

NORTH WOODS NEWS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH WOODS CHAPTER
OF THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB



**A Special Thanks to
Retiring Chapter Chairman
Frank Lescinsky**

The following was read at the December Chapter Meeting, on behalf of all of the Officers and Members of the North Woods Chapter.

Most of us are aware that the chapter has seen a decline in active members in recent years. That change has mirrored the aging demographic of the ADK Park’s population. We discussed this challenge at our summer picnic two summers ago but didn’t arrive at an easy solution to the issue.

Now go back four years when Frank was elected as chairman of the Northwood Chapter. Frank recognized and worked hard to address the demographic challenges. At the end of his two-year term, the nominating committee looking for a new chair was unable to find a willing nominee. Because of his commitment and concern for the Chapter, Frank agreed to continue for another term. He shouldered his responsibilities as Chair in a diligent and determined manner. At times, it was difficult to find available and willing volunteers for some activities but he didn’t let that dissuade him from his efforts to maintain the chapter’s programs and mission.

Frank has gone “above and beyond” in serving our chapter and deserves our appreciation and thanks for a job well done. Frank’s wife, Lethe, also deserves recognition as an active supporter and contributor to Frank’s efforts. Please let both Frank and Lethe know you are grateful for their commitment and efforts over the last four years.

<p>CHAPTER OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p> <p>Chairman: Marilyn Gillespie 518-891-2626</p>	<p>Vice Chair: Gretchen Gedroiz Secretary: Lethe Lescinsky Treasurer: Peter Gillespie Director - Peggy MacKellar</p>	<p>Programs: (open) Outings: Carol Edmonds Conservation: Tim Chick Membership: (open) Newsletter: Jim Edmonds</p>
--	--	---

From our Chapter Chairperson:**Celebrate the “Old”, Ring in the “New”.**

Many thanks to Frank Lescinsky for his unfailing leadership as our chapter chair during the last 4 years. Also, many thanks to Nancy Morrill who has served as our Membership Chair for many years. Both of these people have chosen to retire as of December 31. We have some big holes to fill!!! We are looking for some new faces to fill two positions:

Programs (this can be a committee) Our programs are set for this spring - new ideas are needed for the fall!!

Membership – greeting new people who attend our potlucks and meetings. Taking care of ordering name badges for new members, providing an annual list of members and receiving the monthly membership reports from our Member Services Center in Lake George are other responsibilities.

My first experience with the North Woods Chapter took place in 1994. As the then President of ADK, Nat and Lois Wells invited Peter and me to visit. At that time, the chapter met in members' homes and had one outing a month, preceding the potluck. The speaker that weekend was Vern Lamb, talking about the Olympics. My second visit was the following year. The chapter had outgrown member's homes and was meeting at the Presbyterian Church. When we moved to Saranac Lake in 1998, we already knew several chapter members and immediately felt at home. Let us work to continue the tradition of making new people feel welcome!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Chapter potlucks and on the trails and waterways.

Marilyn

Conservation Report

There were a number of conservation highlights this past year that were of interest to our Chapter members.

Earlier this year, a red flag was waved by one Chapter member about the rail transport of North Dakota Bakken crude oil through Montreal to Albany along the shores of Lake Champlain. The potential for a derailment that might endanger nearby residents and pollute the Lake and nearby Forest Preserve was a serious concern to members. The Chapter contacted the Main Club and they in turn initiated efforts to involve legislators and other conservation organizations. Senator Chuck Schumer and Gov. Andrew Cuomo have supported more stringent regulations and rigorous inspections of rail cars and tracks. Fire Dept. funding and emergency training of local agencies has also been done. Most recently, the New York State Attorney General is pushing for limits on rail car vapor pressure to reduce the possibility of explosions.

This year saw an increased commitment and effort by the state of New York to prevent the invasion of aquatic species into Adirondack water bodies. The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), under the auspices of The Nature Conservancy in Keene Valley, has been a leader in the prevention and control of aquatic invasives in cooperation with the Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College. Earlier this year, 53 agencies joined with the NYSDEC to address this problem statewide and recently Gov. Cuomo approved a 2 million dollar grant program for additional boat ramp stewards, wash stations and education programs.

please continue on Page 3

Conservation Report *(continued from page 2)*

The Northville-Placid Trail has been an important part of many Northwood Chapter members' hiking experiences over the years. In Sept., the last of a three-season trail reroute was completed by the ADK professional trail crew under contract with the DEC. Approx. 13 miles of road hiking was eliminated by relocating the trail into the forest. Bruce and Betty Wadsworth would be very happy about the changes.

Lastly, the state of New York has announced that the 22,000 acre Boreas Pond tract will be purchased from The Nature Conservancy by April 1, 2016. The Nature Conservancy purchased 160,000 acres from the former Finch Pruyn timber company and designated 69,000 acres for purchase by the State for incorporation into the Forest Preserve. The Boreas Pond tract is the last parcel that is part of the Essex Chain Lakes Complex. While there is still controversy needing resolution regarding "hike and paddle" vs. motorized access, the finalized land purchase by the state appears assured.

"Happy trails,"

Tim Chick, Conservation Chairman

ADK Board of Directors Meeting

Frank Lescinsky took Peggy MacKellar's place as our representative at the December 5th ADK Board Meeting. He reports these highlights.

The 2016 budget was passed unanimously. The Club is in satisfactory financial shape.

Construction on the new High Peaks Information Center will start in the spring.

Professional trail crew: Most of the work of our professional trail crew is done under contract with the state. High numbers of hikers are requiring more trail work, and hence the size of the crew will have to be increased. A new larger trail crew cabin is planned. The old cabin would be converted for public lodging associated with the Loj.

The increase in the number of hikers has led to abuse of the summits by "beer" parties. More summit stewards are needed.

The club has printed a new edition of the "Trails of the Adirondacks High Peaks" map.

The club web site will be improved so it is compatible with smart phones. The goal is to make

it convenient for anyone to find any trip by any chapter. It was suggested that all chapters use the same template for their outing schedules.

The Boreas Ponds Tract makes possible connection of the MacIntyre West and MacIntyre East tracts with the High Peaks Wilderness and the Dix Mountain Wilderness. The clubs's goal is to make the whole area motor-free.

The most serious conservation issue is in the Essex Chain Lakes area with snowmobile roads. ADK and others have proposed a route using small woods roads. The local people don't like it. Any other route would require a bridge over the Hudson River and go through state land. By statute there are to be no bridges across scenic rivers like the Hudson. So the state has decided on a route through state land and to use the existing Polaris Bridge which had been a private bridge for private use on private land. The proposal is to grandfather it for public use. Grandfathering has always been applied to private use on private land so individual use could not be taken away. This new concept of grandfathering for public use could be a problem for all of the Adirondacks. The ADK has lawyers working on this and may file a lawsuit over this issue.

ADK Northwoods Chapter Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting

(The Chapter's Annual Meeting was held on November 15th. The following is a highly edited version of the Minutes of that meeting. For an unedited version, please email adknorthwoodsnews@gmail.com.)

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Frank Lescinsky.

Peter Gillespie, Treasurer, reported that last year income was \$3648.40; and expenses were \$3529.80. A motion was made and seconded to make contributions of \$1600 in 2015: \$200 to the Outing Club, \$200 to the Ski Touring Council, and \$1200 to the ADK. Al Hood amended the motion to earmark \$25 for Winterfest taken out of the \$1200 usually sent to the ADK Club. The amendment was seconded and passed and the original motion as amended was passed. The 2016 proposed budget adopts the same figures as last year.

Nadine McLaughlin representing the nominating committee presented the following nominations for officers in 2016:

Chairperson: Marilyn Gillespie

Vice-Chair: Gretchen Gedroiz

Treasurer: Peter Gillespie

Secretary: Lethe Lescinsky

There being no further nominations the above people were elected.

OUTINGS SCHEDULE

The Outings Schedule was previously distributed as a separate document. If you would like another copy, just send an email to adknorthwoodsnews@gmail.com with the Subject:

"I've Totally Lost It"

and ... on that subject:

CORRECTION: on the Outings Schedule which you already received, on January 27, on February 15, and on March 16, the telephone area code shown as 581 should have been 518. Of course, if instead of talking to Elisabeth, you would like to try to make a new friend in eastern Quebec, you should dial the number originally shown.

OUTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

Climb a High Peak with Peggy

Cross Country Skiing at Mount Van Hovenberg

Climb Bear Den on a new trail

Ski to Great Camp Santanoni

An easy snowshoe to Cherry Patch Pond

**Check for schedule changes online on our
North Woods Chapter Calendar at:
www.brownbearsww.com/freecal/northwoods**

TRIP REPORTS written by the Leaders of last quarter's Chapter Outings

October 1, Hike to Cobble Ledge Lookout - Leaders: Lethe and Frank Lescinsky



It was a beautiful day! A n easy walk through the woods leads from the high point of the road from Wilmington to Bloomingdale, back to a nice bare rock "summit" high above the road. We enjoyed lounging on the rock while taking in the gorgeous view of Whiteface

and the Jay Range. We finished the outing with a home-cooked lunch and good conversation at the McLaughlins' in Jay. It doesn't come any better than that.

October 6, Hike to Indian Head - Leader: Bill LaRocque



We were going to hike to Indian Head by the direct route from the Lake Road, but ended up taking the shortcut trail to Gill Brook, which gave us the opportunity to hike by some waterfalls and do some rock scrambling. The trail was a bit steeper, but it posed no problems for the seasoned hikers. We had an excellent view of the Ausable lakes and many of the High Peaks from the top of Indian Head, which is 730 feet above the lake. The total distance hiked was about 9 miles (7.2 on the road and 1.8 on the loop).

Octobers 7, Hike Mount Adams - Leaders: Susan and John Omohundro

This hike was rained out on Sept. 30, so we rescheduled it for the following Wednesday. Clouds were lowering as we drove out of Saranac Lake but cleared away as the 3 of us arrived at the Allen Mountain parking lot. We convinced Carol to carry her raincoat, and thus the weather remained clear throughout the hike. The bridge over Lake Jimmy is gone, so we followed a pleasant workaroud to the north. The old observer's cabin has been re-roofed—perhaps someone has plans for it? We all had forgotten how steep and rocky the upper trail is; fortunately, the trail ran out before our courage did. The forested summit is minuscule, but the well maintained fire tower offers stunning 360-degree views of the High Peaks, making the climb well worth our while. Consensus was that the wispy clouds at the summit were scudding. We scored a scoop of black raspberry ice cream on a sugar cone in Long Lake, then drove home in (unexpected) rain.



October 8, Paddle from Second Pond to LakeFlower - Leaders: Marilyn and Peter Gillespie

We launched our boats into the rising mist shortly before 10 am. The fall leaves seemed more brilliant than ever in the bright sunshine that ensued. We found State workers busy painting the buildings at the lower locks, but not too busy to let us through. There were 4 motorboats tied up at the locks, but only one motorboat in motion during the entire trip. A highlight was seeing a bald eagle soaring in circles overhead. (I guess we didn't look like lunch to him.) We all gathered on the shore by the take-out to enjoy a leisurely lunch before going back for our cars. Although the temperature never rose above 50 degrees, no-one complained about being cold. The 12 paddlers had a delightful day!!

October 15, Hike to Cathedral Rocks and Bear Run**Leaders: Caper and Will Tissot**

Seven of us enjoyed a gorgeous fall day, taking the trail just this side of the Ausable Club gate house to cross a bridge and follow along the west bank of the Ausable River for half a mile, then turning west and making a steep climb up the hill to walk along the base of spectacular high vertical cliffs to a challenging scramble up through the narrow slot which leads to a beautiful ledge view above the Ausable Valley, I pause her to introduce a period, just as we paused on the ledge for lunch.. (While up there at the top, check out the crazy dead tree hanging upright, suspended among the tree tops, its roots dangling 10 feet off the ground.) Returning down the slot, (a lot easier than going up it) we continued on to Cathedral Rocks, which soar amazingly high, almost hard to see the top through the trees, then, thankfully, headed downhill past Pyramid Falls and back to the west bank trail along the river. As usual, we Tissots had underestimated the distance and level of challenge, the hike was probably about 5 miles, and parts of it were very steep, clearly qualifying this short outing as a class B category. It took us 4 leisurely hours, including lunch at the ledge view and many stops to take photos. A really interesting hike which, though short, should not be overlooked.



October 21, Hike Lyon Mountain - Leaders: Susan and John Omohundro

Eight of us ventured off under dull skies, uncertain of our route, stopping to puzzle over the map, debating which way to turn . . . , but we made it to the trailhead parking. Then the sun came out, and we had a lovely walk. The trail smelled of balsam, and we got up close and personal with some Adirondack mud. Views from the summit included Dannemora (no escapes visible) and scores of wind turbines. On the descent we heard a noisy migrating party of summer birds.

November 5, Hike to Raquette Falls - Leader: Elisabeth Craven

Three participants including the leader undertook this outing. It was a fabulous day, not a cloud in the sky when we set out, and the temperature was in the upper 60s. It was noisy under feet, with crinkly leaves. Noisy as well at the Lower Falls, what with the high



water cascading down the chute. We saw some hunters, who reported that they had seen one deer but felt it was too warm to hunt—a lucky deer! While at the Falls we investigated the historic plaque near the ranger's cabin.

November 10, Hike / Cookout at Placid Lean-to Leaders: Lethe and Frank Lescinsky

It was a beautiful day for a walk in the woods. Ten of us hiked the 1.5 miles up the Jackrabbit Trail from Whiteface Inn Lane to the lean-to. Each of us brought firewood and something to cook. With the aid of newspaper and fire-starter the fire was already blazing when 3 more members of our group arrived from the Saranac Lake side of the trail. Lethe had promised a surprise dessert, and it was a delicious surprise indeed: chocolate fondue with fruit pieces to dip in melted chocolate. The trail from Whiteface Inn Lane crosses private land inholding. There it has recently been graded, and several sides trails have been cut. Signs instruct hikers to stay on the trail. (There are also signs announcing that the land is for sale. The owner claims there is access to the land, but admits that the State asserts there is not.)



November 21, Hike Mount Van Hoevenberg - Leader: Carol Edmonds

There were 9 of us on this leisurely hike. The weather was fine—very mild for November. The hike is divided into 3 sections: a mile of flat walking through the woods, a struggle through muck and mud near a big beaver dam, and then the climb to the summit. Thanks to a dry summer, we were spared most of the mud, and we had clear sailing all the way. The view from the summit was clear, and we took our time enjoying it and our lunches. We had the summit to ourselves at first, but were not alone for long: a middle school cross-country ski team soon joined us on the ledge near the top. They were getting in shape for the season (and having a good time doing it). Our trip down was uneventful. The only thing that might have made the day better would have been to have been able to see some snow on the High Peaks.

Novembers 23, Hike Henry's Woods - Leader: Patti Peebles

After deciding that the scheduled Jay Range hike was not going to happen, 4 eager women took off to walk the trails in Henry's Woods. We explored familiar paths and some that were new to one or more of us, and took in the view of the Village of Lake Placid from the hilltop. We left the new trails off Bear Cub Road for another day. After a good 2-hour hike we found ourselves hungry and the temperature a bit chilly. The Black Bear had the perfect soups for all our dietary needs. I think our lunch lasted as long as our hike. A most pleasant outing all 'round; we look forward to repeating it later in the winter, as a cross-country ski.

December 8, Hike Azure Mountain - Leader: Barbara Hollenbeck

Azure Mountain's fire tower was in great condition when our group of 9 hikers visited it this fair December morning. Several of us climbed to the cabin to enjoy the view. With no wind and still no snow, it was unusually comfortable up there. It turned out to be a lucky happenstance that the date of the hike had been postponed to this Tuesday, because the weather was much nicer than on the original date, and more people were able to participate in the outing. Several of our hikers had not been there before. We explored the rocky summit, being careful of a few small icy patches, and easily found the celebrated large erratic. We enjoyed lunch at the Deer Valley Trails Restaurant.

December 10, Hike Round Mountain - Leader: Carol Edmonds

Nine hikers turned out for this climb on a most unseasonably warm December day. We made a loop by climbing up the Old Dix Trail and coming down the S. Burns Weston Trail. The Old Dix Trail follows a stream, and is a steady but moderate ascent to the col between Noonmark and Round Mountains. By the time we got to the col, it was warm enough for some of us to be in t-shirts. The trail from the col to the summit (.7 mile) is steeper and more of a scramble, but we



all made it without incident. It had been cloudy, but when we paused for lunch at the summit, many of the clouds lifted, and we had fantastic views of the Great Range and nearby Noonmark. The descent revealed a bit of a miscalculation on my part: The Weston Trail is steeper and more challenging than the Old Dix.

Furthermore, it is on the north side of the mountain, and consequently does not get as much sun as the Old Dix. Almost immediately we ran into ice. Luckily, we were a well prepared group, and everyone had either stabilicers or microspikes with them. Nevertheless, we had to pick our way down carefully. Aside from myself, no one fell (it's kind of routine for me, as some readers will be aware), and we arrived safely back at our cars. Some of us rewarded ourselves with a stop-off at the new coffee shop in Keene Valley.



December 16, Hike Whiteface Landing and Eagle Eyrie Leader: Elisabeth Craven

It was a beautiful day, with a dusting of snow on all the trees. The lack of measurable snow changed this outing from a cross-country ski to a hike. At the Whiteface Landing we continued on the SOA (Shore Owners' Association) Trail for a little less than 1.5 miles, across marshy (muddy) areas and fordable brooks, to a large stream where the trail from Echo Bay on Placid Lake intersects. We then turned sharply to the right, heading uphill (perhaps about 800 feet elevation), scrambling over the results of a microburst, for about 3/4 of a mile. We arrived at the outcropping marked with a carved sign of an eagle and had a long view of Lake Placid shrouded in mist—on clear days, we were told, one can see the High Peaks. On our way down the mist was lifting, we could see blue sky, we had a lovely view of Whiteface covered in snow right behind us: Mount Fuji! This hike was a first for 11 of the 14 on the outing, including the leader. The total distance was approximately 9 miles.

and now, on the Back Pages:

From Nadine McLaughlin,
something that a few of us can relate to:

Written in mid-December, the Bard laments the
latre arrival of Winter this year:

Winter Wonderland? (The Bard Fidgets)

In deep grump now I lift pen to write:
December, should be snow—none in sight.
Both my snowshoon and skis,
Good to go, if you please.
C'mo winter storms, let's turn the ground white!

The Bard of Birch Street

STREAM CROSSINGS

I miss the grace
I used to have
in crossing streams
without pre-plan:

The quick, sure, mindless
skip from stone ...
to stone ...
to rock ...
before I'd land

On some far bank;
to then stride on
long hiking trails
for many miles.

Now, when a stream
impedes my way,
I tipsily
perch as I sway

On stones that always
seem to tip
just far enough
to make me slip;

As I, with staffs
in *both* my hands,
sway left and right
and try to stand

While praying that
I'll reach dry land.

© Nadine McLaughlin

THE HISTORY CORNER

In this issue, The History Guy is challenging us with an Adirondack Quiz.

(The answers are on page 13.)

1. Which of these significant events occurred in 1912?
 - a. NY Legislature clarified that the private land inside the blue line was part of the park
 - b. the arrival of the railroads led to a burst of great camps built by the wealthy
 - c. open-pit mining was made legal
 - d. hydroelectric dams on park rivers were dismantled.
2. The first recorded forty-sixers climbed the last high peak on their “list” in the
 - a. 1900s
 - b. 1920s
 - c. 1940s
 - d. 1960s
3. The Adirondack Loj was built by
 - a. John Marshall
 - b. ADK
 - c. Verplanck Colvin
 - d. Henry Van Hoesen
4. In which decade was protection for the Adirondacks’ public lands written into the state constitution?
 - a. 1850s
 - b. 1890s
 - c. 1930s
 - d. 1970s
 - e. it hasn’t yet
5. What is the size of the Adirondack Park in millions of acres?
 - a. one
 - b. four
 - c. six
 - d. nine
6. What percentage of the Adirondack Park is publicly-owned Forest Preserve?
 - a. 0%
 - b. 25%
 - c. 45%
 - d. 85%
 - e. 100%
7. How many people reside year-round in the Adirondack Park?
 - a. 12,000
 - b. 52,000
 - c. 120,000
 - d. 320,000
8. The last log drive on the Raquette River through Tupper Lake was in the
 - a. 1870s
 - b. 1900s
 - c. 1930s
 - d. 1960s

9. 1922 is the year that
- the ADK was formed
 - the first state environmental conservation department was formed
 - the Blue Line was drawn around the park map
 - The Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake was built
10. William West Durant was:
- the builder of the first railroad in the Adirondacks
 - a speed skating star in the 1932 Olympics
 - a benefactor of Dr. Trudeau's TB research
 - the architect of Sagamore Great Camp
11. One outcome of the Adirondack Park Agency Act in 1971 was:
- Wilderness, Wild Forest, and other zoning categories were created
 - selling Forest Preserve land became legal
 - construction on shorelines was prohibited
 - motorized entry to Forest Preserve became illegal.
12. The first recorded ascent of Mt Marcy by persons of European descent was in:
- 1767
 - 1837
 - 1877
 - 1907
13. Compared to 1900, in acres, the entire Adirondack park in 2015 is about...
- half as large
 - the same size
 - twice as large
 - three times as large
14. Completely extirpated from the park region in the early nineteenth century, which native animal has made such a comeback as to be sometimes a nuisance today:
- black fly
 - beaver
 - cougar
 - white-tailed deer
15. What is now called the North Woods Chapter of ADK was founded in the
- 1950s
 - 1960s
 - 1970s
 - 1980s



CONGRATULATIONS TO A WINNER

Here is a picture from last summer. Our May 9th outing to climb Cat Mountain was actually a combined or joint trip offered by the North Woods and the Laurentian Chapters acting together. Marianne Hebert of Laurentian gave our Carol Edmonds her camera and asked her to take a picture. Marianne subsequently entered Carol's picture in the Laurentian Chapter's Annual Photo Contest - and it was judged to be the winner in the "People" Category! Carol was awarded an impressive Certificate of Merit and a significant cash prize (which she has donated to the ADK's Jane Neale Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships for high school students to participate in the ADK's Trails Program).

Here are the answers to the History Corner Quiz:

1-a, 2-b, 3-d, 4-b, 5-c, 6-c, 7-c, 8-c, 9-a, 10-d, 11-a, 12-b, 13-c, 14-b, 15-a