

ADK Today

Vol. 2, No. 6: July 2, 2009

Allegany State Park

The state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) will hold two informational meetings next month to get public input for a draft master plan for the future management of [Allegany State Park](#) in western New York. At 67,000 acres, Allegany State Park is the largest park in the OPRHP system and is rich with scenic beauty, large stands of mature forest, rugged terrain and biological diversity. Read ADK's [Action Alert](#).

Wilderness Expansion

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is seeking public input on a plan to classify more than 12,000 acres in the western Adirondacks as Wilderness. The classification would result in a major expansion of the Five Ponds Wilderness and help protect the wild character of Lows Lake, the hub of two multi-day wilderness canoe routes. Read ADK's [Action Alert](#).

North Jersey Ramapo Chapter

On June 20, the ADK Board of Directors unanimously approved the merger of the North Jersey (Bergen County, NJ) and Ramapo (Orange and Rockland counties, NY) chapters. Because they hike in the same area, the two chapters have been sharing a hiking schedule. But even as they hiked as a single chapter, they maintained separate organizations, which meant duplication of volunteers' efforts. The membership of both chapters approved the merger in April. Read the North Jersey Ramapo Chapter's first [newsletter](#).

Senate Stalemate

As the state Senate debates who's in charge, the fate of critical environmental legislation hangs in the balance. Some significant environmental bills, passed by the Assembly, were awaiting passage by the Senate in the last two scheduled weeks of the legislative session. The bills listed below are the most notable victims of the stalemate caused by the June 8 coup:

- Global Warming Pollution Cap. Delaying this bill gives other states a head start while New York's technology and businesses lag behind in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Environmental Access to Justice Act would have restored the original intent of the State Environmental Quality Review Act ([SEQRA](#)), which gave citizens the right to sue to force the State and local governments to take a hard look at environmental impacts and consider more environmentally friendly alternatives. An appeals court decision that denies citizens standing in many instances has prevented several important cases from going to court.
- The Wetlands Protection bill would give the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) the regulatory authority over wetlands over 1 acre, a major improvement over the current 12.4 acre threshold.

Heart Lake Visitors

A photo crew from *Gourmet* magazine visited ADK's Heart Lake property on June 24 to take pictures for an upcoming article on the Adirondacks. They also visited Cascade Lakes, the Lake Placid Lodge and local farms. On June 13, as part of the Wildlife Conservation Society's International Fellows Program, a group of 15 conservationists from Asia toured the Wilderness Campground and HPIC, hiked around Heart Lake and inspected the electric fence that keeps bears out of the trash. The visitors, from nations where tigers are a problem, were curious about how Adirondack residents deal with black bears.

Hiking Schedule Expanded

The ADK Education Department's Trailless [Backpacking](#) and [Day Hike](#) series, which used to run till the end of August, has been extended into October.

Slideshows

View slideshows from the [Johns Brook Lodge Fly In](#) and the [Black Fly Affair](#).

Alpine Gathering

Seventy-seven people attended the Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering in Lake Placid, May 29-30. That's up from 57 and 65 attendees at the previous two gatherings. The 2009 Gathering was hosted by the Adirondack High Peaks Summit Steward Program, a partnership of ADK, the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and DEC. Here are some reports from the gathering:

- [350, a global warming threshold](#)
- [Impact of climate change on alpine zones topic of forum](#)
- [Conference to Assess Impact of Climate Change on Northeast and Adirondack Alpine Zones](#)
- [Alpine Researchers Gather in Lake Placid](#)

Invasive Species Training

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program is holding a "train the trainer" workshop from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, at DEC's Warrensburg office. With forest pests on the move, an informed citizenry is needed to help keep watchful eyes for signs of forest pests. Contact Hillary Smith by July 7 at (518) 576-2082 Ext. 131 or send her an [e-mail](#).

Canoe Outing

There are still a few openings for the St. Regis Canoe Outing (July 20-25 and July 25-30), but you'll need to act fast if you want to participate. More information [here](#).

Gear Swap

The Schenectady Chapter has scheduled a Gear Swap at ADK headquarters, 814 Goggins Road, Lake George. The swap will be held from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 18. Proceeds will support ADK's conservation work. If you wish to donate used, but still useful, outdoor equipment or would like further information, please contact Norm Kuchar by [e-mail](#) or call (518) 399-6243 by July 11.

Member Appreciation

The new Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) store in Manhattan's SoHo District (530 Broadway) is offering discounts to ADK members from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, July 16. All EMS brand products will be 20 percent off; other brands, 15 percent off. Offer valid on full-price, in-stock merchandise. A portion of the proceeds from the evening's sales will be donated to ADK. Visit the store's [Web site](#).

Fourth of July

ADK's Lake George and Albany offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of the Fourth of July holiday. The store at Lake George will be open on Friday, but will be closed on Saturday. Have an enjoyable and safe holiday.

ADK in the News

- [APA Considers Designating 12,000 Acres as Wilderness](#)
- [Wilderness in the works](#)
- [Two Central New York congressmen split with parties as landmark climate bill passes](#)
- [On The Bright Side: Park expands after Hartwick sale](#)
- [When choosing trails to explore, don't forget those water options](#)

- [On The Bright Side: Park expands after Hartwick sale](#)
- [RECREATION: ADK Outdoor Expo \(6/13\)](#)
- [Club rolls out welcome mat to the great outdoors](#)
- [New 50-mile trail now open in Cranberry Lake](#)
- [Trails Day at Durand-Eastman](#)
- [Arts Notes Observer-Dispatch](#)
- [Flume first of its kind in Forest Preserve](#)
- [New bike trail system opens in Wilmington](#)
- [Wilderness adventure, with meals](#)

Other News

- [Local trails projects get financial boost](#)
- [Walking to fitness on local trails](#)
- [APA considers classifying bodies of water as wilderness](#)
- [Lake Placid adjusts its tourism strategies](#)
- [Emerald Ash Borer Found in New York State](#)

ADK Today is an occasional compendium of news and views of interest to members of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK). It is produced and distributed by the ADK Communications Department, 301 Hamilton Street, Albany, NY 12210. **Comments, questions or concerns** about the content of this newsletter? Want to be added to or dropped from our distribution list? Send us an [e-mail](#).

###