

Binghamton Outdoors!!!

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

Volume 8, Number 1 Fall 2015 / Winter 2016

A Message From Your Chapter Chair

It wasn't planes, trains, and automobiles. It was hiking, backpacking, and paddling. This summer I backpacked to Panther Gorge and visited Haystack Mountain. I camped on Long Island in Blue Mountain Lake a few times (most memorably with my son once). I paddled the Raquette Lake Southern Inlet, and the Brown's Tract inlet. And I scouted a new location for a possible sunrise picture in the Pigeon Lake Wilderness. And enjoyed family time at Elk Lake.

Now I'm beginning to look forward to winter activities. Sadly I sense the end of my paddling adventures for a while, and I'm not particularly interested in winter camping. But I'll still be spending time outside and trying to recreate in the Catskills and Adirondacks. Hopefully I will see you on the trail.

Mark Epstein

Upcoming outings and meetings! See details on page 3

October 13th, Tuesday 7PM: Chapter meeting (at Chenango Town Hall)

November 10th, Tuesday 7PM: Chapter Movie Night – details to follow on listserv & website!

December 5th, Saturday outing to Big Slide and Yard Mountains.

December 8th, Tuesday, 6PM: Chapter Holiday Party. Bring a dish to pass. (at Chenango Town Hall)

January 12th, 2016, Tuesday 7PM: Chapter meeting (at Chenango Town Hall)

February 9th, 2016, Tuesday 7PM: Chapter meeting (at Chenango Town Hall)

March 8th, 2016, Tuesday 7PM: Chapter meeting (at Chenango Town Hall)

April 12th, 2016, Tuesday 7PM: Chapter meeting (at Chenango Town Hall)

 $May\ 10^{th},\ 2016,\ Tuesday\ 7PM:\ Chapter\ meeting\ (at\ Chenango\ Town\ Hall)$

June 14th, 2016, Tuesday 6PM: Chapter meeting and picnic at Chenango Valley State Park

From the Director

ADK has so much to offer that it's hard to know what to report on or what one might be interested in. Do yourself a favor and check out ADK.org. and sign up for "ADK Today". While you're there click on the Facebook icon. You'll find beautiful pictures and a very informative video on proper "poop" disposal.

So what is happening?

The latest environmental concern is Iowa Pacific Railroad's desire to store obsolete oil tank cars along the 26 miles of rail from North Creek to the Tahawus Mine. Legal research gives a strong argument that this can be prevented.

The Adirondack Pro Trail Crew was active: completing foot bridges and ladders near the false summit of Mt. Colden, finishing the final phase of the southern reroute of the Northville-Placid Trail, installing a rock staircase at Kaaterskill Falls and installing more rock steps on the McKenley Hollow Trail making it resistant to future trail erosion.

A new revision of the Northville-Placid Trail Guide Book is due to come out this coming spring.

ADK Heart Lake Property continues to be a popular place to visit. Those who camp there will be glad to hear that construction of an additional bathhouse should start next spring.

This year's fourteen volunteer Summit Stewards interacted with over 30,000 hikers!

ADK Staff member Stephanie Graudons is actively reaching out to chapters and groups of younger people to grow and support ADK's younger members. If you are interested in working with Stephanie or have contacts with groups in our local colleges please let me know.

December will be my last meeting as a member of the ADK Board representing Binghamton ADK. It has been a pleasure representing our chapter and a rewarding and educational experience. If you are interested in learning more about the Director's position please contact Erik Gregory or myself. The Chapter is looking for someone to fill the position.

Donna Coon

Chapter Opportunities

At the November 10th meeting of Binghamton ADK, elections for the following positions will take place:

Chair Vice Chair Director

If you would like to nominate someone for one of these positions, or are interested yourself, or if you have questions, please contact me. Volunteers are always welcome!

Donna Coon, Nominating Committee, coledonnarn@yahoo.com

Your chapter also has opportunities to serve on programs, conservation, and hospitality subcommittees.

Suggestions and Ideas

Do you have suggestions or ideas about what you want from your ADK chapter? If so please share your suggestions and ideas with one of the officers. Feel free to call, email, or stop by a meeting!

Fall 2015 / Winter 2016 Outings Schedule

December 5th, Saturday outing to Big Slide and Yard Mountains. Big Slide is one of the Adirondack 46 mountains – one with an exemplary view. We will hike from the Garden via the Brothers which have their own renowned view. After summiting Big Slide we will continue to Yard which happens also to be over 4,000 ft. It is not one of the 46 because of a minimal ascent from the col between it and Big Slide. Our return will be down to Johns Brook Lodge and then back to the Garden. The hike is 12.6 miles and has 3,000 feet of elevation gain. Early December conditions may vary considerably, but temperatures are apt to be cold. I expect to start around sunrise. For strong hikers. RSVP to <a href="mentation-mentat

Fall 2015 / Winter 2016 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

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Chapter Equipment for Rent

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 listsery and the web site. Contact Outings Chair Pat Conners at pat_connors_ny@yahoo.com to rent items or for more information.

ADK education programs / activities. Register at www.adk.org

Fall Trails Day - October 17, 2015

This is our last chance to clean drainages of fallen leaves and other debris before the snow arrives! We will focus on EIGHT different trails located in the Adirondack High Peak Region. A cold, continental breakfast will be served at the High Peaks Information Center (HPIC) at 7:30am. Crews leave for the day at approximately 8:45am. Participants can camp FOR FREE in the ADK Wilderness Campground both Friday and Saturday nights. Preregistration is required if staying in the campground.

Map & Compass Fundamentals, October 24, 2015

This is a great refresher course or a good place to learn the basics of map and compass skills. This course offers an introduction to the fundamentals of map reading, identification of terrain features, compass use, and triangulation. You'll go home with much more confidence in your ability to use a map and compass when it really counts! Location: Heart Lake Program Center (Lake Placid), Cost: \$75 (Members receive 10% discount); includes instruction and use of materials

Wilderness First Aid, December 5-6, 2015

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. Location: Heart Lake Program Center (Lake Placid), Cost: \$250, includes instruction and materials. Package: \$350, includes instruction, materials, meals, and lodging for 2 nights.

Adirondack Pack Baskets, December 6, 2015 (Lake George) or December 13, 2015 (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: \$75 small/\$85 large (Members receive 10% discount); includes instruction and materials.

GPS 101, January 3, 2016 (Lake George) or February 6, 2016 (Lake Placid)

This course will provide an introduction to Global Positioning Systems. We'll discuss how GPS works, including coordinate systems and other associated terminology, and explains the uses and limitations of GPS. Throughout the course, we'll go outside and conduct field exercises to solidify our new skills. Cost: \$75 (Members receive 10% discount); includes instruction and use of equipment.

Winter Teen Adventure, January 16-18, 2016

This three-day, two-night winter adventure is for teens ages 14 to 17. Explore the High Peaks Region while we build friendship, camaraderie and winter outdoor skills in the Adirondacks. Participants will experience staying in a yurt (with wood-stove) while hiking high peaks and learning the skills to become a proficient winter hiker. Location: Heart Lake Program Center, Cost: \$186 (Members receive 10% discount); includes instruction, transportation during the course, all meals, and use of group equipment (yurt, stoves, cook sets, etc.).

ADK Winter Mountaineering School, Jan 29th to Feb 4th 2016 at Adirondak Loj

ADK is hosting a multi-day winter in the high peaks experience from Jan 29th to Feb 4th at the Adirondak Loj. Program choices are a weekend day hike, 3 night weekend backpack, combo day hike/3 night backpack, and a 4 night remote wilderness backpack. Cost ranges from \$360 - \$435. Register by Jan 16th. Additional details available at www.winterschool.org

Introduction to Backcountry Snowshoeing, February 7, 2016

Our Intro to Snowshoeing program is a great way to experience the freedom and fun of snowshoeing. We'll spend a full day snowshoeing in the beautiful High Peaks Wilderness. Our focus will be on learning about safe winter travel and some basic techniques that will increase your enjoyment of this activity. Your instructor will also share bits of natural history such on topics such as animal tracking and winter ecology. This program is suited for adults and children 12 and older. Location: Heart Lake Program Center (Lake Placid)

Cost: \$50 Adults, \$17 kids 12-15 y/o (Members receive 10% discount). Includes instruction and snowshoes.

Intro to Winter Camping, February 13-15, 2016

Have you mastered summer hiking and camping? Are you eager to begin winter explorations, but lack the confidence or the know-how? This experiential, cold-weather workshop will cover the fundamentals of equipment, nutrition, low impact camping, and safety. We will travel by snowshoe to a backcountry camping spot where participants will learn how to set up camp, cook, stay warm and dry, and be prepared for the unexpected in the demanding conditions of winter. Location: Heart Lake Program Center/Field Cost: \$193 (Members receive 10% discount); includes instruction, group gear, and food

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

ADK Action Alert – float planes & Tirrell Pond

Howie Thompson is working with Bill Celentano (Northville Placid Stewardship) and the DEC Forest Rangers to file a formal request to ban float plane activity at Tirrell pond. The DEC would require another lake be named to replace Tirrell pond but one that isn't along the NPT or any other trail. The request supports the opinion that thru hikers and section hikers of the NPT should not have to worry about float planes impeding the experience that most doing the trail are looking for. We may need the chapter member support on a petition supporting this effort!

From The Communications and Membership Chair

FYI....Our Chapter now has 187 members! Thank you for your support of ADK! Welcome to new and rejoined chapter members and affiliates: Aubrey Baldauf, Martin Cuff, Tim Handy, Nancy Adams, Richard & Lorraine Chadwick, Richard Buffington, Tyler Guinane, Rachel Harvey, Rebecca Maney, Jody Tvetenstrand, Kierstin Young, John Greene, Allison Alden, Earl Fleming, Sally Fults, Pam Rozelle, Thomas McNair, Gerard Westfall, Bryan Pospisil & Amber L Watkins, Nancy Wottrich, Karl & Theresa Bienwald, Benjamin Fox, Marek Gawel, Anne McCall, Andrea Reale, A & Michelle Whitbeck, Sam Jones, Thomas & Carloline Ciak, Karen Hobbs, Jody Isaacson, Kevin Van Hine, Eleanor Hartquist, Jennifer Martin.

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:

<u>WWW.BINGHAMTONADK.ORG</u> 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 please send to rf8g46er@echoes.net

BINGHAMTONADK Yahoo group listserv: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BinghamtonADK/

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER. We hope you find it informative. Send suggestions to kenjny@stny.rr.com

Meeting and Outing Reports

At our September meeting, Kentucky resident Bill Cooke presented an excellent informational presentation and slide show about the Colorado trail. Bill thru-hiked this trail in 2011, and his book "Shades of Gray, Splashes of Color - A Thru-hike of The Colorado Trail" is available for purchase on Amazon, BN.com, etc.

The 486-mile Colorado Trail winds its way through the Rocky Mountains of the Centennial State, traversing a landscape as changing and diverse as the swirling afternoon clouds presaging the daily summer thunderstorms.

Bill Cooke lives in Lexington and has backpacked for over 37 years, dating back to his first backpacking trip on a portion of the Long Trail in Vermont. He has hiked the entire Long Trail twice as well as other trails around the country.

Opposite is a picture of the meeting and presentation.



More Colorado Pictures - Continental Divide hiking

Chapter member Ken Jackson hiked a section of the continental divide in Rocky Mountain National Park this summer. If you have a chance to hike in Rocky Mountain National Park it is a wonderful experience. Below are a few pictures from the hike. The was plenty of snow above 13000 feet even in mid July! Thanks, Ken Jackson









Paddling Chenango Valley State Park

Chenango Valley State Park is a good place to paddle, and they allow you to put your own boat on the water for a small fee. (We paid the annual fee of \$15 per boat, that allows you access at any time that the boathouse is operating).

Chenango Lake is the paddling lake in the park, and is about 3/4 of a mile long. The put-in at the boathouse is right around the corner from the swimming facility (Photo #1 - right).



Besides paddling up and down the lake, there are some coves and backwaters along the way to explore (Photo #2 - left), and a lot of eyeappealing terrain. If you're on a family outing and don't have enough

boats, there are kayaks and rowboats to rent. We found it to be an easy way to get on the water for a couple of hours to have fun paddling (Photo #3 - right). Erik Gregory





Hiking McKenzie Mountain

I am a hiker not a climber so I have resolved to the fact that I will never become a 46er. Yet I can be enticed by a challenge and a patch. So when the Saranac Six challenge came out I thought, I can do this. I knew I could climb St. Regis. I had hiked it when I did the fire tower challenge. Baker sounded like a piece of cake and my husband was familiar with Ampersand. In 2013 and 2014 my husband Bruce and I hiked five of the Saranac 6. As usual these were challenging for me, a walk in the park for my husband. I definitely remember getting ugly when confronted by a scramble on Ampersand.

All we had left was McKenzie, the longest climb of the six and the one with the most elevation gain. So to celebrate my husband's 68th birthday we planned to hike McKenzie, ring the bell in Berkeley Green and then have a delicious dinner at the ADK Loj. We started out early. To cut 3 miles off of the 10.6 mile round trip we chose to take the Jack Rabbit Trail in. A smart choice. In no time we were on the main trail to McKenzie. The trail started out as expected with the usual uphill climb. Then the utterly horrible, never ending, swear inducing scrambling started. This part took me forever. Thankfully my husband is a very patient man. He enjoys scrambling, but I think even he was a bit surprised at the amount of scrambling encountered on this minor peak. All I kept thinking is how will I ever get back down this. Finally we reached a level area. We had to be close to the Summit. Then peeking through the trees I caught a glimpse of something that I didn't want to believe. Yet I knew to my dismay that the mountaintop I saw in the distance was most likely our destination. I bolstered myself with the knowledge that it may not be as far as it looks. We continued on the pleasant wooded path until we reached where the trail descended. It looked treacherous. I sent my husband ahead to check it out and he reported it indeed was steep, rocky and most

likely slippery. By now it was getting late and it was questionable if we could even make it back to the Loj for our 6:15 PM reservation. I also was questioning if I had the return trip left in me let alone what lie ahead. So to be on the safe side we decided to turn around and head out. The return trip was not as bad as I had dreaded. We did meet three other groups on their way up. All of which reached the summit and also passed us on the way down. Not unusual for me. By the time we reached the Jack Rabbit Trail I was thinking two things. One, I will never hike another mountain ever again and two if we really book it we might make dinner. We did make dinner and the chef as always didn't let us down. The company was great. We even had cake to celebrate Bruce's birthday.

Next year we will go to the Loj again and Bruce will climb Mckenzie and ring the bell in Berkeley Green. Will I? That remains to be seen. With a bit more conditioning and an even earlier start, maybe. I have since rescinded my resolve to never climb a mountain again. The winter Fire Tower Challenge is calling me. Donna Coon

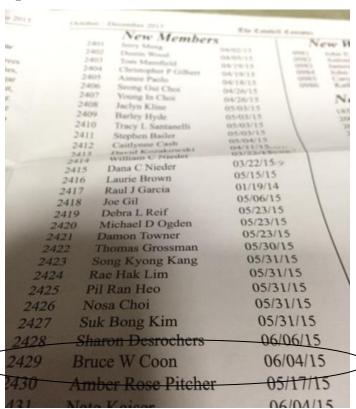
Special Congrats to Bruce Coon on his membership to the Catskill 3500 Club!

In addition to supporting Donna's hiking adventures, Bruce Coon recently completed his quest to summit all 35 Catskill Mountains above 3500 feet. Congrats Bruce!

The Catskill 3500 Club was founded in 1962, to foster interest in hiking in the Catskills. Membership is open to anyone who has climbed on foot each of the 35 Catskill peaks above 3500 feet in elevation.



Anyone wanting to become a member has to climb all 35 Catskill High Peaks and, (in a departure from the requirements of most other hiking clubs), climb Slide, Blackhead, Balsam and Panther mountains again in winter, which is defined by the Club as the period from December 21 thru March 21, inclusive.



2015 ADK Paddle Outing

The Annual Paddle Outing for the Adirondack Mountain Club was held during 2015 from 20 July to 30 July. Headquarters for the outing is Paul Smiths College, with participants staying in the dormitories and eating meals in the Dining Hall. Marilyn Gillespie, as usual, did a great job putting the outing together and running the show – she was aided by a seasoned group of Trip Leaders for the daily paddle events.

We chose to attend the first half of the outing this year. (You can choose to attend the first half, second half, or both). Since the first half started on Monday, we headed to the Lake Placid area on Saturday, and paddled Sunday on the Upper and Lower Cascade Lakes as a "warmup". We discovered a waterfall on the Western end of Upper Cascade Lake that's hidden from the road – part of the fun of paddling. Then we headed over to Paul Smiths on Monday to check in.

The outing followed the normal schedule with dinner at 5:30, following by a meeting in the Dorm common area at 7 PM. Stories of trips taken each day are shared, then trip leaders for the following day describe the details for their trips. A signup period follows where paddlers can select which trip they want go on. The discussions are fun, and there's usually a lot of light-hearted banter.

We chose a paddle the first day that started right at the beach in front of the Dormitory on Lower St Regis lake, with Marilyn as the trip leader. We paddled across Lower St Regis Lake, with St Regis Mtn in the background



(Photo #1), and into the St Regis River where we got our first Loon sighting of the trip. It's always fun to see the Loons, and watch them dive and pop up somewhere else. We finally reached a spot where we took the boats out and portaged across Keese Mills Road to a put-in on Black Pond. [Note: Black Pond is within the Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC) area, which includes an extensive trail system with beautifully manicured hiking trails – do a Google search to get a detailed printable map.] We paddled Black Pond, and went under a footbridge into Little Black Pond, returning to a Lean-to on Black Pond for a lunch stop. We had a great time exploring both ponds, and saw two more Loons that were keeping their distance. The weather held up well until shortly after lunch – just as we were getting back to the portage point

the skies opened up. Luckily Marilyn had spotted a car at the parking area, and a group of drivers were shuttled back to Paul Smiths for vehicles. It was an abbreviated, but fun, trip.

Last year we kept hearing the tales of winding, narrow Hatch Brook with Alder branches almost choking the waterway at places along the route – so for our paddle outing on the second day we chose Hatch Brook. This turned out to be a fun paddle with some canoe-handling challenges brought about by the afore-mentioned Alder branches and the moving water (Photo #2). At one point I reached over to grab a branch to stop the boat so I could





take a picture – reached too far and took on quite a bit of water. (Obviously a talent issue – but I'm working on it.) I paddled, partly submerged, to a sand bar and emptied the water out of the boat. Good thing the camera was still in a dry bag! It was fun to paddle, and we stopped for lunch on a large sand bar where Hatch Brook joins the Salmon River. Down river on the Salmon from this point it's a little wider and straighter (Photo #3). The next time I do this paddle I think it would be fun to have a Go-Pro! [Note: This year, at the Happy Hour that occurs from 4 PM until dinner each day, several people had laptops set up with continuous-run slide shows of their photos from the day – a big hit.]

The third day we chose to paddle Hatchery Brook, which comes from the outlet of Little Clear Pond and flows into Upper Saranac Lake. The paddle started at Route 30, where the brook is very narrow. This turned out to be a



Point Road twice – at the first crossing we were able to duck down and cross under the bridge; the second



The fourth day we were still a bit tired from the push across Upper Saranac lake, so our trip turned out to be perfect. We launched with a small group on Floodwood Pond, paddled the length of the pond, and entered Fish Creek (Photo #7). The paddle down Fish Creek was easy, and we were rewarded with great scenery and lots of wildlife, including deer and waterfowl. Earlier in the week a group took Fish Creek all the way to Fish Creek Ponds, then through the culvert under Rt 30 to Follensby Clear Pond. We stopped at a portage point on Fish Creek and portaged

beautiful paddle through open forest land (Photo #4). There were high reeds to paddle through on occasion, and several beaver dams where openings were wide enough for the boats (Photo #5 & Photo #6). The brook crosses Markham



crossing where we had to portage across the road near Upper Saranac Lake became the lunch spot. After lunch we paddled the short distance to Upper Saranac Lake, then we were faced with a mile of open water leading to the state boat launch area. It seemed calm enough as we headed out, so we paddled directly for the point instead of keeping to the shoreline. About half way across the wind kicked up and white caps were forming. The Hornbecks held up well for us, and we all made it to calmer water.



the short distance over to Follensby Clear Pond (Photo #8). The shorter trip allowed us to spend a long time at our lunch stop on a small island – plenty of time to relax and go swimming. On the short trip across Follensby Clear Pond to the take out, we were accompanied by four Loons - two of which popped up right near the boat – a real treat!



We thoroughly enjoyed the trip – and just like last year we're already looking forward to next year.

Erik Gregory

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) is dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and responsible recreational use of the New York State Forest Preserve, and other parks, wild lands, and waters vital to our members and chapters.

ADK encourages the involvement of all people in its mission and activities; its goal is to be a community that is comfortable, inviting, and accessible.

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 Director, ADK: Donna Coon Outings chair: Pat Conners

798-9115 mepstein@stny.rr.com 445-4003 coledonnarn@yahooo.com 625-4078 pat connors ny@yahoo.com

Vice-Chair: Brooks Getty Program Chair: Open Communications/Membership chair:

757-9427 <u>brooksgetty@gmail.com</u> (your name could be here!) Ken Jackson

341-1584 kenjny@stny.rr.com

Secretary: Lindsey Leiser Conservation chair: Open

723-2357 <u>adk46@stny.rr.com</u> (your name could be here!) Hospitality: Open

(your name could be here!)

Treasurer: Elaine Gregory Webmaster: Erik Gregory

775-0952 <u>cricket46@echoes.net</u> <u>rf8g46er@echoes.net</u>

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, leantos, cabins, and campgrounds
- membership in one of ADK's 27 chapters throughout the Northeast