

# The **Lookout**

*December 2019 - January 2020*



**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

*Bob Boromisa enjoys the view from Moxham Mountain during this fall hike.  
Photo by Marc Limeri (See Trip Tales Page 9)*

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December 2019 - January 2020

# The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Wright Elected Chair of Schenectady Chapter

Dustin Wright was elected as our first new chapter chairman in a number of years, and addressed the members at the Oct. 2 annual meeting and dinner.

Roughly four years ago Dustin joined the Adirondack Mountain Club and has served in various roles on our chapter board, from membership chair to director to most recently young member chair and has over the years built an extremely active young member group. Dustin outlined his priorities for his term as Schenectady Board chairmanship to include:

- Connecting our young members with long time members.
- Transitioning new leaders into our chapter board and committees.
- Actively engaging the chapter in the environmental and conservation issues of the day with special emphasis on combating climate change and its effects on our wild places.
- Partnering with local organizations to provide strong educational opportunities on the Adirondacks, outdoor activities and conservation issues.
- Building equal focus on new member recruitment AND existing member retention.



*Dustin Wright on Shaw Mountain in New Hampshire.*

Dustin said he “couldn’t be more thankful for the strong leadership of Stan Stoklosa in recent years,” and greatly looks forward to his continued guidance and support as Stan steps back into the vice chair role.

Originally from Manchester, Connecticut, Dustin grew up enjoying the outdoors and guiding others through the outdoors as an Eagle Scout and as camp counselor at Camp Calumet Lutheran for 10 summers in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. He first fell in love with summiting high peaks when he led a group of youth up Mount Pierce in the Presidential Range while working over a summer during college and has been at it ever since. A graduate of the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Outdoor Leadership School and a former certified wilderness first responder, Dustin is an ADK 46er, Northeast 111/115er and has summited a number of 14ers out west.

After graduating from seminary in Philadelphia, Dustin moved to Schenectady to serve as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Rotterdam a bit over a five years ago, and is “absolutely loving life here in the Schenectady area!” In addition to supporting a rapidly growing congregation with many youth and young families, Dustin’s other passion in ministry is advocating on a wide variety of social justice causes, especially the environment and conservation. As president of the New York State Council of Churches, he was extremely active in advocating for the passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act during New York’s last legislative session and his congregation at Messiah is striving to be one of the greenest faith communities in the Capital Region.

In the coming months, Dustin would love to get to know some of our especially long time members. If you want to reach out and grab a cup of coffee with Dustin, he’d love to hear from you! Simply give him a call at 603-953-8782 or email at [pastor@messiahschenectady.org](mailto:pastor@messiahschenectady.org)

### Board Officers

Other officers confirmed with Dustin were Stan Stoklosa as vice chair, Colin Thomas as project coordinator and Jason Waters as director. The offices of secretary and treasurer were not filled. Sally Dewes will continue to organize our speaker series.

# Trail Building Progress Cited At Annual Dinner

The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) touches thousands of miles and potentially millions of people, but still is out of sight and out of mind, below the radar for many. Mary Coffin, a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club's Onondaga Chapter and National Park Service certified trail designer, has worked on the trail – both on maps, and with boots on the ground and GPS in hand – for almost 40 years and spoke at the Schenectady Chapter's annual dinner on Oct. 22.



*Mary Coffin details the work that has gone into the North Country National Scenic Trail, as well as that which lies ahead, during the annual dinner of the Schenectady Chapter.*

*Photo by Sally Dewes*

Crest trails as the first national scenic trails. Further study was directed and in 1975 the NCNST was recommended for designation as a national scenic trail; it became a reality in law in 1980 and work has proceeded since then with states, private and volunteer organizations heavily involved. About 2,600 miles of the trail are open to public use, with about 1,900 of that certified by the National Park Service. The trail runs from North Dakota through Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, and with inclusion of Vermont on the agenda. As much as 40 percent of the American public is within an hour's drive of some piece of the trail.

– Mal Provost

## High School Scholarship Fund Has \$1K Grant

The ADK Schenectady Chapter Board of Directors thanks one of our chapter members, who would like to remain anonymous. This member has donated \$1,000 to our High School Scholarship Fund to be utilized for this next year's campaign. Like this member, we feel that encouraging young people to study and ultimately work in the science, engineering and environmental fields is critical to maintaining the health and beauty of the Adirondacks, not to mention the planet. Many, many thanks!

Keep your eye out in the next Lookout with details on how to apply for the ADK Schenectady Chapter HS Scholarships!

--Jacque McGinn, Secretary

She called the trail a “lifetime” project, said it is intended to “lie lightly on the land” and clearly is the work of many hands.

Among Schenectady Chapter members, she cited Walt Hayes and Norm Kuchar for their years of scouting trail routes in the eastern Adirondacks and trail-cutting work that has helped extend the trail in the Schroon Lake area. Work this past year included beginning to extend the Jones Hill trail, which was advanced by a trail crew Mary organized for August and is anticipated to continue in next year's warm weather. The state Department of Environmental Conservation has also requested help with trail planning and construction for Moose Mountain Pond and in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest areas.

Mary's talk to the club members touched on trail cutting techniques such as “benching,” – digging out the tread properly to resist runoff erosion – and the complex and time consuming issues such as getting access to private land as well as the legalities involved with state land and the Adirondack Park Agency. Such issues ensure that completion of the 4,600-mile project is over the horizon even as piece-by-piece it becomes a reality.

According to the National Park Service, the NCNST began as a proposal in the 1960s. In 1968 Congress passed the National Trails System Act; establishing the Appalachian and Pacific

# Woodworth Retires As Executive Director

After years in the third floor Albany walk-up office of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Neil Woodworth is going to get a major change of perspective after he retires as ADK executive director at the end of this year.

His wife Holly has been an assistant forest ranger for the past two years, hiking about 600 miles per season on Adirondack trails, a personal passion and a key role in keeping an eye on the Forest Preserve while the state is short of certified forest rangers.

“When I retire she is going to whip me into shape,” Woodworth said in a recent interview in the ADK’s Public Affairs and Government Relations Office. From there, he and Cathy Pedler connect with state legislative and legal issues involving the Forest Preserve and environmental concerns generally.

Neil, 65, is going to trade that in for hikes with Holly in the Cranberry Lake area from their home in Wanakena, and other favorite haunts such as the Five Ponds Wilderness. In the spring they are taking one of the ADK’s high adventure trips to hike in Ireland.

It’s been a long time coming. Neil’s 30-year tenure with the ADK started after graduation from Hobart College and Albany Law School of Union University. He left private law practice to become ADK conservation director and counsel in 1989 and was selected as executive director and counsel in 2004. Over his earlier years in the ADK he learned whitewater skills with the Schenectady Chapter and become a 46er and enjoyed backpacking through the Albany Chapter. (Full details of his life and ADK career are in the Nov.-Dec. Edition of *Adirondack* and his article in *Adirondack Archangels*, an essay collection published by the ADK in 2016.)



*Neil Woodworth*

As an independent organization advocating for environmental causes, particularly in the Adirondack and Catskill parks, the ADK at times works hand-in-glove with the state and sometimes in direct opposition. Neil’s history with the ADK reflects both aspects, for examples, being instrumental in helping direct major state purchases of former timber company land for preservation, and fighting state DEC plans for tree cutting to allow expansion of snowmobile trails.

Many victories are cited in a review published in the current edition of *Adirondack*, and high among these is helping guide the state’s hand in purchasing former paper company lands to reestablish public access to paddling routes. His association with the Northern Forest Lands Council aided this and in the late 1990s and more recently purchases were made that protected these lands and opened access to rivers including the St. Regis, Deer, Jordan, Grass and Raquette. Purchases of the Essex Chain Lakes and Boreas Ponds lands are other huge successes.

An example on the opposition side was joining a lawsuit with Protect the Adirondacks against the Adirondack Park Agency and the DEC in their move to allow float planes onto Lows Lake, based on reclassification of Wilderness areas contrary to state law. The suit was successful and strengthened prohibitions against motorized access to such areas.

Climate change is a worry hanging over Neil’s anticipation of more relaxed years. “No issue is more important than climate change,” he told the audience at Schenectady’s annual dinner. In our interview he cited it as “the biggest threat to the Adirondacks,” citing invasive species as degrading the natural environment and threatening trees, plants and animals that make up the “boreal ecosystem.” Moose, he said, are threatened by a tick species new to the region that is active in cold weather, which is less severe than in decades past.

And there is the constant struggle to control the effects of overuse of the trails and waterways of the mountains and find adequate state money to properly police and protect them. This is work that will continue to be a challenge for the ADK and Neil on a more relaxed basis.

Replacing Neil will be Michael Barrett (*see article, Page 4*) an attorney who has worked with New York State government and who now directs the Missouri State Public Defender System. He will be on board before the end of the year, and Neil will remain working with the Conservation Committee and advising it as needed.

– Mal Provost

# ADK Announces Barrett As Executive Director

Michael Barrett has been appointed as the new executive director of ADK, which became effective Nov 11. The appointment was unanimously approved by the ADK Board of Directors at its Sept. 28 meeting.

Barrett obtained a law degree in 2002 and served as an attorney to the state Assembly Codes Committee. He later held executive-level positions in the administrations of Governors Eliot Spitzer and David Paterson.

He left to move to Missouri, where he worked as counsel to the Department of Natural Resources before becoming deputy general counsel to Governor Jeremiah “Jay” Nixon, a position he held for three years before being selected as the director of the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency. For the past four-plus years, he served as the director of the Missouri State Public Defender System, which included functioning as both the systems’ lobbyist and public information officer.

“Michael is a proven and dynamic leader with years of success as an advocate and policy maker. We look forward to him joining ADK,” said John Gilewicz, ADK president.

Barrett, an avid outdoorsman and paddler, will be returning to New York along with his wife Sebrina, who is the executive director of the Missouri Bar, his son Mason, 13, and his daughter Molly, 7. “I look forward to building on the successes that have already been achieved by this incredible organization,” said Barrett.



*Michael Barrett*

ADK’s previous Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Neil Woodworth, will be remaining with ADK for several months to facilitate the transition and will remain of counsel to ADK for the near future.

“We thank Neil for his decades of service and his tremendous contribution, not just to ADK but to New York State,” said Gilewicz.

– Excerpted from *Adirondack*

## High Peaks Advisory Group Appointed

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos has announced a new strategic planning initiative, with a goal of sustainably managing public use in the Adirondack High Peaks. The High Peaks Strategic Planning Advisory Group, with expertise in local government, recreation, natural resource protection, business, tourism, and other priority areas is expected to provide advice on how to balance issues associated with the increased public use of the High Peaks.

“DEC and our partners are working hard to address impacts associated with increased use of the High Peaks because we all recognize the tremendous opportunities that will be created when we ensure this majestic region is sustainably managed for the enjoyment of both current and future generations,” Seggos said. DEC has identified five goals for managing public use in the High Peaks Region: 1) ensuring public safety within communities, along roadways, at trailheads, and in interior areas; 2) protecting natural resources and recreation infrastructure; 3) providing a quality recreation experience; 4) supporting local economic vitality; and 5) making decisions based on science. Strategic planning will be guided by Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner Judy Drabicki and led by Division of Lands and Forests Director Rob Davies and DEC Region 5 Director Bob Stegemann.

An advisory group will involve business and government leaders. These include Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Owner of Rock and River Guide Co., Shaun Gilliland, Chair, Essex County Board of Supervisors, James McKenna, CEO, Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism (ROOST), Pete Nelson, Adirondack Wilderness Advocates, Mike Pratt, President & CEO, Olympic Regional Development Authority and Dr. Jill Weiss, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The Adirondack Council and other state and regional offices will participate also. Recommendations are to be made by the group in 2020.

--Excerpted courtesy of *Adirondack Almanack*

# Nepal Trek Is Topic For January 16 Speaker

Conly L. Rieder is a trekker with walks in Scotland, Italy, France, Chile, Africa, Nepal and Greece, most of these since his retirement in 2011. He has his PhD in cell biology and specialized in cancer research with the National Institutes of Health; his primary expertise was in sophisticated light and electron microscopy and he has lectured around the world. He is married with two adult daughters and lives in the Capital District.

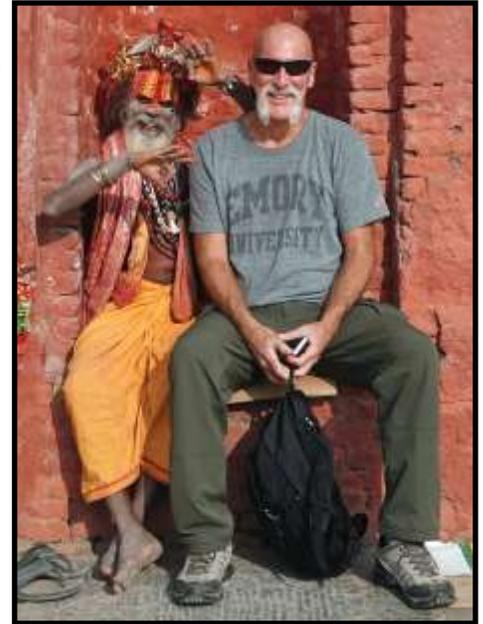
He will talk about trekking the Manaslu Circuit in Nepal with a friend in 2018 at the Clifton Park Library, Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. This will be the first lecture of 2020 sponsored by the Schenectady Chapter of the ADK.

Conly's notes for the talk include the following description:

"On January 5, 2018 I received an email from a good friend in Edinburgh (Scotland) who had visited Nepal three times since 2010. Having hiked Everest Base Camp, Annapurna and Mustang, he now wanted to do the Manaslu Circuit. The experts consider this trek to be the most demanding but beautiful in Nepal, and it had finally been re-opened since the devastating 2015 earthquakes."...

"So, for the next six months I read all I could on the Manaslu Circuit, updated my will, and geared up for the grand adventure. On Oct. 15' 2018, I flew from Newark to Kathmandu via Dubai on Emirates with a 100-liter waterproof North Face duffle, a Gregory Zulu 55-liter backpack, and \$2,500 cash to begin, what turned out to be, 17 days of wicked "teahouse to teahouse" trekking. We began at 730-m in the jungle at Soti Kohla, crested the snow-covered 5,160-m (17,000 ft.) Larke La Pass 14 days later, and finally stopped descending at 1,100-m in Syange 3-days later. We walked over 217 kilometers (135 miles) and because there is rarely a flat surface in Nepal, a total of 46,900 feet up and 44,960 down. I lost 13 lbs, but never got sick, and was blown away by the people, their cultures and scale of the mountains. I'd do it again tomorrow!"

--Sally Dewes



*Conly L. Rieder in Nepal with a local citizen.*

## Outings

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

**Second Annual All Member Holiday Social at Great Flats Brewery**

**Dustin Wright, [pastor@messiahschenectady.org](mailto:pastor@messiahschenectady.org) or 603-953-8782**

So here's the deal: As our young member group continues to grow in the ADK Schenectady Chapter, many of our newcomers still haven't gotten to know everyone else in the 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'll 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 issue. Especially if you're a long time member, be sure to bring friends and family who might want to join the ADK!

**Thursday, Dec. 5**

**Whiteface Mountain Memorial Highway Ski Class A2B**

**Roy Keats 518-466-8544 or [royskipaddle@gmail.com](mailto:royskipaddle@gmail.com)**

This is a beautiful ski tour up a road with great scenery all the way up (and down). It is approximately an 11 mile round trip including a quarter mile stair climb from the end of the road to the top. The last quarter mile requires snowshoes with grippers. There is a total of approximately 2,500 feet of vertical ascent. A fairly constant 8 or 9 percent grade makes for a continuous downhill run out. Everyone should come layered (no cotton) because the long uphill will warm you up, and the long downhill will cool you off. This is rated as an intermediate trip. Please call or email by Tuesday evening before the ski to sign up. This is a joint trip with the Cold River Chapter. Skis with metal edges are recommended.

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# Outings

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**Wednesday, Dec. 11**

**Camp Saratoga (Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park)**

**Class C2C**

**Norm Kuchar, 518-399-6243 or [nkuchar@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nkuchar@nycap.rr.com)**

The 310-acre Camp Saratoga unit of the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park contains a mix of woodlands, wetlands, open areas, streams and a pond. It also has a nice network of marked trails. We will do an easy half-day loop hike through the unit. Depending on conditions, microspikes may be needed. If there is sufficient snow, some of the trails are groomed and snowshoes will be required. Distance about 3 miles, with only a few small hills.

**Saturday Dec. 14**

**Ski Trip to Camp Santanoni**

**Class A2C**

**Mike Brun, 518-487-8054 or [brunmets@verizon.net](mailto:brunmets@verizon.net)**

This ski tour follows a road into Camp Santanoni. There is a gradual uphill from the parking lot to a high point of land after which there is a nice downhill to the camp. The camp is an historic great camp with a lot of interesting buildings and some good views. The trip length is about 10 miles round trip. This is generally one of the earliest ski trips in the Adirondacks.

**Sunday, Dec. 22**

**Scarface Mountain**

**Class B2B**

**Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185**

Join Leader Kristin on her Saranac 6 finish up Scarface. 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 such as warm clothes, snowshoes and microspikes may be needed. Leashed dogs are welcome.

**Saturday, Dec. 28**

**Wittenberg & Cornell Mountains**

**Class A2B+**

**John Susko, 518-383-1284 or [jpsusko@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jpsusko@nycap.rr.com)**

We'll take the trail from Woodland Valley along the Burrows Range to these two Catskill peaks. The summit of Wittenberg has possibly the best views in the Catskills. The trail to Cornell includes an interesting V-notch on the way to good views of Wittenberg. The distance is 9-10 miles with 3,000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes and crampons or other traction devices may be needed.

**Sunday, Dec. 29**

**Phelps and Tabletop**

**Class A+2A very difficult**

**Mary Zawacki, 914-373-8733**

Phelps and Tabletop is a challenging 13.8 mile hike with 3,900 feet in elevation gain. We'll leave from the Adirondack Loj. This

trip up two high peaks is open only to experienced winter hikers with proper gear (spikes, snowshoes, etc). Extreme cold, wind, or storms will cancel this trip.

**Sunday, Jan. 5**

**Snowshoe Hike: Sawteeth**

**Class A+2B**

**Jason Waters, 518-369-5516**

Sawteeth offers a great view of many high peaks nearby! A roughly 16-mile journey, this hike features views of Lower Ausable Lake and Rainbow Falls before steeply climbing to the summit. Snowshoes and traction aids (e.g. microspikes) as well as winter clothing will be needed. Unfortunately, this will be a dog-free trip as canines are not allowed on Ausable Club property.

**Saturday, Jan. 11**

**Young Member Outing: Panther & Giant Ledge**

**Class B2B**

**Dustin Wright, [pastor@messiahshenectady.org](mailto:pastor@messiahshenectady.org) or 603-953-8782**

Bag one of the four required winter high peaks for the Catskills 3,500 with us! Giant Ledge and Panther Mountain Trail is a 6.3 mile heavily trafficked out and back trail located near Big Indian, with about 1,900 feet of elevation gain. From Giant Ledge there's FANTASTIC views! Please email Dustin to confirm interest!

**Monday, Jan. 13**

**XC Ski Cole's Woods**

**Class C3C**

**Marc Limeri, Text 518-545-6456 or [wwebbie@yahoo.com](mailto:wwebbie@yahoo.com)**

Cole's Woods (aka Crandall Park) is in Queensbury, just off Exit 19. They have a 5k trail in the woods with some ups and downs. The trail is groomed for classic or skating style (but if you're skating, we are very slow!). This date may get moved depending on the weather and snow conditions.

**Friday, Jan. 17**

**XC Ski Cole's Woods at Night**

**Class C3C**

**Marc Limeri, Text 518-545-6456 or [wwebbie@yahoo.com](mailto:wwebbie@yahoo.com)**

The 5k trail is lit, but all participants should bring a headlamp just in case. I have a couple extra if you need one. This tour is for strong intermediate and better skiers since there are some hills and it will be dark. The lights are on until 10 p.m. and I plan to start around 7 p.m. so we should be done by 9 p.m. The trail is groomed for classic or skating style.

**Saturday, Jan. 18**

**Hunter Mountain**

**Class B2B**

**John Susko, 518-383-1284 or [jpsusko@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jpsusko@nycap.rr.com)**

Hunter is the second highest peak in the Catskills and has a fire

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# Outings

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tower that provides excellent views. We'll take the Becker Hollow trail, which is the most scenic route to Hunter. The distance is ~5 miles with ~2,000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes and crampons or other traction devices may be needed.

**Saturday Jan. 18**  
**XC Ski to Rock Lake on NPT**  
**Class B2B**

**Mike Brun, brunmcts@verizon.net or 518-487-8054**  
 We will ski from the old terminus of the NPT in Benson to Rock Lake. Round Trip is 7 miles, mostly downhill on the way back.

**Sunday Jan. 19**  
**Fulton Chain Trifecta**  
**Class B2B**

**Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185**  
 Join us in Old Forge on three short hikes to complete the winter Fulton Chaim Trifecta challenge. We will be heading up Black Bear mountain which is 2-4 miles depending which route people would like to take. Rocky Mountain is 1 mile round trip and Bald Mountain is 2 miles round trip. Each mountain has separate trail heads but they are all very close. Winter gear is required. Dogs on leash are welcome.

**Saturday, Jan. 25**  
**XC Ski Clear Pond and John Pond Loop**  
**Class B2C**

**Roy Keats, royskipaddle@gmail.com or 518-466-8544**  
 This route uses a new ski trail to Clear Pond, and then a connector trail to John Pond with a ski out on the regular John Pond Trail to the car. The total trip is about 6 miles. It is 1.1 miles to Clear Pond with a delightful view. The new trail then follows the southwest shore of the pond and climbs gradually to attain a narrow ridge, which leads, with a few interesting downhills, to John Pond. There is a lean-to and resting spot with a great view across John Pond.

**Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 to 9 p.m.**  
**Young Member Social: Wolf Hollow Brewery**

**Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahshenectady.org or 603-953-8782**

So the holidays are over and the cold weather has set in, but that's even more reason to gather with friends, talk about upcoming opportunities for enjoying all the fresh powder in the mountains and more. Come build some community with ADK Schenectady's group of folks in their 20s and 30s who have a passion for the outdoors! Apps are on the chapter!

**Saturday, Feb. 1**  
**Young Member Outing: Catamount & Winter Carnival**  
**Class C2C**

**Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahshenectady.org or 603-953-8782**

It was a blast last year! Join our young member group for a lovely 4 mile, 1,500 foot elevation hike up Catamount Mountain and then an evening of beautiful fireworks during the kickoff of Saranac Lake's Winter Carnival! Catamount is one of the ADK 29ers so it's a great peak-bagging hike too!

**Sunday, Feb. 2**  
**Snowshoe Hike: Street and Nye**  
**Class A2B**

**Jason Waters, 518-369-5516 or Kristin Cimmino, 518-368-3185**

Join us as we hike two high peaks. Street and Nye usually don't have a view until winter. A roughly nine-mile hike along a herd path. The hike may also lead us to Mount Jo if everyone is up to it. Snowshoes and traction aids (e.g. microspikes) as well as winter clothing will be needed.

**Thursday, Feb. 6, 7-9 p.m.**  
**Young Member Social: Van Dyck**  
**Dustin Wright, pastor@messiahshenectady.org or 603-953-8782**

Fresh powder in the mountains and beautiful frozen lakes await! Join in on a monthly social where we spend plenty of time talking about playing in and protecting New York's wild places. Come build some community with ADK Schenectady's group of folks in their twenties and thirties who have a passion for the outdoors! Apps are on the chapter!

## 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 futher 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.

# Duanesburg Winter Pool Sessions Under Way

## Get your game on this winter!

We are running pool sessions again this winter at the Duanesburg YMCA. This is the time to practice those skills. Got friends interested in trying out kayaking? We are here to help them get started. We have ACA certified whitewater instructors available. Winter sessions will run through April 19. These will be held on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., but plan to exit the pool at ~9:15pm to leave time to reset the pool lanes and dress in the locker rooms.

Free admission for Capital District YMCA members, \$15 per person per session for non-members, or you may purchase a discount four session pass card for \$50 (\$12.50 per session), which will be honored during the spring 2020 sessions as well. These may be purchased at the Duanesburg YMCA main entrance desk.

## Canoes, Kayaks and SUPs

No need to sign up in advance, you may just show up! You will have access to the locker rooms to change and shower. Please bring a lock for the locker if you intend to leave any valuables inside during the session and don't forget a towel! The Duanesburg YMCA may close early during snow storms, so it is best to call and confirm they are open before making the drive if the weather is questionable. Contact the YMCA at 518-895-9500 to check for closings.

Long boats (touring kayaks and canoes) as well as short boats (whitewater kayaks) and SUPs are welcome. Please make sure your boats are clean to the best of your ability. We do not want leaves and other debris in the pool! Car self-wash facilities are a good way to clean boats on your car rack before pool sessions during cold weather.

Boats enter the pool through the double doors on the right side of the building when facing the front entrance. Stage your boat outside the doors or bring it in if the door is open, then walk around the building to the main entrance to check in. There is no facility to store boats on site and rentals are not available, so you must bring your own boat or make arrangements to borrow a boat from someone else.

Beginning canoe/kayak and kayak rolling instruction may be arranged. Please contact John Ozard (ozardjw@netscape.net) or Ralph Pascale (rpascale@spendwood.com) for more information. Also contact me at Whitewater@ADK-Schenectady.org

– **Ralph Pascale, Whitewater Chair**

## Trip Tales



*Erin Hayner, Linda Francois and Kristin Cimmino on Noonmark summit.*

### **Noonmark and Round Mountain Sunday, September 15**

Trip leader Kristin Cimmino led a hike up Noonmark from the St. Huberts parking area. Kristin along with Linda Francois and Erin Hayner decided to take the loop and head down the old Dix Trail. When it intersected with the Round mountain trail, they all decided to explore one more ADK 29er and head over to Round Mountain. The entire hike was well marked with signs and trail markers. The total hike was just over 7 miles. They had wonderful views on both mountains.

### **West River Festival Saturday, September 21**

Jamaica State Park White Water Festival, a perfect whitewater day on the West River, with warm weather, great water and a group of happy paddlers. The group included Sally Dewes, Bill

*Continued on Page 9*

# Trip Tales

## *Continued from Page 8*

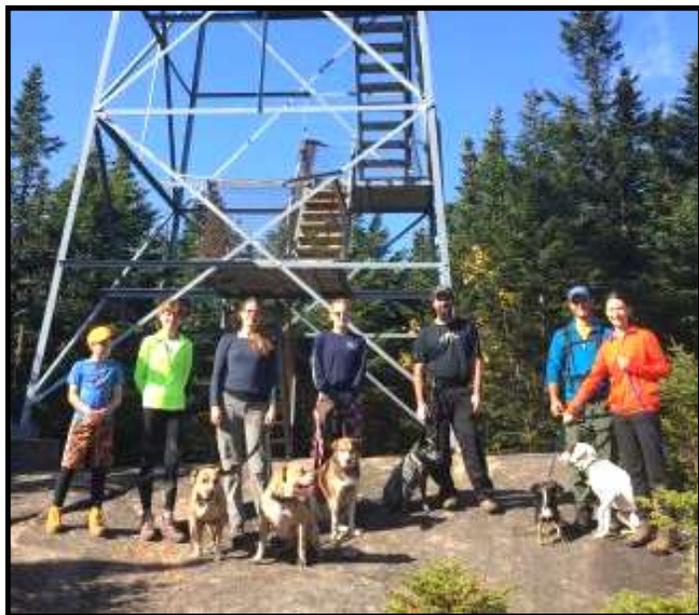
Ports, Mal Provost, Anthony Lamanno, Mark Soltzenburg, Don Orr, Pierre Cyr, Carl Heilmann, Bob Wright, Norm Labbe, Tom Flynn, Marty Plante, Jordon Masten and Jason Green. Trip leader Ralph Pascale.

### **Moxham Mountain** **Thursday, October 10**

October 10 was a stupendous day for a hike. Bright, sunny day - check. Comfortable temperatures - check. Big panoramic views - check. Peak fall colors - check. Amiable hiking companions - check. And to top things off, we had the summit to ourselves. We capped off the day with burgers and drinks at George Henry's in Warrensburg. Participants were Bob Boromisa, and Jan and Marc Limeri, trip leader.

### **Amsterdam Bike Trail** **Monday, October 14**

On a pleasant day for riding, 5 bikers rode from the Bridge Street parking lot west to Schoharie Crossing and beyond until the pavement ended, and then back for a total of 12 miles. A couple riders had to leave at that point, and the remaining ones learned that the trail east to Rotterdam Junction was now paved. So they rode east another 4.5 miles to explore, making their total 21 miles. Evidently this newly paved section opened up last year, so next year's ride will have to start from Rotterdam Junction. Participants were Bob Boromisa, Sue Ford, Bob Grimm, and Jan and Marc Limeri, leader.



*At the Pillsbury Mountain fire tower, left to right: Nico Cimmino, Linda Francois, Betsy Moss, Jess Young, Stephen Moss, Patrick Madden and Lisa Thompson.  
Photo by Kristin Cimmino*

### **Pillsbury Mountain** **Monday, October 14**

Trip leader Kristin Cimmino led a large group of people and dogs up Pillsbury. It was a beautiful fall day and the trail wasn't that muddy. Pillsbury is a nice steady incline right from the start but isn't very technical. Once we reached the fire tower we took turns carefully climbing up to the top landing, the cabin was locked. We had beautiful views of the autumn trees.

### **Vischer Ferry Bike Ride** **Tuesday, October 15**

We began our 15 mile ride at Ferry Drive in Vischer Ferry on a sunny, warm autumn day and stopped frequently on our way to the park near the Route 9 bridges to take in some of the remains of the Erie Canal. Lots of ducks and great blue herons were in residence along the way. After lunch at the riverside park, we rode back on the generally smooth stone dust trail. A truly great day to be out along the canal and the Mohawk River! Participants were Inge Pangburn, Steve Mallory and the leaders, Richard and Karen Wang.

### **Willie Marsh** **Saturday, October 19**

It was a perfect fall day to be in the woods. No birds migrating or even just relaxing. We walked about 4.6 miles including a lunch stop at the roaring outlet of Peck Lake (just inside the Blue Line). Willie Marsh is part of the Peck Hill State Forest in the Town of Johnstown (just outside the Blue Line). The outing was enjoyed by Roman Laba, Ken Marcinowski, Nilde Marcinowski and leader Walt Hayes.



*Trail clearing in the Plotterkill Preserve Oct. 28. Volunteers Norm Labbe, Don Orr and Drew Gregg clip vines and hanging branches from the Highland Trail on the west end of the preserve. The effort was organized in cooperation with Kathy Fisher of the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council. Photo by Mal Provost*

*the Lookout*

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