



**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB
NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER**
WWW.ADK-NFC.ORG

APRIL 2015 Newsletter

April General Meeting

Tuesday, April 14
Education Workshop cancelled this month
Happy Half Hour 7 - 7:30
General Meeting 7:30 - 9:00
77 Washington Highway, Snyder Amherst Community Church
NOTE: Please park in rear and enter through back door.

Program:

Rare, Fragile, Hardy: the Adirondack Alpine Zone
Julia Goren, director of the Summit Steward program, and ADK's new director of education

Above treeline on Adirondack high peaks we find sweeping vistas, stunning views, and New York's rarest ecosystem-the alpine zone. This ecosystem has been in place since the glaciers retreated, shaping the landscape we know today. Explore the incredible adaptations that alpine plants have to meet the challenges of this harsh climate. Learn about the Summit Steward program's efforts to protect this fragile environment and new research suggesting what the future may hold for New York's "islands in the sky". Our speaker Julia Goren is the coordinator of the High Peaks Summit Steward program, a position she has held since 2008, and the ADK Education Director. Julia has a BA in Medieval History from Williams College and her MS in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England. She has been a farmer, park ranger, environmental educator, firefighter, guide, and field botanist. She grew up hiking in the Adirondacks, finished her 46 in 2005, and considers herself very fortunate to make a career of doing the things she loves best.



Summit stewards protect New York's alpine ecosystems.

Alpine Vegetation



Restored Vegetation, Cascade summit



Julia Goren at Work

MARCH PROGRAM REVIEW:

ALAN LOCKWOOD PRESENTS A REALITY JOLT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Alan Lockwood, retired MD and Professor Emeritus, is devoted to educating the public about the scientific realities of climate change and how public health and the people of the world will be impacted.

The world's top climate scientists in the International Panel on Climate Change have stated unequivocally that climate change is real and is mainly caused by human activities. Burning fossil fuels is causing a global rise in carbon dioxide levels and temperature. Oceans are warming, and ice sheets, icecaps and glaciers are melting. Sea levels are rising threatening coastal areas in the United States and throughout the world. Weather events are becoming more extreme, damaging and expensive, as in the cases of Tropical Storm Irene and Hurricane Sandy.

Rising temperatures are also causing severe increases of heat stroke and heat-related deaths around the world. Higher temperatures will also facilitate the spread of mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and Dengue Fever, currently localized in tropical areas. Droughts will be more frequent, and dramatically effect agriculture and the stability of fragile cultures worldwide.

Alan reported that the primary greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, lasts for many thousands of years in the atmosphere. The best case scenario for our future is to reduce carbon emissions, and transition as quickly as possible to renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, and water. Alan cited a study showing that New York state could transition to at least 80% renewable energy by the year 2030. Alan has solar panels on his home to generate electricity. He drives a fuel-efficient hybrid car, uses low energy LED light bulbs, and spreads the word about climate change and possible solutions. What can the rest of us do? Submitted by Janet Kowalski

UPCOMING ADK PROGRAMS FOR 2015!

May 12: Sam Magavern, 2014 ADK Conservation Award Recipient
Greenway Leadership, Public Good, Attorney, Author

June 14: ADK Picnic at Bison City Rod and Gun Club, Ohio St, Buffalo, including:

- Biking along the Outer Harbor
- Paddling on the Buffalo River
- Hiking at nearby Tift Farm Nature Preserve
- Beautiful outdoor and indoor facilities

Save the Date: Sunday, June 14, 2015

What: Annual Meeting and Family Picnic

Where: Bison City Rod and Gun Club on Ohio Street, Buffalo

This urban location for our annual picnic is being designed to bring everyone down to the waterfront to enjoy the newly created public access of the outer and inner harbors! Bison City has a large, open shelter overlooking the river with lots of picnic tables as well as a cozy indoor hall for our use. Ohio Street construction will be completed and it is the link between the 2 harbors we cyclists have been waiting for.

I am calling for trip leaders willing to lead:

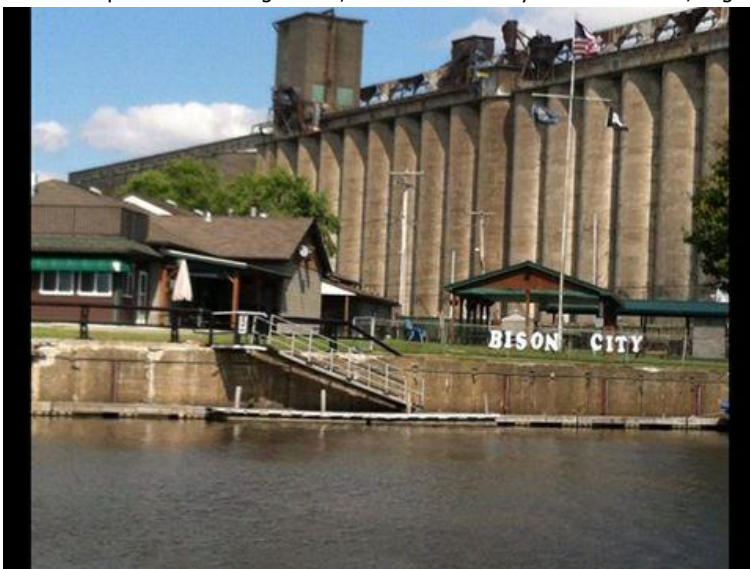
1. Hiking at Tift Nature Preserve, or
2. Kayaking on the Buffalo River, or
3. Cycling on the bike path, and
4. A combination trip involving a short paddle, bike to Wilkenson Point and a hike through Times Beach, Bike back to Bison City. This trip would give participants an introduction to the harbor and a chance to check out all 3 activities.

I am also requesting a small Ad hoc committee of 5 people willing to develop a "gear exchange" event during the picnic. The committee would explore ideas to organize it, make some money for the club and/or give folks an opportunity to sell their gently used gear to club

members and perhaps to the general public. We would need to secure permission from the Bison City owners to open the "sale" to the public. I think the urban location would be the perfect place for this sale.

Contact: Mary Schraven if you have ideas for the gear swap and/or trip leading. P.S. Richard Schraven will unfortunately be out of town and won't be available to lead the kayaking outing this year.

Maryschraven1@gmail.com or 716-946-7489



Education Workshop - There will be no workshop in April.

CONSERVATION CORNER Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney

The Conservation Committee meeting will be held at Lynn Kenney's home on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00pm. Call #825-7329 for directions.

Allegany State Park: There was an information meeting on 3-16-15 in Salamanca about the proposed National Fuel lease in Allegany State Park. Instead of taking public comments at that meeting the public comment period was on-line. THANK YOU to everyone who sent in a public comment for advocating to have no expansion and to have the lease include a phase out provision for National Fuel to be out of the park at the end of the new lease period.

ADK Albany Conservation Meeting: A motion was passed to have ADK legislative staff work towards getting the Taconic Highlands Area (an area along the NY, MA, VT border) designation changed from a state forest to a Unique Area to provide it with protection against illegal ATV use and to prevent logging in the future. As you remember, locally changing the Zoar Valley designation to a Unique Area provided that special area with greater protection.

A second motion passed that under the ADK Climate Response and Resilience Campaign ADK staff will advocate for Carbon Sequestration when state forest land is logged. This legislation would have the wood that is logged go towards durable wood products like furniture instead of towards wood to be burned for heat or electricity. Burning the wood contributes to global warming but durable wood products do not. This would not dictate how wood from private land owners is processed. In addition staff would also work towards changing regulations and the tax code that currently encourages private land owners to harvest their forest land instead of letting it turn into old growth forests that help to sequester carbon.

ADK is also working to help develop a state bill that will set acceptable limits on ATV use. Illegal ATV use will continue to be a growing problem as the earth warms and there is less snow pack for snowmobilers. It is believed snowmobilers will switch from snowmobiling to ATV use that will negatively impact environmentally sensitive areas and non-motorized recreational trails.

Attacks on the environment never stop. Join the Conservation Committee to see how you can help.



Lynn, Richard Schraven and Bob Van Hise at the Allegany Meeting

Words from the Outings Chair, Andy Urban

First I would like to welcome on our new Biking Co-Chair, Paul Kochmanski. If you are interested in biking with our club please get a hold of him. Our biking outings have been extremely popular of the last several years and I hope to keep that going this year. We will be having a meeting for biking on April 13th at Gander Mountain. I hope to see everyone there.

As temperatures warm up I hope everyone is getting excited for going outside and enjoying our outdoors again. As much as I love snow this was a long and hard winter. With the melting of snow the trail will begin to open up. Welcome to mud season. It is also the time when we see the most trail damage occur because people go off trail to avoid the wet stuff. With state and local funding for trail maintenance being pushed to the background it is important for all of us to make sure we do not contribute to the wear and tear of our forests.

Spring is one of the two transition season. Weather is most fickle at these points of the year. When you go out make sure you check the forecast and plan for unexpected changes in weather. Already we have seen it warm to almost 50 and then drop below freezing in the same day. While this makes fantastic maple syrup, it can play havoc on an outing. Make sure you are prepared for changes in weather. Stay safe out there!

ADK Book Club

ADK BOOK CLUB March Meeting: The April book club meeting will be hosted by Larry Beahan (Larry_Beahan@roadrunner.com) at 7 PM on Wednesday, April 29. We will discuss "Woodswoman I" by Anne LaBastille. Newcomers are welcome! Any questions: Janet Kowalski, 839-3114, janetk300@gmail.com



ADK Biking Committee

Bike Outings Meeting

Monday April 13th, 7:00 pm
Gander Mountain, Lodge Meeting Room

All those interested in leading a biking outing this year should attend. Even if do not know the exact specifics of the outing but would just like to get on the calendar this meeting is for you. We will also quickly go over our safety rules and expectations at the meeting. Please arrive early as we will start at 7. For more information please contact the Biking Co-Chair, Paul Kochmanski 895-7712 kochmanski@ecc.edu



Wilderness Weekends in WNY Challenge



Look for the WWWNY patch symbol on all outings that are part of the challenge.

Want to know more? Check our website www.adk-nfc.org

Announcing Second Person to Finish: Mary Schraven!!!!!!

Trip Descriptions

April

4/18 Sat. Paddle Alabama Swamp (Oak Orchard Creek)

RichardSchraven1@gmail.com (716) 564-2106

We begin at the Albion Rd. bridge, and end at Sour Springs Rd. Drop off canoes and kayaks at Albion Rd. bridge (and be ready to car shuttle to Sour Springs Rd) by 9 AM. This is a 3-4 hr. one-way paddle. Dress for the weather and water (it can be cold/rainy, and there may be some going over, under and around obstacles such as beaver dams and downed trees). Bring your paddle trip TEN Essentials including your P.F.D., water bottle, a lunch, sun-protection and a hand saw. This is a co-paddle with the GVC-ADK (Genesee Valley Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club). They are great people, and a lot of fun! Contact me for details about this paddle.

4/25 Sat. Paddle Black Creek in Monroe County

RichardSchraven1@gmail.com (716) 564-2106, chelman@rochester.rr.com

Join us for a joint paddle with the ADK-GVC chapter for a fun paddle on Black Creek in Churchville NY. This is a great early season paddle that is open to all levels of canoe or kayak. You should expect that there will be moving water this time of year especially with all the snow melt. We will put in at Churchville Park and paddle up towards the Bergen Swamp. If we get high water it will be a little tricky to navigate in the creek as it floods and becomes more of a lake that creek...but that is always more of the fun of the event. Bring your lunch and water, sun glasses and sunscreen.....or rain gear depending on the weather. Being an early season paddle it is imperative to dress for the water conditions, typically dry suit or wet suit or technical gear. Bring extra clothes in a dry bag and always a good idea to bring an additional set to be left in your car.

Our plan is to meet at the DEC boat launch in Churchville park at 8:30 am. Depending on water conditions expect to get back to the boat launch around 3pm.

Directions: From Buffalo: Thruway to Route 490 east in Leroy, then Route 490 to Exit 3, which is Route 36, Churchville. Head north (should be a left turn off the exit ramp) and go into town. You will continue north on Route 36 past the intersection with Route 33 and

then make a left onto Park Road. Follow Park Road into the park area and you will see the DEC boat launch on the right with a small parking area and boat launch area.

Contact Richard Schraven or Charlie Helman with your intent to participate.

June

6/14 Annual Picnic - See details above

August

2015 Killarney Provincial Park (KPP) Paddle Outing

We are planning to have this year's KPP paddle trip over the weekend of August 8th & 9th for three or four nights. This is the sweet spot of warm temperatures, low insect counts and it avoids the Canadian Civic holiday. The reservation has to be made five months ahead of time to get the most coveted routes. Reservations allow nine on a permit and the route will be determined by whether participants are using canoes or kayaks. In order to accommodate our members' needs, please inform me if you are interested and the choice of craft (canoe or kayak) you will be using. I am not asking for a commitment now, but those who contact me will be among the first to be informed of the trip and thus have the best chance of getting their deposit to me to reserve their spot on the trip. In the past we have had to limit the number of participants even though we got two permits. Contact richardschraven1@gmail.com or (716) 564-2106 asap

TRIP REPORTS

2/28 Sat X-County Skiing in Ellicottville and Potluck Dinner

The group of 7 skiers met at Tannenbaum Lodge at Holiday Valley. Attending was new member Susan Osinski, as well as Lynn Chirico, leader JoAnn Ratajczak, Janet Morrow, Tom Burkeman and Mary Ann Kostusiak.

From there they headed up the trail from the lodge to the top of Spruce Lake.

Some walked and some skied. One person chose to take the lift up and skied around the lake, while the rest did it the hard way.

Once on top we followed the x-country ski trail from the Spruce lift through the woods to the top of the Cindy chair where we enjoyed a snack and drink in the warming hut. Then we headed back the same way, and down to the lodge, where a hearty meal of vegetarian and meat chili and lots of desserts were shared. Joining the group was Marion Hanover and Jack Ratajczak.



3/6 - 3/9 Algonquin Park Ski/Snowshoe Trip

Eight of us drove the four hours to Algonquin Park in the morning and skied the moderate Finlayson Loop Trail at the Fen Lake Ski Trail Area. The trail was groomed with set tracks and ample snow. We then went to our yurts at the Mew Lake Campground. It was comfortable with four people per yurt. We split up on the second day with some spending the day skiing the Pinetree Lake loop at the Leaf Lake Ski Trail while others went first to snowshoe at the outdoor Algonquin Logging Museum Trail with a focus on a significant chapter in the park's cultural heritage. They then skied the Jack Rabbit and Clarke Lake loops of the Leaf Lake Ski Trail. The two groups had planned to meet at Dee's Warming Hut for lunch, but we didn't quite synchronize our respective ski outings. We all agreed, however that the skiing was great with excellent snow and brisk temperatures. Afterwards we got together at Mad Musher's Lodge for drinks, laughter and good food. On Sunday (our third day), we again split up with some snowshoeing from the Mew Lake Campground. They had a good sighting of a pine marten and some chickadees and met up with the rest of our group at the Algonquin Visitors Centre with its video presentation of the history and natural splendor of Algonquin Park. There also are exhibits featuring wolves, deer, moose, bear and

beaver in expert re-creations of their natural surroundings. On the final day, after sweeping the yurts out, everyone left for home with some skiing again at Fen Lake while others snowshoed the Bat Lake Hiking Trail. It was a winter wonderland with a deep blanket of snow-draped fir trees, blue sky and blue ice covered rock outcroppings. Submitted by: Richard Schraven

New Members

Welcome to the following new members!

Richard Dombrowski
Pamela Henel
Wasif Khan
Thomas Weise

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board will meet on February 3rd at 6:45 pm at the Julia Reinstein library. Any member is welcome to attend. Chairpersons who cannot attend should send a report to the Secretary, larry_beahan@roadrunner.com

ADK-NFC WEBSITE

Check out our website www.adk-nfc.org for a calendar of future events and outings, conservation news, newsletters and upcoming programs.

LIABILITY WAIVER

The OFFICIAL ADK LIABILITY WAIVER FORM needs to be filled out and SIGNED in ink by EVERY participant at EVERY outing, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, BEFORE the outing begins! This also applies to all outing leaders and to all participants (members and non-members) on any ADK activity. Forms are available through the ADK-NFC.ORG website at the bottom of the Home page. Completed forms can be submitted to Andy Urban or any Outing Co-Chair at the next meeting following the outing.

If leading a joint ADK outing with another group, ADK waiver forms must be signed by all participants, even non-members, in addition to the other organization's waiver(s).

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join the Niagara Frontier Chapter you can sign up at a monthly meeting or online at www.ADK.org. If you sign up online don't forget to check that you want to join our chapter so the local chapter gets a portion of your dues.

Executive Committee Members

CHAIRPERSON

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MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

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HOSPITALITY

Sandy Paine
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PUBLICITY

Help Needed!

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WEBMASTER/ALT. DIRECTOR

Rob Laing
webmaster@adk-nfc.org

Outings Co-Chairs

DAY HIKES

(Apr - Nov)
New co-chair needed!

WINTER SPORTS

(Nov - Mar)
JoAnn Kish Ratajczak
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