

The **Lookout**

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2015



Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter

Dedicated to the preservation, protection and
enjoyment of the Forest Preserve

<http://www.adk-schenectady.org>

Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter Board

ELECTED OFFICERS

CHAIR:

Vacant

VICE-CHAIR:

Stan Stoklosa
8 Archer Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065
383-3066
Vicechair@adk-schenectady.org

SECRETARY:

Sally Dewes
secretary@adk-schenectady.org

TREASURER:

Mike Brun
4001 Jockey St., Ballston Lake, NY 12019
399-1021
treasurer@adk-schenectady.org

DIRECTOR:

Norm Kuchar
60 Fredericks Road
Glenville, NY 12302
399-6243
director@adk-schenectady.org

PROJECT COORDINATORS:

Horst deLorenzi
34 St. Judes Lane, Scotia, NY 12302
399-4615

Jacque McGinn
79 Kenaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054
438-0557

projcoord@adk-schenectady.org

YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

Jonathan Lane
ymg@adk-schenectady.org

APPOINTED MEMBERS

CONSERVATION:

Mal Provost
93 Kingsbury Road, Burnt Hills, NY 12027
399-1565
conservation@adk-schenectady.org

LOOKOUT EDITOR:

Nicole Weinstein
904 Myrtle Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
482-2594; lookout@adk-schenectady.org
weinstna@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP:

Dustin Wright
Membership@adk-schenectady.org

NORTHVILLE-PLACID TRAIL:

Mary MacDonald
27 Woodside Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065
371-1293; nptrail@adk-schenectady.org

OUTINGS:

Larry Woods
1120 7th Avenue
Watervliet NY 12189
810-7552; cboater1@yahoo.com;
outings@adk-schenectady.org

PRINTING/MAILING:

Karen McKenney
518-399-6606
mailing@adk-schenectady.org

PUBLICITY:

Roy Keats
1913 Baker Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12309
518-370-0399; publicity@adk-schenectady.org

TRAILS:

Stan Stoklosa
8 Archer Drive, Clifton Park, NY 12065
383-3066; trrails@adk-schenectady.org

SILVER LAKE:

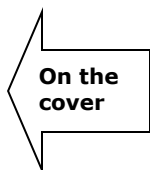
Vacant

WEB MASTER:

Rich Vertigan
1804 Van Cortland St., Rotterdam, NY 12303
381-9319
webmaster@adk-schenectady.org

WHITEWATER:

Ralph Pascale
50 Johnston Avenue
Cohoes, NY 12047
235-1614
rpascale@spendwood.com
whitewater@adk-schenectady.org



A beautiful Adirondack view!

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AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2015

The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Johns Brook Lodge turns 90

By Seth Jones
ADK Conservation Intern

Johns Brook Lodge (JBL) has been part of Adirondack Mountain Club's (ADK) identity from its very beginning, welcoming guests to experience the Adirondacks 3.5 miles up the Johns Brook Valley.

Ninety years ago, on July 1, 1925, JBL opened its doors and ever since it has been a place where hikers can come together to further develop their relationship with the mountains and with their fellow hikers and gain inspiration to become stewards of the Adirondacks. It's described in a 1925 *High Spots* (predecessor to *Adirondack*) as a, "mecca for mountain climbers! Like a jewel in the valley lies Johns Brook Lodge, surrounded on every side by gorgeous



Johns Brook Lodge

mountain peaks, including the Wolfjaws, Gothics, Saddleback, Basin, Haystack, Big Slide, Tabletop and Marcy, all of them over 4,000 feet high." I think those who have had the chance to visit JBL would still describe it as a "mecca" 90 years later.

Johns Brook Valley itself has changed a lot over ninety years. It has regenerated from years of log-

ging and has been transformed into a maturing forest with a widespread network of trails. The site where JBL sits today was originally owned by the J. & J. Rogers Company, an iron company who later established a paper mill. The company owned close to 75,000 acres of woodlands to supply wood for charcoal making and for building purposes. J. & J. Rogers donated 15.5 acres to the Adirondack Mountain Club allowing ADK to have a place to build its first lodge.

At roughly 2,500 square feet, the basic layout of JBL has always been the same. A large living/dinning room area with two mirror-image bunk rooms at the rear and a kitchen and fireplace in the center are embraced on three sides by a

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Save the Date!

The Schenectady Chapter of ADK's Annual Dinner will be **Tuesday, October 27, 2015** at Schenectady County Community College. Details to follow!

Save the Date!

The Schenectady Chapter of ADK's Annual Picnic will be an Autumn Fest this year. It will be planned for the afternoon of **Sunday, October 3, 2015**, to allow for morning hikes and activities. Keep your eye on our Website and the October/November Lookout for the details.

Innings and Outings

How do I sign up for a hike?

For further details or to sign up for a hike, call the trip leader. Try to call at least two days in advance, as leaders may cancel on the day before an outing if there is insufficient interest. Leaders reserve the right to refuse participants for any reason, including lack of experience and/or lack of physical fitness. All equipment and supplies are the sole responsibility of the trip participants.

What do I need to bring?

The trip leader will let you know if any special equipment (crampons, snowshoes, etc.) will be needed. In general, you should always carry food, water, rain gear, map, compass, headlamp, first aid kit and extra clothing, including hat and gloves in case temperatures drop. Clothing for wet or cold weather should not be made of cotton — use a synthetic fleece or wool. If in doubt, ask the leader.

What if I don't have snowshoes/crampons?

The chapter has hi-tech snowshoes and one pair of universal fit crampons available for rental at \$5/trip. Contact Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 to arrange for pick up from his convenient location in Clifton Park. Gear is also available to rent at local retailers..

Should I reimburse drivers for gas?

Yes! Each rider should pay their driver four to five cents per mile, depending on the current cost of gasoline. With gas at \$2 per gallon, four cents per mile should be used and at \$2.50 per gallon, five cents should be used (\$3/gallon – six cents, etc).

The kind of hikes I'd like to do aren't listed here — what can I do?

Trip leaders may be willing to plan trips based on member suggestions. If there's a specific trip you'd like to do, contact Larry Woods at 518- 810-7552 and let him know.

Wilderness First Aid Course

The Schenectady Chapter Board agreed to provide partial tuition refund for outings leaders who take Wilderness First Aid courses. The program is modeled after the 46ers current program so people who are both 46ers and Schenectady trip leaders can reimbursement. For further information, call Larry Woods at 518-810-7552.

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Leader's Pace</u>	<u>Terrain</u>	<u>Examples</u>
A+ 13 Miles or More	1. Fast	A Very Difficult	A+1A Most Difficult Trip
A 8-12 Miles	2. Moderate	B Strenuous	B2C Moderate Trip
B 5-8 Miles	3. Slow	C Average	C3D Easy Trip
C Under 5 Miles		D Easy	

Saturday, Aug. 8
Sugarloaf Mountain
Class B2B

John Susko 383-1284 or jpsusko@netzero.net
 This is one of the more attractive hikes in the Catskills with several good views plus Dibble's quarry. If conditions are right we will hike this as a loop for a distance of ~7 miles and 2000 feet of ascent.

Amy's Park, a preserve in the Town of Bolton owned by the Lake George Land Conservancy, contains ponds, marshes, forests and a small mountain with the unusual name of High Nopit. We'll first hike on a couple of easy, flat trails, totaling about 2 miles, to rocky outcrops with lookouts over an active beaver pond and a marsh, where it might be possible to see wildlife. Then, for a bit more of a challenge, we'll climb about 400 ft on a 0.75-mile trail (each way) to a lookout on High Nopit, which has a view of Lake George.

Saturday, Aug 8
Amy's Park and High Nopit
Class C2C

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

Thursday or Friday, Aug. 20 or 21
Black Cat Lake, Class
Walt Hayes, 399-7482

Outings

Visit a remote lake off trail in the Town of Arietta. We will go on the better weather day. About 4 miles on a NYS trail and 1.4 miles bushwhack. The lake is located near Rock Lake SE of Clockmill Pond. Minimal change in elevation. Beaver activity on Black Cat Lake has been reported in the past. Total round trip of about 5.4 miles. This is an exploration; the leader has never been to Black Cat Lake.

Saturday, Aug. 22

Mountain Bike, Essex Chain Lakes Complex

Class B3C

Larry Woods, 810-7552 or cboater1@yahoo.com

I plan to explore the newly opened roads in either the North Road section or the South Road to the Cedar River where a new bridge is proposed. All riding will be on rough dirt roads, helmets required. A little time out for swimming may be possible, too.

Tuesday or Wednesday, Sept. 8 or 9

Cat Mountain, Class C2C

Walt Hayes, 399-7482

This is a climb to Cat Mountain summit on the west side of Lake George. We will take the new Red Trail from the Edgcomb Pond trailhead. It is the shortest but steepest trail route up Cat. We will be slow on the steep part of the climb. The better weather day will be chosen. About 1000 feet of ascent with under five miles round trip. This peak has the best views of any peak on the west side of Lake George. This property is now owned by the State of New York. The leader has not been on the Red Trail.

Sunday, Sept. 13

Hadley Mountain

Class C3C

Meeting Time: 9:00am

Jacque McGinn, 281-3673 or jeve3@aol.com

Hadley is one of my favorite mountains. It's close by, not too difficult with a spectacular view at the top. You don't even have to climb the Fire Tower at the top to enjoy it. This is a simple trail to follow but is a steady climb for most of the 2 miles up. I will take it at a slow to moderate pace. We will reschedule if it rains.

Friday, Sept. 18

Paddling – Fish Creek Ponds Loop, Class A2B

Roy Keats 370-0399 or royskipaddle@gmail.com

The exact route would depend on the weather. With warmer weather we would do several short portages to give us a complete loop, otherwise we would do an out and back on Fish Creek itself from Square Pond to Floodwood and return. The round trip mileage would be 8 to 9 miles. The colors should be nice at this time of year. We will meet on the water at 10 am. Please call for meeting location no later than the Wednesday before the trip.

Saturday, Sept. 19

AT in MA, October Mt. State Forest

Class: B3C

Rich Vertigan, 381-9319 or vertiganr@gmail.com

The Appalachian Trail series continues, with this 5.4-mile through-hike in the central Berkshires. We'll gain 700 feet and lose 1200 feet as we head south past lovely Finerty Pond to a spotted car on U.S.20, East of Lee. Rain cancels.

Saturday, Sept. 26

Moxham Mountain

Class B2C

Mary MacDonald 371-1293 or mmacdonald@nycap.rr.com

Moxham Mountain is in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest near Minerva, NY is part of the planned route for the NCNST in the Adirondack Region of New York. On Saturday, Sept. 26, in celebration of North Country National Scenic Trail Day, we will hike this trail to enjoy the wonderful vistas along the ridge. The hike is 5.4 miles round trip. At the present time this is not a through hike so we will enjoy our lunches prior to returning to our cars. You will need to bring lunch and snacks plus appropriate clothing including rain gear in your pack. We will climb approximately 1000 ft. Please join our group by contacting Mary MacDonald, mmacdonald003@nycap.rr.com or 518-371-1293 for more information.

Tue, Sept. 29

Stony Pond

Class B2C

Norm Kuchar, 399-6243 or nkuchar@nycap.rr.com

We'll do a through hike past Stony Pond, starting on NY 28N and ending near the old hamlet of Irishtown. Stony Pond is a rather large body of water in the Vanderwhacker Wild Forest near Minerva. A lean-to, in a clearing on the pond's shore, has a great view across the water to the slopes of Green Mountain. Beyond Stony Pond, we'll hike past Little and Big Sherman Ponds and then descend down the valley of Falls Brook to the Irishtown Distance is about 6 miles, with about 375 ft of ascent and 1225 ft of descent between the two trailheads.

Trip Tales

Shaker Mountain - May 13

There was perfect weather. Sunny but cool - after a string of hot days. We failed to find any cellar holes in Tolmantown but were successful in reaching the top of Shaker Mountain (Town of Mayfield) where we enjoyed a lunch. Nancy found a nice boulder near the summit for a photo opportunity. The grades were easy going up and going down to the west where we found an old road that took us directly back to our cars. Trisa Bills, Nancy Buckley, Norm Kuchar, Dave Loux, Ken Marcinowski, Kathy Miles and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Mountain Bike – May 16

Four of us met at the Old Stage Road trailhead, for the northern section of John Boyd Thacher State Park. This part of the park has a variety of trails and old roads that are ideal for biking. We started by riding the Perimeter trail / road to the junction with Hanglider Road. After enjoying the view from Hanglider Cliff, we rode a nice, unmarked singletrack to Hailes Cave Road. From there, we rejoined the Perimeter Trail to make a return loop. A fun side trip over some rocks and roots brought us to High Point for another fine view of the Mohawk and Hudson Valleys. Charlie Beach, Lynn Rossini, Shelly Nevard and Larry Woods shared a wonderful “day in the park.”

Schroon River - May 17

Although we haven't had much rain the last few weeks, the Schroon River has had a reliable lake fed flow. The river level was at 3.5 feet on the gauge on this warm, sunny spring day. We had a large group of 11 with two of them being in canoes and the rest in kayaks. We had a great day with no swims or spills. Some of the pictures taken during this trip have been shared on the Schenectady Chapter Facebook page. The participants were Bob Brand, Ike Fitz, Clark Darlington, Mal Provost, Charlie Murray, Carolyn and Pierre Cyr, Anthony Lamanno, Horst de-Lorenzi, Tom Cronin, and Norm Labbe (leader).

Moxham Cliffs - May 18

No trees blocked the 14th Road and we crossed Deer Brook without incident. We reached the red pine woods and lichen covered rocky ridges west of Moxham Mountain. The woods are park like open expanses with views of Gore, Crane and other mountains south of the Hudson River. Ladyslippers were evident but not yet in bloom. A nice sunny day with some black flies and breezes to blow them away. Norm Kuchar, Rick Morse, Wayne Virkler and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

Sacandaga River, Stewart's Dam - May 23

Thirteen paddlers (12 kayaks and 1 lone canoe) made the first official release of the whitewater season at Stewart's Dam. With the low water levels on the Great Sacandaga Lake due to the lack of spring rains, the whitewater release on the Sacandaga lasted only two hours. The run started with a water release over the top of dam at a level of over 4600cfs. The unusually strong top re-

lease resulted in all the paddlers taking a river left run since the ferry at the top to river right was deemed to be too difficult. It was all over in an hour and a half - but it was an exciting first run on the Sacandaga.

Paddle - Middle Saranac Lake to Second Pond - June 5

On the way to our put-in, we had occasional rain showers, but once on the water, the showers disappeared. We paddled up South Creek into Middle Saranac, continued over into the river, and wound our way to the upper lock. We had lunch here with a slight breeze, and chatted with the caretaker of the lock. We then continued on our way to Lower Saranac. Since the weather had improved significantly we paddled a little way past our take out at Second Pond before pulling out. Glad we continued on as we immediately spotted a bald eagle sitting on a low branch, posing for pictures; then an immature bald eagle came over and “bickered” with the adult. We topped off our trip with a trip to the Blue Moon Cafe in Saranac Lake Village. The participants were Mary MacDonald, Ed Brown, Steve and Judy Thomson, and Sue and Roy Keats (the leaders).

Esopus Creek. - June 7

On Sunday June 7th., 13 paddlers (9 K-1, 2 OC-1, and 1 OC-2) ran the Esopus Release in Ulster County on a picture perfect summer day. We enjoyed warm temps and blue skies to paddle a classic Catskill Creek. Much has changed to the Esopus in recent years due to hurricane damage, but one thing that has remained constant is the fun and excitement of paddling on a release day with your close friends. The Esopus Creek now has a few class 3 drops to contend with as well as the ever changing nature of the stream itself. A couple of paddlers did incur minor swims, but our group helped out to ensure a safe recovery. There are three more releases this year on the Esopus, and I think we may be going back for more fun... Trip Leader Robert Wright

Battenkill Paddle – June 12

The forecast was for partly cloudy with little chance of precipitation until later in the day (5:00pm). A storm two days before the trip raised the water level from a scratchy level to a more doable one. We ran from the state line parking area to route 22, a 13 mile trip. As we approached Eagleville, we paused for lunch. This was fortuitous as storm clouds appeared overhead. One paddler with a smart phone saw we were under a developing cloud with some signs of severe rain. As there is a covered bridge here, we scrambled in and under it for protection while our kayaks received almost an inch of wind driven rain. As fast as it came, the storm passed. The rest of the trip was better as the sun gradually came out and brightened our day. We noticed some of the railroad bridges we paddled under were undergoing pier repair. It was a hopeful sign this almost abandoned route may have a useful future. Those enjoying the run were- Tim Brooks, Reed Goossen, Mark Janey, Marc & Jan Limeri, Marilyn & Joe Pusatere, Bill Smollin and Charlie Beach (leader)

Trip Tales

Moreau Lake State Park – June 13

Overnight, the severe storm and tornado watches evaporated, and we hit the trail under sunny skies. From the western trailhead on Spier Falls Rd., we climbed up to the top of the Palmertown Range and followed the Eastern Ridge Trail through a beautiful forest and over rocky ledges, taking care not to step on the dozens of red efts that dotted the trail. To make a loop, we used the Ridge Run Trail to cross over to the Western Ridge Trail. This trail followed the edge of the steep western side of the ridge, and offered several great views down to the Hudson River, 750 ft below, and westward to Crane, Moose, Baldhead, Hadley and Spruce Mountains. We had a pleasant lunch at one of the viewpoints, directly above the hydropower dam, where we were entertained by a group of turkey vultures that soared back and forth in front of us as they rode the thermals. Hikers were Tamara Caulfield, Walt Hayes, Jerry Perregaux and the leader (Norm Kuchar).

Schroon River – June 13

Saturday, June 14, Leader's choice trip was held on the Schroon River paddling down from the Starbuckville Dam to the take-out at a level of 5.1' on the Riverbank gauge. We had four paddlers (3 K-1 & 1 OC-1) enjoy a beautiful summer day after a few days of rain. The current was fast and the stream high which caused a few mishaps at the "big drop", but nothing too serious as all were brought back to safety by teamwork and determination. There was a whitewater trip leader class being held on the Deerfield River in Massachusetts which accounted for the low turnout on this trip. With the rain continuing this week I expect there will be more opportunities to paddle in the coming weeks. Trip Leader Robert Wright

Vromans Nose – June 14

A beautiful way to start a beautiful day! The weather was fine, not too hot, not too cool and the conditions were good for climbing. We were able to test out the new section of the trail that was added in order to skirt the old trail. The new trail is slightly further into the wooded area which makes it more of a lovely walk through not quite dense forest. As we drew closer to the top we were greeted by screeches that we believe came from one of the protected peregrines that inhabit the cliffs (we were able to view one flying just beyond the trees). Once at the top we were treated to the fabulous views from the escarpment. We rested, and snacked, and chatted a while and then meandered our way down. Afterwards, we were treated to homemade fudge samples at the quaint, and fairly new establishment, just under the nose called...you guessed it, Under the Nose. The participants were: Bob and Florence Grimm, Sandy Gordon, Connor and Paul and Cabrina McGinn, Jacqueline McGinn (the leader).

Clockmill Pond Hike and Swim - June 17

A perfect late spring day in the woods - sunny and cool. Not too cool for some of us to swim off a nice rocky point. After lunch a short explore to the pond outlet where we found the remains of a 19th Century mill of unknown purpose. Will found remains of another man made dam not reported in trail guides. Sandy Gordon, Norm Kuchar, Will Seyse and the leader. (Walt Hayes).

Giant Mountain and Rocky Peak Ridge – June 20

We were originally planning on Dix Mountain from Rt. 73 for this hike, but because of several days of rain preceding the hike decided to do this instead. We left one car at the Rt. 9 parking lot for Rocky Peak Ridge for doing the through trip from Rt. 73 over both Giant and Rocky Peak Ridge. We climbed the Ridge (Zander Scott) Trail from the Rt. 73. The day was brilliantly sunny, so there were great views all the way up. After having a little lunch and taking some pictures, we continued down steeply into the col between Giant and Rocky Peak, and then up to Rocky Peak itself. The views from Rocky Peak were even better - about the same as Giant plus Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains of Vermont! The Ridge itself looked extremely enticing, so we continued on to our car another 6.7 miles away on Rt. 9. Beautiful open meadows lured us down to Mary Louise Pond. We crossed the outlet by balancing on a few carefully placed logs. Then we clambered over several ups and downs before ascending Bald Peak for a final great view all around. It was a long, but beautiful day. The participants were Madeline Kennedy, Bronce Perez Matos, Ray Smith, and Roy Keats (the leader).

Sacandaga River – June 28

The morning looked pretty rainy, and it was. Two hearty paddlers arrived at the SAC parking lot to an empty parking lot. After waiting for some possible stragglers Jim M and Ed C (TL) packed up the trailer and headed up to the put it. It never really rained hard but it was never really not precipitating. Mist was rising off the water down the first part of the run. We made our way over to the commercial put in and did a few surfs on the wave. After that we ran down the center line trying to miss some of the pour overs and make our way back to Vesuvius's eddy. In the eddy we had a brief talk about rolling in big water, as the release said 4200 cfs but it looked and ran much higher. The need for an explosive roll in this type of water was the topic. And it was timely. Jim led us down to the first set of bridge abutments and after the first drop he got the opportunity to practice his explosive roll and pull a solid roll to right his boat. We finished off the day by working eddys and trying to catch a few waves on the second part of the run. Jim led us down the left line by the Bow Bridge to bring us back to the take out. The takeout was pretty much underwater with the water from the Hudson filling it in. So all in all a nice day out of the river, even if it was 56 degrees and a little rainy.

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Trip Tales

Mountain Bike – July 3

A couple of very rainy days, left me struggling to find a good place to ride. I hoped that some of the dirt roads and easier trails at Grafton Lakes State Park would be dry enough. We started at Mill Pond, the park's winter entrance. After a short warmup on the road, the turn onto the Fire Tower trail started us climbing. Our reward was a clear 360 degree view from the tower and a fun downhill run to the Chet Bell trail. We returned to Mill Pond for lunch and finished the day riding around Shaver Pond on the other side of the park. All but the leader managed to avoid the worst of the mud. Following more than 10 miles of riding, Laura Fiske, Shelly Nevard, Charlie Beach and Larry Woods headed home to wash their bikes.

Hudson River & Fourth of July Picnic – July 4

Our yearly 4th of July trip was originally scheduled for the Hudson Gorge, but because of heavy rainfalls the Gorge was not suitable for an ADK trip and it was rescheduled for Riparius to the Glen. We had a great turnout and 20 People (19 boats) participated in the trip. It turned out to be a nice day despite a heavy rain shower on the way up the Northway. The only mishap was that the last paddler was grabbed by a hole shortly before the end of the trip. The hole wouldn't let go and it resulted in a swim and a quick rescue. Afterwards we had a picnic at Clarke and Cathy's house. It was a day of great paddling, great food and great company. All in all a beautiful day. Horst deLorenzi, leader.

Board of Directors Report—June 2015

Highlights of the June 27, 2015 meeting at Lake George

Crude Oil Rail Shipment: ADK's efforts to prevent rail transport of tar sand crude oil down the route along the shoreline of Lake Champlain from Montreal to Albany were boosted in May when DEC, which had previously indicated it would only look at air quality issues associated with a tar sand heater-boiler facility at the Port of Albany, said it would do a full environmental impact review, including requiring the shipper, Global Partners, to provide a workable plan to respond to derailments and oil spills into water bodies. This is exactly what ADK requested and will have implications for crude oil shipments elsewhere in New York along the Montreal-Albany and Buffalo-Albany routes.

Aquatic Invasives: In an attempt to halt the spread of aquatic invasive species, ADK lobbied hard last year to pass legislation giving DEC the authority to require that all watercraft be cleaned, drained and dry before being launched into New York waters. As a result, there is now a plan for boat inspection and cleaning stations at strategic locations around the Adirondack Park. Boats, including canoes and kayaks, coming from infected waters will be inspected and cleaned by pressure washing before being launched into clean waters.

New Development Director and Membership Director:

Following the resignation of Deb Zack as Director of Membership & Development (M&D), ADK has hired Catherine Forbes as Director of Development. Catherine has extensive experience in conducting fund raising and special events for non-profit organizations. At the same time, ADK's M&D function was split, and Laurie Schweighardt will now report directly to Neil Woodworth as Director of Membership.

Young Member Outreach: The recent ADK membership survey showed that over half of the club's members are 60 years of age or older, and that only 15% were under age 40. In response to this long-term threat to the club's viability, ADK has hired Stephanie Gaudons as Young Member Outreach Coordinator. Stephanie will work with the club's chapters and committees to develop programs and activities to make ADK more attractive to 18-40 year old members. She has been the Albany Chapter's Young Members Chair and has volunteered as an ADK trip leader and summit steward.

Publications: A revised Trails of the Adirondack High Peaks map has been released. The new expanded edition covers all 46 High Peaks on a single two-sided waterproof map.

Upcoming 2015 Events:

- ididaride! bike tour: Aug. 9, at North Creek.
 - Ragnar Relay: Sept. 25-26, Saratoga Springs to Lake Placid.
 - Fall Outing & Presidents' Dinner: Oct. 2-4, at Hudson Valley Spa & Resort, Kerhonkson, and sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Chapter.
- The Presidents' Dinner on Oct. 3 will incorporate parts of the Black Fly Affair (chapter basket auction, etc), which was not held this year.

Whitewater

Date	Day	Event	Level	Name	Contact Info
August 1	Saturday	Fife Brook, Deerfield	II/III	Ed Martuscello	843-5581
August 2	Sunday	Sacandaga: Stewart's Dam	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
August 8	Saturday	Sac. Release, picnic, gear swap/sale and Intro to Playboating	III	Bob Wright and Mike Raley	279-1428 797-3547
August 9	Sunday	Sacandaga: Stewart's Dam	II/III	Clark Darlington	370-2144
August 15	Saturday	Fife Brook Deerfield	II/III	Ken Perrault	664-6781
August 16	Sunday	Sacandaga: Stewart's Dam	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
August 22	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III	Mal Provost	399-1565
August 29	Saturday	Esopus	II	Larry Woods	810-7552
September 5	Saturday	Sacandaga/ Leader's Choice	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
September 6	Sunday	Leader's Choice	II/III	Clark Darlington	370-2144
September 12	Saturday	Leader's Choice	II/III	Bob Wright	279-1428
September 13	Sunday	Sacandaga/ Leader's Choice	II/III	Ed Cunningham	885-7444
September 19	Saturday	Hudson River Gorge	III	John Banevicius	256-7827
September 26	Saturday	West River Release	III+	Ralph Pascale	399-4810
October 3	Saturday	Fall Foliage: Hudson River Gorge	III	Bob Wright	279-1428

JBL turns 90

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generous porch to allow guests to take in the surrounding Adirondack landscape. Most of the materials were hauled in on a woods road on the south side of Johns Brook (today called the South Side Trail) by horse and wagon until a slide wiped out the road at a spot called the “rock cut”. This meant the last of the materials were carried in by foot.

With some uncertainty on the success of this new Adirondack Mountain Club venture, ADK was pleased to report in a 1925 High Spots that, “Today, the building is strongly built and neatly finished; well equipped with cots and blankets, a magnificent stove, running water, hot showers for men and women – all at the end of the first season in the most excellent condition; a guest book showing over 325 individual guests in 3.5 months; ... a summer of happy times and vigorous days on the mountains in fair and rainy weather—with good housekeeping and famous meals from our lucky caretakers—the Lodge is an evident success and a rallying-point in the Adirondacks.”

At a rate of \$1 per night and \$5 per week for members, ADK made \$1,257.14 in its first year. People came from all over New York and there were registrations from Washington, Virginia, Ohio, Minnesota, and even England and Italy. Harvey and Lillian Branch were the caretakers of the property for the first three years, launching a litany of unique and interesting individu-

als who have taken care of the Johns Brook property over the years.

Today, Johns Brook Lodge can accommodate up to twenty-eight guests. There are two ten-person bunk rooms and two four-person bunk rooms. As a result of the hard work of many dedicated volunteers and staff members, the lodge has undergone a lot of renovations over the past ten years. New pine paneling, new insulation and new windows have been installed in the great room and bunkrooms making the guest experience much more enjoyable, especially during the colder “shoulder seasons.” A new privy system, new bunks, new mattresses, new porch steps, new Adirondack chairs and the list goes on with improvements that have been made. If you have never stayed at Johns Brook Lodge before this would be a perfect time in its history to spend some time out there.

JBL offers two types of operation while it is open in the summer. The first is a caretaker season; guests have to bring and prepare their own food, and rates range from \$35 to \$43 per night. Caretaker season goes from the middle of May to the end of June and then goes from Labor Day weekend to Columbus Day weekend. In between, ADK offers a full-service season with a crew who provide hot breakfasts and dinners and pack guests a trail lunch. Full-service rates range from \$75 to \$92 per night. For details and to make reservations, visit www.adk.org/

[lodging](http://www.adk.org/), or call 518-523-3441.

The physical appearance of Johns Brook Lodge has certainly changed over its ninety-year history but JBL is more than the building itself. It is the people that come together there to share their stories of adventure, the groups that stay there to further develop their relationships, the children that experience the Adirondacks for the first time and its ideal location in the heart of the High Peaks that really make it a special place. Johns Brook Lodge continues to connect people with the Adirondacks and continues to help lead them on a path of stewardship of the Adirondacks.

Seth Jones is the Adirondack Mountain Club's Education Programs Coordinator. He has worked for ADK since 2008 and is a former High Peaks Summit Steward and Johns Brook Lodge Hutmaster. Seth has a B.S. in Conservation Biology from SUNY ESF. He enjoys a variety of outdoor activities that includes paddling, fly fishing, hiking, skiing and photography.

Schenectady ADK
P.O. Box 733 Schenectady NY 12301-0733
<http://www.adk-schenectady.org>

CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS: Are held regularly on the second Tuesday of the month. No meetings are held in July or August. Any concerns members have may be expressed to any board member listed on the inside front cover, or attend the meetings which are open to the membership. Call a board member for date, time & directions.

CHAPTER DISCLAIMER: People who attend outings are reminded that such activities entail a certain degree of danger; and persons participating do so at their own risk. This disclaimer is for both whitewater and regular outings of the chapter.

SCHENECTADY CHAPTER PATCH: This lovely patch (shown at right) can be purchased by check (payable to Schenectady Chapter ADK) to Dustin Wright, Membership Chair. Contact him at: Membership@adk-schenectady.org. The cost is \$3 per patch, which includes the mailing cost.



TRIP LEADERS: If you do not want your trip listed in the local newspapers, call Publicity Chair Roy Keats at 518-370-0399, or roysueski@yahoo.com. This newsletter goes out over the Internet.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL: The chapter has hi-tech snowshoes and one pair of universal fit crampons available to rent at \$5/trip. Call Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066 to arrange for pick-up.

WEB SITE: <http://www.adk-schenectady.org> — *All of the latest information will be posted on the Web, i.e. any changes or corrections. Please review our website and related Internet resources Acceptable Use Policy.*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: If you move, you must inform the ADK in order to continue receiving The Lookout. The Lookout is sent via bulk mail, which the Postal Service will not forward. Send changes of address to The Main Club (see address below) to insure uninterrupted delivery.

Membership Application

*To join, send this form with
payment to:*

Adirondack Mountain Club
814 Goggins Road,
Lake George, NY
12845-4117

or drop it off at Adirondack
Loj or Headquarters.

Check Membership Level:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family Life | \$1950 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual Life | 1300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Adult | 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family | 60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (65+) | 40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior Family 65+) | 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student (full time 18+) | 40 |
| | School | _____ |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP+4 _____

Home phone _____

I want to join the Schenectady Chapter

List spouse & children under 18 and birth dates

Spouse _____

Child _____ birthdate _____

Child _____ birthdate _____

Bill my _____ VISA _____ MasterCard _____ Discover

Exp. Date _____ Account # _____

signature (required for charge)

ADK is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Membership fees are tax deductible, as allowed by law. Please allow 6-8 weeks for receipt of first issue of Adirondack.

the Lookout

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