

Binghamton Out Doors!!!

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

Volume 1, Number 1

December 2008

From the Chapter Chair

By the Binghamton Chapter Executive Team

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Binghamton Chapter! A new chapter presents a wonderful opportunity to get to know others in the Binghamton area who are interested in enjoying, caretaking, and supporting the outdoors and the mission of the ADK. As we work together to organize the new chapter and support local outdoor activities, please share your dreams, ideas, talents, and time to “give back” to the Binghamton Area Outdoors!

Chapter News and Information

Nominating Committee Appointed / 2009 Officer Elections Underway

At the Sept 23 meeting a Nominating Committee was established to draw up a slate of officers for 2009. The following Executive Board positions are open for election: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Outings Chair, Program Chair (formerly called Education Chair).

A description of each position’s duties are included in the By-Laws. The nomination period closed December 1st and below are the person(s) nominated for these positions for 2009. Elections will occur at the January meeting.

Chair: Gary Vanderbles

Program Chair: Pat Conners

If you want to nominate another member that can fill any of these positions or participate on the Archivist, Hospitality Coordinator, or News Letter committees please contact one of the nominating committee members listed below. Thanks!

Elaine Gregory at cricket46@echoes.net, John Lynch at Spiderjohn@stny.rr.com, Gary Vanderbles at gvanderbles@stny.rr.com

Chapter Bylaws

The Chapter Bylaws were adopted at the Sept 23, 2008 chapter meeting. The Bylaws are available for review at the Bing-ADK Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Bing-ADK/> If you need a copy sent to you, please contact secretary Elaine Gregory.

Membership News

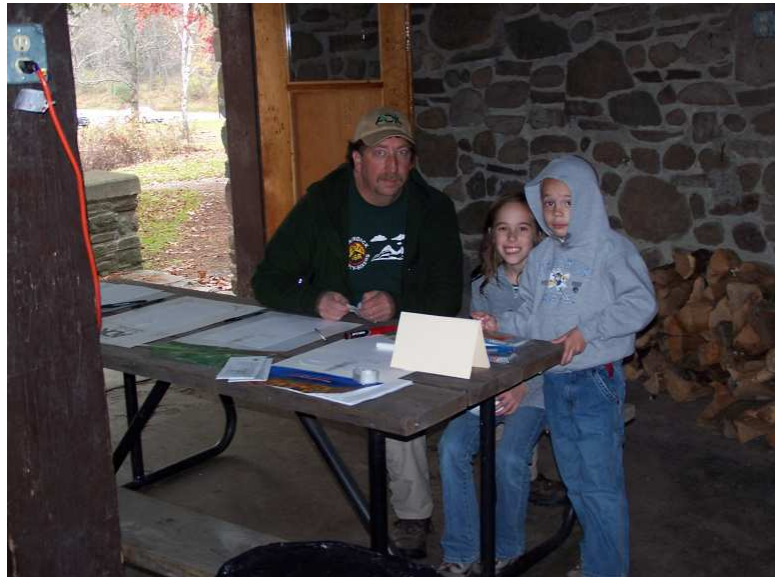
Our Binghamton chapter currently has 115 members! We are including this list of members in the first newsletter for your reference and so you can get to know other members in your area. Thank you to area members who transferred your membership to the new Binghamton chapter. We welcome the following recently joined members and hope to see you on the trails and at the next meeting. Please provide corrections / updates (i.e.: email address or phone #) to secretary Elaine Gregory. Thank you!

Name	City	State
Anthony Antes	Conklin	NY
Bijan Azhooden	West Hampton	NY
Howard Barker	Smithville Flats	NY
John Bauer and Sue Mangan	Little Meadows	PA
Judith Blaine	Johnson City	NY
Richard Breslin	Greene	NY
Ron Brink	Binghamton	NY
Joseph Bykonich	Endicott	NY
Barbara Campbell	Binghamton	NY
John Carhart	Norwich	NY
John A. Case	Chenango Forks	NY
Richard and Lorraine Chadwick	Endicott	NY
John and Barbara Chaffee	Binghamton	NY
Ken Chambers	Endicott	NY
Bob Chauncey and Norma Corbett	Vestal	NY
Donna Cole	Binghamton	NY
David Conner	Norwich	NY
Patrick Connors	Apalachin	NY
Gregory Constable	Norwich	NY
Bruce and Christine Cumming	Bainbridge	NY
Lee Morgan Davie	Bainbridge	NY
John K. Davis, Jr.	Friendsville	PA
Terry Dole and Tom Rispoli	Endicott	NY
Tom Dublin	Brackney	PA
Mark and Debby Epstein	Binghamton	NY
Mark and Lauren Epstein	Vestal	NY
Richard Erickson	Apalachin	NY
Tracey and Robert Evans	Endicott	NY
Irma Fattal	Vestal	NY
Bill Fierle	Binghamton	NY
Helena Garan	Johnson City	NY
James and Chris Gardner	Maine	NY
Peter Gerhardtstein	Vestal	NY
Brooks and Kandyce Getty	Vestal	NY
Theresa Gracin	Endwell	NY
John Greene	Endicott	NY
Erik and Elaine Gregory	Kirkwood	NY
Norbert Higgins	Johnson City	NY
David Holdredge	Tunkhannock	PA
Scott and Laura Irwin	Binghamton	NY
Kenneth E. Jackson	Endwell	NY
Gerard Kachmor	Port Crane	NY
Jessie Ketcha	Windsor	NY
Alan Ketcha	Windsor	NY

Name	City	State
Jackie Kinsley	Johnson City	NY
Hudson Kronk	Vestal	NY
Scott Lee	Wellsboro	PA
Joel Lee	Endicott	NY
Mr. Jerry Licht	Lansing	NY
Paul G. Litynski	Endwell	NY
John and Amie Lynch	Vestal	NY
Cheryl Lyon and Michael DeWispelaere	Oxford	NY
David and Mary Barbara Martin	Endwell	NY
William E. Murphy	Vestal	NY
Donald and Patricia O'Brien	Binghamton	NY
Christopher Origer	Binghamton	NY
Aaron Perey	Kirkwood	NY
Daniel Perry	Binghamton	NY
Bryan and Heather Pospisil	Endwell	NY
Don Powell and June Drake	Kirkwood	NY
Linda Quilty	Vestal	NY
Faye Rafferty	Owego	NY
Mr. Daniel R. Reed	Vestal	NY
Mark Ridley	Binghamton	NY
Kalon Riehle	Johnson City	NY
Zachary and Chelsea Robertson	Endicott	NY
Robert and Carol Schneider	Endicott	NY
Jeremiah and Molly Shaw	Owego	NY
Brian Sipos	Endwell	NY
John Solan, Jr.	Endwell	NY
John Stafford	Norwich	NY
David and Irene Stahl	Vestal	NY
Michael Starke	Binghamton	NY
Robert and Patsy Strebel	Endwell	NY
Eric Sullivan	Binghamton	NY
Julie and Howard Thompson	Nineveh	NY
Lewis Trelease and Carol Sherwood	Windsor	NY
Gary and Mary Jo Vanderbles	Binghamton	NY
Joan Walker	Chenango Forks	NY
Richard Walls	Binghamton	NY
Mary and Michael Waters	Norwich	NY
Gail Weyna	Binghamton	NY
Mark Whalen	Binghamton	NY
Jeffrey and Wendy Wood	Apalachin	NY
Deb Yavorski	Endicott	NY
Bill Zuchowski	Wellsboro	PA

Chapter trip reports

A great time was had by all at the November 1st chapter outing at Chenango Valley State Park! We were blessed with a beautiful fall day to hike and geo cache. Here's a few pictures of that day for you to enjoy!



BINGHAMTON CHAPTER Winter 2009 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 Bing-ADK Yahoo Group. Persons wanting to lead an outing activity or have questions should contact John Lynch or Gary Vanderbles.

December 21, Sunday 1pm. Hike and Letterboxing at SUNY Campus. Meet at Lot M0 on SUNY-Campus near west end of the Marsh Trail. Refer to <http://naturepreserve.binghamton.edu/Maps/Present/Trailmap.pdf> for location. There is no parking charge Sunday. The SUNY-Nature Preserve is a "natural area" south of the Vestal campus that has been protected since the late 1960's. We will hike for approximately 2 hours in the preserve while enjoying the hobby of Letterboxing. Please bring appropriate clothes for a winter walk. Snowshoes would be enjoyable should there be 6 inches of snow on the ground. Letterboxing is a pastime combining artistic ability with "treasure-hunts" in parks, forests, and cities around the world. Participants seek out hidden letterboxes by cracking codes and following clues. The prize: a miniature piece of art known as a rubber stamp—usually a unique, hand-carved creation. Letterboxers stamp their discoveries in a personal journal, then use their own rubber stamp, called a signature stamp, by stamping it into the logbook found with the letterbox, perhaps writing a note about the weather or their adventures in finding the letterbox. It makes for a very good family outing. .Source : <http://www.atlasquest.com/> Please call Mark (798-9115) to register.

January 11, Sunday 1:00 PM – Hike Jones Park in Vestal, NY. Get out and stretch your legs for the afternoon, a short hike on the 2.6 mile on perimeter trail with a maximum elevation gain of 420 feet. We will travel at an easy pace of an overall average of 1 mile per hour with a maximum moving average speed of 2 miles per hour. Bring your snowshoes if there is enough snow. Dress for the weather, bring water and trail snacks for yourself. How to get there: Drive west on state route 17 from Binghamton to exit 67 for Vestal. Head south on route 26 for about 6 miles and turn left on State Line Road. Continue east for about 0.4 miles to the first significant bend in the road. Turn left and park under the spruces by the short entrance driveway leading to Vestal's green colored maintenance building. Please contact Gary Vanderbles 722-3765 after 7 PM weekdays for questions. Email gvanderbles@stny.rr.com subject line: Jones Park Hike Please register by Friday January 9, 9 PM.

January 13, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

February 1, Sunday 9am. Winter hike in the Catskills. An excellent introductory to winter in the Catskills is Panther Mountain via Giant Ledge. Both peaks offer excellent views. The hike is approximately 5.2 miles round trip with a 1545 feet elevation gain from the parking area. Trails in the Catskills can become quite icy in the winter and crampons may be necessary. Therefore, participants must bring snowshoes and 10 point crampons. A headlamp, sufficient food, and synthetic and extra clothing are also necessary. Feel free to call with questions. Should the group consist of only more experienced hikers, and interest be unanimous, we may tackle a slightly longer hike of Twin Mountain and Indian Head Mountain. Please call Mark (798-9115) to register.

February 7, Saturday 10am. Ice fishing and sledding at Oquaga Lake. Contact Howie Thompson . More details will be available via the Yahoo Group

February 10, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

February 14, Saturday 10am. Chapter Winter outing at Bowman Lake SP. Contact John Lynch . More details will be available via the Yahoo Group

March 8, Sunday 1:00 PM. Hike Brick Hill (N42o 7.246' W75o 52.837') in Binghamton, NY on the east side. Get out and stretch your legs for the afternoon by climbing to the top of Brick Hill with a maximum elevation gain of 560 feet and then hike over to the Wittman Dam and back to the cars. It is a short hike of about 3 miles. We will travel at an easy pace of an overall average of 1 mile per hour with a maximum moving average speed of 2 miles per hour. Dress for the weather, bring water and trail snacks for yourself. How to get there: From Otsiningo Park turn left out of the south entrance on to Bevier Street (CR145). Go over the Chenango River, across Chenango Street, under Route 7 and turn left on to Smith Avenue. We will park the cars and start the hike from there. Please contact Gary Vanderbles 722-3765 after 7 PM weekdays for questions. Email gvanderbles@stny.rr.com subject line: Brick Hill Hike Please register by Friday March 6, 9 PM.

March 10, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

Winter 2009 Meetings

Tues Jan 13, 7PM Monthly meeting. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

Tues Feb 10, 7PM. Monthly meeting. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

Tues Mar 10, 7PM. Monthly meeting. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

3rd Edition of Eastern Region Trail Guide Published

ADK's new edition of *Adirondack Trails: Eastern Region* is now available for purchase from ADK, bookstores, and Outdoor retailers throughout the Northeast.

The latest edition includes updated trail descriptions for the region extending from Lake Champlain on the east; to the High Peaks, Hoffman Notch Wilderness and Schroon Lake in the west; and Lake George and the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness in the

south. Each Forest Preserve Series guide covers all New York state trails in its region and includes lean-to shelters, campsites, water access, distances, elevations and road access information.

To place an order contact ADK, 814 Goggins Road, Lake George, NY 12845, (518) 668-4447, (800) 395-8080 (orders only), or visit ADK's Web site at www.adk.org

ADK Creates Hiking Website

Since 1922, the Adirondack Mountain Club has been the authority on hiking in the Adirondacks. ADK's Hiking Page is your source for a wealth of information about Adirondack hiking and backpacking, as well as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the winter.

The website www.adk.org/trails/Hiking_Page.aspx, leads you to a new page on the Adirondack Mountain Club's website and provides a one stop shopping place for information about hiking and backpacking in the Adirondacks.

Hiking and Backpacking Information

Adirondack Alpine Zone	Hiking with Dogs
Avalanches	Hunting Seasons - High Peaks
Bears	LEAVE NO TRACE
Blackfly Season	Lightning
Camping at Heart Lake	Mud Season
Camping in the High Peaks	Snowshoe and Ski Rentals
Campfires	Summer Hiking
DEC Regulations	Trail Conditions
Gear	Trail Guides and Maps
Giardia	Trailhead Parking
Group Size	Weather
High Use Times	What (Not) to Wear
Hikes You Might Like	Winter Hiking



ADK Crew Completes Work on New Trail to Lyon Mountain

ADK's Professional Trail Crew (PTC) has completed work on a new hiking trail to the 3,830-foot summit of Lyon Mountain, one of the most popular hiking destinations in the northern Adirondacks.

Lyon Mountain, an isolated peak just west of Chazy Lake in Clinton County, features a fire tower and a spectacular, 360-degree view. On a clear day, hikers enjoy views of Montreal's skyscrapers to the north, the High Peaks to the south and Lake Champlain and Vermont's Green Mountains to the east.

"It's a very popular trail. It gets a lot of use," said Wes Lampman, ADK's field programs director. "The trail is primarily used by hikers in the summer, with some mountain biking as well. In the winter it is used frequently by backcountry skiers and riders."

The old, 2.5 mile Lyon Mountain Trail was very steep, difficult and vulnerable to erosion. The PTC cut a new 3.5 mile more leisurely trail, incorporating 11 switchbacks in some of the steepest sections. The new trail section provides a more scenic walk and passes many exposed bedrock outcrops.

The PTC completed the trail in 10 weeks, the longest trail it has built since it's 1979 creation said Lampman. The PTC builds and maintains backcountry hiking trails in the Adirondacks, Catskills and other wild areas of New York under a \$217,500 contract with the state Department of Environmental Conservation. Scouting and design of the new trail were completed in 2006 with funding from ADK's Algonquin Chapter.

Lyon Mountain is on Nature Conservancy property and eventually will be sold to New York state. Though currently unmarked, the trail is easy to follow with signs indicating the trail's start and end.

To get to the trailhead from the Northway Exit 38N, take state Route 374 west 23.2 miles to Chazy Lake Road (County Route 8). Drive south 1.8 miles on Chazy Lake Road to an unnamed gravel road on the right. At the beginning of the gravel road is a black and white sign indicating it is a seasonal, limited-use highway with no maintenance from Nov. 1 – May 1. Follow the gravel road about a mile to the parking area.

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Governor Signs Law to Protect State's Old-Growth Forests

Gov. David Paterson has signed into law a bill to protect New York's old-growth forests. The Bruce S. Kershner Heritage Tree Preservation and Protection Act adds old-growth forests to the list of state-owned lands eligible for special protection by inclusion in the State Nature and Historical Preserve. It also offers private landowners real property tax exemptions as incentives to place their old growth forest lands into protection plans. The Act also recognizes the work of advocates including Bruce S. Kershner to preserve and protect these forests.

Author, activist ADK member, and a leading authority on old-growth forests, Kershner, died in 2007. He discovered hundreds of stands of ancient trees throughout the Northeast. Old growth trees are important to the health of the entire forest ecosystems. They provide the atmosphere with abundant moisture and sequester carbon. Their grandness provides moisture and shade for indigenous flora and shelter for fauna. But, as a result of long-standing farming and logging traditions,

there are only a few old-growth stands left in New York. Preservation of these areas will not only protect the forest, but it will allow for the continuance of the unique plant and animal habitats that flourish within them.

New York's "Forever Wild" clause protects state-owned forests in the Catskill and Adirondack parks. But thousands of acres of state-owned forest land in other parts of the state do not have this protection and are subject to cutting. The State Nature and Historic Preserve provision of Section 4 of Article XIV of the State Constitution provides unique and significant areas with the opportunity to flourish as natural communities, field laboratories, and even passive recreation areas for the public. Old-growth forests will make a significant contribution to these protectable areas. The legislation defines an old-growth forest as a parcel of at least 10 acres with an abundance of late successional tree species at least 180-200 years old in a contiguous forested landscape that has evolved and reproduced naturally and is capable of self perpetuation.

Nature Conservancy Acquires Follensby Pond

The 15,000 acre Follensby Pond acquisition will become open to hikers, paddlers and provide a nearly 8-mile long lake accessible by a canoeable outlet to the Raquette River thus extending what is already the longest and most popular wilderness Adirondack canoe route stretching from Blue Mountain Lake to Tupper Lake. New York State will purchase the tract from The Nature Conservancy some time during the

next few years. The ADK hopes the state will then add the lake and surrounding forest to the High Peaks Wilderness Area.

More than 35 years ago, ADK author Paul Jamieson bemoaned the fact that the vast 19th century network of Adirondack canoe and guide boat routes had largely been closed. But with these recent developments, and the purchase of other lands and waters since 1990, we are coming close to restoring Jamieson's "lapsed paradise."

Conservation Updates

ADK Testimony to the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation Hearing: Oil and Natural Gas Drilling

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) thanks the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation for the opportunity to submit written comments. ADK will present our concerns for the potential environmental and recreational impacts that increased natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale may have on New York. The Adirondack Mountain Club is dedicated to conservation, education, outdoor recreation and protection of New York's Forest Preserve, parks, wild lands and waters. ADK represents over 30,000 hikers, paddlers, skiers and backpackers.

Many of our environmental colleagues have adequately expressed the water pollution and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staffing problems that will arise due to increased drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation,

therefore, ADK would like to focus the Committee's attention on the land surface impacts.

The Marcellus Shale formation lies beneath a large portion of Western and Central New York. While ADK reveres the Adirondack and Catskill Mountain ranges for their grandness, there are many valuable State Parks, Wild life Management Area and State Forests in Central and Western New York that are extremely important to our members, especially in our Western New York chapters.

ADK is concerned about the State of New York leasing land for these environmentally disruptive drilling practices. While certain entities are entitled to their existing lease rights on state managed forest land, we would oppose any effort by the state to grant new or expanded leases to private entities for oil, gas or mineral exploration. Hydraulic fracturing under state managed forests and state parks is inconsistent for their intended purpose.

We are also concerned by proposals to grant new or expanded leases for natural gas or oil extraction that would result in new roads, gas transmission lines and extraction infrastructure on state managed forest lands, wildlife management areas and state parks. With the extremely large amount of water that the "hydro-fracking" process involves, hauling water into drilling sites may be necessary if municipal water is not available. Estimates of increased truck traffic are hundreds per day. A large increase in truck traffic has the potential to disrupt the natural character of many state parks and forest lands in Central and Western New York. This natural experience is highly desired by our members and valuable to New York as tourism opportunities.

The process for testing the ground for resources does not come without disruption either. "Thumper trucks," that have disturbed people in residential neighborhoods, are feared to have negative impacts on the wildlife in this part of the State. Even with the

large shale formation becoming more and more economical to tap into, building wells and the drilling process are still very expensive, therefore, frequent testing using the "thumper trucks" is inevitable to ensure drillers of the locations where it is worthwhile to drill. However, the public and wildlife disruptions should be regulated.

The original intent of preserving forest areas and state parks in this region, such as Allegany State Park, Letchworth State Park, and Watkins Glen State Park, is to provide a natural experience to the public for recreation and scenic values. The potential increase in man's industrial existence cannot be ignored. The cumulative impacts of all processes and stages of natural gas drilling must be minimized.

Lastly, disruption of natural lands and creation of temporary roads for trucks attracts many "thrillcraft" riders such as ATV and dirt bike enthusiasts who are seeking challenging and muddy terrain. ADK fears that increased ATV use can lead to trespass on State Park lands and scenic hiking trail systems.

State Parks in Western New York are valuable to the State's tourism economy. New York's state park system provides visitors with a near wilderness experience that is often more accessible than the more distant lands of the Adirondacks and Catskills. State parks are also family friendly places for the public to learn more about how to safely recreate in the backcountry before they venture to the Adirondacks and Catskill.

These forest lands are very important to the health of New York's ecology as well as to the health of New York's residents. The Finger Lakes Trail is a valuable natural recreational destination for many ADK members, especially for our Western NY chapters. This trail system runs right over the Marcellus Shale formation and provides a remote and natural experience that is easily accessible to western New York's ADK members who prefer to stay close to home for recreational outings. This trail system also attracts tourists into this area of the State because it is also part of the North Country National Scenic Trail System.

ADK wants appropriate measures to be taken by regulatory agencies to ensure the protection of these forest lands' scenic and recreational character. ADK understands the economic hardships facing New York State but stresses that we must not allow our unique historic and natural environment to be sacrificed to industrialization for short term energy resource opportunities. Economic growth and environmental sustainability can be achieved with cooperation between state and local governments, residents, and the environmental community. Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns and opinions. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Paterson Administration Seeks \$50 Million Cut in Environmental Protection Fund

In an effort to close a \$1.5 billion budget gap, the Paterson administration will ask lawmakers to slash the Environmental Protection Fund by \$50 million in the current state fiscal year. The plan includes a \$3.5 million cut in funding for land acquisition. In April, the Legislature approved a \$255 million EPF for 2008-09. That included \$66 million for land acquisition, an \$11 million increase from the previous year. Under the Governor's plan, the Public Access and Stewardship category of the EPF would be reduced by \$1 million to \$4.75 million.

Other proposed cuts include \$10 million from non-point source pollution control programs, \$5 million from invasive species control, \$5 million from water quality improvements, \$1 million from farmland protection and \$1 million from waterfront revitalization.

The administration also plans to continue EPF funding at the \$205 million level for fiscal 2009-10.

State Agrees to Study State Parks for Forest Preserve Status/expand State Park Preserves/Preservation Areas

New York State has agreed to conduct a study to determine whether eight State Parks in Forest Preserve counties outside of the boundaries of the Adirondack Park should be considered Forest Preserve, and therefore be subject to protection under Article XIV, the "Forever Wild" clause of the NYS Constitution.

The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP) has agreed to do the study as part of a settlement with the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (AFPA), Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) and Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (RCPA). The State's commitment to closely study eight parks within NYS OPRHP's jurisdiction comes as part of a settlement of claims by the organizations that significant portions of Moreau Lake State Park in Saratoga County legally constitute Forest Preserve lands, and that the Saratoga County Water Authority's construction in 2007-2008 of a pumping station and water supply intake on the Hudson River, buried water pipeline and associated tree-cutting and road development through parts of that park seriously

Winter Education Programs at the Adirondack Loj

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) is offering free educational programs at Heart Lake and the Adirondack Loj this winter. Programs run from Jan. 2 through March 22. All programs are free and open to all ages.

Campfire Astronomy Programs will be held every Friday night starting at 8 PM. Heart Lake is a great place to see the rest of the universe! Come enjoy a toasty campfire next to Heart Lake every Friday evening in the winter. Hot chocolate and tea will be available for all. Over the campfire an ADK naturalist will tell stories and myths about the night sky along with background information on the stars in view that particular night. Then it's a short stroll down to the shore of Heart Lake where participants can look through a telescope at the night sky.

Winter World Snowshoe Walks will be offered every Saturday at 1 PM and Sundays and holidays at 10 AM with a

The Paterson administration also plans to push for passage of an expansion of the Bottle Bill to include a five-cent deposit on containers for water and non-carbonated beverages. Unclaimed deposits would go to the EPF, replacing funding from the Real Estate Transfer Tax. The Bottle Bill is expected to raise about \$100 million a year. In the past, Republicans who controlled the state Senate have resisted efforts to expand the Bottle Bill, but Democrats gained control of the Senate in the Nov. 4 election, so the legislation is expected to have a better chance in 2009.

Governor Paterson is calling lawmakers back to Albany on Nov. 18 for a special session to consider budget cuts, including mid-year cuts in school aid and Medicaid. Senate Republicans, who will still control that house until the end of the year, have indicated they may not approve the Governor's proposed cuts.

The Governor also plans to unveil his 2009-10 Executive Budget on Dec. 16. The Executive Budget isn't normally released until late January.

violated the provisions of Article XIV, which requires that the Forest Preserve "shall be forever kept as wild forest lands."

The Forest Preserve is not limited to State lands inside the boundaries of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, but is defined in law as lands owned or hereafter acquired by the State within named counties, with specific exceptions listed in the law. The organizations contended that the impacted lands at Moreau Lake State Park met all the legal tests and none of the exceptions for inclusion within the Forest Preserve.

The study will be conducted by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation over the next year. It will be based upon relevant documents and sources at NYS OPRHP and other agencies, and will be subject to a sixty day public comment period. The eight State parks to be studied are Crab Island, Cumberland Bay, Higley Flow, Macomb Reservation, Pixley Falls, Point Au Roche, Saratoga Spa, and Whetstone Gulf State Parks.

knowledgeable ADK guide. You'll be led on a mile long snowshoe walk around the shores of Heart Lake. Come and learn how to identify animal tracks in the snow, see how trees and animals adapt to the winter landscape and much more. So awaken your curiosity with us while enjoying the beautiful frozen landscape of Heart Lake in the winter.

Rocks & Minerals of the Adirondacks is an interactive program held inside the ADK Loj every Saturday at 10 AM. Come learn the fascinating story of how the bedrock and minerals of the Adirondacks were formed over a billion years ago. Ask plenty of questions then check out some of the beautiful rocks and minerals that can be found throughout the Adirondacks, including marble, garnet, and beautiful opalescent crystals. Participants can sign up at the Loj front desk.



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 Acting Officers and Committee Chairs

Chairperson: Gail Weyna
821-2846 glsnow@aol.com
Vice-Chair: Donna Cole
237-6311 coledonnarn@yahoo.com
Secretary: Elaine Gregory
775-0952 cricket46@echoes.net
Treasurer: Mark Epstein
798-9115 mepstein@stny.rr.com

Director, ADK: Erik Gregory
775-0952 egregory@threearrows.com
Program Chair: Gary Vanderbles
722-3765 gvanderbles@stny.rr.com
Conservation/Trails: Open
Hospitality: Open

Outings, John Lynch
757-3360 spiderjohn@stny.rr.com
Membership: Open
Publicity/Newsletter: Ken Jackson
341-1584 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
- reduced rates at ADK facilities: lodges, lean-tos, cabins, and campgrounds
- 20% discount on ADK trail guides, canoe guides, maps, books and calendars
- membership in one of ADK's 27 chapters throughout the Northeast
- Adirondack Magazine six times a year

For more information go to www.adk.org or call 800-395-8080