

Binghamton Outdoors!!!

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

Volume 6, Number 3 Fall 2013

A Message From Your Chapter Chair

Fall has officially started. It is certainly an enjoyable time to be in the woods. The bugs are mostly gone, but the daylight is shorter and evenings are likely to be cool. So remember to bring suitable clothing and pack a headlamp.

With winter approaching, don't stop enjoying the woods. Many find it the most beautiful time to be outside. Hopefully I will see some new people on the Catskill hike I am leading in the fall. I expect I will also lead a hike in the Catskills during the solar winter.

We already have some new programs slated for the coming months. Larry Weill presented in October, and in **January, Dennis Webster will present his new book "Wicked Adirondacks"**. That should be much fun. And in **April, we are planning the return of Rick Marsi**. Rick made a great presentation last spring and we thought we would have him back. See you on the trail – or at a presentation.

Your chapter has several open leadership positions (See page 3) and needs your involvement. Please consider volunteering for a position, and please contact me if you have questions. Thanks, Mark Epstein, 798-9115

Fall/Winter outings and meetings...more details on pages 3 & 4

Meetings:

November 12, 2013 Tuesday 7PM: Chapter meeting and elections, Chenango Town Hall community room

December 10, 2013 Tuesday 6PM: Holiday Party. Chenango Town Hall community room, bring a dish to pass!

January 14, 2014 Tuesday 7PM: Dennis Webster presents "Wicked Adirondacks", Chenango Town Hall

Outings:

December 5, 2013 Thursday: Catskills Lone and Rocky Mountain Bushwhack, 10 miles 2,500 Elevation Gain

January 24-26, 2014 Dave Martin's renowned Grace Camp Winter Hiking in the Adirondacks High Peaks!
Leader: Dave Martin, 607-237-3164, dwmartin@stny.rr.com. Contact Dave for further information and to sign up. Open to ADK Members. **Reserve your spot NOW** by sending your \$58 payment by November 22, 2013 with your check made out to "Binghamton Chapter ADK", and mailed to Chapter Treasurer Elaine Gregory, 291 Town Line Rd, Kirkwood 13795.

From the Outings Chair

I wanted to take a moment and mention some of our recent and upcoming adventures.

First I'd like to recount our recent foray to the Adirondacks in the Giant Mountain range on September 23rd. The plan was for Mark, Karen and myself to start to hike from the New Russia trail head and hike up the ridge to Bald Peak, Rocky Peak Ridge and finally to Giant Mountain and then down the Roaring Falls trail to Route 73. This was about a 13 mile hike with a 5300 foot vertical climb (which scared the wits out of me). We planned to meet with Erik who was climbing Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge from Route 73 and we would all finish together. Mark and I stayed at a local hostel on Sunday night, Karen (who was coming off staying the weekend at Camp Peggy O'Brian) opted for the luxury of a hotel and Erik stayed at a local B&B. Eric drove us to the trailhead and returned for a breakfast at the B&B and the start of his solo hike. The three of us started up the trail which was new to all of us. The trail was in great shape and passed through open evergreen and birch forest. We gained altitude and passed many great viewpoints and we soon hiked through many open, rocky areas with 360 degree views. The sky was clear as we climbed but the summit of Giant was visible ahead and was engulfed in clouds. We stopped to eat at Lake Marie Louise, a beautiful little lake nestled on the ridge between Bald Peak and Rocky Peak Ridge. We climbed to the summit of Rocky Peak Ridge and were met with a stiff, chilly wind so we did not stay long. Erik was not on the summit and we suspected he had stayed on Giant instead of making the arduous descent and climb of RRP from Giant. We soon encountered him in the col and continued on to Giant with him. As we climbed Giant we soon entered the clouds. As we approached the summit we were greeted with icy tree branches...the ice broke off the limbs and scattered on the ground like broken glass as the breeze ruffled the trees. When we hit the actual, open summit we had no views but instead were surprised to find the trees lined with several inches of rime ice that had built up in the branches. The ice built up into the wind as the wind drove the frozen fog into the tree branches. It was quite amazing for a late September day. We descended and were soon out of the clouds. We stopped at the top of Roaring Brook Falls and very hesitantly peered over lip of the falls into the abyss below. We finished shortly thereafter and wearily assembled at the Noonmark Diner for supper. It was a great hike with great company.

We have two major upcoming outings planned. One in early December to the Catskills for a strenuous bushwhack to Lone and Rocky Mountains. Mark Epstein is the leader of this hike. Please contact him if interested. Then in January we have a winter trip planned with a two night stay at Grace Camp near Johns Brook Lodge. The hiking objectives will be determined as the trip attendees fill up. There is room for six people in the camp. Please call myself or Dave Martin if interested.

Hiking in the Fall and Winter can be extremely fun and challenging. I would like to encourage members to offer to lead trips or provide ideas for trips the club can perhaps organize.

Happy Hiking! Pat Connors, 607-625-4078, 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 has 4 pairs of Crampons and 2 pairs of Microspikes available for rent at a rate of \$5 per week.** 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. The Chapter Equipment / Rental policy is available on the Yahoo Group listserv and the web site. Contact Outings Chair Pat Connors at pat_connors_ny@yahoo.com to rent items or for more information.

Fall 2013 / Winter 2014 Outings Schedule

December 5, 2013 Thursday: Catskills Lone and Rocky Mountain Bushwhack, 10 miles 2,500 Elevation Gain

I will lead an outing to Lone and Rocky Mountain from the end of Denning Road. We will leave the trail and follow the fisherman's path on the East Branch of the Neversink, and then leave that path for a direct bearing to Lone Mountain. Then we will likely lose a bit of elevation before heading over to Rocky Mountain. I have heard from experienced hikers of this region that a direct bearing between these mountains is to be avoided.

We have two Catskill 3500 aspirants in our chapter that are interested in this hike. The hike is fairly rigorous through dense brush, and will require summiting two mountains. It also entails one of the longer drives for a Catskill hike. For those interested in a trail, one peak, and something with more enticing views, I'll likely lead something else in the winter. Departure time to be determined. RSVP to mepstein@stny.rr.com

January 24-26, 2014 Dave Martin's renowned Grace Camp Winter Hiking in the Adirondacks High Peaks!

The Binghamton Chapter ADK has a reservation at Grace Camp in the Adirondacks for a chapter trip on January 24-26, 2014 (arrive Friday Jan 24, leave Sunday Jan 26). [Grace Camp](#) is a winterized cabin owned by ADK in the Johns Brook valley, near Johns Brook Lodge. You backpack to it 3.5 miles from "The Garden", the nearest parking lot / trailhead, which is near Keene Valley. Grace sleeps six, it is heated, has a gas stove & lights, is furnished with all cooking & eating gear. It is a super base camp for climbing any of the many nearby high peaks. For more information on Grace Camp go to: <http://www.adk.org/page.php?pid=364&pname=johns-brook-camps>

The cost for this Grace Camp trip will be \$58.00/person if we have 6 persons. Sign up by emailing Dave Martin at dwmartin@stny.rr.com Make your payment by November 22, 2013 by check to "Binghamton Chapter ADK" and mailed to Chapter Treasurer Elaine Gregory, 291 Town Line Rd, Kirkwood 13795. (If not enough folks have signed up & paid by November 24, we may cancel the reservation and get the deposit back.)



Picture at right is of Grace Camp interior...WOW!

Fall 2013 / Winter 2014 Meetings Schedule

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming Chapter meetings. **Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the Chenango Town Hall Community Room unless otherwise indicated.**

Chenango Town Hall Community Room
1529 State Route 12
Binghamton, NY 13901-5504

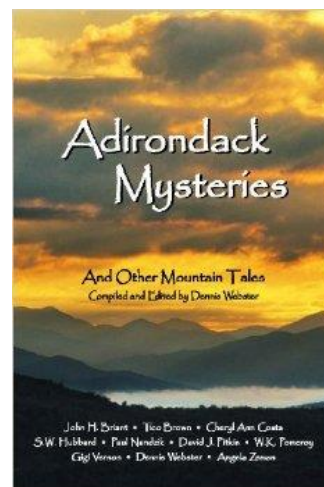
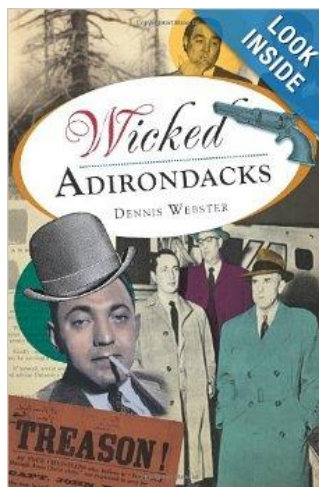
November 12, 2013, Tuesday 7PM. Chapter meeting and elections

- **Active nominations: Lindsey Leiser, Secretary**
- **Open Positions: Program** – Coordinates chapter meeting programs using input/ideas from the membership
- **Conservation** – Coordinates chapter conservation education / service projects
- **Hospitality** – Coordinates refreshments and welcoming activities at chapter events

December 10, 2013, Tuesday 6PM 2013 Holiday Party. Bring a dish to pass and celebrate the holiday season!

January 14, 2014 Tuesday 7PM, Dennis Webster presents Wicked Adirondacks

While the Adirondack Mountains are New York's most beautiful region, they have also been plagued by insidious crimes and the nasty escapades of notorious lawbreakers. In 1935, public enemy number one, Dutch Schultz, went on trial and was acquitted in an Adirondack courtroom. Crooks have tried creative methods to sidestep forestry laws that protect the flora of the state park. Members of the infamous Windfall Gang, led by Charles Wadsworth, terrorized towns and hid out in the high mountains until their dramatic 1899 capture. In the 1970s, the Adirondack Serial Killer, Robert Francis Garrow, petrified campers in the hills. Join local author Dennis Webster as he explores the wicked deeds and sinister characters hidden among the Adirondacks' peaks.



February 11, 2014, Tuesday 7PM: Chapter meeting/presentation. Check www.binghamtonadk.org for updates

March 11, 2014, Tuesday 7PM: Chapter meeting/presentation. Check www.binghamtonadk.org for updates

April 8, 2014, Tuesday 7PM: Rick Marsi presentation!

From The Communications and Membership Chair

FYI...Our Chapter now has 186 members! Thank you for your support of ADK! Welcome to new and rejoined chapter members and affiliates: Jean Blackburn, Al Kelsey, Linda Niles, Amanda Scarpato, Nancy Kleinsmith, John Burnham, Marcia Ertola, Judith Heavey-Staeuble, Margaret Shavalier, Katie McCann, Kristin Weaver, Nick Foster-Mann, Jeff Weidner, Susan Ignaciuk, Albrecht Inhoff and C Connine, Scott Lauffer and Kathy Cronin, Arthur and Rita Gould

Are you receiving 'ADK Today' via email, and chapter messages from our BinghamtonADK Listserv? If not we need an updated email address from you! Please send your current email address to kenjny@stny.rr.com . Here are the ways you can find out the latest activities and happenings with your Binghamton ADK Chapter:

WWW.BINGHAMTONADK.ORG Check out our chapter web site for the latest information and pictures! This is the place to find the latest Chapter activities. Would you like to post a picture or article on our chapter website? If so contact our webmaster Terri Gracin at bingadkweb@gmail.com

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

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER. We hope you find this newsletter informative. Please send feedback/suggestions to kenjny@stny.rr.com

Meeting and Outing Reports

Aug 2-4 Fri – Sun. Camping Weekend at Cedar River Flow

A great weekend was had by a group of chapter members hiking, canoeing/kayaking, and camping in the central Adirondacks area! Check out these happy campers!

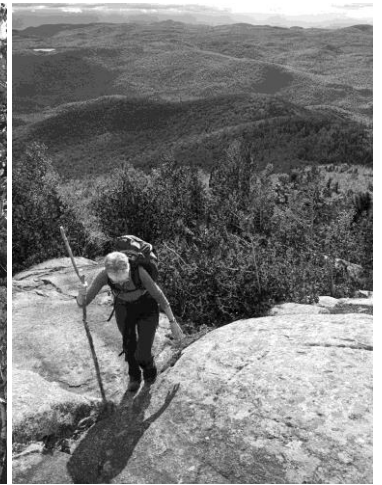
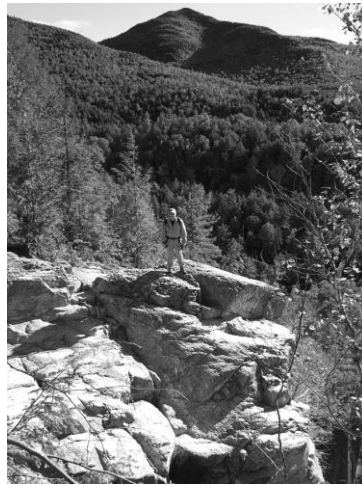


September 23, Rocky Ridge Peak, Giant Mountain in the Adirondacks.

On Monday 9/23 I met Pat C, Karen C, and Erik G at the Roaring Brook parking area, shuttled around to New Russia, and started a great hike. The trail offered a bit of everything, but mostly open and great views as we ascending towards Rocky Ridge Peak. We enjoyed a lunch next to Mary Louise Pond, which is found at quite a high altitude. We found the pond was also being visited by over twelve Canada Geese. The more we ascended east, the more we found we were walking towards a summit cloud and overcast conditions. We didn't stay long on Rocky Ridge Peak, but did stop for an extended time just short of Giant's summit to enjoy the view of the cloud swirling in front of us.

There was a bit of rime ice on the trees of Giant - quite a neat experience. Some of it would crash to the ground with each gentle breeze. Our next visit was to the crest of Roaring Brook where enjoyed another view as we had hiked below the summit cloud. Then we finished Adirondack style - with a dinner at the Noonmark Diner.

Pat, Karen, and Erik - thanks for joining me. I had a great day. Mark



October 8: Larry Weill provided an enjoyable presentation at our October meeting. Below are a few pictures if you missed it. His books are available for purchase on Amazon and other locations.



ADK Books, Maps, and Gear

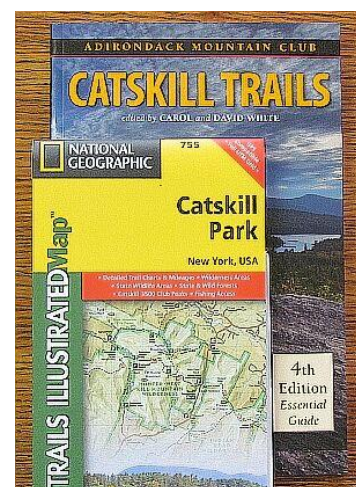
Did you know....when you shop the Adirondack Mountain Club's catalog, profits from your purchases support our three-fold mission of conservation, education, and recreation! ADK members receive a **20% discount** on ADK publications and a **10% discount** on ADK logo wear and gear. Browse your ADK Online Store at: www.adk.org for great guide books like these:

Catskill Trails – 4th Edition

NEW 4th edition of the most comprehensive trail guide to the Catskill region
This Map Pack includes the completely new 4th edition of the Catskill Trails and Trails Illustrated map #755.

As always, each ADK guide supplies complete information on rules and regulations, how to find the trailhead, where to park, mileages, elevation gains and heights and all essential navigational information. Each trail is keyed to indicate its location on Trails Illustrated Map 755. Catskill Trails is volume 6 in ADK's new Forest Preserve Series of guidebooks covering the Adirondacks and Catskills. Volume 1 is High Peaks Trails, volume 2 its the Eastern Trails, volume 3 is Central Trails, volume 4 is Western Trails, and volume 5 covers the Northville-Placid Trail. Currently available are the High Peaks Trails, and the Eastern Trails, with the other new editions due out winter 2013.

Guide: 255 pages, softcover, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2". Map Pack includes Trails Illustrated Map 755: Catskill Park. You save \$4.95 on the package. Member price \$21.56.



ADK Skills Workshops

See: <http://www.adk.org/page.php?pname=workshops-skills> for more information. Programs are conducted at the Heart Lake Program Center in Lake Placid, or at the Services Center in Lake George

Adirondack Pack Baskets: December 8 (Lake George) December 15 (Lake Placid)

Create your own traditional Adirondack Pack Basket with the owners of Clear Creek Weavers, Bud Ziolkowski and Sandy Muller. During this full-day course, skilled craftsmen will take you through the step-by-step instruction to weave your own pack basket from start to "skids". You'll leave at the end of the day with a beautiful basket and a smile on your face! Cost: \$70/75 (Member/Non-member) small. \$80/85 large; includes instruction and materials.

Wilderness First Aid, November 16-17, 2013 (Lake Placid)

This in-depth course with Wilderness Medical Associates teaches students how to deal with medical emergencies when they are miles from help. The classes offer hands-on scenarios and lecture structure, through which students will learn to assess patients and become certified in wilderness first aid, CPR, and anaphylaxis training. Class time will be spent both inside and out. Cost: \$240, includes instruction and materials. Package: \$325, includes instruction, materials, meals, and lodging for 2 nights.

ADK COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

2013 Constitutional Amendments on the November 5th ballot

The Township 40 Amendment

This November, if you live in New York, you will make a choice on a ballot issue that has followed a long, complex path, finally to come before the voters of New York. The question involves approving an amendment to the state constitution that will resolve a long-standing ownership dispute between the state of New York and more than two hundred home and camp owners living on about 1000 acres around Raquette Lake in the center of the Adirondack Park. The controversy has been the subject of litigation and frustration, but now both sides have crafted a way out. ADK, the state of New York, the Township 40 Committee (which represents residents of the disputed land), and many other Adirondack conservation organizations agree that the Township 40 Amendment on which New York citizens will vote in November will solve the issue.

The Township 40 Amendment calls for residents of the disputed Township 40 parcels to contribute to a fund in accordance with the value of the land on which they reside. These new funds will be used to purchase lands associated with the Marion River Carry, an important property for paddling recreationists who wish to portage between the Eckford Chain of Lakes and Raquette Lake. In exchange for their contribution to this purchase, the Township 40 residents will be granted clear title to the Raquette Lake properties that they have been using.

ADK supports this amendment because it solves a long-standing Forest Preserve dispute, and provides increased access to Raquette Lake, the Marion River, and the Eckford Chain for canoes and kayaks. In a recent Adirondack Almanac article Phil Brown describes the parcel the state intends to acquire from the Open Space Institute (OSI) with the funding provided by the Township 40 Amendment: "The Marion River parcel... includes a 1,500-foot trail used by paddlers on a popular canoe route that connects the hamlets of Blue Mountain Lake and Raquette Lake. If starting in Blue Mountain Lake, paddlers travel down the Eckford Chain (Blue Mountain, Eagle, and Utowana lakes), carry to the Marion, and then go downriver to Raquette Lake. Katharine Petronis, OSI's northern programs director, said the parcel includes nearly a mile and a half of the Marion and more than 4,800 feet of Utowana shoreline. It also links the Blue Mountain and Sargent Ponds Wild Forest Areas." ("State May Acquire Marion River Carry," www.adirondackalmanack.com, August 2, 2013).

ADK's policy is to develop and support legislative solutions to issues that may impact Article 14 of the New York State Constitution. Article 14 defines and protects New York's Forest Preserve and establishes the "Forever Wild" conditions of these public lands. The Township 40 Amendment allows us to put a century-old dispute to rest in a way that is fair to all involved, most importantly to the public who will be able to enjoy increased access to the wild lakes and rivers of the Forest Preserve.

The NYCO Constitutional Amendment

Also on the ballot this November is the NYCO Constitutional Amendment. In brief, this constitutional amendment involves a land exchange with NYCO Minerals, Inc., which currently owns a wollastonite mine directly adjacent to Forest Preserve lands of the Jay Mountain Wilderness, near the town of Lewis, Essex County. The exchange proposed in the Amendment would give NYCO Minerals 200 acres known as Lot 8, which will allow the company to finish mining a wollastonite deposit that extends into Lot 8 from the company's current mining operation. Due to the results of preliminary evaluations of the remaining deposit in Lot 8, geologists from both the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and NYCO Minerals predict that only 50 acres of the 200 available to NYCO in the proposed land exchange will be used for mining by the company. After mining operations are complete, the acreage disturbed by the wollastonite mining will be reclaimed, recontoured, reforested, and returned to the Forest Preserve.

Since our last report, we now know that the land offered in exchange for Lot 8 will be over 1500 acres. The 200 acres of Lot 8 will be exchanged for northwest and southeast acreage additions to the Jay Mountain Wilderness totaling 1500 acres. The southeastern additions include two Class A wild trout streams and provide new hiking access to the Jay Mountain Range from the southeast. The northwest parcels will provide excellent hiking access from Nugent Road in the Town of Jay to the northeast peaks of the Jay Mountain Range.

The ADK Conservation Committee, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors all voted (nearly unanimously) to support the NYCO Constitutional Amendment. In addition to ADK, the Adirondack Council supports both the NYCO and Township 40 Constitutional Amendments.

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

Chair: : Mark Epstein
798-9115 mepstein@stny.rr.com

Director, ADK: Donna Coon
445-4003 coledonnarn@yahoo.com

Outings chair: Pat Connors
625-4078 pat_connors_ny@yahoo.com

Vice-Chair: Brooks Getty
757-9427 brooksgetty@gmail.com

Program Chair: Open
(your name could be here!)

Communications/Membership
chair: Ken Jackson
341-1584 kenjny@stny.rr.com

Secretary: Bruce Coon
445-4003 coonbsr@stny.rr.com

Conservation chair: Open
(your name could be here!)

Hospitality: Open
(your name could be here!)

Treasurer: Elaine Gregory
775-0952, cricquet46@echoes.net

Webmaster: Terri Gracin
bingadkweb@gmail.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
- 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
- discounts on ADK merchandise
- reduced rates at ADK facilities: lodges, lean-tos, cabins, and campgrounds
- membership in one of ADK's 27 chapters throughout the Northeast

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