

The Niagara Explorer

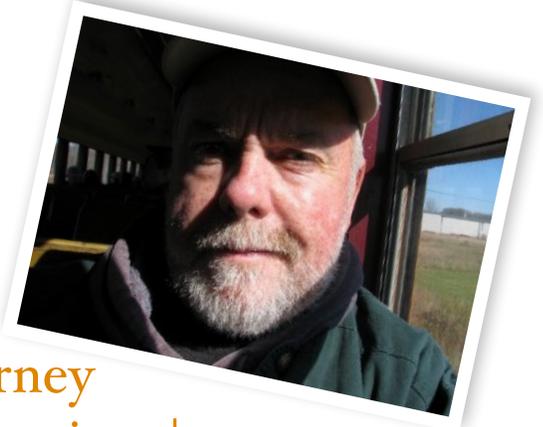
Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club–Niagara Frontier Chapter

Next Meeting

Map & Compass Workshop | 6:30pm

As hikers, we are always told to carry a map and compass, but what are some of the best ways to use these tools before, after and during a hike? Join us to find out more and practice with your friends. Dr. Jerry Sultz, one of the founders of the Niagara Frontier Search and Rescue Team will give us some basic information on finding compass bearings, using a compass to make sure you are on the right course to your destination, and using a compass to help plan a hiking route. Jerry is also a former chapter chair with plenty of experience hiking locally and in the Adirondacks. He will give us a wonderful perspective!

After Dr. Sultz's presentation we will practice taking compass bearings and walking in a given direction, and using a compass and topographic maps to plan a hike. Please bring a compass if you have one! Please join us from 6:30 until 7:10 PM in the room adjacent to our main meeting room.



Jay Burney Presentation | 7:30pm

We are extremely excited to have Jay Burney for our October speaker! He is executive director of the Pollinator Conservation Association. Which is dedicated to raising awareness of pollinator conservation issues and developing strategies to both restore and conserve pollinators and associated biota.

Jay is also coordinator of the Niagara River Greenway Pollinator Partnership and will be discussing some of the amazing projects he's involved in along the waterfront and western New York region. To find out more on this fascinating topic go to www.pollinatorconservation.org

Hope to see you all at Jays presentation!



Tuesday October 9th starting at 6:30pm

Fellowship Hall, Amherst Community Church | 77 Washington Hwy., Snyder

Please park in rear, enter through back door & walk up to 2nd floor

Message *from the Chair*

Last Tuesday, we held our first meeting of our new year, and it was a great one. The annual ice cream social and slide show is one of my favorite chapter events. I am always amazed by the variety of places there are to explore!

Congratulations to the latest group of 46ers we honored at the meeting. Becoming a 46er is a worthy goal and quite an accomplishment.

Registration is now open for the ADK Fall Outing near Watkins Glen.

Autumn is upon us, and with it, peak day hiking weather. On Saturday, I attended a hike in the McCarty Hills State Forest south of Ellicottville. We are very fortunate in Western New York to have so many parcels of state and county forestland available for recreation.

Many of the trails there are maintained by the WNY Mountain Bicycling Association (WNYMBA). This organization develops and maintains trails throughout our area. They also produce wonderful maps. All of their trails are multiple use. We should be very grateful to them for this work. This is a great example of how different groups can contribute, each in their own way, to achieving common goals.

Speaking of different outdoor groups, hunting season is approaching. During this time, please be aware of locations where hunting is permitted, and use caution when in those places.

Enjoy the fall weather. I hope to see you out there

–Paul M. Gannon



New 46ers

Congratulations to the following ADK members who recently finished the 46 High Peaks!

-
- ✦ Lin Pierce
Whiteface, last peak
 - ✦ Stephen Pierce
Whiteface, last peak
 - ✦ Marion Hanover
Redfield, last peak
 - ✦ Lauren Gundlach
Whiteface, last peak
 - ✦ Jason Gundlach
Whiteface, last peak

2nd round of 46:

- ✦ Kate Hacker
 - ✦ Ken Redding
-

Carry on our chapter tradition of carrying our ADK-NFC 46er Flag to the top of your 46th peak.

Call Lynn Kenney (825-7329) to pick up the 46er Flag so it can be a part of your celebratory photo when you complete your final peak to become an Adirondack 46er.

Outings

Outings Ratings: (A): strenuous, for the duration and level of fitness and skills needed (B): moderate difficulty (C): easy, good for beginners, shorter length For an updated listing of outings, please see the event calendar posted on the website: adk-nfc.org/



View of Shoellkopf Power Station, Niagara Gorge

October Outings

10/6 - SAT - HIKE - NIAGARA GORGE US SIDE (C)

Mike Promowicz 716-297-3126 - 2.6 mile round trip. Call for meet up time. Starting at the Discovery Center, we'll hike along the upper gorge trail to the Whirlpool Bridge (part road, part woods). We get to enjoy the fairly new stairway installed by the NYPA, then hang a right to check out rapids section of the gorge. The return will cover part of the old railway and then a newer trail to the base of the old Schoellkopf Power Station. We can explore a bit and then exit via the elevator.

10/14 - SUN - HIKE DEER LICK CONSERVATION AREA, GOWANDA NY (B)

Janet and David Kowalski, janetk300@gmail.com, 839-3114 We will hike 4 miles, in this beautiful National Natural Landmark, complete with old-growth forests and gorge views of Cattaraugus Creek. This area is maintained by The Nature Conservancy and prohibits hunting, so is a perfect hiking venue for this time of year. Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather, and bring a snack. Meet at 10:00am.

Directions to the Trailhead on Point Peter Rd.: Take Route 62 to Gowanda. Turn Left on South Water St (1st street south of the bridge over Cattaraugus Creek), which bends and becomes Commercial St, and then Palmer St. Turn Right on Broadway Rd; continue for about a mile. Turn Left on Point Peter Rd and drive about 2.4 miles to find the parking lot on the Left past Forty Rd.

10/14 - SUN - TRAIL RUN - KNOX FARMS STATE PARK -- YOUNG MEMBERS (~AGES 21-39)

Contact Deena Mueller-Funke (815) 355-6768 or deena.mueller1@gmail.com to RSVP and for a start time and for carpooling. We into two groups depending on the speed /ability. There is minimal elevation gain and the trails are wide and not heavily rutted so it makes for easy but scenic trail running. Its right next to East Aurora, so we may hang out there afterwards. The run itself will be between 3-5 miles depending on interest.



Knox Farm State Park

10/20 - SAT - HIKE - ROAD WALK AT CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK (C)



Chestnut Ridge Roadway

Kathy Clerkin kmclerkin@gmail.com Meet at casino parking lot, convenient for bathroom use before the hike. Please contact me for meet up time.



Griffis Sculpture Park



Trail in McCarty Hill State Forest

10/20 – SAT - HALLOWEEN PADDLE & PARTY – ELLICOTT CREEK (C)

RichardSchraven1@gmail.com (716) 564-2106
MarySchraven1@gmail.com (716) 946-7489
We will begin with a leisurely paddle of Ellicott Creek at 10 am followed by a pot-luck party at 1 pm at our home (91 N. Parrish Drive, Amherst, NY 14228). We will provide a pot of chili and non-alcoholic beverages including hot mulled cider. You provide a dish to pass, your preferred beverage, your canoe or kayak equipment, PFD, whistle, and memories of your paddle experiences this year. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Please let us know if you plan to attend and what dish you will bring. Non-paddlers are also welcome. Come celebrate the fall season with fellow ADKers!

10/21 - SUN - HIKE 1:00 GRIFFIS SCULPTURE PARK - EAST OTTO

1:00pm Kim Newland 799-7616
kathrynkim1027@gmail.com
Enjoy the fall leaves at the first Sculpture Park in the U.S. , where art and nature meet.
Meet at Rohr Hill Site where towering sculptures are set in fields and woods.
We will then drive to the Mill Valley Road , main entrance. Here we will hike miles of trails, exploring

over 200 sculptures scattered in woods, along ponds, and meadows with hilltop views.
Admission to the Park is \$5.00

10/28 - SUN - HIKE - MCCARTY HILL STATE FOREST YOUNG MEMBERS (~AGES 21-39)

Contact Deena Mueller-Funke (815) 355-6768 or deena.mueller1@gmail.com to RSVP and for a start time and for carpooling. It's a Halloween Hike - we'll park up on 242 behind Holimont and start hiking at Murder Hill in McCarty Hill State Forest, and we'll hike the ridge over to Dead Dog Loop and return. Then Ellicottville will be at our feet and for those who want more scares - maybe the Nightmare Hayride (cost involved).

November Outings

11/10 – SAT – HIKE - CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK – (B)

Leslie Salathe lesliesalathe@live.com 716-560-1311. Starting from the Eternal Flame parking lot, Corral parking area, we will hike on the orange and blue Trail, not to the eternal flame. 5.5 miles, No restroom at trailhead.

Trip Reports



Royalton Ravine Suspension Bridge

Bike Ride from Lockport to Royalton Ravine Park- 8/11/18

Our group of 5 set out from Lockport along the canal path on a picture perfect summer day with temps in the mid to upper seventies. After about 1 hour, we reached the park and sat down under a shelter for conversation and lunch, which included cold water and cookies my wife had packed and delivered to the park for our return trip. This was about a 14 mile round trip and we averaged about 8mph. – **Submitted by Kevin Bolt**



Niagara Gorge group shot from rim (L) and view from Whirlpool Rapids (R)

Devil's Hole and Whirlpool Rapids Hike — 8/26/18

A few new faces joined some familiar ones for a five mile excursion along the Niagara River, enjoying perfect summer conditions and the always-captivating powerful rapids. Seven hardy hikers started at Whirlpool State Park on a trail with spectacular views into the gorge, then enjoyed the scenic rim trail to the newly refurbished steps descending into Devil's Hole gorge. The lower river trail is breathtaking, being in close proximity to the forceful flow of water downstream of Niagara Falls. With the sight and sounds of the rapids, and the emerald blue-green color of the water, the river is a feast for the senses. At the turn-around point on the Whirlpool Rapids Trail, all enjoyed a relaxing snack break on the flat rocks, savoring this special spot. The fit group completed the climb up the 340 steps to the gorge rim and returned to the visitors center, exhilarated by the natural beauty and exercise. – **Submitted by David & Janet Kowalski**

Bike Ride Circumnavigation of Grand Island – 9/8/2018

Four ADK bikers circumnavigated Grand Island on Saturday morning, with cool temperatures in the 60's. The day was cloudy and breezy but no rain. The outing began with breakfast of French toast at Tom Burkman's house. A headwind challenged the group whether they were headed south or north, but the trip was completed in about three and a half hours. One member of the group suffered a flat tire in the final stretch. The culprit was a minuscule but sharp shard of gravel that penetrated tire and tube. The leader picked up bike and rider in a pickup truck without much delay.

A new bike path is being created along West River Road by the State. It will lead directly into Beaver Island State Park. It should be ready in time for the next ADK bike outing on Grand Island. – **Submitted by Tom Burkman**

Plan Ahead

ADK Fall Outing: Watkin's Glen



Watkin's Glen

OCTOBER 26-28

Registration is now open

Hosted by Finger Lakes Chapter and assisted by ADK-NFC

Join ADK members from all over the state as we enjoy hiking, paddling and biking in the beautiful Finger Lakes region October 26-28th. **We will offer 8 outings on Friday, 12 outings on Saturday and 8 outings on Sunday.** We have trip leaders from the Niagara Frontier Chapter as well as the Genesee Valley, Cold River, Onondaga and Finger Lakes Chapters.

Check it soon to reserve your accommodations at the Seneca Lodge or Harbor Hotel and sign up for one of the many outings. Go to: <http://adk-nfc.org/ADKFallOuting/index.htm>



Tug Hill Winter Scene

ADK Winter Outing: Tug Hill Plateau

JANUARY 18-20 2019

Hosted by the Iroquois Chapter, join fellow winter enthusiasts to experience the thrill of cross country skiing or the invigorating activity of snow shoeing at the annual ADK Tug Hill winter outing January 18-20, 2019 (Martin Luther King weekend). The Tug Hill region is noted for the east's heaviest snowfall, just waiting for you to explore the numerous groomed and back country trails minutes from the club house. (ski's and snow shoes not provided)

You will "rough" it at the Mad River Club in Lacona. Full package includes floor space for pad (or cot) and sleeping bag, snacks Friday evening, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and a catered dinner Saturday. And if you feel lucky, several door prizes to tantalize your curiosity following dinner. Other accommodations are also available in nearby towns. Inquire below.

For general information and registration contact David White at ccswhite@juno.com. Full registration is \$110. Saturday activities and dinner is \$45. All but \$20 is refundable to Dec. 31. For general information, contact Paul Sirtoli at alexsirtoli@outlook.com

Conservation Corner

Keeping an Eye on Tonawanda Coke

Tonawanda Coke Corp. continues to be in the news, as the company continues to pollute the air. On behalf of our chapter's Conservation Committee, member Ellen Gibson wrote a letter indicating the negative impact the company has had on local citizens and recreation. As requested, the letter was emailed to the Grand Island Supervisor to be printed and presented to Judge Skretny on Sept. 19.

Buffalo's Outer Harbor News

"\$5 million project will feature a one-mile nature walk, four-acre lawn space, and an overlook to look out onto Lake Erie.", and is expected to be completed by May 2019. This info is per stories in the local news the week of Sept. 15. We'll keep an eye on that, as well as any proposals for development closer to Times Beach.

Benson Mine Site Cleanup

On your next drive to the Adirondacks along NYS Route 3 east of Star Lake, you might notice some of the dilapidated buildings of Benson Mines, closed since 1978, have been removed. Around 1990, it was discovered that hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel oil are floating on the water table below the site. Attempts at clean-up have been sporadic but revived in 2012, at the same time it was declared a state Hazardous Waste Site. Today, the cleanup is aided by a state spill fund paid for by an excise tax on oil. Read the excellent article by Tim Rowland in the September 7 issue of 'Adirondack Explorer', in print or on-line.

Tonawanda Bike Trail Enhancements

City of Tonawanda Mayor Rick Davis announced a \$500,000 grant by the Ralph C Wilson Jr Foundation towards bike trail enhancements to the City of Tonawanda, specifically earmarked for the area in and around Tonawanda's Intermodal Hub, and on Young St. where the existing rail-trail will be extended north.

RECYCLE! Batteries and Bulbs

We're going to revive the practice of allowing members to bring in certain items for recycling if you're unable to take these items directly to collection sites at stores such as **Home Depot** and **Lowe's**, I will collect those specific household items at our chapter meetings (no large quantities, please). Items accepted for recycle include non-leaking rechargeable batteries, such as from power tools, cell phones, & laptops (no AA, AAA, C, D, or 9 volt single use batteries, please). Other items for recycle include common indoor or outdoor compact fluorescent bulbs that are not broken (NO broken lights and NO fluorescent tubes will be accepted). We'll also recycle clean PLASTIC shopping or grocery bags.

Upcoming Meetings

The next state ADK Conservation Meeting will be in Albany on November 3. Our chapter rep, Lynn Rehfeld-Kenny, will attend and submit a report.

All chapter members are welcome to attend our monthly Conservation Committee meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month—details for October are below.

—**Bob Van Hise, Chair**

Next Conservation Committee Meeting

Tuesday October 16th from 7-9pm | All members welcome

Gander Outdoors Lodge, 880 Young St., Tonawanda 14150

Executive Committee

CHAIR – Paul Gannon
paulmgannon54@gmail.com
(716) 395-5739

1ST VICE CHAIR/OUTINGS - Mary Schraven
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(716) 946-7489

2ND VICE CHAIR/CONSERVATION - Bob Van Hise (716) 628-0355
adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

3RD VICE CHAIR/PROGRAMS - Maureen Rowley (716) 628-0369
mrowley62@yahoo.com

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ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney (716) 825-7329
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Outings Co-Chairs:

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

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(716) 564-2106

BIKING - Paul Kochmanski
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BACKPACKING – Teresa and Peter Corrigan
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teresacorrigan85@gmail.com 207 Woodward Ave., Buffalo, NY 14214-2313 (716) 835-1905