



Good Tidings



March - June 2012

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves." John Muir (1838-1914)

Chair Words

A message from Chapter Chair, Bert Yost

What should we call the winter of 2012? It is certainly setting records, but not the kind that those of us that enjoy winter outdoor activities appreciate. I have been in the woods quite a bit this winter. You still have to walk the dog or split firewood. And this year I have sore arms from chopping ice on our driveway. Although there is not enough ice for skating or ice fishing, there certainly is enough ice to make walking in the woods without crampons dangerous. Cross country skiing is all but impossible. I only managed to make it out 6 times so far this season. If it weren't for snowmaking, there would be no downhill skiing at Whiteface. The only thing we can hope for is that winter will eventually come to the North Country this year.

There is an issue that some members have asked me to discuss with the Chapter so I thought that this column would be an appropriate place to start such a discussion. Many of you are probably aware of the group that is trying to have the Adirondack Railroad converted to a Rail Trail. More information can be found at <http://www.thearta.org>.

As a business owner and taxpayer, I support it. The idea of a world class bike trail connecting Old Forge to Lake Placid is very exciting. On a recent trip to the Orlando area, Heike and I rode on such a trail. It was called the West Orange Bike Trail - http://www.bikeflorida.net/west_orange_trail.htm. It was an amazing trail. All along this trail old stations were converted to bike shops, museums, community centers with play grounds, or just as rest stops along the trail. The trail ran through the center of Winter Garden. This was the most bike friendly town that I have ever visited. All along the main street, there were bike racks in front of every café, restaurant, or shop. On the weekend that we biked there the town was filled with cyclists, runners, and walkers. It was really amazing to see how well the trail was utilized.

If something like could happen on our rail corridor, it would provide more economic benefits to our area than the existing train. I think with the current funding situation in the US, it is highly unlikely that we will ever see commercial rail traffic on the Old Forge – Lake Placid corridor. In the long run, I believe that this is a much better use than the Adirondack Railroad. I encourage you as Chapter members to think about this issue and to discuss it with others. It is certainly within our charter to support such a trail and I would like to hear your opinions.

Bert

Membership Update - Please extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined our chapter.

New Members:

Sue Twine & Judith Paradis, 75 Graham Creek, Ottawa, ON K2H 7B2, Canada

Lynne O'Brien, 45 Scott Dr., Troy, NY 12180

David Nye & Allison Scollin, P.O. Box 175, Keene, NY 12942

Trail Work Opportunities

Ruth Kuhfahl, Trails Chair

Chapter Trail Work Day – Saturday, May 12 – Meet at Crow Clearing at 9:30 AM. Big jobs and little jobs – something for everyone! So come and join the gang as we get our trails ready for summer. Bring loppers or saws and we will need a couple of hoes, too. For information call Ruth Kuhfahl at 576-4699. So, see you on the trail.

Easy Trail Project (all club offering) – Saturday, June 16 – An Easy Project will go again this year with expert leadership from Bethany Krawiec and Mary Jean Bland. This is “the” chance for first time, whatever age, trail worker “wanna bees”. So come – always a good gang. Tools provided. To register and get details call ADK Trails Committee at 523-3441, ext. 18. Come and meet trail workers from far and near.

In Memoriam – John Walter Maxwell

John Walter Maxwell II, a longtime member of the Hurricane Mountain Chapter, recently passed away at the age of 92. John and his wife of 68 years, Sidney, were very active in our chapter and often hosted our monthly potluck supper. John was an avid skier into his 80s, spending time at Marble Mountain, Paleface and Whiteface. He had a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree from the College of Forestry at Syracuse University and had a long professional career of innovation and work with wood resins as the senior wood technologist for Borden Chemical and then Borden International. In retirement, John put his knowledge of chemistry to good use by becoming an accomplished maker of wine, famous for his champagne cider. The Chapter sends its condolences to Sidney and all of John’s family.

Guidelines for Participating in Hurricane Mountain Chapter Outings

- **MUST CALL** trip leader 24 hours in advance to register unless otherwise designated.
- **Be willing to sign the liability form (required by ADK)**
- **Total participants including trip leader(s) is 15 for day hikes. (DEC/ADK standards)**
- **Check distance and ascent in the hike description, or check with leader.**
- **Check hike rating. Know your capabilities.**
- **Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.**
- **Take an extra water bottle.**

Guide to Hurricane Mt. Chapter Hike Ratings

- A+** Very Strenuous: Rugged terrain, steep climbing (over 2500' elevation gain) and/or long distances (over 12 miles). Participants should be experienced and in excellent condition.
- A** Strenuous: Possible steep ascents (1500-2500' gain) and/or distances of 10-15 miles. Can be demanding. Expect faster rate of travel. Participants should be experienced and in excellent condition.
- B** Moderate: Elevation gains 1000'-1500' and approximately 5-9 miles distance. Expect rolling hills and short steep climbing. Participants should be in good physical condition.
- C** Easy: Hiking/walking under 5 miles with very gradual or no climbing

Hurricane Mountain Chapter Outings Schedule March – June 2012

PARTICIPANTS PLEASE NOTE: Late winter and spring weather conditions are unpredictable. Please come to hikes with clothing and gear suitable for the weather. All boaters must wear PFDs and should have spare dry clothing. Consult with the leader if you are unsure about what is needed for the outing, or whether your ability is appropriate.

Saturday, March 17 Old Wawbeek Road – Deer Pond Loop

Depending on snow conditions we will either ski or snowshoe this loop near Upper Saranac Lake. Contact leader before the trip to determine the mode of travel.

Level B, 7.3 miles

Leader: Mary Jean Bland

647-5803

mjbland@aol.com

Sunday, March 18 Flume Trails

Depending on conditions, we will hike, snowshoe, or ski the Flume trails. Meet at Willkommen Hof at 10:00 a.m.
Level C+

Leader: Bert Yost 946-7669 bertyost@frontiernet.net

Sunday, April 1 Ski Whiteface Highway

We will ski the toll road to the Castle, conditions permitting, and enjoy lunch on top. The trip down is gradual and not too fast. Meet at Willkommen Hof at 9:30 a.m.

Level A, 10 miles

Leader: Bert Yost 946-7669 bertyost@frontiernet.net

Wednesday, April 4 Ski Raquette Falls

We will ski (if there is enough snow) to the top of the falls, which should be spectacular with the spring freshet.

Level B, 11.6 miles, easy grades

Leader: Elisabeth Craven 523-5846 sandbrook2@roadrunner.com

Saturday, April 7 Jay Mountain

We will visit this local mountain in late winter and hopefully find fantastic views. Snowshoes are required. Microspikes or crampons may be needed for traction.

Level A, 6 miles, about 2000 ft ascent

Leader: Joe Bogardus 576-9739 joe.adks@gmail.com

Tuesday, April 24 Indian Head

We'll meet at the Ausable Club and hike to this delightful destination with spectacular views. This hike is co-listed with ADK Long Island, Schenectady, and Algonquin chapters.

Level B, about 7 miles

Leader: Elie Bijou 873-2119 adirondacks@verizon.net

Sunday, April 29 Catamount Mountain

We will hike Catamount Mountain and have lunch on top. Meet at Willkommen Hof at 9:30 a.m.

Level B, 3.6 miles, 1542 ft ascent

Leader: Bert Yost 946-7669 bertyost@frontiernet.net

Saturday, May 5 Hike Whiteface Highway

We will hike up the memorial highway to the summit of Whiteface Mountain.

Level A, 10 miles

Leader: Mary Jean Bland 647-5803 mjbland@aol.com

Sunday, May 6 First Float on the West Branch

We will put in at the iron bridge on River Road and paddle down the Ausable River to Rte 86. Cars will need to be spotted at the take-out. Trip is suitable for canoes or kayaks. Bring snacks and libation. Meet at 1:00 p.m.

Leader: Jeri Wright 946-2658 jeriwrig@frontiernet.net

Tuesday, May 8 Owl Head Lookout & High Bank

This is a hike through beautiful woods to a great view and unusual 'rock pile' at High Bank. This hike is co-listed with ADK Long Island, Schenectady, and Algonquin chapters.

Level B+, 7 miles, 900 ft ascent

Leader: Elie Bijou 873-2119 adirondacks@verizon.net

Saturday, May 12 Spring Trail Work Day

We need a good turnout of members to help clear the Chapter's trails in the Gulf Brook area. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Crow Clearing. We will trim back vegetation, cut/clear blowdown, and open drainage ditches. Bring tools if you have them.

Leader: Ruth Kuhfahl 576-4699

Sunday, May 13 Wright Peak

We'll take a nice leisurely pace to Wright, have lunch on top and then return. Slower moderate pace. This hike is co-listed with ADK Long Island, Schenectady, and Algonquin chapters.

Level A-, 6.2 miles, 2500 ft ascent

Leader: Elie Bijou 873-2119 adirondacks@verizon.net

Sunday, May 13 Forest Wildflower Study

Forest Wildflower Study needs volunteers. ATBI Mountain Watch Phenology Study on Whiteface will be starting this spring and needs volunteers to note the bloom times and fruiting times of 5 forest wildflowers at three permanent plots on Whiteface Mountain. We will meet in parking lot A at the Whiteface ski area at 9:00AM for a training session and then hike up the ski slopes to the first site at 2400 feet (near the midstation), then to 3600 feet (summit of Little Whiteface) and then to 4400 feet (near the summit chair lift on Whiteface). We will be checking for flowering and fruiting stages of Canada Mayflower, Painted Trillium, Blue Bead Lily, Bunchberry and Hobblebush. Ideally we would like 3 or 4 different people to sign up for different dates, so one person is not climbing the mountain all summer to get this data. Other dates are May 26, June 2, and June 16, continuing through July, August and September. Contact leader for more details.

Leader: Carol Gates 523-4784 carolgates@aol.com

Saturday, May 19 Hulls Falls Road Bird Walk

The annual Hurricane ADK/Audubon bird walk will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Keene Valley end of Hulls Falls Road. No need to register – just come. We have always had sightings of an interesting variety of species.

Leaders: Ruth Kuhfahl, Pat and John Thaxton 576-4699(Ruth)

Sunday, May 20 Paddle to Union Falls Dam

We will paddle about 10 miles of sometimes windy flat water. Meet at Willkommen Hof at 9:30 a.m.

Level C+

Leader: Bert Yost 946-7669 bertyost@frontiernet.net

Wednesday, May 23 Chimney Mountain

This is a very unusual small mountain near Indian Lake, with caves and unusual rock formations and 360° views from the top. We will not enter the caves. It's a short steep hike on a good trail. Access is over private property with a \$2 parking fee, so bring a couple of bucks to drop in the box.

Level C, 2 miles, 760 ft ascent

Leader: Peter Biesemeyer 483-0641 pbiesemeyer@nccc.edu

Saturday, May 26 Red Rock & Potash Mountain

On this 6th annual trail/bushwhack hike, we will look for the elusive Clematis verticillaris on the shoulder of Potash Mountain (elevation 2900 ft, north of the Crows). Historic Red Rock, which appeared on the first topographic map of the area issued in 1898, has great views over a 200 ft cliff of ancient quartzite rock.

Level B, 6 miles, 1800 ft ascent

Leader: Joe Bogardus 576-9739 joe.adks@gmail.com

Sunday, May 27 McKenzie Mountain

This is a nice mountain with four false summits, each with spectacular views. This hike is co-listed with ADK Long Island, Schenectady, and Algonquin chapters.

Level B, 7 miles, 2400 ft ascent

Leader: Elie Bijou 873-2119 adirondacks@verizon.net

Wednesday, June 6 Crane Mountain

This is a fun, short, steep hike near Johnsburg with good views along the trail and from the top. There are two trails, enabling a loop hike.

Level: B, 4.9 miles, 1150 ft ascent

Leader: Peter Biesemeyer 483-0641 pbiesemeyer@nccc.edu

Saturday, June 9 North Fork Boquet Waterfalls

We will explore the gorge and waterfalls on the North Fork of the Boquet River above the stone bridge on Rte 73. Easy walking - bring water shoes in case wading through mild water is required.

Level: C+, about 5 miles

Leader: Joe Bogardus 576-9739 joe.adks@gmail.com

Sunday, June 17 MacNaughton Mountain

This is a hike to the "47th 46er". As much of this trip is a bushwhack, you will need to wear long pants/sleeves, have eye protection, and a good attitude. Strenuous hike, pace is slower moderate. This hike is co-listed with ADK Long Island, Schenectady, and Algonquin chapters.

Level A+, 15.8 miles, ascent 3300 ft

Leader: Elie Bijou 873-2119 adirondacks@verizon.net

Wednesday, June 20 T Lake Falls

The highest waterfall in the Adirondacks, located near Piseco Lake. One-way distance is about 5 miles, over half of it a rough bushwhack along a faint path which the DEC closed a number of years ago due to several accidental deaths at the falls. Estimated total time is 5 hours minimum but could take as long as 8, depending on hikers and their bushwhacking experience.

Level B, approx. 10 miles

Leader: Peter Biesemeyer

483-0641

pbiesemeyer@nccc.edu

Sunday, June 24 Mount Marcy

Please join me for my annual trip to the summit of Mount Marcy. This hike is co-listed with ADK Long Island, Schenectady, and Algonquin chapters.

Level A+, 14.8 miles, 3200 ft ascent.

Leader: Elie Bijou

873-2119

adirondacks@verizon.net

HURRICANE MOUNTAIN CHAPTER POTLUCK SCHEDULE

As a courtesy to our hosts, please RSVP at least 24 hours in advance even though all members, affiliates and their guests are welcome.

Bring a dish to share and your own place setting.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7:00. Coffee and tea are provided. BYOB.

**Saturday, March 10 - Keene Valley Congregational Church
Van Santvoord Room
RSVP - adkweston@gmail.com or 576-2224**

Coming from Keene or Elizabethtown to Keene Valley, look for the Church on the right, next to the Nature Conservancy. Please park in the lot behind the Church if there is no room on Rte 73. Take the path that goes to the back of the Church.

**Saturday, April 14 - Corvis Maximus - Holly & Mickey Healy, Keene
RSVP - simply.gourmet@hotmail.com or 576-4747**

*From Keene, go up Hurricane Road for 1.7 miles. Take a left onto Leslie Gay Road. Go about 1/4 mile to the second drive on the right, **Corvis Maximus**. Park on Leslie Gay Road as parking is limited next to the house, unless you need parking near the entrance for physical reasons.*

**Saturday, May 12 - F Major - Monique Weston, Keene
RSVP - adkweston@gmail.com or 576-2224**

From Keene, go up Hurricane Road for 2.3 miles. Take gentle left onto O'Toole Lane (dirt road) to second drive on the right (Red Fox Way). Go all the way to the end. From 9N you can take Hurricane Road for 3.9 miles. Take a right onto O'Toole Lane

**Saturday, June 9 - Maureen O'Connor & Dan Deighan, Keene
RSVP - maureen_o_connor@hotmail.com or 576-4707**

From the intersection of Rte 73 and Rte 9N set odometer to zero, go North on Rte 73 towards Lake Placid, approximately 2 miles. Take sharp right on Gilmore Hill Rd, go 2/10 mile to 2nd drive on left. It is 33 Gilmore Rd.

Adirondack Mountain Club
Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection and Enjoyment of the Adirondack Preserve

Chapter Chair - Bert Yost
Vice Chair - Bill Roberts
Secretary - Maureen Deighan
Treasurer - Bill Peabody
Director - Bill Roberts
Alternate Director - Joe Bogardus

Executive Committee:
(appointed by the Chapter Chair)

Conservation - Wes Krawiec
Education -
Membership - Nancy Kohlbecker
Hospitality - Monique Weston
Outings - Joe Bogardus
Trails - Ruth Kuhfahl
Newsletter and Publications -
Liz Roberts

Member at Large:
Mary Jean Bland



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March – June 2012