Upcoming Meeting: Tuesday, April 9th

Education Workshop: Birding for Hikers | 6:30

Have you ever seen or heard a bird while on a hike, paddle, or bike outing and wondered which bird it was? At the May education workshop, we will review bird species commonly seen and/or heard during WNY outings. Field marks, habitat, and calls will be highlighted, so that maybe the next time, you’ll be able to say “I know that bird!”

Our education workshop is from 6:30 to 7:15 in the room adjacent to our main meeting room. We’d love to see you! Questions, or suggestions for further workshops? TeresaCorrigan85@gmail.com

Presentation: Gardening for Sustainability | 7:30

Our April speaker will be Master Gardener Lynn Chimera. She’ll be discussing sustainability and preserving endangered species. The program will cover what constitutes sustainability, how the home gardener can contribute and how sustainability can help endangered species large and small. We look forward to seeing you all at April’s meeting! Think Spring!

Our March speaker presentation was on forestry. Matt Nusstein a naturalist with the NYS parks department spoke about the past, present and future of our forests and the incredible impact invasive plant species and exploding population of deer have on the forest ecosystem. He emphasized how our stewardship in protecting and preserving the delicate ecosystems within our forest is crucial for the future of our forests.

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.
I have been thinking a lot about transitions this week. Recently, I went for a walk in a local park. The ground was still covered in snow, but the sky was blue and the sun was bright. As the path looped around by the creek, I heard honking. The ice had melted in the center of the creek, and floating along with the current was a flock of geese. Now, the snow is disappearing, and the days are getting longer. Springtime is coming! Spring – a time of change, where some things end and others are born.

Our chapter is also entering a time of transition, where we will see endings and new beginnings. Just after our March newsletter was distributed, I learned that Jaclyn Rossini has to give up her position as editor. Jaclyn has served our chapter faithfully in this capacity, and we have all benefited from her talent and skill. We are grateful for the time she dedicated to the role.

At the picnic this June, we will be electing a new First vice chair / Outings coordinator. Our by-laws limit the holder of this position to two terms, and Mary Schraven has served her time. As Outings leader, Mary has maintained a full and varied calendar of activities. We will miss the energy and vision she brought to this role. She now plans to turn her attention to conservation efforts.

So, now our chapter needs to recruit someone to fill each of these two vital positions. Is this your time to try something new? You will have the chance to work with some of the best people I know, while helping our chapter to thrive. Please give it some thought.

–Paul M. Gannon

Announcements

Go Paperless!
In an effort to “GO GREEN” our chapter is looking to reduce the number of paper newsletters mailed out to members each month. If you would like to support this effort and only receive your newsletter via an email link, Please email RLaing537@gmail.com. We thank you in advance for taking this step to reduce our carbon footprint.

Help Plan Seasonal Paddles—Meeting to be held Thursday 4/11
Meet with Richard Schraven, Paddling Co-chair and other paddle leaders to help plan the 2019 season. Perhaps a weekly evening paddle? Where is your favorite place to visit? Bring your calendar and we will provide light refreshments. Please call Richard, 716-564-2106 to RSVP. 7:00pm to 9:00pm. 91 N. PARRISH DRIVE, Amherst, 14228.

Open Chapter Positions
See details on elections & departures in “Message from the Chair”

Chapter T Shirt Sale
Returning this 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!
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 - 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

April Outings

4/6 – SAT - HIKE - SHORT HILLS PROVINCIAL PARK

Ken Martin (716) 997-7929 or email kmartin977@gmail.com – (B) This 735-hectare natural park features fishing & trails for hiking, biking & horseback riding on Pelham Road, Thorold, Ontario Canada.

We will hike some of the many beautiful wooded trail loops passing through the sedimentary deposits and glacial till that once filled this valley, until Twelve Mile Creek sliced through, forming the “Short Hills.” Animals living here include white-tailed deer, coyote, and meadow vole. Pawpaw and sweet chestnut trees are among the southern plants. 3 hours depending on trail conditions. Additional trails can be added as desired. Please bring microspikes for any icy conditions that may be encountered this time of year along with snacks and water. Hiking is easy to moderate. After hike options located next to park are: War of 1812 Heritage Park Decew House, Morningstar Grist Mill and waterfall/gorge, Henry of Pelham Estate Winery.*You must have appropriate documentation to travel to Canada. Please contact trip leader for meet up time and exact location.

4/6 – SAT - HIKE - TILLMAN ROAD NATURE PRESERVE - YOUNG MEMBERS’ EVENT

RSVP to (deena.mueller1@gmail.com) for a start time and for carpooling. This is a great, under-publicized nature area out in Clarence. We'll hike (or if we get lucky, snow shoe) through the preserve. It’s known for birds but we’re likely to see deer and other animals as well. It’s flat so the hike will be non-strenuous. Questions? Contact Deena. Cheers!

4/9 - TUE - BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL - JAMESTOWN - YOUNG MEMBERS’ EVENT

RSVP to (deena.mueller1@gmail.com) for carpooling. The film starts at 7, so plan to leave Buffalo around 5:30 pm and return late. The film is a collection of short films about extreme outdoors activities and athletes. Its an adrenaline ride to watch and showcases some spectacular scenery worldwide. Cost is $25 ($15 if you’re a student).

4/13 - SAT - HIKE - HUNTER'S CREEK COUNTY PARK

(B) Richard and Mary Schraven 716-946-7489 maryschraven1@gmail.com - Meet at Centerline Road parking lot. We can hike 2.9 mile orange trail end to end and spot cars or hike a few loops in the south part of the park to equal 3 miles depending on trail conditions. Enjoy rolling ravines, raging Hunters Creek, a waterfall, old homestead foundation and chimney and great ADK friends. Please dress for weather and trail conditions. Please call or email for meet up time. Bring water, snacks. Optional lunch afterwards.
4/14 - SUN - 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. No restroom at trailhead. 5.5 miles. Contact trip leader for start time.

4/27 - SAT - VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Tifft Nature Preserve Volunteer 3 hours of your time to help plant trees and revive this jewel in our city. Contact Maryschraven1@gmail.com 716-946-7489 to RSVP and for more details.

4/27 - SAT - BIKE - GRAND ISLAND - YOUNG MEMBERS’ EVENT

RSVP to (deena.mueller1@gmail.com) for carpooling and a start time. Weather permitting, we’ll bike a loop around Grand Island from East River Road to West River Road. Low traffic and river views make for a nice ride. Depending on group needs can break up into two speed groups.

4/28 - SUN - HIKE - LETCHWORTH STATE PARK

(B- easy to moderate) Victoria Rowley 716-225-7271 -text, call or email theatrefille@gmail.com- Hopefully a springtime day along the gorge! We will be hiking along the gorge trail starting at the Lower Falls parking area down to Lower Falls and then up to Inspiration Point. Stairs are the main elevation for this hike. We will hike a bit past Inspiration Point which is the most beautiful area in the park and then back down to the Lower Falls parking area. Meet at the Lower Falls parking area (Castile Entrance). Follow signs to "Lower Falls". There will be a big parking area not too far down. About 3 miles for approximately 2-3 hours depending on group. Bring clothing and gear to be prepared for the weather. Bring water, snacks or lunch. There are restroom facilities at the Lower Falls parking area and at Inspiration point halfway through our hike. Please contact Victoria by 4/21 to confirm and to get more details.

May Outings

5/4 - 5/5 - ALLEGANY STATE PARK BOUNDARY UPKEEP WORK WEEKEND

Bob VanHise adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

Head down to ALLEGANY STATE PARK to work on maintaining a walkable route along approx.12 miles of the park’s boundary with Pennsylvania.

We’re looking for volunteers to help us with some brush trimming, "trail" flagging, and sign-posting. We’ll be walking the forest on the Allegany State Park boundary with Pennsylvania. The purpose is to maintain a path (not an official trail) on that wilderness boundary so park employees can follow it while monitoring activities on the PA side (gas/oil wells, logging, etc.). Our job is to trim vegetation on that state line, replace old flagging, and post state park signs as needed. Anyone working both days (approx. 6 hours each day) may be able to stay in a cabin, up to capacity of that cabin). Much more info is available in the conservation corner section of the newsletter.

5/11 - SHORELINE SWEEP - TONAWANDA ELLICOTT CREEK PARK

Judy Catalano cell: 716-626-1473 or email catalanojudy5@gmail.com. You must register with BNWK at https://bnwaterkeeper.salsalabs.org/2019shorelinesweep/index.html and indicate Tonawanda Ellicott Creek Park as the location. Please also call Judy to let her know you are coming. Meet at Ellicott Creek Park, at the Casino shelter at 10:00am to 12:00. Judy will have instructions, garbage bags, and liability release forms. Plan on cold, wet and muddy conditions and dress accordingly. Grabbers to extend your reach are useful at retrieving trash in the brush and in the water. Wear your ADK hat so the community knows our chapter is doing this! Thank you for being willing to help keep your local parks clean.
Plan Ahead

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 Fri. 5/10 and returning Mon. 5/13. 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’ll tailor the outings to meet interest and ability levels. We will ask participants to commit by March 31 and provide a deposit for accommodations. Accommodations will be either the ADK Heart Lake campground and Adirondack Loj, 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.

5/24 - 5/27 - CLARK HALL JR. MEMORIAL DAY WORK-PLAY WEEKEND

(A-B) Lee Clukey 716-631-9855 lee.clukey@gmail.com

The Klondike Trail in the Adirondacks High Peaks Region again needs your help. The Niagara Chapter has been maintaining this trail for over 35 years. Join us on Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm as we make improvements to the trail; cleaning water bars, removing blow-down, and maintaining the Klondike lean-to. Sunday and Monday offer the opportunity for Adirondack hikes of all levels. Also available are all the attractions of Lake Placid. A potluck dinner is planned for one weekend evening in Saranac Lake at the home of some ADK pioneers. I have one campsite reserved in the Loj camp ground and have limited space available. See our display at the general meeting. Call or email now to sign up for a place on the work crew for this unique once in a lifetime opportunity. Call or email Lee with any questions.

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.
MICRO-SPIKE HIKE - HUNTERS CREEK CONSERVATION PARK - 3/2/19

Hunters Creek Park is on undeveloped Erie County land that is designated as a “Conservation Park” to be used for nature appreciation and outdoor recreation.

On the day of our hike, trails were covered with compacted snow with some icy spots. We wore microspikes to prevent slipping on the many ups and downs along the trails. We started our hike by heading downhill near the shoreline of Hunters Creek.

Later, we hiked up to a ridge trail that offers views of both the creek and gorge cliffs decorated with icicles on the other side of the creek. After crossing a shallow ravine, we took a loop trail that descends to the shore of the creek and returns at higher elevation through a beautiful evergreen forest.

Hiking away from the creek, we climbed to higher elevation through a deciduous forest. We hiked down along a ravine to view Silent Falls, a small waterfall which was mostly ice at this time. We finished our hike by trekking along the edges of 3 ravines, each containing streams that flowed downhill into Hunters Creek.

Hunters Creek Park is a terrific hiking spot that’s easily accessible. Check it out!

— Submitted by David Kowalski

TRIP REPORT FOR MARCH 8-10 ANNUAL CHAPTER WEEKEND AT THE LOJ

Mother Nature blessed us with mild temperatures, blue skies and starry nights for our annual NFC winter weekend at the LOJ! It was buy 1 night, get 1 night free up in the loft. This year, we also had 4 people staying at TMax and Topos Hostel. Folks met for delicious family style dinners after hiking, or cross country skiing in the area on Friday and Saturday. Some skied Avalanche Pass, others hiked Mount Van Hovenberg trail or Mt. Jo, while a group cross country skied at the M.V.H.B. Ski Center. Friday night, we heard a presentation on the benefits of Nature Therapy and Forest Bathing, and Saturday morning, Colleen Corrigan, an educational staff member, led us on a nature hike. After dinner on Saturday, we sat around the campfire and got to know each other better, marveling at the beauty of the area. Sunday morning was a different weather pattern completely and most of us left for home right after breakfast with blowing winds and slushy road conditions. Many thanks to Mike Lex for leading the hike up Mt Van Hovenberg. If you missed this year’s outing, mark your calendar for March 6, 7, and 8th, 2020.
Volunteer Opportunities

**APRIL 27 - TIFFT NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEER DAY**

You can help members of our ADK Chapter as we celebrate spring by planting trees (see Mary Schraven).

**MAY 4-5 - ALLEGANY STATE PARK BOUNDARY MARKING**

Take a walk on the wild side

Every few years our chapter heads back to ALLEGANY STATE PARK to work on maintaining a walking route on the park’s wild boundary with Pennsylvania. The purpose is to maintain a path (not an official trail) on that wilderness boundary so park employees can more easily find and walk along it while monitoring activities on the PA side (gas/oil wells, logging, etc.).

We need LOTS of volunteers on that weekend to continue this important Boundary Project. Come down for either Saturday or Sunday, or both days. We’ll meet there each morning for a briefing and to sign a NYS form, and then split up into teams. Each team will be assigned a specific section of boundary. I will provide maps - the distance and degree of difficulty will vary from section to section based on access points & terrain. The teams will have 3 or more people, each carrying a pruning saw, loppers, or hammer w/nails & several state park boundary signs. BYO tools (No power tools).

Our job is to precisely follow the boundary and do basic brush & limb trimming, flagging with surveyor’s tape, and post more boundary signs as needed. Every person should bring a tool & backpack or day pack containing whatever you would carry on a day hike (see “the 10 Essentials”), including food, water, 1st aid supplies, and personal items, plus heavy work gloves. We will have the Taft Cabin in Quaker available Saturday night for people working both days (plan on approx. 6 hours each day on the boundary), up to the capacity of that cabin. Early May is a great time to walk in the forest to see nature’s greenery springing back from winter, but be prepared for the weather and wear appropriate clothing & footwear for potentially wet conditions. Contact Bob Van Hise 716.628.0355  adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com with your questions or to sign up. Bring a friend. We need YOU!

**SATURDAY MAY 11 - ELLIOTT CREEK PARK SHORELINE SWEEP**

Join in our chapter’s efforts in the annual Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Spring Sweep. To sign up, go to the BN Waterkeeper page and register for “Tonawanda: Ellicott Creek Park” (or call 716.852.7483). Our ADK Chapter’s group captain will be Judy Catalano—more info is available in outings section of this newsletter.

**JUNE 1ST - TILLMAN ROAD CLEAN UP**

Give us a hand for our annual clean-up at Tillman Road Wildlife Management Area in the Town of Clarence. See Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney woodthrush3@hotmail.com

**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

Next Conservation Committee Meeting:
**Tuesday April 16th starting at 6:30 pm (all members welcome)**
Gander Outdoors–Lodge Meeting Room, 880 Young St., Tonawanda 14150
Subject to change - check our FB page & weekly update
Executive Committee

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

1ST VICE CHAIR/OUTINGS - Mary Schraven maryschraven1@gmail.com
91 N. Parrish Dr., Amherst, NY 14228
(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

EDUCATION CHAIR - Teresa Corrigan
teresacorrigan85@gmail.com 207 Woodward Ave., Buffalo, NY 14214-
(716) 835-1905

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR - Kathy Clerkin
kmclerkin@gmail.com

DIRECTOR/WEBMASTER - Rob Laing
rlaing537@gmail.com

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

 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – Mary Kathryn Noack
marynoac@buffalo.edu (716) 984-2342

SECRETARY - Larry Beahan
larry_beahan@roadrunner.com
5 Darwin Dr., Amherst, NY 14226
(716) 839-3112

HOSPITALITY - Carol Schuster
carolfschuster@gmail.com

YOUNG MEMBERS COORDINATOR –
Deena Mueller-Funke
deena.mueller1@gmail.com
(815) 355-6768

WNY CHAPTER COORDINATOR
Jeremy Roethel (585) 633-8733
wnycoord@adk-gvc.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Jaclyn Rossini
jrossini@buffalo.edu

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)

WATERWAYS - Richard Schraven
richardschraven1@gmail.com
91 N. Parrish Dr. Amherst, NY 14228
(716) 564-2106

BIKING - Paul Kochmanski
kochmanski@ecc.edu (716) 895-7712

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