

TRAILMARKER

Adirondack Mountain Club

Iroquois Chapter

Est 1972

November 2015



High Falls on the Oswegatchie

photo by Greg Smith

As the northeast transitions from summer to fall, with its resplendent colors, the Iroquois chapter is also changing with the seasons. Gail Hoffman has resigned from the (co) secretary position after many years of service. Carol White, membership chairwoman, quickly volunteered to help Charlene Zebley with the minutes when Charlene is unable to attend meetings. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to both women for their selfless service. In the same vein, I wish to thank Tom Blackstone in his efforts to organize the route 8/12 road cleanup several weeks ago. Despite the unexpected poor turn out, the hardy volunteers managed to clean our designated area. Thanks to all.

Please make a special effort to attend the November chapter meeting to voice your opinion regarding a proposal to spend chapter funds for sponsoring a student(s) for a DEC summer camp. Jim Muller will be presenting a slide show about his summer trip on the Spanish River in Northern Ontario.

In closing, I was overcome with great sadness to read in the Observer Dispatch that our former trips chairman, Chuck

LaMendola, has passed away. I had last spoken with Chuck while we climbed St. Regis and Baker Mountains in June. He assured me that he was doing well, and was looking forward to meeting with his doctor several days later. While attending the funeral service, I longingly reminisced about prior trips with Chuck, and reaffirmed in my heart the preciousness and sanctity of life. It became abundantly clear to me that my treasure lies not with things, but with the people who accompany me when pursuing outdoor activities. The destination may be important, but in reality, it is the companions with whom I am with that makes the destination a treasured, memorable moment. For those who do not remember Chuck, I refer you to the backtrack section of the July/August Trailmarker.

I will see you at the next meeting or perhaps on the trail.

Paul Sirtoli

TRAILMARKER

Iroquois Chapter

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Conservation **P. Michael Jordan**
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Trips **Bill Lupino**
wlupino@msn.com

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 3, 2015

Chapter meeting at 7:30 PM,
New Hartford Presbyterian Church
Program speaker, Jim Muller will talk and show slides about his 6 day canoe trip on the Spanish River north of Thunder Bay, Ontario.

October 29 - Nov 4

Walk in Wild – the Robert Redford/Nick Nolte film (from Bryson book) of old guys comparing their lives while hiking the Appalachian Trail is coming to Cinema Capitol Oct. 29-Nov. 4. Thursday 7:30 pm; Friday 4:00, 7:30 pm; Saturday, 4:00, 7:30 pm; Sunday 4:00, 7:30 pm; Monday-Wednesday, 7:30 pm Note: The Sunday at 7:30 pm is Open Captioned for the hearing impaired. Adults \$7, Friends/Students \$5

Saturday, December 5

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. The program will be after dinner, around 7:30. Ed Kobos will present a program that he calls *Photo Expose on Winter Hiking in the Adirondacks*. He'll have pictures from the lowlands, to the High Peaks.

Iroquois Chapter New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Elizabeth Devries • Ash Fletcher and Benjamin Kennison
Susan Kiesel • Dianne Nassar
Christopher Patterson and Sharee Freeman
Paul Stappenbeck • Thomas Stuhlman

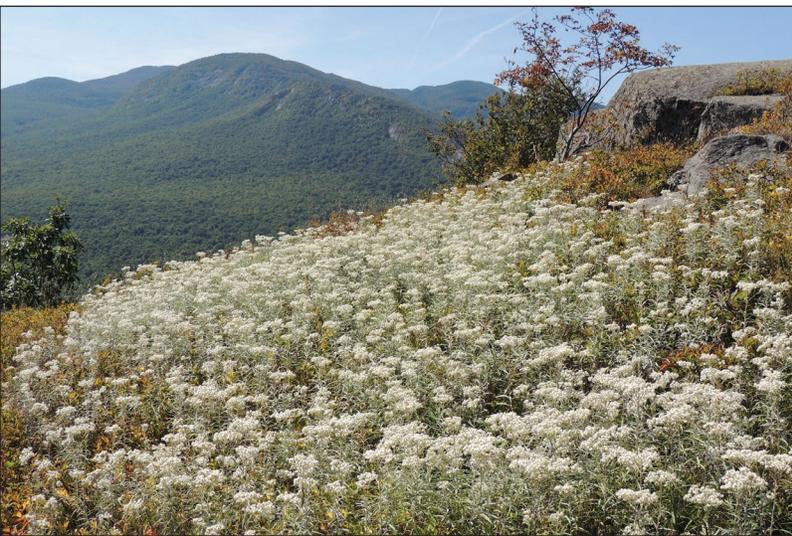
BACKTRACKS...

Fay Family Mountains September 15, 2015

Alan Via's September-October Adirondac magazine article The Fay Family peaked my interest and set in motion a trip with Paul Sirtoli to Essex County to visit these lower elevation mountains.

Alan's driving directions guided us to the parking area at the end of Seventy Lane. From there we set our own course to locate Alan's view points. Paul wanted to save the best for last so we bypassed Fay Mountain hiking north over Fay's west shoulder and then up to the col between Fay and Blueberry Mountain, our first destination. From the col, we pushed our way through thick balsams (I believe what Alan described how to avoid in his article) and located our first views of the day - dominated by Carson Mountain and Lake Champlain. From there we descended off Blueberry and made our way to Carson Mountain and its open ledge offering vistas south. Little Fay was our next destination. Following a compass bearing we set at Carson's ledge the trek turned out to require more effort than what we had extended so far with the ascents of Blueberry and Carson. Our path took us up a steeper section of Little Fay requiring scrambling up lichen and moss covered rock and steep dirt inclines. At the summit we hunted for the views and found those on Little Fay were right where Alan marked them to be just as they were on Blueberry and Carson. It also occurred to me Alan's directions were worth using for the climb up Little Fay as they avoided the steeper areas we encountered. We left Little Fay passing through red pines and began our climb of Fay Mountain. The ascent here also required climbing steep pitched rock and slippery moss covered ground. We picked the best paths we could and climbed our way to the summit. The views from Fay were awesome and as Alan described panoramic. While on the summit, using map and compass we identified the closest mountains - Death Mtn, Beech Ridge, U.S. Mtn, Bluff Mtn and as is so often the case planned future hikes to what we viewed.

Submitted by Doug Tinkler



Moose Pond September 20, 2015

Unlike the cloudy, somewhat rainy start of the day when we departed Utica, by the time Carolyn Eastman, Doug Tinkler, and Paul Sirtoli began biking on the Camp Santanoni road, the sun was shining, and the day brisk. Within 45 minutes of our departure, we were hiking the horse trail to the pond, about 4.5 miles off the gravel road. Expecting muddy conditions, we were quite surprised and elated to be walking on an old road, well maintained and properly drained so that there were virtually no washouts. Indeed, if it were not in a wilderness region, this road would be quite conducive to bike travel. The hike to the pond took us just over two hours; we had stopped for a lunch break, as well as checked out a few interesting features along the road. Moose Pond has two campsites, one on the shore, and another further back in the woods, each served by dilapidated out house. The shoreline campsite had grand views of Santanoni Peak, as well as Little Santanoni Mountain. The seemingly narrow Ermine Brook slide snaked its way toward the summit of Santanoni Peak; it would be an attractive and alternate route to climb the 4,607 ft. peak. After checking out the campsite, we took the opportunity to explore two old non-maintained roads circumventing the lake. Although saplings were growing in these roads, we were able to follow them without to much difficulty. Occasionally we would leave the road and drop to the shoreline for better views of the Santanoni Mountain range, or for a picnic snack. Having the bulk of the day remaining, we decided to check out Shaw Pond on the east side of Moose Pond. By studying the topo map, you will see that a second road forks off the main road, leading north to the vicinity of Shaw Pond. The pond is a short bushwhack off this road, about .5 miles from the intersection. We continued on to Ermine Brook since the road continued. Unlike the main trail to Moose Pond, this secondary road has some blow

Left: Summit of Fay Mountain with view of Ausable #3.

Below: Carolyn Eastman looking out over Moose Pond.

Both photos by Doug Tinkler



down crossing it, as well as occasional places where small bushes/saplings encroach it. My National Geographic map indicates that his road continues north of Moose Pond, follows Moose Creek eventually intersecting the NP trail. MY biggest disappointment on this trek was that there was no lean-to nor horse barn to investigate, despite having a map showing that the structures existed. The day getting late, Carolyn lead a torrid pace out arriving at the hidden bikes in 1 hr. 15 minutes. We biked and hiked a total of 8 hours, covering nearly 20 miles, the bulk of it hiking on a gorgeous late summer day with early fall colors emerging.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Cliffs from the shore of Long Pond.

Photo by Kathy Miles

Long Pond Cliffs

September 28, 2015

Despite dark skies, and the threat of rain, Kathy Miles and Paul Sirtoli took a chance to visit Long Pond, and bushwhack to the massive cliff overlooking the sprawling “long pond.” Unlike many years ago, the graveled Kunjamuk Road leading to the trail head was in excellent shape, with a handicap accessible parking lot at the Owl Pond intersection. Given Kathy’s torrid pace, we made great time hiking the three mile trail to the pond, this even with a small break at Rock Pond. Finding a boat on the shore, we chose to paddle to the cliff side to commence our bushwhack. We were better off walking around the pond, as the leaky skiff filled with water quickly about our hiking boots. Although several hundred yards from the lake, our trek to the summit took about 1.5 hours. We could not climb the vertical face, so we hoofed to the north side of the cliff range, crawling over and under the many fallen fir tree’s, scrambling around boulders, and tip-toeing through bogs. Our plan to hike up the rocky edge to the cliff summit was foiled by the sheer mass of dead fall. In frustration we changed course and made our approach to the summit from the backside, which proved to be easier bushwhacking through a more open forest. The summit ledge is free of forest debris, is expansive, and conducive to lounging. The low cloud cover did not mask the wonderful

array of fall colors on Long Pond Peak, Kunjamuk Mountain, and the surrounding hills. Big Range Mountain was partially obscured by a cloudy mist as a front appeared to be moving in. I waved to a man on the rocky point of Long Pond, but he appeared to be engrossed with the loon floating on the wavy surface of the apparently deep pond. Rather than retrace our steps, we chose instead to head to the valley east of the ledge, then head north to the cross over trail between the pond and the Kunjamuk trail. Although longer, bushwhacking through the hardwoods was more pleasant than fighting through the dense fir/spruce forest which dominated the cliff shoulder. Back at the lake, sun shining, I fished for while from the leaky boat. I would love to say that I caught a mess of trout but in reality I had no bites. At the car by 6 PM, we had hiked 11 miles in 9 hours, making for a great autumn day of exploration and awesome photo ops.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Huckleberry Mt. and Cliffs over Murphy Lake

October 1, 2015

This was a Plan B hike. We had made tentative plans to hike a new section of the Long Path in the Catskills today but the forecast for that area indicated a chance of showers and low cloud cover. We decided to do a hike that would be a shorter drive in the Adirondacks. The weather we had was perfect, sunshine, cool temperature, crisp dry air. After spotting a car at the Creek Road trailhead we started our trek from the Pumpkin Hollow Rd. trailhead. We headed for the look-out on Huckleberry Mt. using the approach we have used before. We took the trail towards Murphy Lake for about 2 miles and then begin our bushwhack. We had to zig-zag up the steep boulder strewn side of the lower flank of the mountain. There are several openings along the way with limited views offering us our first glimpse of the beautiful fall foliage colors. At the overlook on Huckleberry Mt. there is a fabulous view looking down the length of Murphy Mt. and the mountains to the west of the lake. Our next destinations were some cliffs on the east side of Murphy Lake. We dropped

Summit of Huckleberry Mt. left to right standing: Kathy Miles, Nate Mack, Doug Tinkler, Trisa Bills, Paul Sirtoli, kneeling, Jim Hopson

Photo by Kathy Miles



down the east side of Huckleberry Mt. and climbed towards the cliffs, all through open forest and no wetland. It took some snooping around to find the cliffs. We found two good open areas. The first offered a view across Murphy Lake and to the mountains west of it. We also spotted a person paddling on Murphy Lake. The second opening offered a wider view with Murphy Lake, Middle Lake and the Great Sacandaga all in our sight. Breath-taking. From here we dropped down to Murphy Lake steeply, again through open forest. The remainder of our day was on the trail. From the shore of Murphy Lake we could see the open area on Huckleberry and also the cliffs we had visited. At the lean-to we visited with the fellow who we had seen paddling on the lake. We took the trail that goes along the east shore of Middle Lake where there are several very good campsites. A blue heron lifted off of the lake as we approached and a loon was enjoying a swim on the lake near one of the campsites. We continued on the trail and made a brief stop at Bennett Lake before our final stretch to the trailhead on Creek Road. At the vehicle we replenished our energy with cookies and chocolate milk. Our Plan B hike got a grade of A+.

Submitted by Kathy Miles

Dix Mountain
October 18, 2015

It was my Pre-Winter loop hike to Dix Mt., via the Beckhorn trail returning via Hunters Pass. There was a trace of snow at the Elk Lake Trail Head and it got deeper as I climbed higher. This was a 14.4 mile hike that took me 10.5 hours. There was plenty of ice near the summit and I was glad I brought my micro-spikes or I probably would have given up. The temp was 28 F when I left home and 24F at the trail head (both when I started and finished). I don't think it ever got above freezing. I took a lot of great pictures and this one (below) shows off the conditions the best. It snowed (on and off) the whole day, but there was also plenty of sunshine. One time I was in heavy snow with the sun shining brightly in the south. Guess that is what they call 'Mountain Snow'.

submitted by Ed Kobos

Elk Lake from the Beckhorn of Dix Mt.



Bowman State Park
October 25, 2015

Bobbie Scarpino led a 3.8 mile hike through Bowmen State Park near Norwich. They had 26 people turn out for the hike and the picnic afterwardsr at one of the pavilions.

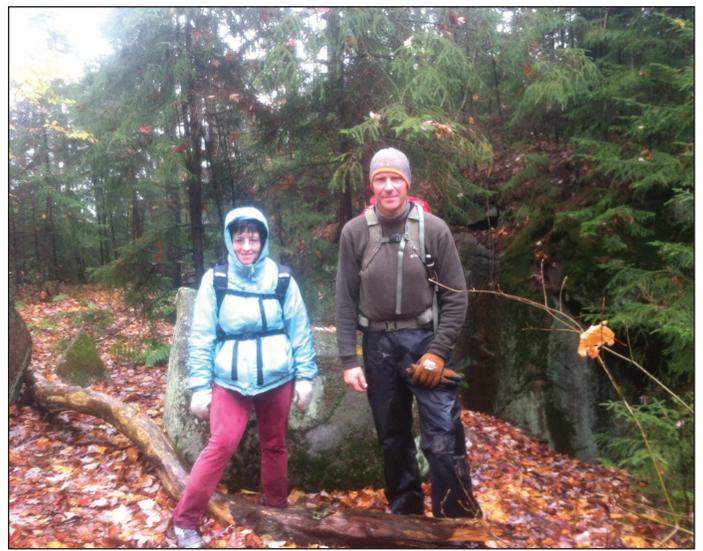
Photo by Jim Wasielewski

North/South Lake, Ice Cave Mt. bike loop
October 25, 2015

Bob Hutchin's famous phrase, "rain or shine, let's get her done", as well as "it's drier further down the road", will haunt him forever as we mt. biked the gravel road around North Lake, past the North Branch and Middle Branch of the Black River, to South Lake. I would have delayed our start, hoping that the drizzle and rain would pass, but his other famous phrase "the sooner the better" haunted me as I contemplated the delayed start. Fortunately, Debbie Pasch, the other participant in our bike/hike adventure was very amenable to when we started, despite the persistent light drizzle. All of us had rain gear, and were prepared for adverse conditions. When we located the flagging and cairns which indicated the start of the herd path to the mammoth cave, the drizzle stopped. The short, steep climb with the wet leaves covering the muddy path challenged our hiking skills. The herd path is flagged, so locating the cave was not a prob-

Debbie Pasch and Bob Hutchins

Photo by Bob Hutchins



TRIPS

lem. We even made time to explore around the summit ridge line, finding an open section of woods affording a nice view of Canachagala Mt. Resuming our bike trek around north lake we climbed steadily and at times very steeply out of the North Lake valley to the gravel service road that accesses Honnedaga Lake, which belongs to the Adirondack League Club. Commencing our long ride down hill to South Lake, it began to pour, and it did not let up until we arrived at the vehicles at North Lake. It never did get drier further down the road. Including a side trip exploring a newly constructed log road, and hiking/exploring an old log road, we biked about 15 miles, and hiked roughly 2 miles in 5 hours of time. And despite the dreary weather, great companionship warmed our adventure on an otherwise raw Adirondack day.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

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 2016! 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 outdoors-people! 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 (psirtoli@hotmail.com) or Greg Smith (greg@adirondack-park.net). 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!

November 7, 2015

Good Luck Mountain/Cliffs Hike

Join me on a one of my favorite day hikes in the Southern Adirondacks. Trail starts across the road from the second turn around heading north on Rt. 10 from Pine Lake. It is 6 miles north of the intersection of Rt. 10 and Rt. 29A. We will follow a snowmobile trail for the first mile and half then turn onto a marked trail that leads to a scenic mountain overview. The total distance is 5 miles round trip with a couple of moderate to steep inclines. This is a moderate to difficult climb depending on snow conditions. Expect it to take at least 3 hours. Poor weather will cancel trip. We can meet at the turn around on Rt. 10 or at another mutually agreed upon location.

Rating: B

Meeting time: 9:00 am

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

November 8, 2015

Stoppel Point, Catskill Park, Tannersville, NY

I have read that the trails around North-South Lake in the Catskills are the most scenic within the park. We will be hiking the Mary Glen's and Escarpment trails, stopping at the various view points along the way as ascend to the 3,418 foot summit. After the summit, we will continue further down the ridge to check out the scene of a plane crash. Continuing beyond the crash site about a mile to another scenic outlook can be an optional extension to this round trip excursion. Including the extension, round trip distance is 10.5 miles, with approximately 1600 foot elevation gain. This will be a full day of hiking. Should there be interest/daylight after the hike, we can also check out the DEC campsite at North/South Lake. Poor weather will postpone this trip to Saturday, November 14

Rating: B+

Contact Paul Sirtoli at 737-8353 or psirtoli@hotmail.com.

November 15, 2015

Cascade Lake Hike in PLWA

Let's Hike around Cascade Lake, check out the remains of the old girls camp and enjoy lunch at a water falls in our adopted Pigeon Lake Wilderness. I there is time and interest we could make a possible dinner stop on way home. Hiking Distance: 5 miles.

Rating: B

Meeting Place: Canastota Exit 34 or call leader

Meeting Time: 9:00AM

Contact Mary Coffin 687-3589 or

Email: MARYCCOFFIN@GMAIL.COM

November 28, 2015

Hurricane Mountain Hike/Snowshoe

The open summit of this mountain offers spectacular views of most of the lower great range. The route I will be hiking leads from the parking lot on NY 9N. The trail travels about 3.2 miles one way to the summit. The total round trip distance is about 6.5 miles with a couple of moderate to steep inclines as expected as we climb 2132ft in elevation to reach the 3678 ft summit. This is a moderate to difficult climb depending on snow conditions. Expect it to take at least 3 hours. Poor weather will cancel trip. We can meet at a mutually agreed upon location.

Rating: B+

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

Saturday, Dec 12, 2015

Fourth and Third Lakes

A few years back a friend mentioned camping at Fourth Lake and described it as very attractive wilderness-like lake. I've ever since had it on my list of places to check out. We will also explore Third Lake which is a short half mile up the trail. Total hiking distance may be about 7 miles. A comfortable distance for a December day.

Contact: Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759 to join the hike.

December 13, 2015

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 on a 1/2 mile to the herd path to the summit. Distance from the Loj is 4.3 miles expect 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 time: 7:00 am

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

December 27, 2015

Chub Pond Ski/Snowshoe

Let's work off some Christmas calories. Depending on conditions we will either snow shoe or ski back to the lean- to at Chub Pond.

Rating: B

Contact: Carolyn Eastman 525-0366

January 8, 2016

Weizel Cabin Annual Trails Cabin weekend

Each year our chapter rents the Weizel 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 \$45 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 9, 2016

Stoney Pond Ski/Snowshoe

This will be a five to six mile hike thru a wooded forest near Morrisville. The trails are good for cross country skis but you should be experienced as some of the trails have some steep and narrow spots.

Rating: B

Contact: Carolyn Eastman 525-0366

January 9, 2016

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. Approximate distance is 5 miles. Map: Delorme 83, Sandy Creek-Lacona. Dress for the weather and bring several mini lunches suitable for short food breaks. We will stop for hot soup after the trip.

Rating: B

Meeting Time: 9:00 am

Contact: Mary and Bill Coffin 687-3589 or
MARYCCOFFIN@GMAIL.COM

January 10, 2016

Hunter Mountain Hike/Snowshoe

Let's practice our winter mountaineering skills by climbing to the summit of Hunter Mountain in the Catskills. It is the second highest peak in the Catskills at 4040ft. and required for those of you doing the Fire Tower Challenge, Catskill 3500 or the NE 115. The route I will be hiking leads from the parking lot near Notch Lake on NY 214. The total distance is 7.6 miles round trip with some rugged terrain and steep inclines. This is a difficult climb depending on snow conditions. Expect it to take at least 5 hours. 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 and/or crampons as weather can be unpredictable in the mountains.

Rating: A

Meeting time: 7:00 am

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359 or

Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com

February 20, 2016

Snowshoe Highland Forest, North Country Nat'l Scenic Trail

Start collecting your 100 NCT miles by snowshoeing on the North Country National Scenic Trail and Finger Lakes Trail in Highland Forest. Hiking distance is 5 miles and Map is Delorme 61, Fabius. There is a \$3 fee to walk the trails in this Onondaga County Park. We will follow the hike with hot chocolate inside the Skyline Lodge.

Rating: B

Meeting Time: 9:00am

Contact: Mary and Bill Coffin 687-3589 or

MARYCCOFFIN@GMAIL.COM

Winter Dates to Be Determined

Winter Bushwhacks

I plan on leading a few bushwhacks to the following areas this winter:

- Mitchell Ponds in the Blue Ridge Wilderness Area.
- Gooseneck Lake in the West Canada Wilderness Area.
- Eastman Lake in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest.
- Three Mile Beaver Meadow in the Pepperbox Wilderness Area.
- Stony Creek in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest.
- Over Rocker Mountain in the Silver Lake Wilderness Area.

Most of these will be snowshoe trips. Average round trip distance will be: 8-10 miles. Backcountry skis may be an option on some. I have a variety of winter interests and snow conditions dictate which activity I will participate in so it's hard to put a date to something. Please e-mail if you are interested. Once I get a few hikers and a date set consensus, we will finalize plans. Certainly group consensus will prevail with trip enhancements. Poor weather /driving conditions or too small a group will postpone to another date.

Rating: A

Contact: Mike O'Donnell 315-527-8624 or

modonnell@vicks.biz

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.

Drones in the Adirondack Park

An inquiry from Carol Reese

It recently came to my attention that a bird's eye photo of Heart Lake was taken by a drone. When I protested that drones do not belong in the high peaks or wilderness areas, I was told the photo was taken from private property and that comments should be directed to the Adirondack Mountain Club. I have since written to Neil Woodworth, asking the Club to address this issue.

Are there others who have an issue with the use of drones on Adirondack Mountain Club property? If I am able to make the November meeting I would like to bring up this issue before the members. It seems to me there are very few places left where we can escape technology and I should not have to think about some drone buzzing over my head when I hike.

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

ADK Conservation Committee Report

*submitted by
ADK Conservation Chair, Dave Pisaneschi*

Storage of Old Oil Tank Cars in Tahawus

During WWII, the Federal government seized 13 miles of rail corridor in Forest Preserve around the National Lead plant at Tahawus. It was a lease for war purposes that was supposed to end after war plus 15 years. This was extended until 1967 when the Federal government sold its interest in that line. The understanding was that line would revert to Forest Preserve if no longer necessary to facilitate mine operations. Under lease terms, if railroad was not used for mine purposes, then railroad would revert back to State of New York. In 2012, Iowa-Pacific railroad, which owns the Saratoga-North Creek railroad, applied to Federal surface transportation board to use this corridor as a common carrier. There was a thought that the mine tailings could be transported out and sold. However, when the Iowa-Pacific tried to do this, the attempt to haul stone out turned out to be a big loss, since they could not obtain favorable rates from Canadian Pacific. So, this was abandoned. Meanwhile, the Saratoga-North Creek Rail Road, a subsidiary of the Iowa Pacific, sought approval to store 300-500 rail cars of the 13 mile stretch on the rail line on Forest Preserve land. The operator admitted that although cars would be emptied they would not be clean. The cost of cleaning these cars would be \$3,500-\$4,500 dollars and would not happen before being stored in at Tawahaus. The main line would have to be used for storage. About 70,000 to 80,000 DOT 111 rail cars were deemed unsuitable to transport Bakken crude. The tank car owners could no longer use these cars so are now looking for places to store these cars until they could be retro-fitted or scrapped. But there is unlikely to be a market for these cars—there is a glut on the market. ADK opposes this storage and has expressed this to both DEC, and the APA. ADK also believes that there is potentially enough waste oil in the 500 tank cars to trigger the DEC's oversight over petroleum storage. ADK also believes that the creation of a de-facto junkyard of filthy oil cars along a score of miles of Wild and Scenic River corridors is a new hazardous waste and aesthetic eyesore that should provide jurisdiction for the Adirondack Park Agency to take Class A jurisdiction over the proposal. ADK's legal research provides a strong argument that DEC, and APA can deny permits for the creation of an oil tank graveyard of deteriorating filthy rolling stock. ADK also believes that our Attorney General has sufficient legal grounds to block the creation of the tank car graveyard by initiating reversion proceedings to extinguish any alleged railroad easement currently held by the Iowa Pacific.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

On September 30, the leadership in the House of Representatives, allowed this 50-year-old fund, widely viewed as one of the nation's most popular and most successful land conservation programs, to expire completely. Despite broad bipartisan support, and despite a deadline that was no surprise to anyone, Congress failed to take action to reauthorize it. That means that offshore oil and gas producers will no longer be paying into the chest that funds the program. Now that the funding connection has been broken, reinstating it will be very difficult, especially given the tone of this Congress. Earlier this summer, dozens of representatives on both sides of the aisle had signed a letter in support of the perpetually underfunded program, which has conserved more than seven million acres so far. LWCF purchases wildlife habitat, buys private inholdings within wildernesses and national parks, preserves cultural heritage sites, provides public access for fishing and hunting, and pays for urban parks, playgrounds and ballfields. And if put to a straight-up vote, reauthorization would pass both the House and Senate with bipartisan majorities. Unfortunately, action on the LWCF was derailed by far-right opposition. Congress is authorized to allocate up to \$900 million annually to LWCF, not from taxpayers' dollars but from royalties paid by energy companies drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. It rarely gives the fund anywhere close to that, though, and in recent years has sent about two-thirds of the allocation to the general treasury. The sun setting of the LWCF was greeted with dismay by conservationists and by many of the legislators from both parties who have long supported it, including Republican Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Ryan Zink of Montana. So what's likely to happen next? "This is a sad day for everyone who cares about our national parks and outdoor conservation, recreation and wildlife. Congress has broken an enduring promise to the American people," said Alan Rowsome, senior director at the Wilderness Society and co-chair of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition, in a statement. But the coalition, the outdoor recreation industry, other conservation groups, and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers aren't just mourning the program's loss — they'll be kicking efforts into high gear to get the LWCF reauthorized as quickly as possible. And Congressional supporters are looking for those opportunities. Sen. Daines told the breakfast meeting that reauthorization has "a higher probability if we attach it to another piece of legislation," so they'll be looking for some piece of must-pass legislation before the end of the year, like the omnibus spending bill or a highway and transportation bill. He and Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana, have also cosponsored legislation introduced by Sen. Richard Burr, R-North Carolina, that permanently reauthorizes the program, and Tester cosponsored a bill that goes farther, locking in the full appropriation of \$900 million so it can't be siphoned off for other uses.