

# NORTH WOODS NEWS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH WOODS CHAPTER  
OF THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB



## JANE NEALE MEMORIAL HIKE

Hiking the trails of the Adirondack Mountains was one of Jane Neale's fondest pastimes. Jane was very active with the Adirondack Mountain Club and was Director of the Trails Committee. Prior to her very untimely death in 2007 at the age of 46, Jane made a vital contribution to land stewardship and conservation through her volunteer work to maintain a high quality trail system throughout the Adirondack Park, allowing thousands of visitors annually to enjoy the Adirondack wilderness. Her

work and her memory are kept alive with the Jane Neale Scholarship Fund. This special endowment fund will provide scholarships for high school students to participate in ADK's Trails Program.

This year the Jane Neale Memorial Hike will be on St. Regis Mountain on Sunday, August 2nd. It is being organized by North Woods Chapter member Wendy Ungar. For additional details, and to register for the hike, please see our Outings Schedule .

## OUTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

Climb a High Peak  
with Peggy

Paddle Newcomb Lake  
at Camp Santanoni

Paddle Upper St. Regis with  
lunch at the St. Regis Cafe

Join the annual  
Jane Neale Memorial Hike  
and support  
the Jane Neale Fund

Hike the new trail  
to Cobble Ledge

Climb the new trail up  
Hurricane Mountain

## FROM OUR CHAPTER CHAIRMAN

"Back by popular demand" are chapter baskets filled with gifts. They will be raffled off at the President's Dinner October 3rd at the Fall Outing. North Woods chapter has developed a reputation for our excellent baskets. Many people contributed to the baskets, but special credit goes to Carol Pinney and Jini Hood for taking charge.

*(continued next page)*

## CHAPTER OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Chairman: Frank Lescinsky  
518-523-0334

Vice Chair: Tim Chick  
Secretary: Jini Hood  
Treasurer: Peter Gillespie  
Director: Peggy MacKellar

Programs: (open)  
Outings: Carol Edmonds  
Conservation: Tim Chick  
Membership: Nancy Morrill  
Newsletter: Jim Edmonds

*(From Our Chapter Chairman, continued)*

The baskets will be a highlight of the dinner: both for entertainment and fund raising. All proceeds from ADK's Chance Auction at the President's Dinner will go towards the ADK CARES mission.

Each of the Chapters is asked to compile a basket of items from its region to be entered into ADK's Chance Auction. Popular basket items are local foods, wines, books, craft items ... anything that we feel best represents our region.

Please help uphold our reputation by donating an item, getting business donations, or donating a basket or container. Contact me before September 1st if you can help.

Frank Lescinsky

### **The North Woods Chapter Outings Schedule** was distributed as a separate document

**Check for schedule changes online on our North Woods Chapter Calendar at:**  
[www.brownbearsw.com/freecal/northwoods](http://www.brownbearsw.com/freecal/northwoods)

### **TRIP REPORTS** .... written by the Leaders of last quarter's Chapter Outings

#### **April 1, Hike to Roosevelt Island - Leaders: Jim Edmonds and Edward Roesner**



*Our Leader, enjoying his Outing*

Three of us, the 2 leaders and an elderly woman from Saranac Lake who had read about the trip in the *Enterprise*, set out on our odyssey, stout of heart and light of step, on a refreshingly warm spring morning. We began our adventure at the Noon Mark Diner at 9 a.m., then strode briskly through boreal forests verdant with new spring foliage and mountain meadows redolent with the scent of Lady's Slippers and Forget-Me-Nots. The steep mountainsides along Cascade Pass proved no challenge for Mabel's ultralight walker as we made our way with dispatch. When we reached Turtle Pond, we were disappointed to find the lake still locked in ice, so we decided to forgo the swim we had planned, opting instead for a quick snack of pork tartar and fish ice-cream at the Fusion Deli while we waited for the bus that would take us on the next leg of our outing. We arrived at the Port Authority Bus Terminal by mid afternoon, and quickly made our way to the northern reaches of Central Park, where in Turtle Pond we made up for having been deprived of our swim at that other Turtle Pond earlier in the day. We then proceeded down and across town to the East River, trying to avoid being slowed down by the crowds that gathered around us (apparently, the Chapter outings schedule had been

printed in the Sunday *NY Times*). At the river's edge we left our extra gear with a gentleman seated on a bench listening to inspirational music on his boombox, and treated ourselves to another swim, crossing over to Roosevelt Island where we enjoyed a somewhat late lunch at the Roesner's off-the-grid camp. We spent a little time exploring the island (Mabel wanted to visit the ruined mental hospital where Typhoid Mary had been locked up, and one of the leaders was curious about the jail cell where Mae West had done time for public indecency), then waded back across the river (it was low tide), managed with a little effort to reclaim our gear from its guardian's shopping cart, and caught the next boat up the Hudson to Newcomb. It was but a short walk back to Saranac Lake via the Indian Pass and the Jackrabbit Trail. We reached Lake Flower just after sunset, with our headlamps beaming the path ahead, a little tired but delighted with the day.

#### **April 19, a "Cranberry 50" Hike - Leader: Gretchen Gedroiz**

Although the actual hike, scheduled for April 21, was canceled due to rain, a scouting trip was done on April 19, with Bill LaRocque introducing the leader to the Peavine Swamp Trail and assisting by spotting his car at the SUNY ESF Ranger School. There were 5 of us who enjoyed our hike of 4.8 miles, following sections of old logging roads and skidways through a mature northern hardwood forest with large, old hemlock, and red spruce. We had lunch at a lean-to overlooking Cranberry Lake, with open water glistening in the sun. It was a great spring hike!

#### **April 23, Coon Mountain Hepatica Hunt – Leader: Frank Lescinsky**



This is my favorite place to see the very early blooming hepatica with its pretty blue-to-white flowers. The question was: with the heavy snow and cold winter, how early would they bloom? The trip was originally scheduled for April 14, based on the dates of pictures I had taken in a previous year. Lethe and I scouted the Coon Mountain trails on April 12: no snow, dry trails, and but a few hepaticas, all with tight buds. So we rescheduled the hunt for April 23. Thirteen of us went, and were lucky. Hunting carefully through the woods, we found hepaticas in bloom—and also wild ginger, Dutchman's Breeches, blue cohosh, trilliums in bud, and ramps (an edible wild "onion"). The

group split into two parties: one went to the summit, with its beautiful views, while the other took the Hidden Valley trail, with its beautiful rock outcrops. It was fun to see Will Tissot's Dutch cousin photographing Dutchman's Breeches. We wrapped up the outing with lunch at Dogwood Bread Company in Wadhams. Lethe and I went back to Coon Mountain on May 3, and throughout the woods we found hepaticas in shades of white, lavender, and blue, and with petals varying in number from 6 to 12.

#### **April 30, OK Slip Falls - Leader: Carol Edmonds**

We were third-time lucky with this trip: it is the third time that I have put this outing on the schedule, but the first time we have actually been able to hike. As a reward for our patience the 10 of us had a really beautiful day, with sunshine and temperatures in the 60s. The first section of the trail is notoriously muddy, but I was pleased to see that the worst stretches have been bridged over with boards, so that we could make our way





with a minimum of messy boots. The first time I had tried this trail, it was very crowded, but this time, except for a few people we saw who were headed out, we had it to ourselves. We made it to the overlooks with no problems, and were able to linger with our lunch for as long as we pleased. The flow on the falls was very good (and we all have the photos to prove it). All in all, there was no better way to spend a spring day.

#### **May 5. Paddle Church Pond to Jones Pond - Leaders: Marilyn and Peter Gillespie**



Thirteen paddlers in 12 boats set out from Church Pond at 10:30. The canal between Church and Little Church presented no obstacles. Between Little Church and Osgood, there were some areas of low water. Once we reached Osgood, we thought the worst was over. Wrong! The stream between Osgood and Jones presented obstacles: 3 beaver dams and a downed tree that was too close to the surface to glide over. Thanks to Jim Edmonds, Ed Troischt, and Peter Gillespie for helping everyone over the "blockages." En route we encountered several ducks, 3

muskrats, a dozen-plus geese; and we heard red-winged blackbirds and other avian fauna. We ate lunch at campsite 8 on Jones Pond, taking care not to disturb the loon who floated off shore. Although the leaders had spotted a car at Jones Pond, everyone chose to paddle back to our put-in. Most of us were able to "run" the beaver dams on our return trip. The day was pleasant, and we had sun for much of the trip.



**May 7, Paddle, Stony Creek Ponds - Leaders: Yvona and Dana Fast**

The trip was awesome, the weather was awesome, like a summer day, 78° F. and a bright “Adirondack Blue” sky, not a cloud to be seen. The water wasn’t as high as it had been in previous years, but we did get to cut through the forest a couple times, though most of the time we stuck to the channel. We had lunch on campsite 5, and one of us even found the courage to go for a dip there in Stony Creek Pond.

**May 9, Cat Mountain Hike - Leaders: John and Susan Omohundro**

One might suppose that anyone who would lead a hike when it is 85 degrees needs his head examined. Be that as it may, the 2 trip leaders and 5 fellow hikers who ventured out in that heat garnered many rewards: we heard much birdsong, enjoyed numerous spring flowers, and examined elaborate beaver action, both ancient and fresh. We shuffled back to the trailhead agreeing we were glad we went—and survived. Whew!

**May 14, Bike Ride, Jay to Keene - Leader: Caper Tissot**

Twelve of us rode from Jay along the Ausable River under a deep blue cloudless sky on the most beautiful day we may ever see this year. Birds sang us along, apple, cherry, and shad (serviceberry) trees sagged in full bloom, leaves and grass exploded in bright green, mergansers were spotted floating on the tumbling, sandy-bottomed river, and . . . we had no bike disasters on this, the first ride of the year for many of us. We were all well bundled up, as it was 32° at the start of the ride. We later made several "emergency" breaks to shed clothes from our sweaty bodies as the temperature quickly rose into the high 60s. We stopped in Keene at Cedar Run, where Don and our “official trip photographer” Nadine McLaughlin joined us for lunch. The ride is relatively flat, with only a few long but modest hills. The high point of entertainment, if you want to call it that, was watching operators of the fish-stocking truck dump nets heaped full of fish in a free-fall from a bridge 20 feet high down to the Ausable River. Like us, they (the fish) all seem to survive their trip in good shape. RT ca. 20 miles.



**May 18, Hike, Stone Valley - Leader: Frank Lescinsky**

It was unanimous with all 13 of us that the long drive was worth it. Even our guest from Lake George agreed. White water and white trilliums! The white water cascading over the rocks, and the white trilliums cascading through the woods. There is a 3.2 mile-long trail on each side of the river below the dam in Colton. We did a one-way walk downriver, on the right side, which affords the better views. (Our walk was a little longer than 3.2 miles, however, because I set the car shuttle to the car-top boat launch parking area rather than to the shoulder where the trail comes out to the road.) Always carry duct tape—you never know when a boot sole may come loose: We bandaged the first boot of one of our hikers, but when the second one lost its sole, she gave up and finished on innersoles alone. We were an hour late for lunch at the Hideaway Café because the scenery was too nice, not to mention the rapids and the wildflowers.

**May 22, Paddle Stony Creek to Axton Landing - Leaders: Marilyn and Peter Gillespie**

Eleven paddlers in 10 boats launched at 10 a.m. We traversed Third Pond, Second Pond, and First Pond before taking a half-mile side trip up Ampersand Brook. Our trip up Ampersand took us further upstream than in several of the past years, and we did not encounter any beaver dams. Leaving the brook, we paddled into Stony Creek, and reached the Raquette River about 11:30. We made a short turn upstream to the landing site for a lean-to. While eating lunch, a grandfather and his 8-year old grandson arrived to spend the night at the lean-to. They were taking advantage of the long weekend, and planned to spend the next night at Trombley Landing before taking out in Tupper Lake on Sunday. Following lunch, we paddled downstream to the take out. The temperature never got about 55, but the sun kept everyone in good spirits.



*John paid the price for leading with his nose ...*

**June 3, Hike Indian Pass - Leaders: John and Susan Omohundro**

This trip was postponed a week due to the dire weather forecast for heat and thunderstorms (although as it turned out, not much happened that day—not in Saranac Lake, at least). Our new day was glorious, not too warm, sunny, clear. Beyond Scott's Clearing the so-called trail deteriorates into a wet mishmash, and clambering up to the summit over big boulders is more fun for some than for others. We did see ice and snow in the crevices. We searched briefly and unsuccessfully for Summit Rock, but did find the boulders memorialized by various painters (they are well camouflaged now by trees, hence hard to photograph). We lunched in a buggy glade, and scrambled out, descending with satisfying speed. The long day began to show on the trudge out. Our spring bodies limped into the parking lot after eight and a half hours and 12 miles, somewhat bloodied but in good spirits. One nice element: we never saw another soul until 30 minutes before the end.

**June 4, Paddle Taylor Pond and walk Silver Lake Bog - Leader: Gretchen Gedroiz**

Twelve of us met in Bloomingdale on a sunny morning, gathering to caravan on an adventuresome drive on seasonal roads to Taylor Pond, where we met up with 2 other participants, who had come from a different direction. We launched from Taylor Pond Campground at the senior rate-no charge during the week. Leisurely following the shoreline, we poked into a couple of bays, spotting some baby ducklings hiding along the shore, as well as a loon diving close to our boats. Heading down to the southwest end of the lake, we were serenaded by a pair of loons on the opposite shore. A long sandy beach with a breeze turned out to be the perfect lunch spot, and two of our hardy gentlemen went for a swim. This pond is surrounded by mountains and rock cliffs offering spectacular views. After our paddle, 7 of us walked the nearby Silver Lake Bog boardwalk identifying various plants, and discovered some Lady's Slippers. Five of us walked up to the Bluffs for a view over Silver Lake to Whiteface Mountain. It was a perfect day in the ADK's!

**June 10, Hike Gilligans's Mountain - Leaders: Will and Caper Tissot**

A group of us hiked the Sunrise Trail on a beautiful late spring day, enjoying interesting plant life along the way, and stopping (just in time) at a couple of unexpected cliff edges for wonderful views of the Dix Range, Giant Mountain, and Rocky Ridge. Despite the shortness of this trip, (only 2.4 miles round trip) and the low elevation (under 1500 feet), several participants suggested that this trail should be reclassified as a C trail with a fair number of A+ challenging steep scrambles. Nevertheless, we all returned without incident and only slightly black fly bitten. We recommend this for a short lovely 2-hour hike. The best viewing is at the sign that reads "End of Trail," although the summit is actually about a 100-yard bushwhack beyond that. Hopefully the leaders will be forgiven for, once more, underestimating the difficulty of their outing. *Note:* To find this trail, take Scriver road to the left off Rt 9 just 2.5 mile south of New Russia (or from Rt 76, take a right 3.6 miles north on Rt 9). Park in the dirt parking lot on the right before crossing the bridge. Walk over the bridge, following the road to the right and look for the trail on your left just before the first house on the left.

**June 19, Paddle Middle Saranac to Weller and Little Weller Ponds****Leaders: Linda and Edward Roesner**

This outing had been planned as a paddle on the Raquette River from Axton Landing to Raquette Falls, but the heavy rains of recent weeks had caused the river to rise to near flooding, and the current to become powerful, so we took the prudent course of changing the venue, switching this outing with the one to Weller Pond that we had planned for August 5th.

Sixteen of us set out from the South Creek parking area on our adventure, all in solo boats except for one couple in a tandem canoe. Because of our size, we departed in waves, with one group first taking advantage of the high water to paddle South Creek in the other direction, over the beaver dam and up halfway to Decker Pond. On Middle Saranac we encountered a bracing headwind and a light spritz, the remnant of the long overnight rain, giving us some nice easy chop and cool temperatures—brisk, even, some thought. The channel into Little Weller from Hungry Bay was broad, and the water levels were

high enough for us to be able to paddle up into the little streams that feed into the pond, areas that ordinarily one could only glimpse from a way off across the marshland. We lunched on Tic Island in Weller Pond, and while we were there the wind dropped somewhat and the sun finally began to emerge. We had an easy paddle back to our takeout, with a gentle tailwind and lovely views of the mountains before us in the bright afternoon sunlight. A great day to be on the water, with a little bit of everything (except snow). 7+ miles.



*and then ...*

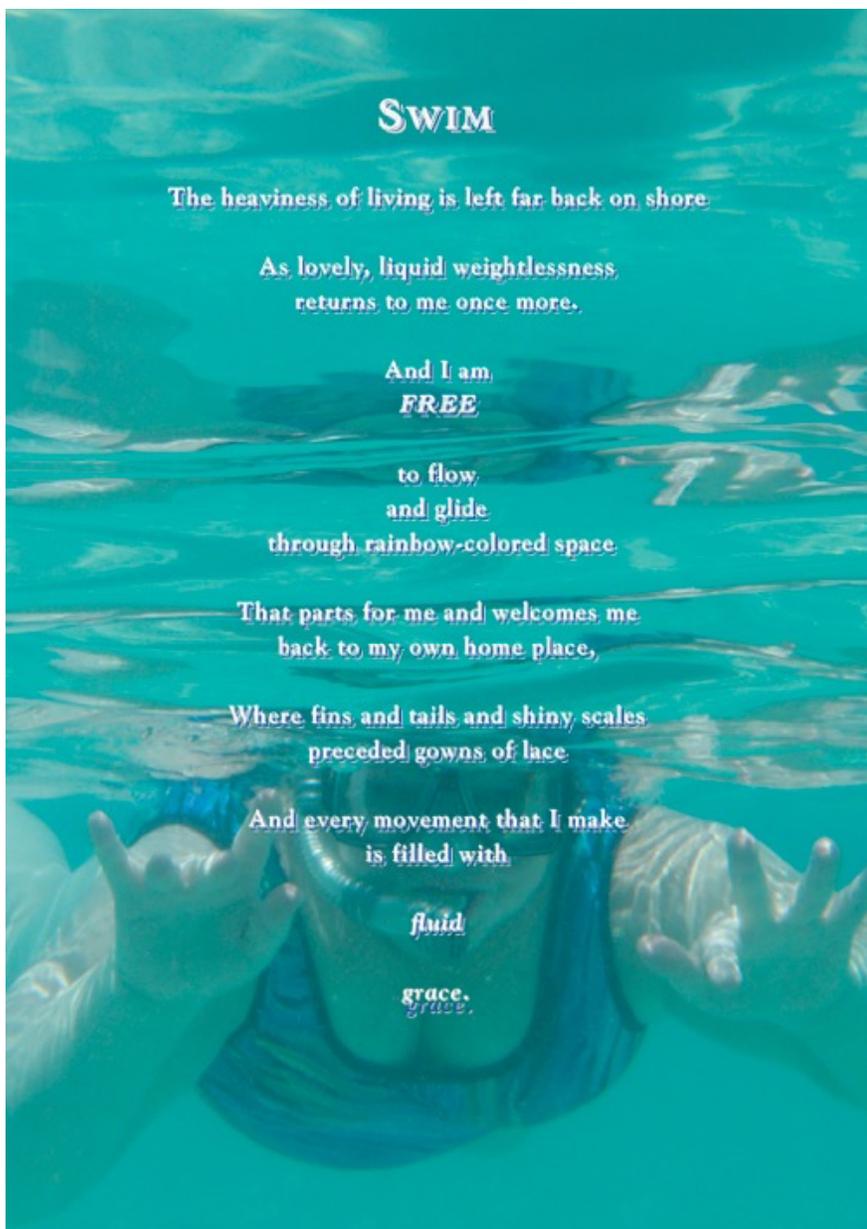
*... on the Back Page*

artistic offerings from two  
of our members

Adirondack Evensong

The mosquito lurks in the bedroom,  
Issues forth in the evening's deep  
gloom.  
With her high siren song  
And proboscis so long,  
You won't get to sleep any time soon.

*The Bard of Birch Street*



a poetic construction  
by Nadine McLaughlin