



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ADK-NFC wishes all our members a prosperous and snowy New Year! Putting our best foot forward (hopefully on trail and in snowshoes) for 2021 to be filled with adventure!! Whether it be just embracing winter, getting out on your skis more than last year, or crossing off a bucket list trek – we hope you and your loved ones are enjoying this especially festive holiday season!!



Mary K. Noack

A Chat with ADK Staff

Our Virtual General Meeting:

Tuesday, January 12, 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.

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, as she gives 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.

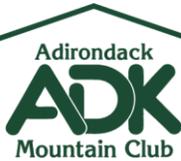
Kayla and the ADK staff have made some great short videos, and hopefully we will see a few of those. Join us for what should be a great program!

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.



Message from the Chair

On behalf of the entire executive committee, I would like to wish all of you a happy and healthy new year. We have struggled for months with a global pandemic. Now, with the roll out of effective vaccines, the beginning of the end is in sight. Hopefully, 2021 will see a return to a more normal way of life. This process will probably take longer than we would like. I am not expecting to be able to resume outings until at least springtime, and in-person meetings until September.

In the meantime, we need to carry on as best we can. Our editor, Mary Noack continues to produce a quality newsletter to keep us connected. We also plan on holding online meetings over Zoom every month. To assist us, we need someone with a combination of outdoor and computer skills, who is experienced in online presentations. That is a tall order. Fortunately, Mike Radomski, a member of our chapter, fits the bill. Mike has volunteered to accept the position of Interim Webinar Coordinator. In this role, he will help us to present interesting and entertaining programming. This will continue until we are able to resume meetings in person. Thank you, Mike!

At our December slide show, I am pleased to report, 29 members participated. Join us for this month's meeting with Kayla White from ADK's education staff, whom will discuss Leave No Trace and the Summit Steward program. Keep watch for our zoom meeting link in your email closer to that date. In the meantime, I hope you continue to get out and enjoy nature on your own, in a safe and responsible manner. Feel free to share your photos and stories with us by emailing them to Greg Germaine, Outings chair. We'd love to see what you are up to.

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



Director's Report

The ADK Board of Directors had a couple of zoom meetings over the last few weeks to review the progress of the Strategic Plan and transition to 2021. There is a legal review of the new by-laws being done at this point and implementation of new board structure will start in earnest when that is completed.

A review of the activities of the club showed that the club survived this very unusual year, but with the continuing pandemic it is not known if the proposed budget will have to be modified during the year. The Loj and associated properties were able to reopen and function at somewhat reduced capacity. Other functions of the club including education, trails, publications, and advocacy continued in modified form. Changes are coming to the club website which should lead to better access to information by members. You can read about new education programs and conservation issues on the main club website, ADK.org.

A meeting will be held in early January for chapter chairs and directors to brainstorm ideas for the transition to a new design. Improvement in chapter and main club communications will hopefully lead to improved programming and operations. For more detail on any of these issues please feel free to contact Kate, 491-7046.

- *Kate Hacker | Alternate Director*



Conservation Corner

The Conservation Committee held an in depth discussion about the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation's (ECHDC) projected plans for the Buffalo Outer Harbor. First up was the success that the public comment period deadline was extended from early December to January 8th. Thank you to Larry Beahan for submitting a letter on behalf of the ADK-NFC Conservation Committee, requesting the comment period extension. The committee will be submitting comments regarding our concerns over the proposed development plans and recommends that other ADK members submit their own comments by the new deadline date.

The ADK-NFC Chapter is part of the Our Outer Harbor (OOH) coalition (<http://www.ourouterharbor.org>), we are concerned about the appropriate development of this area. The OOH is advocating for a park designation to ensure equal/equitable public access in perpetuity. ADK-NFC Conservation Committee and many ADK members have signed a petition advocating for the park designation. OOH wants to build on the benefits of a unique barrier island ecosystem that is home to natural habitats for local and global species. The ECHDC plan only mentions the sturgeon as a species of concern. OOH believes having habitat for migrating birds is an important function of this area.

Another concern is that ECHDC assigned a Negative Declaration to the project so a full Environmental Impact Statement would not be required. OOH is advocating for a full Environmental Impact Statement. OOH is concerned about the impact of large concerts and festivals in this area and feels those type of events are more appropriate for the nearby Terminal B area of the Buffalo Outer Harbor that already has infrastructure in place. The plan does not address frequent sewage over flows upstream from the Outer Harbor. The Conservation Committee believes the Outer Harbor should advocate for passive recreation and limit over development.

- *Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney | Archivist/Historian*



12/14 – HIKE – Indian Head

It finally became time for me to do the iconic Indian Head hike out of the Ausable Club in St. Huberts. A blistery cold day gave way to deserted trails with beautifully frozen brooks and sections of trail that are usually sloppy! We headed to Fish Hawks Cliffs first to see Indian Head from a far, enjoyed the iconic view of Ausable Lakes from Indian Head, ate some chili at the 'Boat House', then trekked over to Rainbow Falls before heading home!

- *Submitted by Mary K. Noack*

Our Virtual Conservation Meeting:

Tuesday, January 19, 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

Trip Reports





46 Down, and 0 to Go!

Another member of our chapter has joined the ranks of the Adirondack 46ers. Congratulations to Russ Pieri, who finished his last peak by climbing Whiteface Mountain on the weekend after Thanksgiving. He reported that the weather was clear and cold, but the winds were strong; they almost tore our chapter 46er flag from his hands. Well done, Russ!

- Submitted by Paul Gannon



Freeze up

Ice starting to form on Buffalo Creek in West Seneca. Winter is coming!

- Submitted by Paul Gannon

12/01 – Backpack – Finger Lakes Trail

My family and I have been hoping for a backpacking trip to materialize this year ... and we finally got there! Oxford, NY of Chenango County, my father, mother and I hiked along scenic creeks with many waterfalls well into nightfall to the Ludlow Creek leanto maintained by Bull Thistle and Triple Cities Hiking clubs - right at the creek's edge! At day break, my father managed a small but mighty fire and we were able to have hot coffee – hooray!!! The next day's hike was so wonderful; second growth forests, frozen muddy logging trails, and on through Bowman Lake State Park.

- Submitted by Mary K. Noack





Our Executive Committee

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