



TRAILMARKER

Adirondack Mountain Club

Iroquois Chapter

Est 1972

March 2017

President's Corner...



Weather station, Whiteface Mountain summit *Photo credit: Greg Smith*

The February chapter meeting was well attended by both ADK and community members. I suspect the excellent program on bluebirds presented by John Rogers was the primary reason. That said, I hope to have future programs that will attract a large group to our monthly meetings. Certainly credit goes to Carol White for contacting many local publications, and Norm Landis for a system wide computer reminder to chapter members. Should any member have a program idea, please let me know so that I can pursue it further. I promise that I will not corner you to become program chair. Currently, I am developing a list of candidates for our 2017 fall meeting schedule.

April is our annual open house, so presenters are needed. Please contact our Education Chair, Greg Smith, or me if you can help out with this annual affair.

Bill Lupino, Trips Chairman, is making steady progress with our chapter meetup site. If and when he can solve several minor hitches, he plans to have the site up and running

in two to four months. Details will follow when this project is completed. For those members who plan on attending the March chapter meeting please peruse the ADK Scholarship Funds within this issue of the Trailmarker. These funds present an opportunity for our chapter to make a donation. We need to discuss the dollar amount and which scholarship funds we wish to support.

It has been a crazy winter season with lots of snow up north interspersed with warm, rainy weather. Hopefully members are able to get out between storm systems to snow shoe, ski, or snowmobile. Please check out the trips section of the Trailmarker to see if a trip may interest you. Should you be retired and looking for an adventure in a remote region of the Adirondacks during the middle of the week, please contact me. Enjoy the balance of winter, and I will see you either on the trail or perhaps the March meeting, where Ed Kobos will have your chapter patch.

Paul Sirtoli

TRAILMARKER

Iroquois Chapter

Chairman **Paul Sirtoli**
9435 Chapman Rd. New Hartford, NY 13413
737-8353 alexsirtoli@outlook.com

Vice Chair **Doug Tinkler**
4 Clintonville Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413
271-4759 dt46x40@yahoo.com

Secretary **Charlene Zebley**
942-5176 jwg@frontiernet.net

Treasurer **David White**
Membership **Carol White**
28 Mulberry St., Clinton, NY 13323
853-1070 ccswhite@juno.com

Director **Thomas Andrews**
914 Franklyn St., Rome, NY 13440
(315)339-3753 tjmz@ix.netcom.com

Education **Greg Smith**
6000 Lower Lawrence St. Rome, NY 13440
796-0906 greg@adirondack-park.net

Stewardship (Lean-tos) **Norm Landis**
708 Healy Ave., Rome, NY 13440
336-3798 romelandis@peoplepc.com

Stewardship (Trails)
and Newsletter **Carl Anderson**
7930 Toad Hollow Rd., Barneveld, NY 13304
749-3188 vanhattenanderson@gmail.com

Adopt-a-Highway **Doug Tinkler**
4 Clintonville Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413
271-4759 dt46x40@yahoo.com

Hospitality **Wendy Sanders**
7 Bolton Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413
797-6962

Trips **Bill Lupino**
360-0359 wluppino@msn.com

Conservation **Brian Sanders**
7 Bolton Rd., New Hartford, NY 13413
797-6962 sandersbrian@hotmail.com

Programs **OPEN**

Iroquois Chapter Officers Needed!

The following positions are vacant and need to be filled. Please step up and do your part to make our chapter a vital part of ADK!

Programs This person shall get speakers or develop programs to be presented at Chapter meetings.

Up Coming Events

Tuesday, March 7

Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM,
New Hartford Presbyterian Church

The March program speaker will be John Taibi whose presentation will be; "Forests, Mountains, Rivers, and Rails." It will be just as much a story of the railroad traversing the Adirondack wilderness as it will be about the Adirondack environment that happens to have a railroad running through it. Taibi is an enthusiastic railroad buff. He lives in a railroad depot built in 1881 by the O & W in Munnsville. He has always had a keen interest in railroad history and has written 12 books about the railroads of central New York.

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Chapter Open House at 7:00-9:00 PM,
New Hartford Presbyterian Church. Setup starts at 6.

The Iroquois Chapter Open House is right around the corner! This is our opportunity to show the general public what ADK and our chapter are all about, and we need your help. We're looking for members who are passionate about any aspect of the outdoors - camping, canoeing, skiing, photography, etc - who would be willing to share their knowledge with others. You can put together a display, or set out some gear and answer questions, or make a slide show on a laptop - any way you can think of to show off your passion!

Saturday, April 29, 2017 - Trail Work Day

Tentative date for Iroquois Chapter trail work day; tentative due to weather; rain/snow, etc. The DEC would like us to continue clearing trail in the Ha-De-Ron-Dah; I'll send an email when we decide which trail. The chapter has loppers, though if you have a favorite tool, feel free to bring it. If you'd like to participate contact Carl Anderson, 315-749-3188 or vanhattenanderson@gmail.com

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Chapter meeting at 7:00 PM,
New Hartford Presbyterian Church

The May program will be Wildflowers seen along the trail presented by Mary Coffin and Mary Dineen.

Iroquois Chapter New Members

We would like to welcome the following new member:

Catherine Cooney

TRIPS

Saturday, Mar 11, 2017

Onondaga NCT in Tioughnioga WMA

We will hike or snowshoe depending on snow conditions on the Onondaga Trail from its junction with the NCT CNY Chapter NCNST from Holmes Rd. to East Branch of Limestone Creek and back. This qualifies for the 2017 NCT 100 mile patch. Map: 2011 Delorme 61, Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area, FLT Map O2. We will hike about 4 miles RT.

Rating: C

Meeting time: 9 AM

Contact: Mary and Bill Coffin,
maryccoffin@gmail.com, 315-687-3589

Saturday, March 18, 2017

Robinson Swamp, South Pond

Join me as I hike the Humphrey Mt. trail by Kings Flow to its terminus, then bushwhack to Robinson Swamp just east of Humphrey Mt. If snow conditions permit, we will continue the bushwhack to the Kunjamuk River, and follow it to South Pond. Total round trip distance, 14 miles. Poor traveling conditions will postpone the trip to another date, perhaps Sunday.

Rating: AA

Contact: Call Paul Sirtoli at 315-737-8353 or
alexstoli@outlook.com

Saturday, March 25, 2017

TR Mountain Hike/Snowshoe

Let's snowshoe to the summit of TR Mountain, named in honor of Teddy Roosevelt. From the ADK Loj we will hike up the Van Hoevenburg Trail going past the trail junction for Phelps Mt. Then cross the bridge over Phelps Brook we will then continue a ½ mile to the herd path to the summit. Distance from the Loj is 4.3 miles expect a round trip time of 5 hours at a moderate pace. Winter and cold temperatures should be expected so dress in layers, no cotton. Bring your own snacks and water. No matter the conditions bring snowshoes and micro spikes in the High Peaks as weather can be unpredictable. Poor weather /driving conditions or too small a group will postpone to another date.

Rating: A-

Meeting time: 7:00 am

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359 or
Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com

Sunday, April 9, 2017

NCT/FLT Highland Forest - End to End Trail Inspection

We will hike or snowshoe depending on snow conditions on the FLT and North Country National Scenic Trail (section of Onondaga Trail) across our county forest from Cowles Settlement Road to DeRuyter Dam Road. We will inspect the trail and make note of 2017 maintenance needs. Two level hike with shorter out and back option, 3 mi RT and 5.5 mile through trip. This qualifies for the 2017 NCT 100 mile patch. Map: 2011 Delorme 61, USGS

DeRuyter/Fabius, FLT Map O2. We will hike 5.5 miles.

Rating: C - C+

Meeting time: 9 AM

Contact: Mary and Bill Coffin, maryccoffin@gmail.com
or 315-687-3589

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Overlook Mountain Fire Tower Hike/Snowshoe

A single trail climbs steadily to the top of Overlook Mountain where a fire tower is located. The trail follows an old carriage road that once transported guests in the late 19th century to the Overlook Mountain House. It's ruins are visible from the trail. One-way distance is 2.4 miles. Ascent is a gradual but nonstop incline of 1370 feet. Winter and cold temperatures should be expected so dress in layers, no cotton. Bring your own snacks and water. No matter the conditions bring snowshoes and micro spikes. Poor weather /driving conditions or too small a group will postpone to another date.

Rating: B

Meeting time: 7:00 am

Contact: William Luppino 360-0359 or
Bootsmuddy@hotmail.com

Saturday, April 29 2017

Little Woodhull Loop, Black River Wild Forest, 2017 NCT 100

We will hike in Black River Wild Forest to Little Woodhull Lake partly on the North Country National Scenic Trail route where hikers will have the option of backtracking to the cars (5 mi RT) or continuing on the NCNST route crossing a stream on rocks and hiking a loop (partially unmaintained) back to North Lake and North Lake Rd.(8.8 mi RT). The entire area is relatively flat. This qualifies for the 2017 NCT 100 mile patch. Map: 2011 Delorme 49. Optional dinner enroute home.

Rating: C+

Meeting time: 8:30 am

Contact: Mary and Bill Coffin, maryccoffin@gmail.com
or 315-687-3589

Sunday, May 14, 2017

NCT/FLT Trail Clearing & Maintenance Refresher

We will clear trail in the McGraw area. Bring gloves and we will supply tools and share trail maintenance techniques. Trail stewards might want to participate in this refresher. This section was just reopened last year after being closed for about ten years. This qualifies for the 2017 NCT 100 mile patch. Map: 2011 Delorme 77, FLT Map M20.

Rating: C

Meeting time 9:00 am

Contact: Mary and Bill Coffin, maryccoffin@gmail.com
or 315-687-3589

Winter Bushwhacks

I plan on leading a few bushwhacks to the following areas this winter:

• Mitchell Ponds in the Blue Ridge Wilderness Area.

- Gooseneck Lake in the West Canada Wilderness Area.
- Eastman Lake in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest.
- Three Mile Beaver Meadow in the Pepperbox Wilderness Area.
- Stony Creek in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest. Over Rocker Mountain in the Silver Lake Wilderness Area.

Most of these will be snowshoe trips. Average round trip distance will be 8-10 miles. Backcountry skis may be an option on some. I have a variety of winter interests and snow conditions dictate which activity I will participate in so it's hard to put a date to something. Please e-mail if you are interested. Once I get a few hikers and a date set consensus, we will finalize plans. Certainly group consensus will prevail with trip enhancements. Poor weather /driving conditions or too small a group will postpone to another date.

Rating: A

Contact: Mike O'Donnell at 315-527-8624 or
modonnell@vicks.biz

BACKTRACKS...

Indian Head, Twin Mountain

January 16, 2017

I joined ADK Albany Chapter members Dave Pisaneschi, Leslie and Steve Siegard to climb Indian Head Mt. (3573 ft.) and Twin Mt. (3640 ft.) near Hunter in the Catskill Park. There was virtually no snow at the start of the trip, but with elevation gain we donned micro spikes and eventually crampons as we encountered hard packed snow and ice on the trail. The north side trail of Indian Head was very steep and icy, and upon our descent I had to use a rope to ease our way down difficult sections.

The trail to Twin, facing south, was more gradual. There was more hard packed snow than ice, so was easier to negotiate. The summit of Indian Head had no views, but Twin Mt. afforded a splendid panorama of Southwest Hunter Mt., Sugarloaf Mt. as well as numerous smaller mts. in the park. Our leisurely hike took about 7.5 hours on the only sunny and dry day for the week.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Ferris Lake Wild Forest

February 1, 2017

Lying south of Canada Lake in the Ferris Lake Wild Forest are several small bodies of water surrounded by extensive vleys and connected by a diminutive creek. Accessing the region from Sandy Point on the south shore road along Canada Lake, Kathy Miles and I trudged on an unmarked camp trail to a quarter mile drainage vly draining Negro and Mud Lakes.

From that snow covered vly, we checked out the vleys and ponds dotting the region, as well as climbed minor ridges for potential open woods winter views. The high light for the day was discovering a heron rookery consisting of six-

Chapter Outings

Rating	Effort Level	Elevation gain	Miles (round trip)	Time in Hours
A +	Very Strenuous	4000 ft +	10 +	10 +
A	Strenuous	3000 ft +	5 - 10	8 - 10
B +	Mod. Strenuous	2000 ft +	5 - 10	6 - 8
B	Moderate	1000 ft +	8 - 10	5 - 7
C +	Fairly Easy	1000 ft +	5 - 8	4 - 6
C	Easy	under 1000 ft	under 5	under 5



Dave Pisaneschi, Leslie and Steve Siegard, and Paul Sirtoli on the summit of Twin Mt.

Photo credit: Steve Siegard

BELOW: Kathy Miles on Mud Lake II with heron nest

Photo credit: Kathy Miles



large nests on a one half mile long vly that Kathy dubbed "Mud Lake II." Using GPS, map and compass, our snow shoe trek took us 7 hours. We meandered around through an open conifer and hardwood forest nearly eight miles in a region suitable for great winter snow shoeing.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Big Diamond Pond

February 4, 2017

For this Iroquois Chapter scheduled trip I was joined by Doug Tinkler and Bob Hutchins. Since the road to Carter Station was not plowed, we chose a circular route to the pond, starting at Big Moose Station. The trio walked the railway snow mobile corridor for approximately three miles before commencing the bushwhack. We soon intersected an old logging road heading in a westerly direction toward our destination of Big Diamond Pond, about a mile away from the railway corridor. The group plodded slowly through nearly two feet of powder. At times we sunk to our waists. Eventually we reached a large vly whose drainage we followed to the pond. I dare say that Big Diamond Pond has to be the narrowest pond in the Adirondack Park.

From that frozen, snow covered body of water we again plodded northwest through the deep snow pack to Doe Pond, which appeared to be a large vly. Appearing to be a ski slope, one of the hills bordering the pond was mostly devoid of trees, thus suggesting heavy logging sometime in the past. Since the Big Moose/Carter Station snow mobile trail bordered Doe Pond, we hiked to that. Rather than walk the heavily used trail, we chose to bushwhack on the drainage to Little Independence Pond. The vast volume of snow buried all the vly vegetation, so essentially we were snow shoeing on an open field. Near Little Diamond Brook, we had enough of deep powder and chose to return on the snow mobile trail back to Big Moose. We decided against visiting Little Diamond Pond, as it was getting late in the day and did not want to risk getting hit by a sled in the dark.

We hiked nine miles in seven hours, about half of it bushwhacking through fluffy but deep powder.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli

Big Diamond Pond

Photo credit: Bob Hutchins



Tabletop Mountain

February 5, 2017

My climbing partner Jim Lomonaco was spending the weekend in Lake Placid and he called to see if I wanted to climb Tabletop Mt. on Super Bowl Sunday. I agreed and told him to expect me at the Loj at 9 AM. I left home about 5:30 with the temp at twenty degrees F. I got a good look at the Ice Castle in Saranac Lake and then a great view of Whiteface Mt. from the Olympic Ski Jump parking lot. We were really surprised for the lack of cars in the lot. The HPIC was still closed for renovations. There were a few groups of skiers on the trail to various destinations. We were on the trail at 9:32. It took less than an hour to Marcy Dam because the trail was in great condition with hard packed snow. The upstream section was frozen so we didn't have to take the bridge. The weather was clear and we had unobstructed views of all the mountains. We signed in at the register and started up the blue Phelps trail, toward Mt. Marcy. This part of the trail was still hard packed snow, with fluffier snow to each side. We speculated how deep the snow was, but neither of us wanted to test its depth. We arrived at the turn off for Phelps Mt. and took a break. Just after crossing the wooden bridge over Phelps Brook, the trail got much steeper. It sure took a long time to find the new trail to Tabletop. We thought we missed it a few times, when we saw tracks heading off into the woods. Two of them were ski trails.

We finally arrived at the real junction at noon. We didn't take a break but just started climbing. After a few minutes we met two guys coming down. They said it was windy up there, but the views were beautiful. It got progressively steeper with deeper snow. The trail was still well packed. There was only one real icy spot, going up. The trees were all caked with rime snow. As we arrived at the summit, the Tabletop sign was at eye level. There was a small opening to the north and the first thing we saw was Little Haystack and Haystack. This summit has so many great views. At the small lookout we could clearly see Marcy, Haystack, Basin and Saddleback. The other mountains to the east were



Mt. Colden from Tabletop

Photo credit: Ed Kobos

blocked by the trees. Nothing was visible to the west again due to the trees.

The entire climb was well worth the view of Haystack. Pictures do not do justice to the great views. We stayed up there for about fifteen minutes, admiring the sights and then we headed down. Backtracking down we had even better views of Colden, Wright, Algonquin, Boundary, Iroquois (Marshall) and Marcy. At this point we could see dark clouds in the background, so we didn't dawdle. We hit the Phelps trail quickly (only 48 feet down) and decided to take a side trip to Indian Falls. When we arrived, it was socked in and beginning to snow so there were absolutely NO views. From there we headed back toward March Dam. There was not much to see. When we got there none of the mountains we saw earlier were visible due to the snow. We arrived back at the parking lot at 4:08. Overall the 10.3 miles took six hours and 38 minutes.

submitted by Ed Kobos

Buck Meadow Flow

February 10, 2017

A remote Adirondack scenic splendor is how I would describe the Buck Meadow Flow. Nearly one mile long, the north end is pitted with numerous standing, dead, limbless tree shafts up to 30 feet in length. Several beaver lodges dot the barren wintry landscape, with a massive beaver dam creating a small pond mid way in the flow. Coursing through the meadow is a small creek, bordered by alders and spruce trees at the south end of the flow as it drains into the East Branch of the Sacandaga River, a few miles away. The meadow shoreline, hemmed in between two small mountains on either side, is surrounded by a thin veneer of conifers, generally open but occasionally impenetrable. For this extremely brisk, sunny day with a brutally cold wind sweeping the frozen tundra like surface, Kathy Miles and I had no difficulty snowshoeing. Any other time of year the dense meadow shrubbery would impede exploration.

Postponed from a year ago due to inclement weather, Buck Meadow Flow is in the Siamese Pond Wilderness, south of Thirteenth Lake approximately two miles. Kathy and I accessed it by bushwhacking through open hardwoods from the Hour Pond Trail.

Accessing the flow in two hours, and with the bulk of the day remaining, we also bushwhacked through the open hardwoods to nearby Pine Mt., hoping for winter views of Puffer and Bullhead Mts. There were glimpses of their respective cliffs. Not wanting to retrace our steps, we made a wide loop off the mountain, eventually intersecting the creek draining the flow. We bushwhacked along the creek back to the flow, weaving in and out of the alders and conifers. Arriving at the car after 5 PM, we had hiked nearly twelve miles in seven hours of wonderful Adirondack exploration.

Submitted by Paul Sirtoli



Buck Meadow Flow

Photo credit: Kathy Miles

Newsletter Submissions....

Feel free to submit your stories and photos for inclusion in the Trailmarker. Please use a digital camera for taking photos as the resolution on a camera phone is too low to reproduce well.

Email: vanhattenanderson@gmail.com

Photos: use jpeg or tiff format

Stories: send as a .rtf or .doc file or include in an email message.

*The second update in our
four-part series of
“Inspiring Young Individuals
to come to ADK”*

*features five
scholarship opportunities
to help high school and
college students further
their education and training.*



Help ADK change lives,
give a gift in support of
ADK’s Scholarship
programs today!

Maegan E. Spindler Education Scholarship Fund

The Maegan E. Spindler Education Scholarship Fund was established in 2014 by the friends and family of Maegan Spindler. This scholarship will sponsor at least one high school and/or college student each year to participate in one of ADK’s education programs with the intent of continuing to foster Maegan’s love for the natural world. The recipient of this scholarship can receive up to \$300.

Jane C. Neale Memorial Scholarship

The Jane C. Neale Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2008 by the friends and family of Jane Neale. Through the Jane C. Neale Scholarship, Jane’s legacy will be carried on through the youth who wish to participate in our volunteer trails program. Recipients of the Jane C. Neale Scholarship have their participation fee waived when volunteering for a five-day high school trail project.

Sean A. Kelleher Memorial Scholarship

The Sean A. Kelleher Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2006 by Gail and Brian Kelleher in memory of their son. The recipient of the Sean A. Kelleher Scholarship will have their participation fee waived when volunteering for a five-day high school trail project.

ADK Woods Woman Scholarship

The Adirondack Mountain Club Woods Woman Scholarship began in 2014. It is the wish of this anonymous donor to encourage and celebrate young women who are passionate about pursuing trail work and outdoor lifestyles. The young woman chosen for this scholarship will have her participation fee waived for the five-day high school volunteer trail project.

AuSable Valley Garden Club Trails Scholarship

Each year, the AuSable Valley Garden Club provides a scholarship for one high school student residing in the AuSable Valley region to participate in a high school volunteer trails project of his or her choosing.

If you want to gift the ADK Education Campaign, please go to the following link:

<https://www.adk.org/protect/donate/current-campaigns/education-campaign>

Lean-to Adoption Marks 20 Years

The Iroquois Chapter of the Adirondack Mt. Club has been helping the state Department on Environmental Conservation take care of two lean-tos for twenty years. The adopt-a-lean-to program is a joint venture of ADK and DEC.

The lean-tos adopted by the chapter are both in the Ha-de-ron-dah Wilderness west of Thendara:

Middle Settlement Lake

at N 43 degrees 41.124 and W 75 degrees and 05.899 and **Middle Branch Lake**

at N 43 degrees 42.171 and W. 75 degrees 05.777

Our thanks for 2016 visits by Ralph and Jenna Greco to Middle Settlement and to Bret Thompson for visits to both. Also, before we had gotten reports from them, Doug Tinkler and Mike McIntyre went to Middle Settlement and Tinkler went to Middle Branch. Reports of those January visits were included in the (overdue) end-of-year report to the ADK coordinator, but we haven't heard if they will count toward 2016 or 2017.

Any chapter members who visit one of the lean-tos can help us have a complete report by sending information about their visit to me at RomeLandis@peoplepc.com. We need to keep track of the driving time, hiking time and work time at the lean-to, with what work is done.

The work can include inspection to report on the condition of the roof, floor, foundation, fireplace, privy and if walls need repacking with oakum. The

privy information should include if it's full and needs moving, so we can tell DEC. Also, carrying out trash. Nothing should be left in a lean-to (especially NOT food) except for a shovel, rake, broom, bucket and the lean-to register. That means we have carried out food, chairs and swim noodles. We are provided new registers to take in when needed and bring the old ones out to be sent to ADK. With a lean-to recently getting smashed by a tree (not one of "ours"), we're also asked to note if the lean-to is in danger from any nearby trees.

One year we carried new roofing and a new privy into Middle Settlement Lake (with some people making two trips that day) and another year – in the snow – chapter members hauled in a new privy for Middle Branch Lake.

Hikers use the register to tell about their trips. These vary from "I'm glad we finally made it here in the rain and dark with all the mosquitoes" to "This is such a pretty location and we enjoyed watching the loons."

The chapter may plan some trips (we should have a couple visits each year) as day trips or overnights, but chapter members can also visit on their own. Middle Branch Lake lean-to is 8.6 miles round trip from Scusa access trail by Route 28 or 13.4 miles round trip from Thendara. Middle Settlement Lake lean-to is 6.4 miles round trip from Scusa access trail.

Norm Landis

Newsletter Submissions....

Feel free to submit your stories and photos for inclusion in the Trailmarker. Please use a digital camera for taking photos as the resolution on a camera phone is too low to reproduce well.

Email: vanhattenanderson@gmail.com

Photos: use jpeg or tiff format

Stories: send as a .rtf or .doc file or include in an email message.