

Black River Currents

***A Publication of the Black River Chapter
Adirondack Mountain Club***



Volume 20

Number 3

Fall Outings 2011

Saturday, October 29th Annual Dinner and Chapter Meeting

Join us at the Tug Hill Vineyard near Lowville for an interesting evening. Our speaker is Dr. Mark Irwin, head of the Animal Management Program at Jefferson Community College. The title of his program is "Zoo Technology-How to Catch a Giraffe in Six Easy Steps". Dr. Irwin has traveled and lectured throughout Africa and more recently in the National Park in Nepal. He will talk about his work at the college, as well as his travels.

Social hour starts at 6:00 with dinner. The annual meeting and speaker will follow. Cost of the dinner is \$20. ***The reservation form is on the last page of this newsletter.***

Directions: From Watertown – Take Route 12 South about 20 miles. Yancy Road is on the right, about seven miles from Copenhagen.

From Lowville – Travel about five miles on Route 12 North. Yancy Road is on the left.

From Adams Center – Head east on Route 177 for approximately 25 miles. Turn left on Route 12 North. Yancy Road is on the left about two miles from the turn off Route 177.

Saturday, September 24 Fall Picnic at Community Park

We will meet at the new pavilion at Community Park near Sandy Creek. Plan to eat about 1:00. Bring your own table service, beverage and a dish to share. The chapter will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. RSVPs are not necessary but are appreciated.

There will be activities to do on your own or with the group before or after. Bring your hiking boots and take advantage of the trails that run through the park. Or bring your canoe or kayak, paddles and PFDs. Several nice flat water paddles are nearby – South Branch of the Sandy Creek, Deer Creek, and the Redfield Reservoir.

Directions: Community Park is located on Route 11, just north of the village of Sandy Creek. From Watertown, take I-81 south to exit 38. At the end of the off ramp, turn left. The entrance to Community Park is about a half mile on the right, just past the log cabin. Follow the dirt road to the picnic area. A second entrance is on Castor Road. From the south, turn right at the end of the exit 38 ramp.

For more information and to register, contact Ron Fillhart at rcfillhart@yahoo.com or **298-7424**.

Outings continued on page 4...

Notes from the Chair

Happy autumn to all my fellow ADK'ers from your new chapter chair! Although I have been a member of the Black River Chapter for 14 years, this is my first stint as chair. Therefore, I'm trying to become better informed about the ADK chapters and the Main Club in general. One recent development in the club is the formation of a new chapter. On March 26, 2011, the ADK Board of Directors approved the creation of the Northville-Placid Trail Chapter. ADK's 27th Chapter will focus on enhancing the N-P Trail, which at 133 miles long, traverses some of the most remote and diverse scenery in the park. The mission of the N-P Trail Chapter is to protect, preserve, and promote the Northville-Placid Trail. I will give you a brief history and description of the trail so that we may understand what ADK's new chapter is trying to protect. The following is excerpted from the Northville-Placid Trail ADK Guidebook:

“The N-P Trail was begun in 1922 as the first project undertaken by the newly-formed Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK). George D. Pratt, an officer of Standard Oil Company, and a wealthy benefactor, was the principal funder of the work. He was also the first president of ADK, and commissioner of the New York State Conservation Commission, a predecessor of today's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Here was a man who clearly saw the value of having a major hiking route through the heart of this great treasure known as the Adirondack Park. The N-P Trail was completed in 1924. In 1927, it was donated to the State of New York, with the Conservation Department becoming responsible for its maintenance and upkeep. Today, the DEC has oversight of the trail as part of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. ADK, however, along with its numerous volunteers, contributes valuable time and energy in joint cooperation with the DEC. It is this cooperative, volunteer spirit that ensures the enjoyment of new generations of hikers on the N-P Trail.”

“The Northville-Placid Trail passes through what many consider the wildest and most remote parts of the Adirondack Park, notably the high plateau that encompasses the Spruce, West Canada, and Cedar lakes areas, along with that of the Cold River. The highest point the N-P Trail reaches (3008 ft) is at the crest of the ridge to the east of Blue Mt. and Tirrell Pond. The trail is not entirely in wilderness, though: it also passes through the settlement of Piseco, and comes close to the hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake and the village of Long Lake. Sections of the trail have been moved over the years, always with a view to making the wilderness experience more enjoyable and safe.”

To accomplish its mission of protecting, preserving, and promoting this resource, the N-P Trail Chapter will monitor trail conditions, advocate for and aid in timely maintenance of the N-P Trail to highest trail standards, and make sure the N-P Trail retains its sole and only use as a foot path. Trail stewardship will emphasize the N-P Trail's remote wilderness back-country character, ecology, scenic vistas, and historical significance. The Chapter will promote the wise and responsible use of the trail through education so that current and future generations can partake of the N-P Trail's unique recreational opportunities and potential for spiritual renewal and fellowship.

If you are interested in joining the Northville-Placid Trail Chapter all membership dues will be used solely to fund trail maintenance on the N-P Trail. Our new ADK Chapter hopes to make the Northville-Placid Trail the premier back-country trail and destination its founders first envisioned in 1922. To learn more about the chapter, visit its website: <www.nptrail.org>.

Janine Johnson – Chapter Chair

Note: *Several events listed below are not ADK events and may be subject to change. Please check the contact information and keep in mind that pre-registration and fees may be required.*

Saturday, September 24 - Fall Picnic at Community Park

See page 1 for details.

Sunday, September 25 – Lakeview Wildlife Management Area Beach Clean Up

We will do some fall tidying along Eastern Lake Ontario. This work day requires a paddle-in to get to our work site – the sandy beaches of the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area. As per ADK policy and state law, personal flotation devices are required. For additional information, including meeting time and place, contact **Marc Baker** at **788-1566**.

Saturday, October 1st – Bike Trip

This will be an easy, local bike trip. Potential destinations include Chaumont, Point Salubrious, Calcium Nature Trail, and the Black River Recreational Trail. The final destination will be determined based on the skill level of the participants. For more details, contact **Marc Baker** at **788-1566**.

Saturday, October 8th – Autumn Festival at the Minna Anthony Nature Center

Friends of Minna Anthony Common Nature Center will host their 33rd annual Autumn Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Minna Anthony Nature Center in Wellesley Island State Park, 44927 Cross Island Road, Wellesley Island. The event will feature children's games and crafts, a scarecrow-building contest, farm animals, pumpkin painting, Burrville cider & doughnuts, "Westy's Birds of Prey Show" and Ian Dillin's "Our World of Wildlife Show." There will also be 25 local crafters on hand and musical entertainment by Matt Viscanti's jazz band ESP and Rick Markert on dulcimer with Ray Delaney on guitar. Local cuisine will be provided by Redwood United Methodist Church and a basket raffle will benefit programs at the nature center. For more information, call the nature center **482-2479**. This is not an ADK event.

Sunday, October 9th – Cascade Lake Hike

This is a relatively flat hike around a beautiful lake between Eagle Bay and Big Moose. Total hiking distance is about 5 ½ miles. Bring a trail lunch and water. For meeting time and place, contact Ron Fillhart at 298-7424 or rcfillhart@yahoo.com.

October 14, 15 & 16 – Fall Outing

This year's Fall Outing is being hosted by the Niagara Frontier Chapter and will be centered at Camp Turner in the Allegany State Park near Salamanca, NY. Join ADK members from around the state as we enjoy hiking, biking, paddling and more in the 65,000 acre "wilderness playground of Western New York". Allegany State Park was named as a top "Amazing Spot" in the nation in 2007. Join us and see what makes this place so special! Price for the weekend is only \$75 if you stay at Camp Turner, including meals. For more information visit: <http://www.adk.org/outings/>

October 22 & 23 - BOO at the Zoo!

Come spend a merry, not scary Halloween at the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park! This two-day Halloween event targeted at children ages 12 and under is a non-scary event for younger children. The event will include a trick-or-treating trail which participants follow to pick up healthy treats. As trick-or-treaters travel the trail they will encounter characters from their favorite nursery rhymes and television shows.

\$3 event fee plus regular admission for all non-military, non-Zoo members

\$2 event fee for all Zoo members (free admission)

\$2 event fee plus discounted admission for all Military (must show Military ID)

For additional information, visit their website www.nyszoo.org or call **782-6180**.

This is not an ADK event.

Saturday, October 29th - Annual Dinner and Chapter Meeting

See page 1 for details.

Looking Ahead

January 20 – 22 - Tug Hill Winter Outing

Our chapter will again host this annual event. Enjoy a rustic weekend of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the Tug Hill region. Come for a day or come for the weekend. We will be staying at the Mad River Club. The full package includes floor space for your sleeping bag, breakfast Saturday and Sunday, lunch Saturday and Sunday, and banquet dinner Saturday.

Options are:

Full weekend: trips, meals, and sleep in clubhouse, \$65

Full weekend: trips, meals and sleep elsewhere, \$65

Trips and Saturday banquet only, no other meals, \$25

Trips only, no meals and sleep elsewhere, no charge

Cost is due at time of reservation; \$20 is non-refundable.

Membership to ADK is not required so bring a friend.

For reservation questions contact Janine Johnson, 315-782-0651,

janine.m.johnson@verizon.net. For general questions contact Ron Fillhart, 315-298-

7424, rcfillhart@yahoo.com. For more information visit: <http://www.adk.org/outings/>

Anyone that can help out should contact Janine or Ron.

Backtracks

Centennial Trial work day.

The day was hot with plenty of deer flies. Ron Fillhart reports that he was a party of one for this year's trail work. He came in from the Partridgeville Road end and did some brushing back and dealt with some wet areas. There were a few minor blow downs to deal with. Evidence of bear was abundant along the trail in the form of scat. Near the end of the day, Ron was heading down hill along the old beaver meadow, when he caught a glimpse of a bear. In addition to the regularly scheduled work day Ron was able to do some work on this trail at the end of May, this time coming in from the Steam Mill Road

end (hot with plenty of mosquitoes). So, the entirety of this trail received attention at some point this year.

Loj Weekend

We had a great weekend for a weekend of car camping. We had two families that took advantage of the great facilities at the Adirondack Loj. Friday was the pick day. The Bakers got on the road early on Friday and had sufficient time to make it up Wright. Sadly, while they were on Wright, a hiker suffered a heart attack on Algonquin and passed away. They saw the helicopter land on the summit and ran into a DEC ranger who was headed down the trail with the deceased man's dog. Meanwhile, Ron and Lydia Fillhart got to the Loj a little later and did Mount Jo as their Friday hike. They also took advantage of the Friday night hike conducted by the ADK staff.

On Saturday, the Bakers headed up Owl's Head while the Fillharts climbed Phelps. It was another great day; a mix of sun and clouds but dry with temperatures that were great for hiking. The Saturday evening program at the High Peak Information Center featured live birds of prey – a barn owl, a kestrel and a red-tailed hawk.

Sunday came with a chance of rain. The Fillharts headed off to Rocky Falls with rain gear that would prove to be unnecessary. Both families made a stop at the WILD Center in Tupper Lake on the way home. Clouds that seemed threatening did not produce rain until we had left the WILD Center and were headed home.

Hurricane Irene Damage to the Adirondack High Peaks and Catskills

At press time, the NYS DEC has closed the Eastern High Peaks Wilderness, Giant Mountain Wilderness, Dix Mountain Wilderness and much of the Catskill back country. They will be evaluating the conditions of all trails in the closed areas, prioritize work to rehabilitate trails and determine what trails may be reopened for public use. Before planning any trips to these areas, check www.adk.org or www.dec.ny.gov/ for updates and alternate hikes.

2012 Chapter Officers

We have multiple vacancies on the chapter board for 2012. Any ADK chapter member interested in serving on the board should contact Janine Johnson at janine.m.johnson@verizon.net or Ron Fillhart at 298-7424, rcfillhart@yahoo.com.

Editor's note:

Our apologies for the brevity and lateness of this issue. The blue screen of death appeared on our computer a couple of weeks ago, swallowing the completed newsletter.

Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free.

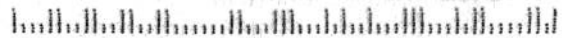
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Black River ADK Annual Dinner Reservation – Tug Hill
Vineyard, Lowville
Saturday, October 29 – 6 pm. Dr. Mark Irwin, Speaker

Please make reservations for _____ people for the annual dinner.

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ (\$20 per person).

Mail this reservation form along with your check to:

Cindy Stewart
9922 Nohle Road
Adams, New York 13605