

Binghamton Outdoors!!!

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

Volume 5, Number 3 Fall 2012

A Message From Your Chapter Chair

I'm really excited about what Binghamton ADK has to offer in the coming months. We will be ending the year with an enjoyable get together of food and friends at our Annual Holiday Party. You won't want to miss this one! To start the New Year we have a stellar line up of presentations. Check the schedule out. I'm sure you'll recognize a few names.

January will bring us Author and Historian Philip G. Terrie. He will talk about the current state of the Adirondacks, including recent triumphs and concerns.

In **February** we will take a break from authors and hear from our own chapter's outings chair, Pat Connors. He will grace us with stories about the Clubs upcoming Winter Trip to Grace Camp.

In March we will celebrate our 5th Anniversary as a Chapter. To celebrate we'll have cake and refreshments and are bringing in local legend: Writer, Photographer, Lecturer, and Naturalist Rick Marsi.

April brings renowned Author and Mountaineer, Carol Stone White. One interesting fact about Carol is she didn't climb her first High Peak until she was almost 50.

In **May** we will have fun loving, Author and Storyteller; Marty Podskoch. His subject, "CCC Camps in the Adirondacks". Finally just before we go into summer we'll have our Third Annual Summer Picnic in **June**.

As a club, Binghamton ADK continues to develop. After five years I feel we have done an outstanding job bringing you interesting and pertinent speakers. Many thanks go to our outgoing Programs Chair Gary Vanderbles, and all the members of the Executive Committee. Our next focus as a club is to beef up our outings offerings. You can help by letting us know what outings you would like to see offered and when. Volunteer to lead or co-lead your favorite outing. Share the places you love with your fellow ADKers. Let's get out and enjoy!

See You in December,
Donna Coon, Chapter Chair
607-237-6311, coledonnarn@yahoo.com

Chapter Holiday Party Dec 11th 6PM, at Chenango Town Hall

Bring the Family and Dish to Pass! All are invited....bring friends too...the more the merrier! The club will provide beverages and place settings. See you there! Questions? Call or email Donna Coon at 607-237-6311, coledonnarn@yahoo.com.

Chapter Opportunities – Open Office Positions and Elections

You can help serve your local ADK Chapter! The following positions are open for election: **Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Director.** If you are interested or know someone who is interested in any of these positions contact Mark Epstein at mepstein@stny.rr.com or Pat Connors at 607-625-4078.

A brief description of the responsibilities of the open positions:

Chair – The Chair shall be the chief elected official and spokesperson for the Chapter. The Chair shall call and preside at all meetings of the Chapter and Executive Committee, shall create all ad hoc committees with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, shall propose a budget for the next fiscal year for approval by the Executive Committee, and shall perform all other duties ordinarily devolving upon the office of the chair.

Vice-Chair – The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair. The Vice-Chair supports all other members of the Executive Committee as well as Appointive Positions.

Treasurer – The Treasurer shall receive that portion of the annual membership fees granted it by the Club (i.e. Chapter Share) and such other monies as may be donated, granted, earned, or collected by the Chapter, shall pay the Chapter expenditures upon approval of the Executive Committee, shall keep the financial records of the Chapter, shall assist the Chair in preparing a proposed annual budget, and shall submit to ADK Headquarters an annual financial report of the Chapter at the end of the Chapter fiscal year. These records should be published to the membership in the newsletter.

Director – The Director shall represent the Chapter at meetings of the Board of Directors of the Club and shall report to the Executive Committee and Chapter membership on Board of Directors discussions and decisions.

Elections will be held at our December meeting, at 7PM.

Proposed changes to Bylaws:

1.) Article VII – CHAPTER FISCAL YEAR

For accounting purposes, the Chapter fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.
(This is a change to represent what we are actually doing and coincides with the Parent Club’s fiscal year)

2.) Article VIII – MEETINGS

1. General Membership Meetings – The Chapter shall hold at least 2 (two) meetings of the general membership each year for the transaction of such business as shall come before it. One of these meetings shall be designated the Annual Meeting and shall be held in November. (Extra wording is removed. Annual meeting is changed from March to November to reflect the best time for elections to be held to comply with paperwork requested by the parent club.)

A vote on the proposed changes will be taken at our December meeting, at 7PM.

Binghamton Chapter Leader News

Congrats to **Erik Gregory**, who was elected an Associate Vice-President of the ADK at the September board of directors meeting! We are so fortunate to have Erik actively involved in both the Binghamton Chapter and the leadership of the larger ADK!

Outings Schedule

Nov 10th, Saturday. Catskill's mountain climb and hike. Ten views near North Mountain and Stoppel Point from North Lake Road (North/South Lake) and back. 8.7 miles, 1,400 ft of elevation gain. We will depart from my place of business in Binghamton at 7:30am, and likely have dinner at Pancho Villa's in Tannersville. Hikers should bring a head lamp, warm clothes, trail lunch, and possibly microspikes pending the weather. Contact mepstein@stny.rr.com with questions and to register.

Dec 1st, Saturday, Catskill Mountain climb and hike. Acra Point and Blackhead Mountain loop from end of Route 56. 7.3 miles and 2,050 ft of elevation gain. We will depart from my place of business in Binghamton at 7:30am, and likely have dinner at Mama Maria's in Stamford on the return. Hikers should bring a head lamp, warm clothes, trail lunch, and possibly microspikes pending the weather. Contact mepstein@stny.rr.com with questions and to register.

Jan 6-8, 2013, Sunday – Tuesday. Grace Camp high peaks Binghamton chapter trip. Grace Camp is a winterized cabin in the Johns Brook valley, near Johns Brook Lodge. You backpack to it 3.5 miles from “The Garden”, the nearest parking/trailhead, which is near Keene Valley. Grace sleeps six, it is heated, has a gas stove & lights, and is furnished with all cooking & eating gear. It is a super base camp for climbing any of the many nearby high peaks. If interested contact Dave Martin at dwmartin@stny.rr.com. As of this newsletter, only one spot left for this trip!

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.

What outings would you be interested in? Watch your email for our survey!

As our chapter gets more established, we would like to focus on offering more chapter hikes and outings. In order for us to be working to provide the type of outing that you, our members, want, we will soon be sending out an interest “survey” via the **Yahoo group listserv**. The intent of the survey is to gather information on what kind of outings you are interested in (local hikes? Family/kid outings, Adk or Catskill hikes? Etc.) We would like to ask that when this comes out you please take the few moments it will take to respond so that we know what you (the club members) want from the club. If you have suggestions on outings, or would like to lead an outing please contact **Pat Connors: pat_connors_ny@yahoo.com**.

Binghamton ADK - 2012 / 2013 Meetings

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

2012

November 13 NO MEETING
December 11 Holiday Party / Elections bring a dish to pass!

2013

January 8 The current state of the Adirondack Park- Philip Terrie, Author of:
"Contested Terrain: A New History of Nature and People in the Adirondacks"
February 12 Grace Camp and the High Peaks in Winter- Pat Connors
March 15, FRIDAY 5th Anniversary Celebration with Special Guest: RICK MARSI presenting
April 9 Hiking in the Northeast- Mountaineer and author Carol White
May 14 Author Marty Podskoch on the CCC
June 11 Chapter Picnic at Chenango Valley State Park
July and August NO MEETINGS, enjoy your summer
September 10 TBA
October 8 TBA
November 12 Chapter Elections
December 10 2013 Holiday Party

Here is additional information about several of our exciting 2013 meeting programs:

January: Philip Terrie, Professor Emeritus, American Culture Studies and Environmental Studies Bowling Green State University, and author of "Contested Terrain: A New History of Nature and People in the Adirondacks" discusses the current state of the Adirondack Park. Terrie is also author of Forever Wild: A Cultural History of Wilderness in the Adirondacks, Wildlife and Wilderness: A History of Adirondack Mammals, and currently resides in Ithaca.

March: Rick Marsi, Free-lance writer and former national syndicated nature columnist for the Press Sun Bulletin, is the author of four books: Wheel of Seasons, Once Around the Sun, A Doctors Life & A Bridge to Borovichi. In addition, Rick is a noted ornithologist, photographer, naturalist and an avid outdoorsman. Rick has guided birding and wildlife expeditions in Costa Rica, Honduras, Brazil Argentina, Ecuador, Finland & Norway. Rick has received numerous awards including 12 Associated Press writing awards, Environmental Achievement Citation and a special commendation from the Susquehanna River Basin. Rick resides in Vestal, NY with his wife Jan. He has two children, Steve & Kate and is the proud grandpa of budding naturalist Ben Marsi.

Since 1980, Rick has lectured and taught courses on birding, travel, forest ecology and edible wild foods at Broome Community College and Binghamton University. Between 1980 and 1999, Rick wrote a nationally syndicated nature column for Gannett News Service and contributed hundreds of outdoor and environment stories to the Binghamton, N.Y. *Press & Sun-Bulletin*. During his tenure at the *Press & Sun-Bulletin*, Rick won 12 Associated Press writing contest awards, including 1st place awards for both column and feature writing. Excerpts from Rick's column were quoted in James Kilpatrick's nationally syndicated column on good writing. Rick resumed writing his column for the Press in 2002.

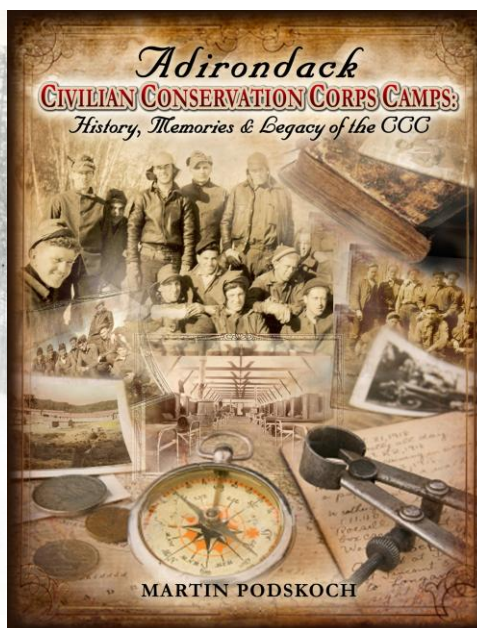
As a photographer and lecturer, Rick has given hundreds of slide programs on various outdoor-related subjects. He is a former 1st Place winner in the Outdoor Writer's of America Photo Contest. His salt water angling story, "In Search of Giant Bluefins" won 1st Place in the Outdoor Writer's of America writing contest.

His photographs have appeared in *Sports Afield*, *Men's Health*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Birder's World*, *Reader's Digest Books* and other publications.

April: Carol White will present highlights of her four anthologies about hiking in the Northeast. She is author most recently of *Peak Experiences: Danger, Death, and Daring in the Mountains of the Northeast*. Carol's other books are *Adirondack Peak Experiences: Mountaineering Adventures, Misadventures, and the Pursuit of 'the 46'*, *Catskill Peak Experiences: Mountaineering Tales of Endurance, Survival, Exploration & Adventure from the Catskill 3500 Club*, and *Women With Altitude: Challenging the Adirondack High Peaks in Winter*.

Carol and David White have also combined to write Catskills Hiking Guides and assist National Geographic and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference in updating Catskills maps. Both are accomplished hikers and have completed the NE 111, and the winter ADK 46, NH 48 and Catskill 3500. David is membership chair of the Catskill 3500 Club and a director of ADK. Carol is conservation chair of the Catskill 3500 Club and served four years on the Adirondack 46ers Club executive board. Autographed books will be available for purchase.

May: Marty Podskoch will present highlights of his book "Adirondack Civilian Conservation Corps Camps: History, Memories & Legacy of the CCC." Marty spent five years researching the CCC, a public works program that operated from 1933 to 1942 as part of FDR's New Deal. The CCC updated and reforested our parkland until WWII. Much of their work is benefit by us today. Information on Marty's many books may be found on-line at www.firetowerstories.com, www.adirondackstories.com, and www.cccstories.com. Autographed books will be available for purchase.



Meeting and Outing Reports

Binghamton chapter members had a great time at the June Picnic...mark your calendar for the June 2013 picnic!



On Sep 11th, ADK member, Alan Via, Author of "The Catskill 67" A Hiker's Guide to the Catskill 100 Highest Peaks under 3500' gave an excellent presentation that showed us the beautiful Catskill peaks in 4 seasons, including sections on bears, porcupines, and old woods roads.

On Oct 9th, Roger Fulton, Author of several guide books, gave an excellent presentation titled "ADK Fire Tower Challenge" based on his book "29 Fire Tower Trails in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains". Check out his web site and purchase his books at www.RogerFulton.com.



Terrill Pond Lean To Privy relocation:

On September 23rd eight people took a short hike and bushwack with two 2x4's and various digging tools. Their destination was the privy located near the Terrill Pond Lean To on the Northville Lake Placid Trail not far from the Blue Mountain Trail Head. Terrill Pond is a beautiful Lake but it is also a very popular destination for visitors arriving by floatplane. Thus we were not surprised to find the privy in dire need of relocation. Larry Kolwaite was our guide and mentor for this endeavor. Larry is a trail maintainer for the section of NPT that the privy is on. Moving a privy involves digging a bellowed hole at least 4 feet deep. We were very fortunate in that we did not have to use the rock bar when digging the hole. Digging went smoothly. Besides Larry, our own Erik Gregory and Dave Martin took turns digging in the hole removing dirt and sand. Bruce Coon and Howie Thompson were kept busy taking the removed dirt and covering the site of the old hole. It took four people to lift the privy and move it a short distance to its new location. The process of moving a privy is done by nailing two 2x4's waist high on opposite sides of the structure and carrying it like royalty. While the digging was going on Julie Thompson and Donna Coon took off to find a geo cache nearby. It was a great day to be in the Adirondacks surrounded by nature, friends and outstanding fall foliage accented by a wealth of vibrant reds.



St. Regis Paddle Outing Trip Report (Picture below)

By Gary & Mary Jo Vanderbles

The outing was from July 23 – August 2 at Paul Smith's College. It was the 30th anniversary. One can pick from three options. We choose to attend the second option from July 28 to the 2th. Paul Smith was base from which the daily paddles on Adirondack waterways started from, either by car or right from the college property. We stayed at one of the dormitories on Campus and ate in the dining hall in the student union. Food was good with plenty of variety. Packed our bag lunch for the day and paddled a number of trips during the time we were there. Played board games at night, we met some wonderful people, some of whom were from the Southern Tier. Mary Jo and I are planning to attend next year (July 15 – 25, 2013). If you have questions or want to talk about the outing with us, give us a call at 607-722-3765 or email us at gvanderbles@stny.rr.com. Hope to see some of you there next year. More information is at <http://www.adktravel.org/canoeouting.htm>



2012 Broome County River Bank cleanup (picture above)

On Saturday Oct 20th, six people from the Binghamton ADK chapter participated in the Broome County Environmental Management Council's River bank cleanup. We cleaned ½ mile of river bank along Riverview park in Endicott, collecting 14 trash bags of refuse along with 3 chairs and a discarded shed. In total, 9.7 miles of river bank was cleaned by 163 participants, collecting almost a ton of refuse and making our rivers more beautiful!

A Summer Catskills hike by Pat Conners

On August 8, Mark, Bruce and I met to hike in the Catskills. Our objectives were North Dome and Mount Sherrill in the central Catskills. North Dome is 3610 feet in elevation and Sherrill is 3540 feet high and both are trailless. North Dome is the 26th highest peak in the Catskills and Sherrill is number 31 per the Catskill 3500 club. We drove to the trailhead on Spruceton Road. It is the parking area for the western end of the Devil's path and can be used to climb Westkill Mountain from the east. We started hiking about 9:30 or 10:00 on the Devil's Path and after about a mile we came to the area where our bushwhack started. Mark, our intrepid navigator and leader, took a compass bearing to the west and off we started into the brush. Soon we were climbing steeply. The footing on Catskill bushwhacks is precarious due to the deep layer of leaves accumulated on the ground and the loose rock that lurks underneath so we (or should I just admit, I) slowly picked our way up the mountain with Mark leading the charge. Soon we reached large expanses of stinging nettles (that bane of Catskill hiking) that lived ferociously up to its name. As Mark steered us along we encountered several bands of steep cliffs which we had to explore to find gaps to scramble up through. After a mile or so the terrain moderated and we hiked along the ridge top, periodically, finding and then losing, a faint herd path. Eventually we found the summit canister and signed in. The summit was

treed in but consisted of a fine forest of spruce and balsam. We (I mean, Mark) took another compass bearing and off we started for Sherrill which was a bit more than 1 mile away. Soon we were descending and could catch occasional glimpses of Sherrill. We stopped for lunch and were soon enveloped in a cloud of flies as the weather was quite humid. Luckily they were not biting badly and were mostly just annoying. We reached the col between the two peaks and started climbing. The climb was steep and we encountered several more cliff bands that were frequently quite tricky to make our way through. Eventually we reached the summit plateau and found the canister. We signed in and turned and headed back as we had to retrace our path to get back to the trailhead. On our way back Mark guided us to a very nice lookout point on the southwest side of the summit. The view was excellent and showed what rough country the Catskills can be. We started down but kept a bit more north of the route we came up on. Luckily by doing this we avoided the cliff bands. Soon we reached the North Dome summit. From there we decided to find the viewpoint that is southwest of the summit. Mark led the way and we found the viewpoint and again enjoyed a very nice view which was similar than Sherrill's but a bit more remote looking. At this point we started down and headed in a general direction to intercept the marked trail. We encountered more nettles and I took the lead after feeling guilty about letting Mark lead the way through them on the way up. After the descent moderated we eventually hit a drainage which Mark thought meant we had missed our return route but right after we crossed the drainage we found the trail and we were home free. If my memory is correct we were out by about 3:30 or 4:00. We drove to the Margaretville area and had a nice supper at the Inn Between. All in all it was a great, rugged hike with excellent companions and wonderful views from secluded lookouts. Catskill bushwhacking at its best!

I would also like to share another experience I had recently. I was kayaking around Hiawatha Island in the Susquehanna River outside Owego. It is a nice paddle of about 1 ½ hours with a very slow current so paddling upstream was quite easy. As I was paddling along a large bird flew overhead. It had a mottled appearance but was just huge. I surmised it was a young bald eagle (before it gotten its familiar brown-body and white-headed plumage) as I knew there were some eagles on the island. As if just seeing one of these magnificent birds was not enough, after it landed it let out a ferocious sounding screech that was just amazing and sounded like something out of a movie. I stopped to explore the island just a bit from its dock opposite the town's boat launch on Marshland Road. There is a trail system on the island that allows you to wander around and explore. I soon headed home after a very nice outing virtually in my own back yard.

An Eastern High Peaks Bear encounter near Slant Rock, by Ben Loughridge

I wanted to tell you guys about an encounter my group and I had this weekend on our hike in the eastern high-peaks. As we approached our campsite in the Slant Rock area later than we would have liked, around 8:30pm or so, just after dark, we stopped to filter water at a nearby stream. We spent about 10 minutes or so at the creek not talking, just filling up and munching on some trail mix etc. As we picked-up the trail on the other side of the creek and turned the corner, not 20 feet in front of us in the middle of the trail stood a very large black bear. I don't think we startled it as it must have been aware of our presence since we were all wearing headlamps. We began steadily clapping, yelling, and blowing whistles in an effort to drive the bear away. It slowly moved through a few trees into the creek bed where it stopped, stood on his hind legs and stared at us. It did not seem fazed at all with our loud noises and stood there and looked at us for what seemed like an eternity. The one thing that stuck in my mind was the eye shine of the bear. I couldn't get over the seemingly foot-wide space was between its eyes and the size of his eyes in general. With eyes spaced about a foot wide, one can only imagine how large the head was on this bear. After we stood in the creek bed face to face with this bear for about 2-3 minutes, he eventually scurried away into the darkness.

Meanwhile we had another nervous 5-10 minute hike to our campsite and we must have sounded like a parade marching through with all the noises we were making. Luckily, another camper yelled out, "Did you guys see a bear," and we went directly to the sound of the voice to find a campsite with a group of 5 people already setup for the night. I can't say that I have ever been more happy to hear the sound of a human's voice in my entire life. They encouraged us to make camp at their site with them as they were happy to have 3 more people to add to their group.

They mentioned that a bear had come through their campsite the night before and went through some of their gear, ripping through one of the men's packs like butter in a search for an easy meal.

We ended up having a great time with this group sharing stories and talking about our future adventures we had planned. This experience showed that better planning probably would have avoided this encounter which could have been potentially dangerous. We started at the garden trailhead a little later than we would have liked which was the reason why we were hiking after dark. Avoiding hiking at these hours when bears start to become more active would have decreased our chances of an encounter.

However, if all the necessary precautions are taken and you still encounter one of these amazing animals, making the right decisions is crucial. If you do catch yourself hiking after dark, make sure you are making noise as to alert any nearby bear of your presence. Be loud, be obnoxious, as it is never a good thing to startle one of these large predators. Though there has never been a reported attack in the Adirondacks and about 90% of a bear's diet is thought to be various plants, I sure don't want to start a trend. I just wanted to share this with you guys as it was definitely an eye-opener for me. I hope you all enjoyed your summer!

From The Communications and Membership Chair

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

FYI...Our Chapter now has 168 members! Thank you for your support of ADK! Welcome to new & rejoined chapter members: Bruce and Evelyn Goodman, Sam Jones, Richard Vultaggio, David and Irene Stahl

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 is on Facebook

* Find the ADK at www.facebook.com/AdirondackMountainClub

* Find the Binghamton Chapter at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=354287586956>

New ADK website

ADK has been redesigning its website. The new site was launched on Thursday, Nov. 1. You will still be able to find us at www.adk.org

ADK COMMUNITY NEWS, INFORMATION, NEW GUIDEBOOKS

December 2012 ADK Education Programs

Dec. 1-2

Wilderness First Aid

This intense 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

Cost: \$240 includes instruction and materials.

Package: \$325 includes instruction, materials, meals, and lodging for 2 nights.

Dec. 9, Dec. 16

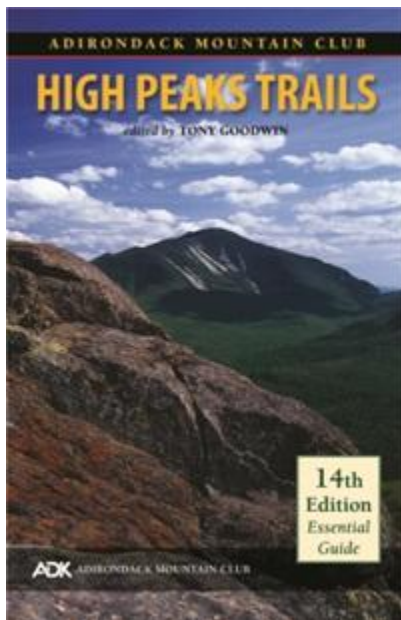
Adirondack Packbaskets

Create your own traditional Adirondack Packbasket 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 packbasket from start to “skids”. You’ll leave at the end of the day with a beautiful basket and a smile on your face!

Location: Dec. 9, Heart Lake Program Center; Dec. 16, Member Services Center (Lake George)

Cost: \$70 small/\$80 large; includes instruction and materials.

Adirondack Mountain Club: High Peaks Trails



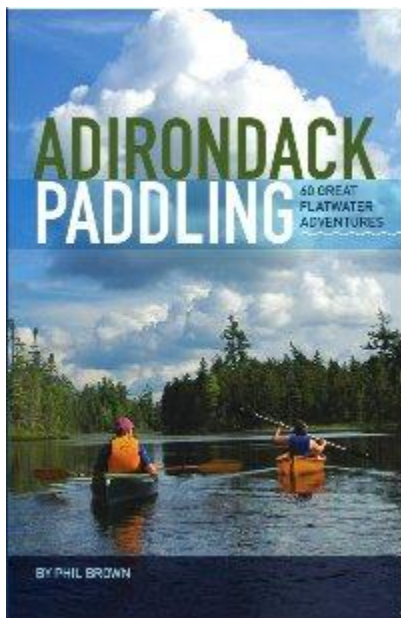
This completely new 14th edition of High Peaks Trails includes the 46 highest peaks in the Adirondacks. New in this edition are trails in the Lake Champlain region, and trails further to the north.

Guidebook editors Tony Goodwin and David Thomas-Train have added numerous new trails, including popular hikes up the massive, isolated Lyon Mt. in the north and small, steep Cheney Mt. in the east, and well as the Champlain Area Trail System. 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 Maps 742 and 746.

High Peaks Trails is volume 1 in ADK’s new Forest Preserve Series of guidebooks covering the Adirondacks and Catskills. Volume 2 is Eastern Trails, volume 3 is Central Trails, volume 4 is Western Trails, volume 5 covers the Northville-Placid Trail, and volume 6 is Catskill Trails. The new Eastern Trails guide, edited by David Thomas-Train, is also currently available, with other new editions slated for release later in 2012.

281 pages. Softcover. 5 1/2" x 8 1/2". Purchase with Lake Placid/High Peaks Trails Illustrated Map #742 and save \$4.95 on the package. ([See High Peaks Trails and Map Pack.](#)) Member price of guide alone \$15.96.

Adirondack Paddling: 60 Great Flatwater Adventures



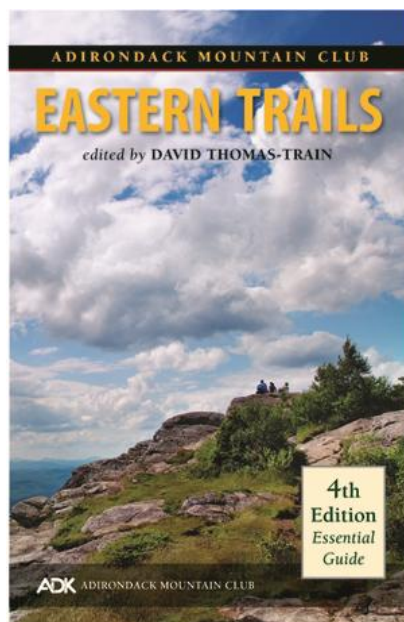
Adirondack Paddling features color maps of every route, GPS coordinates for put-ins and takeouts, suggestions for multiday trips, more than 150 color photographs, and it introduces the Meander Quotient. By Phil Brown.

"The Adirondack Park has thousands of miles of rivers and streams and countless lakes and ponds. Where is a canoeist to begin? Adirondack Paddling has the answer, or, rather, many answers. Phil Brown, the editor of the Adirondack Explorer newsmagazine, has chosen sixty trips that will appeal to flatwater paddlers of all tastes and abilities, from parents with young children to hard-core wilderness junkies."

--Kate Williams, executive director, Northern Forest Canoe Trail

288 pages. Paperback. More than 100 color photos, and more than 60 color maps. \$24.95. ADK members pay \$19.96.

Essential Adirondack Hiking Guide



This completely new 4th edition of Eastern Trails explores all the trails from the Sacandaga region to Lake George, and on to the Pharaoh Lakes area. Guidebook editor David Thomas-Train, editor also of the previous edition, has added numerous new trails including popular hikes up Cat and Thomas Mountains and the trails into Berry Pond.

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 743.

Eastern Trails is volume 2 in ADK's new Forest Preserve Series of guidebooks covering the Adirondacks and Catskills. Volume 1 is High Peaks Trails, volume 3 is Central Trails, volume 4 is Western Trails, volume 5 covers the Northville-Placid Trail, and volume 6 is Catskill Trails. The new High Peaks Trails guide, edited by Tony Goodwin and David Thomas-Train, is also currently available, with other new editions slated for release later in 2012. 200 pages. Softcover. 5 1/2" x 8 1/2". Purchase with Trails Illustrated Map 743: Lake George/Great Sacandaga and save \$4.95 on the package. (See Eastern Trails and Map Pack.) Member price of guide alone \$15.96..

ADK Supports Two Forest Preserve Amendments

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Board of Directors has come out in favor of two proposed constitutional amendments that would allow land swaps in the Adirondack Forest Preserve. One amendment would resolve a land-claim dispute between the state and more than 200 Raquette Lake homeowners. The second would help an Adirondack mine continue to operate and preserve about 100 jobs. Both amendments would result in land swaps that would enhance the Forest Preserve and provide new opportunities for outdoor recreation.

"For 90 years, the Adirondack Mountain Club has been dedicated to protecting the Adirondack Forest Preserve and the constitutional language that guarantees it remains forever wild," said ADK Executive Director Neil Woodworth. "Years of hard work and negotiations went into crafting these amendments to ensure that New York will end up with more-valuable recreational and scenic lands for public use and enjoyment."

For more than a century, the titles to hundreds of parcels around Raquette Lake in Hamilton County have been in dispute, with both the state and private individuals claiming ownership. In the mid-1800s, the state sold nearly 40,000 acres in an area known as Township 40 to private parties, but the area was never surveyed into lots, so deeds were often unclear. The problem was exacerbated over the years by errors made by assessors and tax collectors. Some cases have been resolved in the courts, but the lack of documentation makes these cases difficult, expensive and unpredictable.

Now, 215 parcels covering more than 1,000 acres are still contested. The proposed amendment would allow the private parties to get clear title by paying the state a fee ranging from \$2,000 to \$7,900. The money would go into a fund that would be used to buy replacement land that would be added to the Forest Preserve. Residents could reduce their payments by entering into a conservation easement with the state or conveying a portion of their land to the state.

For decades, NYCO Minerals, Inc. has mined wollastonite, a mineral used in the manufacture of ceramics, plastics and building materials, at a 260-acre site in the town of Lewis (Essex County). The mine and nearby processing plant employ about 100 full-time workers, and NYCO spends more than \$2 million a year with local vendors. The current mine is approaching the end of its life. The vein of wollastonite continues under adjacent Forest Preserve land in the Jay Mountain Wilderness Area, but that is off limits to NYCO because of the Forever Wild clause of Article 14 of the state Constitution.

The proposed constitutional amendment would allow the state to swap 200 acres of Forest Preserve for land of equal or greater value. The amendment would allow NYCO to first do exploratory drilling to determine the quantity and quality of the wollastonite under a Forest Preserve parcel known as Lot 8. The company would be required to share the drilling data with the Department of Environmental Conservation, which would help the agency establish an accurate value for the land.

A stipulation of the amendment, which takes into account the projected value of the minerals under Lot 8, sets a minimum value of the land swap at \$1 million, which is 10 times more than a recent appraisal of the land and timber on the surface of Lot 8. That means that much more than 200 acres would be added to the Forest Preserve to replace Lot 8, perhaps as much as 2,000 acres.

The state is negotiating with the owner of a large parcel north of the Jay Mountain Wilderness Area, some of which it may purchase with the proceeds of the NYCO deal. This land could provide rich hiking and climbing experiences for the public. Lot 8 is not easily accessible, is rarely used by the public and does not contain any rare or valuable ecological communities.

If NYCO determines the land is not worth mining, or if the swap does not go through for any other reason, NYCO would be required to provide the state with a parcel at least equal in size and value to the area disturbed by its exploratory process.

If the Legislature approves the amendments during the 2012 session, they would still require a second vote by a separately elected Legislature before going to a statewide vote. If lawmakers approve the amendments this year, they could go before voters as early as November 2013.

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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 or call 800-395-8080