
Foot - Loose

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

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All my life I've been an outdoors person and of course have enjoyed hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating and walking. In my thirties I became completely enthralled with bird identification and started my life list of birds which now stands at 460. The goal of one's life list is to see and to identify all the different birds in North America. I'm more than halfway there. The Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch allows me to pursue both my passions: to enjoy the great outdoors and to identify new birds.

The Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch located on the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society Sanctuary overlooks Oneonta, New York and is particularly noted for late fall season flights of numerous raptors. Franklin Mountain provides a panoramic view of the Susquehanna River Valley and the surrounding hills of Delaware and Otsego Counties. In addition to the hawk watch, the Audubon Sanctuary offers approximately a mile and a half of marked hiking trails through a variety of habitats.

The Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch began in 1989 as a survey of hawks and eagles migrating past DOAS wildlife sanctuary in the Town of Davenport. Thousands of raptors of fifteen species are counted moving south each fall as they concentrate along the ridges overlooking Oneonta.

This year, volunteers began tallying raptors the third week of August as the Hawkwatch celebrated its 23rd consecutive counting season. Daily counts will continue through the month of December. The best flights generally occur on days with north or northwest winds usually following a cold front. The site is noted for its flights of Golden Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks. In some years over 200 Golden Eagles have been seen passing through Oneonta which is more than have passed through any other hawk watch in New York State. Most seasons tally over 2,000 Red-tailed Hawks each fall. The middle two weeks of September are prime time for Broad-winged Hawks.

If you are interested in learning more about the Franklin Mountain Hawkwatch, the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society will host an open house at the sanctuary on Saturday, October 8, 2011 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. At 10:30 am there will be a forty-five minute beginners workshop on Identifying Flying Hawks. A trail walk will leave the barn at 11:30 am and will cover most of the sanctuary grounds. The hawk watch will be staffed throughout the day and refreshments will be served at the barn. For ADK members this could be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the interests of two great organizations: the Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society.

The sanctuary can be reached by taking Oneonta's Main Street south across NY Route 28. After passing through the light, turn immediately left at the T onto Southside Drive. Turn right after 8/10 mile on Swart Hollow Road. Go 1 mile and take a sharp right on Grange Hall Road. After 2/10 mile, take a sharp left into the driveway, or park nearby on Grange Hall Road. The hawk watch is 100 yards up the hill from the barn.

Dianne Benko

MARCY DAM BRIDGE/WALKOVER WASHED OUT

The high waters washed out the bridge that crosses the top of Marcy Dam. You will recall Marcy Dam as a favorite hike destination for our club members. How many of us have pictures of ourselves, taken from the bridge with the water and mountains in the background? Much of the wooden dam itself remains although some of the wood has been pushed forward and the dam needs repair. So... there is no way to cross the brook to access trails to Tabletop, Avalanche Lake, Phelps, Marcy and other trail heads on the east side of the dam. Rock hopping below the dam or even above would be dangerous or impossible. NYS and DEC will have to evaluate the situation but that could take a very long time. In the meantime it is advantageous to ADK that hikers have access to these trails. Neil, working with DEC, said it is possible to use the Mr. Van Trail that leads to the Marcy Dam Truck Road. ADK could build (or re-build) a bridge (or bridges) that would allow crossing Marcy Brook and the low land swampy area owned by ADK. I remember taking this route in both summer and winter years ago when there was a bridge across the stream. This route would allow hikers to leave from the ADK parking lot and property for the east side of the dam and river.

LOOKING BACK: ALEDA'S HIKES BRING SNOWY WEATHER

During the past seven months I have been listed to lead three different hikes. All turned out to be days with snow, even though early November and early April would not necessarily suggest snow. (This is Oneonta however!) Nov. 9 was to hike Riddell Park from Exit 17 to Pine Lake. A hardy group showed up and we hiked in 4-5 inches of snow. January 18 was to ski/snowshoe Gilbert Lake. Blizzard conditions that day canceled the outing. Then the April hike, again snow. What is going on???

By the way, I am scheduled to led a hike on December 6. Does that mean an early winter snow storm??? Let's see what happens.

HIKE REPORT

Tue. Aug. 2 Hike--New Island and the site of the former Electric Lake provided an interesting destination for 12 of us on a beautiful summer morning. We walked the trails which gave us access to the north side of the South Side Dam and a portion of the old lake bed. Much of it is buried under I-88 between exits 15 and 16. We enjoyed lunch beside the Susquehanna at the site of the old RR bridge which carried trains from Oneonta the Stamford.

Sun. Oct 23rd a more extensive Electric Lake Hike will be guided by Jim Loudon author of [Electric Lake; Oneonta's Forgotten Gem](#). Reservations are available by calling Jim at 434-8655 or the Oneonta History Center at 432-0960.

FALL HIKES

Oct. 4	Mary Dunkle Land Trust Property-TBA	547-2162
Oct. 11	Fran Darrah Relay Sate. Forest, Delaware County.	286-3301
Oct. 18	Monica Peters Hartwick State Forest	315-858-0261
Oct. 25	Lucille Wiggin Audubon Property, Oneonta	432-1022
Nov. 1	Linda Pierce Ridell Park, Oneonta	432-8966
Nov. 8	Curry & Virginia Marr TBA	432-5434
Nov. 15	Jim & Charlene Higgins Wilbur Park, Oneonta	432-7012
Nov. 22	Linda Melchione Basswood Pond	315-858-0359
Nov. 29	Julie Smith Greenway, Oneonta	432-8642
Dec. 6	Aleda Kohen TBA	432-8870
Dec.. 13	Mary Dunkle Ski or Snowshoe Cooperstown Golf Course. Soup after at Mary`s home	547-2162
Dec. 20	Norma lee Havens Gilbert Lake State Park	432-3154
Dec.27	No Hike	Holiday Week.

AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE AT MUD LAKE

Julie Smith led the April 12 hike to Pine Lake. The large group of mid-week hikers divided according to ambition and ability - one group to walk the trails around the Pine Lake Campus, and the other to head uphill. The 12 Mud Lake hikers started up the road, soon turning right and taking the well-marked, newer trail that avoids a section of private land. All the snow was gone and only the low sections were wet. (A big contrast to last Tuesday.) Although the brook was high, with a bit of scouting we found a reasonable place to cross without mishap. We noted the junction where the Jacy Henderson trail leaves and returns to the main trail. (Another hike, another day.)

As we walked the spur trail to Mud Lake we heard strange noises ... barking dogs??, geese??, ducks?? No!! Hundreds (thousands) of frogs!! Frogs hopped from the sphagnum into the water, swam back and forth, peered with their little eyes just above the surface of the water. The sounds of the frogs mating frenzy filled the air. The vocalization continued even though we were close by. It was an amazing experience.

At home I looked in my amphibian book and guessed, by the sound of their calls, they may have been wood frogs. I checked with biologist Donna Vogler and she said the frogs were indeed wood frogs, common in the Northeast. This 2 to 3 inch frog, with a darker back and a light belly, lives in the woods in damp places but finds water for mating and egg laying when their hibernation is over in the spring. They tend to mate in ephemeral bodies of water which have fewer predators for eggs and developing tadpoles. Mud Lake, however, appeared to be wood frog heaven. Their mating time is relatively short so we were lucky to have been at Mud Lake at just the right time.

Julie Smith

IRENE RESULTS IN \$66,000 REVENUE LOSS FOR ADK

IRENE brought high winds and lots of rain to the North Country with much flooding in Essex County. I attended the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, September 17 where Neil Woodworth, our Executive Director, showed us pictures of damage done by the storm.

Eight to ten inches of rain fell in about 5 hours, and water rushed down slope, over-running streams and rivers with tremendous force. Many new slides were created on the high peaks, some portions of trails had deep washouts, but subsequent assessments found that overall effect of the storm on wilderness trails was not nearly as bad as had been feared. None of our ADK facilities had any direct damage.

The approaches to the Loj Road bridge that crosses the dip of land over Marcy Brook was washed out on both sides, although the bridge itself remained. (This bridge is often our destination for an after dinner walk.) About 31 guests, plus staff, were stranded at the Loj for three days. Mel fed and entertained the guests, the staff was great, people could still hike up Mt Jo, and all had a good time. Even though the bridge and road to the Loj was made passable, DEC closed the High Peaks to hiking and asked the town of North Elba to close the Loj road. The staff at JBL managed to have their guests walk out before the worst of the rains, but JBL was also closed. This meant canceling and refunding reservations for the Labor Day weekend and beyond. The revenue losses from closures at the Loj, campground and lean-tos, parking lot, JBL, and store sales totaled \$66,000. Because of lost income, the BoD authorized the use of assets up to \$100,000 from the Third Millennium Fund for cash flow and expense management as needed.

Aleda Koehn



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Four ADK'ers went to the business meeting of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), a water management agency serving the Susquehanna River Management. They were Lucille Wiggin, Julie Smith, Linda Melchione, and Erika Heinegg. The meeting was held at the Country Inn & Suites, Milford NY. The meeting was to address the problems of potential Hydrofracking and resultant Water Purity.

The first speaker spoke of the flooding as predicted by the forecasting of meteorologists. He alerted the audience to the fact that funding for forecasting will be cut by the federal government as of October 1st the next fiscal year. He had 'no clue' how funding will continue to alert the populace when and where the river crests at the next event. It has been taken for granted that notice will be given but that is no longer the case.

Willard Harmon, among others, was honored for his service to the SRBC.

A representative of the Remote Water Management Monitoring (RWMM) system addressed the audience: The Headwaters of the Susquehanna are in Cooperstown for the Chesapeake Bay area watershed. A database was being developed with regard to hydrofracking for gas drilling. The aim is to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed. There are almost 50 stations monitoring the water purity at this time and State Agencies will be notified if problems are encountered. The website for monitoring is: **www.srbc.net**

The Hydraulic Conditions report was next addressed: Pennsylvania experienced draught conditions during June, July and August. Precipitation started Aug. 6th; Irene came Aug. 27th with a rainfall total of 5 to 6 inches in the southern tier. River stages, moderate flooding occurred on Aug. 29th. More precipitation with Tropical Storm Lee arrived on Sept. 6th to 9 with extreme rainfalls from 5 to 15 inches. "Flood forecasts and warnings are critical to saving lives," emphasized the presenter.

Representative Kenneth P. Lynch, DEC NY addressed Linda Melchione's question of erosion on culverts and roads by stating that the DEC tries to go to identified sites to put down Ric Rac and other stabilizers.

The floor was then given over for Public Comments at which time speakers addressed their concerns and findings of the dangers of hydrofracking; and urged the commission to stop giving permits to gas companies to withdraw millions of gallons of water.

The representatives of SRBC stated that they were not in a position of influence but only collect a database.

We did not stay for "Grants/Contract Ratifications and Ry-2012 Capital Budget" discussions. There will be a forthcoming meeting addressing Air Quality and Gas on November 10, 2011. Where? Not available.

Erika Heinegg

ADK Susquehanna Chapter Executive Committee Minutes for September, 14 2011

Present: D. Benko, J. Castine, M. Castine, M. McDowell-Barnes, M. Beach, V. Marr, L Wiggen, B. Means, E. Heinegg, A. Koehn. Absent: L. Seifried, B. Hensle
Treasurer's Report - V. Marr. Report approved

“JOB JAR “

1. Footloose Editor: Barb Means has agreed to fill in, at least for the October newsletter, as Fred Johnson has resigned. The committee thanked Fred for the high quality Foot-Loose that he has edited for the past several years. Fred will take the next edition to Hartwick for printing.
2. Secretary: Aleda Koehn was nominated and approved to fill the position of secretary as Linda Melchionne has resigned.
3. Education Chair: This position has not been filled in several years. Dianne will ask Linda M. if she would take this position. Another possible person to ask might be Peter Regan.
4. Booth at Morrisville State College Fair: Dianne will call Linda M. and ask if she will take our chapter materials to the fair on Sept 17.
5. Attracting younger members: Communication from Maria Erdo asked about putting GPS info about trails into a website. This might be of interest to younger hikers. Is anyone interested in this?
6. Wilderness Legal Defense Fund: Linda S. suggested we make our chapter donation toward this fund of the main ADK club. We will discuss donations at the December meeting.
7. Chapter Guidelines Feedback: There have been no objections as far as we know. Some leaders, after seeing all the rules, are somewhat uncomfortable leading hikes. Our Director will vote to accept the new guidelines.

8. Committee Reports

Director: A Koehn will attend the Board of Directors meeting on Sept. 7 as a proxy for Lina S..
Conservation: E. Heinegg: Linda S. and Erica will to to a meeting on hydrofracking to be held at the Country Inn in Harwick Seminary on Thursday Sept 15. During the recent flooding, holding Lagoons overflowed into nearby rivers.

Mid-Week Hikes B Hensle is completing the schedule and will send to Barb.

Newsletter: B. Means: Dianne---lead article about Hawk Watch. Erica--- hydrofracking meeting. Aleda--- resend articles on Frogs at Mud lake, My stormy hikes, Jan-Feb ski trip announcement
Castines--- Wilson Pond trail report can be lifted from the website. Other trip reports can come off website .

Fred often would do a "look back" at past events from old newsletters. Article due by Sept 20.

Membership: Lucille asked to buy a stamp with our chapter info to put on the materials we hand out to the public. Approved

Lucille will email ADK and Chapter info to the people who signed their names and email addresses at the recent fair.

Publicity: Moira said to take Joe Hart off Blue Ridge head, we are no longer doing this. Joe Castine is in charge of Wilson Pond trail maintenance. Our info is being posted around town by Chris Austin.
Trails: J. & M. Castine: The Wilson Pond trail work was done by Steve Bonnell, Linda M. and Fred Johnson. Due to car breakdown, Joe and Melanie did not get to Durrant Lake this time. An Arnold Lake trail clearing will be scheduled for late Oct or early Nov.

(con't on p.7)

Recent hike on Otsego Land Trust property had a charge of \$45. \$2.00 was collected from each participant and 30 people paid \$72. Voted to put extra money into general fund to offset any future charges for hikes. Approved

Executive Meetings will be held on Wednesdays as this day suits more committee members

Programs: Oct 19: Navajo wedding in Canyon de Chelly- Charlie Winters

Nov 16- Volunteering At Rocky Mt. Nat Pk. Scott Lauffer & Kathy Cronin

Other Items: A suggestion was made to hire someone to do our newsletter. We would like to keep the editorship within the chapter if possible. Need to gather info about cost of outsourcing.

Next meeting Wed. December 7, 9:30 a.m. at Lutheran Church, Oneonta.

Aleda Koehn, Secretary



Road to the ADK Loj , taken by a DEC forester from a helicopter. Note the people

Foot-Loose!

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter ADK

www.susqadk.org

c/o Lucille Wiggin

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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 Barbara Meeks at (607) 783-2924 for more information. Portions of this newsletter are also available online at www.susqadk.org.

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Chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, September through May, 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
- discounts on ADK merchandise
- invitations to member only outings and extended trips
- reduced rates at ADK facilities: lodges, lean-tos, cabins, and campgrounds
- 20% discount on ADK trail guides, canoe guides, maps, books and calendars
- membership in one of ADK's 27 chapters throughout the Northeast

For more information please go to www.susqadk.org or call 1 800 395 8080