

NORTH WOODS NEWS

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

From our Chapter Chairperson

Have you turned the calendar page to September? Have you noticed a few trees starting to change colors? Have you noticed it's getting darker earlier? Have you noticed Donnelly's Ice Cream Stand is closed for the season? Autumn doesn't begin until September 22 but we all know our beautiful summer is coming to an end. While it was hotter and more humid than a typical summer in the Adirondacks, it's been nice to be able to plan on daily activities outside without watching the weather constantly. We've had a great summer schedule with bike rides, paddling and hiking to keep us busy. Fall can be one of the prettiest, nicest seasons in the mountains. The Outings Committee has developed another great schedule to keep us active throughout this Fall and early Winter. Please come join us on any or all upcoming activities!

As you know, we are interested in recruiting new, active members in the North Woods Chapter. Often when I'm out biking, hiking, paddling or even socializing, I will get into a conversation with folks who are interested in our Club and its Outings. With an idea from Kathy O'Kane and design skills from John Omohundro, we have a Chapter business card to hand out to those who express an interest. The card has our logo, an email address to access our newsletter and outings schedule and information to access Adirondack Mountain Club to join as a North Woods affiliate. It's easy to carry in your backpack, boat bag or even in your pocket. These cards will be available at our October meeting and we would recommend everyone who thinks they have opportunities to recruit new members take a couple of cards with them. Our members are the best sales people for our Club!

Looking forward to an active Fall! Hope to see you all out there enjoying as well!

Gretchen



**North Woods Chapter
on Catamount**

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| <p>CHAPTER OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS Chairman: Gretchen Gedroiz Vice Chair: Kathy O'Kane</p> | <p>Secretary: Lethe Lescinsky Treasurer: Peter Gillespie Director - Marilyn Gillespie Outings: Carol Edmonds</p> | <p>Conservation: John Omohundro Membership: Elisabeth Craven Newsletter: Jim Edmonds Programs: (open)</p> |
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Conservation Report

by John Omohundro, Conservation Chairman

A rally and a counter-rally for motorless waters were recently held in Weller Pond. Should there be prohibitions or limitations on motors in certain park waters? There are already, of course. No motors are allowed in Wilderness units like Bog River or Pollywog Pond. Of the larger, accessible bodies of water not designated Wilderness, like Cranberry Lake or Upper Saranac Lake, 98% allow motors.

What's the argument for motorless waters? Some say motors ruin the quiet or the wild aspect. Others say they stress wildlife or adds pollution. Others say they're dangerous to small paddle craft. Collisions kill people in places like Lake George. ADK has not taken a position on this question recently, and chapter members I've talked with are all over the place in their opinions. Of course, horsepower limits are another way to limit motors. Or allow electric motors only, as is being done on Thirteenth Lake. Also, set speed limits: DEC reports that Weller Pond already has a no-wake/5 mph regulation. But living on Lake Flower, I see that no one obeys that posted rule in the narrows to Oseetah Lake, so I doubt its effectiveness at Weller Pond.

If a groundswell of opinion develops in the chapter on this subject, I will represent it to the powers-that-be, but in the meantime, I'm monitoring the controversy.

Salt, however, is bad stuff. New York leads the nation in the quantity applied to its state roads: 38 tons per mile per lane each year. The salt has demonstrably killed trees, polluted waterbodies, suppressed aquatic wildlife, and ruined wells in the park. What's to be done? If we take out the salt, will the roads be less safe? DOT, park officials, scientists, and environmental advocates are talking together about how to reduce the salt without compromising safety. I'll share what we know—or need to know—and ought to try in the December newsletter, arriving about the same time as the snow and ice.



Members meeting at the Chairman's home to discuss the Chapter's input on DEC Unit Management Plans

Director's Report

by Marilyn Gillespie
the North Woods Chapter Representative
on the ADK Board of Directors

This was an eventful meeting. The only action item was approving the minutes from the June meeting. The rest of the meeting was reports and discussion based on the following announcement.

A year ago, Neil Woodworth approached the ADK President and the Executive Committee, expressing a desire to spend more time with his family at his home in Wanakena.

To that end, ADK has decided to hire an Executive Director in the winter or spring of 2019 and promote Neil to Chief Executive Officer.

The Executive Director search and hiring process will commence this fall. The successful individual will have a law degree and will work with Neil for the foreseeable future, until such time as Neil and the Executive Committee believe the individual is fully prepared to assume Neil's duties.

It is anticipated that this will extend at least until the end of 2019.

At that time, pending negotiations with ADK, Neil will continue to be of counsel to ADK and assist the Executive Director on an ongoing basis to insure the successful transition. This will also afford ADK the benefit of Neil's experience in continuing our Advocacy and Conservation efforts in Albany and across New York State, insuring we continue to build upon the successes achieved during Neil's tenure as ADK Executive Director.

For those who have been getting their newsletter by US Mail, and are new to this expanded version of The North Woods News - The Bard of Birch Street is an Adirondack curmudgeon who rarely speaks, but when he does, his every utterance is in the form of a limerick. He has been contributing to this newsletter for over five years. If you would like a copy of "The Collected Works of The Bard of Birch Street", it will be ready for distribution in time for Christmas, as a (free) PDF document. Just send your request to adknorthwoodsnews@gmail.com.

The Bard of Birch Street

Rime of the Autumn Paddler

The last loon has set wing for sea,
But the lake—look! how it beckons to me . . .
I must eschew Bog Pond
Where ice quick gathers 'round:
I'd not be in good shape when spring comes, sets me free.

- the Bard of Birch Street

For those who have been getting their newsletter by US Mail, and are new to this expanded version of *The North Woods News* - "The History Guy" is a local author who each Quarter chooses a nugget of Adirondack history, researches it, and writes about it. He has been contributing to this newsletter for two years. If you would like the complete collection, "The Collected Works of The History Guy", it will be ready for distribution in time for Christmas, as a (free) PDF document. Just send your request to adknorthwoodsnews@gmail.com.

The History Corner

by the History Guy

Camp Colonies

In the late 1800s, when tycoons were buying great swaths of the Adirondacks and hiring famous architects to design complex great camps, there were also smaller transactions, involving people of more modest means who had more modest plans in mind. The Jordan River Club, on what is now Carry Falls of the Raquette River, was one such that I have known about for years. A group of families of comfortable middle-class status would combine to buy land and incorporate themselves as a "club," each family building a cabin on the common land. The camp community is one of many ways that regular visitors to the Park have organized themselves over the years. I am particularly impressed by the longevity and size of some of these. A well-known one is the Bartlett Club, recently the subject of a book by Fran Yardley. Another on Upper Saranac Lake was called Birch Island, its owners a group of schoolteachers from Syracuse. I discovered a club of tent platforms at the south end of Indian Lake, but the one I've learned the most about is Camp Sabael, on the northeast side of Indian Lake. Thanks to the Roesners, who are neighbors across the water, I have read *Camp Sabael: Its Story*, by Ted Colwell (2004).

Camp Sabael was established by a group of five friends, mostly lawyers, from Goshen, NY (Orange County), who in 1888 purchased 50 shoreline acres for \$300 from a neighboring farmer, incorporated themselves, and contracted with local artisans to build a cabin for each family, at a cost of about \$400 per cabin. In June of each year the women and children arrived and, with their maids or hired local girls, set up housekeeping for the summer. The men came for the month of August.

Families enjoyed motor launches, guideboats, and sailing canoes. Hiking expeditions to Snowy Mountain or other area attractions were organized. There was a 3:00 p.m. group "bathing" each day. The club shared beach bonfires, cookouts, hunts, fishing derbies, taffy pulls, card games. They shared an ice house, stocked in winter by a shared caretaker, and all drew drinking water from one spring.

As owners aged or died, they passed their membership to their children. If a family chose to leave the group, a descendant of another family usually bought them out. Three new members were elected in 1908, and between them and family increase, by 1990 the original five cabins had grown to eight, with constitutional provisions for four more. The seventh generation of club members was toddling around the grounds in the early 21st century (the Bard of Birch St. reports encountering a club member as recently as this July). Over 80 people showed up for a potluck to commemorate the club's centennial in 1988. The club has repeatedly attempted to buy the neighboring farm as a buffer and to expand, but so far without success.

The club's future is uncertain, as the number of descendants increases and taxes and real estate prices escalate. Nevertheless, its achievement so far is impressive. Imagine: summering with a community of people you've known all your life, as did your grandfather—and his grandfather.

THE NEW NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

This is the first issue of this newsletter which was distributed using the new “email only” system. We did not send you the newsletter - rather, we sent an email which told you how to find this newsletter on the adk.org website. You may have received more than one copy of that email, because we sent it to three lists: our ADK Membership List, our new Significant Other list, and our new Blue Line list. If you got one of those latter two emails, it said “You are already on the new Significant Other (or Blue Line) List”. If you got one of those, you do not need to read anymore of this article.

THE NEW “SIGNIFICANT OTHER” LIST

In the past, for those receiving the newsletter via email, when requested we have sent additional copies to others in a member’s household, usually a spouse or “significant other”. We will continue to do that, but we need to create a new list. If you would like this service, even if you previously received it, you will need to request this service now.

THE NEW BLUE LINE LIST

We maintain what we call a “Blue Line List”. Although it is open to anyone, it is intended to convey information that would be of special interest to people who live inside the Blue Line. The old list is being replaced, so if you want to be on this list, you need to request that now - even if you know that you were on the old list.

Send your request to adknorthwoodsnews@gmail.com . Please include the name and email address of the primary Chapter Member, the name(s) and email address(es) of those to be added, and which list(s) they should be added to.

Also, because of the large number recipients, some email programs may see our mailings as “spam” or “junk” and filter them into a spam or junk folder. You can usually prevent this by putting adknorthwoodsnews@gmail.com in your address book.

The Outings Schedule

The Outings Schedule is only available to Members and Affiliate Members of the North Woods Chapter. The 4th Quarter Schedule was emailed on September 11th. If you need a replacement, or if you would like a link to our online schedule, email your request to adknorthwoodsnews@gmail.com

TRIP REPORTS written by the Leaders of last quarter's Chapter Outings**July 2, Paddle in the Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area - Leader: Barbara Hollenbeck**

Despite the hot temperature several people enjoyed the paddle on the Ausable River to explore the Ausable Marsh Wildlife Management Area. We used the northern tributary of the river to gain access to the marsh. Interestingly, we heard more birds on the river than in the marsh. But there were some good sightings, not only of birds but also of beautiful sail boards. The Ausable Point Campground, just across the river from our lunch stop, is a popular place for windsurfers. Their expertise provided our lunchtime entertainment. A pleasant aspect of lunching on the sandy beach at the mouth of the river is the shallow swim area in Lake Champlain. Most of the group took the opportunity for a refreshing dip. On the return trip through the northern tributary we decided to turn in to the southern tributary. There is a new shortcut that flows parallel to the rail tracks, making that route to Lake Champlain much shorter than it used to be. So we took the opportunity to see what the beaches on Lake Champlain are like at that end of the river. We found that it would have been much harder to swim there, because the water is very deep close to shore. On our return to the train bridge we heard the whistle of an approaching Amtrak. Some of us were in the right position to watch the train go overhead as we paddled beneath. There was some discussion about the many tires noticeable along the shoreline and under the surface of the water. We were told there is an annual clean-up, when volunteers pull in a lot of these offenders. By the time we approached the end of our paddle, there were many more people starting their day on the water, probably heading for a swim on one or another of the many lovely, sandy beaches along the shore of the river.

July 10, Mystery Hike - Leaders: Marilyn and Peter Gillespie

At the request of the participants the destination for this hike will remain a mystery. Needless to say, none of the ten participants had ever been on this trail, and the leaders themselves had only been on it once before—when they scouted it out prior to the actual hike. We met at the boat launch in Tupper Lake, from which we carpoled to the trailhead. We departed from our cars at 10:40 a.m., enjoyed lunch at our destination, and were back at our cars by 2:30. The bugs were minimal. An ice cream stop capped off this trip.

July 18, Paddle Tupper Lake -**Leader: Barbara Hollenbeck**

Our group of paddlers was pleased to have warm and calm conditions on the big water that is Tupper Lake. We set off from the state boat launch on Route 30, and followed the shore toward the south, taking in the view from the water perspective instead of from the familiar road. We went around the south end of Bluff Island to seek our objective, and indeed there we found the famous faucet sculpture. It was lucky that the landowners happened to be



outdoors as we went by. They willingly obliged when I asked them if they would turn the fountain on. It was fun to see water pouring into the lake from a huge faucet high on the cliff. Bypassing the west shore of Burnt Island, our next goal was Watch Island. There we found an exceptionally high and long slide, one that would dump the adventurous into the lake. Although a family was playing nearby, we didn't see anyone trying the slide. After this short paddle we returned to our cars and proceeded to a leisurely lunch enjoyed on the trip leader's deck.

July 19, Hike Cobble Ledge - Leader: Elisabeth Craven

This was a full-capacity trip, as it was done jointly with the ATIS/HUR Chapter. Sunny, warm, and no wind or humidity, it was a perfect day for a leisurely walk to the Ledge. We experienced beautiful views, and had a great time socializing.



After the hike we all gathered again at the A & W in Wilmington for a walk back down memory lane to the '50s for a lunch of root-beer floats, burgers, and fries!



July 29, Annual Jane Neale Memorial Hike on Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain - Leader: Wendy Ungar

In a July marked by sweltering heat and humidity, the day selected for the 2018 Jane Neale Memorial Hike presented perfect dry, sunny, and clear hiking conditions. Thirteen registrants, many old friends now after eleven years of Jane Neale hikes, participated. We ascended the newer Observers Trail, the longer but less steep approach. In fact, a brand-new trail had been cut in the last few months to avoid the steep, near vertical stretch right before the summit, making the

entire climb quite easy. Spectacular 360 views awaited us at the summit, made even more spectacular from the cabin of the refurbished fire tower. A knowledgeable summit steward educated us on summit ecology. The hike was once again a great success, with close to \$1000 raised to support youth participation in the annual teen trail crew week.

July 30, Hike the Indian Pass - Leader: Carol Edmonds

The date of this outing was re-scheduled to take advantage of a fine sunny Adirondack day. There were only 2 of us, but it did not detract from the trip. I was amazed to see that the parking lots at the High Peaks Information Center were almost filled on a weekday. The crowds must have been headed elsewhere however, because once we got past Rocky Falls 2 miles in, we saw only one person, and she raced past us heading for Marshall. Indian Pass does not involve a tremendous amount of elevation gain, but it is long and challenging in its own way. Once past Scott's Landing the trail is very rocky, with bad footing. There are numerous stream crossings, and at one point the trail was actually in a stream bed. The most difficult section is in Indian Pass itself, where we had to make our way over and around huge slippery boulders. We managed to get to the top with only minor falls, and from there bravely started out for Summit Rock. To get there, you must go down for half a mile (always a discouraging process, since you have to come back up when you return). Be that as it may, the trail must not be getting much use, since it was overgrown and vague in places. Finally we reached a point where we were genuinely confused as to how to proceed. Realizing that getting lost in such a remote place did not seem like a good idea (and would expose us



to endless ridicule from our friends), we decided to turn around. The trip back through the boulders proved the truth of the old adage that going down is more difficult than going up. We experienced several falls, but no serious injuries, and we arrived back safely to our car. It was a great adventure.

August 11, Debar Pond Paddle and Hike - Leaders: Susan and John Omohundro

This was a joint Laurentian/North Woods outing on a fine summer day. Debar Pond is small and relatively unknown, yet offers majestic views of Baldface and Debar Mountains. After circumnavigation we split into three parties. Party No. 1 bushwhacked toward Baldface in an unsuccessful search for blueberry ledges. No. 2 returned to the put-in to picnic and explore the several structures making up Debar Lodge. The third group noodled around the shoreline, chatting up a pair of loons, and came upon . . . a young moose! Several of us swam in the warm, clear water.

August 13, Hike and lunch Mount Arab - Leader: Barbara Hollenbeck



We noticed that the trail on Mount Arab was unusually dry. This is partly due to the lack of rain this summer, but some credit (that is the right word) must also go to the continued trail work. Friends of Mount Arab provided a brochure at the kiosk to draw attention to labeled spots of interest along the route. The summit steward was happy to take us into the ranger's cabin and give a bit of background information concerning the history of the place. The clear sky

allowed for distant views in all directions from the fire tower. The visible mountains and lakes were identified on posters inside the tower. Plenty of people with kids and dogs met us in both directions on this popular hike. Our reward was a pleasant lunch at Raquette River Brewery in Tupper Lake.



**August 29, Picnic/
Paddle on Lake Clear
Leaders: Carol and
Jim Edmonds**

Due to high winds the original plan to paddle from Forest Home Road through Lake Clear Outlet and then across Lake Clear to the beach had to be abandoned.

However, an alternative plan was implemented

that most of the people who had signed up for the trip took advantage of. We simply went to the beach, had lunch, went swimming, and enjoyed each other's company. A few folks brought boats, so we had a chance to play in the lively water. This consisted of paddling out onto the lake directly into the wind as far as we dared, and then turning around and letting the wind and waves carry us back. This was actually quite a lot of fun, and we all managed to turn around without flipping. One of our group, who lives on the lake, had paddled over to the beach. Returning home, however, although she started out confidently enough, she found she could not paddle all the way back home due to the strong wind. She had to walk her boat in the water next to the shore, and thus managed to get to her destination. Many of the group stopped at the Edmonds' house afterwards for snacks and the use of a flush toilet. All of this was not as good as the paddle would have been, but at least we all managed to get outside and enjoy a day that was really very pleasant, although very breezy.



**September 5, Paddle and hike
Long Pond and Long Pond
Mountain - Leader: Caper
Tissot**

After a quarter-mile carry 6 of us set off for a lovely paddle on horseshoe-shaped Long Pond (taking the wrong turn once because the leader lost her map). We saw and listened to loons drifting in front of fall-tinted woods lining the shores, with not a cabin around to disturb the wilderness. It was 85 and humid when we landed at the trailhead, switched water shoes and paddles for hiking boots and poles, then set off on what Phil Brown says is

a 4-mile round trip past Mountain Pond and up the mountain. I trust the mileage he gives but dispute his claim in a 2005 edition of *Wild Excursions*, in which he states that the 900-foot ascent is easy. Maybe if you're a

good deal younger and the weather is cooler. For us it seemed a relentlessly steep climb necessitating frequent rests along the way. Two of us turned back, 4 made it to the summit. There we were greeted by one of the more gorgeous views in the Park. It is a 180-degree panorama of mountains stretching from Whiteface on one side to Ampersand on the other, including multiple High Peaks in between, with lakes and ponds in the foreground. A short walk to the other side reveals a different view, of wetlands below. After a lunch break we returned down the trail, paddled back against a heavy wind, and carried back to our cars. A beautiful day, a good workout, a weary group of venturers.

September 7, Hike Catamount Mountain Leader: Carol Edmonds

Due to questionable weather the date for this outing was pushed back a day, which turned out to be a very fortunate change: the temperature was relatively cool, the humidity was low, and the sun was shining, with only a few passing white fluffy clouds to be seen. We were afraid we might encounter crowds, since this mountain is now part of the Lake Placid 9r hiking challenge. Happily for us, we met very few people and had the summit entirely to ourselves. Catamount is a small mountain, but a tough one involving much scrambling, often requiring hikers to use four points of contact with the mountain as they struggle up over and around steep exposed ledges. It is also one of the Adirondack mountains that has a false summit.



Just when you emerge into the sunshine and think you are there, you suddenly can see the true summit looming ahead, which requires a steeper climb than anything you have done so far. Adding to the challenge is the fact that the trail is not that easy to follow, especially on the open ledges near the top. Those of us who had been there before agreed that the mountain seems to have experienced significant uplift in the last few years, making the trail longer and steeper. We managed to get to the summit anyway, and were rewarded with great views. A nice aspect of this hike is that you also get terrific views in various directions along the trail when you are ascending and descending.



September 9, 90-miler paddle and party - Leaders: Susan and John Omohundro

The air was fresh (in the 50s) but the winds were moderate as we launched into Lake Flower, streamed out into Oseetah, and then fetched up in a narrows to root for the first hundred or so finishers in the 90-miler. It was entertaining to watch people decide whether to go around the island or through the treacherous narrows (about a third of the boats crashed into stumps or rocks there, but no one fell over). We saw war canoes (up to nine people in a boat), four-person canoes,

and tandems, as well as solo canoes, some using a double-blade, some a traditional canoe paddle. Kayaks for one or two paddlers, a few guide boats. One paddleboarder soldiered by us. Some crews wore matching outfits—these we awarded style points. A few flew flags, which looked fantastic, but isn't that extra drag? Mallards kept wandering into the race lane. Returning to our house for après-paddle, we sat around a bonfire, drank hot drinks, munched chocolate chip cookies, and told tall tales.

September 12, Hike Ampersand Mountain Leader: Denise Erwin

Ampersand is a local favorite hike, familiar to everyone who joined this outing. It is always interesting to note changes from one hike to the next, and to compare the present event with past hikes. The weather wasn't what we normally enjoy, as it was humid, cloudy, and even a bit rainy, making the trail muddy. The hike up seemed to take longer than in the past. Although the view at the summit wasn't open, we enjoyed glimpses of the lakes below when the clouds blew by.

(For Bill LaRocque, in the foreground of this photo, this was his 53rd ascent of this mountain.)



September 13, Bike ride, South Plattsburgh/Peru - Leader: Elisabeth Craven

Perfect day for cycling, temperatures in the 70s, a slight breeze, and a clear blue sky. The apple trees were heavy with fruit, the views to the Vermont mountains and the Adirondacks were outstanding. We had to modify the ride a bit, as we were no longer welcome at the parking area that we have used for the past 10 years, so we drove a little further on Route 22 and found a school playing field with parking, bleachers, picnic tables, and a port-a-potty! We also modified the route (thanks to a participant's suggestion) by taking the Military Turnpike and avoiding Route 22. This was much less trafficked, and the mountain views were vastly superior.

September 14, Paddle Lake Lila - Leaders: Linda and Edward Roesner



Have you noticed? Over the past decade or so Lake Lila has acquired a reputation as challenging: "it's tough, you sure you want to do it?" Why is that?

Is it the access road, the portage, the wind on the water? But why the altered reputation? Have the ravages of global warming had an impact on conditions? Or are we just getting more circumspect as we gain in maturity and experience? Whatever it may be, the twelve of us were undaunted, even the two who were new to Lila: the access road is still unimproved, but it provided a measure of traffic calming in the person of a porcupine that preceded one of our

cars down the road for a few hundred feet; the portage is still rugged, but no-one carped; and the winds, they were scarcely to be found (0 to 5 mph). It was a beautiful day for a paddle on this magnificent lake, warm enough, the water like glass, reflecting the trees on the shore in their burgeoning autumn hues, the few clouds overhead, and the sun gleaming golden on the surface of the water. The water level is low, so as we circumnavigated the lake, we did not attempt to go up the Shingle Shanty Brook or down the Beaver River, and we had to be more careful than usual about rocks just below the surface. We checked out a few of the campsites for future reference and some beaches for potential swimming, and we pulled up at the trailhead to Mount Fredericka, where some of us did swim and others inspected the site of Camp Nehasane, which is becoming ever more overgrown.

One of us picked up a leech (he released it back into the water—good man!) and bled all the way back to the take-out, rejecting the medical attention proffered to him. Another was hit by what turned out mostly to be dehydration (a potential problem for everyone on the water on a warm sunny day—you gotta take fluids!!!) and was forced to return



early, happily without further complications. Thanks to these who accompanied them back to ensure their safe arrival at the take-out, and to the four anonymous 46ers from Albany who were at the put-in/take-out, up for a weekend on Lila: they spotted our friend's problem, and unbidden took their boats back over the portage to their car. The rest of our group returned to the take-out just as those samaritans were getting ready to launch. I was not the only one of our twelve who regretted that we would not also be spending the weekend on Lake Lila. [*Post scriptum*: current thinking places the cause of the medical concern on a pinched nerve rather than dehydration.]



**September 19, Paddle
Newcomb Lake - Leaders:
Susan and John Omohundro**

On a mild sunny day we loaded a dozen canoes onto a tiny trailer and hopped aboard the wagon powered by Truman and Jim, each of them 1800 pounds of equine beauty and power. They pulled us at a very civilized pace to the Santanoni Great Camp, where we launched our boats into the lake and scattered to explore. Some paddlers circumnavigated

the lake and its several islands, lunching at a lean-to. Other paddlers headed upstream toward Lower Duck Hole, a more riverine environment. We encountered noisy loons and nervous mergansers, as well as some icky bryozöons, but no other humans until we repacked for the five-mile return to the gatehouse near the highway.

Some in our party walked in, others walked out, all or part-way, and were just as fast as the wagon. A high point was watching our teamster, Larry, hosing down Truman and Jim after their labors.

September 24, Paddle South Pond - Leader: Barbara Hollenbeck

It was windier than ideal and the water level was low, exposing numerous rocks, but we enjoyed the short paddle around the periphery of South Pond nevertheless. A family of loons sang for us near the north outlet. A pair of eagles playfully somersaulted overhead. Lunch in Long Lake at the Adirondack Grown and Grub after the outing was an additional highlight of the day.

September 27, Paddle Massawepie Lake - Leader: Gretchen Gedroiz

It was a cool, slightly overcast morning with a distinctly autumnal feel to it as seven of us progressed through the Massawepie Boy Scout Camp to the put-in. Unlike many other Adirondack waters the water level did not appear to be lower than normal. We had a leisurely paddle around the Massawepie Lake, enjoyed lunch on an esker, wandered into creeks, and explored the shoreline. One paddler caught some small-mouth bass; another discovered a tick attempting to crawl into his ear. A stop at the Racquette River Brewing Company for an afternoon snack and beverage on our way home proved a welcome restorative.