



TRAILMARKER

Adirondack Mountain Club

Iroquois Chapter

Est 1972

November 2016



Chairman's Corner...

Several weeks ago, I participated on an outing to the Great Swamp Conservancy with the ADK Onondaga Chapter. A few members told me that they meet as a chapter once a year and were mildly envious that the Iroquois Chapter had meetings nearly every month. On the other hand, I commented that we have few trip leader volunteers and virtually no trip participants. I jokingly commented that perhaps we should meld into one large chapter, thus having the best of both worlds. Go figure! That said, there has been a *world* of change for the Iroquois Chapter.

In mid October, Tom Blackstone coordinated another successful Adopt-a Highway clean up. Please check out his report in the Trailmarker for the hardworking members involved. For eleven years, Tom has eagerly and unselfishly coordinated the Adopt-a Highway program. He has decided that it is time to move on to another challenge within the organization. The fall clean up was Tom's last venture as that chairman. Hence, the chapter needs a volunteer to coordinate this fine public service. It involves a spring and fall road clean up, and coordinating that event with the DOT. Tom is more than willing to transition the new chair into the role. Please contact me if you are interested. Hopefully the position will be filled for the next road clean

up in May. Tom, ***Thank You*** for the many years of dedicated service as the Adopt-a Highway chair person.

Both Tom Andrews and Tom Blackstone have agreed to be co-directors when Roger Felske's directorship ends on December 31. Tom Andrews will represent us for two years, then Tom Blackstone will then resume that position for the next four. Many thanks to both "Tom's" for stepping up to the role of director.

Lastly, as chairman, I receive sundry reports from headquarters, one being the monthly membership census. I have noted that the chapter has approximately forty lapsed memberships. Your membership and participation constitute the backbone of our chapter, and hence its strength. Please take a few moments to review your membership status, and please consider renewing it. In many instances, the ADK is the lead proponent for environmental and conservation issues. It expends a significant amount of money to maintain trails which we cherish and enjoy through out the park. The ADK represents your collective voice in protecting the Adirondacks. Renewing your membership is vital in helping it achieve its goals.

In closing, I will see you at the next meeting (we have a great speaker, see page two) or on the trail.

ABOVE: Pharaoh Mountain from #8 Hill
Photo credit: Nancy Buckley

Paul Sirtoli

TRAILMARKER

Iroquois Chapter

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Programs **OPEN**

Iroquois Chapter Officers Needed!

The following positions are vacant and need to be filled. Please step up and do your part to make our chapter a vital part of ADK!

Programs This person shall get speakers or develop programs to be presented at Chapter meetings.

Up Coming Events

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM,
New Hartford Presbyterian Church

Program speaker will be Maurice Isserman who teaches American history at Hamilton College. His 2008 book "Fallen Giants: The History of Himalayan Mountaineering from the Age of Empire to the Age of Extremes," co-authored with Stewart Weaver, won that year's Banff prize for best mountaineering history, along with the National Outdoor Book Award. He will be speaking about his most recent book "Continental Divide: A History of American Mountaineering." Books will be available for purchase.

Saturday, December 3

Chapter annual dinner at 6:00 PM,
First Baptist Church, 7 Oxford Rd., New Hartford

Guests should bring a dish to pass (appetizer, main dish, or dessert) and their own place settings. The club will provide non-alcoholic beverages (punch, soda, coffee, tea, etc) and hot ziti. Set up and happy hour is from 5-6pm. A program will follow the dinner, featuring Conservation Chair, Brian Sanders, who will talk about his climb of Mt. Shasta in California.

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM,
New Hartford Presbyterian Church

Program speaker will be Dave Pisaneschi who will talk about his his mid/western road trip including but not limited to the Badlands, Yellowstone, and other National parks.

Iroquois Chapter New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Richard Cole • Stephen and Lee Perrin
Peter Scialdone • Lisa and David Casler

BACKTRACKS...

Northrup Mountain

September 15, 2016

Situated in the West Canada Lake Wilderness, southwest from Brooktrout Lake, Northrup Mt. at 3012 feet, and its smaller, sundry range peaks overlook the West Canada Creek in the valley to the south. Knowing that this destination hike would be a slog, Jim Hopson and I were on the Brooktrout Lake trail (Moose River Plains) by 8:30 AM. By 11:30 AM, following a rest break at the lake, we commenced our bushwhack, just shy of West Lake. Expecting the worse, but hoping for the best, the forest God blessed us with relative ease of travel. The woods were relatively open, with no dense copse of conifers to plow through. The only impediment, at times, were the hobblebush which in most cases was fairly easy to navigate through or around. It took Jim and I roughly 2.5 hours to reach the relatively flat summit, topped with a small, round rock cone. Unlike many of the prior mountains we climbed, patches of moss and fern glades permeated the hardwood landscape. There were minor views of Spruce Lake Mt. and West Canada Mt. from the summit periphery.

The enigma for the day was the clearly distinct and loud sound of a vehicle - log skidder, perhaps - coming from the valley below. My map indicated no roads below and to this day remains a mystery to us. The return trip to the lean-to by the lake took us about 2.5 hours for a much needed rest break. Quite surprisingly, Jim's second cousin was camping there along with four other fellows for a four day fishing weekend. Concerned about daylight, we bid farewell, and were out of the woods by 7:30 PM, just as the sun set. For both Jim and I, it was our longest expedition of 18 miles in 11 hours (a 6 mile bushwhack) with 2000 ft. elevation gain. Jim now has one peak remaining in his goal to climb all the 3000 ft. mountains in Hamilton County.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Bramely Mountain

September 24, 2016

Situated roughly southeast from Delhi, the 4.2 mile Bramely Mt. (2812 ft.) trail loop was a welcome respite from the heavy duty hiking and long distance backpacking trips that Doug Tinkler, Bob Hutchins and Paul Sirtoli individually completed during the past few weeks. Despite the brisk 50 degree morning air in a cool wind, we wore shorts on the newly established, manicured and marked trail which switch backed to the open summit. The fire tower was razed in 1970 but nonetheless the expansive view of the northern Catskill Park foothill landscape was simply outstanding. The deep blue sky and

brilliant sunshine accentuated and contrasted sharply with the golden yellow and brilliant red leaves in the forest below us.

By noon we had completed the loop and with sandwiches in hand, drove to Stamford to climb the Mt. Ut-sayantha (3214 ft.) fire tower. Deviating slightly from the write up in the Trailmarker (and to the vocal protests from Bob and Doug) I succumbed to a moment of weakness and taxed my Honda Fit up the one mile steep gravel road leading to the fire tower and three cell towers. Criticism faded with the 360 degree panoramic view of the distant Catskill high peaks from the enclosed fire tower cab. We would have lingered longer and perhaps even enjoy a picnic on the historical grounds but the stiffening cold breeze drove us back into the car.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



View from Northrup Mt.

Photo credit: Jim Hopson



Bob Hutchins and Paul Sirtoli on the summit of Bramely Mt.

Photo credit: Doug Tinkler



nine hundred foot boardwalk through a woodland swamp, in addition to benches through out the preserve. An Osprey platform, numerous blue bird boxes, a giant blue heron rookery and small water sheds are highlights on the trail; a small nature center/museum of natural and local history are near the parking area. The conservancy is free and open to the public, but good will donations are accepted. For further information check out the website: greatswampconservancy@gmail.com or 315-697-2950.

Thank you Mary and Bill for a very pleasant and relaxing Sunday afternoon stroll.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli on behalf of Mary Coffin.

Looking east towards Lake George from #8 Hill

Photo credit: Nancy Buckley

#8 Hill

September 27, 2016

I joined the Schenectady ADK chapter for a mid-week hike to #8 hill, east of Schroon Lake in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness. Led by Norm Kuchar, our group of ten began the hike at the Sucker Brook trail head just north-east of Pottersville. Hiking approximately four plus miles on the gently rolling trail, we commenced the half mile fairly steep bushwhack through open hardwoods to the large, prominent rocky summit. Views of the high peaks to the northwest, Pharaoh Mt. to the north and the eastern mountains near Lake George completed a near panoramic vista of the colorful landscape. After spending almost two hours on the summit, we retraced our steps to the parking lot thus completing a nine plus mile round trip hike in seven leisurely hours.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Great Swamp Conservancy

October 9, 2016

Twenty individuals from the ADK Onondaga, Genesee and Iroquois Chapters joined trip leaders Mary and Bill Coffin as they led the group on the muck land trails, now called the Great Swamp Conservancy outside Canastota. Initially a massive swamp south of Oneida Lake, in the mid 1800's it was drained for agriculture purposes via man made canals by English, German and Irish immigrants. From the late 1800's to about 1950 the Italians acquired the land and successfully harvested celery and onions. Canastota became the onion capital of the country by the early 1900's. The area is now home to numerous migratory songbirds.

The flat, grassy and groomed trails essentially meander throughout the preserve, and lead to both grasslands, wetlands and early stage woodlands. There is a

Highway Cleanup

October 12, 2016

It was a sunny warm day with a light breeze for my last adopt-a highway clean up as chairman. Eight members of Iroquois chapter joined me for this pick up. We had to work until dark to get it all done, with only six enjoying the pizza and soda after. I thank Paul Sirtoli, Charlene Zebley, John Gilbert, Georgeanna Howanietz, Bill and Karin Tuthill, Paul Stappenbeck and Ed Kobos for this pick up.

I would like to thank everyone that has worked with me over the past eleven years as the Adopt-A-Highway chairman. **THANK YOU.**

Tom Blackstone

Nun-da-ga-o Ridge (Soda Ridge)

October 15, 2016

It was the perfect day, brisk but not that cold to wear gloves; azure sky without clouds to filter the sun; deep red, yellow, purple and fading green leaves blending and contrasting as a tapestry carpet. The Soda Ridge is a six mile mountainous trail loop that features a picturesque shallow beaver pond with two refurbished lean-tos a short distance from either side of it.

Doug Tinkler and Bob Myers accompanied Paul Sirtoli for this Iroquois Chapter scheduled trip. By coincidence, we chose to hike the loop counterclockwise, which proved to be quite fortuitous as the climbing gradient to Weston Peak was fairly gradual. At the summit of the mountain we were afforded magnificent views of many high peaks: Giant, Dix, Big Slide, as well as the Hurricane Mt. fire tower. We descended steeply from the summit to the undulating ridge line, where the well used but unmarked trail weaved between hardwoods and open rock vistas for its entire length. As we approached the end of the loop, we chose to hike the steep side trail to the exposed rocky summits of Big and Little Crow Mountains. Each rocky vantage point lent a panoramic



view of the Soda Ridge line traverse as well as the high peaks. We backtracked to the main trail intersection, and the long, steep descent to the parking lot. Although the three hour drive to the trail head seemed long, we nonetheless enjoyed a very relaxed pace for the seven hour jaunt. Should you be in the Keene Valley region, hiking the Nun-da-ga-o Ridge is a must do excursion.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Paul Sirtoli and Bob Myers, Weston Mt., on Soda Ridge (Nun-da-ga-o Ridge)

Photo credit: Doug Tinkler

TRIPS

November 12, 2016

McCauley Mountain Wild

While the leaves may be gone and hunting is open up north, there's no reason to hibernate. Join me for a scramble through this wildlife safety zone, featuring some early skiing history, along with great views from the McCauley summit. While this is only about a 5 mile RT it's also steep and gnarly in some spots, with 1200 roller coaster feet of elevation.

Rating: B-/C+

Meeting place: call leader

Time: 10 A.M. Utica or 11:15 A.M., Old Forge

Contact: Bob Myers at 822-6582

November 13, 2016

Northville-Lake Placid Trail, Northville

We will begin this hike at the Collins-Gifford Valley Road outside Northville. After hiking 2 miles to Mud Pond, we will bushwhack climb about 20 minutes to the Mud Pond Ridge overlooking the pond. The expansive rocky ridge affords awesome views of the pond and many small, local mountains. Following the descent we will continue hiking the trail 3.5 miles to the West Stony Creek, at which point we will re-trace our steps to the parking lot. Total hiking distance, 12 miles. NOTE: we could make this an 11 mile thru trip if people want to brave crossing Stony Creek, about 50 feet, with wading shoes.

Rating: A+

Meeting place: TBD

Time: TBD

Contact: Paul Sirtoli 737-8353 or alexsirtoli@outlook.com

December 10, 2016

TR Mountain Hike/Snowshoe

Let's snowshoe to the summit of TR Mountain, named in honor of Teddy Roosevelt. From the ADK Loj we will hike up the Van Hoevenburg Trail going past the trail junction for Phelps Mt. Then cross the bridge over Phelps Brook we will then continue a ½ mile to the herd path to the summit. Distance from the Loj is 4.3 miles expect a round trip time of 5 hours at a moderate pace. Winter and cold temperatures have returned so dress in layers, no cotton. Bring your own snacks and water. No matter the conditions bring snowshoes and micro spikes in the High Peaks as weather can be unpredictable.

Rating: A-

Meeting Place: contact leader

Meeting time: 7:00 am

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359

or Boots muddy@hotmail.com

January 6 to 8, 2017

Annual Trails Cabin weekend at Heart Lake

Each year our chapter rents the Wiesel Trails Cabin on ADK's Heart Lake property. The Cabin accommodates 16 people in 4 rooms with four bunk beds each (bring your own bedding). The cabin has a full kitchen, and bathrooms with hot showers. It's a great base camp in the heart of the High Peaks, less than a hundred yards from the trailheads at Adirondack Loj! We have group breakfasts Saturday and Sunday mornings, and a big pasta dinner Saturday night. The total cost for the weekend is about \$50 per person if the cabin is full, plus a share of our supplies for meals. We each bring our own drinks

and lunches. The more people come, the cheaper it is for everyone! A \$20 deposit is required at sign up.
Contact Greg Smith at 315-796-0906
or greg@adirondack-park.net.

January 7, 2017

Snowshoe Winona State Forest

Two leaders will accommodate two levels of snowshoeing in the Winona State Forest such as Winona Way, Bill's Belly and more. Conditions will dictate exact routes. A shorter, gentler route is offered as well as a longer one with a few hills. Dress for the weather and bring several mini lunches suitable for short food breaks.

We will stop for hot soup after the trip.

Hiking Distance: 5 miles. Rating: B

Meeting Place: Gander Mountain Lot or call leader

Meeting Time: 9:00 am

Contact: Mary and Bill Coffin 687-3589
or marycoffin@gmail.com

January 14, 2017

Winter Tupper Lake Triad

Let's snowshoe the three peaks that make up the Tupper Lake Triad. The Triad is a series of three mountains in the immediate Tupper Lake Area. They offer outstanding views for a minimal amount of effort. All the mountains are summited via DEC State maintained trails. Mount Arab is a short but steep one mile climb to a fire tower. It stands at an elevation of 2545 feet with an ascen of 764 feet. Coney Mountain offers great views from an open

rocky summit. The distance, one way is 1.1 miles with an elevation of 2280 feet and an ascent of 548 feet. Goodman Mountain also offers great views with a one-way distance of 1.7 miles an elevation of 2178 feet and an ascent of 581 feet. Total mileage is about 8 miles with a combined ascent of just over 1800 feet.

Rating: B

Meeting Place: Contact leader

Meeting time: 7:00 am

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359
or Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com

February 4, 2017

Snowshoe Highland Forest, North Country Nat'l Scenic Trail, 2017 NCT 100

Start collecting your 2nd NCT 100 challenge by snowshoeing on the North Country National Scenic Trail and Finger Lakes Trail in Highland Forest. \$3 fee to walk the trails in this Onondaga County Park. We will follow the hike with hot chocolate inside the Skyline Lodge.

Hiking Distance: 5 miles. Map: Delorme 61, Fabius.

Rating: B

Meeting Place: Highland Forest Skyline Visitor Center
or call leader

Meeting Time: 9:00am

Contact: Mary and Bill Coffin 687-3589
or marycoffin@gmail.com

New York State DEC Conservation Camp

Are you between the ages of 11 and 17, passionate about the outdoors, and interested in attending a week-long New York State DEC Conservation Camp next summer? Or do you know someone who is? Our chapter is looking to sponsor two local campers to attend a Department of Environmental Conservation summer camp in 2017! At the risk of sounding a bit like an infomercial: that's a \$350 value, absolutely free!

There are four camps to choose from across the state, with two located in the Adirondack Park: one on the shores of Lake Colby near Saranac Lake, and the other along the Hudson River in the southern Adirondacks. Campers learn about our natural environment, take part in outdoor activities such as backpacking and canoeing,

and have the opportunity to take sportsman education classes.

Campers do not need to be chapter members or related to chapter members, just passionate young outdoorspeople! More information about the camps can be found on the DEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>

If that all sounds appealing and you're interested in going to summer camp on the ADK's dime, please send a brief write-up of why you'd like to attend to Paul Sirtoli (alex-sirtoli@outlook.com). We'd like to select our campers at the December banquet, so please respond by the end of November. We look forward to hearing from you!



Paddling Boreas Ponds
Photo credit: Greg Smith

Boreas Ponds Proposals and Public Hearings

The state bought the Boreas Ponds Tract (22,000 acres) from the Nature Conservancy in April as part of a multi-year deal to add 65,000 acres of former Finch, Pruyn lands to the Forest Preserve. Currently the following proposals have been made by these groups:

BeWildNY—This coalition, which includes some of the Park’s major environmental groups and Forest Preserve advocates, including ADK, Adirondack Council, Environmental Advocates, The Wilderness Society, and NRDC, wants most of the Boreas Pond Tract added to the High Peaks Wilderness, where motors and bicycles are not allowed. The land south and west of Gulf Brook Road, a logging road that runs to the ponds, would be Wild Forest, a less-restrictive designation. The public would be able to drive nearly six miles up Gulf Brook Road to LaBier Flow, an impoundment of the Boreas River located a mile from the ponds. A proposed snowmobile trail would run parallel to County Route 84 away from the interior of the tract.

Protect The Adirondacks—Its proposal is similar to BeWildNY’s with one main difference: the snowmobile trail would follow Gulf Brook Road. They contend this proposal would require less tree cutting, which BeWildNY disputes.

Adirondack Wilderness Advocates—This recently formed group is pushing to close all of Gulf Brook Road, which would require a hike of nearly seven miles to reach Boreas Ponds. Land on both sides of the road would be classified Wilderness.

Access The Adirondacks—This coalition of five local towns wants Boreas Ponds and the land in the immediate vicinity to be classified Wild Forest. The towns would permit electric boats on the ponds and mountain bikers and snowmobilers to ride on old logging roads that circle the ponds. Under their plan, most people would be allowed to drive only as far as LaBier Flow. However, the disabled, guides and their clients, and anyone who secures a special permit would be allowed to drive all the way to the ponds.

The APA has announced the following public hearings:
Wednesday, November 9, 7 p.m.

Adirondack Park Agency headquarters in Ray Brook.

Monday, November 14, 6 p.m.

Northville Central School.

Wednesday, November 16, 7 p.m.

Newcomb Central School.

Monday, November 28, 7 p.m.

Sustainability Hall at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Tuesday, November 29, 6 p.m.

St. Lawrence County Human Service Center, Canton.

Tuesday, December 6, 7 p.m.

New York City. Place to be determined.

Wednesday, December 7, 2 p.m.

DEC headquarters, 625 Broadway, Albany.



Elk Lake from The Pinnacle
 Photo credit: Greg Smith

Newsletter Submissions....

Feel free to submit your stories and photos for inclusion in the Trailmarker. Please use a digital camera for taking photos as the resolution on a camera phone is too low to reproduce well.

Email: vanhattenanderson@gmail.com
Photos: use jpeg or tiff format
Stories: send as a .rtf or .doc file or include in an email message.

Wiezel Trails Cabin at Heart Lake



Chapter Outings

Rating	Effort Level	Elevation gain	Miles (round trip)	Time in Hours
A +	Very Strenuous	4000 ft +	10 +	10 +
A	Strenuous	3000 ft +	5 - 10	8 - 10
B +	Mod. Strenuous	2000 ft +	5 - 10	6 - 8
B	Moderate	1000 ft +	8 - 10	5 - 7
C +	Fairly Easy	1000 ft +	5 - 8	4 - 6
C	Easy	under 1000 ft	under 5	under 5