	Saturday	Mongaup	II+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
8/18/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
8/23&24	8/23&24	* Gatineau River Festival and Ottawa	III+	Sally Dewes & Rick	346-1761
8/24/2019	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
8/25/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
8/31/2019	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Norm Labbe	877-0076
9/1/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
9/2/2019	Monday	Esopus	II+	Bob Wright & Clarke	279-1428
9/7/2019	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Rick Gonzales	461-2718
9/8/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
9/14/2019	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
9/15/2019	Sunday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Martuscello	332-1423
9/21/2019	Saturday	West River Release	III-	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
9/22/2019	Sunday	West River Release	III-	Ralph Pascale	339-4810
9/28/2019	Saturday	Fall Foliage Hudson River Gorge	III+	Bob Wright	279-1428
10/5/2019	Saturday	Esopus/Leaders Choice	II+	Clarke Darlington	370-2144
10/12/2019	Saturday	Farmington	III+	Nelson Miller	813-0546
10/13/2019	Sunday	Farmington	III+	John Banevicius	256-7827
10/19/2019	Saturday	The Farmington	I-II	Charles Murray	413-298-4598
10/26/2019	Saturday	Mongaup	II+	Charles Murray	413-298-4598

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

*Advance sign-up is required.

Back Country Update and ADK Board Notes

Delayed improvements to the old logging road leading to the Boreas Ponds has in a way been good news for those wishing to get into that scenic jewel, with spectacular views of the High Peaks. Contrary to earlier plans by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Gulf Brook Road is open about half way to the ponds and will remain so, seven days per week, through the summer, according to a DEC spokesperson.

The road will get a driver – with a vehicle with good ground clearance – about 3.5 miles from Blue Ridge Road to the Fly Pond parking area, from which cyclists and horsemen can ride and hikers can walk, carry or dolly their paddle craft the next 3.5 miles or so to the ponds. When water is high enough, paddlers also can put in at LaBiere Flow, about one mile from the Boreas Ponds dam, and paddle almost to the ponds.

David Winchell, DEC Region 5 spokesman, said there were plans to do road improvements in June and July but these were delayed due to availability of work crews. If that had happened, the road would have been closed Monday-Friday, but open on weekends. So for the present it remains open, as it has since the state opened the area to the public a couple years back.

The plan remains to create a 10-15 vehicle parking area for the general public only about one mile from the ponds.

Winchell said the plan remains to create a 10-15 vehicle parking area for the general public only about one mile from the ponds, at the logging road crossing known as Four Corners. When that is done the current Fly Pond parking will be used for overflow. A small permit-only site – essentially for persons with handicap – will be established less than a half-mile from the dam that creates Boreas Ponds, he said. That project also is pending.

Updates on the status of this project are to be posted on the DEC's back country access website.

--Mal Provost

ADK Board of Governors Notes

– The board at its June 29 meeting reviewed the new anti-harassment policy, in anticipation of posting on the ADK website. It is requested that the chapters and trip leaders become familiar with this. Also, the President's Report concentrated on civility within the club, which sometimes is a problem, and members were appointed to address the issue.

-- Income is up and spending is up, due mostly to major upgrades of internet access, replacement of an ancient land-line system and major building upgrades at the Adirondack Loj.

-- The search for an executive director to succeed Neil Woodworth will continue, with interviews to restart in mid-summer.

-- The board authorized the engagement of an independent, outside consultant to develop a new long-range plan for the ADK.

--Bob Grimm

Shuttle Runs Continue

Hikers wishing to begin the trek to Johns Brook Lodge and points beyond from The Garden parking will continue to have shuttle access for the remainder of the summer, according to the ADK. The reconstruction of the bridge on Johns Brook Lane will take through the summer, a spokesperson said, and the Town of Keene will continue to provide the shuttle from Marcy Field to the parking lot, seven days per week, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Leadership Training Hones Paddlers' Skills

Three Schenectady ADK members attended a Leadership Development training course for whitewater day trip leaders at Zoar Outdoor in Charlemont, MA on the weekend of May 18-19. Anthony Cagino, Tom Flynn, and Don Orr participated in two days of classroom and on-water education. Our instructor was Jim Sullivan. We spent the morning of the first day discussing liability, risk management, trip planning, communication, duty of care, "common adventurer model," and much more.

A hearty lunch was provided, after which we gathered our gear and headed for a nearby lake for on-water drills and practice. We worked on basic strokes and how to help others improve. We ended the day by working our way through an obstacle course utilizing the various strokes we had been practicing. Back at the shop we reviewed video of our efforts, where we were able to critique our performance. A very beneficial opportunity. The weather was cooperative fortunately.

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Our second day was again spent at the Zoar facility in the morning. Dry being temporary as the rain sent us inside after some throw-rope practice on the lawn. Once in the pavilion we worked on rescue scenarios and techniques, discussing and practicing variables and situations and how to manage them. It was reinforced several times that boaters in need of rescue are expected to assist as best they can in order to increase the odds of success. Communication and visual contact with all involved was also emphasized. We spent a fair amount of time discussing and demonstrating extrication of a victim of foot entrapment, which can result from standing up in flowing current and can be deadly. We also worked on pinned boat retrieval.

We then headed to the lower section of Fife Brook on the Deerfield River. Our course included two other paddlers who were completing their Whitewater Kayak Instructor certification program. Edy and Reilly acted as instructors for various portions of the week-



The students and instructors discuss tactics and decision-making during the leadership training course at Zoar Outdoor.

Photo by Don Orr

end and did an excellent job. Reilly gave us our pre-paddle talk before getting on the water and Edy helped us work on some basic techniques like peel-outs. We worked our way down the river with each of us having a few opportunities to rescue an empty kayak (after being assured the paddler was safe). We also got to practice wading in current alone and with assistance. This could be a very useful technique done properly. We worked on eddy turns and ferries and some of us got in some combat rolls. The river was running somewhat higher than usual at over 1000 cfs. We all managed to survive Zoar Gap at the end of the day, tired as we were. Overall it was an educational and rewarding, and tiring, weekend that we hope we can bring to our whitewater outings. Thanks very much to Schenectady ADK for their support.

--Don Orr

Outings

SAVE THE DATE! Upcoming Gatherings

Rudy Dehn's Celebration of Centennial

Rudy Dehn, an ADKer from way back and supporter and activist in many realms, turns 100 very soon. His birthday is Aug. 12, but a celebration of his life and accomplishments will be Aug. 10, 1-3 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 603 State St., Schenectady, sponsored by his family. Please call the church at 518-374-4403 if you plan to attend. Parking lots are located off Chapel Street, which is the best church access.

Schenectady Chapter Annual Dinner

We will have our chapter's annual dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at Schenectady County Community College. Guest speaker will be Mary Coffin, who is a leader in the ADK of the effort to route the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) through about 160 miles in the Adirondacks. Schedule and dinner options to be published soon.

Fall Outing September 6-8, Lower Hudson Valley

The Harriman Outdoor Center on Breakneck Pond in the heart of Harriman State Park will be the base for daily hikes, paddles, and other excursions as ADKers from all over convene for the club's annual Fall Outing. Harriman and adjacent Bear Mountain State Park feature more than 225 miles of marked trails and numerous lakes, making it a hiker's and paddler's paradise. Five downstate chapters of ADK are collaborating to offer a rich selection of outings for all tastes and abilities.

August and September Trip - not yet scheduled Work on Jones Hill Trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail from Route 9, over Smith Hill to the summit of Jones Hill has been flagged with the hope of completing trail work by the end of 2019. Schenectady Chapter trail workers had planned to work on this section of the Trail in May, June and July but as of mid-July we do not yet have approval to start. When approval comes we will schedule work. Please call Norm Kuchar 518-399-6243 (nkuchar@nycap.rr.com) or Walt Hayes 518-399-7482 (whayescbpb@aol.com) for information on scheduling.

Thursday, Aug. 1 from 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 potluck so simply bring a dish to share, grab a brew, meet some new friends, swap hiking stories and take part in advocacy action to protect the Adirondacks! Join us for this epic summer night!

Saturday, Aug. 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 located 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!

Sunday Aug. 4 Lyon Firetower Class B2B Leader Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us for one of the more challenging fire tower hikes. Lyon Mountain is also part of the ADK 29ers challenge. This hike is 7.1 miles round trip and offers wonderful 360 degree views from the top of the fire tower. On a clear day you can see Vermont, Montreal and the high peaks. We will take the new trail that is a much more moderate climb. Leashed dogs are welcome to join us.

Saturday, Aug. 10 Rusk Mountain Class B2B

John Susko, 518-383-1284 or jpsusko@nycap.rr.com
Rusk is one of the trail less peaks in the Catskills. We will make the steep climb to the summit of Rusk and return on the more gradual route along the east ridge to the Spruceton trail. The distance is ~ 6 miles, over half off-trail, with ~1,500 feet of ascent.

Outings

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Aug. 15 - Sanders Preserve, Glenville
ECOS Seven Preserve Challenge Series
Easy, under 5 miles
Mary Zawacki, Text 914-373-8733

ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse of New York's Preserve Challenge is designed to encourage folks to explore seven of Schenectady County's beautiful local natural areas. Once folks have visited each of the preserves and completed a form, you're eligible for a patch from ECOS! 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, and we will meet at the trailheads at 5:30 p.m. Be sure to bring a headlamp, just in case!

Saturday, Aug. 17
Young Member: Blue Mountain and Castle Rock
Class B2C: 4.2 miles and 2.8 miles
Mary Zawacki, Text 914-373-8733

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 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, Aug. 17
Round Lake Paddle
Class B2C
John Ravas, 518-852-6515 or adkkayaker140@gmail.com
 Round Lake is a great local paddle. 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.

Sunday Aug. 18
Jay Mountain
Class B2B
Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us for an 8-mile round trip hike up Jay Mountain located in Jay. This mountain offers two summits, western and eastern. The trail is well marked till the first summit. Then while walking the ridge it can be difficult to follow. This mountain is also part of the ADK 29ers challenge. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Aug. 22 - Lisha Kill Natural Area, Rosendale Rd., Niskayuna
ECOS Seven Preserve Challenge Series
Easy, under 5 miles
Mary Zawacki, text 914-373-8733
 See ECOS Preserve Challenge Series, (above).

Friday, Aug. 23
Warren County Bikeway to Lake George
17 mile round trip.
Roy Keats at 518-466-8544 or royskipaddle@gmail.com

This is 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. This historic path is on our gradual climb to a high point going over French Mountain with historic signs along the way followed by a gradual downhill to Lake George. The path is well paved and a great ride. Rain will cancel. Please sign up by Wednesday, August 21.

Saturday, Aug. 24
Mt Gilligan Trail Maintenance
Class C3B

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com
 Mt. Gilligan is a low peak rising above the Boquet River south of Elizabethtown, but its short trail leads to ledges that have great views of the Boquet Valley, Rocky Peak Ridge and the Dix Range. Our chapter was involved with building the Mt. Gilligan trail in the 1940s, when the nearby Bouquet River Lodge was used as an outings base, and we have maintained the trail ever since. On this annual stewardship trip, we will do side cutting and light blowdown removal, using hand clippers, loppers and hand saws. This is an easy introduction to trail maintenance, with lunch at a scenic ledge. Round trip distance is about 3 miles, with about 750 ft. of climb.

Friday, Aug. 30
Canoe/kayak from Saratoga Waterfront Park to Lake Lonely
Class B3D

Marc Limeri, Text 518-545-6456 or wwebbie@yahoo.com
 After launching from the Saratoga Waterfront Park, we'll paddle about a mile along the northwest shore of Saratoga Lake to the mouth of the Kayderosseras Creek, up the Kayderosseras for about a mile to the Lake Lonely outlet creek, about a mile to the entrance of Lake Lonely, and about a mile to the far shore of the lake (if you want to go that far). Reverse the trip for the return. A stretch of the Lake Lonely outlet creek is very twisty - it will test your boat maneuverability skills! Rain will cancel.

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Outings

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Saturday Sept. 7
Peekamoose & Table Mountains
Class A2B

John Susko, 518-383-1284 or jpsusko@nycap.rr.com
Peekamoose & Table Mountains are the 11th and 10th highest peaks in the Catskills. We'll take the trail from Peekamoose Road which has good views along the way to a lunch spot with a view near the summit of Table. The distance is 10 miles with 3,000 feet of ascent.

Saturday, Sept. 7
Young Member: Moxham Mountain
Class B2C: 5.5 miles

Mary Zawacki, Text at 914-373-8733
Excellent views abound on this peak. This fairly new trail maintains an easy grade most of the way with a few short stretches with a moderate gradient. The summit affords the hiker views of Gore Mountain and Mud and Clear Ponds to the south, Crane Mountain to the south east and on a clear day Snowy and Blue Mountains to the west.

Sunday Sept. 15
Noonmark
Class B2B
Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us on a 6 mile hike up Noonmark mountain located in Keene Valley. We will not be doing the loop but instead doing an out and back. This is a shorter hike but very steep in sections. There will be rock scrambles and even a ladder. This mountain is part of the ADK 29ers challenge. From the top on a clear day we will get wonderful views of the Great Range. Dogs are NOT allowed on this trail.

Saturday, Sept. 28
Bailey Pond Trail and South End Hoffman Notch Trail
Maintenance
Class C3C

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com
The Bailey Pond trail (0.9 miles) and the south end of the Hoffman Notch trail (1.2 miles), in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness, will become parts of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Our chapter has maintained these trails for the past two years. The date for this trip coincides with the annual celebration of North Country National Scenic Trail Day, so it's an appropriate time to hike a section of the trail and help maintain it. Our last maintenance trip was in May, and we found that a DEC chainsaw crew had cleared all the large blowdowns, making our job relatively easy. From the trailhead at Loch Muller, we will hike in-and-out on both trails, doing side cutting, and light blowdown removal using hand clippers, loppers and hand saws. The chapter has equipment, or bring your own. There is a great view of Hayes Mountain from the shore of Bailey Pond. Total round trip distance is about 4.2 miles, with a total climb of about 400 ft. over gentle slopes.

Sunday Sept. 29
Peaked Mountain
Class B2B
Leader Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us for an 8-mile hike up Peaked Mountain near North River. This is a beautiful hike that starts off along 13th lake. Another mountain on the ADK 29er challenge. The trail starts off pretty easy and gets steep the last half mile to mile. On a clear day you will get lovely views of the high peaks. Leashed dogs are welcome to attend.

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

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

How do I sign up for a hike?

For further details or to sign up for a hike, call the trip leader. Try to call at least two days in advance, as leaders may cancel on the day before an outing if there is insufficient interest. Leaders reserve the right to refuse participants for any reason, including lack of experience and/or lack of physical fitness. All equipment and supplies are the sole responsibility of the trip participants.

What do I need to bring?

The trip leader will let you know if any special equipment (crampons, snowshoes, etc.) will be needed. In general, you should always carry food, water, rain gear, map, compass, headlamp, first aid kit and extra clothing, including hat and gloves in case temperatures drop. Clothing for wet or cold weather should not be made of cotton — use a synthetic fleece or wool. If in doubt, ask the leader.

Should I reimburse drivers for gas?

Yes! Each rider should pay their driver four to five cents per mile, depending on the current cost of gasoline. With gas at \$2 per gallon, four cents per mile should be used and at \$2.50 per gallon, five cents should be used (\$3/gallon – six cents, etc).

Conservation Report

Training For Monitoring Ponds and Hemlocks

Upcoming months offer chances to become a Citizen Science Monitor, to help detect and prevent the spread of invasive species that afflict and endanger our forests and waterways. These are growing threats as extensive foot and boat traffic aggravate the problems of invasives, which are related to a warming climate.

July 26 Catskill Park Old Growth Hemlock Survey Training and Hike: Eastern hemlocks throughout New York State are threatened by hemlock woolly adelgid. On July 26, the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) will run a workshop for ADK members and others who are willing to survey one or more of 16 old growth stands in the northwestern area of the Catskill Park. The event will be held at the Catskill Center.

August 28 and 29 Lake George Wild Forest Pond Monitoring: This is a 10-mile round trip hike to Fishbrook Pond in the Lake George Wild Forest (east side) for a pack raft paddle and pond aquaticinvasive species (AIS) survey. The trip will include overnight primitive tent camping at Millman or Fishbrook Pond. Participants will help carry a lightweight (8 lbs.) pack raft and gear for the survey.

September 5 and 6 Lake George Wild Forest Pond Monitoring Outing: This is a 10-mile round trip hike and bushwhack to the Wolf Ponds in the Lake George Wild Forest (west side) for a pack raft paddle and pond AIS survey. The trip will include overnight primitive tent camping at Buttermilk Pond. Participants will help carry a pack raft and gear for the survey.

Self-Guided Pond Surveys: If you have already been part of an Aquatic Invasive Species training and would like to survey a pond this summer, we are happy to have you. Ponds surveyed in 2015 and 2016 are also available for re-survey this year. Contact Cathy Pedler (see info below) if you plan to do a self-guided pond survey. Remember to always clean, drain and dry boats and gear!

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Cathy Pedler, cathy@adk.org, cathypedler.adk@gmail.com 518-449-3870. She can also help you with newtech tools for mapping, reporting and identifying invasive species.

ADK Scholarship Winner Plans Western Trek

No moss grows on Willie Thacker's boots. Mud and sweat, sure, but that's his passion.

Willie is the recipient of the Schenectady Chapter's annual scholarship for college studies with an environmental direction, and will attend Middlebury College, VT, in the fall, focusing on economic issues in conservation. He is a 2019 graduate of Niskayuna High School. We wish him good luck and wide travels, which is under way already.

Willie sent us the following note regarding the scholarship and his plans:

"Thank you for selecting me to receive the ADK Scholarship. It is an honor and something I hope to repay in my future stewardship of the outdoors. Somewhat related, as I prepare for the Continental Divide Trail, I'm doing some practice hikes, one of which was on the Northville-Placid Trail, which I hiked in late May. It is a lovely trail and I'd like to thank the ADK as a whole for its existence."

**Thanks again,
Willie**



Scholarship Winner Willie Thacker

Trip Tales

Schroon River Whitewater Paddle

Sunday, May 12

The day started in the low 40's and got into the 50's with some sunshine. The water was cold but the sun and the river level of 6 ft. made for a nice day. We had 10 paddlers: Mal Provost in a canoe and Thomas Flynn, Don Orr, Clarke Darlington, Dennis Wischman, Anthony Lammano, Mark Stolzenburg, Nelsen Miller, Derek Snyder and Ed Martuscello as trip leader in kayaks. We had two members that did their first run on the Schroon with one swim and everyone ran the drop successfully. There were lots of smiling faces that day.

Buck Mt./Sleeping Beauty

Saturday May 18

This hike was held on one of those very rare rainless days in May. Considering how much rain we received in May, it was hard to believe how dry the trail was. We were originally planning to do both Buck and Sleeping Beauty. However, we had to start Sleeping Beauty at the Hogtown lot, which added 3 miles to the trip. We figured we would start with Sleeping Beauty and would do Buck if we had enough time and energy. We ended up just doing Sleeping Beauty. The weather was almost perfect and the sky was a deep blue. After returning to the parking lot, we decided to stop and get ice cream in Lake George rather than climb Buck. Good decision! The participants were Roy Keats, Dan Miller, Kevin Ravas, Pam Woods, Maggie McBurney and John Ravas, leader.



David Smith and Violet Smith, aided by Ray Sergott, work a crosscut saw to clear a tree from the Bailey Pond Trail.

Photo by Mal Provost

Bailey Pond, South End Hoffman Notch Trail Maintenance

May 18

We had a beautiful spring day to do maintenance work on two of the chapter's adopted trails - the Bailey Pond trail and the south end of the Hoffman Notch trail, west of Schroon Lake. These trails will become sections of the North Country

National Scenic Trail. We had a relatively easy time, since a DEC chainsaw crew had recently cut the 30 large blowdowns we reported after last September's maintenance trip. We did use a two-person crosscut saw on a few large downed logs, but most of our effort was clearing smaller branches and doing some side cutting. The one down side was that we attracted lots of blackflies, which swarmed around our heads, but thankfully were not biting. Thanks go to trail workers Walt Hayes, Mal Provost, Ray Sergott, David Smith, Violet Smith and leader Norm Kuchar.

Hudson River Whitewater

Saturday May 18

Finally a day where the sun appeared and all was quiet. Thirteen boaters in 9 kayaks, 2 solo canoes, and 1 tandem inflatable ran the Hudson River from the Riparius bridge down to the Glen bridge at a level of 5.5 feet. What a pleasant experience to be able to enjoy all of nature's bounty with several of your closest friends. Spirits were high and the play level was contagious. We made it to the Glen grateful for another fine day on the river. Trip leader was Robert Wright.

Battenkill River – Whitewater Introduction

Sunday, May 19

The trip, an introduction to whitewater, started where VT 313 crosses the Battenkill, and ended about eight miles downstream at the turn out in New York just east of the VT border. Thirteen strong, the trip included a mix of boaters from young to young-at-heart, a mix of canoes and kayaks, and a mix of boater skills. Despite navigating several strainers and coping with unexpectedly high heat, the day was enjoyed by all. Participants: Dave Williams, Liz Williams, Caitlin Williams, Bill Turner, Bill Warren, Jack Gill, Gerrie Kennedy, Beth Harmon, Dave Ray, Jim Kelly-Rand, Katy Kelly-Rand, Ralph Pascale, and Charlie Murray, leader.

Schroon River

Saturday, May 25

A dozen paddlers made their way down the Schroon in medium to high water on a beautiful day. They were: Mark Stolzenberg, Dennis Wischman, Rick Gonzalez, Ed Martuscello, Horst DeLorenzi, Bob Wright, Gary Gazelle, Greg Gerbi, Tom Flynn, Mal Provost, Anthony Cagino, and trip leader Clarke Darlington. There were no swims this day, and everyone had a great time.

Saratoga Spa State Park Ramble

Friday, May 31

On a pleasant day for biking, six riders covered 11 miles in Saratoga Spa State Park. Their trip included practically every bikeable road and trail in the park (unless you want to go off-road in the deep woods). As promised, they saw golfers, geysers, and folfers. It was a slow day for cars entering the park - the toll-

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booth attendant was practicing his juggling. Wildlife spotted included some geese scrambling to get out of the way of errant golf shots and some turkeys calmly preening themselves by the tee box as the golfers teed off. We got a lesson from a park ranger on how the geysers work (also, they're not really geysers, they're springs). Participants were Bob Boromisa, Roy and Sue Keats, Steve Maloney, and Jan and Marc Limeri (leader).



Riders in the Park (cue some Doors music): From left, Jan Limeri, Steve Maloney, Bob Boromisa, Roy and Sue Keats.

Photo by Marc Limeri

Friday, June 7

Saratoga Spa State Park Bike Ride

A few days before our Warren County Bikeway trip, the leaders realized that it would coincide with the Lake George Americade motorcycle rally, so we changed our venue to Saratoga Spa State Park. We followed the same general route as the trip the week before. We went by the Roosevelt Baths, the Hall of Springs, up the Avenue of the Pines, circled around the scenic golf course, then up and around the Peerless Pool on dirt paths along a scenic ravine before plunging downhill to the Geyser Education Center for lunch by Geyser Creek. We then investigated several geysers before returning up the hill to our cars for a trip of about 11.5 miles. It was a great day. Trip participants were Marc Limeri, Karen and Richard Wang, Carol and Dave Furman, Chuck and Inge Pangburn, and Sue and leader Roy Keats.

NCNST Scouting Bushwhack

June 4

This trip was rescheduled from original date of May 11 due to weather forecasts. The purpose of the trip was to try to find a good route for this National Trail as it leaves Johnson Pond Road entering the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. We climbed toward a ridge from the road trying for a fairly level route after the climb. The climb was fine but no level route was obvious

until we hit the ridge itself. The last half of our chosen route was relatively easy and flat -- exactly as we hoped. On the return to the car we tried a different route that was better but still needs some exploring work. It was a little buggy but overall another great day in the woods. Norm Kuchar and leader, Walt Hayes.

Sacandaga Dam Release

June 8

Great early season paddle, the first outing for several paddlers. It was a beautiful sunny day with a great surf wave at the top. All good, no problems and enjoyed by all. Paddlers included Oscar Larose, Andres Harnecker, Tom Flynn, Anthony Cagino and leader Ralph Pascale.

Hurricane Mountain

June 9

Trip leader Kristin Cimmino led a group up the southern trail approach to Hurricane Mountain. The weather was perfect and the trail was fairly dry. Once the summit was reached we had wonderful views of the lower Great Range. A patch of snow could also be seen on Marcy off in the distance. The hikers were - Charles Pensabone, Abigail Charlebois, Megan Feuz with Ollie, her dog, and Brook Ellen Jorgensen.



The Hurricane Mountain hikers, from left, Charles Pensabone, Abigail Charlebois, Megan Feuz with Ollie and Brook Ellen Jorgensen.

Photo by KristinCimmino

Schroon River

June 9

The original trip scheduled for this date was for the Hudson River Gorge. However, this was rescheduled to the Schroon river since the level on the HRG was too high at 6.1 ft. Twelve pad-

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dlers enjoyed a beautiful sunny day down the Schroon where the level was 4.8 ft. One uneventful swim occurred. We had one tandem ducky piloted by Pam Martuscello and Cathy Darlington. Bob Wright was in an open canoe. Kayaks: Clarke Darlington, leader, Mark Mershon, Ed Cunningham, Allison St. Pierre, Don Orr, Tim Ploss, Andres Harnecker, Greg Mikuken, and Tom Flynn.

Coot Hill and Crown Point

June 19

After this trip was cancelled twice last year due to bad weather, we had a beautiful day to climb Coot Hill and explore the remains of Colonial-era forts at Crown Point. We first drove to the end of rough Lang Road, where we explored an old cemetery before climbing up the short, easy trail to Coot Hill. The hill has an open top that overlooks Lake Champlain and Crown Point, with views extending from the Green Mountain spine to the east to the Dixes to the west. After a pleasant lunch with a view, we drove the short distance to the state historic site at Crown Point. There we wandered through the impressive ruins of the 1730s French fort and the much larger British fort built in 1759. Explorers were Walt Hayes, Mary MacDonald, Liz Milo, Robbie Roessle and the leader Norm Kuchar.



*Rich Vertigan comes out with a sample from the Snow Hole.
Photo by Roy Keats.*

Snow Hole

June 22

Five forever-young members set off on the Taconic Crest Trail to see if the Snow Hole would live up to its name. After a steep start, the trail was almost park-like as it passed through open woods and fern glades, and provided some open views. Arriving at the Snow Hole, we waited our turn as it was a popular destination on this day. The more intrepid of us descended deep into the ground, and there was indeed snow and ice at the bottom. Thunderstorms threatened as we returned to the start, but

overall we remained dry and had a nice day out. Hikers were Karen Wang, Roy and Sue Keats, Holly Hawkes, and the leader, Rich Vertigan.

Schroon River

June 22

High waters on the Schroon made for a quick but fun run. We also had the opportunity to see a new, first time white water paddler make a great run and is forever more a whitewater junkie. Great to have the Schroon still running well into June. Paddlers included Horst DeLorenzi, Anthony Cagino, Mark Mershon and leader Ralph Pascale.

Vanderwhacker Mountain

June 23

The weather was perfect but the trail was fairly muddy in most spots. Along the way we were greeted by many black flies. The trail was relatively easy till you got to the cabin then it was a steady climb up. Once the summit was reached there was a small lookout where we had wonderful views of neighboring mountains. If you choose to climb the fire tower you have a 360 degree view of the ADK. The hikers were Nora Cummings, Abigail Charlebois, Janice Nissen, Andrew Kernozek and the leader, Kristin Cimmino. This completed Kristin's Fire Tower Challenge!

Nine Corner Lake

June 24

A day earlier than scheduled due to rain forecast. A perfect warm sunny day with a nice breeze to keep bugs away. As we reached the Lake we heard voices in the woods where two groups of boulderers were sharpening their skills in a large field of 10 to 30 foot boulders. We enjoyed watching and talking to them. We explored the eastern shore of the lake and had lunch at the outlet by the remains of the old dam. Dave Loux and leader, Walt Hayes.

Fife Brook Section, Deerfield River

June 29

For my first official trip as a new leader for whitewater trips, 14 paddlers met at the takeout below Zoar Gap on a partly sunny day in Charlemont, MA. The water level was good (and cold). As this was the weekend of Deerfield Fest, Zoar Outdoor was holding a workshop at the first wave. Surprisingly there was little other boater traffic so we had much of the river to ourselves. We worked our way down the river playing and practicing on the various features that make this run so much fun. We continued down to the takeout above the Gap to scout. Several paddlers decided to have a go through Zoar Gap (class III). Most of the paddlers made it through unscathed, but there was some minor carnage, and all got out safely at the end. Thanks to all the paddlers and co-leaders/sweep for their able assistance. Partici-

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pants included Andres Harnecker, Alan Wood, Bob Wright, Ed Martuscello, Pamela Martuscello, Tom Flynn, Charles Murray, Clarke Darlington, Mandy Darlington, Will Arniotes, Mark Mer-shon, Mark Stolzenberg, Dennis Wischman, and leader Don Orr.

Hudson Gorge

July 4

The Schenectady Chapter's traditional July 4 whitewater run on the Hudson Gorge was a booming success this year. We had 20 paddlers including solo kayaks, inflatable kayaks both solo and tandem and the Paddle Cat, an inflatable that can carry two or more. That boat sported the American Flag as appropriate, courtesy of Bob Wright and his co-pilot Ed Martuscello. The other paddlers are too numerous to list, though afterward we enjoyed a cookout at the camp-home of Clarke and Cathy Darlington outside North River. The day was hot, water strong at 4.4 on the gauge, and Clarke's cooking plus generous potluck offerings made for an outstanding outing.



Pam Martuscello takes a break as the 20 paddlers en route down the Hudson Gorge make a brief stop just above Harris Rift.

Photo by Mal Provost



The July 4 Hudson Gorge trip by whitewater boaters included the display of the flag by Bob Wright and Ed Martuscello, on the Paddle Cat.

Photo by Mal Provost

Sacandaga Trip Report

July 6

A beautiful day greeted 12 paddlers at Sacandaga Outdoor Center in Hadley for an outing from Stewart's Dam down to the Hudson River. As is often the case, we began by ferrying to river right to play on the wave. Some of us were in new-to-us boats for the first time and had some good success surfing. (Thanks to Jordan for shooting some video.) We then worked our way down through the upper section of rapids and relaxed in the flats. Several paddlers took extra time to practice skills at the take-out area. Another good day on the river. Paddlers included Horst deLorenzi, Alan Wood, Ed Martuscello, Allison St. Pierre, Ed Cunningham, Karl Heilman III, Jordan Martin, Nelson Miller, Andres Harnecker, Bob Wright, Anthony Cagino, and leader Don Orr.

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
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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 _____

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List spouse & children under 18 and birth dates

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the Lookout

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