



TRAILMARKER

Adirondack Mountain Club

Iroquois Chapter

Est 1972

January 2017

President's Corner...



From left: Kathy Miles, Nancy Buckley, and Bob Buckley. View from Little Buck Mt.

Photo credit: Paul Sirtoli

The annual Christmas dinner was well attended by over twenty members. As usual, the “pot luck” food was plentiful and excellent. I wish to extend my appreciation to Brian Sanders for a wonderful presentation on Mt. Shasta; Norm Landis for providing the projector screen and Scott Gaffney for bringing “extra” food from one of the local restaurants. Lastly, I wish to thank all the member volunteers who helped set up and clean up for the gala affair. Your help was crucial in making the event successful.

As most of you are aware, there have been a few personnel changes within the chapter. Roger Felske’s term as our director for six years has expired. Tom Andrew’s has agreed to fill that position for the next two years. Roger, on behalf of our membership, THANK YOU for your time and dedication in attending ADK Board meetings at Lake George. Tom, we look forward to having you as our new representative.

Tom Blackstone has vacated the Adopt-A-Highway position, for which he chaired for over ten years. He has agreed to be our chapter director for four years following Tom Andrew’s two year stint. Doug Tinkler, presently the chapter vice chair, has agreed to accept the Adopt-A-Highway position. I am most appreciative to Tom and Doug for their

continued service to our chapter.

As of this writing, there have been no student candidates applying for the DEC summer program. Our chapter will sponsor two candidates for a week at camp, a value of \$350 per candidate. Should you have nieces or nephews age 11-17 who may be interested, please have them contact Greg Smith or me, as the application deadline is nearing. It is a wonderful opportunity to expose young students to the natural beauty and rigor of the forest. For further information visit www.dec.ny.gov/education.

In closing out the year, and welcoming 2017, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals who devote their time and talents to our chapter as “chairs,” as well as the individuals who attend and participate in the monthly meetings. Your efforts insure that the organization functions smoothly. I hope everyone in our chapter will have a joyful holiday, and a healthy new year. Don’t forget to check out the trip schedule to see what adventure you can become involved with, or the trip report to see what you have missed. I will see you at the January meeting or perhaps on the trail. Happy New Year!

Paul Sirtoli

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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, January 3, 2017

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

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

Friday-Sunday, January 27-29, 2017

Tug Hill Winter Outing

Sponsored by the Black River Chapter, this club wide event is held at the Mad River Club near Lacona (roughly 30 minute south from Watertown). Lodging, food, recreation, entertainment is provided by the host chapter for a nominal fee. Ski and/or snowshoe outings suit all levels, from easy/novice to moderate and strenuous. Sleeping is on the floor with your sleeping bag. There is indoor plumbing, electricity and wood stove heat. You may attend for the entire weekend or simply for a day. For further info, contact Ron Fillhart at 430-7034 (cell) or 298-7424 (home) or rcfillhart@yahoo.com

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Chapter meeting at 7:30 PM,
New Hartford Presbyterian Church

The program will be, "All About Bluebirds - and More" by John Rogers, co-founder of the NYS Bluebird Society. The presentation encompasses the life history of the Eastern Bluebird, other birds that nest in bluebird boxes, nest box management, and more.

Next Newsletter Deadline is February 19, 2017

Iroquois Chapter New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Marge Darmento • Ellen Meyers
Robert Redfield • Michael Sanderson

BACKTRACKS...

Adirondack 100 Highest

Oct 26-Dec 6, 2016

From late October to early December, Jim Lomonaco and I have steadily knocked off mountains on the Adirondack 100 highest list. For the prospective climber, I would rank these mountains as the easier of the "other 54." The following is a brief synopsis of each. Certainly having a topographic map in hand would enlighten you on the routes we chose.

Cellar Mt., 3447 ft., October 26.

Situated in the Moose River Plains, this mt. is assessed from the height of land on the trail to Cellar Pond. The bushwhack is about a mile long; the last half is quite dense with conifer and numerous down fir tree's. The summit is marked with a yellow ribbon and small sign. The round trip from the vehicle took us 3.5 hours.

Brown Pond Mt., 3425 ft., November 2.

Having permission from the Deer Conservation Club, we mountain biked the forest gravel road bordering Sprague Brook which led us to the saddle between Panther and Brown Pond Mts. From that col we bushwhacked less than a mile through mostly open forest to the summit, discovering several vista views of Panther and Buell Mts. en route. The summit is marked by a small green ribbon and American flag. The round trip easy bushwhack took us 1.5 hours.

Puffer Mt., 3472 ft., November 7.

We hiked the Kings Flow trail from the Chimney Mt. parking to the Puffer Pond Outlet, at which point we bushwhacked up the shoulder to the summit. The bulk of the bushwhack was through open hardwood and conifer forest, with occasional sections of dense conifer. We lost an hour wandering around the summit searching out the high point, which of course, was socked in an extremely dense conifer copse. Our biggest disappointment with this excursion was the insufficient time remaining to locate the massive eastern cliff face. We attempted to return via hiking toward Puffer Pond, but were thwarted by a long band of steep, forested cliffs. Thus, we were forced to return via our route up, but in doing so, discovered an open rock slab giving us a splendid view of Bullhead Mountain. The entire hike took us 7.5 hours.

Bullhead Mt., 3432 ft., December 6.

We hiked the Puffer Pond trail from the Chimney Mt. parking area to the height of land, about half a mile from Puffer Pond. We bushwhacked north through a mostly open beech forest peppered with conifers. The conifers became more dense as we approached the summit cone. We managed to snake our way through various openings as we switch backed our route up the gradient. Just shy of the summit we found a relatively open vista to Gore and Eleventh Mountains. A red ribbon marked the summit. Rather than return the same way, we bushwhacked west toward Chimney Mt. Though far more steeper than our approach, the forest appeared

to be more open as we descended. The entire excursion took us 5.5 hours.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Paul Sirtoli near summit of Bullhead Mt.

Photo credit: Jim Lomonaco

Sugarloaf Mt.

November 1, 2016

As you drive to Wakely Dam down the Cedar River Road in the northeast fringe of the West Canada Lake Wilderness, you should eventually observe the massive, near vertical cliff of Sugarloaf Mountain, our destination on this cool and over cast day. To make a loop, Kathy Miles suggested that we begin on the NP trail, then bushwhack to Water Barrel Mountain (because it was a cool sounding name), then continue along the ridge line to the summit of Sugarloaf, where the cliff access would be. We would return via the NP trail where the car was parked.

The plan was straight forward and simple until we hit the somewhat dense conifer forest while approaching the Water Barrel summit. Given the conditions, we chose not to meander around to discover view points. From the summit vicinity, we headed toward the Sugarloaf summit which is essentially an extension of the ridge. Hoping for hardwoods, the conifer forest became more dense thus impeding bushwhacking progress. Nonetheless, we did find occasions to catch a side view of the sheer immensity of the rock slab as we approached the summit. As bushwhacking became more onerous, we broke away from the north-south ridge line, dropping downhill in a westerly direction until we encountered a more forgiving forest. We circled around to the backside of Sugarloaf and continued our ascent. Although an improvement, we soon were crawling over and around dead fall, and carefully plodding through low, shrubby fir trees which

seemingly dominated the summit area. Eventually we arrived at the steep cliff top wall, where surprisingly a relative large clearing allowed us to relax, eat lunch and take photos. There was a splendid view of the Cedar River, Cedar River Flow and the Brown Pond Mountain massive. Despite the forecast for clearing skies, it was snowing lightly all day with the overcast sky obscuring views of distant mountains.

Rather than retrace our steps, we chose instead to bushwhack northwest down the steep backside. Luckily, the conifer forest was relatively open and free of the fir underbrush thereby allowing easier bushwhacking. We soon encountered hardwoods and the NP trail at the base of the Metcalf Range. It was such a joy to walk on a trail back to the parking lot. This supposedly “easy” hike took us nearly five hours for just under six miles.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



From State Mt ledges with a View of Lake George

Photo credit: Nancy Buckley



Cedar River with Cedar River Flow

Photo credit: Kathy Miles

Ledges of State Mountain

November 4, 2016

It is said that here in the Northeast November is the month with the least days of sunshine. Friday, November 4 used up a large part of the November allotment. We had a bright blue cloudless sky as Paul and I joined the Schenectady ADK Chapter trip to the ledges on State Mountain. The trip leader was Norm Kutcher. There were a total of ten hikers.

We started on the recently opened blue trail at the Pole Hill Pond Forest Preserve, now NYS forest managed by the Lake George Conservancy. Since it is a fairly new trail, the trail bed wasn't worn down or eroded. It was soft leaf covered footing. The blue trail starts right out climbing steadily for about a mile and a half. We then left the trail to head to the ledges. We continued to climb and then rock scrambled to the open ledge with a magnificent view south down the lower half of Lake George. After soaking up the sun and view we looped west to rejoin the blue trail. We glimpsed more views of Lake George through the big open woods of this area. This is one of many Parks and Preserves in the Lake George area managed by the LGLC. For up to date information and hike ideas visit lglc.org.

submitted by Kathy Miles

Mt Blue

November 10, 2016

At over 2900 ft., Mt. Blue stands out prominently on the western shore of Garnet Lake in the Wilcox Wild Forest. To access the summit the hiker will have to drive down a private road, canoe across Garnet Lake, or wait until winter and snowshoe across the frozen surface of the lake.

Having the Bakers Mills USGS quad. map in hand, I accompanied Jim Hopson in finding an alternate route to access the partially open summit of Mt. Blue.

Parking at the Fish Ponds trail head on Bartman Road in Bakers Mills, Jim and I proceeded down the snowmobile/hiking trail roughly two miles to the Fish Ponds. We commenced our bushwhack midway between the two ponds by following a creek southeast to the foot of Mt. Blue, stopping occasionally to admire several small water falls en route. Rather than climb the steep northwest face, we elected to visit a large unnamed beaver pond situated west of the mountain, a short distance from our current position near the creek's source. From the pond we bushwhacked generally northeast toward the summit through a somewhat open conifer forest. Several treeless, rock slide promenades on the south-western shoulder provided wonderful views of the mountainous landscape, including but not limited to Hadley Mt., Hamilton Mt., Black Mt. and Georgia Mt. Upon arriving at the summit, the near treeless east and southeast face of Mt. Blue lent a spectacular view of Garnet Lake, Crane Mt., Bald and Moose Mt., Wolf Pond Mt. as well as the distant mountains in Vermont.

Since three hours of daylight remained, we chose to forego checking out Ross Mt. cliffs to the north. We did, however, head north and west off the summit to a small beaver vly lying between two lower, minor peaks northwest from the summit. Knowing exactly where we were on the map, we headed directly to the Fish Pond trail, thus completing a desired loop. Bushwhacking was tedious as most of the landscape was riddled with hobble bush and small beech trees. We arrived at the car by 5 PM, thus completing an eleven mile journey with 1,800 ft. of elevation gain in eight hours of hiking both on and off the trail. In case you are wondering, I would rather wait for winter conditions to climb the mountain.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Unnamed beaver pond near the base of Mt. Blue

Photo credit: Jim Hopson

Mud Lake

Photo credit: Steve Siegard

Mud Lake, Northville-Lake Placid Trail

November 13, 2016

For this scheduled Iroquois Chapter trip at the newly established beginning of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, I was joined by members of the Albany and Glens Falls ADK chapters. After spotting a car at the Benson trail head (for a possible thru trip) we commenced our hike from the Gifford Valley trail head. Like many of the Catskill peaks, we immediately started to climb on the switchback trail. The trail was well marked, but we occasionally wandered off it due to the thick leaf litter on the forest floor which obliterated the path. We arrived at Mud Lake after an hour of steady hiking. Nestled in a bowl among closely cropped low lying hills, Mud lake appeared to be a rather long, narrow beaver pond bordered by wetlands at each end.

Following a round of photo ops., the group bushwhacked to “Mud Lake Ridge.” Overlooking the lake, the extensive rocky bare face afforded nice views of Sacandaga Reservoir to the south, with Pinnacle Mt. and Panther Mt. to the west. The open forest had several clearings in it that allowed decent views of the cliffs on Sacandaga Mt. to the north. After lunch, we bushwhacked west off the ridge, since the south face rock slab was too steep to descend. Eventually we intersected the N-P trail, and followed it as it snaked its way through open wooded valleys to the West Stoney Creek.

By mid-afternoon we arrived at the creek. Rather than back track six plus miles, the group chose to cross the 80 ft. wide creek either by rock hopping or by simply wading through the frigid water. The crossing ordeal took forty five minutes. We continued our trek on a steady up hill incline out of the valley to the spotted vehicle, nearly four miles further down the trail. Arriving at the Benson trail head by 4:30 PM, the group hiked anywhere from 10 to 12 miles depending which gps unit was consulted. Surprisingly, our elevation gain was 2300+ feet in this otherwise seven hour leisurely hike.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Mt Erebus and Sleeping Beauty Mt.

November 27, 2016

After several days of banking calories during the Thanksgiving holidays Doug Tinkler, Carolyn Eastman, Jerry Stewart and Paul Sirtoli decided to cash them in on an impromptu hike in the Lake George Wild Forest. We parked at the Dacy Clearing on the Hogtown Road. The group hiked the very rocky and extremely wet trail system, passing Bump Pond en route to the lower slopes of Mt. Erebus. I erroneously thought the trail would pass over the 2527 ft. summit, but it passed no where near the summit. After I begged forgiveness, the group did bushwhack nearly thirty minutes through three inches of crusty snow to the fairly open wooded summit. Marked by a tall cairn, the summit views were limited through the leafless trees. However, I did find to the north a very open section of woods which lent a nice view of Black Mt. and Lake George.

Following our summit lunch, we returned to the trail and continued our trek to Fishbrook Pond. The pond is home to two tidy lean-to’s (one of which has three water craft) at opposing ends of the lengthy pond. A surprise healthy and tasty gluten free cookie treat from Carolyn energized us for our next destination of Sleeping Beauty Mountain.

Essentially, the side of this mountain is a spacious and massive cliff face. There are superb views of Buck Mt., Gore Mt. and Lake George, as well as numerous smaller mountains and hills to the west and south. Several years ago the summit of Sleeping Beauty was ravaged by fire, thus the surrounding landscape was dotted with blackened, limbless tree trunks.

We commenced our hike shortly after the photo opportunity session, continuing on the trail to the parking lot. Despite the 2.5 hour drive to the trail head, we had a wonderful time for this roughly ten mile, six plus hour loop hike.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Fishbrook Pond

Photo credit: Doug Tinkler



Summit of Little Buck

Photo credit: Kathy Miles

Grandma Buck hikes the Bucks!

November 28, 2018

Husband Bob and I have hiked Buck Mountain in the Lake George area many times from the Pilot Knob trailhead, but when we saw an article by Alan Via in the September-October 2016 issue of Adirondac magazine, we were surprised to discover that there was a ‘Little Buck’ mountain. So, we decided we must climb it, especially since it would mean bushwhacking both summits. Our two friends Paul Sirtoli and Kathy Miles were equally intrigued and joined us for our adventure. Following Via’s instructions we spotted a car at the Buck Mountain trailhead on Shelving Rock Road and parked the other car about a mile further down the road to begin our bushwhack through beautiful open woods. With Kathy on GPS and Paul reading the ‘lay-of-the-land’, we quickly reached the summit of Little Buck and found a great view point overlooking Lake George. As with most Adirondack hikes, one is almost never able to hike directly up. Instead, we had to go down off the summit of Little Buck and then up (way up) to the summit of a mountain Via called “The Yearling”, which was a 1,750-foot knob. Finding a view point, we enjoyed our lunches with ‘Big’ Buck looming over us. According to Via, it’s a 700 foot climb up in about half a mile to the summit of ‘Big’ Buck, after, (of course) descending into a col. Paul had us go up and over to a ridge which we were then able to follow to the actual summit. If you’ve climbed Buck, you know that the upper portion is very steep. We encountered ice covered rocks and a bit of snow, but it was easy to avoid these hazards as we proceeded up. Once on the summit we enjoyed the views of Lake George with the snow covered high peaks in the background. We followed the blue marked trail back down to the spotted car on Shelving Rock Road.

Our trip was a total of 5.7 miles with about 2,200 feet of elevation gain. It was definitely a beautiful, rewarding day in the Adirondack woods.

Submitted by Nancy Buckley (a.k.a. Grandma Buck)

Hail Mountain

December 4, 2016

Long on our list to visit, David Pisaneschi and I finally found some time to tackle this “must see” mountain in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. Accompanied by Doug Tinkler, along with Steve and Leslie Siegard (Albany Chapter), the group commenced their hike at the Hammond Pond trail head prior to 9 AM. En route to the first Black Brook Pond two miles away, we took a 15 minute detour to visit Hammond Pond, which afforded us a grand view of the Bloody Mt. rocky summit.

Back on the main trail, we lost some time trying to cross the Black Brook, eventually finding a stepping stone bridge a short distance from the beaver dam which flooded the trail. At the first Black Brook Pond, now enlarged due to beaver activity, we started our bushwhack north of the flooded region through the relatively open forest.

Angling eastward toward the ridge line which led to the summit, we encountered rock slabs, ledges and small cliffs as we gained elevation. We snaked our way over and around the many open false summits, stopping often to gaze upon the distant high peaks whose snow covered slopes glistened with snow and ice. By early afternoon, we were standing on a very large rocky cone staring at nearby mountains and ponds. At 2,600 plus feet, the gps indicated that we were on the summit. However, the next rise over a long, rocky, treeless ridge appeared to be higher. Inviting that it was, the group chose to turn around due to daylight and time constraints. It had taken us four hours to arrive at this point.

We descended via a different ridge shoulder; taking advantage of open vistas to gaze at the panoramic mountain landscape lying before us. Skirting Bloody Pond to our west, we eventually intersected our bushwhack trail near Black Brook. Our goal was to make it across the stone bridge in the daylight and arrive at the vehicles by dusk.

Depending upon which gps was telling the truth, we hiked over 10 miles in 7.5 hours. Our elevation gain was over 2000 feet. The mountains in this region, and the incredible scenic views they present in this part of the Adirondack park rival the high peaks, minus the people pressure. We will return when more daylight is available.

submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Hail Mt. in background from false summit

Photo credit: Steve Siegard

Wakely Mountain

December 11, 2016

I had planned a climb of this Fire Tower for a few months. I watched the weather closely and on Saturday morning, I decided that it should be good enough for the climb on Sunday Dec 11th. The snow levels were reported to be low and when I left the Utica area, there was more grass than snow. This 6.2 mile roundtrip trip, on paper, didn't seem to be too difficult, especially after some of the other climbs I did this year. I took the NE route to Indian Lake, then west on Rt. 28, to Cedar River Rd. I took it for a few (10.6) miles and hit a seasonal road where I had to switch into four wheel drive.

I arrived at the trail head (as indicated by the DEC signs) but didn't notice any parking area on the left (as the trail information stated). I parked at the bottom of the hill and hit the trail. I checked my GPS to see if it was ready and was shocked to see that I was less than 100' from the summit. Wow! I don't remember where I got the coordinates from, but they were wrong. The last tracks I could see appeared to be just a single hiker and a dog. The snow got deeper as I continued down the trail. Soon, I hit a narrow bridge with a hand rail. The snow was about eight to ten inches deep and hard to navigate, with my snow shoes hanging over the edges.

Just before I hit the intersection, I caught a glimpse of the Fire Tower, through the trees. At the intersection, a sign indicated that it was one mile to the "Observatory" at an elevation of 3744 feet. That meant that I would have to climb 1200' in one mile. Wow! I started up the trail and it immediately began a steep rise. The higher I climbed, the trail got steeper and the snow got deeper. I estimated it to be over a foot deep. The trees were very pretty with the snow holding their branches down. There was hardly any ice and because the snow was so fresh, I could still feel the rocks. For a long time, I didn't see any red DEC markers. After a few more minutes I finally saw a red marker and noticed that this marker was made out of metal. It appeared to be very old because it still had

the "Conservation Department" wording and a "68" in the middle. I'm not sure if it is the year it was placed or what. The very next marker I saw was the same, but this one had a "68". Now I was very curious and couldn't wait for the next marker. I was disappointed to see a plastic marker with the NYS DEC logo. The next few were the same, as I continued to climb. I really enjoyed the beauty of the fresh snow on the trees. The trees were very dense as I climbed. The snow was now about 18" deep and the trail got steeper. As it turned more southerly I noticed the Helicopter pad. I was tempted to investigate but decided to hit it on the way down.

I arrived on the summit and spotted a picnic table by the base of the tower. As I climbed the tower, the steps were filled with crusty snow that had been blown onto and froze onto the stairs. I had to jam my feet into the space between stairs and hold on tight to the railings. When I reached the landing, below the cab, there were no more stairs. A ladder led up to the floor, above, and it was packed with snow and ice. It was tough going and I had to use my fist to punch an opening in the ladder for my feet. The views up there were superb. The snow covered trees really stood out from the sky and distant high peaks. There was a super view of the frozen snow on the angle iron where windows once kept the wind out of the cabin. I didn't have a tape measure but it looked like about twelve inches of snow stuck horizontally to the upright members. I took some parting shots of the caretaker's cabin and headed down.

When I hit the bottom, I realized that I didn't see the Helicopter pad. I know I looked in that direction, but I didn't consciously look for it. I ate lunch and headed down. I slid (under control) down the trail in quite a few places. I was surprised how quickly I hit the trail head. It took only a third of the time to descend. The rest of the trip was also quick yet. I signed out at the register, changed quickly and headed home. I took the western route home through Old Forge. Snow was beginning to fall, and it took me an additional hour to get home.

submitted by Ed Kobos



A rimey view from inside the Wakely Mt. firetower

Photo credit: Ed Kobos

TRIPS

January 6 to 8, 2017

Annual Trails Cabin weekend at Heart Lake

Each year our chapter rents the Wiezel Trails Cabin on ADK's Heart Lake property. The Cabin accommodates sixteen people in four rooms with four bunk beds each (bring your own bedding). The cabin has a full kitchen plus 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 on 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 21, 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 ascent 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

January 21, 2017

Sargent Ponds Cliff

As one drives on route 28 just after Raquette Lake, you should note a prominent cliff strand north of Utowana Lake. Join me as I seek out this promenade in the Sargent Ponds Wild Forest. To make a relative full day, I plan to visit the Sargent Ponds as well as Haymarsh Pond to complete a snow shoe bushwhack loop of approximately 7 to 8 miles. Poor weather will postpone trip to Sunday.

Rating: B
Call Paul Sirtoli at 737-8353
or alexsirtoli@outlook.com

February 4, 2017

Snowshoe Highland Forest, North Country National 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 at 687-3589
or marycoffin@gmail.com

February 4, 2017

Little and Big Diamond Ponds

Given an extra vehicle, the tentative plan is to have a thru trip from Big Moose Station to Carter Station by snow shoe bushwhacking to Little Diamond Pond to Doe Pond to Big Diamond Pond and out via the Adirondack RR, a one way trip of roughly 8 miles. If there is no access by vehicle to Carter Station then this will be an in and out trip from Big Moose. Poor weather will postpone to Sunday.

Call Paul Sirtoli at 737-8353
or alexsirtoli@outlook.com.

February 26, 2017

Wolf Pond Mountain

Situated near Garnet Lake, the plan is to snow shoe hike the Round Lake/Mud Pond Lake trail to Round Lake. From the lake, we will bushwhack to Wolf Pond Mt. (2576 ft.), and given the interest to continue over to Cherry Ridge lying to the northeast. We will exit via Mud Pond, completing a loop of 6 to 7 miles.

Call Paul Sirtoli at 737-8353
or alexsirtoli@outlook.com

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 to 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

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 Iroquois Chapter Conservation Chair,
Brian Sanders*

As a summary, here are a few topics covered at the Fall Conservation Committee meeting which met November 5, 2016.

New York State Constitutional Convention referendum is voted on every twenty years, and this option comes up in 2017. A yes vote starts the constitutional convention process. The Conservation committee voted to recommend voting against the convention because of concern for the Forever Wild provision of the constitution.

The Adirondack Park Agency has presented four classification proposals for the Boreas Ponds tract. The ADK does not support any of these plans because they do not restrict motorized access to the Boreas Ponds waters and shoreline with a Wilderness classification. The ADK could support a Nature Conservancy suggested a plan that would limit driving access with parking at least a mile from Boreas Pond at LaBier Flow and Wilderness classification beyond that point. The Nature Conservancy plan includes a handicapped accessible trail from LaBier Flow to Boreas Pond allowing a wilderness access for wheelchairs, etc. Addition of the Boreas Ponds Tract along with the MacIntyre West and East and the Cassey Brook tracts would provide an important expansion of the High Peaks Wilderness. The Casey Brook Tract would provide possibilities for camping along the route to Panther Gorge that is now restricted as private lands.

An ADK proposal is for State purchase of the **Follensby Pond Parcel** which could be combined with a section of the Sargent Pond Wild Forest on the south and the Saranac Wild Forest

on the north and considered for reclassification as Wilderness. With these wilderness classifications the adjoining section of the Raquette River could be reclassified as a Wild River. A grant of \$50,000 from the Conservation Alliance is available to work on this proposal.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an invasive pest threatening the Eastern Hemlock trees of the Catskills and Adirondacks, has been treated in the Carolinas and the Pacific Northwest with a beetle called "Little Larry." It is proposed to grow these beetles, possibly at Cornell. The New York City DEP is providing some funds to grow the beetles.

The Blue Hole on Rondout Creek was accepted as a Hot Spot by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics program. The center provides consultation as well as local training and educational materials for overused natural locations. A problem originated when many hundreds of people began using the remote location in response to social media reporting it as one of the top swimming holes in the US.

The High Peaks area has been experiencing heavy usage becoming most evident at the ADK Loj with 3,500 to 5,000 users on the busiest days. Parking has been a problem with as many as 500 to 700 cars, many parking along the Loj road, while capacity is determined to be 200 to 300 cars. It may be necessary to involve DEC when the Loj lot is full with a ranger to manage the road. Also, the ADK may ask DEC to re-convene a Citizens Advisory Committee to consider changes in how usage is managed.

The Adirondack Loj Information Center building is being reorganized to better serve the needs of more hikers. The retail and information functions will be separated and independently staffed.

DEC Summer Camp Registration Opens January 25, 2017

Online registration for the 2017 summer camp program will open January 25, 2017 at 10 a.m., the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced today. Applications will be submitted through the online registration program available through DEC's summer camp website:<http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html>.

"The Summer Camp Program gets kids outside, giving them an opportunity to form a life-long love of nature and inspiring the next generation to become stewards of New York's magnificent natural resources," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "New York has a long history of environmental education and our summer camp program is a large part of that history."

Now in its 70th year, the summer camp program offers week-long adventures in conservation education for children ages 11-17. DEC operates four residential camps for children: Camp Colby in Saranac Lake (Franklin County); Camp DeBruce in Livingston Manor (Sullivan County); Camp Rushford in Caneadea (Allegany County); and Pack Forest in Warrensburg (Warren County). All four camps offer programs for children aged 11-13, while Pack Forest hosts children aged 14-17 for six weeks and Camp Rushford offers two weeks of programs for children aged 14-17. The complete schedule of camp offerings is available on the summer camp's website and the online registration program.

Campers participate in a wide variety of outdoor activities including fishing, bird watching, fly-tying, archery, canoeing, hiking, camping, orienteering, and hunter safety education. Campers also learn ecological principles about fields, forests, streams,

and ponds through hands-on activities and outdoor exploration. DEC counselors teach youth conservation techniques used by natural resource professionals, such as measuring trees and estimating wildlife populations.

Each week features a different sportsman education program (hunter safety, bow education, or trapper education). Parents and guardians are encouraged to sign up their children. Space is limited. This year, Week 3 (July 9-14) at Camp Pack Forest will once again be the popular Outdoor Adventure Week, during which older campers have the opportunity to speak with professionals about career choices, participate and gain experience in more advanced activities, and take advantage of fishing in more habitats.

All four camps will operate for seven one-week sessions (Sunday to Friday) beginning June 25, 2017, with the exception of Pack Forest, which operates for eight weeks. Drop-off time is 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, and the closing ceremony and pick-up time is Friday at 4:30 p.m. Campers may attend camp for more than one week during the summer, but cannot stay at camp on Friday or Saturday nights. One week of camp is \$350 per child for the 2017 year, and includes meals and trips.

In addition to inviting parents to register their children to participate in the DEC environmental education camp program, sporting clubs, civic groups, and environmental organizations are encouraged to sponsor one or more children for a week at camp. Groups who sponsor six paid campers will receive a scholarship to send a seventh child to camp for free. Information about becoming a sponsor is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/1866.html>.

For more information, visit www.dec.ny.gov, call 518-402-8014, visit "NYS DEC Summer Camps" on Facebook, or write to DEC Camps, 3rd Floor, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-5256

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.

Next Newsletter Deadline is February 19, 2017