



Show Off Your Photographic Talents!

In place of our December potluck, we will be hosting a zoom slide show that captures the essence of why we love to be outdoors!

Dig through the archives and pick out your 10 best nature pictures that hold special memories of past ADK outings, wildlife encounters or breathtaking vacation vistas. You can (of course) show pictures that you included in previous September slideshows.

Email 10 or fewer photographs to our slide show organizer Doug Gaffney dgaffney@roadrunner.com by Sunday December 6th so everyone can enjoy them.

Our Virtual General Meeting:

Tuesday, December 8, at 7 PM

The December Zoom meeting will start with a brief chapter meeting, with our program starting around 7:10 pm.

Join using the Zoom link that will be sent out via the weekly email.

Looking Ahead ...



Our January program will be presented by Kayla White - a member of the ADK main club education staff. She is a certified Leave No Trace trainer and Summit Steward Trainer. She also helps train the ADK Trailhead Stewards and Campground Hosts.

The High Peaks Wilderness has seen a large influx of visitors hiking the high peaks over the past decade. This has resulted in an increase in recreational impacts and a need for more active stewardship on our public lands. Join Kayla White, ADK's Summit Steward Coordinator, give a presentation on how we can all become better stewards through our participation in Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics and the Summit Stewardship Program.

Kayla and the ADK staff have made some great short videos, and hopefully we will see a few of those. Join us for what should be a great program!

Here are a few links you might want to look at prior to our meeting;

- The first is a description of ADK Leave No Trace programs
[ADK Leave No Trace Courses](#)
- The second has a link to a report on the Adirondacks prepared by the Leave No Trace organization
[Adirondack Explorer Leave No Trace Report](#)
- The third is the final 2020 report on the ADK summit steward program
[ADK Summit Stewards End of Season Report 2020](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING OUTINGS

Cases of Covid 19 are increasing in Western New York. Following New York State's micro cluster plan, portions of our community have just been elevated from Yellow to Orange. Therefore, all ADK-NFC in-person activities and outings are suspended until further notice.

Be smart, take care, be safe, and stay healthy...



Message from the Chair

The holiday season is upon us, with all its hustle and bustle! On December 8, we would normally gather once again for our annual ADK holiday party. This year, because of Covid 19, we not be able to meet in person. However, we will host an online Zoom meeting which will include an outdoor-themed slide show!!

During this hectic time, I hope all of you take the opportunity to step back, and enjoy some well-deserved quiet. The approach of winter, with its shortened days, and long, cold nights, is nature's chance to slow down, rest, and recover, after an especially busy year. We should follow that example. On behalf of the executive committee, I want to wish all of our members a season filled with peace, joy, good health, and good fortune.

Happy Holidays!

- Paul M. Gannon | Chapter Chair



Director's Report

As you may know, the Adirondack Mountain Club recently had a statewide vote - which has since passed. It changes the structure of the main club's executive board and mission statement wording. The change making process has begun with several Zoom meetings where current board members were able to listen and ask questions. A review of the changes is currently being done by a separate organization to ensure all of the changes are legal. It is expected that the transition will take a long time - at least through next year. Some of the goals are to strengthen the communications between chapters, and between chapters and the main club, and to have the chapters more in sync with the main club's objectives and activities. I know from participating in the Volunteer Trailhead Steward program at the Loj this year that a large population of Buffalonians are visiting the Adirondack Loj and Heart Lake property grounds - from the Adirondack Loj Trailhead, using the hiker parking lots, to staying at the Wilderness Campground. During my time there, I spoke with many, hoping we can get more people involved in our local chapter and the club in general.

There will be a process starting soon to look for new members of the main board. Anyone with a specific set of skills related to club activities, such as publications, hotel management, trails management, finance and education might make a good board member. The new board will have significant responsibility and will meet every month. The new Advisory Board will only meet annually but will be working on a variety of activities to improve chapter involvement. I'm sure that the *Adirondac* magazine will

It is with sad hearts that we

announce that Jeff Liebel, long time ADK member and former Waterways Committee Chairman, recently passed away.

Jeff and his wife Laura operated a Paddling Skills company for many years. Many ADK members have benefitted from his knowledge on paddling skills and safety.

provide us with details as we move ahead. At this point as an Alternate Director I will be participating in the new Advisory Board. Anyone who is interested in joining the new main board can contact me for more details on how to apply.

Next month and in April we have arranged for staff members from the main club to provide what will be great programs. Kayla White - Summit Stewards Coordinator, will talk about the work the club is doing and about each of us becoming stewards of the park. In April, Andrew Hamlin (aka Bones) will give a presentation on the club's trail work programs. I have had a great time getting to know these people and hope that you will enjoy listening to them as much as I have!

- *Kate Hacker | Alternate Director*



Conservation Corner



Mary K Noack

During the November meeting, we discussed concern about what the potential plans by the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation might be for the Buffalo Outer Harbor. Currently Buffalo City and Erie County residents are able to enjoy the open space of the Outer Harbor for family walks, biking, fishing and wildlife watching. The area includes internationally important bird habitat for the birds to rest and feed during migration. The shoreline also provides vital habitat for fish to spawn. ADK-NFC is one of many groups who are advocating that the Outer Harbor should be kept as a passive recreational area in contrast to the Inner Harbor that has already been commercialized.

Recently there was a plan to install a large number of solar panels on Unity Island (formally Squaw Island) to power the Buffalo Water Treatment Plan. These plans were withdrawn when it was pointed out that this section of land is designated as parkland. ADK would like to see the land used passively such as sledding on the capped landfill hills in the winter and walking in the summer. It has wonderful views of the sunset across Lake Erie. Certain areas could be planted to encourage habitat for birds, butterflies and bees. The large grassy area is already perfect nesting and feeding habitat for Meadowlarks and Bobolinks. This area is also rich in local history. The Black Rock Historical Society should be encouraged to install signage of historical events that occurred in this area.

Statewide Conservation Issues

Seth Jones, the Heart Lake Education Director, has been an active member of the High Peaks Advisory Task Force. The group has been developing recommendations on how to address over use in the Adirondack Park. ADK is focusing on education and improving trail infrastructure to help mitigate the effects of high use. The final report will be released by the end of 2020. The Governor's office has asked ADK to join the newly created Catskills Advisory Task Force.

The NYS Legislative session was shortened due to the pandemic. Bill A2655/S3392 was passed which classified fracking drilling waste as hazardous which eliminated a loophole that allowed it to be sent from PA to NYS for storage in landfills.

The proposed 3 billion Restore Mother Nature Bond Act has been removed from the 2021 NYS Budget proposal due to state wide financial concerns caused by the pandemic. ADK will lobby for the bond act to be re-initiated when it is fiscally responsible to do so. The bond act encompassed many aspects

Our Virtual Conservation Meeting:

Tuesday, December 15, at 7 PM

The Conservation Committee will continue to use Zoom for monthly meetings – all are welcome! Join using the Zoom link that will be sent out via the weekly email.

including ways to revitalize critical fish and wildlife habitats, waterway improvements, restoring freshwater and tidal wetlands, preserving open space and conserving forestlands.

ADK is advocating for the passage of the NYS Green Amendment which would guarantee that all NYS citizens shall have the right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment. This would be added to the NYS Bill of Rights. An amendment must be passed twice in two separate legislation sessions before it can be put onto the NYS ballot for a statewide vote. It was passed in 2019. ADK will be lobbying for it to be passed in the 2021 legislative session so it can be placed on the statewide ballot in 2022.

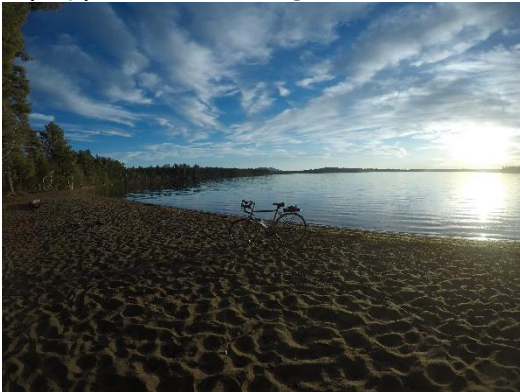
ADK is requesting a dialogue be initiated with the military at Fort Drum regarding their proposal for 126 days of low level helicopter training in the Adirondack Park.

- Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney | Archivist/Historian



Trip Reports

11/09/20 – BIKE – 3 Lake Sunset



Took advantage of an indian summer's day for a 30 mile ride from Saranac Lake Village to Lake Clear for some beach time .. leaving just as the sun began to set heading for Lake Colby for some dramatic views and taking a extra loop around Moody Pond for the final setting! A beautiful 60 degree day to be had!

- Submitted by Mary K. Noack

Cheers to a joyful holiday season!!



Submitted by
Bob Van Hise |
Conservation Committee Chair



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|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
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**Working for
Wilderness**