

The **Lookout**

October - November 2019



Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter

Dedicated to the preservation, protection and
enjoyment of the Forest Preserve

<http://www.adk-schenectady.org>

Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter Board

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On the
cover

HEAVY LIFTING: A crew member prepares to lever out a boulder during the Hot Spot Service Day work on the new Cascade Trail, part of an early August week-long effort to focus on the Adirondack High Peaks and how to encourage responsible use. See article Page 1. Photo by Cathy Pedler.

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October - November 2019

The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

‘Hot Spot’ Project Focuses on High Peaks

Volunteers and staff members from the ADK, state Department of Environmental Conservation and beyond converged on the High Peaks in early August to work on trails, brainstorm and educate hikers about overuse of the region and how to enjoy it without “loving it to death.”

The project was based at the Adirondack Loj at Heart Lake – a major jumping off point for hikes and site of the ADK’s High Peaks Information Center. The Aug. 7-14 effort was coordinated with the Colorado-based Center for Outdoor Ethics, which brought in trainers and focused on the High Peaks as a “Hot Spot,” an area of natural beauty that is suffering from overuse.

Cathy Pedler, legislative director for the ADK out of Albany, termed the effort “very successful,” involving meeting the public on several High Peaks trails, conducting public sessions, media events and social media education, as well as getting dirty to help construct a new alternative access to the Cascade Trail from Mt. Van Hoevenberg. About 50 people took part overall, she said, as well as many who were at the education sessions.

One of the key points of the trainers from Colorado – Monica Baumgart and David LeMay – was the proper use of social media. Bloggers can help educate their followers, it was noted, or the social media can lead to popular areas being overwhelmed, which can be the case in the summer hiking season in the High Peaks. Crowding and overuse has been a focus of efforts by conservation groups and the DEC to tighten parking rules along Route 73 and promote awareness of less-used trails, as well as projects such as the Cascade alternative access. David Winchell, DEC Region 5 spokesman, noted progress on that trail, but anticipated it will be later in 2020 that it will be completed.

In follow-up programs, working groups were formed to keep local efforts active and focus on “leave no trace” principles in the region, with leadership from the ADK and Adirondack Council.

Invasives

Independent from the Hot Spot focus, Pedler helped coordinate the continuing program to survey back country ponds and lakes for invasive plant species. This is coordinated with numerous other organizations including the Lake Champlain Basin program. The objective of this is to check isolated water bodies for plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil and hydrilla, which can choke ponds; such plants are already major problems in major water bodies such as Lake George, Lake Champlain and Indian Lake.

Pedler said volunteer training was conducted and 17 ponds were surveyed, which was two more than their goal. “It was a fantastic summer, with beautiful weather. We had a number of overnights, so that was fun. You’re not rushed.” (See related article Pg. 12)

—Mal Provost



*ADK Conservation Committee members Jeff Levitt and Ben Mastaitis, on left, with Monica Baumgart, one of the traveling trainers of the Hot Spot crew, and unidentified volunteer, during the work on the new Cascade Trail.
Photo by Cathy Pedler*

Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Tuesday October 22 at SCCC Van Curler Room

Wine and Cheese reception 5:30pm ~ Dinner 6:15pm ~ Program 7:15pm

Please indicate number of dinners @ \$30 each:

- _____ Roast Sirloin of Beef; mushroom and onion demi-glace', roasted veggies and whipped potatoes. *Gluten free.*
- _____ Chicken Breast Roulade; stuffed with sausage, apple cranberries and bread, with seasonal veggies.
- _____ Vegetarian Enchiladas; seasonal veggies wrapped in a tortilla shell with spicy tomato sauce, red beans and rice.

*All dinners include chopped Italian salad, coffee, and pumpkin cheesecake.
Cost is \$30 per person payable to Schenectady Chapter ADK*

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Mail this form and your check made out to Schenectady Chapter ADK to:
 Stan Stoklosa
 8 Archer Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065
 by Monday, October 14th
 Home: 518-383-3066 - Cell: 518-526-3393

Vote By Oct. 22 for Slate of Chapter Board Officers

The nomination Committee has prepared the following slate of officers for the 2020 Schenectady ADK Chapter Board. No additional nominations have been made by petition, so the candidates are presented for vote in the form below. Ballots must be received by October 22, 2019 or submitted at the annual dinner to be valid.

Please cast your vote using the column to the right. Clip the ballot and send it to:

Schenectady ADK, Attn: Jacque McGinn, Secretary, 79 Kenaware Avenue, Delmar NY 12054. The new officers will be officially announced in the next issue of The Lookout.

2020 Chapter Board Ballot			
<u>Position</u>	<u>Term Length</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Your Vote</u>
Chair	1 Year	Dustin Wright	_____
Vice Chair	1 Year	Stan Stoklosa	_____
Treasurer	1 Year	No Candidate	_____
Secretary	1 Year	No Candidate	_____
Project Coordinator	2 Years	Jason Waters	_____

Please also consider becoming a member of the board. There are many ways to help us with our mission to preserve, protect and promote the enjoyment of the Forest Preserve. Feel free to contact the board chair or secretary, or any board member you might know, at the emails or phone numbers provided in Lookout. They would be happy to discuss these opportunities with you!

Coffin To Speak on National Scenic Trail Work



Mary Coffin is a retired teacher who has been maintaining ADK and North Country National Scenic Trail sections since 1981 when she joined ADK. She will present a slide talk on progress of the NCNST in the Adirondacks at the Schenectady Chapter Annual Dinner Oct. 22. The NCNST extends from North Dakota through Michigan, Ohio and New York to the Long Trail in Vermont.

Mary is an avid hiker and has completed the 46 High Peaks and Northville-Placid Trail. Since retirement she has been trained and certified by the National Park Service as a trail designer and evaluator. After working with ADK-Onondaga and completing the 20 mile extension of the Finger Lakes Trail/North Country Trail in Central New York, Mary began to GPS the proposed route of the NCNST in the Central and Western Adirondacks (2007-08). Norm Kuchar and Walt Hayes of the Schenectady Chapter did the same in the Eastern Adirondacks. They sent the GPS scouting and potential trail evaluations to DEC planners in Albany who worked out the final plan in 2015 based partly on the ADK scouting. At present they work with the DEC foresters in the eight units the trail crosses.

Mary's slide show will bring the Schenectady Chapter up to date on the progress made over the past 12 years on the Adirondack route of the NCNST and show future opportunities. Mary thanks the Schenectady Chapter for adopting the Bailey Pond Trail on the NCNST route.

--Sally Dewes

Volunteers Build New Jones Hill NCNST Trail

In 2017 and 2018, the Schenectady Chapter contributed to building a new 2.7-mile trail to the top of Jones Hill from the south, accessed from Hoffman Road and the Big Pond trail. This new trail, in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness, will become a section of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST).

We explored the route, helped DEC plan the new trail and organized a group of chapter volunteers to follow up on the DEC chain-saw crew and clear the trail corridor of dropped logs, smaller blowdown, and brush. The efforts of 11 volunteers made it possible for the ADK Pro Crew and High School project team to finish the trail during the summer of 2018 within time and budget constraints.

This year, work was started to extend the Jones Hill trail from the summit about 3 miles down the north side of the hill, to US 9 near Schroon Falls. Based partly on exploring done by our chapter, the DEC forester flagged the route in May. Then, Mary Coffin of the ADK Onondaga Chapter organized an ADK Volunteer Trail Work Week in early August to begin clearing the route and establishing the tread. Starting at the US 9 trailhead, eighteen ADK volunteers from five chapters, trained by ADK Trails Coordinator Andy Hamlin, put in 338 person-hours over six days to clear the new trail. The first 1.2 miles of the new route follow well-established old logging roads and required little work. After the route left the logging roads, about a mile of new tread was established around the east side of Smith Hill to Platt Brook. This was a great start, and it is hoped that the trail from Platt Brook to the top of Jones Hill can be completed next year.

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We have also received a request from the DEC Forester for the Hammond Pond Wild Forest to help build a new NCNST trail section from near Moose Mountain Pond to the Hammond Pond trail near the south base of Bloody Mountain. Please note that Mary Coffin will be our guest speaker at the annual chapter dinner on October 22. She will talk about the efforts to establish the NCNST across the Adirondacks and will undoubtedly mention the new trail across Jones Hill.

-- Norm Kuchar, Chair Trails Committee

Boreas Ponds Get Road, Parking Improvements

Improvements to Gulf Brook Road – providing vehicle access to within a mile of the scenic Boreas Ponds – were completed for the year in early September, a Department of Environmental Conservation spokesman said. The former logging road was graded and a new 15-space parking area created at the “Four Corners,” the intersection of another former logging road.

David Winchell, spokesman for DEC’s Region 5, said the new parking supplants the Fly Pond site, which has been used since the area was opened to the public a few years ago but which left about 3.5 miles of dirt road to go to get to the Boreas Ponds dam and the put-in for canoes and kayaks. Hikers, folks hauling boats, bicyclists and horseback riders could pass the gate at Fly Pond to make that trek. Now, the gate is at the Four Corners site, making it about a 1-mile hike to the put-in. However, bicycles are prohibited beyond the parking lot, which is more restrictive than earlier, when they were allowed on the road as far as the dam creating the ponds. Winchell said the road improvements should allow a standard car to navigate the roughly 6 miles of Gulf Brook Road safely, while it is still recommended that an SUV or other higher clearance vehicle be used. The road is open 24/7, and will remain so until the end of big game hunting in December, unless weather conditions warrant earlier closure. Ski and snowshoe access is open through the winter from parking near Blue Ridge Road, about 7 miles from the ponds. Snowmobiles and ATVs are not allowed on Gulf Brook Road, Winchell said.



*The Boreas Ponds offer a spectacular view of the High Peaks.
Photo Courtesy Adirondack Daily Enterprise (Mike Lynch)*

There are plans for parking for disabled access still closer to the ponds, but that is now projected for next year, Winchell said. Motorized access to the ponds – they are classified as Wilderness and such traffic is prohibited on or around them – is still being sorted out at the top level of state courts. DEC has planned a system of snowmobile trails that would allow winter travel from points including North Hudson, Long Lake, Newcomb, Minerva or Indian Lake. North Country local governments favor the trails, to improve tourism in their region. The plan has been challenged by Protect the Adirondacks under Peter Bauer and other conservation groups as a violation of the “forever wild” provision of the state constitution. A recent Appellate Division ruling upheld part of that challenge, which puts the trail project on hold while DEC plans an appeal.

Winchell describes the plan as “a community connector trail ... providing snowmobile access to North Hudson that would use both the Boreas Road and the Gulf Brook Road as the route through the Boreas Tract.” The trail would not, he stated, be near the ponds. The improved road to the Boreas Ponds has been under discussion since the state acquired the tract from the Nature Conservancy and is an example of the conflict between public access to a beautiful area for recreation and conservationists’ concern about overuse. This is an issue under debate regarding the High Peaks in particular (see related article on “Hot Spot” focus), and the related problems of excessive crowds, trail erosion, parking problems and traffic safety along Route 73.

The Adirondack Mountain Club had wanted a permit system for the closer Boreas Ponds parking, in particular emphasizing the need for handicap access without making travel to the ponds so easy as to invite overuse. As the access has only expanded recently, it remains to be seen how many vehicles use the road this fall and next season.

The road work by DEC and Essex County had been planned for mid-summer, Winchell said, but staffing for the crews delayed it. No cost information on the project was available.

--Mal Provost

Summer Paddling Great; Time To Hone Skills

So the whitewater season is winding down. Let's not cry in our beer! There are still some great river runs and then the opportunity to work on those skills. And great stories of the summer we have had; 2019 was quite a year for adventures. There was epic paddling at the Gatineau Festival and the Ottawa; there were classes for beginners, novice/intermediates; white water rescue; wilderness first aid and trip leader training at Zoar Outdoor. There were 62 scheduled trips and any number of those last minute outings when a river came up and paddlers were available.

But back to skills. We will once again be in the Duanesburg YMCA for winter pool sessions and we will be planning next year's adventures. The pool sessions offer the opportunity for whitewater rescue practice, rolling clinics and basic skills for beginners. Our troop of dedicated volunteers are always willing and eager to help beginners and experienced paddlers alike. So be sure to watch for the calendar update and join us for the winter session. (See remaining whitewater schedule on Page 11)

--Ralph Pascale, Whitewater Chair



*Don Orr takes the plunge on the Gatineau River.
Photo by Sally Dewes*



The Gatineau paddlers whoop it up on the shuttle bus after a run.



*Paddlers on Norm Labbe's July 31 Hudson Gorge run work their way toward the "Soup Strainer" rapid.
Photo by Mal Provost*



*Sally Dewes paddles into the churn of the Lorne Rapid on the Ottawa River.
Photo by Mal Provost*

Outings

Thursday, Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m.

Young Member Social: Druthers of Schenectady

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

What a better way to celebrate the fall than with some tasty cider? If you're roughly in your twenties and thirties and looking for some new friends to hike with, this is the event for you!

Whether you're an experienced hiker or just looking to get out and enjoy the fall foliage for the first time, our monthly socials are a great opportunity to get to know other hikers and build some community! Oh and hey, there's free apps to boot!

Thursday, Oct. 3

Sleeping Beauty

Class C3C+

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

We will do the Sleeping Beauty loop from Dacey Clearing. This route is approximately 4.5 miles with an ascent of 850 feet. There's a great view of Lake George at the top and hopefully we'll be there at or near peak color which will make it even better.

Thursday, Oct. 10

Moxham Mountain

Class B3C+

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

This is a great hike, but don't take my word for it, here is a summary of this hike from the Central NY Hikers website: "The 2.7 mile trail to Moxham Mountain was constructed in the summer of 2012 and features many overlooks with scenic views, while the most spectacular views are from the 2418 foot summit. There is an elevation gain of 1152 feet for this 2.7 mile hike to the summit, however the trail was built to minimize the climb as much as possible. This is a truly enjoyable hike with view, after view, after another view in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest of the Adirondacks." Hopefully we'll be there at or near peak color.

Monday, Oct. 14

Amsterdam Bike Trail

Class A3D

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

This trail is part of the Canalway Bike Path; it is flat and this section is paved. We'll ride about 11 miles round trip. It's a scenic ride as it runs along the Mohawk River and there are a couple sights to see including sections of the original Erie Canal. There is a potential for ice cream at the turnaround point. And hopefully we'll have some fine fall color.

Monday, Oct. 14

Pillsbury Mountain

Class C2B

Kristin Cimmino at 518-368-3185

Join us for a 3.2 mile hike up one of the beautiful fire towers in the Adirondacks. There are no views unless you climb this tower. The top of this tower is closed but you can still see beautiful 360 degree views from the upper landing. Leashed dogs and children over 10 are welcome. The road can be a rough ride in so take it slow. Please call Kristin for the start time.

Tuesday, Oct. 15

Bike the Vischer Ferry Erie Canal Towpath Trail

Class A3D a 10 mile round trip

Karen Wang at 518-399-3108 or kreissigwang@yahoo.com

This is a scenic ride from Ferry Drive in Vischer Ferry to the twin bridges of the Northway along the towpath of the Erie Canal with a return by the same route. Fall foliage should be near peak and there is the possibility of seeing some interesting waterfowl along the way in addition to the remains of many Erie Canal structures. The trail is stone dust and mostly flat. There is the option to add two more miles after our return to Ferry Drive to view the power plant on the Mohawk River. Rain will cancel. Please sign up by Sunday, Oct. 13.

Saturday, Oct. 19

Willie Marsh Hike

Class C3D

Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482

Nearby state land in Fulton County with pond/marsh area and wildlife viewing at a relaxed pace. The parcel is located just outside the Adirondack Park. The land is flat to rolling with no significant elevation changes. Meeting about 9 a.m. - hike and lunch will take about 4 hours.

Saturday, Oct. 19

Panther

Class A-2B

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

Panther is one of the Catskill 3500 peaks. We will either hike in and out from Fox Hollow or do a through hike over Giant Ledge. In either case expect good views along the way and from the summit. The distance will be 8 to 10 miles with 2000 to 2500 feet of ascent.

Sunday, Oct. 27

TableTop and Phelps Mountain

Class A2A

Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us for a 12 mile hike up two of the Adirondack High Peaks. Tabletop does not have much of a view so we will hike that mountain first. We will then finish with Phelps which offers

Outings

beautiful views. Warm clothes and micro spikes will be needed. Dogs on leash are welcome.

Sunday, Nov. 3

Scarface Mountain

Class B2B

Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join Leader Kristin on her Saranac 6 finish up Scarface mountain. This is a 7.4 mile hike near Ray Brook. The actual summit doesn't offer a view however shortly before there is an opening that offers one. Winter gear and microspikes may be needed. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Thursday, Nov. 7, 7-9 p.m.

Young Member Social: Wolff's Biergarten

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

Want to enjoy the harvest season and make some like-minded friends? Come to Schenectady ADK's young member social! This will be a great time to reflect on all our fall hikes, share stories, and get ready for the cold season. And of course, there's free apps!

Saturday, Nov. 9

Young Member Hike: Haystack

Class A+2A

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

An early winter hike over one of the best of the Adirondack High Peaks. The hike is around 16 miles over roughly 3,800 of elevation gain and features great 360 views. Traction, snowshoes and other winter gear is definitely required. Please confirm interest with Dustin via email!

Monday, Nov. 11

Mount Jo

Class C2D

Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Never hiked before?! Want to get your friend or kids who have never hiked before on the trail? Mount Jo is for you! Join us for a 2 mile loop near Lake Placid. This is a great hike for beginners or little kids and offers wonderful views of the MacIntyre Range

and the High Peaks. Leashed Dogs and children over 10 are welcome.

Sunday, Nov. 17

Rooster Comb and Snow Mountain Loop

Class B2B

Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185

Join us for two of the alternative peaks on the ADK 29ers list located in Keene Valley. This loop is just under 7 miles and offers great views. This is a great hike for beginners and children to get comfortable in the Adirondacks. Leashed dogs and children over 10 are welcome on this hike.

Saturday, Nov. 23

Homestead County Forest

C3D

Walt Hayes, 518-399-7482

This hike will visit abandoned house cellar holes and mill sites along Cadman Creek in the Town of Providence. Beavers are currently active along Cadman Creek. The start will be from Hennig Preserve. About 4 miles with minimal ups and downs on trails. Meet about 9:30 a.m. with return by about 3 p.m. Slow pace.

Thursday, Dec. 5, from 7-9 p.m.

Second Annual All Member Holiday Social at Great Flats Brewery

Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782

or pastor@messiahschenectady.org

As our young member group continues to grow, many of our newcomers still haven't gotten to know everyone else in the Schenectady Chapter. This holiday season is the opportunity! Dustin's dear friends who own Great Flats Brewery have offered to host us for a big blowout holiday party and membership drive all at once! There will be free brewery tours, free food and awesome opportunities to learn more about and sign up to join the Adirondack Mountain Club. You'll also be able to give back this holiday season by bringing a canned food good for a local food pantry or writing a letter to government officials about an important environmental conservation issue. Especially if you're a long time member, be sure to bring friends and family who might want to join the ADK!

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

Distance

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

Leader's Pace

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

Terrain

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

Examples

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

How do I sign up for a hike?

For further details or to sign up for a hike, contact the trip leader. Try to contact 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.

Adk. Lore Subject of Union College Lectures

In its rich history, the Adirondacks has been a place for the well-heeled – sometimes in the extreme – and for workers facing back-breaking labor, as well as for everything in between. This October and November Union College, through its Kelly Adirondack Center, will offer slide lectures on two ends of the spectrum, the “Great Camps” and the Tahawus mine and iron works. Both programs start at 5:30 p.m., with munchies at 5 p.m. Free.

Great Camps and the Rustic Tradition

On Oct. 22 at Reamer Auditorium Steven Engelhart, executive director of Adirondack Architectural Heritage, will offer a discussion on where money could take someone with a taste for the outdoors. During the late 19th century, the region became a mecca for sportsmen and other people seeking recreation and revitalization in the wild places. In response to this, native builders and professional architects developed a rustic style of architecture that is best represented by a series of building complexes known as Great Camps. These buildings were often built for wealthy urban clients and were constructed with a variety of natural materials so that they were harmonious with the rugged Adirondack landscape. A number of these camps, including Sagamore, Santanoni, Pine Knot, and Eagle Island are National Historic Landmarks. This rustic style eventually influenced the design of western lodges and hotels built for the National Park Service.

Industry in the Mountains: The Tahawus Mine in Adirondack History

On Nov. 13 at Reamer Auditorium, Phil Terrie, professor emeritus, Bowling Green University, will talk about work in the North Country iron pits. The imposing ruins of a blast furnace beside the road into the Upper Works at Tahawus, near Newcomb, is a relic of the industrial history of this area of the Adirondacks. How did it work? Who developed this remote iron mine deep in the wilderness? How did the Tahawus mine fit into the larger picture of exploration and settlement in the Adirondacks? Professor Terrie’s illustrated presentation will show the development and significance of the McIntyre Iron Works.

The Kelly Adirondack Center, 897 St. David’s Lane, Niskayuna, is a library, research center and showcase serving the public and the Union College Community.



Blast furnace ruins at Tahawus

Contact State Legislative Chairmen

It never hurts to write to political leaders to make your positions known, and there are a ton of topics active this year for sure. Over time these will include budget issues such as how many forest rangers are employed. **Your voice counts.**

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

Todd Kaminsky

Chair of Senate Environmental Conservation Committee

Legislative Office Building Room 302

Albany, NY 12247

Phone: 518-455-3401

kaminsky@nysenate.gov

Steve Englebright

Chair of Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee

Legislative Office Building Room 621

Albany, NY 12248

Phone: 518-455-4804

engles@nyassembly.gov

Trip Tales



Lizard Pond group gathers at Garnet Lake: Sue Keats, Richard Wang, Inga and Chuck Pangburn, Karen Wang, Cindy and Paul Beer and Marty Farber. Photo by Roy Keats.

Garnet Lake Paddle and Hike to Lizard Pond Friday, July 19

We started from the north end of Garnet Lake and paddled into a fairly strong headwind out of the southwest. We stopped at a few bogs along the way down the lake to explain where the loons had nested earlier in the year. Upon reaching the Lizard Pond trail-head, we pulled our canoes out and donned hiking boots for the approximately 1.2 mile hike to the pond. We saw one loon, looked at the great views of Mount Blue and Crane Mountain from the pond, had lunch, and then hiked back down to our boats. We had a fast paddle back up the lake with the wind pushing us all the way. It was a beautiful day. The participants were Paul and Cindy Beer (with pets Monty and Echo), Martin Farber, Inga and Chuck Pangburn, Karen and Richard Wang and leaders Sue and Roy Keats.

Pole Hill Pond Thru Hike Saturday, July 27

We finally had a nice day to do this hike, with sunny skies and temperatures in the 70s and low 80s. After dropping a car at the Pole Hill Pond parking area on NY 9N near the head of Lake George's Northwest Bay, we drove to the Godwin Preserve parking area on Padanarum Road. From here, we hiked on the preserve's red trail to Pole Hill Pond. The beautiful pond was the highlight of the trip, with Pole Hill serving as a backdrop. Some showy water lilies dotted the surface, and brilliantly colored dragonflies flitted about above bushes with small, but tasty blueberries. After a long rest at the pond, we continued southeast through the Pole Hill Pond property (part of the Forest Preserve) on the mostly downhill blue and yellow trails to the car. Hikers were Bob Grimm, Walt Hayes, Roman Laba, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski and leader Norm Kuchar.

Catamount Mountain Sunday, July 21

Kristin Cimmino led a hike with Amanda Gomez and Eric Woodruff. It was a fairly hot day so once we got to the open ridge we welcomed the cool breeze. We were greeted with some fun rock scrambles as we made our way closer to the summit. When hiking this mountain you must pay close attention to your surroundings as the trail is not well marked. This hike offered some great views of Whiteface and Esther mountain.



Kristin Cimmino, Amanda Gomez and Eric Woodruff at Catamount Mountain.

Hudson River Gorge Saturday, July 27

The group was large, with mixed craft, so we divided into inflatables and kayaks. The inflatables went ahead first, with Rick Morse leading the way through the more difficult sections. Ed Cunningham and Tom Flynn followed as a sweep. The kayakers followed the inflatables, with alternating individuals taking the lead and sweep duties. It was nice to see Bob Wright in a kayak for a change. It was also nice to have Clarke's daughter, Mandy up from NYC and paddle down with Clarke in the duckie, and their dip in Soup Strainer certainly didn't dampen their spirits! Temperature warm and water level about 4 feet. Participants: Don Orr, Norm Labbe, Robert Wright, Clarke Darlington, Horst DeLorenzi, Mandy Darlington, Anthony Lamanno, Rick Morse, Derek Snyder, Ed Cunningham, Andres Harnecker and leader Thomas Flynn.

Lyon Mountain Saturday, Aug. 3

Trip leader Kristin Cimmino guided a hike up Lyon Mountain. In attendance were Nora Cummings, Megan Feuz and Linda Francois. This is one of the more beautiful fire tower trails. The hike had many switchbacks making it an easier climb up. There was a nice cool breeze that greeted us at the top. From the tower you can see many windmills in the distance as well as Montreal and Vermont.

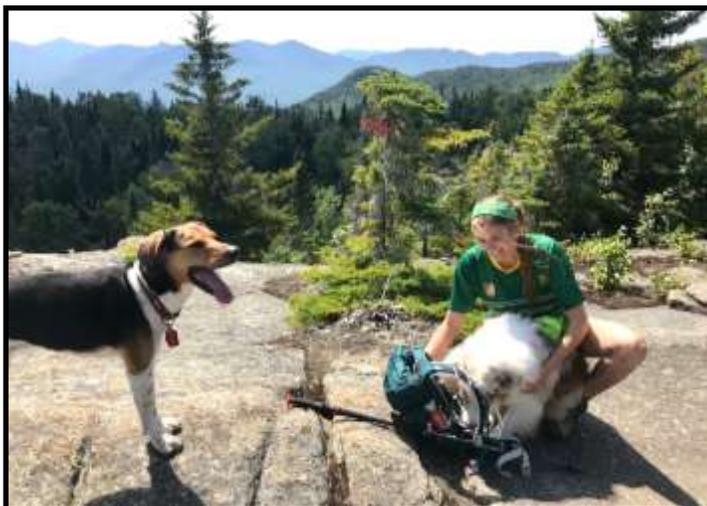
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Trip Tales

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Big Crow and Nun-Da-Ga-O Ridge - Young Member Outing Saturday, Aug. 3

There was only three of us but we had a great time! René St. Jacques, Jeff Newsome and Dustin Wright had a beautiful summer day with a bunch of great views both from Big Crow and all along Nun-Da-Ga-O Ridge! Extremely in depth discussions about Lord of the Rings were had and two pups, Willard Excelsior Bear and Kindred Spirit had a lovely time as well!



*René St. Jacque, with Willard E. Bear and Kindred Spirit, enjoy the beauty of Nun-Da-Ga-O Ridge.
Photo by Dustin Wright*

Deerfield- Fife Brook Saturday, Aug. 3

It was a beautiful day and paddlers felt like trying many new techniques and new lines. There were 4-5 swims which were uneventful. The 12 paddlers were: Clarke Darlington, leader, Cathy Darlington, Pam and Ed Martuscello, Dennis Wischman, Alan Wood, Norm Labbe and his daughter Laura, Jason Greene, Jordon Martin, Mark Mershon and Don Orr.

Annual Whitewater Picnic Saturday, Aug. 10

Our annual whitewater picnic was held at the Sacandaga Outdoor Center. This is the sixth year I believe that we have held it here and it was once again a rousing success. Over 18 to 20 paddlers showed up to enjoy the paddling, camaraderie, and of course fine BBQ food and tasty sides and salads. The weather was OK for a change. Trip leader Robert Wright.

Jay Mountain Sunday, Aug. 18

Kristin Cimmino was joined by Sue Atwell, Linda Francois and Gavin Lemley for this lovely saunter through the woods. It was a

very hot and humid day but thankfully we were greeted with a nice breeze at the ridge walk. When hiking Jay you must pay close attention to cairns because the trail markers disappear once you reach the ridge. There are a few false summits so make sure to keep following the trail. The 360 degree views are breathtaking.

Warren County Bikeway Queensbury to Lake George Friday, Aug. 23

It was a great day – sunny and 70s -- for a bike ride to Lake George. We started next to the Sprinkles parking lot and rode over a great variety of terrain. We went by golf course fairways, over a bridge over the outlet of Glen Lake, through long wooded sections going along a rushing stream, then finally topping out on French Mountain by the Magic Forest for a great downhill to Lake George. We had lunch in Shepard Park and then returned via the same route. We then indulged in cones at Sprinkles at our finish. Participants were Paul Beer, Karen Wang and leader Sue Keats.

Canada Whitewater Paddling August 24-26

A large group of paddlers drove up to Maniwaki Canada to paddle the Gatineau River and attend the Gatineau River Festival in late August. The Saturday/Sunday festival included camping, communal meals, a whitewater paddling film festival, and shuttle service. The Canadians do an excellent job organizing this



*Ed Martuscello scrapes down a drop on the Gatineau River.
Photo by Mal Provost*

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event every year and are gracious hosts.

Most folks drove up Friday night from our area and stayed at the festival campground, the local high school. The group of 12 (11 kayakers and one canoeist) paddled the river on Saturday and all had a good time. Some folks have paddled the river quite a few times and some folks had never paddled there before. The river level was nice for the first time paddlers, not being too high. Two other ADKers joined us and rafted the river on Saturday. On Sunday 10 of us ran the river again. (We didn't lose anyone the day before, it was planned that way) and another stellar day on the

water was had by all. The water was warm and the weather was perfect!

Sunday night seven of us drove west of Ottawa and camped near the Ottawa River. We paddled the Ottawa the next day. Again, some people had been there many times before and some were newbies. A great time was had by all!! Beautiful weather, warm water, and fun rapids! Participants were Sally Dewes, trip leader, Anthony Lamanno, Mal Provost, Norm Labbe, Carolyn Wiggin, Don Orr, Derek Snyder, Greg Gerbi, Anthony Cagino, Ed Martuscello, Rick and Anne Morse, Ed Cunningham and Allison St. Pierre.

Dirt, Road Cyclists Celebrate Another Ididaride

Ididaride cyclists turned out in the hundreds again in July, braving heat and a thundershower on the leg of the road ride past Indian Lake, but it made for another success for this annual major fundraiser for the Adirondack Mountain Club.

The assistance of HAM radio volunteers improved communications on both the 75-mile road course and the 23-mile dirt course, according to Sunday Conine, annual fund manager for the ADK. Also, rest stop volunteers were well-prepared and the Cold River Chapter volunteers stepped up to the plate by preparing the fruit the night before and maintaining efficient rest stops along each course.

There were 222 riders on the long road course, which was a bit fewer than last year, but the 110 riders for the dirt course were an increase from 2018, the inaugural year for that. The event grossed \$31,000, with net proceeds for the ADK's programs at \$15,000.



Bikers navigate the 23 miles of dirt and gravel on the ADK's annual Ididaride tour.

Photo by Benjamin Brosseau

Whitewater Schedule

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).

2400-Acre Eagle Mountain Preserve Created

An expanse of 2,434 acres of Adirondack foothills at the headwaters of the Boquet River, including streams, ponds, and mature forest, has been protected.

The new Eagle Mountain Wilderness Preserve part of a large, intact forest that connects the High Peaks to lower elevation lands near Lake Champlain. Surrounding protected areas include New York State's Jay Mountain Wilderness and Taylor Pond Wild Forest (home to the local landmark, Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain), as well as other privately conserved lands.

Partnering with Northeast Wilderness Trust, Adirondack Land Trust will hold a conservation easement on the property, and will be responsible for ensuring that the terms in the easement are upheld in perpetuity.

The dramatic cliffs of the property's namesake summit offer nesting habitat for peregrine falcons. These New York State-listed endangered birds have been documented successfully nesting within the boundaries of the Preserve for the past several years.

The property also includes more than five miles of headwater streams that feed into the North Branch of the Boquet River. These streams support native brook trout habitat and are home to eastern pearlshell, a rare freshwater mussel found in only a few locations in New York State and at risk throughout its historic habitat due to water pollution and dams.

-- Reprinted Courtesy of Adirondack Almanack

Fishhook Waterflea Bad Invasive in Champlain

Anglers returning from the waters of Lake Champlain at Shelburne Bay have reported large quantities of invasive fishhook waterflea fouling their gear. Boat launch stewards with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) noted in early July that nearly all fishing boats returning to the Shelburne Bay and Converse Bay launches had downriggers infested with the tiny organisms. LCBP stewards removed, treated, and disposed of the fishhook waterfleas. The alarming news for anglers and lake ecology came during the busy holiday period of Canada Day on July 1 and the July 4th holiday in the U.S.

Like the spiny waterflea, which was confirmed in Lake Champlain in 2014, the fishhook waterflea is an aggressive predator of plankton that are food for native species in the lake. There are no known risks to human health from the fishhook waterflea, but they are known for fouling fishing gear.

Scientists first noted fishhook waterflea (*Cercopagis pengoi*) in Lake Champlain in summer 2018. The species is the 51st known aquatic nonnative and invasive species in Lake Champlain. While more than 100 individual waterfleas were present in samples collected in 2018, the number of individuals found on fishing equipment in Shelburne Bay numbered in the thousands. The Lake Champlain Research Institute confirmed that organisms collected off of fishing lines of boats exiting the lake this week were fishhook waterfleas and a small number of spiny waterfleas.

The fishhook waterflea is a native of Eurasia. It is believed to have arrived in the Great Lakes in ballast water in the 1980s and spread to other water bodies. It likely arrived in Lake Champlain by hitchhiking overland on recreational boats, trailers, fishing lines, and other equipment. Lake Champlain is a popular waterbody for professional bass tournaments. The Finger Lakes in New York and Lake Ontario are the closest lakes known to host the species.

While the impact from this species to the Lake's food web is unknown, researchers say they have observed shifts in the zooplankton community after the detection of spiny waterflea in Lake Champlain and other lakes where the species has become established. The waterflea eggs are resistant to drying, which limits the types of management actions that will prevent the spread of this species.

Because fishhook waterflea has life stages that are invisible to the naked eye, they are often difficult to detect. Lake users are asked to take measures to help prevent the spread of fishhook waterflea to other inland water bodies. Boaters are encouraged to clean, drain and dry their boats, trailers, and equipment. They should drain bilge water and check anchor lines. Anglers should change fishing lines and tackle when moving between water bodies.

No known control methods exist to eliminate fishhook waterflea once established in a water body.

--Reprinted courtesy of Adirondack Almanack

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Membership Application

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

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

Check Membership Level:

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