

Binghamton Outdoors!!!

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

Volume 3, Number 1 Winter 2010

A Message From Your Chapter Chair

From the Chairperson - What's happening in 2010...

It is hard to believe that come this February, it has been two years since the Chapter began. A lot has happened, in that time, to build a strong foundation for continued Chapter growth. And yes, we are still growing as a Chapter, both in membership and what the Chapter has to offer its members. The executive team has agreed to stay on for one more term to provide stability for this continued growth. And I would like to thank them all for their efforts. This will be the first year the Chapter is working with a budget. This is a great milestone for all of us. The budget reflects what the Chapter would like to try to accomplish in 2010. More events and outings are planned and will be on the Chapter Calendar in the coming year. Plans have begun for spring and summer outings, Earth Day, river clean up, and the ADK Black Fly Affair, to mention a few. One goal for 2010 is to have more and varied presentations at the monthly gatherings that would be of greater interest to a broader segment of the membership.

There are two goals I will be working on in the coming year for the Chapter. The first is to find some naturalists in the membership to help show & tell us what is in those "wild places". German Bog comes to mind as one of those local wild places that would be fun to visit, I am sure there are others like Silver Lake near Wilmington. A presentation at a Chapter meeting and/or a real "boots on the ground" trip would be the thing. The second is I would like to begin to start a Waterways program for members interested in paddling. Our Chapter web page, soon to be up, will contain a waterways section of interest to paddlers. Please email or call me if you are interested in helping with either one of these endeavors or have questions.

In closing, please take the time to read the articles found in this newsletter, they will tell in more detail, of what has happened and what is being planned for the coming year. We are lucky to have so many dedicated people in the Chapter to accomplish what has taken place so far and what, I know, will happen in the future. Let's get out there and enjoy the wild places we are working to protect and preserve. I hope you will join us in the fun.

Gary Vanderbles, Chapter Chair
607-722-3765 gvanderbles@stny.rr.com

Chapter News

1From The Treasurer

Treasurers Report and 2010 budget...

We have closed our second year as a Chapter and all requirements for the year 2009 have been submitted to the Club. Financially we purchased 2 pairs of crampons with bags, 2 pairs of microspikes, used funds for several mailings and outings, and donated \$300 back to the Club. We have a strong cash position with a budget for greater plans in 2010.

Budget Items	2010 Budget Amount
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Income

Cash	\$ 1,288.47
Dues	\$ 1,500.00

Expenses

Postage & Printing	\$ 600.00
Outings/Events/Food	\$ 250.00
Donation	\$ 600.00
Equipment Purchases	\$ 800.00
Black Fly Donation	\$ 250.00
Discretionary Cash	\$ 288.47

Net

Balance	\$ 0.00
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More money has been allocated for equipment purchases, outings and events, and we still plan to donate a greater amount back to the Club.

Mark Epstein, Chapter Treasurer, mepstein@stny.rr.com

1From The Outings Chair

Winter Thoughts...

The winter season is in full swing. As I write this the Weather Channel is showing a temperature of negative one degree for the Binghamton area. My son Matt says, "No way!" as he runs out the door for a morning of awesome sleigh riding. It may very well be negative one degree outside but with a little thought given to your choice of clothing you probably won't notice the cold. Proper preparation is key to enjoying the winter and hydration is another important point often overlooked. The cold air is dry and as you breath in that cold dry air your body is more susceptible to dehydration. So dress warm, take extra water and enjoy the winter. For those of you that enjoy the exhilaration of the cold air we have several winter hikes planned and don't forget to check the web sites of our fellow ADK chapters. There is a large assortment of outings being held each weekend by an ADK chapter throughout the state.

This is also the time to start thinking of a spring outing you would like to lead. Our spring gathering is being planned for us to meet all the new members that joined ADK Binghamton over the past year. We have trips planned for the Adirondacks and Catskills. I have decided to try to become a Catskill 3500'er! That means lots of day hikes coming up in the Cat's! Locally we have the birds returning to the southern tier and an eagles nest we are going to visit with the kids. Two outings I am looking forward to are Ricketts Glen State Park in Pennsylvania and Opus 40 in the Catskills. A spring trip to Ricketts Glen will ensure the beautiful waterfalls are flowing at their maximum and the Quarryman's Museum at Opus 40 will make you dream of redecorating your backyard with bluestone.

So get out your guidebooks, maps or search the internet and find an outdoor activity you would like to do this spring and come share it with us.

John Lynch, Outings Chair, spiderjohn@stny.rr.com

1From The Director

Director's Report...

The ADK has a positive outlook and a lot to be excited about in 2010. Club leadership changed when President Curt Miller passed the gavel to Jim Bird, one veteran to another. Jim is no stranger to achievement and challenge – look to your latest copy of Adirondac

magazine for Jim's introductory article. He speaks well of the achievements that the Club has made, the continuing programs, and his goals for moving the Club forward.

Listening to the multitude of reports and accomplishments at the December meeting, it occurred to me that there is definitely strength of purpose to be gained in our combined commitment to the Adirondacks, the wilderness and the wild areas of New York State. Even though we individually have particular areas of interest, as a group we have the financial strength and organization to do many things: We operate wilderness lodges and campgrounds; provide educational programs that focus on youth; support the summit steward program that restores/preserves our mountains; build trails for all to hike on; and advocate politically and in court to protect our environment. Hopefully you're reading the ADK Today information coming to you via e-mail or checking in on the ADK website to see what's happening. I encourage you to pick something you'd like to do and join in – it's fun and rewarding!

December is always the annual budget meeting for the Club, with the Directors reviewing the results from 2009 and approving the new budget for 2010. The Club is entering the third year of a deliberate plan to fund programs, infrastructure and positions that will build and grow the Club. The effort has been successful from multiple perspectives: membership has remained steady during economic times when other organizations are losing membership; our advocacy efforts have remained strong and effective – the Lows Lake effort being the prominent example; our education programs have been expanded – we're now one of only nine organizations in the U.S. to be chosen for Leave No Trace Master Education Training – this in turn enhances our own programs; our facilities continue to be fully used and well-regarded for our continuous improvement efforts. Our local Chapter has once again sent money back to the Club, as most chapters do on an annual basis, to support Club programs – it's greatly appreciated!

There are multiple events at the Club level, including work weekends; the summer Canoe Outing; the ididaride! Bike Tour (Aug 15); and Fall Outing. Check the ADK website for details. The annual fundraiser (The Black Fly Affair) will be May 21 this year – a silent and live auction that's lots of fun – hopefully many of you will join Elaine and I at the event this year and we can have a Binghamton Chapter table. More to come on details.

Erik Gregory, Chapter Director, Egregory@threearrows.com

From The Communications and Membership Chair

Growing Our Chapter...

Our Binghamton chapter grew 17% in 2009 and we are now 172 members strong! Great progress for the first new ADK chapter in many years! Thanks to all of you for supporting the ADK, and please ask your friends and family to consider joining. A special welcome to new chapter members, members who have transferred to the Binghamton chapter, and new affiliate members since the last newsletter: William Bitner, Roy Dando, Sally & Charles Miller, Steven & Joyce Sherwood, Daniel Armstrong, Raymond Goskowski, Don Houley, Amy Shapiro, Thomas Stabler, Lydia Stamato, Penny Storarcyk, Richard Rogler, Dean Daniels, Camille & Douglas Firpo, Kenneth Gluck, Richard & Beverly Mackie, Nancy Coddington, Rosemary Paradis, Michael & Laura Dlugos, Richard Porterfield, and Valerie Thompson. If you have updates to your membership information (i.e.: email address, phone#, etc) please send them to Ken Jackson (email: kenjny@stny.rr.com, Phone: 341-1584)

Ways To Stay In Touch...

Here are the ways you can find out the latest activities and happenings with your ADK Chapter:

WWW.BINGHAMTONADK.ORG Check out our new web site! This is the place to find the latest Chapter activities.

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

Chapter Trip Reports

Tirrell Pond Lean To – Binghamton Chapter Adopt a Lean To Work Trip / Hike by Howie / Julie Thompson

On a cool Saturday, September 26 at 8:00 in the morning Howie and Julie Thompson and niece Myranda Batsford met Pat Connors at the trailhead to Tirrell Pond Lean-to, to perform some maintenance work. It was a beautiful day for a hike-no bugs and comfortable temperatures. Things were quite a bit cleaner this time than they were on our spring hike in. We cleaned out the fire ring raked the grounds, swept cobwebs and added leaves in the latrine and collected firewood. We only had one bag of garbage which Pat nicely carried out. This was a big difference from the 3 bags we carried out earlier this year. We read many entries in the logbook about the amount of things left behind. People were very vocal about letting others know they should be taking out what they bring in. The logbook was in poor

condition, we will be calling our contact person at DEC to replace it as soon as possible. We spent some time exploring the beach in the sunshine, the trees were very colorful. It's a beautiful place to relax and enjoy the outdoors!



Pat, Julie, Howie, Myranda, and Colden at Tirrell Pond LT



The 'group' of 18 plus two canines head to the Oakley Corners Slave graveyard!

Oakley Corners – Slave Graveyard Hike by Ken Jackson/Dale DelNero

On Nov 1st, 18 Binghamton Chapter ADK members and guests (our largest outing group ever) enjoyed a leisurely hike to the slave graveyard in Oakley Corners. It was a crisp, clear blue sky afternoon which made the hiking a wonderful experience for all. Storms from the last few years have caused the graveyard to deteriorate.....the Chapter may look into helping preserve the graveyard in the next couple years. There is a lot of history related to the slave graveyard.....thanks to Dale DelNero for co leading the hike and sharing the newspaper articles detailing the known history of the graveyard.

Chenango Valley State Park – Fall Chapter Outing

On Oct 18th, approx 15 members enjoyed a sunny fall afternoon at Chenango Valley State Park. A hike down the towpath was noisy in the leaves....but that did not stop an eagle from flying along the river near an ADK hiker! The geo-caching was a great success, and the kids did great job demonstrating how good they are with technology and the GPS's provided by Howie Thompson by finding all the hidden caches!

Sugarloaf / Plateau Catskill Winter Mountain Hike by Mark Epstein

On Dec 5th, six members of the Binghamton Chapter of ADK met at 5:45am Saturday morning and drove to Hunter, NY to hike Plateau and Sugarloaf Mountains from Route 214. Despite overcast skies, we enjoyed nice views from Plateau Mountain. As we crossed Plateau we experienced some increasing winds and decreasing temperatures. We snacked at a lean-to in the col between the mountains and started up Sugarloaf just as the snow started to fall. We traded views on Sugarloaf with a wintery experience as the snow accumulated enough to cover the ground. Microspikes were donned on Sugarloaf to aid the descent. We lunched at the lean-to in the col before hiking out. Dinner was had at an Italian Eatery before leaving the Catskills. I wish I could remember the name of the place, but it was a worthwhile stop, and eating with the crew was just as enjoyable as hiking with them.

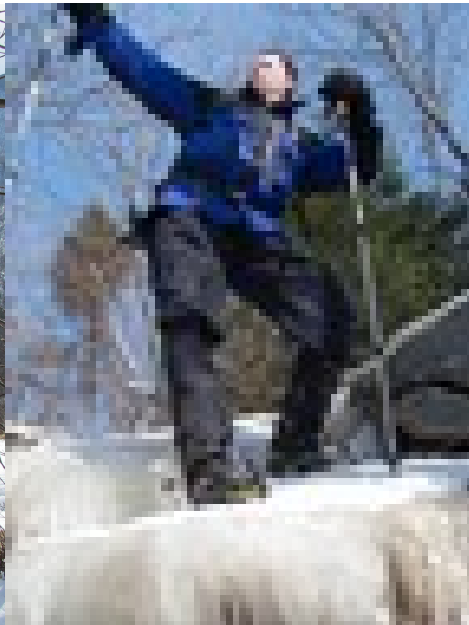


Our fearless leader Mark with John, Pat, Mike, Mike, and Ken on Plateau!

Snow was accumulating fast as we at lunch at the lean to!

Windham High Peak Catskills Winter Mountain Hike by Mark Epstein

On Feb 6th 8 members of the Binghamton ADK chapter left for the Catskills. The bulk of the group waited at the end of Big Hollow Road while two drivers dropped a car at the end of Peck Road. The entire group started hiking shortly after noon. Snow was scant at the trailhead and the group started hiking in either bare boots or microspikes. Two members later tried crampons for traction (and fun). At higher elevation the snow became a bit deeper and snowshoes were donned. The day was clear and we enjoyed nice views at every viewpoint plus "filtered winter" views through the trees for most of the hike. It was cool with a slight breeze. Enough so that one knew it was winter. The hike was completed in under 5 hours and afterwards we drove to Mama Maria's Restaurant & Pizzeria, Route 23, Stamford, NY. We are now regular customers. A nice dinner was enjoyed near a fireplace.



Leader Mark and Rich, Erik, Karen, Mike, Mike, Pat, and John on top of Windham. John took the group pic, so he gets his own pic celebrating on top of Windham!

Chapter Opportunities

Would you like to give a little something back to the outdoors and the ADK? Your Binghamton ADK chapter has opportunities for you to serve on outings, programs, conservation, communications, and hospitality subcommittees. Or are you an aspiring artist that would like to help the Chapter with a project? Or good with computers and would like to help communications? If so please contact any of the officers.

Chapter Bylaws

The Bylaws are available for your review in the files section of the BinghamtonADK Yahoo Group. If you need a copy sent to you, please contact Chapter secretary Elaine Gregory at cricket46@echoes.net

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 now owns 4 pairs of Crampons and 2 pairs of Microspikes 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 Program Chair Pat Connors or Outings Chair John Lynch to rent items or for more information

Cannonsville Recreational Boating Pilot Program – 2010 season begins Friday May 28th

Did you know that great recreational boating is allowed on the Cannonsville reservoir? Several different types of watercraft including kayaks, canoes, rowboats, sculls and sailboats may be used and launched from several specified sites around the reservoir. Canoes, sculls, and sailboats with removable center/dagger boards and rowboats must be at least eleven feet five inches (11'5") in length and kayaks must be at least nine feet (9') in length. See <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/recreation/cannonsvilleboatingbrochure.pdf> for all the details.

Life Jacket Requirement

A new state law that went into effect Nov. 1 requires paddlers to wear life jackets from late fall through early spring. According to the amendment to Navigation Law, "no owner or operator of a pleasure vessel less than twenty-one feet, including rowboats, canoes, and kayaks shall permit its operation, between November first and May first, unless each person on board such vessel is wearing a securely fastened United States Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device of an appropriate size when such vessel is underway." Violators could face a fine of \$100 to \$250.

Adirondack Park Winter Trail Conditions Update

From the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation "Northway Bulletin" of Feb 4th, 2010

Weather: Forecasts provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) are based on conditions at low elevations. Hikers and campers entering the High Peaks Region should expect, and be prepared for, conditions that will likely be more severe than those expressed in a general NWS forecast. Hikers and campers should check up-to-date forecasts before entering the back country, as weather forecasts can change. Wilderness conditions can change suddenly. While believed accurate, weather conditions may change at any time. All users should plan accordingly, including bringing flashlight, first aid equipment, extra food, plenty of water and clothing. Weather conditions may alter your plans; you should be prepared to spend an unplanned night in the woods before entering the back country.

Winter conditions: Winter conditions exist throughout the area. Expect to encounter snow and ice, prepare accordingly, pack snowshoes or skis and crampons and use when conditions warrant. The use of snowshoes or skis is encouraged to prevent "post-holing", avoid injuries, and ease travel on snow.

Snow Over Hard-packed & Icy Trails: Varying amounts of snow may be found covering hard packed and icy trails. Be cautious, carry and use crampons as warranted.

Ice on Waters: Due to recent rain and warm temperatures ice surfaces on waters bodies has thinned near shorelines, inlets, and outlets. Stream crossings are weak or completely open.

Blowdown: Winds from a recent storm has resulted in significant blowdown. Expect to find downed limbs and branches on many trails, particularly lesser used side trails.

Snowshoes, Skis and Crampons: **Snowshoes or skis must be used in the High Peaks Wilderness when snow depths are 8 inches or more and most areas of the High Peaks have snow depths more than 8 inches.** Snowshoes or skis are recommended to be used throughout the Adirondacks. The use of snowshoes or skis prevents "postholing", eases travel through the snow and reduces injuries. Carry and use crampons on summits and other icy areas.

Avalanches in the Adirondacks

Many believe avalanches are solely a western phenomenon, but they do happen in the mountainous east. Avalanches have and do occur in the High Peaks on exposed snow slopes and slabs.

If you are planning to hike or ski avalanche terrain, be prepared with an avalanche probe, beacon, and shovel, and the knowledge and training to assess snow conditions and use these tools appropriately. Find more information in this DEC brochure:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/avalanche.pdf

King Phillips Spring Closed

The spring, located near Exit 30 of the Northway, has been closed by DEC due to public health risk. The spring's waters have consistently exceeded drinking water standards for total coliform for the past 6 months. DEC can not ensure the safety of the spring's water for drinking. Therefore to protect the safety of the public the pipe has been removed and the spring has been closed.

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: http://www.adk.org/new_store/default.aspx

ADK is now on Facebook

ADK is now on [Facebook](#). Find the ADK at www.facebook.com/AdirondackMountainClub

Binghamton Chapter Winter / Spring 2010 Schedule

Outings and Meetings list (post on your calendar!)

ALWAYS CALL LEADERS FOR DETAILS

All area codes are 607 unless otherwise noted

Each trip's leader must have all participants sign a liability release form. The liability release form along with the ADK Outing Guidelines, which all outing participants should read, is posted on the BinghamtonADK Yahoo Group/Listserv. Persons wanting to lead an outing activity or have questions should contact John Lynch (spiderjohn@stny.rr.com) or Gary Vanderbles (gvanderbles@stny.rr.com)

Feb 21, Sunday, Whitney Point Snowshoe - to be cancelled if less than 10 inches of snow. Contact Leader Tom Stabler (kenneywallace1@aol.com) if questions and to register

Mar 9, Tuesday, 7PM. Chapter Meeting. Program A local AT end to end hiker will share his experiences and pictures. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

Mar 13, Saturday, Catskill Day Hike - Slide Mountain. Moderately strenuous 6.7 mile round trip winter hike, elevation gain of 1780 feet. Contact Leader - John Lynch (spiderjohn@stny.rr.com) for more information and to register

Apr 3, Saturday, Waterfalls Day Hike - Ricketts Glen SP. PA. Contact Leader - John Lynch (spiderjohn@stny.rr.com) for more information and to register

Apr 13, Tuesday, 7PM. Chapter Meeting, Program: Day hike planning, hints/tips, and experiences, plus recent pictures from the March and April day hikes. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

Apr 22, Thursday. Earth Day 2010 . (several venues over the week your Chapter plans to participate in). Contact leader - John Lynch (spiderjohn@stny.rr.com) for more information and to register

May 1-2, Sat-Sun, Adirondack Backpack - Silver Lake Lean To backpack and lean to caretaking. Moderate 7.5 mile hike over rolling terrain, overnight at lean to or 15 mile round trip day hike. Contact Leader - Ken Jackson (kenjny@stny.rr.com) for more information and to register

May 9, Sunday, Catskills Day Hike - Peekamoose & Table Mountain. Moderate 8.5 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2623 feet. Contact Leader Tom Stabler (kenneywallace1@aol.com) if questions and to register

May 11, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Program: Backpacking planning, hints/tips, and experiences, plus recent pictures from early May outings. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

May 21, Friday, ADK's 2010 "Black Fly Affair: A Hikers Ball" in Lake George. Check <http://www.adk.org> for the latest info!

May 22, Saturday, Adirondack Backpack and/or Day Hike and Tirrell Pond Lean to work weekend. Some of the group may also attend the black fly affair! Contact Leaders John Lynch (spiderjohn@stny.rr.com) or Howie Thompson

Jun 4, Friday, Catskills Day Hike - Overlook Mountain lodge and visit Opus 40 at the Quarryman Museum. Moderate 5 mile hike with a steady up hill climb. Contact Leader - John Lynch (spiderjohn@stny.rr.com) for more information and to register

Jun 5, Saturday, National Trails Day. TBD Chapter trail activity

Jun 12, Saturday Chapter 'late spring' outing and picnic. We will take a leisurely nature hike, guided by a local naturalist, along the Susquehanna river in Endwell. After the hike we will have a picnic / refreshments at Washingtonian Hall.

June 13, Sunday. Catskills Day Hike. - Twin and Indian Head Mountains. Strenuous 8.4 mile hike with 1580 feet of elevation gain, very steep sections of trail. Contact Leader - Tom Stabler (kenneywallace1@aol.com) for information and to register

Jul 19-29, ADK St. Regis Paddle Outing. Day or multi day trips available. Check <http://www.adktravel.org/canoeouting.html> for the latest info

July 25, Sunday. Adirondacks Day Hike - Cascade and Porter Mountains. Moderately strenuous 6.3 mile round trip hike with 2500 feet of elevation. Contact Leader - Tom Stabler (kenneywallace1@aol.com) for information and to register

Aug 15, Sunday. Adirondacks day Hike - Snowy Mountain. Moderately strenuous hike of 8 miles round trip. Contact leader Tom Stabler (kenneywallace1@aol.com) for information and to register

Aug 15, Sunday, Ididaride 10! - Adirondack Bike Tour. Check <http://www.ididaride.org/index.html> for the latest info

Sep 10-12, Fri-Sun, ADK Fall Outing 2010 in Speculator, N.Y. Sponsored by the Schenectady Chapter. Check <http://www.adktravel.org/fallouting.htm> for the latest info

Oct 2, Saturday. 2010 River bank clean up sponsored by Broome County Environmental Management Council. Our ADK Chapter plans to have a group participate in the clean up efforts!

Dec 10, Friday. Chapter Holiday Party at Washingtonian Hall

Binghamton ADK 2010 Meetings

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming Chapter meetings. Each meeting has a little business and a lot of focus on ways to be prepared and enjoy the outdoors!

Mar 9, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Program: A local AT end to end hiker will share his experiences and pictures. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

Apr 13, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Program: Day hike planning, hints/tips, and experiences, plus recent pictures from the March and April day hikes. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

May 11, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Program: Backpacking planning, hints/tips, and experiences, plus recent pictures from early May outings. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

Sep 14, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

Oct 12, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

Nov 9, Tuesday 7PM Monthly meeting. Gander Mountain Meeting Room, Harry L Drive, Johnson City, NY

ADK COMMUNITY NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Conservation Update: ADK's Advocacy Efforts Continue to Pay Dividends

Adirondack Mountain Club's advocacy efforts are continuing to pay off in increased protection for the Adirondacks, the Catskills and other wild places in the Northeast from the ravages of acid rain. Under a settlement with New York and other states, Duke Energy Corp. has agreed to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from its Gallagher Generating Station by 86 percent. This settlement will not only eliminate nearly 35,000 tons of sulfur dioxide emissions each year from this Indiana power plant, it will also help pave the way for future settlements and further pollution reductions. The settlement would not have been possible without earlier federal court victories by ADK and its partners.

This settlement was based on Duke's violation of the New Source Review (NSR) provisions of the Clean Air Act. During the Bush administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tried to eliminate the NSR program and seriously undermine the states' lawsuit against Duke. ADK was directly involved in two court cases, both of which went to the U.S. Supreme Court, to prevent EPA from gutting

NSR. If ADK and its partners had not prevailed in court, Duke's defense position would have been greatly bolstered and an out-of-court settlement would have been unlikely. ADK was the only Adirondack environmental group to play a role in either of these cases.

ADK's hard work on these cases kept the teeth in the NSR provisions, leading to out-of-court settlements with such polluters as American Electric Power and Cinergy Energy. We expect more settlements in the future.

ADK Conservation Updates

ADK Working to Protect Allegany State Park from Gas Drilling

Because Allegany State Park lies above the Marcellus shale, ADK has been closely involved in the Department of Environmental Conservation's regulatory procedures for high-volume hydraulic fracturing in this shale formation, which extends from the Catskills to Lake Erie. ADK is particularly concerned about potential drilling on DEC managed state forests traversed by the Finger Lakes Trail and the North Country Scenic Trail.

ADK – along with the state Legislature, New York City and other conservation organizations, such as Trout Unlimited – requested an extension of the comment period on the draft Generic Environmental Impact State on Marcellus Shale gas exploration. DEC granted a one-month extension, allowing comments until the end of December. ADK also testified at Senate and Assembly hearings on the hydrofracking regulatory procedures.

Gas drilling under the proposed regulatory scheme poses a substantial risk of groundwater contamination and would lead to extensive forest cutting, road building and habitat fragmentation, with unavoidable consequences for animal and plant communities near drilling operations. We believe this activity should be prohibited not only in Allegany State Park, but in other state-owned forests that are extensively used by members of ADK and the Finger Lakes Trail Conference.

ADK recently met with the Natural Heritage Institute's field biologist and ecologist, and we assembled a comprehensive inventory of the threatened and unique species and habitats of Allegany State Park. This information will be very valuable as we document our case for designating all or most of the park as Park Preserve, the closest thing to "Wilderness" in the park system. We are assembling a large database of information to support this classification and a potential designation of the park as an Important Bird Conservation Area. If we can accomplish these steps, it will be easier to make the case that the environmental impacts of gas exploration and extraction are unacceptable in the park.

The state Attorney General's Office has been reviewing U.S. Energy's claim to hold subsurface rights to 2,800 acres in the park. The AG's Real Property Office found several title discrepancies that appear to undermine U.S. Energy's claim. In September, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation wrote to the company and asked for proof of valid real property title to the claimed acreage. The company has not responded.

ADK has learned that the Blacksnake Mountain portion of Allegany State Park is a very important part of the Quaker Run watershed, and its seeps and wetlands where the groundwater comes to the surface, are very vulnerable to bulldozing for access roads and drill pad construction.

A fortune in natural gas lies under Upstate New York forest

Hewitt State Forest, in Cortland County, could someday hold drilling rigs. The state has leased drilling rights in Hewitt to Chesapeake Energy Corp. The company uses a process called fracking, which shoots millions of gallons of water, chemicals and sand into wells to break up shale and to free natural gas.

ADK, PROTECT Sue to Protect Wilderness Canoe Route

ADK and Protect the Adirondacks! (PROTECT) filed a lawsuit Jan. 13, 2010 in state Supreme Court in Albany to force the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to adhere to state law and classify a state-owned wilderness canoe route in the heart of the Adirondacks.

The lawsuit was necessary because the illegal and arbitrary actions of APA and the state Department of Environmental Conservation undermined the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and could seriously compromise future efforts to protect the Forest Preserve. In the words of David Gibson, executive director of PROTECT, "We are forced to seek redress in the courts because, despite the best efforts of many different parties, our state agencies failed to settle some important matters regarding implementation of the State Land Master Plan. We go to court for all state-owned waters in the Forest Preserve, not merely to settle the classification of Lows Lake."

The Master Plan, which is part of state Executive Law, requires APA to classify all state-owned lands and waters in the Adirondack Park according to "their characteristics and ability to withstand use." In September, the APA voted 6-4 to classify a portion of Lows Lake as

Wilderness and a portion as Primitive. Both classifications prohibit motorized public uses. But Gov. David Paterson's representatives on the APA board later changed their position and supported a resolution that left the lake unclassified. Additional details are available at http://www.adk.org/pdf/Lows_Lake_Petition.pdf

ADK – Binghamton Chapter
3725 River Rd
Endwell, NY 13760

MAIL PERMIT
OR STAMP

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

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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
- 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

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