



# THE NIAGARA EXPLORER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club  
Niagara Frontier Chapter



## A Chat with ADK Staff

Our February program will be on the Adirondack Mountain Club trail work program, presented by the Trails Coordinator, Andrew Hamlin.

Hamlin has, not only worked for ADK for over a decade—first as a lead trail crew member and later as Trails Coordinator, but is also a Leave No Trace Master Educator. As an authority on trail damage assessments and applying trail construction techniques to mitigate trail corridor damage, he lists his objective as protecting the natural resources in New York State’s wilderness and wild forests.

In his role as Trails Coordinator he regularly consults with state officials and other non-profits to advocate for the protection of NYS public land.

ADK is a leader in trail work in the Adirondacks and Catskills, and this program will give us current and historical information of the work done in the ADK region.

## *Looking Ahead*

At our March meeting, Mike Radomski will discuss the *WNY Hiking Challenge* and some of the inner workings of map creation.

He will show how he went about mapping local parks using existing maps, GPS devices, and tools like AllTrails and Strava. Mike will briefly discuss how to create your own maps using these methods and free mapping tools. These methods can be used to plan any kind of future hiking and backpacking trips.

There is still time to register for this year's winter challenge at [outsidechronicles.com](http://outsidechronicles.com)

## *Our Virtual General Meeting:*

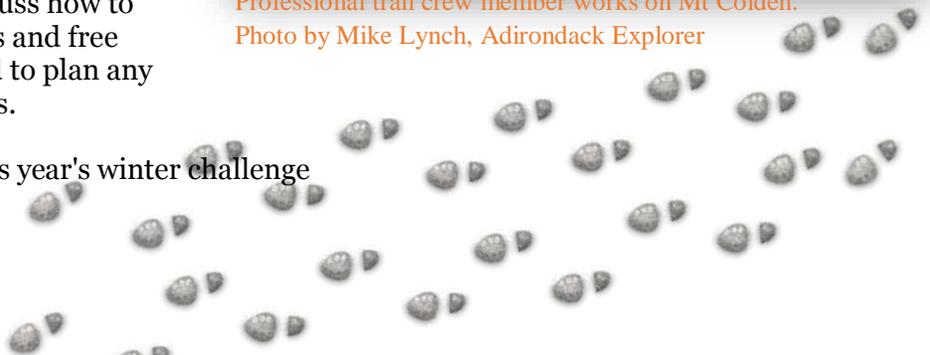
**Tuesday, February 9, at 7 PM**

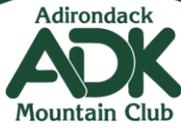
The February Zoom meeting will start with a brief chapter meeting, with our program starting around 7:10 pm.

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



Professional trail crew member works on Mt Colder.  
Photo by Mike Lynch, Adirondack Explorer





## *Message from the Chair*

On January 12, we had 28 members join us for our online chapter meeting and program. We welcomed Kayla White, from the main club education staff, as she discussed the Summit Steward initiative. Her presentation included some glorious photos of the Adirondack wilderness that we all love so much.

During February's online meeting, we will be visited by Andrew Hamlin, ADK's Trails Coordinator. I am looking forward to this event. Our new online programming has been well-received, and I encourage all of you to consider joining us. Look for more information in this newsletter, and upcoming emails.

We will most likely continue operating in this fashion until it is safe to, once again, meet in person. I do not expect conditions to allow this until at least September.

Meanwhile, our nominating committee continues its search for new leaders who are willing to take on the responsibilities of Chapter chair and 1st Vice-chair / Outings when Greg and I complete our terms at the end of August. We also have a need for members to volunteer to be appointed to immediately fill the vacant positions of 3rd Vice-chair / Programs and Education chair.

I appeal to all of our members to seriously consider making this commitment to serve our chapter. It requires effort, that is true. However, it is also very rewarding. Please reach out to Kate Hacker, Leslie Salathe, or Fran D'Amico, of the nominating committee. Thank you.

Take care, be safe, and stay healthy...  
- *Paul M. Gannon | Chapter Chair*



## *Announcements*

### ***Leaders Needed!***

In June the Niagara Frontier chapter of ADK will elect a new Chapter Chair and First vice Chair for outings. The state Director position, which I currently occupy, will convert to an Advisory board position and we may need to vote for that also. The Chapter and Program Chair positions are critical positions for which we currently do not have anyone to nominate.

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.

The Chapter Chair is responsible for convening monthly meetings, coordinating various volunteers and maintaining communication with the main club. The Outings Chair is responsible for coordinating outing leaders and developing a list of outings each month. Currently, the outings chair does the weekly email to

members, which includes a description of the outings each week. This is done through an easy to use computer program. This function can be done by the newsletter editor, which is a position we need a local person, as our current editor, Mary Noack, lives in the North Country working for the main club.

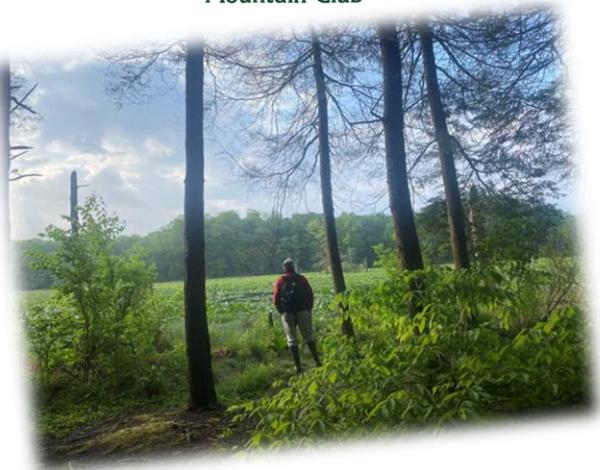
We also have many other appointed positions that are available, although most of those are filled by dedicated volunteers at this point. Dedicated members who think they want to move up into a leadership position are welcome to volunteer! Anyone who thinks they might be interested should call or email me (hackerks@gmail.com), Leslie Salathe (lesliesalathe@live.com), or Fran D'Amico (billsfran@aol.com)

- *Kate Hacker | Nominating Committee*

## **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.



*Marsh in early light  
Photo by Nancy Smith from Buffalo Rising*

Thanks to the dedication of people who have fought to protect this land, including the Friends of the College Lodge Forest and everyone who donated to protect it, WNYLC did secure the funds to save it. Closing has already begun!

*Conservation Corner*

### **Fundraising Success –**

#### **Western New York Land Conservancy (WNYLC)**

“The College Lodge Forest in Chautauqua County near Fredonia is one of the most exquisite natural areas remaining in Western New York. There are groves of ancient hemlocks and a thriving marsh. Trillium, orchids, and lilies cover the forest floor. But the land was threatened, and the old-growth trees could have been logged.” - WNYLC

Originally purchased by Fredonia for learning purposes, the forest is a haven for nature lovers in the way of researchers, poets, artists, and musicians. The school decided to sell a portion of the land, hoping the Land Conservancy could be of help in preserving one of the last old growth forests in the area.

### **Our Virtual Conservation Meeting:**

**Tuesday, February 16, at 7 PM**

The Conservation Committee will continue to use Zoom for monthly meetings – all are welcome!

If you are joining for the first time, contact Lynn at woodthrush3@hotmail.com



**01/09 – XCSKI – Saranac Lake Public Golf Course**

The ADK region started the New Year off with the perfect amount of fresh snow! I waited until some brave souls blazed tracks at the golf course – my skinny skis don't fare well in deep snow. Absolutely beautiful 'blue bird' day!



**01/11 – HIKE – Salmon River Falls**

In the Tug Hill region, we hiked down to the 110-ft. Falls, which were almost completely frozen! Then, along the ridge to the hydroelectric dam. The falls are popular for ice climbing and in the summer the river levels can increase dramatically when they open the dam. Definitely would be somewhere cool to see in the summer months!

- Submitted by Mary K. Noack

**01/21 – XCSKI – Knox Farm**

Leslie Salathe and I skied at Knox State Park in the new snow. Hopefully we will get plenty more!

- Submitted by Kate Hacker



***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!

**WNY Winter Hiking Challenge**

Presented by *Outside Chronicles*, our Program Chair and local adventurer/blogger designed this challenge to not only give people an opportunity to visit local parks and explore new trails, but also to educate participants on parks' history and local tree species while on the trail. (You can totally earn a patch too).

Visit [outsidechronicles.com](http://outsidechronicles.com) for more information!



*Our Executive Committee*

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Programs Chair			
Education Chair			
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Alternate Director	Cheryl Peluso		
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Outings Co-chair: Biking	Mike Lex	mblex@roadrunner.com	(716) 430-8986
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**