



Foot – Loose!

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), published quarterly – January, April, July, October

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What We Do and Why!

By Erika Heinegg, Susquehanna Chapter Chair

"The ADK is a non-profit membership organization that protects wild lands and waters through a balanced approach of conservation and advocacy, environmental education and responsible recreation. ADK's mission is to represent all those who love wild places and to insure that those places are protected and accessible for generations to come."

We belong to an outdoor recreation club because we enjoy the outdoors. We hike, bike, paddle, ski and snowshoe, but when we read ADK's mission statement, we realize that we are part of something that is much bigger. As outdoor enthusiasts, we are also responsible for protecting those areas we love. We realize how fragile our open spaces are. They disappear at an alarming rate. Yet we here in the Susquehanna region are fortunate. How wonderful our natural outdoor resources still are.

Just an example: February 14th, the Daily Star announced that through a grant it is expected that the four miles of trails already built by the city of Oneonta will be extended to connect Neahwa Park with Fortin Park, eventually extend to Riddell State Park, connect with rail lines, and continue into the village of Milford. This is the result of the Greenway feasibility study.

The Belleayre Catskill Resort project concerns us. Outsiders to the area find the project in complete opposition to

the development. Yet the local people welcome the expansion and consequent job potential. To reach a reasonable compromise the DEC on Dec. 10th (I was there) held a public meeting to explain modified plans. In response to this ADK has further requested that DEC thoroughly investigate the environmental impacts of the revised project, which are many. The issues of concern can be read in detail on the ADK website: www.adk.org. Thanks Linda Seifried.

We do what we can to maintain trails. Joe Hart, forever diligent, needs our help. His annual report is included in this issue. As spring approaches, it's evident we need to work with him.

Lucille Wiggin and others take it upon themselves to clean up trash on every outing we take. Let's help.

Each one of us can help with conservation and responsible recreation. How? Clean your boots with a brush after each outing and encourage others to do the same. That will help reduce the spread of invasive, non-native plants.

This article is intended to encourage you to get out there and enjoy the outdoors as long as you are able. Lead a hike, bring a friend, and be prepared to pick up debris.

(With excerpts from the 'Long Island Mountaineer'
Michelle Kagan, Jan/Feb. '08.)

A Letter From Danny Birnbaum

Dear Susquehanna Chapter Members,

Working on Foot-Loose! for the past five years has been challenging and fulfilling. Working with the executive committee toward a common goal that has both pragmatic and idealistic elements has been one of my most satisfying endeavors. As strange as it may sound, I actually liked our meetings.

New responsibilities and time commitments have led me to the decision to resign from the executive committee and from the position of Foot-Loose! editor. Fred Johnson has accepted the editorial position, and I look forward to his tenure. Thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,

Danny Birnbaum

Chapter News and Information

Trip Reports

Susquehanna Chapter Winter Weekend at the Loj. February 1-3, 2008. Nineteen members had a great time at our annual weekend. Some arrived Thursday to avoid Friday's predicted freezing rain and snow. Those who drove north on Friday had a longer driving time due to poor road conditions. Thankfully all arrived safely. Saturday morning it was colder with a sprinkle of new snow. Most of us walked with or without snow shoes to Marcy Dam. Some went on to Avalanche lean-to, and a hardy threesome made it all the way to Avalanche lake - a winter weekend tradition. Skiing Saturday and Sunday was wonderful on the groomed trails of Van Hoevenberg. Because so many in our group are over 70, the skiing was free. All enjoyed the added amenities: new bathrooms, coffee bar, dining room curtains, and single beds in the loft. This was a first time stay for the Marrs. Curry and Virginia both expressed delight with the facilities and the fun of shared interests and camaraderie with all those staying in the Loj. Sunday was partly sunny and all the roads were dry for an easy trip home.

Next year the Loj winter outing will be Monday through Wednesday, Feb 5-7, 2009. We'll have two private rooms and eight beds in the loft.

Aleda Koehn

February 5, 2008. An 8 member, Blue-Ribbon hiking group assembled to spend a couple of hours in the Texas Schoolhouse state forest. In the teeth of dire weather forecasts (the weather itself wasn't dire - only the forecast), we hiked up the old Welcome road and along the ridge trail. Points of interest included discarded offal from a hog butchering which offended us at first viewing but as we approached the site on our return we saw 2 ravens circling which gave rise to a "one man's meat..." discussion. Other discussion topics included lichen identification and the out-of-body experiences of Dr. Cicoria, the lightning-struck musician. Conditions underfoot were 3"-4" of granular snow occasionally underlain by ice - tough walking but good exercise for the muscles holding our knees together and for our increasingly unreliable balancing mechanisms.

Nina and Joe Hart

Feb. 12, 2008. Gilbert Lake. With the help of Verna Engstrom-Heg, arrangements were made to open the Pavilian near the first parking area. Verna provided a crockpot filled with delicious chili, Erika made a fire. Ten hiking snowshoeing, skiing ADKers were ready to tackle about 4" of snow around the lake that was icy in spots. All enjoyed the outing before the forecasted ice storm in the afternoon.

Erika Heinegg

Trails committee report for 2007

Arnold Lake State Forest - During the winter of 2006-2007 we put up signs on the truck trail identifying snowmobile crossings and attended two meetings with the Milford snowmobile club and one meeting with the state forester. During the spring, summer and fall of 2000, we visited Arnold Lake trails 4 times to clear blowdown, mow and clip back. One of these visits was a "clipclop wagglegewalk." These trails, as far as I know, are in good shape except for the logging job in progress at the north end of the State Forest.

Bear Swamp - During the summer of 2007 we attended two meetings with Paul Wenner, State Forester, to recover the trail lost during the past few years of logging. In October, we visited the area and completed clearing blowdowns on about a quarter mile of skid road and planned a short spur trail to connect with the lake. We hope to build this short trail next summer.

Relay State Forest - We made one visit to the area to mow, clip back and remove blowdown. This trail is filling in heavily in some stretches along the ridge with blackberries and pioneer tree species. I think that unless we put more time in on this trail we will lose it.

West Branch Railroad Bed - Two visits were made to this area to cut out blowdown. After a heroic effort several years ago to remove trash from the trail area including even appliances, the same spots are again filled with junk. I think we need to rethink how much of this trail we will maintain.

Blue Ridge W A, Wilson Pond Trail - One visit, albeit a visit characterized by a hard-driving crew, was made to the trail to clear blowdown and clip back. This trail is in good shape except for the marsh that will have to await the installation of a raised walkway by DEC. No work was scheduled by DEC on the crossover trail this fall but they expect to get going next spring and we may have a role to play.

Oneonta Greenway - We loaned ourselves to the Greenway committee for a couple hours for blowdown removal.

Respectfully Submitted, Joe Hart

Chapter Audit Completed

On January 31, 2008, I spent part of an evening at the home of our treasurer, Nina Hart, auditing the chapter's books. I am pleased to report that I believe the methods Nina uses to

keep our records are sound and the chapter is in good financial standing. We are fortunate to have Nina as our treasurer.

Danny Birnbaum

Education Committee Needs a Hand, Plus a Chairperson!

Our chapter will participate in the Outdoor Safety Program for Otsego County 5th graders on June 5th and 6th. Several members have, in years past, enjoyed working with Joe Hart and me at Gilbert Lake or at Glimmerglass State Park, meeting groups of exuberant kids coming at our ADK table and learning what to put in a daypack for a hike. Join the education committee for great working conditions (on the shore of a lake), a nice lunch, and the cream of Otsego County's 5th graders. Please contact me (265-3780 or sseifried@mk1.com) if you can join us for an hour or two on either of those dates.

We also need a volunteer to chair the Education Committee, which usually works with the Conservation Committee, so there is always help available. An enjoyable position! - *Linda Seifried*

SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER SPRING 2008 SCHEDULE

Outings and Meetings

ALWAYS CALL LEADERS FOR DETAILS

All area codes are 607 unless otherwise noted

Riders should contribute a fair share toward gas.

It is the responsibility of each trip's leader to have all participants sign a release form

Tuesday leaders contact Barbara Means for forms; weekend leaders contact Ernie Mahlke.

- | | | | | |
|------|-----------|--|----------|--|
| 4/1 | Tuesday | Lucille Wiggins | 432-1022 | Arnold Lake |
| 4/8 | Tuesday | Stefan & Linda Seifried | 265-3780 | Oquaga Lake-Finger Lakes Trail |
| 4/15 | Tuesday | Currie Marr | 432-5434 | Milford State Forest |
| 4/17 | Wednesday | Monthly meeting. Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St., Oneonta. 6 pm potluck dinner followed by 7 pm program. Linda Seifried will present a photo tour of Skylands, the New Jersey State Botanical Gardens. Come and explore this former estate, with its lavish gardens and extensive grounds, in full spring bloom. | | |
| 4/19 | Saturday | Ernie & Heide Mahlke | 432-2583 | Springtime in the Helderbergs. Spectacular views from the escarpment. Hike 8 miles on this mostly wooded path, with a few minor rises, app. 65 miles from Oneonta. Hike could be shortened to 4 miles if car is spotted. Poor weather moves hike to Sunday. |
| 4/22 | Tuesday | Julie Smith | 432-8642 | Pine Lake |
| 4/29 | Tuesday | Joe Hart | 829-8358 | Arnold Lake-Clip Clop Waggle Walk |
| 5/4 | Sunday | Joe Hart | 829-8358 | Work party to help clear a 300' to 400' spur to Bear Swamp Pond. Call Joe for Details. |
| 5/6 | Tuesday | Kay Kantorowski | 547-5526 | Star Field –meet at Clark Sports Center at 9:30 |
| 5/10 | Saturday | Julie Smith | 432 8642 | Join Julie for a bike ride. Call for meeting place, time, and destination. |
| 5/13 | Tuesday | Barb Meeks | 783-2924 | Rogers.Environmental Center |
| 5/17 | Saturday | Ernie & Heide Mahlke | 432-2583 | Hike the rail trail north from Cazenovia with lunch at the waterfall in Chittenango Falls State Park. The only hill is down to the park and back up. Round trip of 8 miles. Distance to trail head app. 62 miles from Oneonta. Bad weather moves hike to Sunday. |
| 5/20 | Tuesday | Rita Salo | 432-3656 | Winney Hill Road |
| 5/21 | Wednesday | Monthly meeting. Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St., Oneonta. 6 pm potluck dinner followed by 7 pm program. Nina and Joe Hart will present a program describing Denali National Park. They will show Nina's still pictures and a professionally made DVD, and will make some remarks comparing people management in the National Park and our Forest Preserve. | | |
| 5/27 | Tuesday | Bev Hensle | 286-9126 | TBA |
| 6/2 | Monday | Executive Committee. Elm Park United Methodist Church, Sunflower Rm., 401 Chestnut St., Oneonta 1:30 pm | | |
| 6/3 | Tuesday | Kathy Allen | 547-8030 | TBA |
| 6/10 | Tuesday | Barb Means | 432-4903 | Canoe |
| 6/17 | Tuesday | Scott & Doug Fielder | 638-5436 | TBA |

Outings and Meetings Continued from page 3

6/18 Wednesday Gilbert Lake St. Pk. - Briggs Pavilion, near the first parking lot, just inside the entrance. This is a change in location for a change of pace. There are elec. outlets and we can build a fire if it is chilly. If you bring a Sr. Citizen, over 62, the car is toll free mid-week. The picnic starts at 6:00 so arrive a little early and bring a dish to pass, table service and a drink. The program is a walk around the lake, of course.

6/24 Tuesday Monica Peters 315-858-0261 TBA

6/28 Saturday Ernie & Heide Mahlke 432-2583 Get acquainted with the famous former hotel sites in the Catskills. A 5 mile maximum hike with little elevation gain to the Catskill Mountain House, Kaaterskill Hotel and Laurel House near North Lake/South Lake area of the Catskill Park. Lunch along the trail, and a possible swim after hike. There is a park admission fee. Trail head about 65 miles from Oneonta. Poor weather moves the outing to Sunday.

Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Thanks Heron Rookery Volunteers and Contributors

In February, we learned of a Great Blue Heron rookery in Hartwick being destroyed by someone wielding a chainsaw. We are very pleased our plans to construct steel structures with nesting platforms to replace the destroyed nests was successfully completed on March 1st. 30 volunteers turned out that snowy winter morning to help rebuild the rookery. There were DOAS members, local fishermen, members of the Adirondack Mountain Club, a professional wildlife educator, staff and students from Hartwick College, neighbors of the rookery, and people involved in the local tourist industry. People who were outraged by this senseless act came out and pitched in. It was a great turnout by a broad cross section of the community. It's success is now up to the herons.

We are encouraging people to check these structures regularly during the winter. If there is another attempt to

destroy this colony, it is most likely to happen then while ice is on the pond. Our best chance of identifying the vandal will be right after the damage occurs. Please do not trespass to check on the nest platforms. The pond is totally private. Before leaf out, the structures can be seen through the trees from Towers Road, just west of Seminary Road in the center of the east end of the pond. The thin pipes make them somewhat difficult to spot. Look for the tripods with the nests on them.

Special thanks go to Barbara and Larry Preston who gave permission for the structures to be built on their property and provided warmth, refreshments and labor, to John Davis and Tom Salo for their research and planning, and to Dave Kiehm, who helped Tom build nest platform parts and directed action on the ice during construction. Thanks also to those who've contributed funds to offset the construction costs.

The DOAS Board of Directors extends its gratitude to following people who participated in the rebuilding of the rookery:

Eric Bravin	David Kiehm	Barbara Preston	Rita Salo*
Sandy Bright	Lucy Lieberman	Larry Preston	Tom Salo
Gerianne Carillo	Nick Mangiono	Stephen Rice	Julie Smith*
John Davis*	Barbara Marsala	Joe Richardson	Mike Stensland
Bill DeVoe	Jack Meeks*	Art Rorick	Sophie Tomkiewicz
Joe Hart*	Dan Morse	Jo Salo	Tony Uhl*
George W. Hymas	Jeff O'Handley	John Salo*	
Fred Johnson*	Earle Peterson		

* Susquehanna Chapter ADK members

Blue Ridge Weekend

August 1-4, 2008

Attention, Blue Ridge campers! It's time, yes even now, to make reservations at the Lake Durant campground for our annual weekend of trailwork, hiking, canoeing, and fireside fellowship and fun. We have reserved site #58 (next to the one we had last year). The new rules don't permit us to reserve sites for others, so you will have to make your own reservations online at www.ReserveAmerica.com. We can share our site with one tent and its inhabitant(s).

We ask that you arrive Friday, August 1, since Saturday will be devoted to trail maintenance on the Wilson Pond trail. We urge you to stay at least until Monday the 4th, to be able to enjoy a full day of activities on Sunday. We will be staying until Friday the 8th and would be delighted to have others stay as well. There are many possibilities for hiking and canoeing in the area; join us for some of our favorites or explore on your own. Copies of *Enjoying the Blue Ridge Wilderness* are still available; to get a copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Nina at P.O. Box 111, Franklin, NY 13775.

For more information about this trip, call us at 829-8358.

Joe and Nina Hart

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CANOE RELAY RACE - SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008

Again this year, we hope to put together a Relay Team to enter the Memorial Weekend Canoe Relay Race on Sunday, May 25, 2008. So far we have three of the five needed teams of 1 male/1 female signed up. We also have a single female looking for a male paddling partner. If possible, a backup team would be good.

We will also need volunteers for transporting and canoe exchange points.

If you would like to participate in this exciting,

enjoyable experience, contact Rita Salo at jsalo2@stny.rr.com or call 607-432-3656 by May 1, 2008.

During the day of the race, Jean and Joe Seroka welcome ADK members to their beautiful Riverside Park to view the race. There will be a Brooks Bar-B-Q and Pot Luck picnic at the Seroka Pavilion later in the day. Bring chairs.

Jean and Joe invite ADKers back on Monday to watch the 70 miler.

Rita Salo

Chapter Annual Meeting Report

At our annual meeting in January, the Susquehanna Chapter members elected the following officers:

Erika Heinegg	President
Lucille Wiggin	Vice President
Joe Hart	Secretary
Nina Hart	Treasurer
Linda Seifried	Director for 2009*

Also at the annual meeting, the membership approved changes to the chapter bylaws. One of those changes decreased the number of standing committees. At our March 3 executive committee meeting, Erika Heinegg appointed the following committee chair:

Linda Seifried Conservation

*Aleda Koehn will continue to serve as our chapter's director through December 2008. Linda's term will begin in January 2009. Because she is expected to attend ADK's December organizational meeting, we held the election for the director position in January 2008.

**Bev Hensle will serve as outings chair and will have a vote on the executive committee. Ernie Mahlke will continue to coordinate weekend outings. Please communicate weekend activities directly to Ernie.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our current Susquehanna membership has 180 households or 264 voting members. The numbers continue to drop from our high of 220 households. The good news is that there are three new members to report. Please add their information to your Membership List.

Joseph Pagillo, PO Box 106, Laurens, NY 13796
607 431-9654

Gary Williams, 7 Murray Street, Binghamton, NY 13905
607 773-0140

Susan LeViness, Wilber Park Apt 89, 20 Gardner Place,
Oneonta, NY 13820 607 432-1429

We welcome these new members and hope to meet them soon.

Rita Salo, Membership Chair

Binghamton Chapter Becomes ADK's 26th

At its March meeting, the Board of Directors of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) passed a resolution establishing the Binghamton Chapter of ADK. The resolution passed unanimously. Membership and Development Director Deb Zack noted, "There was a great deal of excitement and organizer Gail Weyna was extremely pleased." Its first organizational meeting was held in Johnson City and 53 people attended. Officers were elected and a petition was successfully signed by the minimum of 25 ADK members needed to present a formal resolution to the Board of Directors. The first meeting of the Binghamton Chapter – ADK is scheduled for Monday evening, March 31 at Gander Mountain store in Johnson City. For further information, contact Gail Weyna, Binghamton Chapter Chair, at (607) 821-2846 or email her at G1snow@aol.com.

Deborah Zack, ADK Director of Membership and Development

ADK BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT - MARCH 15 2008

President Curt Miller called the meeting to order. He noted that sustained revenue growth will require investment in staffing, equipment, and capital.

Executive Director Neil Woodworth, referring to ex-governor Spitzer's departure said "Everything has changed. Incoming Governor, David Paterson, has a great reputation and although he does not have a history in land use, he does have a good record on green issues like the bottle bill. Spitzer's team, (those in DEC and other positions that ADK interacts with), consist of good people and they will stay on." Neil anticipates working with Paterson on issues important to ADK.

The Federal Court mercury ruling is a victory for the Adirondacks and Catskills. This is the third of three lawsuits involving the EPA and the Clean Air Act that have concurred with ADK's positions.

The Dillenburg case regarding NYS tax payments to towns in the forest preserve may present problems for land acquisitions. Judge Walker's perspective is that the legislature should correct inequalities in taxation. Some legislators are calling for a moratorium on state land purchases until the case is resolved. Neil opposes this moratorium because there are currently many opportunities for the state to acquire land and conservation easements. ADK may submit a friend of the court brief on this case.

FINANCES - There was a \$58,000 surplus in net income in 2007 in spite of a shortfall of \$121,452. The shortfall was offset by a savings of \$184,369 in expenses. Next year will result in a deficit as new positions have been added and vacancies filled. This investment in the future of ADK will, hopefully, result in a balanced budget by 2010. So far this year membership and donations are ahead of budget.

Jim Armel reviewed the 2007 independent auditors report. NOTE: The auditors recommended that ADK account for individual chapter's finances. A consistent reporting system should be used. The IRS and NYS have been increasing audits of not-for-profit organizations. Possibly certain chapter activities may inadvertently jeopardize the tax exempt status of the club. Despite a standardized form that chapters may use for their internal audits, not all chapters comply. There will be more information on this topic going out to chapter treasurers and other officers.

Bob Rudolph will be retiring. Ted Peltier will take over as Financial Director.

ACTION ITEMS - The following were considered and Passed:

Audit Committee Charter, Investment Committee Charter, Banking Resolution, and a Petition to Form a New Chapter, the Binghamton Chapter of ADK.

NEW CHAPTER- Neil Woodworth, Deb Zack, other staff and volunteers, meet with 52 interested Binghamton members and went over the steps needed to form a chapter. This enthusiastic group had already elected officers. There are over 200 ADK members in the area; some have affiliated with our chapter and many are at-large. Although Susquehanna Chapter will lose some members, the Binghamton Chapter will be a great addition to ADK.

EXECUTIVE DEPUTY DIRECTOR - John Million presented the draft memorandum of understanding between ADK and NY DEC on the planned Visitor Services Facility to be constructed on the edge of the Heart Lake property along the Loj road. Although the project is moving slowly, there is progress.

NORTH COUNTRY FACILITIES - the Loj and JBL - had the best year in recent history, returning revenues well over budget. Thirty Chinese Land Managers will spend three days at the Loj. The delegation will hike Mt. Jo, learn about ADK, tour the area, and meet with government and non-profit groups. ADK is honored to host these visitors on their first stop in USA. They continue on to D.C., Yosemite, and Hawaii.

OF INTEREST - Deb Zack announced that over \$5000 had been donated to the JBL endowment fund in honor of Jo Koenig for her dedication to ADK over the years. A gold leaf has been inscribed and will be added to the Tree of Giving that hangs on the wall of Great Room in the Loj. Donations continue and checks should be made out to ADK (Jo Koenig fund) and sent to Nina Hart, Box 111, Franklin, NY 13775.

Jack Freeman made a short visit to the BoD meeting. He had a stroke in late December and is slowly recovering. He was pushed in a wheelchair and looked very frail, but when he spoke his voice sounded strong.

NOTE: Leader's Orientation Meeting at Lake George Headquarters, May 3 from 11 am until 3 pm. Officers, committee chairs, and anyone interested in how the main club works or with questions about the club should attend this workshop. Staff and volunteers will address issues and answer questions. Call/email Virginia Etu for more information (Virginia@adk.org).

The next Board of Directors meeting will be June 21, 2008 at Lake George HQ. *Aleda Koehn*

ADK ACTION ALERTS!

EPF Being Raided for Budget Relief

We are at a critical juncture in the history of open-space protection in New York State. Right now, we have a unique opportunity to protect tens thousands of acres of wild lands in the Adirondacks and across the state, but a proposed raid on the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is jeopardizing that opportunity.

In his 2008-09 Executive Budget, Governor Spitzer proposed sweeping \$125 million of unspent EPF funds into the General Fund for non-environmental purposes. The Governor also proposed additional sweeps totaling \$75 million over the next three years. That would bring the total amount “borrowed” from the EPF to more than half a billion dollars – and not a penny has been paid back to the fund.

When lawmakers created the EPF in 1993, they intended it to be a locked box, ensuring that the state has the money for critical environmental projects even during economic downturns. It was not meant to be a slush fund.

Over the next two years, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation are expected to need \$300 million for land acquisition projects. Last week, DEC and The Nature Conservancy reached an agreement to protect the former Finch, Pruyn lands. (Read ADK’s press release on the deal at www.adk.org.) Other pending projects include the Lassiter and Clerical Medical tracts in the Adirondacks; the Big Indian Plateau tract in the Catskills; Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, the last of the undeveloped Finger Lakes; and the AVR project on Long Island.

Because of these pending projects, ADK supports an increase in the current EPF from \$250 million to \$300 million. The proposed budget would increase the land acquisition category by \$11 million to \$66 million, but we are requesting that category be increased to \$100 million for the coming fiscal year.

ADK is also concerned about the proposed reduction of the land stewardship category from \$22 million to \$5 million, a 78 percent cut. This category funds ADK’s professional trail crews, the Summit Steward program and other important initiatives for building and maintaining backcountry trails. While ADK applauds the Governor’s proposal to provide \$100 million for New York’s 350,000-acre state park system, we also recognize that DEC needs sufficient funding to properly maintain the 4.5 million acres it manages.

ADK needs your help in urging the Assembly and Senate to:

- Reject the \$125 million EPF sweep this year and any future sweeps.
- Increase land acquisition funding in the EPF to \$100 million.
- Restore the EPF land stewardship category to \$22 million.

We expect the state budget to be adopted by April 1, so please write to your legislators as soon as possible. (Letters to the editor in your local newspaper would help as well.)

Contact information for your state legislators:

Assembly: www.assembly.state.ny.us

Senate: www.senate.state.ny.us/senatehomepage.nsf/senators?OpenForum

ADK Calls for Moratorium on Power Plant Permits

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) is calling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cease issuing permits for new or modified coal-fired power plants until a federal appeals court order on mercury emissions becomes final.

Last month, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia unanimously struck down EPA’s Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR). That cap-and-trade program allowed polluters to buy pollution credits and emit mercury without pollution controls, which in turn resulted in regional mercury “hot spots.”

Two recent studies have linked coal-fired power plants to mercury hot spots in the Adirondacks and Catskills. A long-term study by the Wildlife Conservation Society, released last week, confirmed that human-generated mercury emissions are degrading the health and reproductive success of loons in the Northeast. (More information is available at www.wcs.org.)

The appeals court ruled that the EPA mercury plan conflicted with the clear language of the federal Clean Air Act, which requires power plants to install the best technology available to reduce mercury emissions. But despite the ruling, ADK and other environmental groups are concerned that EPA may try to rush through pending applications for new coal-fired plants before the court’s final order comes down. “Based on their track record, we can’t trust EPA to obey the law and do the right thing,” said ADK Executive Director Neil F. Woodworth. “In recent years, EPA has bent over backwards to further the interests of polluters while ignoring its mandate to protect the environment and public health. This has to stop.”

Foot-Loose!

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter ADK

www.susqadk.org

c/o Rita Salo

698 Winney Hill Road

Oneonta, NY 13820

Subscription to this newsletter is included in membership in the Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. It is available to the public and to non-chapter members for \$5 per year. Contact Rita Salo at (607)432-3656 for more information. Portions of this newsletter are also available online; go to www.susqadk.org.

Susquehanna Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

President: Erika Heinegg

832 4204 eheinegg@delhi.net

Vice-President: Lucille Wiggin

432 1022 wiggin@stny.rr.com

Secretary: Joe Hart

829 8358 ninajoe@frontiernet.net

Treasurer: Nina Hart

829 8358 ninajoe@frontiernet.net

Blue Ridge: Joe Hart

829 8358 ninajoe@frontiernet.net

Conservation: Linda Seifried

265 3780 sseifriend@mkl.com

Hospitality: Jean Seroka

988-7007

Membership: Rita Salo

432 3656 jsalo2@stny.rr.com

Newsletter

Editor, Fred Johnson

783 2567 jfred212@frontiernet.net

Mailing: Rita Salo

432 3656 jsalo2@stny.rr.com

Outings: Beverly Hensle

286-9126

Publicity: Moira Beach

433 2832 susadk@yahoo.com

Director, ADK: Aleda Koehn

432 8870 koehn40@hotmail.com

Chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta (except where noted). Members and the public are invited to our early evening potluck supper at 6pm (please bring a dish to pass, your own table service and mug or cup); programs begin at 7pm, followed by a short business meeting.

Adirondack Mountain Club annual membership dues are \$50 for individuals and \$60 for families (other membership levels are available, including seniors and students). Benefits of membership include:

- discounts on ADK workshops and programs
- invitations to member only outings and extended trips
- 20% discount on ADK trail guides, canoe guides, maps, books and calendars
- reduced rates at ADK facilities: lodges, leantos,
- Adirondac Magazine six times a year
- discounts on ADK merchandise
- reduced rates at ADK facilities: lodges, leantos, cabins, and campgrounds
- membership in one of ADK's 27 chapters throughout the Northeast

For more information go to www.adk.org or call (800) 395-8080