

*The*



*Cloudsplitter*

Vol. 83 No. 3

Oct. – Dec. 2020



*Published by  
The Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club*

# *The Cloudsplitter*

Published quarterly by the Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Albany Chapter ADK  
Empire State Plaza  
P.O. Box 2116  
Albany, NY 12220  
<http://albany.adk.org>

**Editors:**

Brad Schwebler  
feketitsch@yahoo.com  
Liz Schou  
lizschou@gmail.com

**Assistants:**

Virginia Boyle Traver  
Mark Plaat

**Send address changes to:**

Adirondack Mountain Club  
814 Goggins Road  
Lake George, NY 12845-4117  
(518) 668-4447 (phone)  
(518) 668-3746 (fax)

**For orders or membership:**

(800) 395-8080 or email [adkinfo@adk.org](mailto:adkinfo@adk.org)

***Many thanks to Gail Carr for her cover sketch of "Henry Hudson's Half Moon, Sept. 11, 1609" and for her continued support of the Chapter with her time and talent!***

Business meetings are normally the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Little's Lake in Menands. However, during the pandemic executive meetings are being held on Zoom. Chapter members are encouraged to attend. Call Cliff Prewencki at (518) 768-2907.

**Submission deadline for the Winter 2021 issue (January – March 2021) is November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## Message from the Chair

### Message from the Chair

Hi everyone. I hope all is well and that you are taking advantage of the slowly moderating weather. Global warming is doubtless upon us and, at this writing, California is aflame, but the signs are there that autumn will yet prevail in the great Northeast. The sere remnants from last fall are being supplanted by the occasional flash of maple red, grey squirrels bury what acorns they cannot eat, and wild turkeys feast upon the grasshoppers that will soon be gone. Change is in the air, so it is appropriate that that is the very subject of which I wish to speak.

Although I will probably be writing this column for the January – March 2021 issue, this will be the last one you'll be reading with me as your chapter chair. As you know, my term of office ends on December 31, 2020, and a new person will assume this position, appropriately enough, at the beginning of the New Year. I don't plan on taking on any more board roles with ADK in the near future, as I'm still working full time and would like to have a bit of a break.

As I look back over the past few years, change has been a steady companion during my term as chair but also as vice-chair. There was the transition from our old chapter website to the new one, the challenge of revising the chapter bylaws to have our fiscal year match the calendar year, and the difficulties raised by the current pandemic. Planning and chairing the monthly meetings proved especially difficult at first, but as time wore on I grew to welcome them. I saw splendid photos of exotic places, witnessed a fascinating presentation on hang gliding, and learned how to determine direction in the woods without a compass. Putting those meetings on hold was a bitter loss, not just the loss of a valued learning experience but also because I was no longer able to meet you, the members. Your enthusiasm for the chapter and the club helped sustain me during the most trying times. Take care.

Cliff Prewencki,  
Albany Chapter Chair

**\*Monthly Chapter meetings normally are held at the West Albany Firehouse Station #1, 113 Sand Creek Road, Albany starting at 6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month except July, August, and September.**

1. Changes for the list of Officers and Committee Chairpersons:

## **Bylaws Vote**

"In your September/October issue of *Adirondac* or as a separate mailing, you will find a ballot for voting on the proposed revisions to the Club's bylaws. Once your ballot arrives, cast your ballot and postmark it by October 2 in order for it to be counted.

Please be sure to vote. As the Albany Chapter and the Club near the century mark, it is a chance for you to decide how we will embrace our second hundred years."

Thank you!  
Cliff

**To view the Combine Activities Schedule, Activities Descriptions, and Echoes from the Trail, please visit the website for the Albany chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.**

### **Rules and Recommendations for ADK Chapter Outings**

- Life jackets (PFDs) must be worn on any ADK paddling trip while on the water. (You need to wear AND properly secure your PFD.)
- Participants are expected to have a realistic knowledge of their own ability to select activities within their capabilities and to carry clothing, food and equipment appropriate to the trip.
- Participants must be willing to accept the authority of the trip leader and to cooperate with him or her and other party members to make the trip safe and enjoyable.
- Participants should inform the leader if they feel unduly tired or if the trip is exceeding their capability. Concealing such information to avoid embarrassment or other reasons endangers the safety of all participants.
- Participants must not leave the party at any time without permission of the leader. Participants must not leave the trip area until all party members have safely returned, unless given permission by the trip leader.
- Party Coordination: It is recommended that leaders establish procedures to ensure the cohesiveness of the group. They should explain the concept of having a leader and sweep and stress the importance of maintaining contact within the group
- Safety Considerations: It is recommended that trip leaders and participants observe reasonable safety precautions and that all trip decisions be made with safety as the primary concern.

*A leader may curtail further participation by an individual and amend trip objectives if, in the leader's judgment, the safety of the individual or group requires such action. It is recommended that if a trip participant is unable to continue with the trip and must turn back that he or she be accompanied by at least one other person.*

**Additional rules and precautions that must be abided by during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Leaders will screen participants for symptoms and/or recent contact with an infected person.

Everyone should bring face masks, sanitizer and/or soap.

Avoid hiking or paddling in wilderness and high-use areas, overnight trips to the backcountry, and carpooling (unless members of the same household).

Leaders are advised to keep outings local, local being identified as being within 30 miles.

As the state is slowly re-opening, check the ADK website or the park you plan to visit for information about trail closures, parking lot closures or reductions, and information about what facilities are now open and what precautions need to be adhered to when entering and using the facilities. For example, parking options are limited, particularly at St. Huberts and the Garden. Camping options are also limited.

**June 23, 2020** – Now that the North Country has been given clearance to begin the phased reopening process, more details have been released regarding what types of businesses can open and when. Below is an outline of our reopening process as it aligns with **New York Forward**, which was developed with guidance from local officials. ADK has adopted a strict health and safety plan to protect the well-being of visitors, guests, and staff as we move through this process.

### ACTIVITIES RATINGS

Each outing listed in this issue is rated by the leader for its level of effort. Remember that “level of effort” is not the same as the level of difficulty! A “moderate” hike for a physically fit person may mean a very strenuous hike for a novice or unconditioned person.

**It is incumbent on each participant to know their own level of fitness and limitations.** The trip leader will ask questions about your experience, fitness, equipment, medical condition, expectations, etc. *Be Honest*

<b>HIKING</b> 	<b>RATING</b>	<b>LEVEL OF EFFORT</b>	<b>FEET OF ELEVATION GAIN</b>	<b>MILES</b>	<b>TIME (HOURS)</b>
	A+	Very strenuous	4,000+	10+	10+
	A	Strenuous	3,000+	5-10	8-10
	B+	Moderately Strenuous	2,000+	5-10	6-8
	B	Moderate	1,000+	8-10	5-7
	C+	Fairly Easy	1,000+	5-8	4-6
	C	Easy	Under 1,000	Under 5	Under 5
<b>PADDLING</b> 	<b>RATING</b>	<b>MILES</b>	<b>PORTAGES</b>	<b>WATER CLASS</b>	
	A	12+	Long (1/2 mile+)	II - Whitewater	
	B	6-12	Short	I - Moving	
	C	Under 6	None	Flat	
<b>BIKING</b> 	<b>RATING</b>	<b>MILES</b>	<b>TERRAIN</b>		
	A	30+	Moderate to steep		
	B	15-30	Moderate		
	C	Under 15	Flat to Moderate		

Not all trips fit cleanly into one of these categories. Whenever you are unclear about a rating for a trip, leaders will be happy to explain what their designated rating means.

**Please Note:** Unless otherwise stated, please sign up with the leader for all Chapter activities. Do not simply show up at the designated meeting place. Arrive at the designated site before the stated departure time. Remember, no carpooling unless you are members of a family. Do not bring a pet unless the trip leader agrees that it is okay, and bring a leash. Please stay with the group or ask to proceed and stop at the first intersection and wait for the entire group to re-assemble. Practice social distancing and don your mask when passing other hikers. You are expected to carry adequate equipment, water and food. If in doubt about what to bring, ask the trip leader!

<b>Suggested Gear For All Seasons:</b>		<b>Winter Add-Ons</b>
Water (2-3 quarts)	Food	Extra Food
Sturdy Boots	Sunglasses/Sunscreen	Ski Pole or Ice Axe
Extra Socks	First Aid Kit	Skis or Snowshoes
Waterproof Matches	Crampons	Warm Liquids
Headlamp	Layered Clothing (NO cotton)	Extra Layers
Map & Compass	Wind and Rain Shell	
Emergency Blanket	Extra Sweater or Jacket	
Hat/Gloves		

### **General Information for Paddling Trips**

On most Tuesday (some Wednesday) evenings from May thru October, the ADK Albany Chapter paddles various waterways in the Capital District area. There are typically 2 groups (Fast and Relaxed). The Relaxed Group goes as slow as the slowest paddler and may be best for short wide boats or less skilled paddlers. The Fast Group is for most everyone else and goes about 3-4 mph. If there are a large number of paddlers, we may form a moderate group. Expect to paddle for about two hours. Scheduled trips launch rain or shine. It is suggested that you obtain a good roadmap of the Capital District or use [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) for directions to the launch site locations. It is customary, after the paddle, for the group Leader to pick a nearby restaurant and convene the Paddlers Committee Meeting (PCM) to socialize, plan future trips, and enjoy a meal with old and new friends. Everyone who paddles is automatically a Committee Member and is invited to participate. If new paddlers would like to join the weekly paddling email list, please email Pamela Bentien and Alison Zoske at [albany.adk.paddlers@gmail.com](mailto:albany.adk.paddlers@gmail.com).

The following are the Albany Chapter guidelines to participate in the Evening Paddles:

- 1) **Respect Other Users of the Waterways** - Steer clear of fishermen. Don't forget their fishing lines go well out into the water. Stay close to shore when motorboats are out. Red & Green Buoys mark the deep-water channels so stay between the buoys and shore. Paddle in a tight group when crossing large bodies of water.
- 2) **Launch on Time** - Please be in your boats on the water and congregated near shore before the launch time. People launching after start time are not officially with the group. The leaders will conduct a short On-the-Water Meeting with the group to discuss the water, weather conditions and plans for the paddle.
- 3) **Duty of the Paddler** - It is the responsibility of the paddler to stay with the group and know who the leaders are. If you don't know, ask someone.
- 4) **Leaving the Group** - The leaders take a headcount at the On-the-Water Meeting. Therefore, please notify one of the leaders if you need to leave the group for any reason. ADK is not responsible for paddlers who choose not to paddle with the group.
- 5) **Required Gear** - All paddlers must bring along a white light (a headlamp is good), a whistle (a pealess one is best) and must wear a PFD (Personal Floatation Device aka life jacket). Your PFD needs to be securely fastened (zippered and buckled). There are no exceptions to these requirements. It is also a good idea to bring raingear, water, bug-dope (mosquitoes are quite active in summer at dusk) and an extra set of clothes in the car.
- 6) **Clothing** - Other than in July and August, all paddlers should not wear cotton clothing, If you must wear cotton, bring along a full change of clothing in a dry bag. Expect to have your feet in the water when launching. Some of the launch spots are slippery and have underwater debris. Waterproof footwear (most experienced paddlers use neoprene booties or mukluks) is highly recommended in the cooler months.
- 7) **Guests** - You may bring a guest. He/she is your responsibility and must adhere to all of the Evening Paddle Guidelines.

## Conservation Notes

**Thousands of Acres Preserved on the Taconic Ridge** : New York State has just preserved 5,789 additional acres along the Taconic Ridge. The acquisition includes 2,446 acres adjoining the Taconic Ridge State Forest (Petersburgh and Stephentown) and 3,343 acres adjacent to the Berlin State Forest (Berlin). These acquisitions **double** the size of the Taconic Ridge State Forest and the Berlin State Forest. The purchases were made in partnership with The Conservation Fund and used \$4.85 million from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. The added parcels provide more recreational opportunities and potential for new access to the Taconic Crest Trail. It will help protect the water quality of tributaries to the Little Hoosic River, a wild trout stream and source of clean drinking water. The large forest blocks of both the Taconic Ridge as well as the Rensselaer Plateau are core wildlife corridors and, according to the Natural Heritage Program, provide potential refuge for wildlife moving from southern sections or lower elevations in response to climate change.

**Whitney Tract for Sale:** The Adirondack estate owned by the Whitney family for 120 years is on the market for \$180 million. John Hendrickson, the widower of Marylou Whitney, plans to sell the 36,000-acre estate - including the great camp Deerlands - that has been in the Whitney family since the 1890s. The property includes the main house, Deerlands that overlooks Little Forked Lake, one of 22 lakes on the land. This tract is the "hole in the donut." It is one of the original 93 projects identified in the state open space conservation plan. It is literally surrounded by state forest preserve lands. The property also includes a trapper's cabin from the 1800s and a timber

operation. It would not be the first time Whitney property has been sold in the Adirondacks. In 1997, the state spent \$17.1 million to purchase 15,000 acres of forest from Whitney. The neighboring William C. Whitney Wilderness - which includes Little Tupper Lake - is described by the state's Department of Environmental Conservation as featuring "an extensive and historic system of navigable lakes and streams which are readily accessible by canoe, kayak or other non-motorized boat." DEC also touts fishing, hiking, camping, biking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing at the park. Hendrickson said that he would not consider selling to the state again, believing a private owner would offer better protection for the land. Prior to announcing the land was for sale, Hendrickson called Gov. Andrew Cuomo to tell him. "Little Tupper Lake was the home of brook trout," Hendrickson said. "It was protected for more than 100 years. The state bought it and someone from the public introduced bass and now the trout are extinct from that lake. I have a hatchery with Little Tupper brook trout. I stock the lakes so they're not completely extinct. I don't want to see it happen again. It didn't make me very happy." Hendrickson said \$5,000 an acre is a bargain because the property is "priceless."

If you have questions or want to know more about these issues, please contact David Pisaneschi at: [dapadk@gmail.com](mailto:dapadk@gmail.com)<http://www.adk-albany.org/conservationNotes.php>

## From the Archives

October 5, 1945: A meeting of the Albany chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club was held. Many issues were discussed, but perhaps the most important and far reaching issue addressed that day was presented by Paul Schaefer concerned the Moose River and the subsequent Moose River Fight which Paul Schaefer spearheaded at the time.

By coincidence I saw the Moose River this past summer where it passes through Lyon Falls. It is a pretty river, and the waterfall is beautiful, though it is marred by the dam.

History: The Adirondack Park was established in 1892 and in 1894 it was declared "Forever Wild." However two amendments in 1913 threatened its very existence: The Burd Amendment and the Machold Storage Law which allowed 3 % of this forest preserve to be flooded to create reservoirs. Once they were approved dams and reservoirs could be built.

Two of the proposed dams were to be on the Moose River. The result of this work would flood the Moose River Plain, the largest winter yarding ground for deer in the area. The project was approved in 1945, but when Paul Schaefer found out about it he created with others an anti-dam campaign and the Adirondack Moose River Committee to fight the creation of these dams. Two years later they convinced Governor Thomas Dewey to oppose the project to build these dams. However their victory was short-lived.

# Reflections on a Summer During a Pandemic

by Brad Schwebler

At a time when there is a lot of talk about being confined at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, and jokes about baking sourdough bread, I still enjoyed many hiking adventures this year. And although I couldn't travel as far as I would have liked. I made many interesting discoveries closer to home.

For the first time I saw a pileated woodpecker, a jack-in-the-pulpit, and a pink ladyslipper. I discovered that clintonia lilly, a pretty yellow flower in the spring found only on mountaintops, becomes blue-bead lilly later in the summer, and red trillium, when the flower withers, becomes a single red berry-like fruit. I also discovered cranberry blossoms on the shore of Lake Maratanza and fragrant sweet pepperbush blossoms on the shore of Lake Awosting. With hiking friends we saw a large black rat snake on the trail, and on another hike a fat slumbering brown water snake next to where I was standing. We discovered a quarry with evidence of stonecutters making millstones and another rock scramble called Zaidee's Bower. We hiked to Dibble's Quarry and Palenville Overlook which had thrones someone made from rocks, we hiked up to two fire towers, and reached the summits of four Catskill peaks over 3500 feet.

In addition to all of this and much more I also discovered and made use of new apps on my cell phone: Plant Snap (to identify plants), Seek (to identify plants and animals and makes it a game), and Google Lens (to identify most anything). While not always accurate, they are helpful. For navigation I have already used the Alltrails map, which is helpful when there is cell service. When it's not I have Gaia which uses satellite and has been very useful. There is also Avenza. I have also been informed about CalTopo which can be used to design your own maps which I am excited about using. Still, I have also used my paper maps this summer, and with all these aids I have been able to navigate my groups through uncertain areas. I also carried a back-up battery with a built-in solar panel to charge up my cell phone.

In most places we hiked we encountered few other hikers and most of the other hikers we met were respectful, donned masks, or moved off the trail to let us by. A few exceptions were popular places like Minnewaska State Park and Overlook Mountain where there were many more people, many without masks. Early in the season many trails were closed. I had to change plans at Sam's Point which had most trails closed and at Minnewaska State Park which had some of its trails closed. To this day the parking lot for Kaaterskill Falls, perhaps the most popular waterfall destination in the Catskills, is still closed. Talking to a young lady from DEC she said the parking lots for popular spots in the Adirondacks are filling up early. Although summer is over and the traffic may be lighter, especially on weekdays, hikers will still be out to see the fall foliage at least through October. It is advisable to call ahead and be informed of current conditions.

## The Gallery



Awosting Falls



cranberry blossoms  
(found at Lake Maratanza)



Lousewort  
(found on Sleepy Hollow Trail)



Lupine  
(found in the Truax Barrens of Pine Bush)



Clintonia lilly  
(on Overlook Mountain)



becomes blue-bead lilly  
(found on Slide Mountain)



Cardinal flower  
(found by Bog River Falls)



Gentian  
(found at the base of Overlook Mountain)



Chicken-of-the-woods



Yellow oyster mushrooms



Painted trillium



Trillium's berry-like fruit



brown water snake



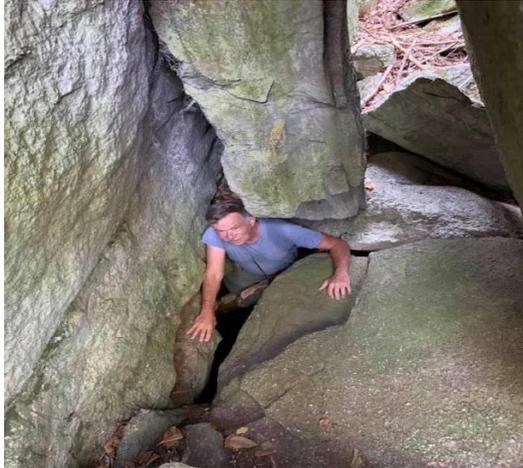
box turtle



Karl on the throne  
(at Dibble's Quarry)



Kelly at Inspiration Point



Coming out of a hole at Zaidee's Bower



Karner Blue  
(found in the Pine Bush)



Millstone  
(found in quarry off Old Minnewaska Trail)



Sweet Pepperbush  
(at Lake Awosting)

**ALBANY CHAPTER - OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Chairperson	Cliff Prewencki	518-768-2907	cprewencki@aol.com
Vice Chairperson	<b>Vacant</b>		
Treasurer	Jim Coward	518-915-1924	jkcoward@umich.edu
Recording Secretary	Gerry Magnes	518-810-7000	gmagnes1@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	<b>Vacant</b>		
Members at Large	Carl Klinowski	518-274-8410	cklinowski@nycap.rr.com
	James Slavin	518-225-7703	jaslavin1@gmail.com
Representatives to the Board	John Sheehan	518-674-8121	jgsheehan01@yahoo.com
	<b>Vacant</b>		
	John Gansfuss	518-461-2085	jgansfuss@gmail.com
Finance	<b>Vacant</b>		
Audio Video	Jake Bortscheller	518-724-4452	jbortsch@nycap.rr.com
Banquet	<b>Vacant</b>		
Cloudsplitter	Brad Schwebler	518-248-5522	feketitsch@yahoo.com
	Liz Schou	518-258-0640	lizschou@gmail.com
Conservation	David Pisaneschi	518-459-5969	dapadk@gmail.com
Education/ Programs	<b>Vacant</b>		
Membership	Doug Rosenberry	518-265-6018	ADK.albanymember@gmail.com
Nominations	Mark Janey	518-925-4989	markjaney@gmail.com
Outings	Virginia Boyle Traver	518-322-0950	virginiabt28@hotmail.com
Paddlers	Pamela Bentien	518 270-0008	auntmayor@aol.com
	Alison Zoske	518-257-0680	Saville1127@gmail.com
Refreshments	Ellen Luchsinger	518-308-9488	kayakerL@yahoo.com
Trails	Gene Reilly	518-281-7796	genehikes46@gmail.com
Ways and Means	Sue Jordan	518-487-4698	suej9999@yahoo.com
	Martha Waldman	518-869-5109	martha829r@aol.com
Webmaster	Brandon Finucan		brandon.finucan@gmail.com
Wilderness	David Pisaneschi	518-459-5969	dapadk@gmail.com
Young Adults	Charlie Pensabene	917-575-7543	cpensabeneals@gmail.com