



THE NIAGARA EXPLORER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club
Niagara Frontier Chapter



Paddling Safety for Beginners & Reminders for the Experienced

Are you getting excited for spring weather here in WNY? It is time to get your paddling gear cleaned up and refresh your skills. Join us for our April meeting for a presentation on Paddling - everything you need to know to be safe, have fun and take advantage of WNY's wonderful waterways.

Richard and Mary Schraven, paddling co-chair and past outings chair will be joined by [Andrea Vaillancourt-Alder](#), an American Canoe Association certified paddling instructor. Andrea has helped trained many ADK-NFC members, including Mary and Richard and we are delighted she is willing to share her extensive experiences and knowledge with us.

We will also be announcing upcoming paddling trainings, in a local pool and later in open water. This will be a chance to get the necessary training to participate safely in paddling sports this season.

Our Virtual General Meeting:

Tuesday, April 13, at 7 PM

Our upcoming 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.



Message from the Chair

Spring is finally upon us!! It is a season of renewal, and new growth. Already we have seen blue skies, fluffy white clouds, and bright sunshine. We've experienced some warm days, with more to come. As I write this, new buds are sprouting from the tips of the branches in the trees beyond my window.

It was one year ago that we held our last in-person meeting, and then suspended outings and cancelled our summer picnic. Since then, we have depended on the miracles of modern communication to stay in touch and conduct our business. Fortunately, the end may be within our sight. If we don't see a

surge from spring travel or new variants, and the vaccine rollout continues to reach more of our population, we may be able to resume some normal activities by the fall. I am looking forward to our next in-person meeting.

On the topic of renewal and new growth, our nominating committee has been searching diligently for candidates to replace myself and Greg Germaine when our terms expire, and for someone to serve out the remainder of our Program chair's term. It appears that they will be successful. We have decided to continue our Zoom meetings until summer so we will hold the elections during an online business meeting in June. However, we have high hopes that we will be able to have a picnic before the end of August.

Until then, take care, be safe, and stay healthy...

Paul M. Gannon | Chapter Chair



Announcements

Leadership Changes

To keep our membership updated, there are a number of changes occurring within our chapter leadership at this time. First of all, Kathy Clerkin, our longtime Membership chair, is stepping down and will not be active in our chapter in the future. Mike Lex, our Biking co-chair, is also stepping down due to other pressing commitments. We thank them for their service and wish them well!



The other major changes involve the recent adoption of the new bylaws by the main club. The old board of directors' structure, where each chapter elected a director and alternates, is being transformed into a smaller board consisting of members recruited for their expertise in specific areas, such as finance or hospitality.

To provide a mechanism for chapters to have input at the state level, a new advisory council is being formed, which will be made up of a trustee from each chapter. Several representatives from the advisory council will then serve on the new board of directors.



The exact details of the new advisory council and the trustee positions are yet to be determined. In the meantime, many chapters are having their existing director transition to serve as the trustee. Kate Hacker, one of our alternate directors, has been serving on the board of directors since Rob Laing resigned his position as director last fall. Kate has volunteered, has been appointed as our chapter trustee and will represent us on the new advisory council through the end of her original term ending in December 2021.



Cheryl Peluso has been serving as our other alternate director. Now that the positions of director and alternates are being phased out, we thank Rob, Cheryl, and Kate for their past service, and Kate for accepting this new role.

Our nominating committee has been working diligently to recruit members to run for chapter chair and outings chair at our upcoming election during the online business meeting in June. They have also been seeking someone to volunteer to be appointed to serve as program chair for the duration of the open term, which ends in August 2022. It appears that they have found candidates for all three positions. Stay tuned for further information!

Leaders Needed!

Are you someone who thinks you want to try out something new? The state ADK mission says “ADK works to protect NY wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates.” We are not just another meetup group scheduling local hikes! We have a strong conservation committee and provide monthly presentations on outdoor education topics and topics of interest to members. Our club supports outdoor activities including paddling, hiking and biking. ADK also has opportunities for people to start other activities such as trail work, local publications, local education programs, websites with information and anything you might be interested in related to the club mission.

We have many other appointed positions that are available, although most of those are filled by dedicated volunteers at this point. Dedicated members who think they want to move up into a leadership position are welcome to volunteer! Anyone who thinks they might be interested should contact our Chapter Chair, Paul Gannon

- *Kate Hacker | Nominating Committee*

Outings for ADK-NFC have resumed!

We are looking for Trip Leaders to setup outings for upcoming months!! Please contact Greg (gwg99t@gmail.com) with your outing. If you need suggestions or want to become a Trip Leader, our Outings Co-Chairs can help!

- Hiking & Winter, Leslie Salathe, lesliesalathe@live.com
- Waterways, Richard Schraven, richardschraven1@gmail.com

Please note that we will operate under the same guidelines established July 2020 to remain as safe as possible during this pandemic. A brief overview is listed below:

- Day trips ONLY. Overnight outings are prohibited.
- Outings are limited to a maximum of 10 participants.
- Participants must contact the leader and register in advance.
- Carpooling and spotting of cars are not allowed. Participants from different households are to provide their own transportation.
- The trip plan may not include eating in restaurants prior to or after the outing. Purchasing food from take out windows, such as ice cream stands, is allowed.
- All participants must carry sanitizer/ (or) soap and face masks, and review the following mask use rules.
- Masks are to be readily accessible so that they may be donned quickly when needed. Masks must be worn when within 6 feet of others, especially at busy trailheads and parking areas, public restrooms, when passing others on a trail, at a destination such as a summit, pond, or other attraction, and when stopping at rest areas, gas stations, and other crowded areas.
- Participants from different households are not to share equipment, food, or drinks. They need to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more from members of other households.



The 2021 Earth Day Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale

The time has come once again to update your garden space to earth-friendlier water and fertilizer! As you select various items to purchase, options for you to select a pick up location and date will pop up. ErieComposterSale.com

A summary of items and the sale, along with specifications for the System® rain barrel and Earth Machine™ compost bin can be found [HERE](#), [HERE](#), and [HERE](#) respectively.



Outings

SAT - 04/17 – HIKE - Chestnut Ridge

Leslie Salathe, Leslie salathe@live.com or 716-560-1311

7-9 miles, (A) for length and pace.

Meet at the casino parking lot. We will hike on the roads doing multiple hill reps. Sturdy hiking boots or trail shoes recommended, poles optional. Dress for the weather and bring water and a snack. Please check with trip leader about possible use of micro spikes close to the outing. Call for meet up time - Limit 10 participants, Covid protocols followed. All participants must register with the trip leader!



Looking for Adventure Inspiration?

Wilderness Weekends in WNY

Presented by your very own ADK-NFC, 'WWinWNY' is a 25 hike challenge that has no time limit! Work your way through WNY using our Wilderness Weekends guide book, or visit [WW in WNY](#) for more information!

Some blooms to spot on your spring adventures...

Bloodroot, Great Spurred Violet, Foamflower, and Painted Trillium



Outings Ratings

Rating	Effort Level	Elevation Gain (ft)	Miles
A	Difficult	1500+	8+
B	Moderate	Under 1500	6-8
C	Easy	Well-graded trails	Under 6



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			
Advisory Council Trustee	Kate Hacker		
Webmaster	Rob Laing	rlaing537@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Doug Gaffney	dgaffney@roadrunner.com	(716) 631-3979
Newsletter Editor & Electronic Communication Chair	Mary Kathryn Noack	marynoac@buffalo.edu	
Secretary	Larry Beahan	larry_beahan@roadrunner.com	(716) 839-3112
Hospitality	Carol Schuster	carolfschuster@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			
Outings Co-chair: Hiking & Winter	Leslie Salathe	lesliesalathe@live.com	
Webinar coordinator (interim)	Mike Radomski	mike.radomski@gmail.com	(716) 807-4040

**Working for
Wilderness**