

TRAILMARKER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club - Iroquois Chapter

Established in 1972

July/August, 2021

C hairman's C orner

During our last chapter meeting in May, Stu Miller gave a presentation regarding the purchase of the 400+ acres of land adjacent to the Sherrill town park in New Hartford. Specifically, he was asking if our chapter would be a supporter to this endeavor.

Having never stepped foot into those woods, I and a friend decided to explore the vast unmarked trail system. The landowner graciously allows the public to walk and mt. bike the intricate trail system.

Armed with only a compass and cell phone, our one-hour exploratory hike morphed into a four-hour, 5.5-mile romp thru the woods. This urban forest is characterized by several steep ravines, open woods, a tranquil water fall, and an area named "rock city" for its unique, fractured crevices. Picture, if you will, the massive rock crevice on Ice Cave Mt, but on a smaller scale.

Our wandering led us to route 12B, near Middle Settlement Road. By the grace of God, we managed to complete a loop, ending up on the opposite side in the park to our starting point.

Should you be looking for a nearby adventure for an

afternoon outing, look no further than Sherrill Town Park, and the nearby trail system. Should the land be purchased by Stu Miller's organization, we will be asked to provide labor to brush and mark the trail system. Perhaps one of our chapter members familiar with the trail system will provide a trip?

Our next meeting will be September 7. A question to consider for members: should we resume monthly meetings? Are there members who are willing to be presenters? In any event, enjoy the summer, and I will see you at the meeting or perhaps on the trail.

Cascade Pond taken by Julie Rubenstein

FYI:

The link below is enabled for registration for the Fall Outing.

<http://www.adk-on.org/fall-weekend/>

Or go to Onondaga Chapter website.

Sherrill Brook Community Forest Coalition Update

Here is a brief status update of our coalition's efforts for the Sherrill Brook Park expansion project in New Hartford and Kirkland, 450 acres in total available for sale.

- The current owner has indicated they have a purchase option for a potential 50 acre solar farm on a wooded portion of the Kirkland parcel near Riverhawk.
- They also apparently negotiating a purchase offer for the approximately 160 acres of New Hartford parcels, potentially for another solar farm.
- If these other acquisitions go through we will ask the new owners and towns to consider including trail easements and forest preservation as part of their overall project approval process.
- Our offer for the 450 acres based on the restricted appraisal value was not accepted by the owner.
- We have submitted a new tentative offer for approximately 200 acres of the Kirkland parcels including three easements: to the Town of New Hartford property near Rock City, Brimfield Rd and 12B. We are waiting for the owner's reply, which is expected around July 12.
- Final ownership of this 200- acre property is anticipated to be one of the following:
 - Town of Kirkland
 - Town of Kirkland with a municipal agreement between Kirkland and the Town of New Hartford for park management, use, etc. Potentially with a community board to manage.
 - There is precedence for this type of arrangement in NY.
 - A friend's of SBCF would be formed for ongoing community support of the expanded park.
 - Town of New Hartford (directly or potentially via annexation)
 - Sherrill Brook Community Forest Coalition 501c3 (to be established)
- So far there are two major grants that would fit well with this project, if we can get a purchase agreement settled.
 - Federal Forest Service Community Forest Grant – application deadline this fall for spring award
 - OPRHP's Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage (EPF) – application deadline July 30
- We are presenting a project update to the Town of Kirkland Board meeting on Wednesday July 14, at 7 PM. All are encouraged to attend as it will show the board that there is strong community support for this project.
- The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust is supporting this project through the appraisal, grant writing, purchase option, and due diligence stages. So far their expenses have been \$4,000-5,000 for the appraisal and attorney's fees.

If you are interested in more details on any of these highlights, please feel free to email or call me at 315-272-7866 or contact one of the coalition members. Also, if possible, please support the initial efforts by sending your tax deductible donations to the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org and indicate the Sherrill Brook Project for use of the funds.

Hope you have a pleasant Independence Day weekend.

Sincerely,

Stuart Miller
16 Morgan Lane
New Hartford, NY 13413
315-272-7866

**Stuart Miller will be our guest
presenter for our September 7,
2021 Meeting**

SAVE

THESE

DATES

Blackhead Mountain Range

July 10, 2021

Let us continue the quest to complete Catskill 3500 by summiting Blackhead, Black Dome, Thomas Cole Mountains and the Catskills. The route I will be hiking leads from the parking lot at Big Hollow Road. We will do an out and back date is subject to change depending on membership interest and weather conditions. If interested contact me and we will discuss trip details further.

Rating: A+

The total distance is about 7 miles with some rugged terrain and steep inclines. Bring your own snacks and water. Trip Contact: William Luppino 360-0359 or Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com

Oak Mountain, Speculator: New Trail Work NCT 100

July 17, 2021

We will continue construction of new North Country National Scenic Trail on private land where the owners have given us a permanent right of way. Sanitized tools will be provided or you may bring your own. Work gloves are recommended as well as extra water and snacks. Current Covid protocols will apply. Distance: RT 3 miles Map: Delorme 51

Meeting time 8:30am or call leader

Meeting Place: Canastota exit 34 or call leader

Leader: Mary Coffin, 315- 657- 0229 or maryccoffin@gmail.com

Black Mountain Overlook/Summit

July 24, 2021

Located in the Siamese Pond Wilderness, the bare shoulder of Black Mt. (2,745 ft.) can briefly be seen from route 8 while driving north. Necessitating a wade across the East Branch of the Sacandaga River, we will bushwhack to the viewpoint, and the nearby summit. Note that I am leading this trip for the Tramp and Trail Club, and am extending an invitation to Iroquois Chapter members to join us. Round trip distance, 4-5 miles depending upon how much wandering around we do. Rating B+

Meet-up registrants must call me.

Call Paul Sirtoli at 315-737-8353 or alexsirtoli@outlook.com

Paddle Little Long Lake

July 31, 2021

We will paddle this Adirondack Lake, eat lunch on the water and possibly hike a bit on a nearby trail. PFDs must be worn on the water and current Covid protocols will apply.

Map: 2011 Delorme 49

Distance: RT 4 miles

Meeting time: call leader to reserve a spot

Meeting Place: call leaders

Leader: Mary Coffin cell 315-657-0229 & Brenda Veilleux 315-463-9103

Kunjamuk Trail Clearing in Siamese Ponds Wilderness NCT 100

August 14, 2021

Description: We will use the Cisco Creek trailhead at the end of Elm Lake Road north of Speculator. There is extensive blowdown on this trail on the NCNST route. Trail clearing will focus on blowdown removal. We will supply some sanitized tools and you are welcome to bring your own. Work gloves are recommended as well as extra water and snacks. Current Covid protocols will apply. Distance: RT 7-10 miles Map: 2011 Delorme 51

Meeting time: 8:30 am

Please call leader to reserve a place

Meeting Place: please call leader

Leader: Mary Coffin, 315 -657 -0229 or maryccoffin@gmail.com

Big Alderbed Lake/Mountain

August 29, 2021

Located off the Polly-Piesco Road outside Stratford, we will hike the three- mile trail to Big Alderbed Lake. From the lake, we will bushwhack 1.5+ miles to the summit. Views may be nominal. Unless we are looking for a change of scenery, we will return to lake, and exit via the trail. I am leading this trip for the Tramp and Trail Club, and extending an invitation to the ADK family to join us.

Rating, A.

Meet-up registrants must contact me personally.

Call Paul Sirtoli at 315-737-8353 or alexsirtoli@outlook.com for meeting time and location.

Volunteer Work Week Help Volunteers Build A New Foot Trail

August 26-30, 2021

North Country National Scenic Trail Hoffman Notch Wilderness, Jones Hill Section.

Enjoy Adirondack ambience of New York State

ADK Pro-crew training on day one

Volunteers provide own food and lodging

Limited complimentary camping available

Get in on the ground floor of this project

Join like-minded trail folks

For details and application contact:

maryccoffin@gmail.com

Limited space

For additional trip offerings, last minute additions and updates check out our Facebook Page or Meet-up page at <https://www.meetup.com/Iroquois-Chapter-of-the-Adirondack-Mountain-Club>

BACKTRACKS.....



On May 6-7, 2021, Lauren Gachowski, Julie Rubenstein and I went on a camping trip in the Blue Ridge Wilderness area. The weather was perfect; with a daytime temperature of 55 degrees (it did drop to 30 degrees by morning), no rain, and absolutely no blackflies. Our plan was to camp at Cascade Pond which was a 2.8-mile hike from the Durant Road trailhead near Blue Mountain Lake. The spring woods were glorious. We never saw another person, only lots of newly emerging plants like trilliums, fiddleheads, false hellebores, clubmosses, trout lilies, spring beauties, wood sorrels, partridgeberries, and hobble bushes. We dropped our packs at the lean-to and walked over to Stephens Pond, a place where all of us had camped in 2018 as part of a NPT thru-hike. After returning to our campsite, we made dinner and shared a splendid evening together with the addition of wine, hot toddies, chocolate, a campfire, and great conversation. We were treated at night to the hoot of an owl and later in the early morning, to the call of a loon...the Adirondacks at their finest.

Submitted by Wendy Sanders



Trillium taken by Julie Rubenstein



**From left to right - Julie Rubenstein and
Lauren Gachowski;
Photo taken by Wendy Sanders**

Big Shanty Mt.

May 8, 2021

Sadly, I was compelled to postpone the joint ADK/Tramp and Trail Club trip to Big Shanty Mt. due to pouring rain. Bushwhacking in very wet woods is an invitation to hypothermia and makes for an unenjoyable affair.

Wanting to take a "short walk," despite the inclement weather, we drove to Old Forge. According to several tramp meteorologists, there would be no rain in that region until late morning, and indeed they were correct. Phyliss Delia, Carolyn Eastman, David Rockwood, Greg Sipp, Cynthia Stone, Carol Szatko, Darlene Whitaker, and this writer walked the rail tracks from Big Moose to Woods Creek. The rail corridor coursed through several picturesque bog meadows that hiking trails would avoid. While approaching the vehicles for our return, it began to drizzle. Our "short walk" morphed into a 9-mile round trip.

Some individuals just don't know when to call it a day. No doubt, I am certain the reader can name several die-hards. Stillwater Fire Tower, several miles further down the road, strongly enticed several of our party who were eager to knock it off their list to complete the fire tower challenge. Now, it was raining steadily. Nonetheless, garbed in rain gear, the group charged up the one-mile trail. Upon arrival, we crammed into the tower cab for temporary shelter and views. The rain had stopped, but the low cloud cover obstructed the distant landscape.

Our half-day "short walk" became an eleven-mile excursion. However, when one is in a mix of personable hiking companions, who cares about the weather or the distance. It was a good day to be in the Adirondacks.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Big Moose and Stillwater Fire tower pictures
Credit to Dave Rockwood.

Cicero Swamp Bike Ride

May 16, 2021

Cicero Swamp on my map appeared very intriguing to visit; Hall and Long Islands seemed especially interesting to check out. I assumed that by being in a swamp, the "islands" would be connected by a bridge, where we cyclists could stop and observe some wildlife. What I "thought" and what was in fact reality were starkly different.

Our bike ride began in South Bay, near Oneida Lake. By the time we cycled 19 miles, I was wondering if we had made a wrong turn, and missed the islands. Over 3,000 acres, Cicero Swamp is a vast, level piece of real estate, heavily forested, and apparently boggy. The "islands" are actually slightly hilly rises above the level landscape. I had pictured boardwalks from the road into this wildlife management area. Wrong again! Houses, farms, and large pastures bordering the county highway formed the outer perimeter of the swamp. Foolish me for using the swamps in Florida as a comparison to this NYS swamp. Nonetheless, participants David Kuhn, Kim Pavlus, and Nancy Schuller were very gracious, and went with the flow. Indeed, our picnic break at Chapman Park near Lakeport on Oneida Lake was a trip highlight. Especially enjoying the lightly traffic back roads for our return trip, the group rode a leisurely 46 miles in roughly five hours.

Huckleberry Mt.

June 17, 2021

In March, 2007, hiking buddies Bill and Doug, along with this writer, snowshoe climbed Huckelberry Mt. from Paint Mine Road, north of Crane Mt. As I recall, the property owner was granting access to the mountain, and its numerous rock clefts. The views of nearby Crane Mt., Eleventh Mt., Gore Mt. as well as numerous smaller mountains to the east, south and west were phenomenal.

Fast forward to June, 2021. The State has purchased the Huckelberry Mt. massive from the Open Space Institute (OSI), with road access from Warren County route 57 out of Johnsburg. Hiking with Kathy Miles, Bob and Nancy Buckley, we followed an old, very discernible log road south that went over the eastern corner of Huckelberry Mt. This road continued along Crystal Brook in the valley between Huckleberry and Crane Mts. At the SE shoulder, a spur road continued NW up the spine, eventually leading to numerous scenic outlooks and their respective panoramic views.

Seventy-five acres of forest burned on the Huckleberry summit in 2002. Scars from this conflagration were quite evident with burnt standing and down trees scattered throughout the landscape. Both summit knobs of the range are fairly open, but bushwhacking the ridgeline is a real challenge. Adirondack succession is clearly evident. Paper birch, aspen, fire cheery saplings densely dominate the terrain among the numerous large fallen trees now decaying. Needless to say, whacking thru this morass was slow and tedious. We made a special effort to cling to the southern ridge fault line, where exposed rock gave us hiking relief and fantastic views.

The most exposed rock is located at the western fringe of the summit ridgeline, where the view to the west and south is outstanding. Better than my word, the accompanying photos by Nancy will certainly illustrate the grandeur we experienced.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Kathy Miles, Nancy and Bob Buckley
Nancy, Paul, Kathy. First summit in background
Below: Left: Approaching the summit
Right: Crane Mt. summit.



First Summit
Looking East
Crane Mountain
Photo credit: Nancy Buckley

Table and Peekamoose Mountains

May 20, 2021

After a 2-month hiatus, it was time to go for a hike. With only 6 peaks to go for my Catskill 3500, I decided to go for these two peaks from the Denning Road Trailhead.

I tried a different approach to the Trail Head, by listening to my phone. She took me south of Sydney on Rte. 8, to Masonville, where I stopped at McDonald's for a SEM. Then I headed East on 206 to Rt17 for a while then back roads to Claryville and eventually onto Denning Road. I left home at 5:25 AM and I arrived at the TH Parking lot at 8:36 AM, after 136.7 miles. The temperature was 52F. I changed and was on the trail at 8:55. The trail started to the east and after some low ups and downs, I crossed a small bridge. The online information hurt me here as this was NOT the bridge that it mentioned. I took a look around and did not see any indication of the trail heading south. I kept going and about ¼ mile later found a myriad of signs. I took the trail toward Table Mt. I dipped down toward the river. The Yellow trail turned to Blue and after a few minutes I hit the beautiful High-Water bridge over the Neversink. Shortly after crossing it, I hit another bridge, not as well constructed as the first. I was now 1.4 miles in with only about 2.2 ATCF (As the Crow Flies) miles to go. I took a 5 minute break at 10:20, with the elevation 2373'. I hit the 1st minor peak at 10:50 and headed down to the col between it and the next minor peak. I only lost about 50' when I started to head up, again. I had traveled 2.99 miles, according to my GPS with .43 miles to go, ATCF. A tenth of a mile later I saw the sign for the Spring, but opted to keep going. I did however set a Way Point so this important location could be referenced. As I climbed up, I hit the 3,500' level sign. I know that there was a Lean-to, nearby, but I missed the sign, on the way up. The next stop is the true summit which I hit at 12:57PM. My GPS read 3.66 miles in at an elevation of 3865', but I know that I lost contact with the satellites, a few times, so the final distance would have to be adjusted, at home. I took my lunch break and also reapplied my bug repellent, sitting next to the rocky cairn. The bugs really were not too bad. From here all I could see, were trees, trees and more trees. I changed my GPS to 'GoTo' Peekamoose and read the ATCF distance to be .48 miles. I headed out at 1:40 after eating half of my Arby's Beef-'n-Cheddar, with 'horsey' sauce and a Yoo-hoo. This part of the trail actually took the two legs of a right triangle, which should have been longer than the ATCF Hypotenuse, but not according to my GPS, which was shorter (by .04 miles). I don't know how this is possible. Again, I figured I would figure it out, later, at home. At the PAM Summit was the largest Cairn I ever saw. It was actually 1 big rock. The only view here was the Big Rock. We took a few short jaunts, looking for a view but found none. Maybe I needed to spend more time looking, but I had a self-imposed deadline to start back. On the Trail, again (OTTA), back to Table. I didn't take very many pictures, as I walked at a faster pace, back to table, BUT I did take a detour to a pseudo 'lookout' to the east, for a few pictures. At home, I could see that the camera didn't do the view, justice. I was back at the Table Cairn at 3:14, took a short break to take an Advil and an energy shot. After 5 minutes I was OTTA. I hustled down the trail, but this time I did see the sign, pointing to the Lean-to. Next came the Spring and I again decided to forego the trip. After all I was carrying over 3 liters of water and I guessed that I had over 1 left along with a 22 oz. bottle of Gatorade, in my pack. The trip down seemed a lot shorter, even though I was more tired. I was finally back at the trailhead at 7:77. I changed and was in the car heading home. I faced the sun for quite a long time, so my time home was 15 minutes longer than my trip to the TH. Back home I decoded my GPS Data and came up with the following, excluding my lunch breaks and including some bushwhacking to look for a view:

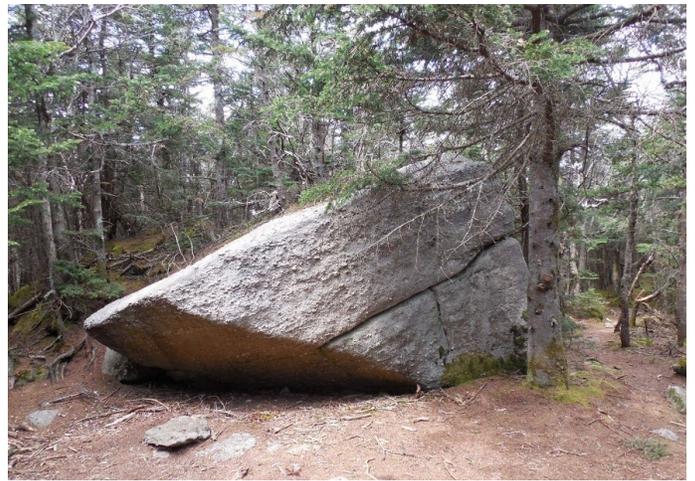
Table and Peekamoose Mountains (continued)

Trailhead-2-Table	- 4.2 miles	3:48 Hr.
Table to Peekamoose	- 0.8 miles	0:35 Hr.
Peekamoose to Table	- 0.8 miles	0:36 Hr.
Table to Trailhead	- 4.3 miles	2:43 Hr.

Oh, yea, ... my total climb was 5,048 feet. Wow! Overall a fun hike. It didn't seem like it, but I did take XXX pictures. Now I only have 4 peaks to go, to complete my Catskill 3500. The HARD ones! I know that there may not be much room in this issue, so if you want to see my GPS Track or some of my pictures, just send me an E-Mail and I'll oblige. 😊

Submitted by Ed Kobos

Photo Credit: Ed Kobos



FYI:

A bear canister is available for use with a refundable deposit of \$20.00.



CHAPTER OUTINGS				
<i>Rating</i>	<i>Effort Level</i>	<i>Elevation gain</i>	<i>Miles (round trip)</i>	<i>Time in Hours</i>
A +	<i>Very Strenuous</i>	<i>4000 ft +</i>	<i>10 +</i>	<i>10 +</i>
A	<i>Strenuous</i>	<i>3000 ft +</i>	<i>5 - 10</i>	<i>8 - 10</i>
B +	<i>Mod. Strenuous</i>	<i>2000 ft +</i>	<i>5 - 10</i>	<i>6 - 8</i>
B	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>1000 ft +</i>	<i>8 - 10</i>	<i>5 - 7</i>
C +	<i>Fairly Easy</i>	<i>1000 ft +</i>	<i>5 - 8</i>	<i>4 - 6</i>
C	<i>Easy</i>	<i>under 1000 ft</i>	<i>under 5</i>	<i>under 5</i>

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

**ADK Iroquois Chapter Warmly Welcomes
The Following New Members**

Scott Hosler* Lynne Morinitti *Dianne Nassar *

Mark Schug * Paula Spring * Barbara Stephen

Update on the Adirondack Wilderness Camping Challenge

It has been almost nine months since the [Adirondack Wilderness Camping Challenge](#) was launched, and I thought that an update would be helpful for gauging progress and highlighting outcomes. This is a unique challenge that requires participants to camp in 18 of the 21 designated wilderness areas within the Adirondack Park. These wilderness areas are protected and managed by the Adirondack Park Agency to preserve them in their natural state for present and future generations. I have been working through this camping challenge myself, and in the process, have come to some valuable discoveries.

First of all, this challenge has encouraged me to venture out beyond my favorite outdoor trails and waterways, and gain a deeper connection to landscapes I would otherwise overlook. Since the onset of this challenge, I have backpacked into eight of the Adirondack Wilderness Areas, and look forward to further adventures that expand my appreciation of the park's unique wonders. Secondly, this exploration has opened my eyes to wilderness designations and their importance in ensuring the future of our unique, vast Adirondack Park. The challenge has also expanded my trip planning skills, deepening my exposure to map exploration, gear and clothing preparation, and all other associated tasks.

Another wonderful thing to come out of these trips is my discovery that many of the Wilderness Areas, at least those I have camped in, have provided me with great solitude. I have rarely come across other people while adventuring in these areas. Instead of encouraging visitation to the High Peaks and other regions with stunning vistas, this challenge attracts more visitors to places with plentiful lakes, streams, wildlife, and other simple pleasures intrinsic to the Adirondack Park. This allows them to spread out their footprint while emphasizing the core principles of [Leave No Trace](#). Furthermore, this challenge offers people a deeper appreciation of the Adirondack Park, doing so without overcrowding nature in the process.

Moving forward, I hope to involve more people in these positive outcomes. If anyone is actively pursuing this challenge, please reach out to me at wintermama@hotmail.com or (315) 292-3632. I am interested in hearing about the Wilderness Areas you have visited, as well as some highlights, discoveries, insights, thoughts and/or obstacles you have encountered during your trips. Ultimately, this challenge seeks to inspire people to learn about and explore the extraordinary Adirondack Park, becoming better stewards of the natural world in the process. A cool patch and sticker await your completion!

Submitted by Wendy Sanders

Iroquois Chapter Contact Information

Chairman – Paul Sirtoli 315-737-8353
alexsirtoli@outlook.com

Vice Chair – Wendy Sanders 315-292-3632
wintermama@hotmail.com

Secretary – Charlene Zebley 315-942-5176
charz46r@gmail.com

Treasurer – David White 315-853-1070
davidswwhite13323@gmail.com

Membership – Ed Kobos
kk2b@aol.com

Trustee – Glenn Larish 315-778-6409
glennlarish@yahoo.com

Stewardship (Lean-tos) – Norm Landis
romelandis@peoplepc.com

Stewardship (trails) – Doug Tinkler
Adopt-a-highway – Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759
Dt46x40@yahoo.com

Newsletter - Debbie Pasch 315-749-4265
dpasch@roadrunner.com

Hospitality – Wendy Sanders 315-292-3632
wintermama@hotmail.com

Trips & Meet up Group –
Bill Luppino 315-360-0359
wluppino@msn.com

Conservation – Brian Sanders
315-709-4149
sandersbrian@hotmail.com

Programs – Dave Jones 315-601-6019
davidjones0422@gmail.com

SOCIAL DISTANCE

WEAR A MASK

STAY SAFE
STAY HEALTHY