

## THE NIAGARA EXPLORER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club - Niagara Frontier Chapter

### Upcoming Meeting: Tues. November 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Education Workshop: Map & Compass Practice | 6:30p



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! Join us in the community room adjacent to the main meeting room from 6:30 to 7:15.

Questions, contact Education chair Teresa Corrigan, [TeresaCorrigan85@gmail.com](mailto:TeresaCorrigan85@gmail.com) or text (716) 440-5755, or leave v. mail (716) 835-1905.

**Location**  
Fellowship Hall Amherst Community Church  
Washington Hwy. Snyder, NY 14226  
*NOTE: Please park in rear and enter through back, (walk up to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)*

#### Presentation: Arctic Alpine Foliage | 7:00p

Our program this month will be "Northern Exposure: Some Arctic Alpine Plants of North America" presented by Wayne Gall Ph.D.

Arctic Alpine plants display fascinating adaptations to their harsh environment. Wayne will present photos of wild plants that he captured in the Canadian Rockies at the edge of Arctic tundra on Hudson Bay at Churchill, Manitoba, and in the High peaks of Adirondacks.

Wayne is a WNY native and icon in his field. He has degrees in Entomology, Biology and a Ph.D. in Zoology. He's held top position at Buffalo Museum of Science, New York Dept. of Health and U.S.D.A. He was the first Administrative Naturalist appointed to Tiffit Nature Preserve and has held the position of Conservation chair for ADK-NFC. Our chapter has had the pleasure of having him speak on many topics in the past! Hope to see you at our presentation!!



Photo by ADK Mtn Club

## Conservation Committee Meeting: Tuesday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>

Contact Bob Van Hise for additional info [adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com](mailto:adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com) or (716) 628-0355

### Looking Ahead



### Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

- 6:00 Deck the Halls - Any help with set-up is welcome!
- 6:30 Dinner - Bring your favorite dish or dessert\* to our annual holiday potluck to share with your fellow members! Beverages will be provided!
- 8:30 Clean up – any help you can give is wildly appreciated!

\*We ask that you bring your own reusable plates, bowls, utensils and cups on behalf of our planet. Feel free to bring a friend or family member with you! Thank you!

### In Case you Missed it..

Our October speaker author of "Disappointment River" Brian Castner was amazing! He shared his epic journey canoeing 1125 miles down the immense Mackenzie river through the Canadian Arctic retracing the historical 1789 route of explorer Alexander Mackenzie. We enjoyed learning the historical truths and hearing about how he prepared for the trip and his unexpected adventures along the way. We were able to purchase signed copies of his book after his presentation. I look forward to reading his remarkable journey!

## Message from the Chair

At our October meeting, we were treated to author Brian Castner's exciting account of his multi-month, 1100 mile journey by canoe along the Mackenzie River in Canada's Northwest Territory. Many of us dream about completing such an epic adventure. However, we usually have to be content with our less ambitious day hikes, and weekend trips.

In early October, after a number of days with rain, we finally enjoyed a stretch of warm, dry autumn weather - I wanted to take full advantage of it. I returned to one of my favorite locations and took an overnight backpack trip on the Morrison Trail in Allegheny National Forest. This was one of the first places I discovered when I started backpacking with my friends as a young college student.

As I proceeded around the loop, I came across what was our favorite campsite. It's located at a trail junction, with a clear, cold creek flowing nearby. 40 years ago, it was a large, grass-covered clearing, open to the night sky, and ringed by trees of modest height. Now, the place is almost unrecognizable. The forest has matured, and I couldn't even see the old campsite at first.

Then, I climbed a short bank, and walked around some trees. There it was. The grass was taller, and the woods thicker, but most of the old clearing remained, with the fire ring in the center. In my mind's eye, I could almost see my friends, and me in the prime of our youth, cooking steaks and potatoes over an open fire. I became a little melancholy as I thought about how much my life has changed since those days.



*Allegheny Reservoir at daybreak /  
Photo by Mary K. Noack*

Later, I made camp along the reservoir. As the day faded into night, I warmed myself as I stared into the flames of a small campfire. The black sky was full of stars. The moon shined brightly upon the still waters of the reservoir. The night was filled with the sounds of waves lapping against the shore, crickets chirping, and coyotes howling in the distance. In the morning, the river valley was filled with fog, until the sun rose and burned it off, while I sat eating a hot breakfast.

Later on, as I continued my hike through the forest, with the autumn leaves crunching under my feet, I realized that the important things had not changed after all. The natural world was still there, waiting for me, ready as always to restore my body and my mind. May you always find it so. See you out there...

— *Paul M. Gannon*

## Outings

### **11/2 – SAT - HIKE – Erie County Forest**

(B) 3 miles - Cheryl Peluso (716) 997-2349 or cherylp17@verizon.net

Whenever I feel like enjoying a walk in the woods without tree roots, minimal mud and no rocks underfoot I go to this gravel forest road in the Erie County Forest across from the sugar shanty. It is quite lovely and quiet. Meet in the sugar shanty parking lot at 10 am. Call, text or email if you plan on attending. If no one contacts me then the hike will be cancelled.



### **11/9 – SAT - HIKE – Hunter's Creek**

(B) 6-7 miles - Cheryl Peluso (716) 997-2349 or cherylp17@verizon.net

We'll hike a mixture of trails starting from the Centerline Rd parking area at 10am. I mostly envision doing all of the red trail plus a mixture of others. Pack a lunch and water. Call, text or email if you plan on attending. If no one contacts me then the hike will be cancelled.

*Waterfall into Hunters Creek /  
Photo by Mary K. Noack*

### **11/10 – SUN - BIKE – Veterans Day Ride**

Mike Lex (716) 430-8986 or mblex@roadrunner.com

Downtown Buffalo to Forest Lawn to reflect on & honor those who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice. The ride will follow bike lanes on city streets. 11am. Weather dependent. Helmets required.

### **11/16 – SAT – HIKE – Lewiston, Niagara Gorge**

Maureen Rowley (716) 628-0369 or mrowley62@yahoo.com

5-6 miles. Meet 9am at Artpark upper parking lot off Portage road. Call, text, or email to confirm.

### **11/20 -WED - HIKE - N. Buffalo Rails-to-Trails/Tonawanda Rails-to-Trails**

(B) for length Leslie Salathe (716) 560-1311 or lesliesalath@live.com

Start hike at the NFTA Park and Ride LaSalle Station, meet at the far end of the parking area, by the Childcare Center will hike 5 - 7 miles depending on the group. Contact trip leader by Tuesday for start time.

### **11/29 – FRI – BIKE – Black Friday Ride**

Mike Lex (716) 430-8986 or mblex@roadrunner.com

Clarence Paths & Roads. 2pm. Weather dependent. Helmets required

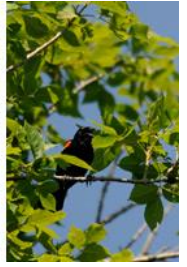


*Clarence Bike Path /  
Photo by Catherine P.*

**11/29 – FRI – HIKE - Young Members' (~ages 21-40) - Iroquois Nat'l Wildlife Refuge**

Deena Mueller-Funke deena.mueller1@gmail.com

Opt out of the shopping and consumerism and go for a hike at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Contact trip leader for start time and details.



## 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, please see the event calendar posted on our website, [ADK-NFC.ORG](http://ADK-NFC.ORG)

## Looking Ahead

**1/10 – 1/12– FRI – SUN - ALLEGANY X-C SKI WEEKEND - NOTE THE NEW DATE**

(A-C) Peg Wantuck (716) 432-4473 or pegofmyheart7@live.com, Mary Schraven (716) 946-7489 or maryschraven1@gmail.com

Plan to enjoy a weekend with fun ADK'ers (along with Buffalo Nordic friends) and some of the best X-C skiing in WNY! Reserved are 4 cabins (2 bedrooms each) at the Summit area of Alleghany State Park. They are heated with a stove and fridge. Join us on Friday to ski /snow shoe /hike with an evening wine and cheese party. Enjoy outings all day Saturday on easy to difficult slopes. We have reserved the warming hut for our pot luck dinner on Saturday night. Left over lunch on Sunday. Rentals available at the warming hut. Ski from your front door – great for new members, families, and/or beginners to advanced skiers. Call Peg or Mary to reserve a spot and mail payment (WRITE CHECK TO ADK!) of \$66.00 each for 2 nights (depending on occupancy) by December 27th. Call or email for address to mail your check. Plan ahead, this weekend usually fills up!!

## Trip Reports



### October 5th - Devils Hole Hike

Six Adk members met at the Devils Hole parking lot and hiked down the winding rock stairway to the lower gorge. We enjoyed walking along the lower gorge never losing sight of the ever changing roaring rapids under sunny blue skies. We traveled down a couple miles before turning around and proceeding up the whirlpool stairs and along the upper gorge where we were treated to more overlooking views of the mighty Niagara! An enjoyable 5-6 mile hike with a great group!

*Submitted by Maureen Rowley*



## 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 [marynoac@buffalo.edu](mailto:marynoac@buffalo.edu). We thank you in advance for taking this step to reduce our carbon footprint.

### New Executive Director – ADK Mtn Club

Effective November '19, ADK Board of Directors has unanimously approved Michael Barrett as the state-wide club's Executive Director.

"Michael is a proven and dynamic leader with years of success as an advocate and policy maker. We look forward to him joining ADK," said John Gilewicz, ADK President.

Michael, an avid outdoorsman and paddler, will be returning to New York later this fall, along with his wife Sebrina, who is the Executive Director of the Missouri Bar, his son Mason (13), and his daughter Molly (7). "I look forward to building on the successes that have already been achieved by this incredible organization," said Barrett.

Visit our website, [www.adk-nfc.org](http://www.adk-nfc.org) for the official full press release!

### Northtowns Gain a Go-to Gear Store

After the much anticipated wait, Gear for Adventure opened their second location in Amherst, NY. Representatives of our club were there! Northtowners no longer need to make the pilgrimage South for all their gear needs as the North store offers the same knowledgeable service and brands as their brick and mortar location in Hamburg. Rentals will also be available - tents, backpacks, bear canisters, kayaks, as well as snowshoes and cross country skis. The North store is located at 3906 Maple Rd., near Niagara Falls Blvd., in Amherst.



### Open Executive Committee Positions

As we say thank you to our valiant committee members after many moons of dedicated work for our club, we look forward to new faces and ideas of those able and willing to hold a position for our club! We are hoping for someone to join us as Outings Chair / Vice Chair, Outings Co-Chair – Hiking, and Outings Co-Chair – Winter Sports. Any questions please contact Paul Gannon- Chair. Thank you!

## Our Executive Committee

Chair	Paul Gannon	paulmgannon54@gmail.com	(716) 395-5739
Interim Outings Chair	Deena Mueller-Funke	deena.mueller1@gmail.com	(815) 355-6768
Conservation Chair	Bob Van Hise	adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com	(716) 628-0355
Programs Chair	Maureen Rowley	mrowley62@yahoo.com	(716) 628-0369
Education Chair	Teresa Corrigan	teresacorrigan85@gmail.com	(716) 835-1905
Membership Chair	Kathy Clerkin	kmclerkin@gmail.com	
Director/Webmaster	Rob Laing	rlaing537@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Doug Gaffney	dgaffney@roadrunner.com	(716) 631-3979
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Outings Co-Chair: Waterways	Richard Schraven	richardschraven1@gmail.com	(716) 564-2106
Outings Co-Chair: Biking	Mike Lex	mblex@roadrunner.com	(716) 430-8986