



Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club – Niagara Frontier Chapter  
**DECEMBER 2017**  
[www.adk-nfc.org](http://www.adk-nfc.org)



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**Next General Meeting – Tuesday, December 12, 2017 (Program starts at 6:30 p.m.)**

**Location: Fellowship Hall - Amherst Community Church**  
**77 Washington Highway, Snyder NY 14226**

NOTE: Please park in rear and enter through back door (walk up to 2nd floor)

**Program Schedule: \*NOTE the earlier than usual general start time**

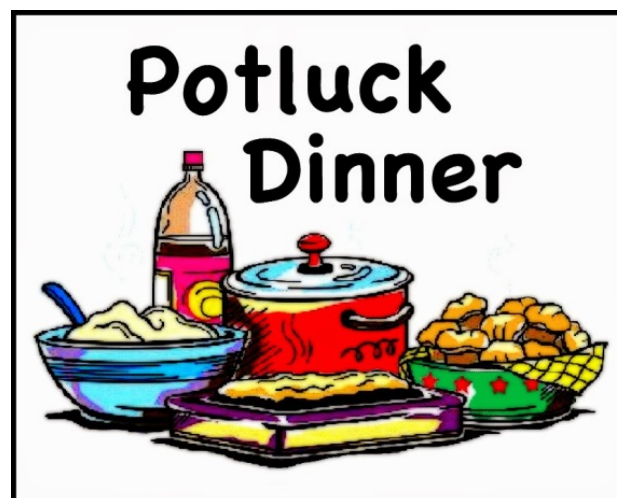
**No Education Workshop this month**

**6:00: DECK THE HALLS.** Any help with setup (and cleanup) is welcome

**6:30: DINNER! EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY**

*COME ONE, COME ALL, DON'T LET SOMEONE ELSE EAT IT ALL. THE POTLUCK DINNER IS SURE TO PLEASE. BRING A CROCK POT BEFORE DINNERS FREEZE!!*

Help us make a warm and memorable get together on Tuesday night by bringing your favorite hot dish or share your crock pot delights. We will have extra tables set up to keep all your dishes readily available. Beverages will be provided. A small supply of paper products will be available, but on behalf of the planet, members are asked to bring their own (reusable) plates, utensils, and cups.



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**Message From the Chair, Paul Gannon**

*Well, the holiday season is upon us, with all its hustle and bustle. On December 12, we will gather once again for our annual ADK holiday party. I look forward to seeing everyone, and enjoying our potluck dinner together.*

*On behalf of the executive committee, I want to wish all of our members a season filled with peace, joy, good health, and good fortune.*

*During this hectic time, I hope all of you take the opportunity to take a step back, and enjoy some well-deserved quiet.*

*The approach of winter, with its shortened days, and long, cold nights, is nature's chance to slow down, rest, and recover, after a busy year. We should follow that example.*

*One of my favorite things to do at this time of year is to walk slowly through soft, newly fallen snow after dusk. The sky is filled with starlight, the air is crisp and cold, and sounds are muffled. After a while, the chill penetrates, and I return to the warmth of my home, perhaps to enjoy a steaming mug of hot chocolate. I always feel refreshed by the experience.*

*So, in spite of the pressures of your schedules, I encourage you to spend some time enjoying the natural beauty of our area.*

*Happy holidays from ADKNFC!*

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**Conservation Corner, Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney, Chair**

The Conservation Committee meeting will be held at Jay Wopperer's home (5225 Meadowbrook Road, Williamsville) on Tuesday, December 19th. Call 866-8499 for further information. Join us for the holiday dinner at 6 pm. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

The November NYS election followed ADKs recommendation to vote NO on the Constitutional Convention amendment and to vote YES on proposition 3 to support a land bank to allow small amounts of land to be removed from the Forest Preserve. The land bank will be used for projects such as straightening roads, installing electrical/cable lines and installing bridge abutments without having to make a request to have it approved by NY state residents as a constitutional amendment during an election. This will remove a cumbersome obstacle that small towns were required to do to make necessary safety improvements. The 250 acres will be added to the Forest Preserve at a different location so there will be no net loss from this change.

We are also looking for a new local project for the Conservation Committee to work on. If you have a local project please contact me to discuss your concern. Our committee has spear-headed several projects in the past that have enhanced our local environment such as preserving the Great Behre Swamp in Amherst, etc. Check out the Conservation Committee meeting! We are looking for members who want to make a difference by protecting our environment. Attacks on the environment never stop. Join the Conservation Committee to see how you can help. If interested in joining, email Lynn at [woodthrush3@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrush3@hotmail.com)

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# WINTER MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

January 25, 2018 - January 31, 2018 - Winter Mountaineering School Registration Now Open



Pick from a variety of courses all running between Thursday, Jan. 25 to Wednesday, Jan. 31st. Go to <https://www.winterschool.org/> for information and registration. Deadline is approaching!

Your ADK-NFC offers **2 scholarships for the entire tuition** awarded after course completion. We ask that you share your expertise by leading at least one Chapter outing. Find the scholarship form and guidelines on the bottom of the home page at ADK-NFC.org. Contact Mary Shraven if interested: [maryshraven1@gmail.com](mailto:maryshraven1@gmail.com)

As an added incentive, students of each course will get to peak bag one of the 46ers!

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**ADK-NFC Meeting Cancellation Policy** - As a reminder, the Executive Committee approved a policy to coordinate the decision to cancel ADK Niagara Frontier Chapter Monthly General Meetings with closings of Amherst Central Schools. Since the Amherst Community Church property abuts Amherst High School, the winter weather conditions that warrant school closings will also dictate our General Meetings. When Amherst Schools or After School Activities are cancelled on the day of our scheduled ADK meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, our monthly General Meeting will also be cancelled. Cancellation news will be reinforced with emails and Facebook postings.



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# Outings

For an updated listing of outings and activities, please see the event calendar posted on the website:  
[adk-nfc.org/calendar](http://adk-nfc.org/calendar)

## DECEMBER OUTINGS:

12/2 - SAT - **HIKE** - Chestnut Ridge Park - (B) Paul M. Gannon [716-395-5739](tel:716-395-5739)  
[paulmgannon54@gmail.com](mailto:paulmgannon54@gmail.com) - Meet at the new Eternal Flame parking lot on Chestnut Ridge Road south of the main entrance. We will hike the Ward Hill Trail, to the Ward Hill Walkway, and continue in a loop using the park road, returning to the trail and then the parking lot. The trail descends into and climbs out of several ravines and there are several steep uphill sections. About 3.5 miles and 2 hours. Dress for the weather, bring water, and poles if you use them. Call or email to sign up and get start time.



12/10 - SUN - **HIKE** - Valentine Flats, Zoar Valley - (B) Schraven [716-946-7489](tel:716-946-7489) [maryschraven1@gmail.com](mailto:maryschraven1@gmail.com) - Meet at the park and ride on Main Street and Union Roads in Williamsville. Drive to Valentine Flats Road outside of Gowanda. Hike this beautiful gorge, 3-mile round trip. See the Canyon, spectacular view from Point Peter, and the Flats, an old Walnut plantation. Dress for the weather. Pack food, water and rain gear. Call for meet up time (late morning) and to car pool.



## YOUNG MEMBERS EVENT! (ages 18-39 ish)

12/16 **HIKE** (or **SNOW SHOE** depending on weather) –  
Hunters Creek Park (Deena Mueller-Funke (815) 355-6768 or [Deena.mueller1@gmail.com](mailto:Deena.mueller1@gmail.com)) - We will meet at the parking lot off of Hunters Creek Road and hike for about two hours. Dress warm! If there is sufficient snow, we'll do this as a snow shoe hike. Call or email Deena to RSVP and get start time.

## PLAN AHEAD SECTION:

### 1/19 -1/21 – FRI – SUN - ALLEGHANY X-C SKI WEEKEND (all levels)

Joanne Magavern 883-7127 - Plan to enjoy a weekend of good company and some of the best X-C skiing in WNY! Reserved are 3 cabins at the Summit area of Alleghany State Park. They are heated and have kitchens for our Saturday Pot-Luck dinner and Friday night wine and cheese party. Ski from your front door – great for new members, families, and/or beginners to advanced skiers. 4 beds to a cabin. First come, first serve. Left over lunch on Sunday, followed by the “annual sled” as well. Call Joanne to reserve a spot and send payment (WRITE CHECK TO ADK!) of \$56.00 per person by JANUARY 4th. **TRIP IS FULL** - ask about a waiting list.



**2/23/18 - 2/26/18 - FRI - MON - XC SKI/SS - Algonquin Provincial Park, (Mad Musher Hostel) X-C Ski/Snowshoe trip.** (A - C) RichardSchraven1@gmail.com (716) 564-2106, MarySchraven1@gmail.com (716) 946-7489 - After a five- six hour drive to the Fen Lake Ski Trail Area (18 Km groomed and set trails) near the West Gate, we will have time for a few hours of skiing in daylight. Then we will drive about 60 km across the park on Hwy. 60 to the town of Whitney and the Mad Musher Hostel. Saturday and Sunday, we can ski at Leaf Lake Ski Area (45 Km of groomed, set trails) or snowshoe on one of the many hiking trails accessible from Hwy. 60. Backcountry skiing is available at the Minnesing Wilderness Ski Trail (31 km. of ungroomed or set trails). Additional information including maps of all the ski areas is available on-line at [www.ontarioparks.ca](http://www.ontarioparks.ca) - The hostel has rooms for twelve, two bathrooms with hot showers, a fully equipped kitchen and a common room. There also is a very good full-service restaurant/bar. When the capacity of the hostel (12) is reached, others can still join us, but they will need to find and make their own accommodation arrangements. Mad Musher



room rates vary from \$29.00 to \$60.00 CA/person/night. Depending on room capacity (2-4) and the number of people sharing the room. Information about the hostel rooms is available at: [www.madmusher.ca](http://www.madmusher.ca). Food cost varies by your choice of what you prepare for yourself in the kitchen or your restaurant selections. We have had a potluck dinner one of the nights and dinner in the restaurant other nights. Lunches can be brought into the ski area warming huts, heated by wood burning stoves. With staying outside the park, we will need to obtain day permits for parking at the ski areas which costs \$17.00 CA/car. Car-pooling can be arranged closer to the date. A spot in The Mad Musher can be secured by sending your deposit check for \$20.00 /person to: Richard Schraven, 91 N. Parrish Drive, Amherst, NY 14228.

**3/9 -3/11 - FRI - SUN - ADK-NFC LOJ winter Weekend at Heart Lake.** Trip is full but other accommodations could be made individually through the Loj directly. Contact the Loj at [ADK.org/accommodations](http://ADK.org/accommodations). Contact Mary Schraven if you want to be on the waiting list. [maryschraven1@gmail.com](mailto:maryschraven1@gmail.com) or 716-946-7489.

**LOOK BACK SECTION:** A look back at late October and November!

**Trip Reports - Check our website for [trip reports!](#)**

**10/28 – TRIP REPORT for CHIMNEY BLUFFS HIKE** The Young Members had an outing to a lesser known gem of Western New York - Chimney Bluffs State Park. The park is about 2 hours away on Lake Ontario’s shores not far from Oswego. Special thanks to club member Karl Milazzo for providing some great tips about visiting such as parking at the smaller, more eastern lot and walking along the shoreline under these amazing rock formations before taking the bluff trail from above. The weather stayed perfect during the



hike so we got to enjoy this unique, badlands-like terrain. —Submitted by Deena Mueller-Funke

### **11/4 TRIP REPORT for BRUCE TRAIL - Part 3:**

Ken Martin led our merry group on Part 3 of a Bruce Trail journey throughout the Niagara Section in Ontario. Eight of us began our 20 km hike near the gorgeous Balls Falls and finished just east of Grimsby. We enjoyed perfect Fall weather, along with views of Lake Ontario and Toronto for most of the day. We climbed over 1900 feet in elevation, adding together all the scenic ups and downs along the Niagara Escarpment. While taking in the views from a cliff, we were surprised by the appearance of a rock climber who silently arrived at the top! This is a lovely area, full of beautiful woods and numerous vineyards and wineries. Stay tuned for Ken's next Bruce Trail adventure! — Submitted by David and Janet Kowalski



### **11/11 TRIP REPORT for NIAGARA GORGE NYS POWER AUTHORITY**

When I left the house, it was 19 degrees with light wind of 5 to 10 MPH. Thankfully, the sun was out for the entire trip. Twelve of us took the lower Fisherman Trail to the Lewiston Bridge, then it was straight up. There was an abundance of ice and icicles on the gorge wall. When we reached the top of the gorge, we turned north for about .1 mile then crossed the road and went up and over a twenty-foot hill. We then proceeded to go south through the railroad tunnel. We hiked the sidewalk along Route 104 to the Power Authority. There we experienced a virtual reality ride as “a drop of rain”. We fell into the river and on through the plant until the electrical current ends up at your home. As the movie proceeds the rows of chairs rocked back and forth, side to side as lightening cracked and a mist of water sprayed your face! Quite a ride for 2 ½ minutes and it’s free. We took the same route back with the exception of a detour to the upper trail back from the bridge. At the end of the gorge there is a rather tall and steep hill that Paul, Vicki and Janice conquered. Then we hiked across the largest striped painted parking lot in the world to the percussion park at the lower parking lot. Played a quick “tune” on the pipes and trekked back to our cars. I guess it was approximately 5 miles and took about 3 hours and 15 minutes. All in all, it turned out to be pleasant and exciting outing. — Submitted by Mike Promowicz

### **11/12 -TRIP REPORT for DEER LICK NATURE SANCTUARY**

Our lucky 13 group enjoyed a beautiful crisp fall day exploring this beautiful National Natural Landmark. This protected sanctuary prohibits hunting, so it was an ideal venue for this time of year. Known for it's Old Growth Trees, we savored many Giant Gems, including beech, black cherry, hemlock, tulip, maple, oak, yellow birch, and a rare American chestnut tree. In addition to impressive views of the South Branch of Cattaraugus Creek, the bare trees enabled a rare view of a pretty waterfall on the east bank. After hiking along the main ridge trail we descended the Deer Lick ravine and viewed the top of icy Deer Lick Falls. Overall it was a fabulous day with great people and a beautiful hiking area. — Submitted by David and Janet Kowalski



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## LOOKING BACK AT THE BUFFALO ZOO'S AMPHIBIAN PRESENTATION

On November 14, 2017, the Buffalo Niagara Chapter of ADK was treated to a special visit from the Buffalo Zoo. Zookeeper Robin Saneki led a informative discussion on the zoo's conservation efforts of the Hellbender salamander in the Alleghany State Park region and the Puerto Rican Crested Toad. We all hope the zoo's team efforts have survived the raging hurricanes of this summer. The zoo's efforts in locating the eggs from the elusive Hellbender salamander (shown below) in Alleghany Park region is quite amazing. The loving care of the staff is demonstrated by their hard work in hatching each individual hellbender in its own jar. Let's not forget the amphibian ambassadors that made the trip away from cozy home for our viewing pleasure.



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## Newsletter Editor Needed!

Our Chapter Newsletter known as THE NIAGARA EXPLORER needs an Editor! This individual would compile documents submitted by various Board Members and create an informative and appealing monthly publication. Basic computer skills are needed. You will have a template to work with, and can create graphics as room allows. This is an automatic board position with a great team! Contact Interim Newsletter Editor Deena Mueller-Funke ([deena.mueller1@gmail.com](mailto:deena.mueller1@gmail.com), or Chair Paul Gannon ([paulmgannon54@gmail.com](mailto:paulmgannon54@gmail.com)).

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## ADK-NFC Website and Newsletter

Check out our website [adk-nfc.org](http://adk-nfc.org) for a [calendar](#) of future events and outings, conservation news, current and past newsletters and upcoming programs. As a reminder, the deadline for submitting reports and other information for the newsletter is **the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month** to [deena.mueller1@gmail.com](mailto:deena.mueller1@gmail.com)

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## Liability Waiver Reminder

PLEASE NOTE, 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 on the [OUTINGS](#) page. Completed forms can be submitted to Mary Schraven 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).

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## Executive Committee Members

**CHAIR** – Paul Gannon, [paulmgannon54@gmail.com](mailto:paulmgannon54@gmail.com), 716-395-5739

**1ST VICE CHAIR/OUTINGS** - Mary Schraven, 91 N. Parrish Dr., Amherst, NY 14228, 716-946-7489, [maryschraven1@gmail.com](mailto:maryschraven1@gmail.com)

**2ND VICE CHAIR/CONSERVATION** - Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney, 21 Hillside Ave., Buffalo, NY 14210, 716-825-7329, [woodthrush3@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrush3@hotmail.com)

**3RD VICE CHAIR/PROGRAMS** - Dana Jandzinski [hikembike30@yahoo.com](mailto:hikembike30@yahoo.com)

**EDUCATION CHAIR-** Teresa Corrigan, 207 Woodward Ave., Buffalo, NY 14214-2313, 716-835-1905 [teresacorrigan85@gmail.com](mailto:teresacorrigan85@gmail.com)

**DIRECTOR/WEBMASTER** - Rob Laing, [webmaster@adk-nfc.org](mailto:webmaster@adk-nfc.org)

**TREASURER** - Doug Gaffney, 830 George Urban Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY 14225, 716-631-3979, [dgaffney@roadrunner.com](mailto:dgaffney@roadrunner.com)

**INTERIM NEWSLETTER EDITOR** – Deena Mueller-Funke, [deena.mueller1@gmail.com](mailto:deena.mueller1@gmail.com) Also email Mary Schraven at [maryschraven1@gmail.com](mailto:maryschraven1@gmail.com)

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS** – Mary Kathryn Noack, 716-984-2342, [marynoac@buffalo.edu](mailto:marynoac@buffalo.edu)

**SECRETARY** - Larry Beahan, 5 Darwin Dr., Amherst, NY 14226-4599, 716-839-3112, [larry\\_beahan@roadrunner.com](mailto:larry_beahan@roadrunner.com)

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR** - Kathy Clerkin, [kmclerkin@gmail.com](mailto:kmclerkin@gmail.com)

**HOSPITALITY** - Carol Schuster, [carolfschuster@gmail.com](mailto:carolfschuster@gmail.com)

**YOUNG MEMBERS COORDINATOR** – Deena Mueller, [deena.mueller1@gmail.com](mailto:deena.mueller1@gmail.com)

**ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN** - Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney, 716-825-7329, [woodthrush3@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrush3@hotmail.com)

### Outings Co-Chairs:

**DAY HIKES (Apr - Nov) New co-chair needed! (contact the Chair)**

**WATERWAYS** - Richard Schraven, 91 N. Parrish Dr. Amherst, NY 14228, [richardschraven1@gmail.com](mailto:richardschraven1@gmail.com), 564-2106

**BIKING** - Paul Kochmanski, (716) 895-7712, [kochmanski@ecc.edu](mailto:kochmanski@ecc.edu)

**BACKPACKING** – Teresa and Peter Corrigan , 207 Woodward Ave., Buffalo, NY 14214-2313, 716-835-1905 [teresacorrigan85@gmail.com](mailto:teresacorrigan85@gmail.com), [hikepme@roadrunner.com](mailto:hikepme@roadrunner.com)

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