

# Binghamton Outdoors!!!

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

Volume 9, Number 7 Fall 2020

## **ADK Binghamton Chapter Plans for 2020 / 2021** By chapter leadership team

Hi Binghamton ADK chapter members. We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during this COVID-19 pandemic and getting outdoors for solo and socially distanced activities. Your chapter is following the guidance from ADK and continuing to postpone all face to face meetings. We are starting virtual meetings in November and continue to have some outings where we can socially distance. Please see below for upcoming meetings and outings.

### **Upcoming Virtual (Zoom) Chapter Meetings / Presentations**

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming Chapter VIRTUAL meetings. Meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. The zoom link will be distributed via the google group to your email.

**November 10, Tuesday, 7PM.** Chapter VIRTUAL meeting, Program” Hiking Grand Canyon, by Pat Connors

**December 8, Tuesday, 7PM.** Virtual Holiday Party

**January 12, Tuesday, 7PM.** Patch education: The Adirondacks and Catskills Parks

**February 9, Tuesday, 7PM.** Patch education: Back Woods first aid

**March 9, Tuesday, 7PM.** Patch education: Intro to hiking and backpacking

**April 13, Tuesday, 7PM.** Patch education: Leave No Trace

**May 11, Tuesday, 7PM.** Summer 2021 hiking plans discussion

**June 8, Tuesday, 6PM.** Chapter Post Covid Picnic (hopefully!)

# Upcoming Chapter Outings and Activities

If you would like to organize an outing please contact our outings chair Lindsey Leiser at 607-621-8945 or [adk46@stny.rr.com](mailto:adk46@stny.rr.com). Consider leading an outing to your favorite place...we need more outings leaders! Final details of outings will be shared on the chapter listserv, and you can contact the outing leader listed below.

**November 07, Saturday, 10AM. Riverbank cleanup conservation project at Otsiningo Park.** Meet in first parking area on the right, by pond. Leader :Ken Jackson ([kenjny@stny.rr.com](mailto:kenjny@stny.rr.com))

**Future activities:** We are considering a roadside dump action team to clean up selected trailhead areas in Broome, Tioga, Chenango, Delaware, and Cortland counties. To accomplish this we need a great group of committed volunteers....if interested contact Bob Strebel ([bobmail@stny.rr.com](mailto:bobmail@stny.rr.com))

We are also partnering with Broome County to install improved trail marking at Hawkins Pond county park...stay tuned for details...likely this will be a spring activity.

# Upcoming ADK Events and Activities

Check <https://www.adk.org/play/> for the latest updates

## ADK Master Calendar

ADK has created an online master calendar that consolidates in one place all the outings and activities planned by ADK and ADK Chapters. The calendar is packed with many great activities and shows activities for the next six months. One can browse by day or week or month, search on keywords, and request email and text updates. Check it out at <https://www.adk.org/play/calendar/>

## ADK Mission Statement

ADK (Adirondack Mountain Club) 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.

## Who We Are

ADK is the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and advocating for New York State's wild lands and waters while also teaching people how to enjoy natural places responsibly. Since 1922, the organization has offered people opportunities to stay and play in as well as protect, discover, and explore the outdoors. Today, ADK has 30,000 members in 27 chapters statewide and is served by a professional, year-round staff. The organization is recognized as a vital voice in the commitment to environmental stewardship and ethical outdoor recreation in New York State.

## ADK Earn A Patch Program

Love a challenge? ADK and ADK chapters offer the following patches:

- Fire Tower Challenge - Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter
- ADK Kids Challenge – Laurentian Chapter
- Wilderness Weekends in Western New York Challenge
- Paddle Tour of Finger Lakes – Genesee Valley Chapter
- Adirondack Paddle Pursuit
- Adirondack Quest – Genesee Valley Chapter
- Northville – Placid Trail – Schenectady Chapter
- **Southern Tier Scramble – Binghamton Chapter**

Visit <https://www.adk.org/play/earn-a-patch/> to learn more about each patch opportunity. Browse the ADK master calendar to see opportunities to join ADK members on hikes and paddles as you complete your challenge.

## Have You Started Your Southern Tier Scramble Patch Challenge...this is a fun activity to do solo and in small socially distanced groups!

Check out <http://www.binghamtonadk.org/PatchPage.html> for the latest information

ADK Binghamton chapter is pleased to announce our Southern Tier Scramble patch challenge. The challenge focus aligns with ADK's mission of Conservation, Education, and Recreation.

Patch activities are available in the five NY counties where many of us live: Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, and Tioga.



Check out the 2020 chapter meetings and outings which offer opportunities to complete patch activities. Please make a commitment to participate in the Southern Tier Scramble!

Check out [www.binghamtonadk.org](http://www.binghamtonadk.org) for the latest activities schedule!

## Southern Tier Scramble Patch Completions!

Congratulations to these enthusiasts who have completed the Scramble:

1. Bob Strebel
2. Ken Jackson
3. Julie Thompson
4. Cindy Gretzinger
5. Nick Gretzinger
6. John Greene
7. Patsy Strebel
8. Bailey Strebel (Woof!)



## Chapter Membership Status

*Our Chapter currently has 210 members. Thank you for your support of ADK!*

Welcome to new and rejoined chapter members and affiliates since the last newsletter: Taylor Weigand, Susan Frost, Teresa Butler, Dean Daniels, CarrieAnne Bentley, Nicole Kneaskern, Jaclyn Kress, Jena Sacco, Emmy Stoudt, Mary Sze Tu, Erin Potter, Jeffrey and Lisa Sabol, Mark Beaudoin, Nicole Schneider, Cindy Farabaugh

## Chapter emails have moved to Google Groups!

Emails will now be from: [binghamton-adk+noreply@googlegroups.com](mailto:binghamton-adk+noreply@googlegroups.com)

If you are not getting emails from the chapter send an email to [kenjny@stny.rr.com](mailto:kenjny@stny.rr.com) to be added

## 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 listserv and the web site. Contact Pat Connors at [pat\\_connors\\_ny@yahoo.com](mailto:pat_connors_ny@yahoo.com) to rent items or for more information.

# Outings and Activities Reports

## Harvest Full Moon Hike: by Bob Strebel and Ken Jackson

Seven socially distanced hikers enjoyed a Harvest Full Moon hike on October 1<sup>st</sup> at Chenango Valley State Park. Weather was good however clouds limited our view of the full moon until the drive home! We hope to have more full moon hikes over the winter if Covid cooperates and we can have a fire at the completion of the hike...stay tuned.

## White Mountains Hike: By Lindsey Leiser

In Mid-September I decided to continue on my pursuit of the forty-eight 4000 footers in New Hampshire. It has not been an easy or well-planned adventure to completion, lots of missteps, lots of rainy washouts, and a lot of years.

Our second day of my trip with my friend Dennis was Cannon mountain. A short but extremely tough hike of just 4.2 miles, but a ton of elevation gain and an unexpected drop in elevation from the main lookout to the summit.



Great views at the lookout of the Franconia Ridge and the Presidentials. At the summit we decided to hike down the ski slopes (state run ski resort). Hiking down ski slopes is not easy. They can be very steep, overgrown with weeds and grass, and can have some slippery rocks and biggest problem are little potholes, I call them ankle busters. It was windy, it was tough but a lot easier than the trail and we got to walk a road for .25 mile.

Next up was Cabot mountain. The easier, more scenic approach from the south was canceled due to a road closing at 4 p.m. We took the less scenic up and back approach from the north. First trail was poorly used. It was a long hike of 10 miles, up and down a smaller mountain. Some views, cool day, no breeze and met some really nice people. Funny thing on the way back to our motel we wanted to watch a NFL football game, eat some pizza, have a beer. All of a sudden we looked up and there all 3 were in one spot. LOL

Third day was Mount Willey, which started out on a beautiful but easy section of the Appalachian Trail. Then the last 1.1 miles to the top we climbed like 1600 feet. It was a bear, really was super tough. It also included 8 wooden

ladders in a row. That was neat but after that we thought we were at the top, we were completely wrong. Great views at the top. Very cool day, getting down was no fun either. High in the low 50s, lows in the mid 20s.

4th Day after a break day was Galehead Mountain. Again another cool day. Trail in the beginning was like a superhighway, flat, no rocks and roots, wide, and clean. We knew we were going to pay for it. But a great hike following a beautiful stream. Ended up at Galehead Hut (closed due to Covid). After catching some great views at the hut, and talking to a bunch of hikers we made it to the summit. On the way back it got dark and cloudy but only sprinkled later that night. That was the only rain of the entire trip. Every day was super sunny and clear. Galehead was not a super hard hike but it was the most interesting in so many ways.

Last hike was Mount Carrigan. Tough hike, lot of elevation gain. Again, the beginning was easy. Met a lot of people, great views at the top. Lot of interesting things to see, and again another great stream to follow. Unfortunately, I sprained my ankle badly about half mile from the car. I limped back, we camped for the night to rest it. Was not up to hiking the next day at all, and decided to take our time heading for home, trying to hit some touristy things to look at. Great weather, some nice streams and water falls (which I didn't understand, they were under a drought alert up there), great views and tough hiking. Nothing was easy. That's the Whites for you.

Lindsey Leiser

### **Fall Color in the Southern Tier:** By Erik Gregory

Not able to get to the Adirondacks this year for a fall color outing? Not a problem! Fall color right here in the Southern Tier is great!



I'm at Otsiningo Park almost every day – it's been fun watching the leaves change. By mid-October we're in full color mode – Everything from bright oak leaves (Photo #1) to maples in full

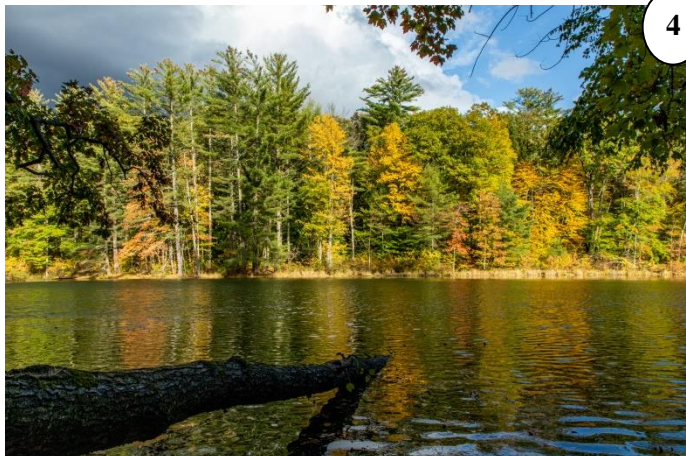
bloom (Photo #2)

There are even brightly colored vines growing on the rocks under-neath the Bevier Street bridge (Photo #3).



There's still plenty of color to see at Otsiningo Park, and there are many trees that haven't turned yet – so the annual treat will continue right into November.

Up the highway at Chenango Valley State Park the colors are a bit more subdued, but the scenery is delightful – even the red roofs on the buildings add fall flavor to the scene. (Photos #4 and #5).



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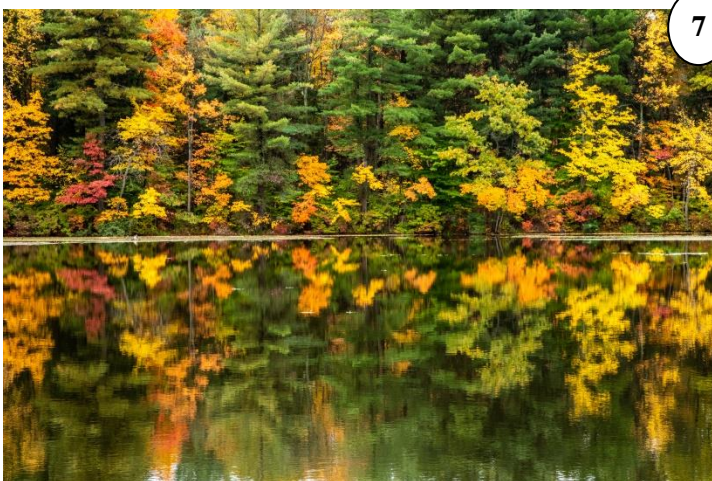


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Across the border in Pennsylvania, colored leaf reflections dance on the blue waters of Quaker Lake, as camp owners start taking their boats out for the season. (Photo #6)



6



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And I found a small farmer's pond where the scene reminds me very much of the reflections that you'd see on many a pond in the Adirondacks... (Photo #7)

Hope you're enjoying the season as much as I am!  
Erik Gregory

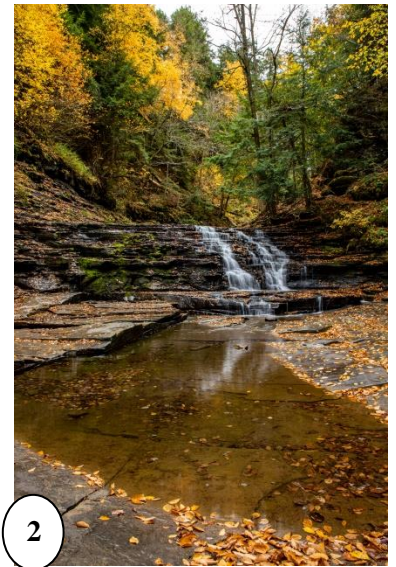
### **A Waterfall Hike at Salt Springs State Park:** By Erik Gregory

Salt Springs State Park is well worth exploring. There are 15 miles of hiking trails, about 14 rustic campsites, and 3 rustic cabins. The trails are well marked. Silver Creek runs next to the camping and picnic areas, but Fall Brook is the larger of the two streams in the park.

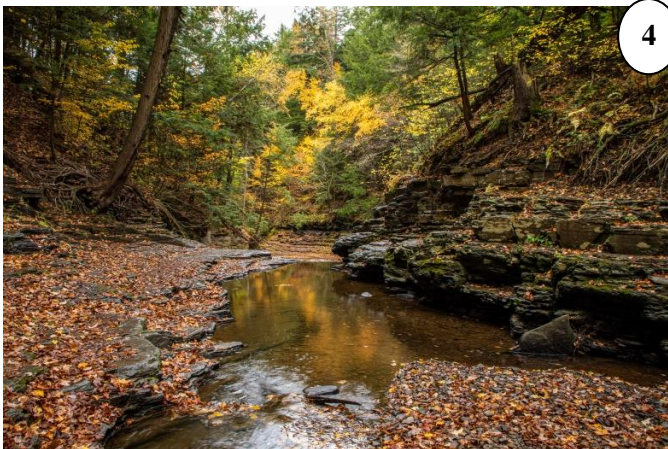
To get there: Leave I-81 at Exit 1; cross the river and travel south on NY Rt 7. (Rt 7 becomes Rt 29 in Pennsylvania.) Continue south to Franklin Forks (about 6 miles north of Montrose) and turn right on Silver Creek road. (A sign points the way to Salt Springs State Park). The entrance is on the left after about a mile. I've hiked many of the trails, but my favorite by far is the relatively short (1 mile) Fall Brook trail. You have to do some rock-hopping at the start, and throughout the 1 mile stretch, but the reward is experiencing three different waterfalls.

The trail is right up the brook, where you climb up each of the waterfalls to continue the hike. (Your boots will get splashed, and you'll step in 1 to 2 inches of water, but it's a lot of fun.

Water flow is low right now due to our lack of rainfall, so the first of the falls appears as a twin. (Photo 1 and Photo 2). In wetter periods, the water flows across the entire width. Climbing along the left side is the easy way to get to the next level. Fall colors fill the gorge.



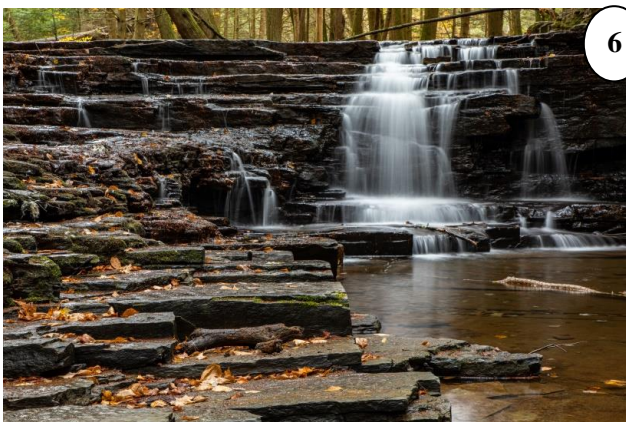
A large pond forms above the lower falls with cliffs on either side. It's easy to walk along the ledges on the left side to get up to the middle falls (Photo #3). These falls cascade in two drops. To get above the middle falls you have to climb up through the center of them – not too hard to do, but careful foot placement is required to avoid slippery rocks.



Once above the middle falls, if you look back downstream, you'll see a great view of the cliffs and the stream as it disappears over the top edge of the falls (Photo #4).

The upper falls also cascade in two drops (Photo #5).

Rock ledges are prevalent near the top half of the falls (Photo #6).



Above the upper falls, Fall Brook becomes a meandering stream. (Photo #7).



The rim trails that were high above the gorge now come down to water level on either side and continue on. You can continue on the marked hiking trails at this point, or take one of the rim trails back to the parking area to avoid climbing back down the waterfalls. Look up Salt Springs State Park online to get more information about the park and trails, including a map of the area. It's a great place to hike right here in the Southern Tier. Erik Gregory

### **Tirrell Pond Lean-to Visit:** By Bob Strebel

Years ago the Binghamton chapter adopted the Tirrell Pond lean-to. As a lean-to adopter we are relied upon to visit the lean-to twice a year for general maintenance and to report any major problem to the DEC. Participation in this excursion or to the Silver Lake lean-to with Ken Jackson counts towards a conservation credit for the Southern Tier Scramble patch challenge. These are currently the only opportunities that take place in the Adirondack park itself and also the only over night events.

The lean-on is located behind Blue Mountain along the Northville-Lake Placid Trail (NPT). Every lean-to has its own unique characteristic or attraction. For this lean-to, it's the 300 foot long sandy beach on the north-west end of the pond near the lean-to. You couldn't ask for a better place to go swimming or to catch some rays on a warm summer day. There are a few canoes scattered about but you would need to bring you own paddle to make use of them. By the way, don't mix this up with the O'Neil lean-to that is located on the south-east end of the pond.

Our group included eight people: Julie Thompson, Kyle Thompson, Melissa Searles, Dave Bailey, Malerie Thiel, Chelsea Bona, Patsy Strebel and myself, Bob Strebel. We met at Blue Mountain trail head on September 3rd and hiked in on a spur of the NPT that starts at the Blue Mountain trail head parking lot. We did a bit of trail maintenance on the way in removing blow downs and overgrowth. We really lucked out with the weather. It had rained for several days straight prior to the hike and after as well, but during our time in the woods the skies were clear.



We found the lean-to in good shape though there was your typical refuse lying about and I have to mention the extra effort on the parts of Dave and Julie who removed at least six inches of packed ashes from around the pit. This turned out to be an archeological dig when they unearthed not just the remains of the old-style DEC fire place that are still in use today in many DEC campgrounds, but also a larger foundation underneath that one. Notice in the photo that even Bailey the dog is gazing in amazement at the refurbished fireplace. He must be thinking that maybe the humans are going to cook a feast there tonight and they will share it with me. The next morning was just as beautiful as the day before. After a hearty breakfast including Starbucks instant coffee, we packed up camp and took off south on the

NPT towards Lake Durant State Campground where we left the family van the day before. With the collection of trash in haul, we arrived at our exit point in about 2 hours. We donned our face masks and drove back to the starting point.



Unfortunately, not everyone follows the principles of Leave No Trace™. We did haul out a good portion of trash including a couple of old fraying tarps, a foam mattress (yup), cans, bottles and other paper and plastic items as well as an unlabeled, 16 ounce can of mystery ingredients.



Our next visit to the lean-to is tentatively planned for the spring of 2021 before the black flies arrive. A somewhat more involved maintenance task is planned for that trip and will require a group of at least 4 people willing to break a sweat and get their hands dirty. An exact date is not set and I am open to suggestions from anyone interested. Feel free to contact me if you would like to participate.

### **Hoxie Gorge Trail Sep 20<sup>th</sup> Patch Hike: By Bob Strebel**

Forty-eight degrees when we woke this morning but the day turned out perfect. When we hit the trail at about 10:00AM it was already warming up and after about 30 minutes we were generating enough of our own heat to keep warm. By noon it was about sixty degrees, just warm enough and no bugs to bother us. Vicky Seaman, Pat Connors, Dave and Sue Bailey, and Patsy and Bob Strebel enjoyed the ups and downs of the gorge trail.



Oh, and Bailey the dog joined us to earn a patch credit as well. He is almost done with the hikes - we'll have to see how to get education and conservation credits. Patsy Strebel finished her patch credits with this hike and joins the rest of us who have earned the patch for bragging rights.

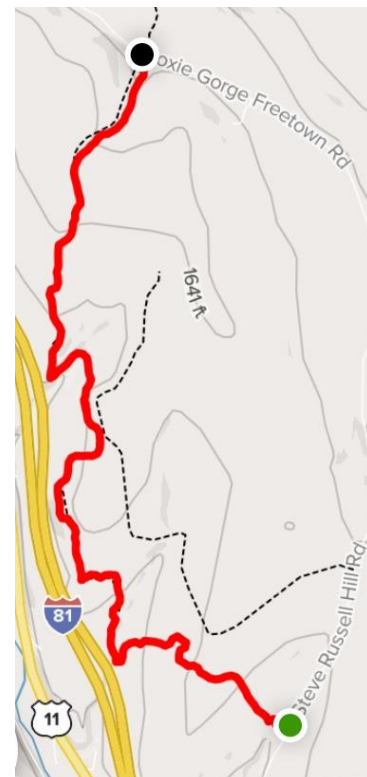
We started the hike at the intersection of the Finger Lake Trails and Steve Russell Hill Road in Marathon, NY and hiked to next intersection on Hoxie Gorge Freetown Road for a total of about 5.3 miles. We meet at the intersection of Steve Russell Hill and Pine Hill roads and then shuttled up to the trail head in a couple high clearance

vehicles.

The trail drops in elevation a bit at the start then climbs about 150 feet in about a 1.2 mi. Back down about 300 ft and up another 350 ft all within about a mile. Then quickly down about 250 ft and back up 400 ft in the next mile to reach the high point. Lots of ups and downs but very enjoyable and great to stretch the calves.

Towards the ends the trail moves along a backwoods road that is gated to traffic. There we stopped for lunch in a sunny area that also provided seats on a large tree that came down recently.

From there you can follow the road out or, if you are watching, as Dave pointed out, there is a trail that parallels the road. It's just after the cleaning on the right. It travels along a stream but it was dried up this time of year. Most of the streams were dried up but they all seemed like they would have offered pleasant sights and sounds. I think I'll return in late spring or so to enjoy that bit of nature.



That brought us to the end of the trail where Patsy and I had dropped off our van to shuttle us all back to trail head. We all wore masks to practice safe social carpooling.

### Northville Placid Trail Thru Hike: by Ken Jackson

Our hiking group who backpacked across Isle Royale National Park in 2019 (see article in Spring 2020 newsletter) had planned to backpack Glacial National Park in August....but Covid delayed that dream trip until 2021 😞. So, we decided to backpack in state and six of us (all NY residents) thru hiked the Northville Placid Trail (NPT) in early September. Four of us had hiked the NPT at least once before and planned a rather leisurely 10 day, 135 mile schedule starting in Northville the Friday before Labor day and finishing in Lake Placid the Sunday after Labor day. While the NPT saw a lot of use this year by both experienced and novice hikers, in most sections we saw 2-3 other people a day which was less than we expected, so social distancing was easy to do. The French Louie loop, which was recently highlighted in backpacker magazine, was the busiest area.

To limit the weight in our packs, we set up resupply in Piseco and Lake Durant, which allowed us to resupply food and clean clothes every 3 days. Our first night was at the new West Stoney Creek Lean To (Picture #1) in the Shaker Mountain forest area.



1

Over the next several days we enjoyed the rolling trail and many lakes and ponds and beaver areas (Picture #2) on our way to our 1<sup>st</sup> resupply



2

and then to one of our favorites stops on the NPT Spruce Lake #3 (pictures #3, 4, 5).



3



5



4

Our next day was a short 12 mile day into the West Canada Lakes, a lunch stop and swim at the South Lake sand beach (picture #6),



6

and then on to another favorite lean to, Cedar lakes #2 which overlooks Cedar Lakes and is just a short walk to the Cedar Lakes bridge where beavers have created a nice dam underneath the bridge! (picture #7).

7



Our next day had a great example of how beavers change the environment....a 200 yard section of the NPT trail under 20+ inches of water! The DEC has tried to clear and lower the water level in this area a couple times....so far the beavers are winning!

The next day included a stop at Lake Durant and our 2<sup>nd</sup> resupply, then a lunch and swim at Tirrell Pond (and our first 4G cell service in 6 days!). The next couple days were enjoyable views through Long Lake and Cold River areas including a lunch stop at The Hermitage where Adirondack Hermit Noah John Rondeau lived until 1950. Some of his possessions remain (Pictures #8, 9).



8



9

We reached Averyville Road in Lake Placid late Sunday morning and enjoyed a celebratory meal at Lake Placid Pub and Brewery overlooking Mirror Lake (Picture #10).



10

Weather was delightful with almost no rain, few bugs the entire hike....we could not have picked a better stretch of nice days. After we were settled in Lake Placid the rain arrived, we enjoyed watching it rain from the comfort of our hotel! As enjoyable as this NPT hike was, we cannot wait to try again for Glacier National Park backcountry permits in 2021!

Ken Jackson

## **Director's Corner** by Bob Strebel

### Board Of Directors Notes

The October BOD meeting held on October 3rd as a remote zoom meeting. While the remote meetings prevent side conversation, zoom does allow us to conduct the business at hand. The following is a brief summary of some of the topics discussed at this meeting.

#### **By-Laws**

Maybe the most interesting discussion was that of the new proposed by-laws. The primary changes include a reduction of the current board of about 40+ to about 12 along with a desire to have more professional board while also requiring the members of the board to participate in fund raising efforts. I viewed these as good changes that will help to move the club as a whole forward into the future. The changes also gave the responsibility of electing new board members and control of future by-law changes to the board members themselves. These two changes were in great contention and the changes will be amended, regardless of the vote, to leave control of this to the membership.

Ballots were sent to the membership to vote yes or no on the changes. The ballots have not yet been opened but will be counted in mid-October.

#### **Advocacy**

Cathy Peddler, the club's advocacy director, presented the current issues being worked by the club. I've known Cathy for about 5 years or so and I don't think there could be a better person in this position. Here is a brief summary.

#### *Green Amendment*

The Green Amendment is a grassroots movement to amend each of the states' constitutions with the following right: "Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment". The movement was started by Maya K. Van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper as the result of a legal battle with a polluting industry in Pennsylvania. While the company promised the community and the municipalities that the industry was safe and it will be economically profitable for area, there was clear evidence that in other areas the industry caused devastating damage to the environment and put people in harm's way. The battle was finally won in courts chiefly because Pennsylvania's constitution included this right.

The ADK has partnered with several organizations to have the NYS constitution amended as well. The process to amend the NYS constitution dictates that the bill must be voted on in two consecutive legislatures and then it goes to vote by the public during the next general election. The legislature passed the amendment in 2019. The second vote will occur in the early 2021 and, if passed again, will go the public in November of 2021. Cathy is reaching out to members to identify local officials to back the amendment and pass local resolutions in support of the Green Amendment. I recently contacted Cathy and have volunteered to help with effort at the local level here in Broome county and in the municipality of the Town of Union. If you would like to help out feel free to contact me (bobmail@stny.rr.com) or Cathy (cathy@adk.org).

#### *Invasive Species*

The ADK, in partnership the others, are continuing to monitor backcountry ponds and fortunately have discovered no new infestations - good for the ponds. Unfortunately, the Emerald Ash Bore (EAB) and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid have been found in the Adirondack Park. You can see locally how the EAB has killed the ash trees in our area. I had seven ash trees taken down in my back yard. Trees throughout my neighborhood have been killed in a matter of a couple years. The first signs that we noticed is that the tree bark looks are though someone took sand paper to it. This is due to birds pecking at the trees to eat the beetles. Once that happens it's time to take the tree down. Cathy asks that anyone who recognizes either of these infestations on state land to report the sighting.

### *Fracking Waste Loophole*

ADK members and supports sent over 1700 letters to their legislators in Albany to close a loophole that allowed toxic fracking wastewater to be transported from Pennsylvania into NYS to be disposed in landfills. What's a little arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde, lead and mercury between friends? Congratulations to our leadership and membership who identified and closed this loophole.

### **Financials**

While the corona virus drove the club to close down lodging and camping altogether this spring and is still only now at limited capacity, the financial state of the club is about on budget. This can be attributed to the quick action on the part of the club to apply for the federal Paycheck Protection Program loan early on, holding chapter shares and reducing expenses wherever possible. The PPP loan was said to become a grant - this is still in the hands of the federal government. Chapter shares is a fixed percentage of the dues of a chapters' members that is sent to the chapters for local activities. You might be wondering what happens to the Binghamton chapter slice of the pie. Recently we have used this money to pay for an Earth Day booth and we have donated some money back to the club. We also used these funds to have patches and brochures made for our Southern Tier Scramble patch challenge.

### **Membership**

Both June and July broke records in new membership. Household membership is current at 17,691 - an increase in about 340 from 2019 year end. Membership has been on the increase for the past five years.

For the month of June the membership department offered free membership to essential workers in NYS. 558 people took advantage of the offer and are now members of the ADK. Hopefully our new friends will continue their membership in the years to come.

### **North Country Report**

Rachel Karp is the director of the North Country Operations. This includes both the ADK Loj facility and the John's Brook Lodge facility.

All facilities were shut down in the spring due to the corona virus. On June 5th the Wilderness Campground including the cabins were reopened at 50% capacity and as of August were running at about full capacity. The ADK Loj was reopened June 26th but the club limited use to 50% and only allowed families to share the bunk rooms. Unfortunately, due to the virus, three wedding reservations were cancelled and several other large group events as well.

JBL was only reopened in September at 50% capacity and, like the Loj, only family members are allowed to share bunk rooms. The cabins and lean-to at the JBL facility were opened on June 5th. While the normal family style dining was not offered, the staff at JBL offered take out from the kitchen for guests at the lodge itself as well as to guests staying in the cabins and lean-tos.

The Hungry Hiker food stand open May 22nd for take out food and in June outdoor seating was again available. The liquor license for the stand was granted this year for those of you who would like to enjoy such a beverage with a burger after a long day's hike. Sales at the HH have increased since last year. The stand closed on October 12th for the season.

The High Peaks Information Center at the Loj offered retail sales on the HPIC porch during the summer and has now move back inside for business while limiting the number of people allowed inside any given point in time.

### **Communications**

The club has produced a number videos regarding responsible outdoor recreation including these recent addition that you might find interesting:

- 1) Let's Dig a Cathole!

- 2) Disposing of Human Waste
- 3) Camping at Designated Test Sites
- 4) Five Tips for Backpacking in the Adirondacks
- 5) Pee Rags and Menstrual Products
- 6) BackCountry Water Monitoring
- 7) Why we Clean, Drain, and Dry

Also, here is an interview with Seth Jones, the ADK Education Direction, discussing the impact of high use by uninformed visitors.

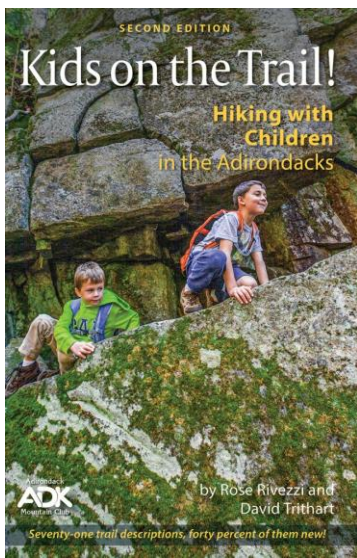
There are a load of other youtube ADK videos here.

Finally, be safe and take care, Bob

## New ADK Guidebooks, Books, Maps

Purchase these guidebooks and many other publications at ADK shop: <https://www.adk.org/shop/>

### Kids on the Trail – Second Edition

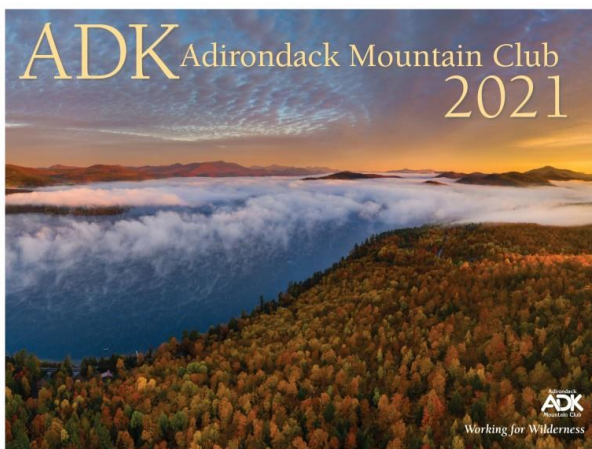


New Second Edition! Hiking with Children in the Adirondacks, this lively, popular guide features 71 hike descriptions with color maps, color photos, and distance and elevation data. Rose Rivezzi and David Trithart drew on their experience as parents, hikers, and educators to create a trail collection -tailored to families’ needs and interests. -Anecdotal asides, -observations, and advice are interspersed.

Detailed introduction to hiking with -children describes what to bring, safety, trail etiquette, and “ages and stages”—hikes best suited to children of certain ages. Almost 40% of the -descriptions are new to the book, and nine have been added since the 1st edition. The guide is a valuable companion to the ADK Kids Challenge, sponsored by ADK’s Laurentian Chapter, for which young completers receive a free patch.

Softcover, 200 pages, 5½” x 8½”, \$16.95 / \$13.56 members

### ADK 2021 Calendar



A collection of outstanding Adirondack images by eight photographers, this year’s calendar also includes illustrations by Colette Piasecki-Masters that combine, often playfully, wildlife and the tools we use in the woods. ADK’s calendar is the recipient of numerous awards from the national Calendar -Marketing Association. Your purchase helps support ADK’s programs in conservation, education, recreation, stewardship, and advocacy. \$13.95

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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, leantos, 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
- Adirondac Magazine six times a year

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