



The Niagara Explorer

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club–Niagara Frontier Chapter

Upcoming Meeting: Tuesday, March 12th

Education Workshop: Water Purification Techniques | 6:30

In the not too distant past, backpackers, hikers and paddlers could quench their thirst quickly and easily—just dip a Sierra Cup into the nearest water source and drink away. Today, water needs to be purified before it can be drunk, or else the outdoor lover risks Giardia and other water borne illnesses. This month we will review ways to purify water in the backcountry, weighing factors like cost, weight, efficiency, and effectiveness. Please join us in the community room adjacent to the main meeting room from 6:30-7:15.

Note from the Education Chair: If you would like to participate in the next workshop, get information about previous workshops, or if you have any questions or concerns please e mail me! Thanks to everyone who have made our workshops such great learning experiences. We all learn more when we share our knowledge.
TeresaCorrigan85@gmail.com

Presentation: New York's Forests: Past, Present, & Future | 7:30



NYS Forestry Presentation

Our March ADK program will be about NYS Forestry presented by Mathew Nusstein, a naturalist from NYS Parks Dept. Forest ecosystems are always changing and we can observe these changes right here in New York! We will look into the evolution of our state forests and reflect upon its past, present and future. Emphasis will be placed on current changes and what we can do to help our forests.

If you missed the February meeting, you missed Mary Lou Frost and her fascinating pictures and stories of coral reefs and her up close encounters with fantastic fish, water birds and sea mammals. The more we understand our ocean environments, the more we appreciate them and want to protect them. For more information about our Oceans and their conditions, check out Oceanservice.noaa.gov. Want to assist with plastic removal from our oceans? Check out 4ocean.com. For every \$20 donation, 1 pound of plastic trash is removed from the world's oceans.

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

Meeting cancellation policy: If Amherst Schools or Amherst After-School Activities are cancelled then the General Meeting (2nd Tuesday of the month) will also be cancelled. This will be reinforced with a general email to membership and a Facebook posting.

Message *from the* Chair

First, I have an exciting announcement! This May, we will be holding another spectacular chapter T-shirt sale, just in time for the picnic. Look for further information in upcoming communications and during meetings.

According to our by-laws, every February we are required to appoint a nominating committee to seek out candidates to replace leaders whose terms of office are expiring. The slate of candidates is announced in the May newsletter, and voted on at our annual business meeting during the picnic in June.

This year we will be electing our Chapter Chair, our 1st Vice-chair / Outings, our Director, and Alternate Directors.

In addition, there are a number of other opportunities for members to assist in the operations of our chapter. We have been looking for co-chairs for Hiking and Winter activities for some time now. Jeremy Roethel has been recruiting members for his Outdoor Empowerment Network exploratory committee. Bob Van Hise will be seeking for volunteers to assist in marking the border between Allegheny State Park and Pennsylvania. We could always use more trip leaders.

Please consider this a call to service. I am asking each of you to think about volunteering some of your time, talent, and energy to our chapter. People who have become involved frequently remark that they get more out of it than they put in. I know that this has been true in my case. I am sure that you would find it to be so. We hope to hear from you soon.

—Paul M. Gannon

Announcements

Exploratory Committee

To improve nature opportunities for kids and communities in our region, the Niagara & Genesee Chapters are forming a committee to explore creating a youth leader training & gear library program in WNY.

This will most likely be with the assistance of other organizations and partners, and the committee is looking for volunteers to help represent ADK.

They are particularly in need of people with experience in youth programming, community outreach, or anyone with contacts or connections within the WNY non-profit and outdoor focused space. If you are interested, please email Jeremy, wnycoord@adk-gvc.org

Free Snowshoe Loans

Free snow shoes and poles are available for your use for the season as another benefit of membership in your local Niagara Frontier Chapter. Contact Mary Schraven to arrange to pick them up: 716-946-7489 or maryschraven1@gmail.com

Family Outings

Something New! Family-Oriented Outings—Look for FAMILY SS/Hike Outings led by a

“naturalist” who will adjust the outing according to the ages and abilities of participants (all ages welcome). Count on a more relaxed paced, informational and hands-on experience that will delight and enrich all participants. Our family trip leaders are passionate, knowledgeable, warm and inviting. Details of scheduled outings can be found in the outings section of the newsletter. If you are interested in bringing your family to outings or are interested in leading a family outing, contact Mary Schraven: maryschraven1@gmail.com

Scholarship Opportunities

Do you want to increase your outdoor skills with a local workshop, or a workshop at the ADK Loj near Lake Placid? If you are willing to share the skills you have learned, **ADK will pay part of your tuition!** How? Find a workshop, then e-mail education chair TeresaCorrigan85@gmail.com to get a scholarship application. If our committee grants you a scholarship we will ask you to lead a local outing and/or present a program or workshop at one of our monthly meetings. Browse workshops offered at the Loj: adk.org/discover/skills-workshops/

Plan Ahead

HEART LAKE ADK LOJ XC SKI/ SNOW SHOE /HIKE WEEKEND MARCH 8-10 2019

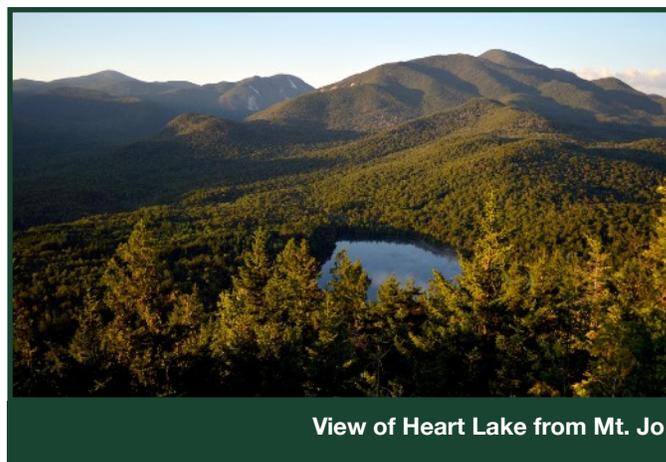
(A-C) This trip is full, send in check to be on the waiting list. Buy 1 night at the Adirondack Loj and get 1 night FREE! Your check for \$56.04 reserves your spot—please make it out to Mary Schraven and mail to 91 N. Parrish Drive, Amherst, NY 14228. Last year there were folks on the wait list so cancellations received a full refund. Contact Mary Schraven with questions: 716-946-7489 or maryschraven1@gmail.com

ADK 46'ERS OUTDOOR SKILLS WORKSHOP ADIRONDACK LOJ CAMPGROUND, LAKE PLACID MAY 3-5 2019 (REGISTER SOON!)

An intensive weekend of formal and informal seminars as well as hands-on activities designed to expose wilderness users to a wide variety of skills and knowledge. Most of the time is spent outdoors, rain, snow, or shine and includes a hike up Mount Jo. Also included is a lot of FUN. This is highly recommended for all ADK-NFC members, trip leaders and those interested in hiking the High Peaks. The registration fee of \$30 includes all weekend food, workshops, a T-Shirt, and camping accommodations. \$10 is refunded upon completion of the weekend. For all info and to register go to: www.adk46er.org/outdoor-skills

MAY 10-13 - ADIRONDACK ADVENTURE

Rob Laing - rlaing537@gmail.com, and other 46'ers - We are planning an outing in the High Peaks area of the Adirondacks, driving up Friday, May 10 and returning Monday May 13. We should be too early for bug season, and unless it's a heavy snow year we'll have enough options to climb a High Peak (or two) and not need traction. We'd like to gauge interest and ability level and we can tailor the outings to meet the participant's expectations. Accommodations will be either the ADK Heart Lake campground and Adirondack Loj area, or there are low cost hostels in the area such as TMax and Topo's which is run by a former ADK-NFC member. Outing options will range from High Peaks such as Cascade, Porter, Big Slide and/or Colvin to lower peaks such as Hurricane, Catamount or Roostercomb. The trip can be extended by a day as well if there is interest. Contact Rob Laing at rlaing537@gmail.com if you are interested in this



View of Heart Lake from Mt. Jo

or other similar outings Please provide an idea of your experience level and type of day hikes you would like.

8/24 - 8/26 - SAT - MON - HIGH PEAKS HIKE/ PADDLE - HEART LAKE CAMPGROUND

(A - C) Mike Lex (mblex@roadrunner.com) and Aaron Slosman (aslosman@gmail.com), This trip will be hiking and paddling with goals determined in early summer. Sign up with a \$12.60 deposit (minimum camping fee) by June 1st to help us plan the hikes and paddles. We will be staying at the ADK Wilderness Campground. This is car camping and not a backpacking trip. We have reserved a camp site allowing 3 tents and a canvas tent which has 6 bunks with single mattresses. We hope to spend one day hiking and one day paddling. Club pays 50% of the camping fee. Each paddler will pay an additional \$35 for boat rental. Exact trip goals and food plan will depend on group decisions made in June. The trip is limited to 12 people. Tent site only allows 3 tents, so tent sharing is likely required. Bunks are reserved on a first come first served basis. A deposit of \$12.60 is required to secure your spot on the trip. Contact trip leaders for the address to send in the deposit.

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 list of outings, see the event calendar:** adk-nfc.org/calendar

Recurring Weekly Outings

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS - SS/HIKE - BEAVER MEADOW AUDUBON CENTER

(C) Every Wednesday morning you will find me at the Beaver Meadow Audubon Center. I will be most happy to get outside for a hike or snowshoe with you. The Center is on Welch Rd, N. Java. There are snowshoes available for a modest \$5. All ages and abilities are welcome. Bring your lunch if you can stay. Call me to verify time and plan a meet up location at the center. Carol Griffis -716-652-2547; carolpgriffis@gmail.com

March Outings

3/2 -SAT - HIKE/SS - HUNTERS CREEK COUNTY PARK, EAST AURORA NY

David and Janet Kowalski, janetk300@gmail.com 839-3114, 10 AM meet time (B) We'll trek 3-4 miles through this nearby gem on delightfully undeveloped forested land, dotted with creeks, waterfalls, ridgeline trails and scenic ravines.

Meet at the Trailhead on Centerline Rd. (between Reiter and Hunters Creek Roads). Please wear sturdy shoes (bring snowshoes or microspikes if needed), dress for the weather, and bring water and a snack.

3/3 - XCSKI - KNOX FARM STATE PARK

(C) Schraven's 716-946-7489 or email maryschraven1@gmail.com. Meet at the Park n Ride on Union Road just south of Main Street in Williamsville at 8:45. Or in the parking lot near the Visitor Center in Knox Farm State Park at 9:30. Ski for 1.5 hours. Indoor bathrooms and refreshments available at the coffee shop or bring snack, lunch and beverage. Please call to get update on snow conditions and to let leader know to expect you.



Zoar Valley Winter Scene

3/23 - INTRODUCTION TO LETTERBOXING - FAMILY FRIENDLY, ALL AGES WELCOME - EAST AURORA

(C) Let's look for hidden treasures in and around East Aurora. This is similar to geocaching but does not require electronic devices. From our starting point at Fisher-Price, we will drive to two local parks. At each of them we will have a short walk in the woods to find the hidden 'letter box'. This outing is suitable for all ages. Even babies in backpacks (strollers, maybe not). For more info, Google Letter boxing or Atlas Quest. Call or text or email : Carol Griffis 652-2547; carolpgriffis@gmail.com

3/24 -SUN - HIKE - DEVIL'S HOLE STATE PARK

Beth Hartz, bethh.alpha@gmail.com - (A-B) Meet at the parking lot at 8:30am. Hike to the whirlpool and back. Please contact trip leader for more information.

3/30 - SAT - NORTH RIM ZOAR VALLEY

Schraven's 716-946-7489 or maryschraven1@gmail.com. Meet at 9:00 am at the Orchard Park park n ride on 20A east of 219 to car pool. This hike is through a level field, into the woods along the north rim. Hopefully the rim will be less muddy than hiking through ravines. The rocky gorge walls are spectacular every season and the Cat should be running wild. Please call to let trip leader know you are coming so we wait for you and/or get specific location of trailhead.

Trip Reports

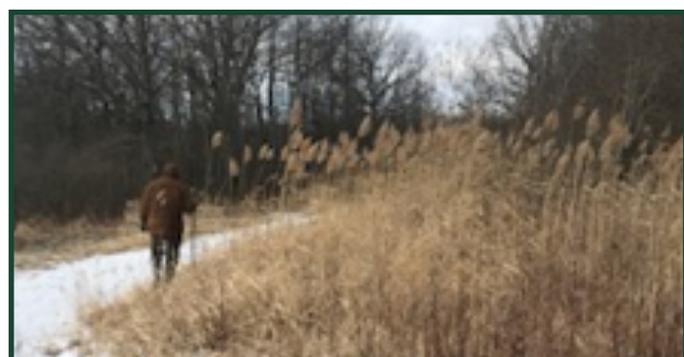


Outing Participants at Allegany State Park

ALLEGANY STATE PARK

Allegany State Park – Wonderful snowfall, great people, amazing potluck dinner and renewed friendships made for another truly memorable annual weekend for ADK-NFC in Allegany State Park. Led by Joanne and David Magavern, who celebrated their 20th years of when they first met, AND the 20th year of leading this annual winter outing for NFC. Many thanks to you both for sharing this special weekend with us all. Next year, with a new trip leader this event will continue, and hopefully Joanne and David can participate, and enjoy without all the responsibilities. Many thanks to Joanne and David.

– Submitted by Mary Schraven



Snowy Grand Island Trek

2/9 – SNOW SHOE HIKE ON GRAND ISLAND

Four ADK members gathered in Grand Island at Tom Burkman's house for a winter hike on February 9. After a breakfast of eggs, bacon, fresh fruit salad, and tasty sweet rolls, the group braved temperatures in the low teens walking through the woods around Gun Creek.

The hikers had to move cautiously over wetlands where thin ice easily broke through to the shallow puddles below. A light snow layer over ice revealed the tracks of a variety of wildlife. The morning finished up with coffee and hot chocolate before a warm fireplace.

– Submitted by Tom Burkman

MICRO-SPIKE HIKE - ERIE COUNTY FOREST - 2/16/19



Enchanting Evergreens in Erie County Forest

Conditions were ideal for our winter trek on the beautiful wooded trails in Erie County Forest near East Concord. Following some warm, wet weather, temperatures dropped and fresh powder on the crusty base provided perfect trail conditions for our microspike hike. The fresh snow on the young evergreens was enchanting, providing magical wintry scenery. This area used to be abandoned farmland, and in the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) planted millions of trees including Spruce, Red Pine and Maple. In 90 years the impressive reforestation now supports hiking trails, maple sugaring, wood production, and wildlife habitats.

We first climbed the hill on the north side of Genesee Rd and hiked the 1.5-mile Silent Wood Trail. Next we completed the 2-mile Old Scarbuck Trail on the south side of Genesee Rd, including the extra 1-mile loop after crossing The Bridge Too Far. Our group had fun crossing icy Dresser Creek to explore the charming picnic island area. One man in our group remarked how great it felt to be exercising on the rolling hills in such a beautiful place. We met a couple of sisters on the trail, one an ADK member and pediatrician in Springville. Other groups including a meetup were also enjoying this special place. Altogether we hiked about 5 miles in this WNY gem.

– Submitted by David and Janet Kowalski

Conservation Corner

**Next Conservation Committee Meeting: Tuesday March 19th starting at 6:30 pm (new time!)
Gander Outdoors–Lodge Meeting Room, 880 Young St., Tonawanda 14150**

NEWS

National Fuel's Northern Access Pipeline (from McKean Co. PA, through WNY and into Ontario), would trench through Cattaraugus Creek's sole source aquifer. The fossil fuel giant is facing a court challenge from the NYDEC, but a recent court ruling stated the DEC did not do a sufficient job in providing evidence to support their decision to deny the permit. The ruling keeps open the opportunity for NYSDEC to come back to court with more evidence.

What can we do? PLEASE WRITE A LETTER (and get others to write) to GOVERNOR CUOMO asking him to do all he can do to support NYSDEC in defending their decision to oppose the pipeline.

Mail your letter to:
The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224

NAPL info: niagarasierraclub.com/issues/northern-access-pipeline/

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

April 3 NYS DEC's Buffer in a Bag initiative provides landowners that own at least 50 feet of land along a stream or waterbody with a free bag of bare-root trees and shrubs to enhance the streamside area on their property. Each Bag contains a variety of native trees and shrubs chosen specifically to improve streamside areas in New York by supporting wildlife and improving water quality. **Applications must be submitted by 3pm April 3.**
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/115903.html>

May 3 Each spring, Erie County has a special sale on COMPOST BINS and RAIN BARRELS. The cost is quite reasonable. I bought one of their rain

barrels 2 years ago - it's very well made and top quality. The offer ends May 3.
eriecompostersale.ecwid.com/System-55-Gallon-Rain-Barrel-p82858477

May 4-5 Are the tentative dates for us to head down to ALLEGANY STATE PARK to work on maintaining a walkable route along approx. 12 miles of the park's boundary with Pennsylvania. As soon as I can confirm the dates with the Regional Forester, I'll begin to provide specifics to those interested in volunteering. If you would like more info, or want to volunteer to spend a day or 2 working in the forest, call me or send a message with the subject line "ASP BOUNDARY" to adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

Pencil in Saturday morning **May 11** to join our chapter and **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper** for a **Spring Sweep shoreline clean-up** day. Details to follow.

May 14 A representative from **Apex Clean Energy** will be the main program at our Chapter meeting, with a focus on how wind turbines impact/coexist with wildlife. **On February 28, Apex/Heritage Wind will be offering a Q&A community forum at Albion Middle School.** See heritagewindpower.com

May 18 is the tentative date for our annual clean-up at Tillman Road Wildlife Management Area in the Town of Clarence. More on that in April.

GOOD PRACTICES

When going out for a walk in the woods or paddling your canoe or kayak, bring a trash bag and do a little clean-up every time you're out.

-Submitted by Bob Van Hise

T-Shirt Sale Returning in May

From May 1 through May 18, you will have a chance to order a shirt bearing the proud logo of the Niagara Frontier Chapter at a great price. Just in time for our annual picnic!

These shirts are Sport-Tek Posicharge Competitor Tees. Made from 100% polyester interlock, they are light, roomy, breathable, and moisture wicking. They are available in men's and woman's styles, in both short sleeve and long sleeve versions. Two colors are available – stealthy Forest Green and hi-visibility Neon Orange.

Watch for further details in the coming days!



Retired or Looking to Volunteer & Share Your Outdoor Skills?

TIFFT needs you, especially if you like working with children. We need volunteers who would like to lead school groups a few times a week or month. They run about 40-90 min. each.

Become a steward of Tiff Nature Preserve by volunteering to help with outdoor projects around the Preserve. Projects will include tour guides, event assistance, invasive species control, habitat restoration, trail work and other outdoor projects. Other opportunities include planning annual fundraisers, creating databases, working on exhibits, and archiving materials in our research library..

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at TIFFT Nature Preserve, please call 716.825.6397. Ask for Kimberly or Megan. Alternately, Joanne Magavern, retired librarian and ADK member, also volunteers at Tiff –if you'd like to know more about it, please call her at 883-7127.

Executive Committee

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paulmgannon54@gmail.com
(716) 395-5739

1ST VICE CHAIR/OUTINGS - Mary Schraven
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ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney (716) 825-7329
woodthrush3@hotmail.com

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
hikepmc@roadrunner.com;
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