



# Binghamton Outdoors!!!

**Newsletter of the Binghamton Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK)**

Volume 2, Number 2      October 2009

## A Message From Your Chapter Chair

Our chapter continues to grow and more members are starting to show up and get to know each other at the monthly meetings. It is a great social time. The chapter web site, [www.binghamtonadk.org](http://www.binghamtonadk.org), is currently under content review by the administrative team and will go live in October. An administrative listserv has been established to keep the members who help with the administration of the chapter informed on what is going on and a place where chapter documents are stored.

You, as a member of the chapter & if you have email, have received a notification to join the new chapter member Yahoo Group listserv named **BinghamtonADK**. This listserv is to inform the membership of outing events, meeting program content and other information for general interest to the members of the chapter.

Lastly, please read through the newsletter for the dates of upcoming events like our fall outing in October at CVSP (Chenango Valley State Park).

Regards,  
Gary Vanderbles, Chapter Chair  
607-722-3765 [gvanderbles@stny.rr.com](mailto:gvanderbles@stny.rr.com)

## Ways To Stay In Touch With Your Chapter!!

Active lives and busy schedules make it harder than ever to stay in touch with the activities and outings of your ADK. Here are the ways you can find out what's happening with your ADK chapter:

**[WWW.BINGHAMTONADK.ORG](http://WWW.BINGHAMTONADK.ORG)** Check out our new web site coming online in October! Our chapter web site is the place to find the latest outings and happenings with the chapter. Visit often!

**BINGHAMTONADK Yahoo group listserv:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BinghamtonADK/> Chapter email communications tool. If you did not provide an email address with your membership and would like to be included, please send an email to [kenjny@stny.rr.com](mailto:kenjny@stny.rr.com)

**CHAPTER NEWSLETTER** We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful. Please send feedback and suggestions to [kenjny@stny.rr.com](mailto:kenjny@stny.rr.com)

# Chapter News

## Chapter Opportunities

Would you like to give a little something back to the outdoors and the ADK? Your Binghamton ADK chapter has opportunities for you to serve on outings, programs, conservation, communications, and hospitality subcommittees. Or are you an aspiring artist that would like to help the chapter with a project? Or good with computers and would like to help communications? If so please contact any of the officers.

## Chapter Bylaws

The Bylaws are available for your review in the files section of the BinghamtonADK Yahoo Group. If you need a copy sent to you, please contact chapter secretary Elaine Gregory at [cricket46@echoes.net](mailto:cricket46@echoes.net)

## Membership News

Our Binghamton chapter now has 153 members! A special welcome to new chapter members and members who have transferred to the Binghamton chapter since the last newsletter: Ron Meeker, Jaimini and Kadam Bhagwan, Gerald Simpson, William Flynn, James and Ann Carey, Dale DelNero, Valerie Fulton, Dan Taranto, Liz Barvinchak, Karen Cole, Peter and Shelly Dionne, Rahul Dixit, Kevin Gates, Charles and Irene Kaib, John and Judie Meador, Michelle and Brian Sherwood, Rosemary O'Brien, Scott Parks, and Glenn Small.

If you have updates to your membership information (i.e.: email address, phone#, etc) please send them to Ken Jackson (email: [kenjny@stny.rr.com](mailto:kenjny@stny.rr.com), Phone: 341-1584)

## 1 From The Outings Chair *(reprint by popular demand!!)*

One of the most important functions in a chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club is that of a trip leader. OK, this may sound like an exaggeration considering all the environmental good the club does but I believe this is what holds us together as a group. It may sound like a daunting task to be a trip leader but is it? Not really. In fact I enjoy the planning almost as much as being on the trip. So who can be a trip leader? Any chapter member. All you have to do is choose an outing you would enjoy, plan an itinerary, coordinate with the chapter and lead the trip. It's that easy! Well almost. Here's what is involved.

Choose the outing you want to do. This can include almost any outdoor activity except rock/ice climbing or paddling class three rapids which are not allowed by ADK insurance. Next, write a trip description. This can be accomplished by consulting guidebooks, topographical maps or informational web sites to give the members an idea of what to expect and decide if they have the ability and equipment to join you. Some very important resources not to be overlooked are your fellow members of the chapter who may have been on the same trip or have extensive knowledge of the activity. Once you have the description written up submit this to the Chapter Outing Chair for posting on the web site. This makes it an official chapter outing. Once you have three other people (four others in winter) sign up, you are set to go. On the day of the outing you must have the participants sign the Liability Release Statement and enjoy the day. Finally, if an accident was to occur during the outing you would need to prepare an Accident Report Form. And it's that easy!

John Lynch, Outings Chair, [spiderjohn@stny.rr.com](mailto:spiderjohn@stny.rr.com)

## 2 From The Conservation Chair

On a cool Saturday, September 26 at 8:00 in the morning Howie and Julie Thompson and niece Miranda Batsford met Pat Connors at the trailhead to Tirrell Pond Lean-to, to perform some maintenance work. It was a beautiful day for a hike-no bugs and comfortable temperatures. The NPT trail was in excellent condition. The trail crew added several plank walkways and re-routed one short section of trail. A group of campers on the trail just before the lean-to had flown in on Thursday, but no one was in the lean-to.

Things were quite a bit cleaner this time than they were on our spring hike in. We cleaned out the fire ring raked the grounds, swept cobwebs and added leaves in the latrine and collected firewood. We only had one bag of garbage which Pat nicely carried out. This was a big difference from the 3 bags we carried out earlier this year. We read many entries in the logbook about the amount of things left behind. People were very vocal about letting others know they should be taking out what they bring in. The logbook was in poor condition, we will be calling our contact person at DEC to replace it as soon as possible. We spent some time exploring the beach in the sunshine, the trees were very colorful. It's a beautiful place to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

The Binghamton chapter's adoption of the Tirrell pond Lean-to has been a great success. Thanks to all who have helped care for the lean-to in 2009! For those interested in helping next year, the lean-to is in the Blue Mountain Lake area. The lean-to is 4.2 miles from the RT. 30 trailhead, and a little shorter hike from the Blue Mountain trail head. The lean-to is on the Northville Placid trail so it gets a lot of use.

## 3From The Program Chair

### *Did You Know...*

Did you know that the Adirondack Park covers 6 million acres, about 1/5 of New York State, and is bigger than Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Great Smokey Mountain and Glacier National Parks combined?

It is a land of mountains and hills and vast plains with 43 mountains over 4,000 feet tall including Mount Marcy, New York's highest peak at 5,344 feet. Some mountains have rare alpine summit environments devoid of trees with unique plants that typically grow in the far northern tundra and are actually holdovers from the last Ice Age.

It is a land of over 2,800 lakes and ponds and over 30,000 miles of rivers and streams. The mighty Hudson River starts high in the Adirondacks where you can actually straddle the infant river while climbing Gray Peak.

It is a land of millions of forested acres with, by one estimate, conservatively, 1 billion trees and perhaps 500,000 acres of old growth forest in which there is absolutely no sign of human impact. It is a land of remoteness and wilderness, indeed Mount Marcy wasn't even "discovered" until 1837 at which time Mount Washington in New Hampshire, the tallest mountain in the northeastern US which was first climbed in the early 1600's, already had buildings on its summit.

It is a land of deer, bear, beaver, coyote, otter, fox and the mighty moose which has recently moved back into the region. It is the home of numerous bird species including the loon, a bird with an unforgettable call that can swim long distances under water. It is truly a showcase of the glories of nature!

The Adirondack Park is the largest publicly protected natural area in the contiguous United States. Its state owned land is perhaps the best protected land in the entire country and is actually protected in the New York State Constitution in the famous "forever wild" clause with its stirring words that the state owned land in the Park "Shall be forever kept as wild forest lands".

There are miles and miles of hiking trails and paddling streams and lakes and ponds. The Adirondacks are a unique blend of private and public land, permanent residents and visitors, local and state government and unique, fragile natural environments. The land and the human story of the Adirondacks are equally compelling and amazing... Come, join us, the Binghamton Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, as we explore this wondrous region.

Pat Connors, Program Chair, [pat\\_connors\\_ny@yahoo.com](mailto:pat_connors_ny@yahoo.com)

## Chapter Equipment For Rent

Have you ever wanted to try a new outdoor activity but did not have the equipment you needed to try it? Specialized equipment can be expensive, so consider renting. **The chapter now owns 2 pairs of Crampons and 2 pairs of Microspikes.** Crampons are necessary equipment for winter hikes in the Catskills and Adirondacks to traverse ice that is frequently found on trails. Microspikes are increasingly viewed as necessary equipment for late fall/early winter and early spring when snow or ice conditions make snowshoes and crampons poor tools of travel, yet bare booting becomes precarious.

**See the Equipment / Rental Policy below and contact Pat Connors if you would like to rent these items. Rental rate is \$5 for every 7 day period.** We would be interested in feedback to the BinghamtonADK yahoo group regarding club ownership and rental of other equipment. Items that have been discussed are snowshoes, hiking poles, bear canisters, and sleeping bags and tents.

## Equipment / Rental Policy

### *Acknowledgement of Risks and Release of Liability*

User acknowledges and assumes all inherent risks in hiking, particularly winter hiking. User assumes full responsibility for oneself and for any children or others using equipment. User is renting equipment at their own request.

User releases the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Binghamton Chapter, and all their members, employees, volunteers, and insurers from any and all liability of any nature for any and all injury or damage to oneself, ones children, and anyone using this rented equipment. User has read this document and release of liability agreement, and understands that by signing this document, they are waiving valuable legal rights.

User must pick up and return the equipment from the club equipment manager. The rental rate must be paid to the equipment manager at the time of pick-up. Other arrangements (delivery at club meetings) are at the discretion of the equipment manager.

Rentals are to be made only by club members. Renters are responsible to use equipment in a manner suitable to their intended purpose. Please ask the equipment manager should instructions be necessary.

The renter is responsible for replacement of equipment should the rental equipment be damaged due to improper use. The assessment of improper use is made by the equipment manager.

The renter is responsible for replacement of non returned equipment. Replacement product for any reason will be with new and comparable equipment.

Rental Rates: \$5 for every 7 days per item. Failure to return items within the paid rental period result in the charge of another period due at delivery.

## **Fall Hikes: Wanted Mid-Week Fall Hikers**

I am looking to do day hikes with ADK'ers mid-week during the fall season, about 5 to 8 miles at about 1 - 2 mph, locally or in the Catskills. If you are interested email Gary Vanderbles at [gvanderbles@stny.rr.com](mailto:gvanderbles@stny.rr.com)

## **X-C Ski Email Alert Group Forming**

With snow conditions in the "magic valley" being what they are, Gary Vanderbles and Don Powell are starting an email alert group to notify interested people of X-C ski trips when snow conditions permit. We will ski terrain similar to Chenango Valley State Park. Trip length will vary but will be approximately about 5 - 8 miles with a trip speed between 2 to 4 miles per hour depending on snow conditions. Trip locations could be between 15 minutes to an hours drive from Binghamton depending on where the snow is. If you would like to be on the email alert list please send your email address to [gvanderbles@stny.rr.com](mailto:gvanderbles@stny.rr.com) with the subject line: **X-C Ski Alert**. Please specify if you want to be informed of mid-week trips only or weekend trips only or both.

## **Cannonsville Recreational Boating Pilot Program – 2009 thru 2011**

Did you know that great recreational boating is allowed at the Cannonsville reservoir? Several different types of watercraft including kayaks, canoes, rowboats, sculls and sailboats may be used and launched from several specified sites around the reservoir. Canoes, sculls, sailboats with removable center/dagger boards and rowboats must be at least eleven feet five inches (11'5") in length and kayaks must be at least nine feet (9') in length. While the 2009 season ends Columbus day it is not too early to plan for next year! See <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/recreation/cannonsvilleboatingbrochure.pdf> for all the details.

## **ADK Books, Maps, and Gear**

Did you know...when you shop the Adirondack Mountain Club's catalog, profits from your purchases support our three-fold mission of conservation, education, and recreation! ADK members receive a **20% discount** on ADK publications and a **10% discount** on ADK logo wear and gear. Browse your ADK Online Store at: [http://www.adk.org/new\\_store/default.aspx](http://www.adk.org/new_store/default.aspx)

## **Binghamton ADK Fall 2009 / Winter 2010 Meetings**

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming chapter meetings. Each meeting has a little business and a lot of focus on ways to be prepared and enjoy the outdoors!

**Oct 13, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Enjoy an informative presentation on the history of the ADK by Deb Zack, ADK Membership coordinator.** Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY.

**Nov 10, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Refresh your winter hiking and mountain climbing knowledge and skills through presentations by our own experts Pat Conners and Mark Epstein.** Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

**Dec 8, Tuesday 6-9PM Chapter Holiday Party at historic Washingtonian Hall.** See fall schedule on next page for details

**Jan 12, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting.** Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

**Feb 9, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting.** Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

**Mar 9, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting.** Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

# Binghamton Chapter Fall 2009 / Winter 2010 Schedule

Outings and Meetings list (post on your calendar!)

## ALWAYS CALL LEADERS FOR DETAILS

All area codes are 607 unless otherwise noted

**Each trip's leader must have all participants sign a liability release form.** The liability release form along with the ADK Outing Guidelines, which all outing participants should read, is posted on the BinghamtonADK Yahoo Group/Listserv. Persons wanting to lead an outing activity or have questions should contact John Lynch ([spiderjohn@stny.rr.com](mailto:spiderjohn@stny.rr.com)) or Gary Vanderbles ([gvanderbles@stny.rr.com](mailto:gvanderbles@stny.rr.com))

**Oct 10, Saturday. Group kayaking on the Cedar River Flow to Carry Lean-to.** This is about a 2 hour paddle across the lake and up through the channel to the lean-to. If anyone would like to join us bring your own boat and appropriate gear. If the weather is not good for kayaking we will take a hike to Wakely Mountain Firetower. This is a 3 mile hike from Cedar River Campground. The mountain's elevation is 3744' and total ascent is 1635'. Elevation increases 1200' in the last 0.8 mi. Directions: Take NYS RT. 30 North through the village of Indian Lake, turn left on Cedar River Road, follow for about 8-10 miles, campsites are on the left. Contact Howard and Julie Thompson ([hthompson@bgcsd.org](mailto:hthompson@bgcsd.org)) if questions and to register

**Oct 18, Sunday, NOON to 4PM, Fall Outing at Chenango Valley State Park.** Come out for an afternoon in the fresh air with your family and friends at Chenango Valley State Park. We will be meeting at the Pine Room and Great Hall by the swimming area pavilion. Bring a dish to pass. The fireplaces will be roaring, the SMORES will be roasting, and there will be plenty of outdoor time. Contact John Lynch ([spiderjohn@stny.rr.com](mailto:spiderjohn@stny.rr.com)) for more information

**Nov 1, Sunday, 1PM. Oakley Corners hike to the slave graveyard.** Contact Ken Jackson ([kenjny@stny.rr.com](mailto:kenjny@stny.rr.com)) if questions and to register.

**Dec 5, Saturday. Hike Plateau and Sugarloaf in likely winter conditions.** Be prepared to use snowshoes and/or crampons or possibly microspikes if snowfall and ice is limited. Hike from Route 214 to Sugarloaf and back is 10.2 miles round trip with 3,380 feet of elevation gain. We must cross Plateau twice. Views from both peaks are great. The ascent up Sugarloaf is steep and complicated if icy. Contact Mark Epstein ([mepstein@stny.rr.com](mailto:mepstein@stny.rr.com)) if questions and to register

**Dec 8, Tuesday 6-9PM. Chapter Holiday Party and pot luck dinner at historic Washingtonian Hall in Endwell.** Come enjoy a great time of socializing, sharing our dreams for the chapter, and of course food with your ADK friends. Washingtonian Hall, built in 1799, is on the National Registry of Historic Homes and is one of the oldest homes in Broome County. Please bring a dish to pass....and spouses are welcome! Contact Ken and Linda Jackson at 757-9130 or [kenjny@stny.rr.com](mailto:kenjny@stny.rr.com) if questions

**Feb 6, 2010. Two hikes in one winter day.** The first hike is an ascent up Windham High Peak from Big Hollow Road. This is an ideal hike for first time winter hikers. It is 7.2 miles round trip with an elevation gain of 1,324 feet. We will all return to the parking area. I have a tentative driver for those only interested in this part of the day.

The second hike leaves from the same parking area to Blackhead Mountain (after everyone completes the first hike). For those interested, this is a winter requirement of the 3500 club. This hike is 5.4 miles round trip with an elevation gain of 1,740 feet. The approach to Blackhead is steep and exposed, so it can be quite icy in the winter.

The total mileage for both hikes is 12.6 miles with elevation gains of 3,064 feet. Contact Mark Epstein ([mepstein@stny.rr.com](mailto:mepstein@stny.rr.com)) to discuss interest and travel arrangements.

# ADK COMMUNITY NEWS & ACTIVITIES

## Life Jacket Requirement

A new state law that goes into effect Nov. 1 will require paddlers to wear life jackets from late fall through early spring.

According to the amendment to Navigation Law, “no owner or operator of a pleasure vessel less than twenty-one feet, including rowboats, canoes, and kayaks shall permit its operation, between November first and May first, unless each person on board such vessel is wearing a securely fastened United States Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device of an appropriate size when such vessel is underway.” Violators could face a fine of \$100 to \$250.

## Northville-Placid Trail

ADK’s Professional Trails Crew recently completed the rerouting of a section of the Northville-Placid Trail. The 10-week project resulted in a new 7.5-mile section that takes the trail off Cedar River Road and into the Blue Ridge Wilderness. The new section officially opened Thursday, Aug. 27. The trail now leaves Cedar River road just north of Wakely Pond, about 0.7 miles north of Wakely Dam, and enters the Moose River Plains Wild Forest. It travels northwestward along an interior road known as Gould Road for about 1 mile. Then it proceeds northeastward about 6.6 miles through the Blue Ridge Wilderness to intersect the existing trail just south of Stephens Pond. Building the 133-mile NPT was one of the first projects undertaken after the ADK was formed in 1922.

## Wilderness Classification

The Adirondack Park Agency has voted to classify Lows Lake and thousands of nearby acres as Wilderness. Lows Lake is the hub of two multi-day wilderness canoe routes: Bog River to Lows Lake to Little Tupper Lake via Bog Lake, Lake Lila and Rock Lake, and the route from Bog River through Lows Lake to the Oswegatchie River in the heart of the Five Ponds Wilderness. The landmark decision will provide added protection to two important wilderness canoe routes. More detail at: [http://www.adk.org/press/Wilderness\\_Lows\\_Lake.aspx](http://www.adk.org/press/Wilderness_Lows_Lake.aspx)

## Volunteers Needed For Fall Trails Day

ADK’s Trails Program will hold its 17th annual Fall Trails Day in the High Peaks of the Adirondacks on Saturday, Oct. 17. Volunteers, working with trained leaders, will use hand tools to clean drainage, trim overgrown sections of trail and remove downed trees. Participants can stay at ADK’s Wilderness Campground for free on both Friday and Saturday nights. For information, or to sign up, contact the ADK Trails Program at (518) 523-3441. A list of trail projects is available at [http://www.adk.org/trails/Fall\\_Trails\\_Day\\_List.aspx](http://www.adk.org/trails/Fall_Trails_Day_List.aspx)

## JBL Work Weekend

Volunteers will be cleaning up and closing down the Johns Brook Lodge for the season during JBL Work Weekend, Oct. 16-18. (JBL closes for the season on Columbus Day.) Other projects include trail maintenance, cutting and stacking firewood

and preparing a family bunkroom for remodeling. The event includes a 3.5-mile (750 foot elevation gain) hike from the Garden in Keene Valley to JBL, and participants will carry in a share of the food. A bunk with two wool blankets will be provided, but you should bring a three-season sleeping bag as well. Bring long johns and rain gear. Participants must register by Friday, Oct. 10. To register, call (518) 523-3441.

## Guide Supplement

ADK has released a 24-page supplement to its guidebook “Adirondack Trails: Eastern Region.” Written by David Thomas-Train, the supplement describes 12 hiking opportunities at 10 locations in the eastern Adirondacks. The supplement is available for free online at [www.adk.org](http://www.adk.org) (downloadable PDF file), or for \$1 at ADK’s Lake George and Heart Lake properties. It may be ordered by sending \$1 to Eastern Region Supplement, 814 Goggins Road, Lake George, NY 12845. The supplement material will be included in the next printing of the Eastern Region guide.

## Outdoor Skills

Fall is a great time to hone your outdoor skills with an ADK workshop. See [http://www.adk.org/programs/October\\_Programs.aspx](http://www.adk.org/programs/October_Programs.aspx) for a complete list of workshops for October. Learn how to respond to a medical emergency in the backcountry with an intensive, two-day [Wilderness First Aid](#) course. Or discover the marvels of Adirondack natural history with [Heart Lake Fall Happenings](#) or a [lecture](#) at Heart Lake or Lake George.

## ADK President’s Dinner

ADK’s 9th Annual President’s Dinner, “Recognizing Outstanding Service and Achievement,” will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 24, at Mallozzi’s Clubhouse at Western Turnpike Golf Course, Guilderland. For more info contact Virginia at (518) 668-4447 Ext. 25

## DEC TV

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has launched [DEC TV](#), which features short videos on outdoor subjects. Access at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/dectv/dectv.html>. Topics chapter members might find of interest include: Backwoods Camping; Hiking Essentials; Hiking in the Adirondacks; Geocaching; Types of Kayaks; Kayaking in the Adirondacks; Cross-Country Skiing; The Adirondacks; Outdoors-Woman Program

## Adirondack Reader NEW Edition!

The NEW third edition is now available! Writers of the past 400 years reflect the changing attitudes toward wilderness and the development of wild lands in the Adirondack Mountains. Edited by Paul Jamieson and Neal Burdick. Hardcover 6" x 9". 544 pages. 32 pages of reproductions of photos, drawings, and color paintings. ADK Member price \$31.96.

# ADK CONSERVATION UPDATES

*NY DEC releases draft [Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement](#) for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus Shale (Released 09/30/2009)*

The draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) for potential natural gas drilling activities in the Marcellus Shale formation is now available for public review and comment. The draft SGEIS supplements the existing Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) and analyzes the range of potential impacts of shale gas development using horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing. The draft SGEIS outlines safety measures, protection standards and mitigation strategies that operators would have to follow to obtain permits.

**Comments** - The public comment period will be open until November 30, 2009. The Department is offering three ways in which to submit comments. DEC has created an [on line submission system](http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/SGEISComments/) (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/SGEISComments/>) which will allow you to write comments and tag them to your areas of concern. Attachments can also be included. You may submit [e-mail comments](mailto:dmnsgeis@gw.dec.state.ny.us) to [dmnsgeis@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:dmnsgeis@gw.dec.state.ny.us); please include your name, e-mail or return mail address to ensure notice of the Final SGEIS when it is available. Finally, written comments should be sent to: Attn: SGEIS Comments, Bureau of Oil & Gas Regulation, NYSDEC Division of Mineral Resources, 625 Broadway, Third Floor, Albany, NY 12233-6500

You can download all or part of the SGEIS at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/58440.html> This is such an important issue for our area, please take the time to understand the plan!

## *Plan Protects Catskills While Enhancing Recreational Opportunities*

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has completed its revision of the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, which balances new outdoor recreation opportunities with better protections for one of New York's greatest natural resources.

The final plan, which creates a new Catskill wilderness area and expands existing wilderness, is a major victory for the Adirondack Mountain Club. Under the plan, the vast majority of hiking trails on the Catskill High Peaks will be in wilderness and be reserved exclusively for hiking. At the same time, the plan will expand mountain biking opportunities in the Catskills with the creation of four primitive bike corridors on old roads through existing and new wilderness areas. New mountain bike areas will also be developed near Windham and Kingston. The plan will keep mountain bikes off steep and narrow hiking trails such as the Devil's Path and the Escarpment Trail. ADK does not oppose these primitive bike corridors as long as no additional corridors are created.

Under the plan, mountain bike use will be prohibited in all Catskill wilderness areas, which is consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. In areas of the Catskill Forest Preserve designated wild forest, mountain bikes will be permitted on all roads and trails unless such use is deemed unsuitable through the unit management plan (UMP) process.

Under the revised plan, the West Kill Wilderness will be expanded to include most of the Hunter Mountain Wild Forest, which will protect the summit of Hunter Mountain. In 1996, a proposed constitutional amendment would have taken the summit out of the Forest Preserve and allowed it to be developed as a private ski resort. ADK successfully opposed that plan, and the creation of the 27,000-acre Hunter West Kill Wilderness will make any future attempt to develop the summit much more difficult. The Spruceton Trail and fire tower were not included in the expanded wilderness area, but were added to the Rusk Mountain Wild Forest.

The plan also creates a new wilderness area, the 17,000-acre Windham Blackhead Range Wilderness, which combines the Blackhead Range and North Mountain wild forests with portions of the Windham High Peak and Black Dome wild forests. Seven named peaks over 3,000 feet are included in this new wilderness area: Black Dome, Blackhead, Thomas Cole, Acra Point, Windham High Peak, Stoppel Point and Burnt Knob. The wilderness classification will prohibit bicycle use on the narrow and steep Windham High Peak-Escarpment hiking trail.

In revising the plan, the DEC eliminated the so-called 2,700-foot rule, under which wild forest areas above 2,700 feet were managed as wilderness. Most of these areas have been designated as wilderness. The revised plan also requires a camping permit for groups of more than 10. In wilderness areas, camping permits will not be issued for groups of more than 12 people. Additionally, the revised plan recommends that day users voluntarily limit their group sizes to 12 in wilderness areas and 20 in wild forest areas.

"In developing this plan, DEC carefully balanced the needs and desires of different recreational communities and the need to better protect the Catskill ecosystem," ADK Executive Director Neil Woodworth said. "The plan provides numerous opportunities for mountain biking in the Catskill Forest Preserve, but protects the most environmentally sensitive areas."

ADK – Binghamton Chapter  
3725 River Rd  
Endwell, NY 13760

MAIL PERMIT  
OR STAMP

Address Label

Subscription to this newsletter is included in membership in the Binghamton Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. It is available to the public and to non-chapter members for \$5 per year. Contact Ken Jackson at (607)341-1584 for more information.

### **Binghamton Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs**

Chairperson: Gary Vanderbles  
722-3765 [gvanderbles@stny.rr.com](mailto:gvanderbles@stny.rr.com)  
Vice-Chair: Donna Cole  
237-6311 [coledonnarn@yahoo.com](mailto:coledonnarn@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Elaine Gregory  
775-0952 [cricket46@echoes.net](mailto:cricket46@echoes.net)  
Treasurer: Mark Epstein  
798-9115 [mepstein@stny.rr.com](mailto:mepstein@stny.rr.com)

Director, ADK: Erik Gregory  
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Program Chair: Pat Connors  
625-4078 [pat\\_connors\\_ny@yahoo.com](mailto:pat_connors_ny@yahoo.com)  
Conservation chair: Howie Thompson  
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Hospitality: Open

Outings chair: John Lynch  
757.3360 [spiderjohn@stny.rr.com](mailto:spiderjohn@stny.rr.com)  
m  
Communications/Membership  
chair: Ken Jackson  
341-1584 [kenjny@stny.rr.com](mailto:kenjny@stny.rr.com)

Adirondack Mountain Club annual membership dues are \$50 for individuals and \$60 for families (other membership levels are available, including seniors and students). Benefits of membership include:

- discounts on ADK workshops and programs
- discounts on ADK merchandise

- invitations to member only outings and extended trips
- 20% discount on ADK trail guides, canoe guides, maps, books and calendars
- Adirondac Magazine six times a year
- reduced rates at ADK facilities: lodges, leantos, cabins, and campgrounds
- membership in one of ADK's 27 chapters throughout the Northeast

For more information go to [www.adk.org](http://www.adk.org) or call 800-395-8080