

# ***Black River Currents***

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



***Volume 20***

***Number 2***

## **Summer Outings 2011**

### **Weekly Wednesday Kayak Day Trips**

Put your kayak on the car before you head to work and join a flat water kayakers' group for evening paddles every Wednesday during the summer months. Paddle sites include the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Indian River Lakes, and Black River. We pick our put-in sites weekly depending on weather and water conditions. All experience levels are welcome. **Personal flotation devices (PFDs) are required.** For more information or to join the group, contact David Ciechanowski, [davidciech@yahoo.com](mailto:davidciech@yahoo.com) or **639-4660**

### **Fair Weather High Peaks Hikes.**

Marcy, Algonquin, Colden, Arab, Bald ... big or small, it doesn't matter what mountain you are on, the view is pretty much the same when you are looking at the inside of a cloud. Ron Fillhart plans to head to the High Peaks this summer for some hiking, but will be gauging trips on the weather forecast, not the calendar. These hikes are over steep mountain terrain. Participants must be properly equipped and in shape to handle this type of hiking. If you would like to join him, contact Ron at [rcfillhart@yahoo.com](mailto:rcfillhart@yahoo.com) or **298-7424**.

### **Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> - Kingston, Ontario Bike Trip**

This marks our 33<sup>rd</sup> year for this unique bike trip, every year since the chapter was formed. We will meet at the Cape Vincent ferry dock at 9:00 A.M. to take the ferry to Wolfe Island. We cycle across the island and pick up a second ferry to Kingston. **You will need a helmet and passport or an enhanced driver's license for this trip.** You may want sunscreen, a swimsuit and a camera. Maybe we can do a little window shopping this time. We return to the Cape around 7:00 where we usually get some dinner. For additional information, contact Dave at **232-2111** or [david.s.larrabee@gmail.com](mailto:david.s.larrabee@gmail.com)

### **August 12, 13 and 14. ADK Loj Weekend**

We have three tent sites reserved for the weekend of a full moon. Join us for three days and two nights of car camping at Heart Lake near Lake Placid. Participants must provide their own tents, sleeping bags, food, and other supplies. A list of items needed will be provided upon registration. Footwear appropriate for mountainous terrain is required. Cost for the tent sites is \$10 per person for the weekend (part of the cost has been covered by the chapter). Space is limited and reservations are on a first come/first served basis. For more information and to register, contact Ron Fillhart at [rcfillhart@yahoo.com](mailto:rcfillhart@yahoo.com) or **298-7424**.

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 may be required and some have a fee. Enjoy the summer and all the opportunities to get outside!

**Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> – French Creek Paddle**

Join us for a paddle through this winding, flat stream of cattails, looking for blue herons, dragonflies, snapping turtles and damselflies. Meet at the Boat Museum in Clayton at 11am. If you are late, we will start beyond Frontenac Crystal Springs, turning next left at French Creek Road. Bring a lunch, sunscreen, hat, personal floatation devices (required), camera etc. For more information contact Dave at [david.s.larrabee@gmail.com](mailto:david.s.larrabee@gmail.com) or **232-2111**.

**Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> – National Trails Day**

Help ADK get trails in the Inlet area in good shape. Then stick around for a barbecue dinner, live music and more. Free camping is available for all volunteers both Friday and Saturday nights at the Limekiln Lake State Campground. Hard work and good times!  
<http://adk.org/trails/National-Trails-Day.aspx>

**Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 10a.m.-2p.m. - Geology Trek, Inman Gulf**

This event is sponsored by Tug Hill Tomorrow. Few details were available at press time. Visit <http://www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/> or contact Janelle at 779-2239 or [tughilloutreach@nnymail.com](mailto:tughilloutreach@nnymail.com).

**Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Chaumont Barrens Preserve**

In Northern New York, the glaciers left behind a landscape unlike any other natural area in the Northeast. Visit New York's only natural prairie with esteemed botanist Dr. Bruce Gilman for a close-up look at unusual wildflowers and plants. To reserve your spot on the trail, please e-mail Gretchen at [cwnyevents@tnc.org](mailto:cwnyevents@tnc.org) with the hike name in the subject line. E-mail reservations are preferred, but if you do not have e-mail access you may RSVP by phone at **(585) 546-8030 x 32**. **Reservations required by June 8**. This event is sponsored by the Nature Conservancy.

**June 17, 18 & 19 Gananoque, Canada - Admiralty Islands Paddle**

For those kayak/canoe enthusiasts, this is the place to be - a collection of picturesque islands about a mile from Gananoque on the St. Lawrence River. This will be our ninth year for this trip. Departure is at 10:00 A.M. from the Gananoque town dock (come through the main street, head straight, instead of a right turn at the Golden Apple). We will be tenting two nights on Beaurivage Island and you'll get the chance to test your culinary skills over a campfire. There are many things to see: a large cathedral in the rock and the biggest 'kettle' I've ever seen, a sunken long boat and more. Come for the weekend, join us for just one night, or come just for a day paddle. Bring your food, water (or filter), folding chair, sun hat & sunscreen, ID for the border and PFD. If you wish to bake a potato, bring aluminum foil. There is a fee for parking/tenting. You paddlers don't want to miss this one, at least come and try it once. You will come back! Contact Dave at **232-2111** or [david.s.larrabee@gmail.com](mailto:david.s.larrabee@gmail.com) for more information. Want to learn more? See: [www.panoramio.com/photo/16573408](http://www.panoramio.com/photo/16573408)



*Admiralty Islands paddle from a previous year. Photo provided by Dave Larrabee.*

**Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> – High Peak’s Fathers Day Hike - Cascade & Porter Mountains**

Catch two High Peaks in one day on a joint outing with the YMCA Adventure Club. Easiest of the peaks over 4000 feet, total round-trip distance is just over six miles with over 2000 feet of ascent. Bring a lunch to enjoy on the summit. Meet at the trailhead. For more information please call Tammie Miller at [ymca\\_Tmiller@yahoo.com](mailto:ymca_Tmiller@yahoo.com) or **755-9622**. Information regarding Y hikes is on [www.ymcaadventureclub.com](http://www.ymcaadventureclub.com)



Black River feeder canal

**Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> - Cycling the Great Bend of the Oswegatchie.**

The Laurentian Chapter has invited us to join them on a 35 mile loop tour by bicycle on back roads, starting and ending in Gouverneur. We will follow the well-known bend in the river. Scenic highlights will include outcrops of Frontenac Axis rock, the geological connection between the Canadian Shield and the Adirondacks. We will cycle at a moderate pace over moderate terrain. For more information and to register for this trip contact John Barron at [johnbarron@sympatico.ca](mailto:johnbarron@sympatico.ca) or **(613) 828-2296.**

**Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> - Beaver River Hike/BBQ/Boat Tour**

**Cost: \$20 per person includes lunch & boat tour (tax and tip included)**

**Prepayment is required, and group size is limited to the capacity of the Tour Boat.**

Join the Onondaga Chapter for a hike to the most isolated town in the Adirondacks, Beaver River Station. This community is located on the shore of Stillwater Reservoir has no road access. The town has two hotels, a motel, and about 100 private cottages and is accessible by boat, snowmobile or hiking. Our hike will start at Twitchell Lake where we hike about 7 miles through the Pigeon Lake Wilderness area to the Norridgewock Lodge in Beaver River. Our hosts at the Norridgewock Lodge will have a BBQ pork lunch waiting for us. Dessert and hot & cold beverages are included - alcoholic beverages are available at the lodge.

After enjoying some time relaxing and learning about life away from the outside world we will board the Norridgewock Tour Boat for a scenic trip across Stillwater Reservoir. There will be opportunities see some wildlife en route. Our tour guide will tell us more about the area and share stories about life in the most isolated town in the Adirondacks. For more information or to reserve a spot call or email Kathy Disque **656-3383** or [kathydisque@yahoo.com](mailto:kathydisque@yahoo.com)

The logistics of this trip requires a car shuttle between Stillwater Landing and Twitchell Lake. It will be necessary for all participants to help with the car shuttle both before and after the outing.



*Along the Black River feeder canal - Blood root*

**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> – Grindstone Island's Grassland Birds**

A Nature Boat Tour with an extended stop on Grindstone Island for a hay wagon ride to see grassland birds. Again, Gerry Smith will join us and tell us what we're seeing and hearing. Meet at the Thousand Island's Land Trust Office for the ride out to Grindstone. We may walk through wet fields, so wear appropriate footwear and don't forget your binoculars! Cost is \$5 per person. Please sign up early as space is limited.

**Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> - Wilson Hill Goose Drive**

Help the NYS DEC band geese. Every summer, DEC wildlife staff conducts goose roundups at a couple of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). These are true roundups (drives) in the way that staff and volunteers, using canoes and walking along the shore, "herd" the geese the entire length of the WMA and into holding pens at one end. This is only possible because geese molt (lose) all their flight feathers in late June and early July and cannot fly. Biologists determine the age and sex of each bird, then band and release them back into the marsh.

They will start around 8:00 AM at the Wilson Hill WMA headquarters building (near Massena). If you want to come early, there will be a chicken barbecue on June 28, Tuesday evening, 6 PM at the headquarters (donation requested) and camping accommodations are available. Lunch on June 29 will be provided at the goose banding site immediately after the geese are corralled.

You may also wish to bring a canoe, PFD, boots and/or sneakers, wet weather gear and a long-sleeved shirt to keep arms from being scratched while handling geese. Hand-held FRS radios will be used for communications. If you have one or more, feel free to bring them. For planning purposes, please RSVP by June 23. Contact Blanche Town at [betown@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:betown@gw.dec.state.ny.us) or call **315-705-5539**.



*Paddle on the South Sandy*

**Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> - Rock and Long Ponds near Speculator**

Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> with a hike to these two beautiful ponds in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness. We will access the trailhead from the end of Elm Lake Road in Speculator. This trail is not only very picturesque but a potential route for the North Country Trail in the Adirondacks. Distance 6-8 miles. Contact Mary or Bill Coffin at [687-3589](tel:687-3589) or [maryccoffin@gmail.com](mailto:maryccoffin@gmail.com).

**Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> - Kayak Trek with TILT and IRLC on Millsite Lake**

Grab your kayak or canoe and join Thousand Islands Land Trust and Indian River Lakes Conservancy for an evening paddle on Millsite Lake on Tuesday, July 5 at 6:00 pm. One of the beautiful Indian River Lakes, Millsite is located in the town of Theresa, and sports several islands and marshland habitat, home to numerous species of wildlife. Our paddle will end at a lakeside cottage for a swim and refreshments.

Kayaks are available for rent for \$15 with advance reservations. Please sign up below or contact the TILT office at [686-5345](tel:686-5345) or [events@tilandtrust.org](mailto:events@tilandtrust.org). Please sign up by July 2 if you need to rent a kayak.

**Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M. Black River Chapter Board Meeting**

We will hold our chapter board meeting at Thompson Park. Board meetings are open to all chapter members. For more information, contact Janine at [janine.m.johnson@verizon.net](mailto:janine.m.johnson@verizon.net) or Ron at [rcfillhart@yahoo.com](mailto:rcfillhart@yahoo.com) or [298-7424](tel:298-7424).

**Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> - Grindstone Island Bike Tours 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

We'll take you and your bike out to Grindstone Island for a tour of the island. The ride lasts about 3 hours, so plan on being back on the mainland by 1:00 pm. Bring a lunch, we'll provide water. Participants must provide their own bicycles. Sign up by phoning the land trust, [686-5345](tel:686-5345) or emailing [events@tilandtrust.org](mailto:events@tilandtrust.org).

**Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Wellesley Island Bike Tours**

The Thousand Islands Land Trust is firming up details for this bike tour of Wellesley Island. Helmets are recommended for all riders, and are required by NYS Law for riders aged 14 and under. Bring a lunch, they'll bring water, and plan on a great ride! Sign up by phoning the land trust, [686-5345](tel:686-5345) or emailing [events@tilandtrust.org](mailto:events@tilandtrust.org).

**Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> - Annual Loon Census with Adirondack Loon Conservation Program**

The Thousand Islands Land Trust is working to help the Adirondack Loon Conservation Program collect data from throughout northern New York. Census takers watch an area of their choosing for usually one hour, counting the loons they see, and report back to TILT. They will relay your information back to ALCP. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office by July 4<sup>th</sup> at [686-5345](tel:686-5345) or [events@tilandtrust.org](mailto:events@tilandtrust.org)

**Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> – Centennial Trail Work Day**

This is our one chapter work project within the Adirondack Park. Bring bug dope, gloves, water, and a lunch and, (if you have them) hand tools (folding saw, loppers, etc.). For additional information, including a meeting time and place, contact Ron Fillhart at [298-7424](tel:298-7424) or [rcfillhart@yahoo.com](mailto:rcfillhart@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, July 23, 11am-2pm, Independence River Walk & Picnic, Greig**

This event is sponsored by Tug Hill Tomorrow. Few details were available at press time. Visit <http://www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/> or contact Janelle at **779-2239** or [tughilloutreach@nynmail.com](mailto:tughilloutreach@nynmail.com) for more information.

**Saturday, July 23rd – Dexter Paddle**

We will meet at the Dexter boat launch at 10 A.M. The boat launch is reached from route 3, driving north through Dexter. When you come across the bridge, turn right at the end, go past the fire hall, over a small bridge, then left to the boat launch. This paddle is one of the most scenic in the area. Very little current to give anyone trouble on this 2 mile paddle. Bring a lunch and you will probably want a camera. A personal flotation device (PFD) is required for each participant. Contact Dave at **232-2111** or [david.s.larrabee@gmail.com](mailto:david.s.larrabee@gmail.com) for more information and to register.

**Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> - Kingston, Ontario Bike Trip** – See page 1



*Sandy Creek meets Lake Ontario.*

**Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> - Island Bike Tours the Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail**

You'll love riding on the Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail, Thousand Islands Land Trust's rails-to-trails project on the roadbed of the New York Central Railroad. We'll meet at the trailhead on Black Creek Road and ride through the woods and fields of Jefferson County. Bring a lunch. TILT will provide water. Sign up by phoning the land trust at [686-5345](tel:686-5345) or emailing [events@tilandtrust.org](mailto:events@tilandtrust.org).

**August 12, 13 and 14. ADK Loj Weekend** – see page 1.

**Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Algonquin Mountain**

Can't make it for a whole weekend to the ADK Loj Weekend? Join the group from the Watertown YMCA for a hike up New York's second highest Mountain (5114 feet with 2936 feet of ascent). Pack a trail lunch. We will leave the trailhead at 8am sharp. For more information please call Tammie Miller at [755-9622](tel:755-9622) or email [ymca\\_Tmiller@yahoo.com](mailto:ymca_Tmiller@yahoo.com). Information regarding hike is on [www.ymcaadventureclub.com](http://www.ymcaadventureclub.com)

**Sunday, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> - Ididaride! Bike Tour.**

Join other ADKers in a 20 mile or 75 mile loop around the heart of the Adirondacks. For more information check: <http://www.adk.org/events/ididaride/index.html>

**August 20, 10am-2pm, Tour de Core Bike Trek, Location TBD**

This event is sponsored by Tug Hill Tomorrow. No details were available at press time. Visit <http://www.tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/> or contact Janelle at 779-2239 or [tughilloutreach@nynmail.com](mailto:tughilloutreach@nynmail.com).



*The pill box - Wehle State Park*

**Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – Ice Cave Trail to Beaver Pond near Lake Horn**

Description: This is a semi bushwhack to a beautiful beaver pond in the corridor of the North Country Trail route in the West Canada Wilderness. There is no marked, maintained trail but there is very little elevation change. We will hike east from the trailhead at the end of North Lake Road. Hiking distance is 7 miles. Contact Mary and Bill Coffin [687-3589](tel:687-3589) or [maryccoffin@gmail.com](mailto:maryccoffin@gmail.com)

## **Looking Ahead**

### **Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> - Puffer Pond Brook loop near Indian Lake**

This hike will start from The Chimney MT Lodge as we hike south along King's Flow then loop along beautiful Puffer Brook and Pond and back to the cars. Part of this loop is on the North Country Trail designated route. Distance is 6-8 miles. For more information, contact Mary or Bill Coffin at [687-3589](tel:687-3589) or [maryccoffin@gmail.com](mailto:maryccoffin@gmail.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/>



*Allegheny State Park*



*Black River near flood stage at Hawkinsville.*

## **Back Tracks**

### **March 26. Potluck Dinner**

We had over 20 people for an evening of good food and a slide show on the North Country National Scenic Trail. The North Country NST's projected length is approximately 4,600 miles, stretching across the northern tier of the United States with some 2,000 miles completed to date. Thanks to Mary Coffin for sharing her adventures on and off the trail with us. She has worked to scout potential routes for some of the Adirondack sections. When you hear about the scouting work she and others have done, you realize the enormity of the task to connect 4,600 miles of trail. For more information, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/noco/index.htm> and <http://northcountrytrail.org/>

### **April 10. Wehle State Park Dog Hike**

Eight humans and two canines enjoyed a Sunday afternoon on the trail. The weather was cool and cloudy. We stayed dry despite rumbles of thunder in the distance. Ice clung to the cliffs in places as a reminder that we were barely past the vernal equinox. An assortment of ducks and a loon were spotted on the lake.



*Wehle State Park*

### **April 30. Black River Feeder Canal Hike – Forestport to Booneville**

We had ten people on this outing with the Onondaga Chapter. After a month of nearly endless rain, we finally got a sunny day. Fortunately, trip leader Kathy Disque picked the perfect hike for the conditions. The tow path along the canal dries quickly. This was a real plus as the Black River had been above flood stage just the day before. Spring flowers were out - colts foot, trillium and blood root. We saw several mallard ducks and glimpsed a fox as it crossed a road. Part of the North Country National Scenic Trail, this hike is filled with history. The Black River Canal was an engineering marvel of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. History buffs will want to check out <http://blackrivercanalmuseum.com/>.



*The covered bridge in Booneville.*

### **May 7. Highway Cleanup.**

Dave Larrabee and Ron Fillhart comprised the work party. With a party of two, they were able to complete clean up on only about a half of the 2 ½ miles of highway that is ours. Ron came back the next day for a couple of hours and word is that Marc Baker came in later in the week to finish what remained but was defeated by the blackflies.

### **May 21. Beach Cleanup**

This joint venture with the Sierra Club had eleven people out to work on a foggy day on our annual cleanup. Four of us were transported to the far end and headed north while the rest of us came in from Southwick Beach State Park and headed south. At the north end, most of the larger pieces of trash were already picked up down to the second dune walkover, but we were still able to fill a couple of large bags with smaller items.

### **May 22. South Sandy Creek Paddle.**

We had six kayaks out for an afternoon paddle. We enjoyed listening to the calls of various birds as we made our way toward Lake Ontario. A great blue heron landed in a tree near us. Bank swallows flew in and out of their homes in the dunes. We took a break once we reached the lake. The clouds over the lake gave us the cue that it was time to head back. We reached the launch area just as a light rain began to fall.

### **Just before press time ...**

We were saddened to learn of the death of chapter member Margaret (Peg) McArthur Bonney. Our sympathies go to Warren Bonney, her husband of 59 years.

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20110513/OBIT05/110519832/-1/obit>

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Publications Editor  
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Lacona, NY 13083

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