



Foot – Loose!

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

Volume 26, Number 4

October 2014

Challenges to the Wild Areas of the Adirondack Park

by Erika Baker-Heinegg

It has been suggested I bring attention to these issues for your consideration: an economic development for the Adirondack Park area in the Tupper Lake region of about 6200 acres. A year round resort has been proposed to rebuild the ski area, to build a new marina on the lake, and to construct housing about 80 miles from the Canadian border. It would create up to 206 single-family and 125 multiple-family dwellings with 453 units, an Inn, and 15 new single residences on 20 to 30 acre lots. The group “Protect the Adirondacks” said the ruling sets a bad precedent for forest preserve management and could mark a point of no return in the history of the Adirondack Park. Governor Cuomo praised the court’s ruling saying it will bring significant economic activity and jobs to the area. Also for new consideration are new snowmobile and ATV trails. Hunting and trapping restrictions are feared. (ADK 3-4-14)

At Howe’s Cavern in Cobleskill an application for a gaming license has been proposed to buy 110 acres of 330 and to build a casino with a water park, an arcade, a game park and three restaurants. This proposal is competing with proposed gaming parlors that would be located in East Greenbush, Rensselaer, Schenectady or Montgomery County. Three more licenses could be issued for the Catskills, the Hudson Valley, and the Southern Tier. Caesars wants to build a casino near Woodbury Commons shopping center about 50 miles from New York City.

These proposals are only a smattering of more developments suggested as some examples of expanding the economics of upstate New York. Bringing upstate NY into the public limelight, pitting environmental agencies against out of state developers.

Fortunately New York State has voted “no” to Casino Gambling expansion.

History Has Been Made!

This summer, *East Dix* was officially renamed *Grace Peak* in honor the great Grace Hudowalski, a founding member of the [Adirondack 46er Club](#). After 12 years of petition Grace has finally gotten the remembrance she deserved. Visit the [website](#) devoted to [Grace Peak](#) to learn more about Grace, her life and love of the Adirondacks, and check out the [press release page](#) for more info on the renaming. The photo shows a summit sign installed on first ascent of Grace Peak on June 21st, 2014.

However and unfortunately the State Department of Environmental Conservation did not authorize the sign. According to an article in the September/October 2014 edition of “Adirondack Explorer” a forest ranger will remove the sign. Grace Hudowalski was the longtime historian of the Adirondack Forty-Sixers.



Fall Meetings - 3rd Wednesdays

In September we returned to Elm Park Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St. Oneonta, for 6 pm potluck dinners followed by 7 pm programs.

October 15 – Rick Bunting: Birds and Butterflies

November 19 - Helena Garan-150 mile canoe trip in the Netherlands

December 17 – Potluck, photo sharing, and possibly a short program

January 21 - Annual business meeting and possibly a short program

Wilson Pond

Okay, so it's not the Willilam Tell Overture that you're familiar with, but it was at least as much fun. On Tuesday, Sept. 3rd, George Siatos met me at my house to head to Wilson Pond to do the trail maintenance that our chapter has sponsored. The fun started before we even left! George made it very clear that this backpacking trip would make it one in a row. Actually, he'd bivouacked in the military many years ago, but they'd provided all necessities with following vehicles. I'd stressed that we needed to go light, since we'd be also carrying tools for the trail work. George arrived with a heavy daypack. I offered a pack, to which he at first declined, since he'd packed all he needed already. When I asked how he'd attach a sleeping bag and mattress, he was surprised and said he wouldn't need them. I convinced him that the night would be much more comfortable if he took my extra pack, sleeping bag and mattress. Then came the transfer of packs! George had numerous items, not limited to but including: a weather radio (and extra batteries), a sterno stove, surgical gloves and not one, but two UMBRELLAS! I said "no" to many of the above on grounds that they were unnecessary and/or someone might see us. Emphasizing the need for lightness, I stressed that everything would have to be carried 7.2 miles, to which he replied, "I thought it was only 3.6 miles to the lean-to!"

Finally, we were packed and on the road. We had a nice lunch in Indian Lake and hit the trailhead before 2 p.m. George copied down the Ranger's phone number at the trailhead. He was surprised to see that we didn't have cell coverage at the lean-to. I said that there was no problem and since I was responsible for him in an emergency, I'd get him out even if I had to make two trips! George was relieved to hear that there was no concern for rattlesnakes, copperheads, poison ivy, nor Lyme disease, but less than pleased about a potential visit from a bear, raccoon or coyote.

It was raining lightly before our arrival at Wilson Pond. I

managed to find the only leak in the roof with my leak detector....also known as a down sleeping bag. A quick slide to the side averted an uncomfortable evening.

No bears visited, but like most lean-tos, it had a lively reception committee of deer mice. I'd brought a trap to 'evict' as many as possible. George had a great time keeping score. I quit at nine for a little sleep. George offered his surgical gloves and was horrified that I didn't use them nor hike to the lake in the rain and darkness.

We headed out at dawn after a small breakfast to meet Sue Smith and Jeff Walshe, who'd driven up from Oneonta for a mid-trail rendezvous. We worked our way out to the trailhead. George was snacking on some gorp I provided. I noticed a dribble of it onto the trail. We quickly learned that a hole had 'appeared' in the side pocket of the pack. George thought he'd done it on the trail, but of course, it was mousification. The fact that they were after the peanuts in the gorp George was eating gives new meaning to the term 'baited breathe'. Also, I couldn't resist telling him that, if he was upset by me touching their tails, he had been virtually French-kissing a mouse or mice all morning.

Sincerely though, George was a lot of fun and a great help on the trip. He used the loppers to neaten up the trail since he was still a little sore in his shoulder due to demonstrating his combination canoe entry/ half gainer with full twist. My spare sleeping bag had a distinct Bengay aroma when I aired them out at home.

Thanks to George, Sue and Jeff. The trail is in fine shape. Since this is 'New York', we even briefly discussed the feasibility of tolls.

Lastly, I'm sure George has plenty of amusing perspectives of his own....Your turn!!

Al Martel, DTD

(designated trail dude)

One Square Mile of Hope

On a cold, rainy September 13th, about 2517 paddlers in canoes and kayaks set a new record in Fourth Lake at Arrowhead Park in Inlet, N.Y. Imagine yourself with these eager folks. Participants had come from many states and even two Canadian provinces to provide support for the event which

serves to fund research into the prevention and cause of breast



Photo by Fred Johnson (on 9/13 at 11:55 a.m.)



Aerial photoby Nancie Battaglia and borrowed from the website

cancer. Due to the continuing rain, outdoor celebratory musical events in the park were canceled. An amazing turnout of volunteers helped canoeists and kayaker unload and load their boats as well as providing transportation to and from parking areas on either side of the lake. Funds raised had not been determined at press time. For informational updates visit www.onesquaremileofhope.org.

Welcome to the NCT in the Empire State!

The North Country Trail route begins at Crown Point, NY, near the bridge crossing Lake Champlain into Vermont. North Country Trail supporters have advocated for the Trail to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Vermont. Supported by the Green Mountain Club and others, the feasibility study is under way to connect two of America's great hiking trails, something that eventually will require Congressional approval.

Moving west from Crown Point State Park, it is about 5 miles to Adirondack State Park, where the route of the North Country Trail is now in the planning stages.

West of the Adirondacks, the potential route of the trail begins to take shape at Forestport, where the Black River Feeder Canal begins and heads west to Boonville. The old towpath along the canal has always been considered as the route of the trail, though the route is open to snowmobiles, ATVs, and highway vehicles. South from Boonville, the Towpath Trail, Operated by BREIA (the Black River Environmental Improvement Association), is a well maintained cross country skiing and hiking trail extending along the towpath of the Black River Canal to beyond Pixley Falls State Park—a distance of 7 to 8 miles.

About a mile south of Pixley Falls, the towpath is no longer continuous, but local roads and Delta Lake State Park can get hikers south to the sidewalks of Rome. Trail users will find a stop at Fort Stanwix, located in the center of Rome, to be an educational experience. This completely recreated Revolutionary War era fort was the only fort that actually sustained a British siege without surrendering. There were other forts that didn't surrender but, they were not under siege. Fort Stanwix is one of but a few sites of National Park Service land along this National Park Service Trail.

More information about the area is available from the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce.

At the west edge of Rome, hikers will find Old Erie Canal Village a restored canal town. In addition to tours of the village, one can actually take a ride on an authentic canal boat. A towpath trail can be walked across the property. Just beyond the village is the eastern end of Old Erie Canal State Park. This linear park includes an existing trail that can be followed all the way to the point where the North Country Trail needs to head south to reach the Onondaga section of the Finger Lakes Trail. The Canal Path is a multiple use trail, surfaced with crushed rock. This route is scenic but does allow snowmobile use in the winter.

The distance between Old Erie Canal State Park and the main Finger Lakes Trail is about 70 miles, and provides the official north-south route of the North Country Trail. Hikers will follow the NCT south (coinciding with the Link Trail for ~26-30 miles) to connect to the NCT/FLT-Onondaga Branch Trail (Blue blazed) in the Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area. Hikers may also choose another north-south side trail by following the non-NCT portion of the Link Trail (Yellow blazes), which lies east of the Onondaga Branch, mostly in Madison County.

NCT/FLT-Onondaga Branch Trail carries the user to the main branch of the white blazed Finger Lakes Trail (FLT), they've reached the first of several long-established, well-developed trails that the NCNST overlays; the FLT is one of the best developed by private interests. From the Onondaga Trail junction, usable trail stretches southwestward nearly 460 miles. The majority of this trail is on New York's Finger Lakes Trail System. The FLT is an east-west footpath system across the state from the Catskills in the east to the Alleghenys in the west. It passes south of the Finger Lakes, and has several branches extending north of the main east-west route. The trail passes through some of the most varied and beautiful country in the east — forests, lakes, glacially sculpted hills and valleys, secluded glens and waterfalls.

Winter Outing At The Loj

Our annual Susquehanna Winter Outing to the Loj is in limbo. Any members interested are encouraged to contact Aleda Koehn who reports, "We always have lots of fun snow or no snow. (And most of the times we have had snow enough to ski.) Monday through Wednesday, February 2-4 there are many spaces in the Loft and one private room, so far." Please contact Aleda Koehn for more information. [607-267-4586](tel:607-267-4586) or akoehn40@hotmail.com

New and Rejoining Members

Recently, the Executive Committee agreed not to publish street names, phone numbers and e-mail of our new and rejoining members. But, we're encouraged to look up new members at meetings and introduce ourselves.

Ingrid Jackoway	Newark, DE
Angelika Rashkow	Cooperstown, NY

An American Tragedy - Glimmerglass Opera, July 20- August 24

The opera, based on the 1906 murder in Big Moose Lake, drew nearly a full house at each performance. In addition, two bus trips added interest. A bus took people from Cooperstown and Oneonta to Old Forge where they had an opportunity to appreciate the terrain through which Chester Gillette and Grace Brown traveled. The travelers also visited the courthouse and jail in Herkimer, NY where Gillette was found guilty of murder and sentenced to the electric chair in the Auburn Penitentiary.

On another occasion a bus brought people from VIEW, the Old Forge Arts Center, to Glimmerglass to see the opera.

For those interested in further reflection on the story, check out Brandon Craig's detailed, factual book, "Murder in the Adirondacks: An American Tragedy." For further adventure, try Jennifer Donnelly's "A Northern Light" in which sixteen-year-old Mattie Gokey, desperate for money, takes a job at the Glenmore, where hotel guest Grace Brown entrusts her with the task of burning a secret bundle of letters. But when Grace's drowned body is fished from the lake, Mattie discovers that the letters could reveal the grim truth behind a murder.

Please clip and post

SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER Fall 2014 SCHEDULE

ALWAYS CALL LEADERS FOR DETAILS

Area codes are 607 unless otherwise noted

Riders should contribute a fair share toward gas. Each trip's leader must have all participants sign the liability release form, which may be downloaded from our website: www.susqadk.org.

Ernie Mahlke, 432-2583, will be happy to hear from people who want to hike on weekends and include them in any plans he and Heide may have. For bikers looking for group rides, please call Leon and Lucille Wiggin, 432-1022, and Frank and Jean Oakley, 263-5832.

Email: HYPERLINK "mailto:smithj3@hartwick.edu"smithj3@hartwick.edu to sign up for a hike. Do not hit return.

Trip leaders must have all participants sign a liability release form, which may be downloaded from our website: HYPERLINK "http://www.susqadk.org/"www.susqadk.org. It is the hiker's responsibility to check with the leader to see if a hike is cancelled.

Dates	Leaders	Phones	Destinations
October 7	Fran Darrah	286-3301	Grand Gorge Trail
14	Jann and Jack Ewen	432-1269	Vromans Nose
21	Sara Scheeren - (Land Trust)	547-2366 or 432-8642	
28	Carol Saggese	432-8010	Arnold Lake Trail
November 4	Julie Smith	432-8642	Betty and Wilber Davis Park
11	Jeff O'Handley – OCCA	282-4087 or 432-8642	Hicks State Park
18	Ruth Schaeffer	988-7036	Lower Riddell
25	Maureen Willis	286-9821	Greenway
December 2	Currie and Virginia Marr	432-5434	Gilbert Lake State Park
9	Rita Salo	432-3656	Christmas Tree Farm
16	Aleda Koehn	267-4586	Strawberry Hill
23	Lucille Wiggin	432-1022	Crumhorn Trails

All phone numbers are in area code 607

Summer 2014 Trip Reports

Goodyear Lake – June 17, 2014

Twenty-six hikers gathered at our house at Goodyear Lake. Three people walked on the lake roads while the rest of us took the 3-mile hike to the Collier's Dam. Our walk took us along the railroad tracks to Silliman Cove Rd. and through the nicely wooded trail to the dam. As in many previous years, recent rains caused quite an overflow at the dam creating a very pretty sight. Several went down the steep hill (the portage used in the Clinton Canoe Regatta) to the base of the dam. From the dam we circled back through the state land where they are currently working to make new trails that will be handicapped accessible. Trees have been cut down and trail beds are being prepared with shale and crushed stone. It appears that the parking lot is being enlarged and an improved access is being prepared for putting in cartop boats. We returned to our backyard to eat our lunch and to cool off with some ice cream. Even though it became quite warm on our way back, we all had a nice morning outing.

Linda Pearce



Photo by Currie Marr

Crumhorn Mtn., Boy Scout Camp – June 24, 2014

June 24th was a “possible showers” kind of day which didn’t shower until 20 of us arrived at the Crumhorn Mt. Boy Scout camp for our hike. Luckily they had set up a tarp which we crowded under for about a 20 min. wait for the rain to decide our fate. Three people left right then, but the rest of us put our rain gear to work following the main trail past the now tent occupied camper units and Indian dwelling models. After a short side trip to the Cell Tower, others left to be back for appointments. Another side trip to the water falls and continuation around the lake returned the eight “tough enough” hikers to our cars.

Lucille Wiggin

Wilber Park – July 1, 2014

Twenty-six enthusiastic people gathered at Wilber Park’s pavilion to begin a 2+ mile walk. Due to many elevation changes of this curvy bike-trail, walking the trail demanded greater energy than expected. Frequent breezes and tree-shade pleasantly moderated the sunny, hot and muggy day. Partridge Berry plants were noted to be in flower, but mostly, people focused on securing their footing on the rough terrain. Upon



Photo by Julie Smith

completing the hike there was a sense of accomplishment but no desire to stay in the park and eat lunch.

Currie Marr

Crumhorn Rod and Gun Club - July 15, 2014

The July 15th hike gathered 17 ADKers at our cottage on Crumhorn Lake for a walk away from the Boy Scout Camp to the Crumhorn Rod and Gun Club. We were better prepared for the showers this time and they did sprinkle us. An old carriage road took us thru the forest to the Gun Club property. The Club has Wed. eve. Trap shoots so Tue. AMs are normally quiet. The interesting area was where they have set up two stores and a saloon front for their Cowboy Club shooters. Participants in these shoots can only use older single shot pistols, etc. and dress for the cowboy parts they play. We enjoyed posing for a group portrait at the Saloon. A circuit on thru the woods brought us back to our cottage for our bag lunches.

Lucille Wiggin

Plainfield State Forest - July 22, 2014

Our hike with OCCA Program Director Jeff O’Handley was considered a big success for at least two reasons: 1) New territory to explore and 2) It was a real HIKE ! We have not had one like this in a long time - Two solid hours of up and down hills. Along the way was beautiful vegetation to identify. Birds were few but then it was mid-day and quite warm. We will look forward to more hikes similar in nature with OCCA.

Erika Baker-Heinegg

Valley View Hiking Trails – August 5, 2014

The hike was held at The Valley View Hiking trails outside of Unadilla, NY. Sixteen people carpoled and we started the hike a little after 10:00. It was a nice, sunny day and we started out by hiking the Creekside Trail. It is next to a small stream and we saw lots of small toads and a coral mushroom. They were so pretty. We hiked the valley view trail and enjoyed a great view of the valley, as well as beautiful butterflies. As we came across to the outside perimeter trail I noticed everyone got real quiet all of a sudden. As I turned around to see what was happening, everyone had stopped to pick and eat blackberries. There were so many bushes and lots of nice berries. The highlight of the hike, I think.

Ruth Schaeffer

Betty & Wilbur Davis Park – August 19, 2014

There were 13 of us that hiked at Betty and Wilbur Davis State Park on a beautiful sunny and cool August morning. It was a perfect day to be in the woods. Currie found some interesting plants along the way and everyone had a good time. We all



Cup Fungus (Peziza sp.) Photo by Doug Fielder

stayed to eat our lunch in the beautiful pavilion and no one seemed in a hurry to leave.

Bev Hensle

Picnic at Crumhorn - August 20, 2014

The picnic at Crumhorn was enjoyed by 22 ADKers. Four went swimming, two boating and one fishing. Everyone enjoyed the bountiful food with multiple deserts to celebrate Irv Peters’ and Lucille Wiggin’s “around 80s” birthdays. Darkness descended too early to allow for the walk around the Lake. By next year we will see some big changes in the Boy Scout Camp.

Lucille Wiggin

Elm Park meeting close-up schedule

Thanks to the volunteers who’ve agreed to accept responsibility for closing the Elm Park Church meeting room following our monthly meetings:

September – Moira Beach
October – Ruth Schaeffer
November – Muffy McDowell
December – Dianne Benko

Foot-Loose!

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter ADK

www.susqadk.org
c/o Lucille Wiggin
80 Chestnut Street
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.

Susquehanna Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

Chair: Erika Heinegg
432-0405 eheinegg21@gmail.com
Vice-Chairs: Muffy McDowell and
Harry Barnes
829-5307muffymcdowell@yahoo.com
brckbns@yahoo.com
Secretary: Aleda Koehn
267-4586 akoehn40@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Virginia Marr
432-5434 cmarr@stny.rr.com

Director, ADK: Linda Seifried
265-3780 sseifried@mkl.com
Conservation: Erika Heinegg
432-0405 eheinegg21@gmail.com
Hospitality: Jean & Joe Seroka
988-7007 jjwilser3@yahoo.com
Membership: Lucille Wiggin
432-1022 lucillew@stny.rr.com
Newsletter editor: Fred Johnson
783-2567 jfred212@gmail.com

Outings: Julie Smith 432-8642
smithj3@hartwick.edu &
Ruth Schaeffer 988-7036
rwschaeff88@yahoo.com
Publicity: Moira Beach
433-2832 susqadk@yahoo.com
Trails: Al Martel
Website: Currie Marr
432-5434 cmarr@stny.rr.com

Chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, September through May, at the Elm Park 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
- discounts on ADK merchandise
- reduced rates at ADK facilities: lodges, lean-tos, cabins, and campgrounds
- 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