



## THE NIAGARA EXPLORER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club – Niagara Frontier Chapter

### Reminder: Proposed ADK Bylaws Vote

ADK is in the process of revising the bylaws. It is now up to the members to vote whether or not to approve the proposed changes. The September/October edition of *Adirondack* contains more information, and a ballot was to be included in every copy.

There was an issue with including the ballots, so the club headquarters is mailing a second ballot to each member, and extending the voting deadline to October 2. If you already mailed a ballot, you do not have to vote again. For any questions, contact the membership department at [membership@adk.org](mailto:membership@adk.org).

### ADK-NFC 2020 Election Results

Our chapter election was held during our Zoom video conference on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 during which Greg Germaine was elected to complete Victoria Rowley's term as First Vice-chair / Outings, which ends on August 31, 2021. As well as, Bob Van Hise whom was elected for another term as Second Vice-chair / Conservation.

We congratulate both candidates, and thank them for serving as leaders in our chapter!!



### Virtual Education

Fall can be a wonderful time to practice orienting with a compass, and properly using a map, especially when the leaves are off the trees and you can look farther out along the landscape you are hiking.

Let's meet virtually, and get some pointers! Mike Radomski, who directs a local hiking project, and recently became an Adirondack 46er, will be our virtual guest speaker during October. Please keep an eye on the weekly email for details on our virtual speaker. We hope to see you all there as we practice meeting virtually and safely.

- Submitted by Teresa Corrigan



## Message from the Chair

On September 8, we held our first virtual chapter meeting on Zoom. We started by holding our overdue election. Greg Germaine was confirmed as the First vice-chair/Outings and will complete the term of our previous outings chair, ending in August 2021. Bob Van Hise was re-elected as Second vice-chair/Conservation for another two-year term.

Since this was also a virtual ice cream social, we had a contest to see who could create the most amazing confection. Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney won with her ice cream mountain peak, complete with flag. Her prize is, most appropriately, a gift certificate to Anderson's Ice Cream.

The highlight of the meeting was the annual vacation slide show. I want to thank all the members who participated. In this unusual time, it is fortunate that we have the technology that enables us to carry on our activities in spite of the pandemic. We are now actively seeking members to present more virtual programming in the coming months.

On another positive note, I received an email from the club headquarters informing me that they will be able to resume sending us our share of the annual dues, so we will no longer be restricted to operating on an austerity budget.



***IN SPITE OF THESE SUCCESSES, I HAVE SOME REAL CONCERNS ABOUT OUR FUTURE. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF RECENT VACANCIES IN OUR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, INCLUDING THE EDUCATION AND PROGRAM CHAIRS. THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING THE ACTIVITIES AT OUR MEETINGS. UNTIL THE POSITIONS ARE FILLED, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO RESUME IN-PERSON MEETINGS, EVEN IF THE PANDEMIC SITUATION IMPROVES.***

Our director, Rob Laing, has also given up his position. He is continuing to serve in his role as webmaster. We thank him for his past service, and his continued commitment to our chapter. Fortunately, we already have two alternate directors, Kate Hacker, and Cheryl Peluso, whose role is to step in if the director is unable to continue. So, that position is covered. Our thanks, Kate and Cheryl, to the both of you.

Mary Noack, our newsletter editor and electronic communication chair, has accepted what must be a dream job, working at the Adirondack Loj. She has graciously offered to continue to serve in these roles for the foreseeable future. However, I do think it would be a good idea to recruit a local assistant to help her as needed.



I want to close by making an appeal to all of our members. For our chapter to survive and thrive, we need you to consider volunteering for one of these open positions. If you have the time and talent to fill one of these roles, please reach out to me or another member of the executive committee. Take care, be safe, and stay healthy...

— Paul M. Gannon

## Outings

**10/03 – SAT – ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP/HIKE – Tillman Rd State Wildlife Mgmt Area, Clarence (C)**  
RAINDATE – SUN – 10/04

Lynn & Doug Kenney (716) 825-7329, Day of hike call (716) 361-6172.

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. We expect there will be more litter than usual since we were unable to complete the spring clean-up because the pandemic had suspended outings. Meet at the Shisler Road parking lot located at the eastern end of Wehrle Drive. Garbage bags are supplied, please bring work gloves. Clean-up takes about 2 hours. For

those who are interested we will hike through the wildlife area afterwards. Masks are mandatory when you are unable to social distance.

#### **10/04 - SUNDAY - BIKE (B)**

"So long summer," Sunday morning ride on lightly trafficked roads in Clarence, Newstead, Akron - approx 20 miles. Trip Leader - Mike Lex. Please email trip leader at [mblex@roadrunner.com](mailto:mblex@roadrunner.com) for further details. Limit 10 participants... REGISTER EARLY!!

#### **10/13 - TUES - BIKE - Heritage Trail in Lancaster (B)**

Mike Lex, [mblex@roadrunner.com](mailto:mblex@roadrunner.com)

Cyclists will also travel mostly light trafficked roads to the path in Westwood Park and then ride on Erie St back to the start. Flat easy 10 miles. Helmets and bike in working order required. Limit 10 participants... REGISTER EARLY!!

#### **10/10- SAT - HIKE- College Lodge Forest Chautauqua County (B)**

Lynn & Doug Kenney (716) 825-7329, Day of the hike call (716) 361-6172

This is a real gem that we just learned about from Terry Belke on the 2 The Outdoors TV segment. Fredonia College currently owns this property that is covered with an old growth Hemlock forest and a wide variety of plants. The property has been put up for sale and the Western NY Land Conservancy is trying to raise funds to purchase the property to keep it as a nature preserve. If the land is sold to a logger/developer, this could be your only chance to see this wonderful spot. We will be hiking a 4 mile loop. There are many side trails that run off of this loop if participants want to hike a longer distance. Please bring water and rain gear. Masks will be mandatory when we are unable to maintain a social distance.

#### **10/18 - SUNDAY – HIKE - Deerlick Nature Preserve (B)**

Carolyn Wessel Kerr, 716-553-4335

Deer Lick is a wonderful nature preserve managed by the Nature Conservancy in the Zoar Valley. All the trails are round trip so we will not have to spot cars. We will, however, meet in a location in Gowanda and caravan to the parking lot of Deer Lick. Please bring the 10 Essentials, water, a snack and COVID safety equipment. Please call to sign-up, get meeting time and location, and to review COVID protocols. Rain cancels. REGISTER EARLY!!

#### **10/18 - SUNDAY - BIKE - Boston Hills (B)**

Mike Lex, [mblex@roadrunner.com](mailto:mblex@roadrunner.com)

Morning start for a ride along the roads and hills of Boston. Riders should be comfortable cycling on roadways and able to climb some challenging terrain. Mileage to be determined. Helmets and bike in working order required. Limit 10 participants... REGISTER EARLY!!

## Conservation Corner



### *Designate Buffalo's Outer Harbor on Lake Erie Coast as Parkland*

Our Lake Erie coast is and always was Buffalo's greatest asset. It should be officially designated as parkland to protect and support its public value as our drinking water supply, our access to Lake Erie, as a globally-significant fish & wildlife habitat, and as crucial to Buffalo's climate resilience and recovery from the impacts of its industrial past. Declare the Outer Harbor A PARK to protect Lake Erie Coast as a public trust that belongs to all of us in perpetuity.

Access to premium beauty, water and recreation: Our Lake Erie coast is one of Buffalo's most diverse, well-used, and beautiful open spaces. It is the location Olmsted desired to complete his world-renowned park system for Buffalo. And now, for the first time since Buffalo became a city, it is undeveloped, mostly public land, and already heavily used as a PARK by fisherman, photographers, hikers, skiers, bikers, wind surfers, boaters, kite flyers, and picnickers. It is the perfect, peaceful and natural counterbalance to the Inner Harbor's focus on residential, commercial and active recreational use.

Significant global and regional wildlife: Because of its strategic location in the Great Lakes, Buffalo's Outer Harbor is the gateway to the Niagara River globally Important Bird Area – a migration corridor connecting habitats from the Amazon forests to the Arctic tundra. It is a critical spawning and nursery area for Lake Erie fish. It provides stopover, breeding and/or wintering grounds for many rare fish and wildlife species including Lake Sturgeon, Muskellunge, Snowy Owls, Common Terns, a rich diversity of warbler species, and more! A PARK DESIGNATION will help to conserve and restore this wildlife and their habits.

Clean water = healthy people, ecosystems, and a strong economy: This is an environmental justice issue that affects everybody's health in Buffalo, and the health of everybody that lives downstream. A nature-based, Olmstedian PARK allows contaminated water, soil, fish and wildlife time to recover and sustain the next seven generations. In this time of accelerated climate change, extreme weather events, a global pandemic, and an unstable global economy, parkland is key to our local ability to heal and build a sustainable foundation for future life and economies.

The public trust: Great Lakes coastal and submerged lands are a public trust to be held in perpetuity for uses including protection of environmental resources. Until the PARK designation is in place, we need the state to cease piecemeal private development on the Outer Harbor. This land is traditional Haudenosaunee territory and has always been a public trust for all people and life to enjoy. Now more than ever public lands must be held in the interest of the public good.

Please sign our petition for an Outer Harbor Park! A formal parkland designation is needed to protect our water, our Lake Erie coast and our access to it.

This is your park — love it, protect it, reclaim it and restore it!

We the undersigned urge our lawmakers to officially designate this land as a public park.

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Links to sources and more info:

1. Partnership for the Public Good's Parkland Proposal -

[https://ppgbuffalo.org/files/documents/environment/buffalos\\_outer\\_harbor\\_the\\_right\\_place\\_for\\_a\\_world-class\\_park.pdf](https://ppgbuffalo.org/files/documents/environment/buffalos_outer_harbor_the_right_place_for_a_world-class_park.pdf)

2. Buffalo's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) – [https://docs.dos.ny.gov/opd-lwrp/LWRP/Bufalo\\_C/BufaloLWRP.pdf](https://docs.dos.ny.gov/opd-lwrp/LWRP/Bufalo_C/BufaloLWRP.pdf)

3. Our Outer Harbor Coalition – <http://www.ourouterharbor.org/>

4. Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) Outer Harbor Public Meeting info – <https://buffalowaterfront.com/accessandactivation>

5. Buffalo's Green Code – <https://www.buffalony.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1785/Bufalo-Green-Code---Unified-Development-Ordinance-PDF?bidId=>

## Trip Reports

### 08/09/20 – BIKE - Riverwalk

One of those too absolutely perfect days in Buffalo took a couple of cyclists all across the waterfront. I was grateful for just one last bike ride along my favorite paths before leaving for the mountains; leaving from N.Buffalo along the Scajaquada Trail to Unity Island, LaSalle Park, Erie Basin Marina, Canalside, Ohio St. to the Small Boat Harbor. We reveled in how lucky it is to have such a bike system in our city! Sundaes at Lake Effect Ice Cream after was necessary after such a ride!

- Submitted by Mary Kay Noack





**08/25/20 – HIKE – Conservation Trail**

5 dedicated hikers braved a forecast of thunderstorms and showers to explore the Holland Ravines Trail, part of the Conservation Trail which threads through privately owned lands.

We enjoyed an out-and-back 7.6 mile hike through ravines and hardwood and conifer forests, luckily with barely a drop of rain.

- *Submitted by Leslie Salathe*

**08/30/20 – BIKE – Grand Island**

Our ride around Grand Island went very well. Adk bicyclists were treated to a cool morning perfect for a ride around Grand Island. Cyclists covered 22 miles most of which had beautiful views of the Niagara River. The West River Rd bike path provides a safe and scenic route.

- *Submitted by Mike Lex*



**09/02/20 – BIKE - Clarence**

Despite threatening skies and gusty winds, ADK cyclists enjoyed a 10 mile ride through the Town of Clarence. Cyclists traveled along the West Shore Bike Path and pedaled on lightly trafficked roads. The ride passed through the Tillman Rd Wildlife Management Area and the Clarence Town Park.

- *Submitted by Mike Lex*

**09/05/20 – HIKE – Ampersand Mt.**



Venturing out to a popular hike on the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend in the Adirondack Mountains will always be an entertaining adventure. Starting early, hoping to avoid most crowds was an obvious choice, what wasn't obvious was the wonderful encounters one could have during such a trek (especially during a time where you are distancing yourself) – various interactions with hikers new and old made a 'tried-n-true' hike very memorable – not to mention the summit nap! I ran into so many new to the ADK with stars in their eyes of what they heard the summit would be like (they had much to look forward to) and old friends on #4 of their *Saranac 6 Ultra* attempt!! This hike made my weekend!

- *Submitted by Mary Kay Noack*



An interesting scenario crept into our midst recently. As road trippers told DEC, their GPS led them down Meadows Ln. then the old 'jeep road' trail to Marcy Dam.

*Photo credit: Eric Englot*

# Opinions Regarding Bylaws Vote

I write regarding the proposed changes to the ADK bylaws. Members have recently received ballots in order to vote for or against these new bylaws. I am a member of the Niagara Frontier Chapter. As a lawyer, I represented, for over thirty years, the student governing body representing over 25,000 students of the SUNY Buffalo and worked with student leaders of a membership corporation on numerous governance issues. I love the Adirondacks and have spent enough time of my adulthood with my family in the region to become a 46er (#4576) and introduce my grandchildren to hiking and paddling in the Saranac area. I am opposed to the proposed bylaw amendments, and here's why.

## Membership

A vote "yes" for changes will be your last meaningful vote that could influence the mission, direction, or policy of the club. Under the new bylaws, directors will be selected by other directors, not by the members through their chapters. In turn, the self-selected directors will have the authority to govern all aspects of the club. The membership, under the current bylaws, has the authority to amend the bylaws and certificate of incorporation. The amendment power will now be in the hands of the self-selected directors.

The current bylaws indicate that ADK is a "member directed organization". Sorry members, that phrase is deleted from the new bylaws. There is no question that the recent strategic plan wants to streamline decision making at the expense of the rights of the membership to participate in crucial decisions that affect the mission of ADK.

The membership is allotted an advisory council of trustees elected from each chapter. The new bylaws describe their role, solely, as providing reports to the board of directors and responding to their requests. This member elected advisory council has no control over ADK operations. The membership council under the proposal will have one seat on the board of directors of between 12 and 20 members.

## Nominations of new directors

Nominations for the directors that currently serve came through the bylaw that allows chapters to nominate and elect directors. I cannot find in the proposed bylaws any process for the nomination of new directors. How is that going to work?

## Officers

The self-selected board under the new bylaws nominates and elects officers to oversee the operations and finances of ADK. Deleted are the words, "The president is directly accountable to ADK's membership."

I asked the current ADK executive director, Michael Barrett, why such changes in the bylaws were necessary. He cited several problems facing the corporation: non-compliance with NY not-for-profit corporation law, a graying membership, a small endowment in relation to the size of the organization, past year financial deficits, and difficulty getting the current board of directors to confront these issues.

Does limiting the membership to one seat on the board solve any of these issues?

Without eliminating the power of the membership to vote, the board of directors could be streamlined, the election process standardized, and communications between the board of directors, chapters and members improved, and our 99 year old organization readied for another century of dedication to the Adirondacks.

My conclusion, with regard to these proposed changes to the ADK bylaws, is that the losses to the membership far outweigh the gains to the corporation.

I would urge the membership to vote "no."

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Shonn Jr., Esq.  
ADK-NFC

The first letter featured here has been written to the editor of *The Adirondack Daily Enterprise*, by Don Schonn an attorney and longtime member of ADK-NFC.

-Submitted by Larry Beahan

The second letter is from ADK President Tom Andrews outlining more information.

-Submitted by Paul Gannon

A few weeks ago, after the By-Laws Working Group completed its work and the Board took action on the proposed bylaws, I asked the Executive Director to conduct Zoom calls with ADK members and chapters on the proposed revisions and to report back with any comments, criticisms, and/or concerns. Yesterday evening, the Executive Committee reviewed those issues and decided to take corrective action on a few critical points.

The Executive Committee has resolved to amend the proposed revisions, at the earliest possible opportunity, to ensure that any future changes to the bylaws and selection of any directors requires approval by the membership. To be sure, the Executive Committee shares the concern with the membership that ADK be managed by an accountable Board of Directors, accountable to itself, the mission of ADK, and the membership. These changes to the proposed bylaws will ensure that the Board performs its critical obligations with the skills and talents needed while also remaining accountable to the members.

We hope you will consider this action by the Executive Committee as you cast your ballots on the adoption of a new set of bylaws for our organization.

Sincerely,



Tom Andrews  
ADK President

## Our Executive Committee

Chair	Paul Gannon	paulmgannon54@gmail.com	(716) 395-5739
Outings Chair	Greg Germaine	gwg99t@gmail.com	(716) 696-0829
Conservation Chair	Bob Van Hise	adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com	(716) 628-0355
Programs Chair			
Education Chair			
Membership Chair	Kathy Clerkin	kmclerkin@gmail.com	
Director			
Alternate Director	Kate Hacker Cheryl Peluso		
Webmaster	Rob Laing	rlaing537@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Doug Gaffney	dgaffney@roadrunner.com	(716) 631-3979
Electronic Communication Chair & Newsletter Editor	Mary Kathryn Noack	marynoac@buffalo.edu	
Secretary	Larry Beahan	larry_beahan@roadrunner.com	(716) 839-3112
Hospitality	Carol Schuster	carolschuster@gmail.com	
Archivist/Historian	Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney	woodthrush3@hotmail.com	(716) 825-7329
Outings Co-chair: Waterways	Richard Schraven	richardschraven1@gmail.com	(716) 564-2106
Outings Co-chair: Biking	Mike Lex	mblex@roadrunner.com	(716) 430-8986
Outings Co-chair: Hiking & Winter	Leslie Salathe	lesliesalathe@live.com	