

THE NIAGARA EXPLORER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club - Niagara Frontier Chapter

Upcoming Meeting: Tues. October 8

Education Workshop: Lead an ADK Outing | 6:30p

Be a super host! Host an outing for your ADK chapter! Do you have a favorite hike, paddle, bike ride? If not, would you like to discover one?

During our October Education Workshop we will go through the nuts and bolts of choosing, scouting, and planning an outing. We will help you discover some great ways to publicize your outing to invite some old and new friends to come along.

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 or text (716) 440-5755, or leave v. mail (716) 835-1905.

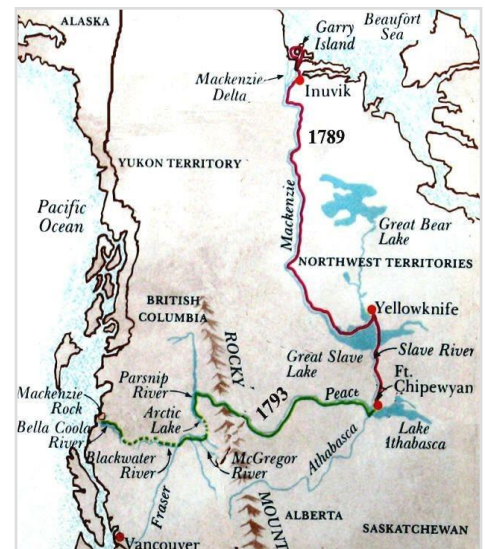
Location
Fellowship Hall Amherst Community Church
Washington Hwy. Snyder, NY 14226
NOTE: Please park in rear and enter through back, (walk up to 2nd floor)

Presentation: Alexander Mackenzie Revisited | 7:00p

Our October speaker will be author and WNY native Brian Castner. His latest book "Disappointment River" is an adventure tale recounting the historic search for the Northwest Passage. In 1789 Alexander Mackenzie traveled 1,125 miles by canoe down the immense river through Canadian Arctic wilderness to find a trade route passageway.

Brian will share his own epic journey retracing the long grueling historical paddle down the Mackenzie River battling exhaustion, exposure, mosquitos, white water rapids, and the threat of bear attacks. If you would like to purchase "Disappointment River" by Brian Castner they will be available cash only \$10 paperback and \$20 Hardcover - Brian will also personally sign said books.

Hope to see you all at the presentation!



Conservation Committee Meeting: Tuesday, Oct 15

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

Looking Ahead



Our program presentation for November 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 Gall 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 Tiff 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!

We hope to see all our members at our November meeting for Wayne's presentation!

Message from the Chair

Judging by the beautiful photos shared at our Ice Cream Social and Slide show, it seems like our members had a wonderful summer filled with adventure. This is one of my favorite meetings of the year. However, I always leave with a slight sense of despair, when I realize just how many places there are to see and how little time there is to see them.

At the end of August, Mary Schraven's second two-year term as First vice-chair / Outings chair has ended. We thank her for her service. As I have already reported, her successor has reluctantly decided that she is unable to assume the role, so the position is currently vacant. We are searching for a replacement.

In the meantime, Deena Mueller-Funke has graciously volunteered to serve as an interim outings coordinator and maintain our outings calendar. We thank her for, once again, stepping up to fill a vacancy! She just completed a term as our interim newsletter editor, which she assumed when the editor resigned due to changes in her life. Mary Noack, who is already serving as our Electronic Communications chair, has accepted the position as our Newsletter Editor. For now, she will be filling both roles.

Deena was also serving as our Young Members Coordinator. She has resigned from this position, and we will not be recruiting a replacement.

This fall and winter, the executive committee will be studying the makeup of our chapter leadership, and the methods that we currently use to communicate with our members. We may be recommending some changes. Stay tuned.

Once again, I am making a general appeal to all of our members to consider volunteering to serve our chapter in one of the open leadership positions. We are looking for a new First vice-chair, and hiking and winter sports co-chairs. We are always seeking new trip leaders. I hope to hear from some of you soon.

As we transition to autumn, remember that hunting season is approaching. During this time, please be aware of locations where hunting is permitted, and use caution when in those places.

See you out there!

— *Paul M. Gannon*



Outings

09/28 - SAT - Hike - Letchworth State Park

(B-C) Victoria Rowley text\call 716-225-7271 or theatrefille@gmail.com

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 9/26 to confirm and to get more details.

09/29 - SUN - PADDLE - Amherst State Park Ellicott Creek

(C) Pauline Kosmoski (716) 866-9066

Meet at Amherst State Park, unload boats, car spot to our house, right on Ellicott Creek for a late morning paddle. Drive back to put in and enjoy a leisurely 1-2 hour paddle. Water levels may vary, we may hit shallow parts. Be prepared to run aground on the gravel bottom and hop out of boat occasionally if water level is low. PFDs and whistles are mandatory and must be worn at all times when in the water. Please call by Sat. to confirm and to get exact meet up time.

Recurring Event:

10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30 – WED - HIKE - Reinstein Woods

(C) - Gus Phillips - gusp1941@yahoo.com

Meet at 6:30. Hike in the woods in the evening to hear and see night-time wildlife. Enjoy a starry sky or the moonlight. Possibly hear an owl. Family Friendly. This is a weekly event. Please email to let me know you are coming and to confirm in event of inclement weather.



10/5 – SAT – Adopt-a-Highway Clean-Up –Tillman Rd. State Wildlife Management Area, Clarence

10/6 – SUN – RAINDATE

(C) Lynn & Doug Kenney (716) 825-7329

Make a difference! Join us for the Fall Adopt-A-Highway clean-up. Volunteers are needed to pick up litter along the roadsides surrounding the Tillman Wetlands area in Clarence. Meet at 10:00AM in the Shisler Road parking lot located at the eastern end of Wehrle Drive. Garbage bags are supplied. Bring work gloves. Clean-up takes about 2 hours. You only need to call if you plan on joining us for a hike through the wildlife area afterwards. If you will be joining us for the hike, bring along a bag lunch. We will eat in-between the clean-up and the hike. Call day of the hike to let us know you'll be coming.

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 and updated list of outings, please see the event calendar posted on our website, ADK-NFC.ORG

10/5 - SAT - HIKE - Devil's Hole State Park

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

Meet at 9:00am at the Devil's Hole parking lot off of 104. Hike down to the gorge, along the river, up to Rim at Whirlpool State Park and take the Rim trail back to cars. About 4 miles. Fantastic views and fantastic ADK friends. Don't miss this one. Call or email trip leader by Friday to RSVP and to confirm outing.

10/6 - SUN - HIKE - Beehunter Trail Allegany State Park

(A) Corrigan (716) 835-1905 or teresacorrigan85@gmail.com

It's a 6.5 mile hike on the gently rolling hills. It's a wonderful trail for enjoying some exercise and the fall colors! Expect some periods of moderate hiking, alternating with occasional breaks for nature study. Wear hiking boots, and come prepared with water and a snack. Hiking poles are helpful on this trail. We will be stopping on the way home for an early dinner for those who are interested. Please email or call leader by Friday to sign up, ask questions and get the meeting time and place.

10/12 - SUN - HIKE - Sprague Brook

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

This 6.5 mile loop trail with gentle ups and downs has recently become one of my favorites. Leaf color should be beautiful. Pack a lunch and water. Meet at the X-C Ski warming hut parking lot at 10am. Call, text or email if you plan on attending. No one contacts me then the hike will be cancelled.

10/13 - SAT - PADDLE - Ellicott Creek at Amherst State Park

(C) Greg Germaine (716) 696-0829 or gwg99t@gmail.com

Meet in the morning in the parking lot of Amherst State Park, unpack boats, spot cars to Shimerville Road. About 2.5 hours of paddling with the current through delightful golf courses, parks and residential neighborhoods. Usually there are lots of wildlife sightings: owls, Great Blue Herons, deer, turtles, beaver... PFDs and whistle are mandatory and must be worn at all times while on the water. Dress for the weather, bring water and a snack. Please call/email for exact start up time by Friday afternoon. In the event the water level is too low on Ellicott Creek, we will paddle Buffalo River from Harlem Road put in.



10/19 - Sat – Hike – North Country Trail - McCarty Hill State Forest, Ellicottville

Lynn Kenney (716) 825-7329 (Home) or woodthrush3@hotmail.com

We will enjoy an approximately 5 mile hike through fall foliage and hilly terrain. If you are interested in carpooling we will leave promptly at 8:30am from the Park and Ride Lot in Orchard Park, Route 20A Exit off of Route 219. Or meet at the former CCC Camp on Hungry Hollow Road at 9:30am. Bring water and lunch. Consider hiking poles, the trails will be covered with leaves. Call to let us know you are coming by Friday evening. The day of the hike call our cell #361-6172. Be aware cell phone coverage is spotty in that area.

10/20 - SUN - HIKE - Conservation Trail from Hunter's Creek Road (5.8 miles)

(B) - Leslie Salathe (716) 560-1311 or lesliesalathe@live.com

Meet at the parking lot on Hunters Creek Road off of Route 78. Bring snack, water, dress for the weather. Enjoy scenic views along the trail. Call or email trip leader by Sat. to confirm and to find out meeting time.





10/26 - SAT - HIKE - Letchworth State Park

(B) Carolyn Kerr (716) 553-4335 or stenolou@gmail.com

We'll hike through the woods that many people do not explore. We can leave from the park-n-ride lot at Main and Union (S. of Main St on Union) in Williamsville at 9AM, or meet us at the park at the Visitor Center at 10:30AM. Enter the park at Castile, nearest entrance to the Visitor Center. Please contact leader by Friday. Rain cancels.

10/27 - SUN - HIKE- Whirlpool State Park

(B) Pam Sander (716) 445-3879 or pgb348buffalo@netzero.net

Meet at the State Park parking lot. We will hike 2.75 miles Optional lunch in Lewiston after the outing. Please call/email by Sat. afternoon to RSVP and to get the exact meet up time.

10/27 – SUN- PADDLE AND PARTY/GAME

Schravens, Richardschraven1@gmail.com or Maryschraven1@gmail.com

Please join us to conclude the paddling season with our annual Paddle and Party/ Bills Game. We will begin in the morning with a leisurely paddle of Ellicott Creek, put in at Ellicott Creek Park or at Amherst State Park, (depending on water level) Pot-luck Halloween party at our home afterward. We will provide Richard's multi-meat filled Chili (and a vegetarian version) and non-alcoholic beverages including hot mulled cider. Please bring a side dish to share and preferred beverages. PFD and whistle are mandatory and must be worn at all times while on the water. Halloween costumes are not mandatory, but add to the fun! Non-paddlers are also welcomed to join us for the pot-luck party starting at 12:00pm. The Bills Game (Home playing Philly starting at 1:00) can be enjoyed with us! While the paddle is weather-dependent, the party is on rain, snow, high wind or shine. Please call, text or email to RSVP and to get our address.

Trip Reports

09/7 – Lower Niagara Paddle from Lewiston to Youngstown, NY

Eight hearty paddlers showed up on this beautiful morning. There was a road race on the river road so the car-spotting was done via the Robert Moses expressway. The water was relatively flat with just a few motorboats to contend with and the trip went very quickly with a 6mph current pushing us all the way. The most hazardous part was getting out of the boats on the very slippery concrete ramp at the Youngstown Boat Harbor. After loading the boats and equipment, we drove back to Youngstown and walked around the Youngstown Peach Festival. We were happy to have had another chance to paddle with friends old new. Respectfully submitted by: Richard Schraven



09/14 – Bike and Blues – Niagara Falls Shoreline Trail and Festival



Thank you Richard for leading this annual outing. It was a beautiful day, lots of sun with a steady wind coming off the river. The group met at the LaSalle Waterfront Park, followed the trail along the river to Niagara Falls State Park. We couldn't believe the beauty of the rough and choppy water, the rapids, and the blue sky. One group road faster and wasn't deterred by the wind and continued on through detours and construction to Whirlpool State Park, while the slower group toured around Goat Island and walked with the pedestrian to view the rapids around Three Sisters Islands. Everyone enjoyed the biking at their own pace. The Blues Festival was rocking, the food was delicious. After about an hour at the festival, we made our way back to the cars. Great ADK friends, great exercise, fun music and the wonder of the Falls made for a memorable outing.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Schraven

09/15 – E. Ferry Road/Grand Island Paddle

Thank you Janet Morrow for leading this wonderful end of summer paddle. We launched using both the roller dock and the gravel covered gentle incline into the water. No wind, no waves and only a few motor boats. We had the shoreline to ourselves. We paddled around Beaver Island Marina, entered the Lagoon and then headed back around Little Beaver Island. It was a quick paddle across the river, around Motor Island and caught the current for a speedy return to the docks. Sadly, the heron and egret nests were all empty, Motor Island was quiet. We did see a few fishing gulls and 2 Great Blue Herons. Off in the distance, loomed dark rain clouds but we were all home, enjoying the Bills game before it rained. Great exercise, a chance to enjoy the powerful Niagara River from our boats and meeting new friends made for a great outing.



Respectfully submitted by Mary Schraven

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. We thank you in advance for taking this step to reduce our carbon footprint

Open Chapter Positions

See details on departures in "Message from the Chair"

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.



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
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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	
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