

TRAILMARKER

Adirondack Mountain Club

Iroquois Chapter

Est 1972
July 2016



Iroquois Chapter trail work crew in Ha-De-Ron-Dah FROM LEFT: Al Ash, Paul Stappenbeck, Gail Hoffman, Katie Larish, Paul Sirtoli, Glen Larish, Karen Hoffman, Bob Hutchins, and John Paluck

Photo credit: Carl Anderson

May and June has witnessed a flurry of activity by the Iroquois Chapter members. Despite the black fly menace, ten members worked diligently in the Ha-De-Ron-Dah wilderness region, brushing out the trail between Middle Settlement and Middle Branch Lakes. The route 12 road clean up had more members picking up trash. Check out the reports in this issue to see who got involved.

Members and local volunteers comprising of Norm Landis, Carolyn Eastman, Roger Felske, Tom Andrews, Brian Whitman and Chris Green filled various roles at JBL work weekend. Norm informed me that back in the seventies/eighties often times 30% of the work crew at JBL was represented by our chapter. National trails day at Heart Lake had nearly 100 ADK members working, with Gail, Karen and Kim Hoffman, along with Bob Hutchins representing our chapter.

Vice Chair Doug Tinkler did a fine job cooking hotdogs and hamburgs at the June picnic in Sherrill Brook Park. Despite the very cool, brisk evening with minimal sun, approximately fifteen members attended. Many thanks to Doug for running around to purchase food as well as doing all the grilling. Much appreciated Doug!

At the picnic, Ed Kobos informed me that the chapter patches are in, and indeed he handed out patches to those members who were present. Check out his report in this issue to see how you can acquire your patch. Thank You Ed for taking on this task.

Roger Felske's role as chapter director will terminate December 31. Since Roger has served 3 terms, by ADK by-laws he is unable to continue as our director. His position, as well as the Programs Chair and Conservation Chair are up for grabs. So, if you seeme

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TRAILMARKER Iroquois Chapter

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Hospitality **Wendy Sanders**
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Trips **Bill Lupino**
360-0359 wlupino@msn.com

Programs **OPEN**

Conservation **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.

Director Our chapter representative on the ADK Board of Directors. Meets in Albany quarterly. Chapter pays mileage.

Conservation Shall advocate environmental quality and undertake conservation activities associated with the Club. This person shall keep the Chapter informed and up to date on environmental and conservation issues. The issues could be local or statewide.

Up Coming Events

Sunday, July 31, 2016

Ididaride Bike Tour 8:30 AM start, departs North Creek Ski Bowl, 75 and 20 mile bike loops.

Starting September 3, 2016

Hudson River Valley Ramble The Hudson River Valley Ramble is an annual event series including hiking, biking, and paddling, that celebrates the history, culture and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. For contact information see *Trips*.

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM, *Note new time*

New Hartford Presbyterian Church

Program speaker will be Jim English who will talk about the Adirondack Railroad.

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM, *Note new time*

New Hartford Presbyterian Church

Program speaker will be photographer Sue Kiesel who will present a program on moose.

Iroquois Chapter New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

David Fox & Kristina Boylan — Eric Bronson

James & Andrea Cowan — Helen Hecken

Dale & Shelley Major — Gary Shaver

Blue Ridge Mountain

April 27, 2016

This 3,440 ft. peak near the Hoffman Notch Wilderness presented a logistical problem to Jim Lomonaco and myself. The shortest and supposedly easiest route to the summit required crossing the Schroon River by either using a private bridge or wading the river, and then hiking over private property. An alternate solution presented itself when I read from an internet site that an aspiring "Adirondack 100" hiker climbed the mountain from the Dirgylot Hill parking area on route 9 just north of Schroon Lake village.

According to the report, an old jeep road/herd path leads from the lot, beneath the northway and angles northwest toward a col between Hoffman and Blue Ridge Mountains. The well defined path borders a creek for a good portion of the trek, and ends within 1.5 miles of the summit cone. Piece of cake, we thought, until we did the actual hike. The supposedly 9.5 mile, 7 hour round trip turned into an 11+ mile /10 hour endurance hike. Over an inch of fresh snow powder on this otherwise cool and sunny day made for an interesting climb on the steep slopes of the mountain.

We lost the trail within 45 minutes of our departure, eventually finding it near the unnamed creek sixty minutes later after some round about searching and bushwhacking. Upon locating the trail we followed it without difficulty to its end, at which point we proceeded directly to the summit. The parking lot was at 900 feet elevation; we left the trail terminus at nearly 1800 feet thus requiring some steep climbing over the remaining distance, about a mile away. The forest was a mix of hardwoods and conifers as we steadily climbed to within .8 miles of the summit when everything changed. The slope became much steeper and the woods a conifer morass, slowing our pace immensely. This portion of the hike took us nearly 2.5 hours. Thankfully, occasional portions of the of the forested slope opened allowing for a more tolerable though still slow trek. The actual summit was socked in by a dense copse of spruce and fir trees. Jim's gps recorded 3465 feet, +/- 20 ft., so we figured we were there. We did not linger. It was nearing 3 PM with a cool wind buffeting the woods, and our hiking shoes soaked from walking through the snow.

Rather than return via our east to west route, I took a gamble by heading directly north off the mountain. My topo map showed that this route was less steep. In addition the conifer forest appeared to be more open going north with less spruce under growth. Essentially we made a wide arc north and east back to the creek and the herd path. The gamble paid off, and despite Jim's GPS going dead, we

managed well with map and compass. Although we lost the herd path again due to blow down, we managed to find it with less wandering around. We arrived at the parking lot by 7:30 PM. Aspiring hikers for the Adirondack 100 highest peaks may want to seek permission to cross the bridge/private property and approach the Blue Ridge summit from the north (Blue Ridge Road). I think it would be easier.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Iroquois Chapter Trail work day

April 30, 2016

The day dawned sunny and bright as ten members of the Iroquois chapter converged on the Middle Settlement trailhead in the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness for our annual trail work day. The members included Al Ash, Gail and Karen Hoffman, Bob Hutchins, Glen and Katie Larish, Paul Stappenbeck, Paul Sirtoli and myself. The plan was to clear the Middle Settlement Lake Trail between Middle Settlement and Middle Branch Lakes, splitting the group to start at each lake, meeting in the middle. The plan worked well with the only problem being swarms of black flies that seemed to erupt with each disturbance of vegetation; kind of hard to avoid during trail clearing. In the past, the last Saturday in April has proven excellent for trail work, with an absence of winged pests, sometimes with patches of snow still on the ground. In any case, by mid-afternoon the groups converged and our mission was accomplished. Many thanks to our trail volunteers. Having suggested this trail for clearing, the DEC appreciates our efforts.

submitted by Carl Anderson

Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up

MAY 11, 2016

It was a sunny clear day when twelve other Iroquois members came out to clean our part of highway.

I want to welcome five new members to our clean up crew. They are: Tom Andrews, Paul Stappenbeck, Glenn Larish, Dick Axt and Brian Roemer. Along with six of our regulars; Dave White, Paul Sirtoli, Norm Landis, Charlene Zebley, Georgeanna Howanietz, Chris Anderson and Steve Hunter (one of the founders of the Iroquois chapter Adopt-A-Highway). Thanks to everyone for all your hard work and welcome to our new members. I hope that we can get together and do it again in October.

THANK YOU Tom Blackstone

Hiking both sides of Thirteenth Lake

May 10, 2016

So much for the number thirteen being unlucky. We lucked out with great views on both sides of Thirteenth Lake. We started down the shore line trail, along the west shore of Thirteenth Lake. About one third of the way down the lake the trail turns right and heads north to Peaked Mt. and there is a bridge heading south to Hour Pond. At the bridge we started our bushwhack up Little Thirteenth Lake Mountain. In just a few minutes the woods opened up and there were some steep pitches up lichen covered rock. When we found footing level enough to turn around there were great views as we climbed. Half way to the summit there was a large flat rock landing where we stopped and took in the views. We had an expansive view East and north and south of East. We could see all of Thirteenth Lake, South Mt., Gore Mt., Eleventh Mt., Diamond Mt., and Black Mt. We dropped off the north side of Little Thirteenth and headed to Big Thirteenth. We could see a small meadow below the summit and we headed towards it. Here we looked southwestward to Puffer Mt., Bullhead Mt. and even caught a glimpse of Snowy's unique summit.

Snooping around the summit we found a spot where we looked down on the Barton Mine operation and over to the ledge on Ruby Mt. We found a lunch spot with a breeze to keep the black flies at bay and we were looking directly at Peaked Mt.'s rocky dome and Slide Mt.'s rock face. We headed back to the car using the eastern ridge of Big Thirteenth. It started gentle enough but became almost perpendicular. With the thick bed of leaves under foot it was a slippery 3.4 miles. We drove to the other side of Thirteenth Lake, to the Old Farm Clearing trailhead and hiked to Balm of Gilead where we could look across the lake to where we had been earlier. Here we also had a glimpse of Blue Mt. in the distance. 2.9 miles On the way home we stopped and hiked into Bullhead Pond to check out the stashed boat situation. 1.8 miles Total 8.1 miles We had seen fishermen on Thirteenth Lake,

on the Indian River and one walking in to Bullhead Pond as we were coming out. I think I know what Paul will be doing tomorrow. It was a day of amazing views.

submitted by Kathy Miles

Erie Canal bike trip,

June 14, 2016

Since the old Erie Canal bike trip scheduled for May 22 was postponed due to inclement weather, Paul Sirtoli and Helen Hecken chose to make the excursion on a day when the weather was perfect-blue sky, bright sunshine, pleasant breeze. We cycled from Canastota to the Green Lakes State Park approximately 12 miles. We stopped at each historical sign along the path to learn the history of the canal, as well as stopping to view the turtles, birds, geese and fish. Needless to say, with all the biking interruptions it took us 2.5 hours for the one way trek. At the park, we had a restful picnic near the lake followed by a pleasant walk around Green Lake. Our return trip was quicker, despite stopping along the way to view the various birds and speaking with an avid birder.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Chairman's Corner

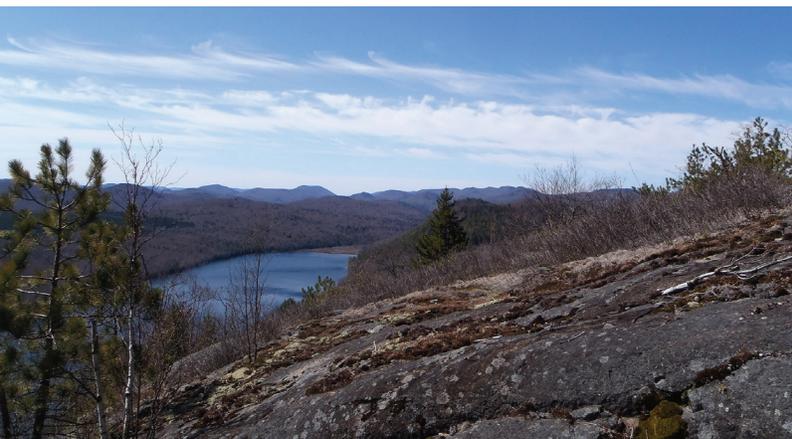
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approaching you on the sly, you may want to start walking away, since most likely I will be tapping you to fill a position. More information will be forthcoming in later issues regarding the director responsibilities. Naturally, if you want first dibs, just contact me.

The vibrancy of our chapter is directly affected by member volunteers and participation. I am more than grateful to those individuals who currently chair positions, as noted in every Trailmarker. Although it is wonderful and encouraging to see many volunteers at work events, please note that more help is needed to fill vacancies. This also includes trip leaders as well as participants. In most cases the time is nominal. I have opted to not have an "advisory or executive board" simply because family and personal time is precious; folks do not want to be bothered by another meeting, nor do they want to waste their time. As you pursue your summer activities, please give serious consideration to chair a chapter committee. It would be most appreciated!

Lastly, as a heads up, the chapter meetings will begin at a new earlier time, beginning in September. We will continue to meet at the Presbyterian Church only earlier at 7 PM (**NOT 7:30**). Please mark your calendar or smart phone accordingly. See you on the trail.

Paul Sirtoli



Little Thirteenth Lake Mountain

Photo credit, Kathy Miles

TRIPS

July 9, 2016

Seaway Trail bike ride

Postponed due to poor weather, join me for a leisurely bike ride along route 3 (Seaway Trail, Lake Ontario) from Mexico Point State Park to Southwick Beach State Park. We will check out Selkirk Shore and Sandy Island Beach State Park en route. Bring a picnic lunch and swimming suit. We will return via the same way, or if feasible, use rural roads that parallel Route 3. Per consensus, there are options to shorten the trip by spotting cars. Round trip distance, including all park visits, I estimate 40-45 miles. Call Paul Sirtoli at 737-8353 or alexsirtoli@outlook.com

July 9, 2016

Paddle Moss Lake

We will paddle around Moss Lake just off Big Moose Road and investigate its picturesque outlet. If time we have the option to hike the lake trail. Wear PFD and bring your own canoe/kayak. There is a short carry from parking to the shore. Paddle Distance: 3- 4 hours. Rating: B Meeting Time: 9:00am Contact: Mary Coffin 687-3589 or Brenda Veilleux 31-463-9103 or maryccoffin@gmail.com

July 23, 2016

Community Family Hike #2: Webber Rd to Armstrong Pond NCT 100

Families are encouraged to join us for this part of the FLT/NCT Onondaga Trail Webber Rd to Armstrong Pond near New Woodstock. We will hike through mature mixed hardwoods and lunch at a lovely pond. Distance RT: 4 miles. Rating: B Meeting Time: 11:00 am Contact: Mary and Bill Coffin 687-3589 or maryccoffin@gmail.com

August 6, 2016

Rock and Long Ponds, Siamese Ponds Wilderness, NCT 100

We will explore the NCNST Adirondack Route north of Speculator. The trail passes two typical Adirondack lakes with all the ambience one would expect of a National Scenic Trail. Possible supper stop on way home. Distance: RT 5-6 miles. Rating: B Meeting Time: 8:30 am Contact: Mary Coffin 687-3589 or maryccoffin@gmail.com

August 20, 2016

North Country Trail Team Work Hike, NCT 100

Join us as we touch up trail on a section of the FLT/NCT. We provide tools. Bring work gloves, lunch and water.

Distance RT: 3 miles. Map: Delorme 61 or 77.

Rating: B Meeting Time: 9:00 am

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

The Cranberry Lake 50

Looking for members to join me on a 3 or 4 day back-packing trip of the 50 miles of trails and roads around Cranberry Lake. I would like to take this trip in July or August. If intersted contact me and we will discuss trip details further. Rating: A+ Contact: William Luppino 360-0359 or Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com

Ramble Hikes

with David and Carol White in the Catskill Park.

Email: ccswhite@juno.com

Sept. 3, 10:00 a.m. Codfish Point Quarry

Hike through Platte Clove Preserve with nature signs to a large quarry overlooking the Hudson Valley known as Codfish Point.

Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m. Stoppel Point

Hike to North Point with beautiful viewing to lakes and peaks and sweeping views of the Hudson Valley, continuing to Stoppel Point's plane wreck.

Sept. 17, 10:00 a.m. Palenville Overlook

Hike to spectacular views over the Hudson Valley, with a view straight down hundreds of feet from a cliff to NY Route 23A.

Sept. 18, 9:30 a.m. Windham High Peak Traverse

Hike with authors of Catskill Day Hikes over 3,524-foot Windham High Peak and enjoy many excellent views along the Escarpment Trail.

These and 200 other events in Sept. at

<http://www.hudsonrivervalleyramble.com/ramble/events>

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

New Iroquois Chapter Patches

Our Iroquois Chapter patches are in and ready for you. They are basically the same size as the ADK patches (3" x 2 1/4") see photo. All Chapter members can receive one FREE patch by attending our local chapter meeting or event. If you would like a patch before then, you need send a SASE to:

Ed Kobos,
1 Salisbury Dr.,
New Hartford, NY 13413
and he'll return your patch ASAP.

If you would like an extra patch, they are \$3 each. Mail as above, but include a check made out to the ADK Iroquois Chapter.



ADK News....

Camp Gabriels

Camp Gabriels, a minimum security prison was opened in 1982 and closed by the state Dept. of Corrections in 2009. The facility was originally composed of 410 acres of forested, undeveloped land and 91 acres of heavily developed buildings, roads, prison infrastructure. In 2010, the Dept. of Corrections transferred 410 acres of forest land to the DEC for inclusion in the Adirondack Park Reserve. In 2013, through an auction the 91 built up acres was sold to a private party for \$166,000. The buyer intended to turn the former prison into a group facility for boys. The sale was never consummated because the buyer could not secure title insurance as several environmental groups contended the 91 built up acres was actually forest preserve. In order to unquestionably clear the real property title to the 91 acres, a constitutional amendment is necessary to transfer the disputed property from the forest preserve to the state Office of General Services so that the property can be sold and re-purposed. The general interpretation of forest preserve is "land that is forested or suitable for growing trees."

Neil Woodworth, Executive Director/Counsel is asking the Executive Committee of the ADK to authorize him as Executive Director to inform the legislature that we support a constitutional amendment authorizing the removal of the 91 acres of Camp Gabriels from the forest preserve so that it can be sold by the state to the private sector for re-use/development.

Land Bank

A constitutional amendment is being considered to establish a 500 acre Adirondack Land bank and a 250 acre Catskill land bank. The amendment would permit public utilities (electrical, water, internet, telephone) to be buried or co-located on new or existing poles either within the cleared width of state, county, or town right of way or 30 feet from the center line of a highway where the land is abutting forest preserve. Any project sponsor seeking to use acreage from the land bank for an eligible project shall make payment equal to the value of the forest preserve acreage to be used, to be paid into the state forest preserve expansion fund, which funds can only be used to add acreage to the forest preserve in the Adirondacks or the Catskills. If approved by the Senate and Assembly, the constitutional amendment will be introduced in the 2017 legislative session, to be voted upon again so that the amendment can be placed on the 2017 November ballot for consideration by NY voters.

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.



ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB presents

ididaride! 11th Annual—Adirondack Bike Tour

July 31, 2016

Registration Now Open
Register by May 31st for \$15 discount
www.adk.org • (800) 395-8080, ext. 42

i-did-a-lot challenge
EARN YOUR SHIRT

Complete  **peak to brew**
the ultimate relay experience
(p2brelay.com)

and **ADK's 75-mile ididaride**

Learn more at **adk.org**



Photo ©Carl Heilman II, www.carlheilman.com

75-mile loop or 20-mile option w/ shuttle • \$75 ADK member / \$85 non-member
Beautiful Adirondack Scenery • Van support • Après-Ride Party

All proceeds support ADK's conservation, recreation and advocacy programs.

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