

ADK-NFC ANNUAL HISTORY

September 2015 – August 2016

An engaged and energetic Executive Committee dictated the tone of our successful year.

Chair: Janet Kowalski
Outings: Mary Schraven
Conservation: Lynn Kenney
Programs: Dana Jandzinski
Education: Teresa Corrigan
Director: Bob VanHise to 12/2015, Rob Laing
Treasurer: Doug Gaffney
Electronic Communications: Cheryl Peluso
Newsletter: Kate Hacker to 4/2016, Mike Weimer
Webmaster: Rob Laing
Secretary: Larry Beahan
Membership: Kathy Clerkin
Hospitality: Sandy Paine
Young Members: Travis Darrin to 12/2015

Outings: Mary Schraven's personal outreach strategy resulted in a full outings calendar, with a variety of outings every week throughout most of the year. The NF chapter dedicated funds to compensate a stay at the Heart Lake LOJ for a long weekend in Feb 2016, with the objective to attract WNYers to this beautiful lodge. For the most part, active members took advantage of this offer. Mary initiated an Outings Survey for feedback from the membership. Members seem to be satisfied with the many outings offered, and wouldn't mind if there were even more to choose from.

Please see the accompanying appendix/document for Outings Details, including:
Names of Outings CoChairs
For each category of Outing, the names of the Outing Leaders and Destinations

Programs:

Speakers who are not ADK members are offered a \$100 honorarium that they often donate to the organization they represent.
An eclectic variety of speaker topics were presented this year:
September: Slide Shows (limit 10 per person) on Summer Trips
October: Joe Allen, UB Instructor, Wolves and Wilderness in Yellowstone
November: Bill Cooke, Author, Adventures on the Colorado Trail

December: Holiday Potluck Dinner

January: Dan Telvoc, Investigative Post, Impacts of Sewage on Scajaquada Creek

February: Dave Paradowski, DEC Forester, ASP Tree Management

March: GoBike Buffalo

April: Mike Masterson, Benefits of Bees and Honey

May: Paddling Experts Andrea Vaillancourt-Alder and Bob Van Hise

June: ADK Annual Picnic at Chestnut Ridge Park Commissioners Cabin

60 – 80 members typically attend monthly meetings.

See Appendix for Program Speakers from previous years.

Education: Chair Teresa Corrigan relocated the monthly 6:30 Education Workshops from a small 3rd floor room to a larger 2nd floor room, and also organized a robust selection of Education Presenters. The turnouts were excellent.

Conservation:

The ADK-NFC Conservation Award was presented to Lynda Schneekloth, past Sierra Club President, a Founder of Riverkeeper and of the Climate Justice Coalition of Western NY.

Please refer to the separate Conservation History Report for a comprehensive overview of Conservation matters.

Communication: Our membership is largely informed about chapter activities electronically, with monthly newsletters and weekly Email updates, a new and well-received addition this year. About 50 members request the newsletter to be mailed to their home.

Newsletter: Mike Weimer replaced busy Kate Hacker as Newsletter Editor.

Director:

Rob Laing was elected to the Director position starting January 2016 to replace Bob Van Hise, who finished 6 years of service in this role (the limit, stipulated by ADK)

Membership: Our chapter membership remained steady with 918 – 947 members throughout the year. Starting in Fall 2016, New NF members will receive a Niagara Frontier Chapter Welcome Letter describing our local activities, in addition to the friendly phone call from Membership Chair Kathy Clerkin and the informative packet they receive from HQ (contains a hiking book, *Adirondac* magazine, sticker, \$25 coupon towards ADK Lodging, and several forms that describe ADK Lodging prices, volunteer and stewardship opportunities, affiliate dues for all 27 chapters, in addition to a friendly welcome letter)

Young Members: ADK and ADK President John Gilewicz encouraged chapters to form Young Member (YM) groups, led by a YM Chair. Accordingly Travis Darrin was appointed as YM Chair, and organized several successful YM outings before relocating to Albany for an ADK Conservation Intern Position. We continue to appeal to YMs to participate in YM outings both locally and in the High Peaks area.

Treasury: Our chapter lives within its means for the most part, able to offer generous education scholarships and make periodic contributions to the Club while maintaining vibrant chapter offerings in programs and education. Our carryover funds from previous years is largely invested, and maintains a balance in the \$15,000 to \$17,000 range.

Publicity: Since our chapter is farther away from Adirondack Park than any other chapter, these strategies were employed to increase awareness throughout WNY for ADK.

1. Richard Schraven contacted the Buffalo News to arrange for reporter Scott Scanlon to accompany ADK members on a hike to Royalton Ravine. A hiking article with photographs appeared in the Saturday Refresh insert section.
2. Attractive lightweight ADK hats were sold to the membership for \$5, with the objective for them to be worn on outings and in public on errands, sporting events and other gatherings to facilitate positive conversations about ADK, its missions and activities. This initiative was supported by the ADK store and the chapter.
3. Green ADK-NFC business-sized cards were designed and distributed to friends and suitable locations.

Bylaws Update: The ADK-NFC bylaws are updated every few years to stay current and accommodate policy changes. Accordingly, the board approved the formation of 2 new appointed positions for the Executive Committee: Webmaster and Young Members (YM Chair). These additions along with some minor wording changes were approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting/picnic.

ADK Book Club: Interested readers met once a month (Sept to May) to read ADK- or nature-related literature. They met at homes or in the meeting room of the Eggertsville-Snyder Library.

High School Intern: Dan Levy, son of ADK member Sanford Levy donated his computer skills to fulfill community service hours needed for graduation. He designed green business cards for the chapter, sorted our membership roster by Year Joined, and mapped the addresses of our chapter membership.

Logistics:

The NF Executive Committee meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month (Sept to May), usually at the centrally located Julia Boyer Public Library in Cheektowaga. The General Meeting is held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (Sept to May) at the Amherst Community Church, in Fellowship Hall.

The Annual Picnic/Meeting is held in early June, usually at a County Park location that alternates each year on Sat/Sun, and in Northtowns/Southtowns.

Note: At the June 2016 ExComm meeting, the Board asked officers to compose an Annual History Report highlighting events of the year. This is intended to be continued every year. Two hard copies will be made available to the Chair and Chapter Historian (Lynn), and the History will be available to the membership on the chapter website.

Submitted by Janet Kowalski
ADK-NFC Chair (starting 9/15)

Appendix:

Outings Leaders:

Hiking: Cheryl Peluso, Richard Schraven, Rebecca Wightman, JoAnn Ratajczak, Lynn and Doug Kenney, Teresa Corrigan, Jan and Ed Kramer, Janet and David Kowalski, David Bray, Mike Promowicz, Kim Newland, Ed Kasperek, Bob VanHise, Tom Kielb, John Yates, Bob Ensminger, Dan Piedmont, Marion Hanover, Mare Steiniger, Erin Redding, Carol Griffis, Lee Clukey, Leslie Salathe

Biking: JoAnn Ratajczak, Richard Schraven, Cheryl Peluso, Paul Kochmanski, Aaron Slosman, Mike Promowicz, Ron Dorr, Sandy Paine and Karl Minklei, Mary MacQueen, Ann Lazroe, Tom Burkman

Paddling: Mary Durlak, Richard Schraven, Bob Colling, Carol Griffis, Peggy Heath, Carolyn Kerr, Kate Hacker, Jinny Colburn, Bob Ensminger, Denise Smith, Roy Svennson, Patti Zander, Leisl Whit, Bob Bohner, Marjorie J., John Yates

Winter Sports: Leslie Salathe, Donna Kain, Peg Heath, Carol Griffis, JoAnn Ratajczak, Richard Schraven, Joanne Magavern, Teresa Corrigan, Mike Promowicz, Carolyn Kerr, Jan and Ed Kramer, Bob VanHise, David and Janet Kowalski, Mike Ford, Kate Hacker, Kim Newland, Marion Hanover

Trip Leaders and specific outings June 2015- June 9, 2016

Submitted by Mary Schraven

45 leaders total/ 22 doing multiple types of outings

Hike- 23 leaders/ 39 different locations (Mary Schraven, acting Dayhikes Chair)

Cheryl Peluso-*Chestnut Ridge Park Hikes; *Erie County Forest; Beaver Meadow;
Conservation Trail to Beckers Pond; *Little Rock City; Emery Park;
Richard Schraven-Zoar Valley; Niagara Glen; Eagle Forest Trail; Beaver Meadow Maple Syrup Festival; Royalton Ravines bike and hike;
Buckhorn paddle and hike;
Rebecca Wightman-Orienteering at Chestnut Ridge
JoAnn Ratajczak- *Little Rock City; Zoar Valley; Kayak demo, *Ellicottville trails;
Lynn and Doug Kenney- *Adopt a Highway Tillman; Tifft Nature Preserve; Chestnut Ridge
Teresa Corrigan- Allegany National Forest Backpack; *Reinstein Woods; Map and Compass Skills hike;
Jan and Ed Kramer- *Susquehannock Lodge weekend;
Janet and David Kowalski-Letchworth ST.PK; Darien Lake St. Pk.; Unity Island Shoreline sweep; Niagara Gorge;
David Bray-Deer Lick Conservation area;
Mike Promowicz-*Niagara Gorge trail; Devil's Hole to Whirlpool trail;
Kim Newland- Griffis Sculpture Park; *Franklin Gulf; *Chestnut Ridge Park;
Ed Kasperek- Map and Compass skills hike
Bob VanHise-Beaver Island St. Pk;
Tom Kielb- *LeHigh Memory Trail, Amherst Nature Trails;
John Yates- Tifft Nature Preserve; Buckhorn State Park;
Bob Ensminger- *Iroquois National wildlife Refuge;
Dan Piedmont- Mt. Tuscarora, ASP;
Marion Hanover- Niagara Glen; Queenston Heights Park;
Mare Steiniger- Holland Ravines; Letchworth backpack;
Erin Redding- Emery Park;
Carol Griffis- *Knox Park;
Lee Clukey- Klondike Tail work;
Leslie Salathe- Tifft Nature

Bike-11 trip leaders/21 different locations (Paul Kochmanski, Biking Chair)

JoAnn Ratajczak-*Clarence Bike Path; *Rails to Trails Tonawanda; Buffalo Outer Harbor
Richard Schraven-Bike and Hike Niagara Glen; Queenston to N.O.L.; Dufferin Islands and Nia.Falls Blues Festival; Oak Orchard Road;
Royalton Ravines bike and hike; Tonawanda Bike Path to Smoke on the Water; Friendship trail Front PK to Ridgeway Market; Lewiston to Youngstown for Lewiston Art Festival;
Cheryl Peluso- 18 mile Creek Road

Paul Kochmanski- Front Park to Port Colborne; Front Park to Crystal Beach; Elmwood Ave Arts Festival; Delaware Park to Erie Basin Marina; *Delaware Park time trials;
Aaron Slosman-Great Allegheny Passage bike and camp;
Mike Promowicz- Lewiston Art Festival and Ft. Niagara;
Ron Dorr-Lewiston Peach Festival and Ft. Niagara;
Sandy Paine and Karl Minklei- Buffalo Outer Harbor; Chestnut Ridge area roads
Mary MacQueen-Mountain Bike in ASP;
Ann Lazroe- *Clarence Bike Path;
Tom Burkman- Circumnavigate Grand Island;

Paddle - 16 leaders/ 21 locations (Richard Schraven, Paddling Chair)

Mary Durlak-Bflo river
Bob VanHise- *Lewiston to Youngstown; Buffalo River Fest; Paddles Up;
Richard Schraven-Allegany River in Warren, PA; Strawberry Island;
Queenston to N.O.L. Paddle and Peddle; Killarney; Oak Orchard River;
*Ellicott Creek; Buffalo River; Woods Creek at Buckhorn paddle and hike;
Bob Colling- Oak Orchard River;
Carol Griffis-Beaver River Canoe Camp; Forked Lake State Park Canoe Camp;
Peggy Heath- Sturgeon Point paddle and picnic
Carolyn Kerr- Lockport Locks;
Kate Hacker- Oswagatchie River camping
Jinny Colburn-*Tonawanda Creek;
Bob Ensminger-*Oak Orchard River; Bond lake;
Denise Smith-*Tonawanda Creek;
Roy Svennson- Tonawanda Creek;
Patti Zander- Niagara River around Strawberry Island;
Liesl Whit- Cattaraugus Creek
Bob Bohner- Buffalo River
Marjorie J.- Ellicott Creek;
John Yates- Killarney

Winter sports-17 leaders/ 20 different locations (JoAnn Ratajczak, Winter Chair)

Leslie Salathe- *Delaware Park;
Donna Kain- ice skating Canalside;
Peg Heath- XC Ski Evangola St.Pk. ;
Carol Griffis- *Knox Farm St. PK;
JoAnn Ratajczak- *Ellicottville area Snow shoe/XC ski;
Richard Schraven- Hunter's Creek SS; Algonguin XC Ski weekend
Joanne Magavern- XC ski ASP;
Teresa Corrigan- *XC SKI Reinstein Woods; SS Beaver Meadow;
Mike Promowicz- XC ski Bond Lake; Mendon Pond;

Carolyn Kerr- XC ski Chestnut Ridge Park
Jan and Ed Kramer- *Susquehannock Lodge for XC ski/SS;
Bob VanHise- Saranac Lake Winter Festival;
David and Janet Kowalski- XC Ski Bond Lake;
Mike Ford- XC Ski at Nature View Park;
Kate Hacker- XC Ski/SS ADK Loj;
Kim Newland- XC Ski Sprague Brook Park;
Marion Hanover- SS/XC Ski Bond Lake

Speakers from Previous Years:

2012 - 2013

September: Slide Show on summer outings
October: Teddy Roosevelt in the Adirondacks, Audubon's Mark Carra (Mark brought animals too)
November: Meaghan Boice Green, Director of Reinstein Envir Educ Center
December: Potluck, followed by Buffalo Nordic Ski Club, Jim Klein
January: Fracking, Rita Yelda, Food and Water Watch
February: Wilderness Weekends Challenge, overview of outing options
March: Backpacking, Bob Van Hise and Andy Urban
April: Biking, GoBike Buffalo
May: History of Canoeing in North America, Debra Kolodczak, UB Am Studies Dept

2013 - 2014

September: Slide Show on summer outings
October: Mountain Quests and Stories: Documentary on 1st female 46er Grace Hudalowski, also information on Saranac 6er program
November: Owls, Hawk Creek Wildlife Center
December: Potluck Dinner, XC ski speaker cancelled due to weather
January: Bears, Tim Sierto, DEC Biologist
February: WNY Land Conservancy, Jajean Rose-Burney
March: Climate Change, David Kowalski
April: Wildflowers, Bill Michalek
May: WNY Watershed Studies, Margaret Wooster

2014 - 2015

September: Slide Show on summer outings
October: Earth Spirit, Medicinal and Edible Plants
November: Jason Briner PhD, UB professor/Greenland specialist, Shrinking Ice Caps
December: Potluck Dinner, ADK Winter Mountaineering School, Len Pratt
January: Mary MacQueen, founder of the Allegany Ski Patrol, rescue dog
February: John Gilewicz, ADK President, ADK issues overview, ASP gas line

March: Alan Lockwood MD, Effect of Climate Change on Health

April: Julia Goren, ADK Summit Steward Program

May: Sam Magavern, 2014 ADK Conservation Award, Buffalo Niagara Greenway,
Partnership for the Public Good