

# The **Lookout**

*February - March 2020*



## **Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter**

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

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

# Into The New Year

## 2020 Priorities Set By New Board Chair

Hey friends! Just a couple quick exciting bits of news to report on what's going on in YOUR chapter of the Schenectady ADK! First, we had a VERY productive budget meeting this past December, primarily around discussing how to reinvest the considerable savings from moving to primarily electronic publication of The Lookout.

In short, we decided to focus on investments in the future: From planting seed money for a new recent-retiree outreach effort we're calling the "Masters Group", to supporting our young member socials, to engaging in more online advertising, to focusing on new member recruitment in the upcoming year. Second, we made a SIGNIFICANT increase in our budget for supporting our trip leaders and chapter board leaders in receiving the training they need to help grow our chapter, including Wilderness First Aid and CPR training to various trainings for our whitewater program. I couldn't be more excited in this new initiative to both invest in our future and help our longtime outing leaders freshen up on their skills. If you're trip leader looking to participate in a training, let me know!



*Dustin Wright*

Finally, as we're experiencing a great deal of turnover on our chapter board, we'll be updating job descriptions and adding a historian and "Masters Group" chair. There's definitely a number of roles we could use some help with, especially filling in my old spot as Young Members chair. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns at [dustingwright@gmail.com](mailto:dustingwright@gmail.com) or 603-953-8782.

**--Rev. Dustin Wright  
Schenectady Chapter Chairman**

## Is Lookout On Same Page With You?

Happy New Year! ADK-Schenectady is proud to be entering the second year of our conversion to digital newsletters. We switched to an optional system for receiving print copies of The Lookout, which means if we didn't hear from you, your newsletter is now delivered exclusively online. However, we want to be sure we're not missing anyone! If you know of Schenectady Chapter members who have missed the print copy and don't know why, please tell them to contact us at [publicity@adk-schenectady.org](mailto:publicity@adk-schenectady.org) or by mailing ADK, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301.

Our recent conversion to the digital edition is important economically and environmentally. In 2018, our chapter spent about \$6,000 -- half its annual budget -- on print and mailing costs for the hard copy. Cutting into that cost will allow us to enhance our most essential services: education, scholarships, outdoor skills activities and social gatherings, while sharply reducing consumption of paper and the fuel it takes to deliver it. After all, we're here to work for wilderness!

Whether you are receiving this by mail or electronically, we're happy to have you as a member and as a reader. But, as always, your feedback is welcome. Let us know if we need to make any changes to your account, to ensure you're receiving The Lookout the way you want to.

**-- Mary Zawacki, Publicity Chair**

**On the cover**

*Mary Zawacki, second from right, on Panther Mountain with Mike Diana, left and hikers Marissa, and Corey. See Mary's snowshoe article Page 8*

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February - March 2020

# The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Barrett Outlines ADK Priorities for Funding

Michael Barrett, the Adirondack Mountain Club's new executive director, is carrying forward longstanding environmental and conservation goals of the ADK for the state. In a recent statement of objectives he detailed these, which are synopsized below:



### Environmental Protection Fund

Requesting growth of the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to \$500 million, with an appropriation of at least \$350 million for the 2020-2021 state fiscal year. This fund is central to combatting invasive species, addressing high use issues in the Adirondack High Peaks and Catskill Forest Preserve, and the need to protect open space. Specific objectives include:

--Adding \$20 million for high use issues in the Adirondack High Peaks and Catskill Park Forest Preserve for additional stewards, rebuilding trails, experimental permit systems, carrying capacity studies, hiker education, and infrastructure.

--Increasing funding for the Cornell Hemlock Woolly Adelgid project to \$750,000 for continuing the current bio-control lab work Also, strengthening the efforts to keep Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) out of New York State's rivers, lakes, and streams.

--Adding at least \$17 million to purchase important parcels of land in the Adirondack Park, Catskill Park, and across New York state.

### NYS Agency Staffing Needs

Improved staffing is urgently needed in the state's environmental agencies, and agencies that administer the programs of the EPF and related initiatives. Staffing levels at the Department of Environmental Conservation are in a deeply reduced state and must be restored. Specific recommendations include 100 new staff for the Department of Environmental Conservation, including 40 new forest rangers, and 10 new staff for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

### DEC Forest Rangers

The forest ranger force must be doubled. Adding 40 in the coming fiscal year would be a big step in the right direction. With record numbers of often unprepared visitors to the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve and other public lands across the state, we cannot afford not to skimp on public safety. The forest ranger force is currently overworked and highly stressed. In 1970, each ranger covered about 28,516 acres. Today, rangers are expected to cover nearly double that acreage, and that is despite the fact that the number of search and rescue incidents has more than doubled during that same period. Yellowstone National Park is 2.2 million acres and has 330 full-time rangers to protect and serve the public. The Adirondack Park is nearly three times that size at six million acres, but has only 50 rangers.



*A DEC forest ranger practices high angle rescue.  
Photo courtesy ADK.*

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# Environmental Studies Scholarships Offered

In keeping with the Adirondack Mountain Club's dedication to the conservation and preservation of New York State's parks, preserves and wild spaces, the Schenectady Chapter will again award scholarships to qualified high school seniors along with a one-year membership to the ADK.

This year are able to award up to two scholarships totaling \$1,500. That is thanks to the generosity of the membership at large and to a special \$1,000 anonymous donation by one of our chapter members. That person, like the chapter, is dedicated to encouraging young people in the pursuit of studies and ultimately careers in the science, engineering and environmental fields in order to maintain the health and beauty of the Adirondacks and our planet.

Applicants will need to be pursuing, in September of the upcoming academic year, a course of study in a field such as, but not limited to, forestry, marine biology, conservation or environmental science.

Please share this with any and all high school students you may know who show an interest in pursuing these studies in the upcoming year. This is open to all area students, not just ADK members and their children.

## To apply:

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

Submissions should include the following information, **and must be submitted in either Word or pdf format:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Contact number and email address:**

**Parent's Name(s):**

**Name of High School:**

**Name of College attending in September:**

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

Send submissions, no later than **April 15** to [jeve3@aol.com](mailto:jeve3@aol.com) (Subject Line: ADK HS Scholarship)

Questions? Call Jacqueline McGinn, HS Scholarship Project Coordinator at 518-281-3673 or email her at [jeve3@aol.com](mailto:jeve3@aol.com)

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# Barrett Outlines ADK Priorities for Funding

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## Tick-Borne Diseases

Finally, we urge adding \$1.5 million to the 2020-2021 budget for public awareness, treatment, and prevention of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases (TBD) statewide. **Concern about these illnesses is especially acute in the Adirondack Park and New York's North Country counties which have some of the highest infection rates of Lyme disease in New York State.** Research conducted by Paul Smith's College shows that other tick-borne diseases are also present in the North Country including Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, and Powassan virus.

The full text of the letter will be available late this month; contact Cathy Pedler in the Advocacy Office at [cathy@adk.org](mailto:cathy@adk.org)

-- Mal Provost

# Call For Lobbying, Citizen Science Workers

Hey, ADKers, looking for something different to do in the chill of an Albany February? How about spending a day tracking down a few state legislators? It's all legal – no tying them up or skinning them – just talking on behalf of conservation, preservation and topics near and dear to the Adirondack Mountain Club.

The ADK conducts lobby days every year, reaching out to state Assembly and Senate members to inform them of conservation priorities and get their views on these issues, such as forest ranger staffing, problems with crowding in popular hiking areas and funding for open space preservation, forest and human health concerns.

Cathy Pedler, in the Advocacy Office of the ADK in Albany, is looking for volunteers who can spend a day, or even a couple, helping with the contact and discussion work under the guidance of professionals. This year they are planning four days: Feb. 4 Catskill Park Lobby Day; Feb. 10 Adirondack Environmental Lobby Day; Feb. 11 Combating Tick-Borne Diseases Day; and Feb. 27 Environmental Protection Fund Lobby Day.

Pedler noted there will be sign-up opportunities to persons on the ADK email lists, but requested that folks contact her specifically if they want to be in the Feb. 10 Adirondack Park day. She can be reached at: [cathy@adk.org](mailto:cathy@adk.org). This is the time of year that legislation takes place for the state fiscal year beginning April 1, so decisions made will affect the remainder of this year and the beginning of 2021. Our voices are needed in the mix.

## March 29: Citizen Science Training at Heart Lake

On Sunday, March 29 at the Heart Lake Program Center education classroom yurt there will be two back-to-back citizen science programs. The morning program will cover identifying and monitoring the invasive pest, Hemlock Woolly Adlegid (HWA) throughout the Adirondack Park. In the afternoon, you can learn how to help protect the High Peaks by monitoring flowering plants in the alpine zone. Volunteers will learn online reporting of data using the NY iMapInvasives and iNaturalist mobile apps. RSVP for the programs by contacting Kayla and Cathy at [cathy@adk.org](mailto:cathy@adk.org) and [kaylaw@adk.org](mailto:kaylaw@adk.org).



*White sacs are a sign of Hemlock Woolly Adlegid infestation.*

## Backcountry Water Monitors Year Six

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) recently announced that they would be funding the sixth year of the Backcountry Water Monitors project for Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention. Through the great work of volunteers, the project surveys ponds and small lakes in the backcountry of the Lake Champlain Basin of the Adirondack Park for invasive plant species. Training and inflatable pack rafts and other gear are provided by the project. The project has educated and engaged 132 participants and surveyed 82 lakes or ponds. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to help protect the beautiful backcountry ponds and lakes of the Adirondacks, please contact Cathy Pedler, [cathy@adk.org](mailto:cathy@adk.org), 518-449-3870.

-- Mal Provost, Conservation Chair

## Contact State Legislative Chairmen

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

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

### Todd Kaminsky

Chair of Senate Environmental Conservation Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 302  
Albany, NY 12247  
Phone: 518-455-3401  
[kaminsky@nysenate.gov](mailto: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](mailto:engles@nyassembly.gov)

# Winter Pool Sessions At Duanesburg YMCA

Pool sessions have begun! We will look for you at the Duanesburg YMCA. We expect the winter sessions to run to April 19. These will be held on Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:30 p.m., but plan to exit the pool at 9:15 to leave time to reset the pool lanes and dress in the locker rooms. Capital District YMCA members have free admission, with \$15 per person per session for non-members, or you may purchase a discount four session pass card for \$50 (\$12.50 per session). These may be purchased at the Duanesburg YMCA main entrance desk.

## Canoes, Kayaks and SUPs All Welcome!

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.

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



*John Ozard, standing, instructs Jael Schalfer in the basics of rolling a kayak at the Duanesburg YMCA. Photo by Don Orr*



*Don Orr halfway through rolling his kayak; being upright makes breathing a lot easier. Photo by Sally Dewes*

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 and all gear, or make arrangements to borrow a boat.

We are there to help! Beginning canoe/kayak and kayak rolling instruction may be arranged. Please contact John Ozard ([ozardjw@netscape.net](mailto:ozardjw@netscape.net)) or Ralph Pascale ([rpascale@spendwood.com](mailto:rpascale@spendwood.com)) for more information.

--Ralph Pascale, Whitewater Chair

**Please make sure your boats are clean to the best of your ability.**

# Weather Damage Cuts Access To Boreas Ponds

The Boreas Ponds -- a "jewel of the Adirondacks" by all standards -- is a lot harder to access, to enjoy these days, a situation likely not to be significantly improved until after mud season and perhaps well into the summer.

Damage from almost unprecedented rains and wind -- a real Halloween horror story for many in the North Country -- was amplified around Christmas and New Year's by a worse than normal ice storm that swept over Gulf Brook Road, which accesses the ponds from Blue Ridge Road, according to DEC Ranger Jamison Martin.

In an early January interview Maetin said the ice brought down trees that had survived the deluge of October, making even ski or snowshoe travel tricky. (Gulf Brook Road is closed to vehicle traffic during winter and mud seasons anyway, he noted, but as 2020 opened, even the all-seasons parking just off Blue Ridge Road was nearly blocked. Efforts were under way to at least open that.

Martin said the worst of the blockages were before the halfway point of the 7-plus mile road into the ponds, the Fly Pond parking lot. In the first mile or two, Gulf Brook crosses the former logging road twice and the culverts were badly damaged and trees down made it worse. "Significantly sized trees, big enough to cross the entire road," he said. A bridge to replace a damaged culvert may be needed.

While the Capital District got mostly rain from those events, Martin said "It's a totally different ballgame up here. We're in a weird spot." The icing along Blue Ridge and Gulf Brook roads was intense, on top of the washout damage.

"I was in there the day before storm," he said, and days later went back and saw, "Holy smokes what a lot of damage done."

The weather damage is a big setback, as DEC just last summer spent a bundle (Region 5 did not provide cost numbers) improving Gulf Brook Road and installing new parking much closer to the ponds. A lot of grading work is now on the agenda again.

Skiers and snowshoers should contact Region 5 at 518-532-9222 for condition updates before attempting the trek. The DEC back country website can also help.

--Mal Provost

## Outings

**Saturday, Feb. 1**

**Young Member Outing: Catamount & Winter Carnival  
Class C2C**

**Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782**

**or pastor@messiahshenectady.org**

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! Please email Dustin to confirm interest!

**Sunday, Feb. 2**

**Snowshoe Hike: Street and Nye**

**Class A2B**

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

**Monday, Feb. 3**

**XC Cole's Woods**

**Class C3C**

**Marc Limeri, Text 518-545-6456 or 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.

**Thursday, Feb. 6, 7-9 p.m.**

**Young Member Social: Van Dyck**

Fresh powder in the mountains and beautiful frozen lakes await! Join in on a monthly social where we spend plenty of time talking

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# Outings

## *Continued from Page 5*

about playing in and protecting New York's wild places. 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!

## **Friday, Feb. 7**

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

#### **Class C3C**

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

The 5k trail is lit at night (but all participants should bring a headlamp just in case - I have an 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 so we should be done by 9 p.m. This date may get moved depending on the weather and snow conditions.

## **Sunday, Feb. 9**

### **Thomas Mountain**

#### **Class C2C**

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

Trail follows an old logging road to the top. Very nice 180 degree views of Lake George with about a 3 mile round trip climb. This is one of the Lake George 12sters. Snowshoes and microspikes needed.

## **Saturday, Feb. 15**

### **Cross Country Ski to Camp Santanoni**

#### **Class A2C**

**Mike Brun, brunmcts@verizon.net, 518-487-8054**

Trail starts at the gatehouse, passes the old farm, goes over a rise of land and then descends to the lake and camp. There are nice views along the way. This is an easy ski on a road, about 9 miles round trip. There will be an open house this weekend, so there will be coffee and hot chocolate available at the camp as well as a warm place to eat lunch.

## **Saturday, Feb. 22**

### **Sugarloaf Mountain**

#### **Class B2B**

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

This is one of the more attractive hikes in the Catskills with several good views plus Dibble's Quarry. If conditions are right we will hike this as a loop for a distance of ~7 miles and 2,000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes and crampons or other traction devices may be needed.

## **Saturday, Feb. 29**

### **Young Member Outing: Haystack and McKenzie**

#### **Class A2A**

**Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782**

**or pastor@messiahschenectady.org**

Join us for a rad 11.9 mile lightly trafficked out and back trail over two of the Saranac 6 peaks! With 3,303 feet of elevation gain, it'll be a pretty epic winter day! Snowshoes, microspikes/crampons and other winter gear is definitely required.

## **Thursday, March 5, 7-9 p.m.**

### **Young Member Social: Druthers**

It's one of the best times of the year to get out there and enjoy the beauty of the Adirondacks! Still plenty of snow but it's just starting to get warmer! Come build some community with ADK Schenectady's group of folks who have a passion for the outdoors! Apps are on the chapter!

## **Saturday, March 7**

### **Cross Country Ski to Pharaoh Lake**

#### **Class B2C**

**Mike Brun, brunmcts@verizon.net, 518-487-8054.**

This is an easy ski about 7 miles round-trip. We will ski to the first lean-to on south side of the Pharaoh lake. If we have time and energy, we may continue to the second lean-to. Views of the mountain across the lake are great.

## **Saturday, March 7**

### **Plateau Mountain**

#### **Class B+2B**

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

We'll take the Warner Creek trail up and to the summit of Plateau (one of the Catskill 3500' peaks) and continue on to a good view point, before returning the same way. This route will take us past another four scenic views and is longer; but, less steep than other approaches to Plateau. The distance is 8-9 miles with ~2000 feet of ascent. At this time of year snowshoes and crampons or other traction devices may be needed.

## **Saturday, March 14**

### **Cat Mountain**

#### **Class C2C**

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

We will take the short route to the top from Edgcomb Pond. It will be about a 4 mile round trip with 1,100 feet elevation gain. Spectacular, 270 degree views of Lake George if the weather cooperates. This is one of the Lake George 12sters. Snowshoes and microspikes needed.

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# Outings

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**Saturday, March 21**

**Young Member Outing: Owl's Head Firetower**

**Class B2B**

**Dustin Wright, 603-953-8782**

**or pastor@messiahschenectady.org**

Owl's Head Mountain Trail is a 6.3 mile heavily trafficked out and back trail located near Long Lake that features a great forest setting and a fire tower! Total elevation gain is roughly 1,500 feet with micro spikes and snowshoes required. Young member outings are open to all ADK members no matter your age! Please email Dustin to confirm interest!

**Sunday, March 22**

**Chimney Mountain and Puffer Pond**

**Class B2C**

**Jason Waters, 518-369-5516, Steve Maloney, 518-429-5671**

Join us as we hike Chimney Mountain (2,721) and Puffer Pond. The hike includes 2.5 miles out and back to the summit of Chim-

ney Mountain, and another 4.2 miles out and back to Puffer Pond. Canines are welcome on the hike. There may be a fee for parking at Chimney Mountain.

**Thursday, April 2**

**Young Member Social: Centre Street Pub**

Here's the deal... the Adirondack Mountain Club's Schenectady Chapter is one of THE best ways to meet outdoorsy and like-minded young adults in the Capital Region! Join us for our monthly social at Centre Street Pub and apps are on the club! Please message Dustin Wright at dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782 in case you have any further questions!

**Trip Tales for December-January will appear in the April-May Issue.**

## 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.

**What if I don't have snowshoes/crampons?**

The chapter has hi-tech snowshoes and one pair of universal fit crampons available for rental at \$5/trip. Contact Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 to arrange for pick up from his convenient location in Clifton Park. Gear is also available to rent at local retailers..

**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).

**The kind of hikes I'd like to do aren't listed here — what can I do?**

Trip leaders may be willing to plan trips based on member suggestions. If there's a specific trip you'd like to do, contact Roy Keats at 518-370-0399 and let him know.

**Wilderness First Aid Course**

The Schenectady Chapter Board agreed to provide partial tuition refund for outings leaders who take Wilderness First Aid courses. The program is modeled after the 46ers current program so people who are both 46ers and Schenectady trip leaders can reimbursement. For further information, call Roy Keats at 518-370-0399

# Winter Peak-Bagger Credits Snowshoe Rentals

ADK-Schenectady's snowshoe rental program changed my life, and no, I'm not being over-dramatic.

Consider December of 2017: Many of my hiking friends had recently finished the 46 peaks over 4,000 feet in the Adirondacks, and I was stuck with three peaks left, and a matter of days to finish. Oh yeah, and no snowshoes. Winter hiking, until that point, had been about microspikes and brief jaunts around Lake George. Snowshoes were too much work, and anyway, I wasn't interested in the Winter 46.

But, I needed to finish the 46er challenge. So, not quite sure what I was getting into, I looked to ADK-Schenectady for snowshoe help. The chapter generously lent me a pair of MSR snowshoes, which I immediately put to use, sumitting Iroquois, Algonquin, and Wright on the last day of December, thus finishing the 46. And I became instantly obsessed, desperate to head back to the mountains for winter summits. Hey, if Iroquois was doable on one of the shortest days of the year, surely I could manage Cascade and Porter, right?

ADK-Schenectady's snowshoes helped me finish the 46er challenge, and inspired me to begin a new, more difficult challenge: the Winter 46. For the first season of winter peak-bagging I consistently borrowed the chapter's snowshoes, which were enormously helpful on Marshall, Gothics, and the Santanoni Range. Finally feeling comfortable with winter hiking, I invested in my own snowshoes last year. But it was ADK-Schenectady's rental program that inspired me to get as involved in winter hiking as I am.

To borrow our snowshoes, please contact Stan Stoklosa at [stanstok89@aol.com](mailto:stanstok89@aol.com). The snowshoes can easily be picked up from his home, off the Northway. I hope you'll consider borrowing them from the chapter. The price is low: Only \$5 to take them for a jaunt up a trail of your choice. And hey, maybe they'll change your life too, or at least inspire you to get out there and hike this winter!

--Mary Zawacki, Publicity Chair

## Robert Ringlee, ADK Leader, Engineer, Passes

Long time Schenectady Chapter member and leader Robert J. Ringlee passed away on Nov. 27, 2019, at the age of 93. Born in Sacramento, CA, Bob grew up on the Pacific Coast and began his long love affair with the outdoors. As a teen and young man, he climbed Mount Rainier and hiked throughout the Cascades.

After serving in the Navy in World War II, Bob began studying electrical engineering at the University of Washington. Upon graduation, he joined General Electric in Pittsfield and Schenectady and earned a Ph.D. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Later, he became one of the founders of Power Technologies, Inc., and was known as a world-class expert on power system reliability.

Bob and his wife Helen joined the ADK Schenectady Chapter in 1965. He quickly became involved with conservation in the Adirondacks, serving as chair of the chapter's Conservation Committee in 1966. In the mid-1970s Bob was a member of the High Peaks Advisory Committee, an influential group created by DEC to examine the effects of recreational overuse of the High Peaks area.

Within ADK, Bob was active on committees including Conservation, Finance and Archives. He helped establish ADK's Presidential Library at the Lake George headquarters and helped launch the Young Member Project. Bob served as ADK president from 1991 through 1993 and was awarded a Distinguished Volunteer Award in 1994. In 2002 he received the club's David E. Newhouse Conservation Award and in 2008 the Trailblazer Award. In recent years Bob provided annual audits of the chapter financial records.

In addition to being a highly successful engineer and outdoorsman, Bob was committed to his community, serving on the boards of the Schalmont School District, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, and the West Hill neighborhood, where he was active in green space development and trail building. He is survived by three children and numerous grandchildren.

--Norm Kuchar

# Legal Tangle Hits North Country Trail Work

ADK volunteers likely will be working on the Jones Hill trail and others this summer, although a legal squabble outside the club is muddying the waters.

The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) spans 4,700 miles across eight northern tier states from North Dakota to Vermont, including about 160 miles through the central Adirondacks from Forestport to Crown Point. The Schenectady Chapter has supported the establishment of the NCNST through the Adirondacks for more than 10 years, through our efforts at exploring potential routes, providing inputs for the Unit Management Plans for the various Wilderness and Wild Forest areas traversed by the trail, working with DEC foresters to identify trail routes, and helping build NCNST sections in the Jones Hill area (Hoffman Notch Wilderness) west of Schroon Lake. We have also adopted the existing Bailey Pond and Hoffman Notch trails that will become parts of the NCNST.

In 2017 and 2018, a new section of the NCNST was built to the summit of Jones Hill from the south. This effort was aided by a \$15,000 grant from the National Park Service that supported work by the ADK Professional Trail Crew. Last year the extension of the Jones Hill trail north from the summit to US 9 near Schroon Falls was flagged by the DEC Forester. Although grant funding was lacking, some of this trail corridor was cleared by ADK volunteers and organized by Mary Coffin.

Looking ahead to this coming summer, we hope to continue work on the northerly extension of the Jones Hill trail from the summit to US 9. The North Country Trail Association (NCTA)

has awarded a \$5,000 Field Grant to partially support this effort, and efforts to find additional funding continue. Again, it is expected that ADK volunteers will be involved with building the trail.

However, a lawsuit won by the environmental organization Protect the Adirondacks against DEC -- for cutting too many trees during the construction of wide snowmobile trails in the Adirondacks -- has affected most new trail building on Forest Preserve land. The case has now moved to the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court. But until a final decision is announced, DEC is interpreting the lower court decision as preventing the cutting of trees of any size, including seedlings and saplings. This effectively prevents the establishment of the tread for new trails through forested land. However, the Jones Hill trail work in 2020 could focus on clearing blowdown along the corridor and building needed bridges across Rogers and Platt brooks. Removal of blowdown on existing trails in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest will probably also be undertaken in the coming summer.

--Norm Kuchar, Trails Chair



*Ray Sergott, Peter Fedorick and Tom Bolton clear brush and cut logs from the trail being developed up Jones Hill in 2018 as part of the North Country National Scenic Trail.*

*Photo by Mal Provost*

*the Lookout*

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