

## TRAILMARKER

Adirondack Mountain Club

Iroquois Chapter

Est. 1972

November/December, 2018



Niagara Mt. and  
Niagara Brook valley  
Photo credit. Steve Siegard

Upon receiving the ADK chapter membership report from headquarters, I noted that the Iroquois Chapter membership is now over 500 individuals, including spouses and children. This ranks us 15th in an organization with 28 chapters totaling 27,600 members. Due to electronic delivery of our newsletter, The Trailmarker, our chapter saves significant amount of money by not using paper and postage. That said, if you are not receiving the newsletter electronically, please make sure that we have your correct e-mail address. Otherwise, please contact Debbie Pasch or me so that the situation can be rectified.

I wish to point out that several individuals who do not have internet access receive the paper copy of The Trailmarker. Steve Hunter deserves recognition and our appreciation for taking his time to copy and mail the paper publication. Should those individuals not receive a copy in a timely manner, please notify me, and I will contact Steve. He does need to have a correct mailing address. In any event, I wish to recognize Steve for his service to our chapter. Thank YOU Steve!

Several exciting chapter events will take place within the next few months for which I want to make you aware. We have a great speaker for our November meeting; our annual Christmas dinner is Saturday, December 1 (There will be no regular monthly first Tuesday meeting). Our chapter is renting the Weizel cabin at Heart Lake January 11-13, and we are hosting the ADK winter outing at Sandy Creek January 18-20. Please read the details for these events within this publication, and note the dates into your cell phone or calendar. Should you have any questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you at any or all of these occasions for enjoyment and fellowship. Otherwise, perhaps I will see you at the next meeting or on the trail.

Paul Sirtoli  
Iroquois Chapter chairman

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**UP COMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Chapter Meeting at 7:00 pm**

First Baptist Church  
7 Oxford Road  
New Hartford

Peter Hammerich will talk about the life of Adirondack French Louie

**Saturday, December 1, 2018**  
**Chapter Annual Christmas Dinner**

First Baptist Church  
7 Oxford Road  
New Hartford

Members should bring a dish to pass (appetizer, main dish, dessert) and their own place setting. The chapter will provide non-alcoholic beverages (punch, tea, coffee, water) as well as greens and pasta. Set up and happy hour is 5 PM - 6 PM with dinner to follow.

Featured program is Dr. Roy Cooley, who will speak about hiking in western Ireland.

**Iroquois Chapter New Members**

We would like to welcome the following new members:

**John Dieffenbacker \* William McAlee \* Conrad Smith \***

**Matt VanSlyke \* Annie Wafer**

**Ernest & Sharon Williams \* Sally & Eugene Heaney**

**David & Donna McKendree \* Richard Wright \* Kathy Miles**

**Melanie Haber \* Meho Dzinic**



## Wardsboro Road Cliffs November 12, 2018 (Monday)

From Middle Mt. in the town of Hague, I noted a nice band of cliffs facing Catamount and Middle Mountains. My plan is to walk the gravel road and locate this cliff band. I estimate the cliff ledge is off the road by roughly .5 miles.

Given time, I also plan to scout out a route off the road for a future visit to the impressive Catamount Mt. cliffs. This will be an entire day of hiking/bushwhacking of less than 10 miles. Rain/Snow will postpone to another time. Rating A.

Call Paul Sirtoli at 315-737-8353 or [alex@sirtoli@outlook.com](mailto:alex@sirtoli@outlook.com) (I need to be contacted personally, not thru meetup).

## X-Country Ski through Avalanche Pass December 8, 2018

Let's ski through one of the most scenic mountain passes in the Adirondacks from the South Meadows trailhead to Marcy Dam. Then follow the yellow marked trail through the pass to Avalanche Lake. Time and weather conditions permitting, we will ski on to Lake Colden and the Beaver Point Lean-to. If there is interest, this trip could also be a winter camping trip with us returning from the lean-to the next morning. Winter and cold temperatures have returned so dress in layers and no cotton. Bring your own snacks and water. No matter the conditions bring snowshoes and/or micro spikes in the High Peaks as weather can be unpredictable. Poor weather, lack of snow or unfrozen lakes will postpone trip to later in the winter.

Rating: A-

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359 or [Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com](mailto:Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com)

## West Kill Mountain January 21, 2019 (Monday)

At an elevation of 3,891 feet, this is the 6th highest Catskill Peak. This will be a thru hike covering 8 miles and involving 1,800 feet of climbing. We will start at the first parking lot on the Spruceton Road and continue on to our spotted car further down the road at the Hunter Mountain trail head parking lot.

Be prepared for windy, icy conditions. This trip could also require serious trail breaking. Be prepared for either. Snowshoes, crampons and microspikes are required. Call David Pisaneschi, 459-5969 or

## Okefenokee Swamp & Suwannee River Wilderness Paddle

February 28, 2019 to March 7, 2019

Join me as I return to a place I visited with ADK in April, 1985. This will be a 7 day, 6 night wilderness paddling / camping adventure. The Suwannee begins as a Black water river in the Okefenokee Swamp and flows 240 miles southwest to the Gulf of Mexico. It is at this source where our journey will begin. Traveling down-stream we will explore hardwood swamps, pitcher plant prairies, dark water creeks, and sloughs filled with twisted cypress knees. Camps will be made on sand beaches that make up the river shore. Accommodations on the river are back country and primitive. We end our paddle at the Canoe Outpost located in the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park near Live Oak, Florida.

Folks driving in will meet us at the Canoe Outpost located in the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park near Live Oak, Florida, the day prior (Thursday, February 28th) of the beginning of the trip. For those participants flying in to Jacksonville, Florida, please fly in as early as possible the day prior (Thursday, February 28th) for the beginning of the tour and contact our guides to arrange a shuttle. We will be camping at the Canoe Outpost campground on the night of February 28 so that we can get an early start on March 1st, the official start of the trip.

The cost will be \$600 / person. This includes pickup / drop off at the Jacksonville Airport for those flying, all meals, kayaks or canoes, all paddling gear, paddling safety gear, permits, shuttles and two local experienced guides.

You will need to provide your own backcountry camping equipment. Our guides will prepare and serve all meals. Meals included in the trip fee begin with lunch on the first day and lunch on the last day. The deadline for your reservation is January 30th.

**Leader & Reservations: David Pisaneschi, 459-5969 or [dapadk@gmail.com](mailto:dapadk@gmail.com)**

For additional trip offerings, last minute additions and updates check out our Meet-up page at

<https://www.meetup.com/Iroquois-Chapter-of-the-Adirondack-Mountain-Club/>

*Climb the mountain not to plant your flag, but to embrace the challenge, enjoy the air and behold the view. Climb it so you can see the world, not so the world can see you.*

*Author unknown*



## Monroe Skyline

Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Considered the most scenic section of Vermont's Long Trail, the Monroe Skyline crosses Mt. Abraham, along with two other summits, on the ridge with alpine summits. Starting at Lincoln Gap, Paul Sirtoli and I took advantage of a most welcomed respite from the extreme heat and humidity to traverse the ridge to our spotted car at Application Gap on Vermont Route 17, a distance of 12 miles. Enjoying the spectacular views, we were treated to three shelters along the way, the Glen Ellen Lodge as the name implies was more of a cabin than shelter, complete with pane glass windows. The last two miles were the most challenging due the steep drops, which required negotiating several iron rug ladders.

Our car at the parking lot at Application Gap was a most welcomed site as darkness approached, concluding a 10 + hour day.

Submitted by David Pisaneschi

During September, we led hikes for the Hudson River Valley Ramble, as we have for many years. On the September 8<sup>th</sup> hike to the quarry at Codfish Point, we were joined by Kathy Miles and Gail Livingston from the Foothills Chapter. Others joined that day, as well as on the next three Saturdays. The whole region is renowned for bluestone quarries. Hauling the best slabs was done in winter, when they could be dragged on sleds by horseback. A snowstorm trapped the quarrymen for days and they had nothing but canned codfish to eat; tacking the lids on nearby trees gave the quarry its name. There are great views of the Hudson River Valley from rock seats constructed by hikers since. On the initial trail through the Platte Clove Preserve, there were interpretive signs about the trees, the Kingpost bridge and quarries. A small quarry is off trail to the left, shortly before a junction with the Devil's Path coming in from the right at 0.9mi. That trail soon turns right to ascend Indian Head. Continuing on the Overlook Trail, the Devil's Kitchen lean-to is reached before a bridge over the Cold Kill. Another mile ahead is a yellow spur trail left to the quarry. Lunch was had at the gorgeous view. The quarry continues a ways ahead and there are the remains of what must have been a shelter for the workers. Retracing to the trailhead, we then took the trail to the base of Platte Kill Falls. Along the way is a stop on the Hudson River School Art Trail as well as information about the geology of the area.

Submitted by David White

Monroe Skyline David Pisaneschi  
Photo David Pisaneschi



Platte clove near  
Artists residence  
Photo Dave White



Codfish Point  
Quarry View to  
Hudson Valley  
Photo by Dave  
White

## Bear, Potter, Ragged Mountains

Thursday, September 20

For the intrepid hiker disillusioned with parking headaches and over-crowded high peak trails, then exploring the minor hills in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness may be to your liking. For this last day of summer, I joined Kathy Miles, Bob and Nancy Buckley to check out Bear (about 1,700 ft.), Potter (about 1900 ft.) and Ragged (about 1600 ft.) mountains. All three mountains have rocky, bare summits, and depending upon which mountain top acquired, you'll have grand views of Pharaoh Mt., Hoffman Mt., Treadway Mt., the high peaks and sundry smaller hills, ponds and lakes. Except for the northwest side of Potter Mountain, whose upper slopes are plastered with small saplings, bushwhacking in this region is through open conifer and deciduous forest.

The mountain triad is accessed from route 74 on the short swing trail. Anticipating bushwhacking, we were pleasantly surprised to discover a privately marked and maintained herd path leading up the northern summit ridge of Bear Mt, several hundred yards beyond the eastern wetland bay of Pyramid Lake. Otherwise, plan on using a map and compass or GPS to negotiate your way around the woods.

Having a great day of sunshine and mild temperatures, we lingered on each summit to snack, map read, and gawk at the scenery. Thus, our entire trip of approximately 7 miles took 7 hours of leisurely hiking. Indeed, this wilderness offers a big scenic bang for your hiking buck.

**Submitted by Paul Sirtoli**



**Top photo**  
**Bear Mt.**

**Bob and Nancy Buckley, Paul Sirtoli, Kathy Miles**  
**Photo credit, Kathy Miles**

## The Cranberry Lake 50

Cranberry Lake is the third largest lake in the Adirondack Park, a size that you can't fully appreciate until you walk the 50 mile trail that goes roughly around the lake. So in three days in September that is exactly what, Wendy Sanders, Doug Tinkler, Dawn Lazovik and myself did. We began our journey September 21st in the pouring rain at a trailhead parking lot on Route 3 in Cranberry Lake, NY. Due to the poor weather and forecast for more poor weather into the evening we decided to do the loop counter clockwise with the hopes of reaching one the of Lean-tos near High Falls. So we walked the roads through the Hamlet of Cranberry Lake until the route turned into the woods. We then had an uneventful but wet hike through the Peavine Swamp. About noon we emerged from the woods near the Ranger School in Wanakena and took a break for lunch. Soon we were back into the woods on the High Falls trail and we reached the first leanto at about 5 pm and to our great relief it was unoccupied. The lean-to offered us an opportunity to dry wet gear and clothing and spend a comfortable night off the ground. Day two was a dry but much cooler day. We sent off early and traveled through a section of the route that felt very remote. We encountered several picturesque lean-to and camping sites that could be destinations of their own.

We passed Cat Mountain and pond and Cowhorn Lean-to. We stopped for a brief lunch break at the scenic lean-to on Olmstead Pond which sits out on a peninsula and is aptly named the Olmstead Lean-to. Our second night was spent camping at the designated campsite at Chair Rock Flow. As the sun went down the temperature plummeted below 40 degrees. But we stayed warm by a crackling fire. Day 3 was a gorgeous day, sunshine and blue skies all the way. Once again, off early, we passed Dog Pond and Curtis Pond shortly after we got our first look at Cranberry Lake. We stopped for lunch at another campsite with a spectacular water view near Brandy Brook Flow. We then trudged along the remaining miles along the Burntbridge Trail and then finally along the East Connector Trail. We arrived at the trailhead, tired, sore and a little hungry and quite smelly, but pleased with our effort. We averaged over 17 miles per day and put in a full day of hiking in each day. Our reward was to experience good company and conversation as we discovered some of the wildest remote and aesthetically pleasing locations in the Adirondacks. In fact, on the ride home we were already discussing a return trip in the winter on skis.

**Submitted by William Luppino**



Sunset view from the Chair Rock Flow campsite

Photo: William Luppino



Photo left: CL50 trail marker

Photo: Dawn Lazovik

Above: Our group (left side

Dawn Lazovik and

Doug Tinkler; right side

Wendy Sanders and Bill

Luppino) Photo was also taken

by Dawn Lazovik.

## Pond Extravaganza

### Peaked Hill

Thursday, September 30

This writer was joined by Dave Kuhn (Iroquois Chapter), Kathy Miles, Bob and Nancy Buckley (Foothills Chapter) for a regular scheduled Trailmarker hiking event in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness. Parking at the Putnam Pond State Campground, we hiked the Bear Pond trail to Bear Pond, and the most picturesque Rock Pond. Appearing quite deep, Rock Pond has a multi-faceted shoreline. Its northern shore is steep and rocky, while the southern shore is relatively flat, forested, and marshy. We had a well deserved lunch break on a massive rock slab sloping to the water. Trout were jumping and two loons were quietly fishing.

Rock Pond is home to the ruins of a graphite pressing mill constructed in the early 1900's. All that remains is the large foundation stone wall and a giant steam cylindrical steam boiler lying on its side. Just beyond the boiler is a large man-made cave, with a reddish trickle of water flowing through it. Following our lengthy lunch break, we continued our walk around the pond perimeter, detouring on the Lillipad Trail to bushwhack to the very open summit of Peaked Hill. We were rewarded with grand views of the high peaks, as well as our prior week's destination, Potter Mt. bald summit. The expansive broken rock cliff dominating Potter's eastern face is indeed one of the Adirondack's notable features.

Requesting suggestions for new outings that you would like to see added to the calendar. Let me know your ideas and we will put them in future Trailmarker newsletters and on the Meet-up site.

When submitting trips please use the following format:

\*Trip length (miles)

\*Trip duration (hours)

\*Elevation to be climbed (feet)

\*Mention of any special equipment or other factors

\*Brief description of the level of difficulty to be expected during average conditions.

\*Brief description of the trip plan, including parking and possible hiking options.

\* Provide Trip Leader contact information.

You can reply by email or if you have any questions call or text me at 315-360-0359.

Bill

## Pond Extravaganza (con't)

Following our one mile round trip bushwhack through the open woods, we continued our trek between Rock and Little Rock Ponds, continuing past North Pond to the campground. Our leisurely nine mile hike on an invigorating fall day with tree leaves about ready to burst forth their autumn colors took us 7 hours. We gained roughly 1500 ft. of elevation, most of which was along the North Pond shore line.

For the readers who do not mind an approximate three hour drive to the Putnam Pond region, there is a vast network of trails to hike, ponds to visit, and low-lying bald mountain summits to explore by easy bushwhacks. It is all yours to discover.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Graphite drainage cave

Paul Sirtoli

Photo credit, Kathy Miles



**Peaked Hill summit**  
**From the left,**  
**Bob Buckley, Dave Kuhn, Nancy Buckley, Paul Sirtoli, Kathy Miles**  
**Photo credit, Kathy Miles**



Horseshoe Pond  
 Paul Sirtoli, Bob Buckley, Kathy Miles sitting, Nancy Buckley  
 Photo credit,  
 Kathy Miles

## Pharaoh Wilderness Ponds

Wednesday, October 3

Our third trip to the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness within a two week span to climb (bushwhack) Pine Hill was thwarted by inclement weather. Low-lying, drizzly cloud cover dampened our enthusiasm to hike through wet underbrush, with the guarantee that we'd have no views from the Pine Hill summit. Saving the trek for a more suitable day we hiked 10 miles on the Short Swing trail, visiting Tubmill Marsh, Honey, Lilypad, Horseshoe, and Crab Ponds. The lean-to's at Tubmill and Lilypad Ponds were very clean, and certainly underutilized per the register book.

Unique in character and size, each pond entertained our senses with marshy shores from beaver activity, lily pad cover, or rock protuberances. Our favorite and most picturesque was Horseshoe Pond, so named because a coniferous, large, bare rocky slab protruded into the center of the pond giving it the unique horseshoe shape. This pond would be a great summer destination hike for a wilderness swim. Despite the lack of sunshine, the emerging colors from the deciduous tree's and the brisk autumn temperature gave us thankful pause and appreciation to have this opportunity to be present in this wilderness setting. For those Iroquois Chapter members looking for a change of scenery on a vast, well marked trail network offering picturesque ponds, take the roughly three hour drive to the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness region. Even the easy bushwhacks to several of the relatively bare summits have views that would rival those of the larger, more popular trailed summits. It is all yours to discover (without the immense crowds).

**Submitted by Paul Sirtoli**

## Gleasmans Falls

Sunday, October 7

Our trail/bushwhack plan to visit Billy's Bald Spot, Pocket Ponds, Squash Pond, and Brown's Rock near Big Moose were "squashed" by the pouring rain. Consequently, Bob Hutchins and this writer chose a trailed hike from the end of Beach Mills Road to visit Gleasmans Falls on the Independence River. Rather than attempt to give directions to the trail head, you are advised to Google directions on the internet. Suffice it to say that the roughly 3 mile dead end road is hard packed dirt, wide enough for the passage of one way traffic.

Beginning from the parking area, the well used, fairly level, marked trail meanders through an open deciduous forest and passes several small streams. Early during the hike you will pass an old beaver meadow filled with stilted dead trees. It is certainly the most picturesque feature on the trail prior to the falls.

Gleasmans Falls is essentially a narrowing of the Independence River through a long, craggy cataract. The larger upper falls is grander than the lower falls. Due to the recent heavy rain during the past few weeks, the water was churning through the rocky crevice. There are several viewing spots on cliffs along the trail, which is situated high above the river. As a point of interest, the trail does continue past the falls to Panther Pond, about 6 miles further. Despite the rain, Bob and I called it a delightful day, hiking 6.5 miles in three hours.

**Submitted by Paul Sirtoli**



**Photo credit, Bob Hutchins**  
**Top photo: Upper falls**  
**Below: Independence River**



**Pilot Knob false summit**  
**Jordan Sirtoli, Paul Sirtoli, Nancy Buckley, Kathy Miles**  
**Photo credit, Kathy Miles**



## **Pilot Knob**

Wednesday, October 10

By the time I picked up Kathy Miles in Lassellsville, met Nancy Buckley in Northville, and rendezvoused with Jordan Sirtoli in Lake George village, three hours of time had elapsed from my 6 AM start in New Hartford. It was worth every minute for an incredible autumn trek in the Lake George Wild Forest. Rising from the eastern shore of Lake George, the multiple exposed, rocky promenades from the shoulder of Pilot Knob (2,960 ft.) afford phenomenal views of Lake George, the Three Sisters, Cat and Thomas Mountains, Prospect Mt., and the Tongue Mt. range.

The entire Pilot Knob massive is accessed by a well defined herd path off the main blue disc trail, and is marked by dark color paint blazes. It meanders steeply among cliff bands, rock slabs and boulders in a very open coniferous forest. The bare false summit offers the best views.

Rather than retrace our steps, we continued on the path toward the actual summit, to the site of an airplane crash from November, 1969. Using directions from the internet, we eventually found the site on the side of the mountain, at the base of a cliff several hundred feet below the actual summit. A granite memorial cross for two of the deceased passengers was erected on a large boulder, with plane debris nearby.

For the return trip, Paul and Jordan scrambled to the actual summit while Kathy and Nancy returned to the col between the false and actual summits. Marked by a cairn, the forested summit is quite open. Nearby, a large, rocky band interspersed with low shrub grass offers a grand view of the mountainous landscape to the south.

Rendezvousing with the women patiently waiting in the col, we followed yet another herd path north toward the valley between Buck Mt. and Pilot Knob, intersecting the main blue disc trail. Arriving at the parking area around 3:30 PM, we hiked 6 miles with over 1,700 ft. elevation gain.

It is this author's opinion that the views proffered by Pilot Knob rival many of those from the high peaks. And better yet, without the hordes of people.

**Submitted by Paul Sirtoli**



Kathy Miles, Nancy Buckley site of airplane crash  
Photo credit, Kathy Miles



False summit, Pilot Knob  
Photo credit, Kathy Miles

## Camel Hump Camel Mountain

Sunday, October 14

Jim Lomonaco and I joined trip leader Steve Siegard for this Albany Chapter sponsored excursion to these two medium sized mountains. in the Dix Wilderness. The trail-less summits are accessed via an unmarked, but apparently well used path that borders West Mill Brook off route 9. The path itself is at the end of a very good gravel road that goes beneath the Northway, and terminates at a large informal parking area. Should you drive this road be forewarned that you will drive across a small creek suitable for a 4 wheeled or high clearance vehicle. The flowing water had a depth of roughly 6 - 10 inches

Parking before the creek, we walked the dirt road and path until it terminated at a major tributary of West Mill Creek. From that point we essentially bushwhacked south on the shoulder of Camel Hump through a relatively open forest, reaching a large, barren rock slab within the hour. The view rivaled those from the high peaks: Wyman Mt., East and South Dix, and Niagara Brook valley dominated the immediate landscape. Although the rich multicolored landscape enticed us to linger, the very brisk, chilly wind got us moving. Continuing our climb on the shoulder through a moderately dense spruce and cedar forest, it took us an hour to reach the almost 2,800 ft. Camel Hump summit, .6 miles from our viewing spot. The extensive, exposed rock summit knob lent grand views of Nippletop and Niagara Mountains, McComb Mt., the Dix range, along with a near panoramic mountainous landscape of sundry smaller peaks.

### (Camel Hump continued)

From the Camel Hump, we bushwhacked to the smaller Camel Mt. to its rock ledge, and then plotted a course relatively north and east from it, eventually intersecting the West Mill Brook path. The upper slopes of Camel Mt. were relatively dense thus slowing our travel, but eventually transitioned into an open deciduous forest. Arriving at the car by 5 PM, we had hiked 10 miles in about 7.5 hours.

Niagara and Nippletop Mountains, Wyman Mt. and other nearby smaller peaks sport large open summits, and are well worth visiting if you do not mind off trail hiking. Certainly you will avoid the crowds the high peaks offer, and the views are just as rewarding if not more so. Enjoy!

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Steve Siegard, Jim Lomonaco  
Photo credit, Paul Sirtoli

## Pond Extravaganza

Thursday, October 18

For this scheduled chapter meetup mid-week hike for retiree's, Bob Myers, Kathy Miles, Nancy Buckley, and Leslie Seigard (ADK Albany Chapter) joined me to visit two picturesque bodies of water near the Putnam Pond State Camp ground. The individual trail heads are about one mile apart.

Lost Pond is quite charming whose shoreline is mostly boulder rock, with occasional sandy beaches interspersed. The 1.25 mile trail around the pond sports several attractive campsites. An old guide book indicated that a lean-to was present; that has been razed and the debris removed. The mostly coniferous forest bordering the pond is quite open, and is characterized with several unique rock formations. The portion of the trail bordering Abe's Hill is littered with large rocks and boulders, suitable for sitting but horrible for walking. The very brisk wind coupled with the cold temperature discouraged a relaxing lunch.

Within the state campground confines, the trail to Berrymill Pond is essentially an old, gravel road, with a marked detour around a beaver meadow. The road gradually climbs to this attractive pond, whose northern bay sports a brand new lean-to. The shoreline of this bay has several massive rock promenades to sit upon. The balance of the pond shore is a wetland meadow. Quite intriguing, a long peninsula jutting into the pond separates the northern bay from the larger body of water. Dominated by stately conifers, the peninsula has several cozy camping areas, one of which was the site of a now removed lean-to.

When our hiking excursion was all said and done, the group hiked nearly 9.5 miles in roughly 7 hours making for a very pleasant autumn day.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

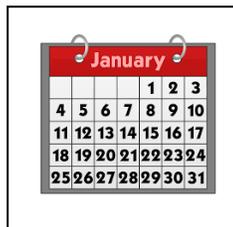


Above: Nancy, Leslie, Kathy, Paul, Bob, Photo credit, Kathy Miles  
Below: Nancy, Kathy, Leslie  
Berrymill Pond  
Photo Credit, Paul Sirtoli



## LOOKING AHEAD... WINTER OUTING

Save the Date!  
**January 18, 19, 2019**



Iroquois Chapter is the Host Sponsor for the general ADK winter outing at the Mad River Club near Fish Creek. Block out the dates on your calendar or electronic device for a weekend of skiing, snowshoeing, fine food, prizes, and entertainment. More information will be published in later issues of the Trailmarker.

## 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       |

## Opinion Piece for “Adirondack Explorer Magazine”

Mary Helen Crump (author) for “Friends of Brown Tract Pond Campground”, Sept. 26, 2018

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### Summary and Conclusion:

NY State Public Campgrounds are managed under what is called “Intensive Use” rules. These lands are the most developed (least restrictive of development) public lands in the Adirondack Park State Lands Master Plan (APSLMP). “Wilderness” is the most restrictive. Interestingly enough, when it came to establishing management plans for Moose River Plains Camping Area, “Special Guidelines” were agreed upon to preserve its unique version of primitive/public campground. DEC may not “upgrade” the area with features found in regular campgrounds. “Keep it simple” is what the people wanted.

The question raised here is: Should Brown Tract Pond Campground (BTP) (also in Moose River Plains Wild Forest) be protected under its own “Special Guidelines”. It is feared that otherwise its rustic uniqueness will be lost to DEC development plans which it has already pointed out they are empowered and plan to do. Preservation might just require amending the APSLMP. That’s a big step that we contend should be explored based on the troubling experience with the Draft Unit Management Plan. Will we see creeping “modernization” or preserved rustic camping at Brown Tract Pond, and how will that be assured?

### Brown Tract Pond p. 2

#### Details:

First, DEC published a five year Draft Unit Management Plan UMP (found on Brown Tract Pond online site) that failed to follow its own 7 step UMP Process! DEC bypassed the requirement to build in meaningful public participation from the beginning and refused to hold a public hearing at the end. Campers’ only recourse was to submit written remarks by September 30.

Second, DEC said they just had to build showers because it was their design standard. The implication that the State Sanitary Code requires showers in campgrounds is just not there. Moose River Plains Camping does not fit that code, either. So why should Brown Tract Pond? Stop designing!

#### What happened:

The roll-out of the “Draft Brown Tract Pond Campground UMP” was held as an informal, barely publicized “information session” August 30 at the Camp. Well, at least we will give them that. However, of the 19 campers who happened to be present that afternoon, not one wanted the \$800,000 plan to build showers into two reconstructed comfort buildings. That came as a big surprise to DEC officials. According to their own BTP website, DEC has hinted that not only showers, but lots more changes are to come...showers are just the beginning of “improving” Brown Tract Pond.

The Draft BTPC UMP is a compilation of local history, wildlife, land use, infrastructure and such. What is lacking is critical to its special management needs...a foundational emphasis as to what

### Brown Tract Pond p. 3

The public has held dear for many generations of camping. Not only is the camp remote, quiet, and rustic. It is small (90 sites) and “unique”. It has extraordinary “dark skies”/ excellent low-light astronomy conditions the report failed to mention (neither does APSLMP). Many of us come just for that and the miles of gravel and dirt forested Uncas Road that separate us from “civilization”. So who needs showers? That will just make it busier, noisier, less rustic, failing to take the forest on its own terms. Incidentally, showers are available on Rt. 28 Camps Eighth Lake and Golden Beach (no fee).

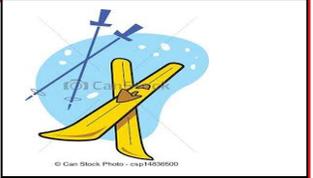
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“Friends of Brown Tract Pond Campground” are dedicated to lobbying for the preservation of BTP as a remote, unique rustic campground. Please join us on **Facebook**.



January 11-13, 2019

## 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 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 \$50 per person if the cabin is full, plus a share of the supplies for group 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](tel:315-796-0906) or [greg@adirondack-park.net](mailto:greg@adirondack-park.net).

### **A Message from ADK President John Gilewicz regarding the Executive Director position**

*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.*

*On behalf of the Executive Committee,  
John P. Gilewicz, P.E.  
ADK President*

Best regards,

**John P. Gilewicz, P.E.**

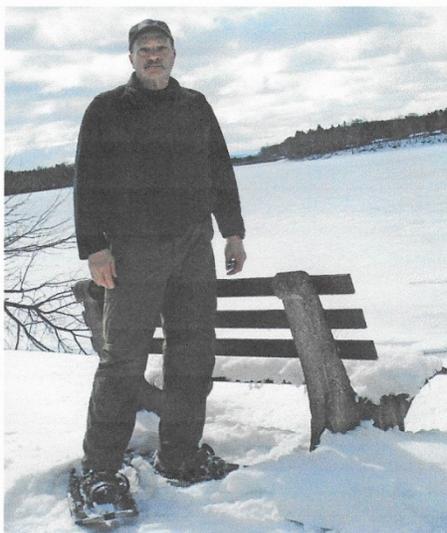
## Tom Andrews His heart's at Heart Lake

**TOM ANDREWS** puts the "heart" in Heart Lake. He is a quiet force, essential but not flashy, always there and, yes, sometimes taken a tiny bit for granted. For thirty years now, Tom and his equally dedicated corps of volunteers have cared for ADK's Heart Lake property, tending to the seasonal prep and repairs that keep the place safe and inviting. Work weekends to maintain the grounds and week-long renovation projects all require countless hours from Tom, organizing teams and

coordinating tasks. Even so, Tom says his volunteer crews deserve the credit, not him.

A Rome, New York., resident, Tom joined the Iroquois Chapter at nineteenth to spend time with like-minded people. He's a natural leader, so it wasn't long before he jumped in with both feet, joining the Heart Lake Property Committee and becoming a young chapter chair. Forty-five years later he is the committee chair, leads the Construction Bugs (see below), and is ADK's vice president. Tom oversees work weekends at Heart Lake in the spring and fall, enlisting more than fifty volunteers to complete seasonal projects. He finds a job for anyone who is willing to help—no special skills needed. Tom supplies the how-tos, tools, a helping hand, enthusiasm, laughter, and camaraderie. He guarantees hard work, sore muscles, and fun. Tom delivers and so do the volunteers, consistently exceeding his expectations.

Tom also manages a smaller, highly skilled team (eight currently), affectionately called the Construction Bugs. These volunteers come together from around the state, donating their time and talents to complete major projects on the Heart Lake property. Most got involved when Tom formed the group about fifteen years ago, so they've established lasting friendships and have a great time working together. They share Tom's passion, take pride in their work, and care deeply about ADK.



"Tom works with volunteers in a way that allows each one of us to achieve more than we ever thought we could," says Construction Bug Don Bennett. "He finds each individual's skills and personal drive, then enables us to grow and shine in our individual as well as our group's accomplishments."

As part of the Heart Lake Master Plan, Tom and the Construction Bugs helped ADK maintenance staff complete several upgrades last year, including a new porch on the High Peaks Information Center (HPIC) and interior renovations to that facility.

They'll pick up their hammers and

Tom works with volunteers in a way that allows each one of us to achieve more than we ever thought we could

saws again this spring to assist with HPIC's front porch construction. All of the Heart Lake improvements are slated for completion in the fall of 2018, thanks, in large part, to the hard work and commitment of the Construction Bugs.

After thirty years, Tom still loves his volunteer job. He likes knowing he makes a difference, but his greatest inspiration is the people. "The volunteer and staff enthusiasm and devotion have driven me to continue for so long," Tom says. "It has never been a burden to work on projects, but always an enjoyable challenge to improve what ADK has to offer our members, volunteers, and guests and to fulfill ADK's mission." He is proud that his work helps to ensure visitors have a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience in the High Peaks wilderness. Thanks to Tom, Heart Lake's pulse is steady and strong. ▲

*Lynn Shanks joined the ADK staff as*

### **CALLS TO ACTION**

**Volunteer for a Work Weekend**  
[ADK.org/protect/volunteer](http://ADK.org/protect/volunteer)

**Support Heart Lake Property Improvements**  
[ADK.org/explore-adk/heart-lake-property-improvements](http://ADK.org/explore-adk/heart-lake-property-improvements)