

The **Lookout**

February - March 2021



Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter

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

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

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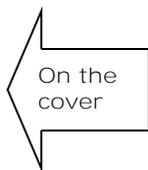
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Leslie Siegard makes Prospect Mountain grade (See Trip Tales Page 6). Photo by Sally Dewes

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February - March 2021

The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Hayes And Kuchar Honored For Trails Work

Trail volunteers Norm Kuchar and Walt Hayes were recently honored with the North Country Trail Association ADK Affiliate Honor Award. The award recognizes volunteers who demonstrate loyalty, commitment and hard work to support an NCTA chapter or affiliate.

For the past 12 years, these two members of the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club have taken approaching 200 trips, collectively, to scout and GPS routes for the Adirondack section of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Norm and Walt have been critical partners to DEC planners and foresters as they've helped define the best route for this trail in the Adirondacks. Congratulations to Norm and Walt on this well-deserved honor! Only one award per year is made in each state by the association.

When completed, the North Country National Scenic Trail will stretch approximately 4,700 miles from North Dakota to Vermont, with about 160 miles passing through the Adirondacks from Black River Wild Forest to Crown Point State Historic Site.

For the present, not only winter and the covid pandemic, but also legal proceedings involving the Department of Environmental Conservation have stopped most trail work. The legal action involves a challenge to a DEC project for new snowmobile trails by the environmental group Protect the Adirondacks. Responding to Protect the Adirondacks' challenge to the size of the trail being cut, DEC shut down all tree cutting for trail work under its jurisdiction until the suit is resolved. That is expected perhaps this year, but put a crimp in work last year and the mandate still stands.



Walt Hayes, left, and Norm Kuchar receive the ADK's Distinguished Volunteer Award for earlier trail work and scouting, in June of 2017.

"We go around most of them (trees)," Norm said of the DEC action, "but DEC stopped even the removal of tiny seedlings from the tread, so no trail building."

Over the past couple years Norm, Walt and other volunteers helped create the Jones Hill Trail outside Schroon Lake. The work now stalled would be a northern extension of that trail from the Jones Hill summit to Route 9. That has been flagged already but is waiting for a bridge over a creek and a green light from DEC.

"We're hoping that this year something will be done, but nobody knows exactly what or when," Norm said.

--Mary MacDonald

ADK Offers Environmental Study Scholarships

In keeping with the Adirondack Mountain Club's (ADK) dedication to the conservation and preservation of New York State's parks, preserves and wild spaces, the Schenectady Chapter of the ADK will be awarding up to three scholarships totaling \$1,500, along with a one-year membership to the ADK Schenectady Chapter, to High School seniors in the Schenectady area who show an interest in the preservation and protection of the environment. In order to qualify, applicants must 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.

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:

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 16** to:

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.

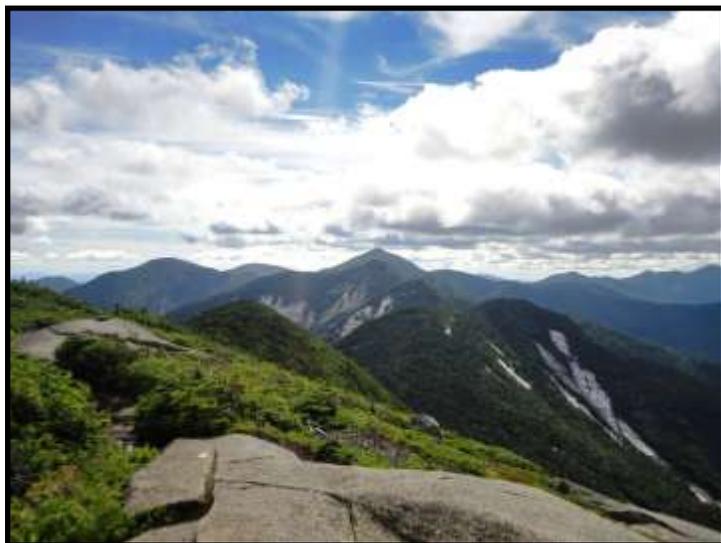
New High Peaks Trail Guide Reflects Changes

A new *High Peaks Trails* guide – the 15th edition, updating the 2012 publication – is being released this winter, reflecting major expansion of state holdings and new challenges facing hikers, such as overuse of trails, according to the ADK.

The guide reflects the expansion of the High Peaks Wilderness Area by 47,000 acres since the earlier edition, and will include new trails, reroutes, alterations to trailheads and parking regulations. According to *Adirondack*, "Particular changes include Boreas Ponds access information, a new trail to Wolf Pond, closure of the Porter Mt. Trail from the Garden, a new route to Allen Mt., new Champlain Valley trails, and a new Northwestern Section..."

The guide is in a five by seven inch format and has 312 pages organized into eight geographical sections. The soft cover book costs \$15.96 for members and \$23.96 for the book and map pack. In addition to bookstores, it can be found at the ADK High Peaks Information Center, online at adk.org and mail order by calling 800-895-8080.

-- Courtesy *Adirondack*



Gothics Mountains. Photo by Ryan Wichelns

Quick Look At Schenectady Chapter Finances

This is the first time that we have published the budget for the upcoming year, but we are happy to have the organizational skills of Colin Thomas as treasurer and want to display the basics of our financial plan. This is a simple outline and as schedules and plans continue to be scrambled by the pandemic, we note up front that a lot can change, just as they did last year.

The numbers show our primary income is from dues paid to the Adirondack Mountain Club, of which we receive a percentage based on our chapter membership. The next largest chunk is from our annual meeting and dinner, which we hope can return to normal this year. We hope. And if you check that line in the expenses, you will see that all that money plus a little goes right back out to pay for the event. Small bits of income come from fees for leadership training, whitewater instruction and other elements.

An expenditure we take particular pride in is our scholarships for students going into environmental studies in college, aided by a generous and anonymous donor. Lookout consumes \$1,500 per year, which has shrunk dramatically since we began digital distribution. Leadership development consumes \$2,000 as currently planned, which represents training programs open to our general membership.

Reading budget stories is like watching paint dry, so I'll just say thanks to Colin, and if there are questions please feel free to contact board members as listed.

See budget numbers on Page 4. →

--Mal Provost, Editor

Chairman Looks Forward After Difficult Year

I write you while still reeling, like all of us, following such unspeakable violence in our nation's Capitol Jan. 6. In this time of so much division, in this time of pandemic, please know what you do matters more than ever. For me personally, time in the outdoors has really been my one solace amidst such a difficult year, that and all you're doing to keep our chapter going, helping folks get out and enjoy the peace of our mountains, and to protect them. Just know it matters, it matters so much. Thank you!

Despite great difficulty, please know also your chapter is working overtime to train new leaders to continue strengthening our work together. In that line, I'd like to welcome Jason Waters as our new Outings chair, Mike Brun as our new Trails chair, Roy Keats as our new Printing and Mailings chair and Amanda Gómez as our new Young Members chair. Additionally, it's worth noting that our budget for 2021 reflects our priorities of continuing to grow and strengthen our chapter in a variety of new ways. In addition to investing in training new leaders, we also will be launching a new Diversity in the Outdoors initiative with a number of local partners in the coming months.

Stay tuned for more information, stay safe, and thank you, thank you, thank you for all you do!

--Rev. Dustin G. Wright, Chairman



Chairman Dustin Wright

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@nyssenate.gov

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

2021 Budget of the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club		
INCOME		
Income Categories		2021 Budget
ADK dues (chapter share)		\$ 7,000.00
Annual meeting		\$ 2,000.00
Northville Placid Trail		\$ 500.00
Equipment Rentals		\$ 50.00
Whitewater clinics		\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 50.00
Leadership development		\$ 750.00
Total income		\$ 10,850.00
EXPENSES		
Spending Categories		2021 Budget
Administration		\$ 600.00
Historian and archives		\$ 100.00
Annual meeting		\$ 2,300.00
Memorial contributions		\$ 100.00
High school scholarships		\$ 1,575.00
Publicity and marketing		\$ 800.00
"The Lookout" newsletter		\$ 1,500.00
Trail maintenance		\$ 500.00
Whitewater programs		\$ 375.00
Leadership development		\$ 2,000.00
Guest speakers		\$ 500.00
Northville Placid Trail		\$ 100.00
Conservation		\$ 100.00
Diversity and Inclusion		\$ 500.00
Young member development		\$ 800.00
Total expenses		\$ 11,850.00
Annual Income		\$ (1,000.00)

Outings

Saturday, Feb. 6

Plateau Mountain

Class B+2B

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

We'll take the Warner Creek trail and the Devils Path up 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, Feb. 6, 13, 20 or 27

Coles Woods XC Ski at Night

Class C3C

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

Coles Woods is off Northway Exit 19 in Queensbury. They have a 5K ski trail that is lit at night. Since this trip is at night and the trail has a couple biggish hills, this trip is for intermediate or better skiers. You should also bring a headlamp just in case. The trail is groomed for either classic or skating style, but if you're skating note that the leader's pace is slow. The lights are on until 10 p.m. and I plan to start around 7 p.m., so we should have no trouble finishing before the lights go out. Contact me with your preferred date(s) if interested to get on the list.

Saturday, Feb. 6

Young Adult Hike: Flume Knob

Class C2C

Dustin Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603.953-8782

Join our Young Member Group as we bag an alternative of the ADK 29er peaks! Flume Knob is a 3.1 mile moderately trafficked out and back trail with 1,181 feet of elevation gain located near Wilmington, that offers scenic views. There's only a limited number of folks allowed on the hike due to social distancing guidelines, so please reserve your spot today.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Ski to Rock Lake

Class B2B

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

We will start at the old terminus of NPT and ski 3.5 miles to the Rock Lake. Trail mostly follows the stream and is mostly uphill going, which means we will have a faster ski back. The trail is moderately difficult, so this is an intermediate difficulty trip.

Saturday, Feb. 20

Prospect Mountain up the Backside

Class B2C

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

We will take the non-standard route out of the Lake George Recreation Center. It follows along West Brook, crosses the brook on a bridge and generally follows an old trail/logging road to the parking lot at the top. It is much less steep than the route from Lake George Village. From the lot we climb the stairs to the top for great views. It's about 5.5 miles RT and 1,400 feet elevation gain. Snowshoes, microspikes and poles recommended.

Saturday, Feb. 27

Ski to Pharaoh Lake

Class B2B

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

This is a relatively easy ski, about 7 miles round trip. We will follow the outlet stream up to the first lean-to on the southern side of the lake. The view of the mountain across the lake is spectacular.

Saturday, March 6

Young Adult Hike: Hunter & SW Hunter

Class B2B

Dustin Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782

Hunter Mountain and Southwest Hunter Mountain Loop via Spruceton Road is a 9.4 mile moderately trafficked loop trail with 2,286 feet of elevation gain located near Hunter, that features a waterfall. Join as we bag two of the Catskill High Peaks over this partial bushwhack. There's only a limited number of folks allowed on the hike due to social distancing guidelines, so please reserve your spot today.

Saturday, March 13

Snowshoe Cat Mountain

Class C2C

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

We will take the short route to the top from Edgecomb 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, microspikes and poles needed.

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

Trip Tales



Sue and Roy Keats on the bridge just before the entrance to Santanoni. Photo by Mike Brun.

Ski to Great Camp Santanoni

Saturday, Jan. 9

The plan was originally to go to Botheration Pond, but lack of snow prevented that. So we went to one of the most guaranteed nice skiing spots in the Adirondacks and had a great powder ski into the Great Camp. It was a beautiful sunny day with nice fluffy powder. It's always a good choice. Participants were Sue and Roy Keats and leader Mike Brun.

Ski up Prospect Mtn.

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Seven skiers went up Prospect Mountain on a chilly day with some breaks of sun. The views were great. Prospect is 11.6 miles round trip and there was about 2 inches of powder on a variable base. Trip included Bill Ports, Mike Brun, Sally Dewes, Rich Macha, Leslie Seigard, Steve Seigard and Dave Pisaneschi.

Hike to OK Slip Falls, Hudson Gorge

Saturday Jan. 9

The 3.1 miles to the OK Slip Falls overlook in the Hudson Gorge is a gradual descent from the Route 28 trailhead, which isn't noticeable until the hike out begins, then it's uphill. At the overlook we heard big booms as ice broke loose from the falls and crashed into the gorge. The falls were frozen but with a lot of water flowing over. The trail was packed solid and we traveled with boots and microspikes on a sunny day that ranged from high teens to upper 20s. Hikers Mal Provost and Sally Dewes.



Mal Provost and Sally Dewes at the overlook to OK Slip Falls.

ADK Boat Builder Hornbeck Leaves Legacy

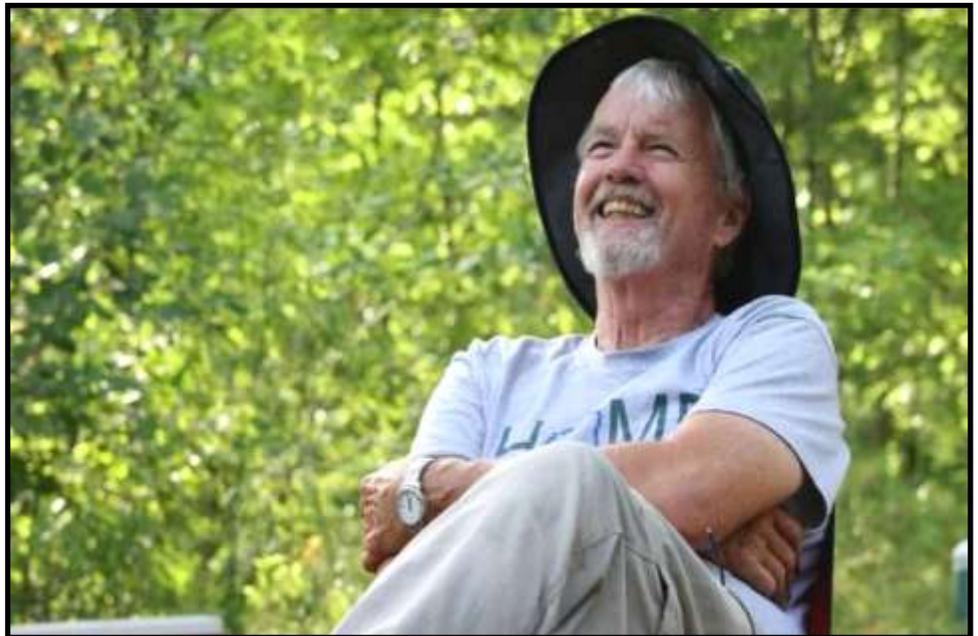
Peter “Pete” Hornbeck, the schoolteacher turned iconic Adirondack boatbuilder whose canoes topped cars from Lake Placid to Florida, California and overseas, died Dec.26 of an apparent heart attack after a walk with his family on his property. He was 77.

For almost 50 years, he ran Hornbeck Boats, a business he started in his garage in 1971, from a shop on his property in Olmstedville alongside wife, Ann. On any given weekend, you could find him holding court with customers who came from all over the country and world to his pond to try out and buy boats weighing as little as 12 pounds. He was known for his sense of humor and colorful storytelling.

One of his early boats is on display in the Adirondack Experience museum in Blue Mountain Lake, alongside boatbuilder John Henry Rushton’s 19th century original — the boat that inspired Hornbeck’s own design. His boats, said longtime friend Kim Besette, opened up the water and wildlife to so many because they were so easy to carry and manage. And every year Hornbeck donated several boats to organizations to raffle off as fundraisers, from One Square Mile for Hope, for breast cancer awareness, to Trout Unlimited.

He built boats on the side during his 23 years as a third- and sixth-grade teacher at Johnsbury Central School in North Creek. He built them in his garage until, as daughter Leigh said the legend goes, Ann Hornbeck handed over her own teacher’s “balloon check” received in the summer to get the smell of resin out of her house.

He used his voice as a successful manufacturer and retailer in the Adirondacks to influence land-protection policy. He believed it was wilderness and protected land that brought the visitors to the Adirondack Park, and he was a proponent of the state of New York buying more land. Peter Bauer, executive director of Protect the Adirondacks, for which Hornbeck was a longtime board member, remembered how he had helped organize the group’s Canoe-In for Wilderness in the summer of 1998. More than 250 canoes and kayaks descended on Little Tupper Lake to encourage its classification by the Adirondack Park Agency as wilderness, and they were successful.



Peter Hornbeck. Photo by Tom Curley.

“For him there was nothing greater than being involved in a campaign to save land and have it protected as wilderness,” Bauer said. Hornbeck was on the board of the Residents’ Committee to Protect the Adirondacks from 1994 until 2009 and had served eight as chair when it then merged to become Protect the Adirondacks. He remained on the board of Protect the Adirondacks.

“He provided a perspective of someone who is living here and had a business here,” Bauer said of Hornbeck’s work on Protect’s board. “That’s an important voice to have and that certainly helped in framing responses to issues.”

--Excerpted courtesy of Adirondack Explorer

the Lookout

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