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December 2005-January 2006

# The Lookout

The newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

## Schenectady chapter highlights of 2005

Indoors and out, our chapter found a lot to do during the past year. At the annual dinner meeting on Oct. 25, Norm Kuchar, vice president of the Schenectady chapter of ADK, gave a presentation on the chapter's activities during 2005:

- The chapter offered over 110 hiking/snowshoeing/skiing outings and 70 whitewater trips during the past year. Walt Hayes and Chuck Wilkison did a great job of coordinating our outings. Our most active trip leaders were Betty Lou Bailey, Sid Borthwick, Horst deLorenzi,

For more on the annual dinner, see page 11.

Walt Hayes, Norm Kuchar, Herb Terns, Chuck Wilkison and Bob Wright. Thanks go to these people and all the others who led our trips.

- Our chapter continued to maintain adopted trails on Porter and Blueberry mountains under the leadership of Pete Slocum. Ken and Nilde Marcinowski led trail maintenance trips on the Rock Lake section of the Northville-Placid Trail, while

Rich Vertigan did the same for the McCane's-Lake Durant section. Harold McCumber continued to serve as a watchdog over our adopted area, the Silver Lake Wilderness.

- We hosted four public indoor programs on basic winter camping, the Spruce Mountain Fire Tower, the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park, and rock climbing.

- In partnership with EMS and Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike Path, we improved the Schenectady

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## Loj Winter Weekend

The Schenectady chapter will hold its annual Loj Winter Weekend from January 27-29, 2006.

Join us at the rustic Adirondack Loj for our annual winter outing. Ski, snowshoe, and play in the High Peaks, then return to the Loj for a hot shower, a warm fire, and a nice hot dinner.

The approximate cost of \$100-\$120 covers Friday and Saturday night lodging, Saturday and Sunday breakfast, and Saturday dinner. Friday dinner and trail lunches are available at additional cost.

For more information, contact Stan Stoklosa at 383-3066. Call soon!

## Campers wanted for DEC camps

The Schenectady chapter will again be sponsoring two teenagers for a week at a DEC summer camp. Those selected will have the opportunity to enjoy a blend of learning and recreation. Activities may include hiking, trail building, water sports and environmental workshops.

There are four camps available: camps Colby, DeBruce and Rushford are for teens ages 12-14. Pack Forest Camp is for teens 15-17 years old. Camp sessions are for one week in July and August.

Applicants are requested to write

an essay explaining why they wish to participate and send it to "Project Coordinator, c/o Schenectady ADK, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady, NY 12301-0733." Preference will be given to the families of Schenectady chapter members, then affiliates, other ADK chapters and then the public.

Applications should be received by Feb. 1, 2006. If there is no response from ADK members by this date, campers will be selected from applications from the general public.

# 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. But in general, you should always carry food, water, rain gear, map and 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 trip leader.

## How can I lead a hike myself?

To volunteer to be a leader or co-leader for an outing, call Walt Hayes at 399-7482.

## 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). To help you calculate how much to pay your driver we have included some gas costs as examples in a few of the following trips.

## 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 Walt Hayes at 399-7482 and let him know. Or you can organize an outing of your own using the chapter outings e-mail list. Join the list at groups.yahoo.com/group/schdyadk\_outings. These trips are not considered club-sponsored and the club is not liable for any mishaps that may occur on these trips. Always plan carefully and be prepared.

## Wilderness First Aid Course

The Schenectady Chapter Board agreed to provide partial (\$150) 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 get a total of \$200 reimbursement. Call Chuck Wilkison (793-8041) or Walt Hayes (399-7482) for further information.

### 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	

## *Innings and Outings schedule – December & January*

### Sat 3 Dec

#### **Kibby Pond and Kettle Mountain, Class B2B**

**Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

Follow trail to Kibby Pond with bushwhack from there to Kettle Mountain. Located off Route 8 near Bakers Mills in the Town of Johnsburg, Warren County. Bill McKibben followed this route on his wander home. About six miles with half of them on a trail. 1400 foot

ascent. Estimated gas cost is \$7 per person.

### Sat 3 Dec

#### **Rattlesnake Cobble, Class C3C Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604**

This rewarding little summit (1318 ft) gives fine views of the area south of Lake George Village as well as the village. En route there is a splendid

## Innings and Outings, cont.

view NNE along the length of Lake George. We cross I-87 on the Prospect Mt trail then easy bushwhack through open woods. After a turn we go up a former ski run which later became the Prospect Mt trail but is now partly grown in. After reaching the Prospect Mt Toll Road, we go on a marked trail to the summit of Rattlesnake Cobble. Estimated 3 miles with snowshoes likely needed. Ascent 800 feet.

**Sat 10 Dec**  
**Stevens Mt and Little Stevens Mt-  
 Pharaoh Lakes Wilderness**  
**Herb Terns, 372-8478 or**  
**trailhed@localnet.com**

Stevens Mountain is a trailless peak in the SW corner of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness. When viewed from the north and east it really looks to be a terrific bushwhack. There's a knob of open rock on the way to the summit above Crab Pond and also on the summit itself. The campers from Camp Read in Brant Lake use its south face for rock climbing and rappelling (we'll be going up the easier northern slope). They have some photos from Steven's summit on their Web site (<http://www.wpcbsa.org/Cub/CubAdirondackAdventures.asp>) if you'd like to see a sample of what awaits us. We'll hike into Mill Brook by trail and then take a fisherman's path into Crab Pond where we'll begin our bushwhack. Trip is approximately 8.5 miles with 6 miles bushwhack and 2200 feet elevation gain.

**Sat 17 Dec**  
**Ponds of the Lake George Wild Forest,  
 Class B2C**  
**Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

There is a group of ponds in the NW part of the LGWF near Brant Lake connected by trails and old roads. We will try to visit all of them in a 9 mile circuit. Some ups and downs but overall very little elevation change.

**Wed 21 Dec**  
**Slide Mtn (Catskills), Class B2B**  
**Mary MacDonald, 371-1293**

From Slide Mountain parking area  
 CATSKILL 35 on Slide Mountain Road, hike along  
 Phoenicia-East Branch Trail to  
 Curtis-Ormsbee Trail, which accesses summit of Slide

Mountain. Return along Wittenberg-Cornell-Slide Trail. Approximately 6 miles. Winter gear required. Early departure. Elevation gain approximately 1780 feet.

**Wed 28 Dec**  
**Fifth Peak, Class B2B**  
**Norm Kuchar, 399-6243**

Fifth Peak is one of the heights along Tongue Mountain, on the west side of Lake George. Starting from Clay Meadow on NY 9N, we will climb up to the Tongue Mountain ridge and then follow the ridge line to the top of Fifth Peak. From the summit, there are great views of Lake George and north to the High Peaks. We are likely to need snowshoes on this trip. Round trip distance is 5.5 miles, with about 1750 ft total ascent. Gas cost about \$5 per passenger.

**Sat 31 Dec**  
**Harvey Mountain New Year's Eve Hike**  
**Herb Terns, 372-8478**  
**trailhed@localnet.com**

Ring in the New Year on top of a mountain! Harvey Mountain is located in Northern Columbia County and straddles the NY/Massachusetts state lines. We'll try to coincide our arriving at the summit with midnight so we can ring in the New Year at the top. Round trip is 4 miles with less than 1000 feet of gain. Headlamps and appropriate winter footgear will be needed.

**Sat 7 Jan**  
**Landis Arboretum, Class B-3C**  
**Betty Lou Bailey, 355-0604**

This trip will likely be 5-6 miles using trails in best condition. The new red trail in the new land just joined to the Arboretum has old growth trees and there are some other new trails. Snowshoes needed. Ascent likely 200-300 feet.

**Sat 7 Jan**  
**Peaked Rock, Washington County,  
 Class B2D**

**Keith Martin, 869-3692 or**  
**kdm46R@nycap.rr.com**

Depending upon conditions this can be either skied

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## Innings and Outings, cont.

*(Continued from page 3)*

(intermediate skills required.) or snowshoed. 5.22 mile round trip with 1267 ft elevation gain. Expect great views but also a steady, fairly unforgiving, steep grade in the latter half of the first mile. Most of the trip will be along a pleasant gentle ridge overlooking the Battenkill River valley. We'll depart at 7:30 a.m. from a meeting place in Guilderland. Kindly contact me to reserve a spot no later than 10 p.m. on the Wednesday evening immediately prior to trip.

**Sat 14 Jan**  
**Hadley Mountain, Class B2C**  
**Roger Borgen, 371-1128**

**FIRETOWER  
 CHALLENGE**

A snowshoe climb of 1550 feet to great summit views. Possible extension of trip with a ridge walk to Roundtop Mountain. The trip will

be about six miles including Roundtop.

**Sat 14 Jan**  
**Schenectady Municipal Golf Course Ski,  
 Class C2C**  
**Herb Terns & Gillian Scott, 372-8478 or  
 trailhed@localnet.com**

This is one our favorite local skis and the most fun we've ever had on a golf course. Come join us for a relaxing couple of hours skiing over some gently rolling terrain. Afterwards we'll offer hot chocolate at our house nearby or have lunch on Upper Union Street. If there's not enough snow to ski, we'll take a walk through Central Park. Sign-ups for this trip are optional. You can call for directions or if you want to sign up but you can simply meet us at the golf course at 9 a.m. if you'd like.

**Tues 17 Jan**  
**Pilot Knob Mtn, Class B2C**  
**Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

Snowshoe bushwhack to views of Lake George with possible side trip to Inman Pond. About 2000 foot ascent and six miles round trip.

**Sat 21 Jan**  
**Thunderbolt Mountain-Pharaoh Lake  
 Wilderness, Class B2B**

**Herb Terns, 372-8478 or  
 trailhed@localnet.com**

Thunderbolt Mt. is just east of Pharaoh Lake and has several open patches from which I hope to find good views. We'll start from Putnam Pond campground and follow the marked state trail into Grizzle Ocean. From there we'll bushwhack up the northern end of Thunderbolt and follow its long ridge SW in search of views and the summit. Depending on snow conditions, we'll either head back the way we came or preferably bushwhack east to Berryhill Pond and out on another state trail. Approximately 7 miles with less than 1000 feet of elevation gain.

**Sun 22 Jan**  
**Ski or Hike in Central Adirondacks,  
 Class B2C or B2B**  
**Keith Martin, 869-3692 or  
 kdm46R@nycap.rr.com**

Depending upon conditions we will either ski (intermediate skills required.) or snowshoe. Expect 4 or more hours on the trail and a steady but enjoyable pace. Possible ski routes may include John Pond, Second Pond or the E. Branch of the Sacandaga River (all new areas for me). We will likely share the trail with Snowmobiles. Plan to depart at 7 a.m. from a meeting place in Guilderland. Kindly contact me to reserve a spot no later than 10 PM on the Wednesday evening immediately prior to trip.

**Sat. 28 Jan.**  
**Cascade & Porter Mtns., Class B3C**  
**Ken & Nilde Marcinowski 885-9400 or  
 Nildekens@msn.com**

A great hike for beginning snowshoers who want to try their skills on something a little more challenging than walking in the park. A terrific winter climb with fantastic 360 degree winter views of the High Peaks.

**HIGH  
 PEAKS**

This will be a 6.1 mi. round trip with 2270' total ascent. Snowshoes with crampons and winter gear required. Participation will be limited, so please call or email by Thursday evening prior to the trip.

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## Innings and Outings, cont.

(Continued from page 4)

### **Sat 28 Jan** **Princeton Ski Trip** **Class C2C**

**David and Sandra Geisinger, 887-3030**

The Geisingers will lead their annual ski trip through rolling woods and open vistas. They will start at 1:30 from their Ennis Road property. Join them for an invigorating trip in the hills 10 miles westerly of Schenectady and 1000 ft higher. Snowshoers welcome. Warm fire and hot beverages following trip.

### **Wed 1 Feb** **The Brothers of Brant Lake, Class B2C** **Walt Hayes, 399-7482**

We will climb Second and First Brother mountains with a possible climb of Third Brother. Great views from rocky outlooks. About 7 miles with 2200 feet of ascent if we do all three. Please call by Monday evening.

### **Sat 4 Feb** **Avalanche Lake Snowshoe** **Class A2B** **Norm Kuchar, 399-6243**

Avalanche Lake is one of the most spectacular places in the Adirondacks. Starting at Adirondack Loj, we will snowshoe past Marcy Dam and over Avalanche Pass to the lake. Assuming good ice conditions, we should be able to go to the far end of the narrow lake, past massive cliffs on both sides, before returning by the same route. Full winter gear required. Total distance is 10 miles, with total ascent of about 1500 feet. Gas cost about \$12 per passenger.

### **Sun 5 Feb** **Ski or hike in Southern Adirondacks,** **Class B2C or B2B** **Keith Martin, 869-3692 or** **kdm46R@nycap.rr.com.**

Depending upon conditions we will either ski (intermediate skills required.) or snowshoe. Expect 4 or more hours on the trail and a steady but enjoyable pace. Possible ski routes may include Pine Orchard, Murphy Lake, Good Luck Mtn. or Chase Lake. We will likely share the trail with snowmobiles. Plan to depart at 7 a.m. from a meeting place in Guilderland. Kindly contact me

### **What *is* a bushwhack anyway?**

You've no doubt come across trips in the *Lookout* described as a "bushwhack" or "off-trail." When a trip description contains the word "bushwhack," many people take it right off their list of possible hikes. They think those trips are too "hard-core."

While it's true some of these trips, especially those in the High Peaks, can be challenging, there are plenty that are no more difficult than trailed peaks. Sometimes, bushwhacks can even be much more rewarding, offering unique views and pristine, uncrowded woods. Here are some bushwhack tips:

- Locate your destination and possible route on a map before you go. Off-trail hiking is as much a mental challenge as it is physical. It's more fun if you're involved in the mental part and know where you're going.
- Higher often means harder. Higher elevations often contain smaller conifer trees that grow close together and make hiking more difficult.
- Stay within your comfort zone. Most trip leaders try to estimate the distance of an off-trail trip, but it's not always possible to be completely accurate. If you're not comfortable hiking more than eight miles, you may want to stay with off-trail trips in the five to six-mile range to start.
- Check with the leader about what to expect on a particular trip. Though it may be a first-time adventure for them as well, they will give you as much information about the hike as possible.

There are more good places to hike in the Adirondacks than there are trails to get you there. Don't let the term bushwhack keep you from trying one of these hikes. Join a group and explore everything the park has to offer.

*Herb Terns*  
*Trip leader*

to reserve a spot no later than 10 p.m. on the Wednesday evening immediately prior to the trip.

# Trip tails and paddling parables

## **Santanoni and Panther Peaks — 9/18/05**

A forecast of nearly 100% chance of rain brought this group size down from 14 to one in a hurry. A change in the day from Saturday to Sunday, which had a slightly better forecast, brought those numbers back up to four. We started toward Bradley Pond trepidatious about what the previous day's rain had done to a notoriously muddy section of trail. It was flooded but not nearly as bad as I expected. That fact, along with the scenic waterfalls beside the trail, brought our spirits up.

Times Square was socked-in and though we saw patches of blue sky on the way to Santanoni, we didn't get a view from its summit either. When we arrived back at T.S., the first member of our group saw Couchsachraga, but by the time we all scrambled to where they were standing, it was socked-in again. We had much better luck on Panther, where the Swards, Couch, Newcomb Lake and much to the south was visible.

The sun came out (of course) on the way down and gave us some terrific views of Henderson Mountain, Mt. Adams, Panther Gorge and Rist Mountain. At Panther Brook, we encountered the Esper Family, who I believe has claim to the youngest 46Rs on record.

On the way home we stopped at Stewart's at North Creek for a quick dinner. Four of us eyed the three remaining hot sandwiches remaining in the case. After a long day in the Santanonis, they looked like a five-star meal to the trip leader. After a quick washing off of trail dirt we returned to the case to find that the sandwiches had been thrown out! Hot

chocolate and cold sandwiches were going to have to do.

Participants were: Norm Kuchar, Jerry Perregaux, Patty Christian and the leader. (Herb Terns)

## **Deerfield Dryway 9/18/05**

I had not paddled in 3 weeks due to a backpacking trip in Yosemite.

It is a long drive to the Deerfield, and the last time I paddled the Dryway, I swam at Dragon's Tooth. I was therefore a little less than enthusiastic about today's trip.

I met Horst deLorenzi, Mal Provost and Norm Labbe at the exit 9 park and ride and we were off for a "put in" around 11:30. The rain on the way over did not lift my spirits, but it was supposed to clear later in the day. Horst also pointed out that the Dryway is challenging enough that you don't think about the weather too much.

Well, the day turned out pretty well once we got on the water. The rapids of Split Hair and Left Turn always raise my adrenaline level and my spirits once I have gotten to the bottom successfully. We met a lot of old friends on the river and both Mal and I managed to get through the day without swimming. Horst did get in some rescue practice as he got an open canoe to shore below Dragon's Tooth and just above the next drop.

There was an open canoe instructor from Madawaska there who did some very quick open boat over boat recoveries that was amazing to watch. After he emptied the canoe of water he would send it into a convenient eddy. His skill reminded all of us that we need to make sure we have a safety course as a part of our Whitewater schedule next year.

(Chuck Wilkison)

## **Rocky Peak Ridge 9/24/05**

On a wonderful, cloudless day four hikers conquered Rocky Ridge, some more of it than others. After early departure, we left Tom Markert and Norm Kuchar at the Giant trailhead near Chapel Pond. They climbed Giant, then Rocky Peak Ridge and met us on Bald Peak before 3 p.m.

Ginny Parsons and I ascended Rocky Ridge from Rt. 9. We particularly enjoyed the many fantastic views along the ridge and from Blueberry Cobbles. We arrived at Bald Peak in time for lunch, a little nap, and sharing experiences with some of the numerous hikers on that peak that day.

The temperature was comfortable and we all felt that this was one of our best hiking days ever. Descent to Rte. 9 was completed shortly after 5 p.m. We all returned home happy and tired. (Mary MacDonald)

## **West River 9/24/05**

Eight paddlers enjoyed a beautiful sunny fall day paddling the West River. Temps were in the 70s, and the water was warm. The West Fest was in full swing with several vendors there to peruse their wares.

This was a first descent for some of the paddlers, and all proved up to the challenge of the rollicking river. The dumpling section was a source of excitement and amusement for all.

Paddlers this day were Rick Gonzales, Mike Jaeger, Shelley Nevard, Mary Pat Provost, Chuck Wilkinson, Larry Woods Jr., Larry Woods, and Robert Wright. Our group made a

## Trip tales, cont.

total of three trips each (C.W. made four), and we are looking forward to next April's planned release.

### Peaked Hill 10/1/05

We did this trip just a few days after the passing of Barbara McMartin. Her guide books have inspired many of my trips and in a way it seemed an appropriate tribute that we were doing an off-trail hike on this day.

The forecast was to be sunny and near 70 but as we started out it was clear and crisp in the upper 30s. We took a short detour into Tubhill Marsh to watch the early morning sun burn the fog off the water. A little further up the trail we passed Honey Pond where we got our first view of Peaked Hill. Still another body of water, scenic Lilypond, was where we began our bushwhack. It was steep going from the pond but we were quickly rewarded with a view out over the northern Pharaoh Lake Wilderness and terrific views of the High Peaks.

The summit had great views and open rock mixed with tall grass. Coming from the NW, we had been in the shade most of the morning so the sunshine and warm temperatures on top were welcome. We spent nearly two hours on the summit, taking in the views and napping.

We took a more NE route down, partly following a route marked by rock cairns. We met the trail going back to Lilypond Pond and investigated a waterfall on nearby Rock Pond Brook. Gunshots from the pond got our attention but we found it was just a camper who was apparently target shooting.

Luckily it had warmed up enough for a stop for ice cream at Schroom

**"Without warning and with no air in my lungs, I flipped to my offside in the hole. I couldn't get a breath before my head went under, so I SWAM!"**

Lake on the way home. Participants were, Matt Osbourne, John Susko, Bill Shapiro and the leader. (Herb Terns)

### Esopus Creek II-III/ Sacandaga River 10/2/05

Thanks to a heads-up from Charles Beach on Saturday evening, I checked the Esopus gage at Coldbrook. Sure enough, it showed a level below 5 feet. I don't know why we got shorted on the release, but at less than 500 CFS, the Esopus would not have been much fun.

After some late phone calls, we decided to paddle the Sacandaga at Hadley instead. The dependable 4,000 CFS was right on schedule and we had a great day. The first run consisted of Walt Addicks, Mike Boun and Shelly Nevard in solo canoes. Chuck Wilkison paddled his Hahn C-1, Larry Jr. put on his usual "kayak air show" and I tried out the Esquif "Tareau" prototype (not exactly an open canoe and not quite a C-1). At the takeout, Shelly stayed to work on rolls and Mike stayed to practice his skills. I left them with the Tareau, picked up my C-1 and the rest of us went back up for another run.

The Tareau was a lot of fun on the first run and I should have left it at that. Instead, I hopped back in it and headed over to the hole at the take-

out. Without warning and with no air in my lungs, I flipped to my offside in the hole. I couldn't get a breath before my head went under, so I SWAM! It was Shelly to the rescue, and time to call it a day. (Larry Woods)

### Crane Mountain 10/15/05

The (correct) forecast for another day with rain meant there was no trip, leaving seven disappointed would-be hikers. (Betty Lou Bailey)

### Northville-Placid Trail Steward Trip 10/15/05

Cleared six to eight blowdowns and numerous wet and clogged drainages between Lake Durant and McCane's on NPT. Many thanks to Phil Fountain and Frank Maguire for a job well done. (Holly Hawkes and Rich Vertigan)

### Hunter Mountain 10/16/05

This was the second straight year my mom and I did this trip and I'm hoping it will be an annual outing for years to come. Both she and my grandfather were observers on Hunter and when I was young and I spent many summer days on top with both of them.

Though we'd been up the mountain many times before, this was our first trip together up the Spruceton Trail.

We had heard reports that the John Robb lean-to had been burned down recently and we were sorry to see for ourselves that it was gone. Of the two lean-tos on the mountain, this had always seemed the better one and hopefully it will be rebuilt soon.

Hunter's summit is usually a

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## Trip tales, cont.

*(Continued from page 7)*

windy place but it exceeded its reputation on our trip. The thermometer on the cabin read 40 degrees but it felt much colder. We met a very large (22) group from the United Kingdom who were touring the Northeast on a fall foliage tour. The strong wind prevented any of us from venturing above the fifth landing on the tower before turning back. We made a quick trip over to the old tower site and got some nice views of the Westkill Valley from a ledge nearby. We made a quick stop for hot chocolate and coffee in Haines Falls on the way home. Participants were Maria Lopez, Lin Neal, Kendra Pratt, Gillian Scott, Diane Terns-Thorpe and the leader. (Herb Terns)

### **Equinox Preserve 10/19/05 (was 9/29)**

After being re-scheduled once because of bad weather, we crossed our fingers on October 19. Although the sun didn't come out until we were on our way home, the rain stayed away so we were able to enjoy a nice hike through the autumn woods of this beautiful preserve.

Participants included Betty Lou Bailey, Marion and John Burns, Susan Grey, Walt Hayes, Maria Klucina, Pat Reed and the leader. (Barbara Kolapakka)

### **Venison and Dutton Mountains 10/22/05**

We started out by climbing Venison on the first day of deer season but saw or heard no hunting activity until late in the day when we heard a multitude of distant shots that sounded like target practice.

It was a short steep climb from the car to the wooded summit. There

were nice views to the west and south from a rocky lookout SW of the top. There was a fire ring and grill, giving us our first evidence that this was not a first ascent. On the descent we came upon moose scat and footprints. The views from Dutton of the Hudson River gorge were enjoyed before returning to our car and just missing the downpour that hit after we were safely on the drive home.

Participants included Mary MacDonald, Monica Riccardi, Emily Reed and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

### **Northville-Placid Trail Maintenance to Rock Lake 10/29/05**

After three weeks of rain, we were treated to a perfect calm, sunny day - just right for working on the trail. Thanks to Harold McCumber and Colin Smith for helping out. (Ken and Nilde Marcinowski)

### **Huckleberry Mountain 10/29/05**

We walked in up to about 10 inches of snow that slowed our progress so much that we had to skip the visit to the paint mine and the area of the forest fire. It was a bright beautiful day and views were spectacular. On the way out we discovered a new logging road that leads more directly to the parking area.

Participants included Nancy Ackerbauer, Arthur Fontijn, Susan Grey, Holly Hawkes, Roman Laba, Kathy Miles, Joe Pitruzzella, Chris Tomchik, Rich Vertigan and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

### **Erebus Mountain 11/05/05**

After walking in the results of the October snowstorm on recent out-

ings, this was a snowless trip except for tiny patch of snow on Erebus. It was T-shirt weather. Many branches broken by the storm were still on the trail, but the road to Dacy Clearing was open and in excellent condition. The top of Erebus is wooded with very limited views but just to the west of the summit we found an open cliff top with nice views of the Lake George narrows. Evidence of moose was found at and near the summit. We found and followed old marked trails on the ridge of Erebus.

Participants included: Marvin Fine, Katie and Ray Hendrickson, Roman Laba, Binia Lasky, Maria Lopez, Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Lin Neal, Rich Vertigan, Martha Waldman and the leader. (Walt Hayes)

### **Schenectady Museum Nature Preserve 11/6/05**

We were blessed with sunny skies and warm temps which, combined with some late foliage, made for a great trip. We took one of several marked trails that followed and overlooked a stream. Then we investigated several long unmarked trails that snake through the western portion of the preserve. We found more than enough to keep us busy for the morning and additional areas that will have to be saved for another day.

Earlier in the week, a local paper announced the state was in the process of acquiring this area. It should be interesting to see what changes the state makes if the purchase is completed.

Participants were Heidi Bernhardt, Patty Costa, Dave Esmond, Gerry Bernardi, Gillian Scott, Hooch the hiking dog and the leader. (Herb Terns)

## 2006 Chapter Board ballot

Below is the ballot for members to vote for the 2006 Chapter Board.

If you have an **individual** membership, please cast your vote using the column to the left.

**Family memberships** get two votes, and may use both columns.

Clip the ballot and send it to: Schenectady ADK, Attn: Lois Leonard, Secretary, P.O. Box 733, Schenectady NY 12301. All ballots must be received by Dec. 21. The new officers will be officially announced in the next issue of The Lookout.

***Schenectady Chapter officers — 2006***

<b>Your vote</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term length</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Second vote (if eligible)</b>
_____	Chair	1 year	Norm Kuchar	_____
_____	Vice Chair	1 year	Horst deLorenzi	_____
_____	Treasurer	1 year	Jeff Farbaniec	_____
_____	Secretary	1 year	Lois Leonard	_____
_____	Director	2 years	Stan Stoklosa	_____
_____	Project coordinator	2 years	Herb Terns	_____
_____	Project coordinator	2 years	XXXXXX	_____

Mary MacDonald was mistakenly listed as a candidate for one project coordinator position in the last issue of the Lookout. Since no other nominations were received, the chapter will appoint someone to this position in January.

### New and reinstated members

Gary Barnes  
 Peter Buccinna and  
     Kati Quick  
 Kelly Burke

Kevin Cox  
 Manuel Domingos  
 Terry Fluri  
 Marylou Geren

Molly and Mike Grygiel  
 Terry Hayden  
 John Kampt  
 Geraldine Kubek

Kathleen Magee  
 John and Mary Miner  
 Lisa Smith

## Conservation notes

# Northampton Beach campground plan discussed

Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for campgrounds seldom generate much interest, but the UMP for the large Northampton Beach Public Campground is an exception. It is located at the west end of Great Sacandaga Lake and is popular both with campers and day users (swimmers and picnickers) in summer.

The surprise is the use for winter activities. Snowmobilers use it to access the lake, but are restricted to the seven miles of paved roads within the campground. Thus cross-country skiers use the more numerous gravel roads, which serve the 224 campsites in summer.

A parking area is plowed for about 10 vehicles near the entrance booth. Gates are open when there is snow cover. All buildings are locked in winter.

Use is free in winter, so enjoy it. Follow signs from NY30 or County 152.

### **Indian Head/Plateau Mt. UMP Amendment**

This Catskill UMP amendment proposes two alterations in the Long Path, which both shorten the Long Path and reduce or eliminate road walking. A new trail is proposed to connect the existing new trail going north from Mt. Tremper to NY214 to the Devil's Path along the ridgetop of Plateau Mountain. This will eliminate over one mile of walking along NY 214. The second proposal would officially change the Long Path from Prediger Road to the Catskill Center property in upper Platte Clove. (People have already been using this route.)

### **Shandaken Wild Forest UMP**

The first Shandaken UMP has been issued. This means that DEC's Region 3 (Southern Catskills) has completed all their UMPs. Revisions and amendments of UMPs are their remaining duties in the planning area. We note that completed UMPs basically lead to the actual funding of work in the UMP. For the Shandaken UMP, that means adding to the popular Rochester Hollow trail to make it a loop.

### **Asphalt Plant along NY30**

This proposed asphalt plant won't happen since the land owner withdrew his application from the Adirondack Park Agency. It would have been in the gravel mine, visible from NY30 about a mile north of the bridge to Northville.

### **Local Land Conservancies**

The Battenkill Conservancy NY is now the Battenkill Conservancy, since the Battenkill Conservancy Vt. has folded. Thus the folks who have been getting a small donation from our chapter are now active in Vermont as well. The heron rookery they own along McDougal Lake Road only had one active heron nest this year. Presumably, this was because one of the other nests was adopted by a turkey vulture.

Both the Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy now have paid executive directors. This is a natural step as more properties and easements come into their hands and their volunteers get swamped.

### **Kayaderos Driscoll Road Access**

The Gazette recently had a nice photo of the Driscoll Road Canoe/Kayak launch sign in Saratoga State Park but it neglected to say what pond or stream it was related to. It accesses the Kayaderos just upstream of US 9. Driscoll Road is north of the Kayaderos. The nice boardwalk crosses wetlands between the road and the creek.

### **Pine Bush Problems**

The Nature Conservancy helped the city of Albany buy 60 acres known as Fox Run Estate in 2000 as mitigation for the "P.4 expansion" of the Albany landfill. Now the city plans to expand the landfill again using this Fox Fun Estate, claiming that they don't need to honor the agreement to dedicate the land to the Pine Bush. The agreement was made when the Nature Conservancy relinquished their option to buy the land in favor of the city's purchase. TNC is complaining, of course, and regrets not actually buying the land themselves.

A Residence Inn is proposed for Washington Avenue Extension and a final environmental Impact Statement has been written. It omitted two letters critical of the proposed Residence Inn. Especially important was one from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (responsible for all federally protected endangered species), saying not to proceed with the project because the area was likely to be used by Karner Blue butterflies and they wanted to visit the site. No contact was made, the letter seemingly lost.

— Betty Lou Bailey

# Chapter members reconnect at annual dinner

The chapter's annual dinner meeting was held at the Schenectady County Community College on Oct. 25. The event began at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour, followed by dinner. The meeting began about 7:40 p.m. Vice Chair Norm Kuchar introduced the current Chapter Board; Main Club guests Neil Woodworth and Joe Silberlicht; and EMS guests Holly Favro and Robin Weldy. Norm also gave a summary of the 2005 annual report.

Neil Woodworth gave brief remarks on ADK's accomplishments over the past year, as well as some of the near-term issues facing the club. He also thanked the Schenectady Chapter for its leadership and contributions to ADK over many years.

Chris Nicola, guest speaker and one of America's top cavers, gave a talk about his exploration of Priest's Grotto, a large cave complex in Ukraine. In the cave, Chris uncovered artifacts left by Jewish families who survived the Holocaust by hiding in the labyrinth for over a year. Subsequently, Chris found survivors of the ordeal and pieced

together their incredible story of survival. The event ended at 9:15 p.m.

Attendance was 61, compared to 59 in 2004. Dinner cost was \$20.70 per person. The board voted to charge attendees \$16.00, with the balance subsidized by chapter funds. The chapter also provided wine for the social hour. Total expenses paid from chapter funds were \$762.38, vs. \$750.00 budgeted for the event.

## Loj Weekend Winner!

Holly Favro, known to some of you as manager of the Mohawk Commons EMS store, was the lucky winner of the Loj Weekend for Two that was raffled off at the annual dinner. Thanks to all who purchased tickets. For more on the weekend, see the notice on page 1 of the Lookout.

*Submitted by Norm Kuchar,  
Vice Chair and Annual Dinner Coordinator*

## Chapter highlights, con't:

*(Continued from page 1)*

section of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail on National Trails Day. Howard Halstead and Stan Stoklosa helped organize this effort, in which 22 volunteers participated.

- Our chapter made valuable inputs to many conservation efforts, including Earth Day celebrations and advocacy at the state capitol, the APA land classification hearings, the Shaker Mtn Wild Forest and Silver Lakes Wilderness Unit Management Plans, and many others. Betty Lou Bailey led this effort.

- Philanthropic gifts were made to several organizations. Within ADK, we supported special Main Club projects and the Johns Brook Lodge roof fund. We also made gifts

to the Friends of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail and the Boy Scouts of America Opkik Winter Camping Training.

- We helped staff the ADK booth at Great Northeast Outdoor Show at the Empire State Plaza. Thanks go to Horst deLorenzi, Lois Leonard, Harold McCumber and others for their help.

- We sponsored two students to attend DEC's Camp Colby.

- Several of our members were honored during the past year for their volunteer efforts. Bill White received a Distinguished Volunteer Award for his lifetime contributions to ADK, and Betty Lou Bailey received a Spruce Cone Award recognizing 500

hours of volunteer work.

- Chapter members Maria Beurmann and John Winkler were invited speakers at a Union College series on the Adirondacks.

- *The Lookout* got an improved appearance by the use of new publication software. Covers were enhanced with photos submitted by members. We also realized lower publication costs by using a different printer. Editor Gillian Scott, April VanHeusen and Maria Beurmann made these improvements.

*Submitted by Norm Kuchar,  
Vice Chair*

## News and announcements

### Special thanks

The Schenectady Chapter would like to thank two local businesses for donating gifts for the Harvest Moon Madness fundraiser.

Rich Macha of Adirondack Paddle 'n Pole (2123 Central Ave. in Colonie) donated a full-size Seattle Sports waterproof backpack, ideal for full loads on paddling trips. Holly Favro of EMS (412C Balltown Road in Niskayuna) donated an EYT Pack. It is a winter sports pack that is hydration compatible, can carry a snowboard and skis, with a hard case for protecting a CD player, glasses, keys, etc.

### Flint Knapping demonstration

On Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m., Rick Antonelli will present a talk and demonstration about how American Indians and other early people made stone tools, arrowheads, etc. The event will take place at the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development on Route 28 in Arkville.

A modern knapper with 15 years of experience, Antonelli begins with finding appropriate raw materials and ends with the creation of a functional tool.

While the Catskill Center in Arkville often has programs, most are similar to our own innings. This one is an unusual topic, so it's worth the drive. To car pool, call Betty Lou Bailey at 355-0604. Expect to leave Schenectady around noon. Our chapter gives nominal support to the CCCD.

*Submitted by Betty Lou Bailey*

### ADK Winter Mountaineering School

This year's ADK Winter Mountaineering School will take place on Feb. 17-23, 2006.

The Winter Mountaineering School promotes enjoyable and successful winter mountaineering and camping through a learn-by-doing approach. The program is for three-season hikers and backpackers looking to expand their skills to include winter hiking, backpacking and mountaineering, as well as more experienced skiers, trip leaders and winter mountaineers who wish to refine their skills or are looking for some excitement and adventure. The school has a friendly, experienced, all-volunteer staff; a low student-instructor ratio; and reasonable pricing for students.

The ADK Winter Mountaineering School offers a weekend day hike section, a weekend backpacking section, and a weeklong combination (day trips and backpacking) section.

Weekend Day Hikes: February 17-20, 2006

Weekend Backpacking: February 17-20, 2006

Week Long Combination Day Hikes/ Backpacking:  
February 17-23, 2006

For additional information, visit the ADK Winter Mountaineering School web site at <http://www.winterschool.org> or call (518) 523-3441.

### Taconic Ridge Run

The Taconic Hiking Club is hosting a hiking endurance challenge, called The End-to-End, on Saturday, May 13, 2006. The 29-mile course follows the Taconic Crest Trail along the ridge separating New York, Massachusetts and Vermont.

The one-day event rewards successful hikers with a trail certificate and a trail patch for traversing a cumulative elevation gain of 7,827 feet and a down-grade total of 9,470 feet. On an unimproved woods trail, the hiking event is only for the fit and experienced.

For more information, contact Colin Campbell at 924 New Scotland Rd., Albany, NY 12208, call (518) 438-9629 or e-mail [holesinhead@aol.com](mailto:holesinhead@aol.com).

There is a limit of 30 participants for the event, with entrants listed in the order in which their registrations are received. Those who completed the event in 2004 will not be eligible to participate in 2006. There is an entry fee of \$25.

### Tug Hill Winter Outing

The Black River Chapter of ADK will host a winter outing Jan. 27-29, 2006 in the Tug Hill region. The rustic weekend will include cross-country skiing and showshoeing. The Tug Hill region is an Adirondack-like wilderness that boasts the greatest snowfall in the state. Club members can stay at the Mad River Club (bring a sleeping bag and pad) or at a motel nearby.

The full package includes floor space for sleeping, snacks Friday night, all meals on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

The cost is \$60. To attend skiing events and Saturday's dinner only costs \$20. All but \$10 is refundable to Dec. 31. Make checks payable to ADK: Winter Outing. Completed registration form and payment are required for registration.

For more information, contact Ron Fillhart, 1743 Route 48, Laconia, NY 13083, call (315) 298-7424 or e-mail [rcfillhart@yahoo.com](mailto:rcfillhart@yahoo.com).