

Black River Currents
A Publication of the
ADK/Black River Chapter



Adirondack
ADK
Mountain Club

Fall 2024
LOCAL FIRE TOWER GUIDE
AND NEWSLETTER
Volume 33 Issue 3

2024 Chapter Officers

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Vice Chair
Linda Burns

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Caryn Clements

Treasurer
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About Us

The Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club is composed of members primarily in Jefferson and Lewis Counties. The region includes Eastern Lake Ontario shoreline, the Northern portion of Tug Hill, the Black River Valley, and the Western edge of the Adirondack Mountains.

The chapter offers something for everyone, from active support for conservation to a variety of outdoor activities and social events. Outings include hiking, canoeing, cross country skiing, and other outdoor activities. We also have social events such as chapter picnics and dinners. You do not have to be a triathlete or drive long distances to enjoy many of our activities. Hikes range from short, easy walks to more difficult high peaks climb. Many activities are local and do not all require a long drive to the Adirondacks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, See us on Facebook at: **Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club**, or Email us at: blackriveradk@gmail.com

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Membership*

Below is the first summary of membership **from the new iMIS computer system**. It may have some errors as it is continually reviewed and updated.

Membership as of 6/1/2024			
Senior Member	38	Member	63
Families	39	Family Members	90
Life Members	2	Total Members	191

*We will continue to review the data and we suspect the numbers are low. This data should not to be compared with previous newsletter membership reports.

Front Cover Zoo NY Fire Tower taken 7/15/2023 by Ross

Back Cover: Baker Woods Hikers by Ross

Next newsletter deadline November 1st, 2024

From the Committees

Conservation/Trails Committee

We have had a busy Summer. Black River Chapter members have worked on several projects on our second Saturday of the month conservation days: Save the River Clean-up on the St Lawrence River at Otter Creek, Garden Work on our adopted garden around the fire tower at the Zoo, Rte. 3 Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up.

In addition we have helped with board walk repairs at Downybrook Nature Reserve trail for OBI, worked two additional days at the Zoo on our adopted gardens and helped install new plants in the Wolf garden.

All of these events were very productive and follow ADK's mission statement - ADK works to protect New York State wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates.

Members have attended invasive species three sessions training, both classroom and on the water, with SLELO and are now part of the water protectors program.

Attended the APPIP conference on Invasive Species.

Provided a Leave No Trace training course to a group at Wellesley Island State Park.

Attended Ribbon Cutting for the opening of the Sensory Trail at Baker Woods Preserve.

We truly appreciate the efforts of all who have helped out on these activities and have taken the time to get trained

with SLELO.

We have several opportunities for the remainder of the summer and the fall for additional member participation. Remember stewardship is a big part of ADK and it is a great way for our club to gain recognition and feel good to give back to the great outdoors.

Outreach events

Family Day at the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton—This was a great well attended event on a beautiful day in June. We were able to spread the word about ADK to a large number of visitors. It was great meeting new people who are interested in both water activities and hiking.

Mental Health Community Day—We are excited to say we have a good number of new members that have joined us this year.

Membership

We have received new rosters and have begun mailing out welcome packets again. There are at least 12 new members this year. If you are a new member and have not received one yet please feel free to reach out to me and I will make sure you are correctly entered into the current roster and send out your letters and chapter gifts.

Look forward to seeing you at one of our workdays or out on the trail enjoying nature on a Chapter hike.

Dave Clements- blackriveradk@gmail.com

From the Chair

“Actions speak louder than words.” This newsletter shows it all. Thank you for making this a great chapter. Please consider joining us at our annual meeting and/or considering a position on an active committee.

2025 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The positions of Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer are up for election. Here's the current slate:

Chapter Chair: Rich Ross (continuing if elected)

Vice Chair: OPEN (Linda Burns would like to step down)

Secretary: Caryn Clements (interim Secretary, willing to continue if elected)

Treasurer: Doreen Hanson (willing to continue if elected)

Interested in a Position? If you're passionate about contributing to the chapter's success, consider throwing your hat in the ring!

Send an email to blackriveradk@gmail.com with a brief description of why you're interested in the position(s), any relevant experience you have in nonprofit organizations, and your contact details.

Beyond officer roles, there are openings in various committees: Conservation, Outings, Education, Public Relations. Committee positions aren't voted upon; they're open for volunteers. You can even become a committee co-leader or leader! Other openings reside in Committees, for Conservation, Outings, Education and Public Relations. These are not voted upon, but volunteers are welcome as well as become committee co-leaders and leaders.

45 Years Ago September-October 1979 Newsletter

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB - BLACK RIVER CHAPTER

September - October, 1979 Bulletin

** FALL PICNIC - WELLESLEY ISLAND STATE PARK

Time: Sunday, September 16, 1979, Noon arrival at State Park picnic area, Minna Anthony Nature Center. 3:00 - Dinner.

Place: Wellesley Island State Park Costs \$0,00

All members and their family are invited. The club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, and charcoal. Members should bring liquid refreshments and a covered dish to be shared by everyone. In case of rain, the picnic will be held on September 23. The last picnic held provided an opportunity to meet other club members, and a good time was had by all who came. We hope that members who have been unable to make other events will join us at this picnic,

Parking fees have not been charged at the park after Labor Day and we are assuming that this will be the case this year too.

ANNUAL MEETING:

The chapter's annual meeting will be held sometime in late October. It will be discussed at the picnic and members will be notified when arrangements have been completed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Your Nominating Committee submits the names of the following members who have agreed to serve as our club's officers for the 1980 calendar year;

Chairmans Joseph- M. Dawson
Vice Chairman; Charles F. Kratzat
Treasurer; Donald J. Hoffman
Secretary; Margaret Baldwin
Governor; Jules J, Cameau
Director (2 years); Wayne R. Cooke
Director (1 year); Robert R. Quinn

The nominations will be acted upon by the membership at our Annual Meeting. Those persons elected will take office on January 1, 1980. Our members are reminded that they may submit nominations of their own. This may be done by submitting a petition signed by three members and a signed statement of acceptance by the nominee (s). These nominations should be in the hands of the Chairman by September 30, 1979.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

If you know of anyone who would like to join our club, remember that they may do so as of October 1, 1979. By joining on that date, they will be entitled to all the privileges of full membership through December 31, 1980. For more information, contact Don Hoffman, 15 Stafford Drive in Black River.

NEW MEMBERS

Max M, Bovie, R, D. #1, Wright Street, Adams, N.Y. 13605
Gary W. Charlebois, 1116 Temple Street, Watertown, N.Y, 13601
Frederic W, Reynolds, 207 E, Main Street, Sackets Harbor, N.Y,13685

OUTINGS

9/9/79 - Sunday, DIX Mountain

The copper survey bolt is still on the 4,857 ft, rocky summit, placed here in 1873 by Ver Planck Calvin, He probably enjoyed the same views that we will have unobstructed from the Green Mts. to the Great Range. The mountain will be approached from the St. Hubert's side and is approximately 13-miles round trip. Rated strenuous. Call Don Hoffman

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at 773-4182 for details and sign-up,

9/22/79 - Saturday Lower Wolf Jaw

Join your leader, Tom Stanwood, for this moderate to strenuous climb of Lower Wolf Jaw and enjoy the fall foliage which will be nearing its peak color. Total Round Trip of 9-miles and ascent of 2,800 feet. No pets please. For details and sign-up, call Tom Stanwood at 232-2102.

9/22/79- Saturday -Indian River

Canoe from Philadelphia through Evans Mills, ending in Theresa, about 6-miles, from 9:30 A.M. to 3 or 4 P.M. Bring lunch and camera. Call Tom Walker at 782-0320 or 3153.

9/29/79 - Saturday - Eldorado Shores. Henderson Harbor

Identify migrating birds by their calls and characteristics bring binoculars and call Matt Brown at 788-7292 for sign-up and directions.

10/7/73. - Sunday Whetstone Gulf Rim Trail

This trip, which was washed out by the spring rains last March, will be attempted again with, hopefully, much better weather. We will meet in front of the Park Headquarters at 10:30 A.M. Be sure to bring your camera for the views are spectacular, especially in the upper reaches of the trail. Estimated length of the trip is 6-miles. Rated moderate. For more information, call Tom Stanwood at 232-2102.

10/14/79 - Sunday Hurricane Mountain

This is a moderate hike - just right for the kids. Total distance about 6-miles. Hurricane is a 3,694 ft, mountain, which, like Whiteface, stands by itself and gets weather from all directions. An unused fire tower stands precariously on the rocky summit. Call Don Hoffman at 773-4182 for details and sign-up.

10/21/79 - Sunday Watertown Sportsmen's Club - Autumn Walk

Meet Jack Tinney here at 1:30 P.M.

10/27/79 - Saturday Bike from Rodman to Burrville and Return

Bike about 16-miles from Rodman at 1:30 P.M. to Burrville and return. Call D. Larrabee at 583-5333 for sign-up.

Annual Meeting time and place will be announced in future mailing and also any information dealing with cross-country skiing at Jefferson 3 {trail work}.

** Cancellation trips If local trips are to be cancelled, leader should contact WATN, WOTT, and WWNY two to three hours before the trip is to begin. PC?? -long trips, those who have signed up should be called by leader.

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB BLACK RIVER CHAPTER

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1979 BULLETIN

From our Conservation Chairman - Joe Dawson

* Pending Clearing Amendment (Amendment #2) The Adirondack Mountain Club has taken a position in favor of this amendment which will appear on the November 6 (Election Day) ballot. Under the proposal, an equal transfer of land will take place between the State and a paper company. We would urge that you consider supporting this proposal.

11/4/79 - Sunday Hurricane Mountain

Rescheduled cancelled trip of 10/14/79. This is a moderate hike - just right for the

45 Years Ago November - December 1979 Newsletter

kids. Total distance about 6-miles. Hurricane is a 3,694 ft. mountain, which, like Whiteface, stands by itself and gets weather from all directions. An unused fire tower stands precariously on the rocky summit. Call Don Hoffman at 773-4182 for details and sign-up.

11/10/79 - Saturday Canoe Lyons Falls to Castorland

See the historic aspect of Black River. A full day's paddle; bring your lunch and wear your snuggies. Call Joe Dawson for sign-ups at 788-3772.

11/17/79 - Saturday Cowhorn Pond Trash Clean-up

You are invited to participate in this moderate day trip through some of the most beautiful woods in the Western Adirondacks and at the same time do something good for the environment. Cowhorn Pond is located in the Cranberry Lake Wilderness and is reached by a 7-mile hike from Wanakena over a mostly level trail with some modest up and down grades. We will pack into Cowhorn Pond, bag as much trash as possible, police the lean-to area, then pack out to Janeck's Landing on Dead Creek Flow on Cranberry Lake. There we will deposit our bagged trash for pickup by the DEC the following Monday. Please bring a frame pack (if you have one), a large trash bag, some warm clothes and your lunch. For sign-ups, call Tom Stanwood at 232-2102 evenings after 6:00.

11/23/79 - Friday - Noonmark

Try this moderate hike (about two miles to the top) to the top of 2175 ft. Noonmark located south of Keene Valley. For sign-ups call Charles Kratzat at 788-8625

12/2/79 - Sunday St. Regis Mountain

Join me on this 5-mile round trip to the top of a 2,800 ft. fire tower mountain for spectacular views of surrounding multi-lake region around Paul Smiths. If interested call Don Hoffman at 773-4182.

12/9/79 - Sunday Ampersand Mountain

Join your leader, Tom Stanwood, on this early winter climb of Ampersand Mountain which is located on the Western fringe of the High Peaks and offers excellent views of the Seward and Sawtooth ranges and the Saranac Lakes Region. It is a moderately difficult climb of 1,800 feet with a total distance of 5-miles. Bring warm clothes, snowshoes with crampons or boot crampons (if you have them) and your camera. Should time permit, we will climb Arab Mountain, a small fire tower peak situated just west of Tupper Lake on the way home. For sign-ups call Tom at 232-2102 any evening after 6:00 P.M.

12/15/79 Saturday- Backwoods and Weed Walk, Rodman & Lorraine Area

Moderate and afternoon hike or snowshoe along country road and nature trail. Total distance about 6-miles, Start at 1:30. Call Bob Quinn for sign-ups at 788-5073.

12/22/79 - Saturday - Cross Country Skiing

Time-1:30 PM Place - Somewhere around Barnes Corners, on trails or unplowed roads; depending on snow cover. Gear: Skis, we hope and a snack, if you wish. Reason - To get those long unused skiing muscles back in shape, Sign-ups call Dave Larrabee at 583-5333.

1/1/80 - All the Black River Chapter officers wish all of you

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1/5/80 - Saturday Jefferson 3

Meet at new parking lot on Rt.177 for an afternoon of cross-country skiing starting at 1:30 P.M. Hopefully we can ski on this chapter's new construction of an added 1-1/2 miles to the existing trail system.

Local Fire Tower Guide

Leaf-peeping season is such a magical time, and what better way to take in the fall foliage than from the vantage point of a fire tower? Let's dive into the details:

Exploring Local Fire Towers Beyond the Blue Line

While our chapter may not fall within the Adirondack Park's Blue Line, that doesn't dampen our enthusiasm for fire towers. In fact, we're fortunate to have accessible towers right in our area. Each county boasts its own piece of fire tower history, and these structures are more than mere landmarks—they're gateways to the past.

Fire towers were once the eyes of the forest. Over 100 of them crowned our highest peaks. Observers—dedicated and watchful—scanned the landscape for telltale signs of danger. Their commitment protected our woodlands. Today, newer technologies have replaced many towers, but their legacy remains.

Here are our local "Gems" which you'd really enjoy visiting with family and friends.

Cathedral Rock Fire Tower (St. Lawrence County): Perched atop Cathedral Rock, this tower offers breathtaking views of the surrounding wilderness. We recently hiked this one with about 15 people. Imagine the fire observers stationed here, scanning the horizon for signs of smoke. Take a moment to appreciate the rugged landscape—the same one they vigilantly protected.



Mount Arab Fire Tower (St. Lawrence County): Mount Arab's fire tower has witnessed generations of change. It stands as a testament to the importance of forest conservation. As you climb those steps, think about the watchmen who once climbed them daily, binoculars in hand. Our chapter made this a first day of spring hike a few years ago.

Lowville DEC Demonstration Center Fire Tower (Lewis County): This tower isn't just a relic; it's an educational resource. Visitors learn about fire prevention, forest ecology, and the role of fire towers. It's a living lesson in stewardship. We also held a Map & Compass class at this site.



Thompson Park Zoo NY Fire Tower (Jefferson County): Ah, our favorite—the one with our chapter logo! But how did it end up at the zoo? Well, it has quite the journey. Originally standing in the Hamlet of New Boston (26 miles away), it was dismantled and lovingly restored. Was it Harrisville or Dadville? The mystery adds to its allure. Now, it graces the Thompson Park Zoo, offering visitors a glimpse into New York State's Forest protection heritage. This one is our Chapter's Pride:

Hosting events at each fire tower site is more than just a gathering—it's a celebration of our shared history. And that Zoo NY Fire Tower? It's our shining beacon. Our chapter logo graces it proudly. It's not just a tower; it's our best advertisement. When visitors see it, they glimpse our passion for conservation.

But this tower didn't start in Watertown, and it hasn't always looked as good as it does today. Let's go back and look at the picture the New Boston Fire Tower standing tall in Lewis County. New Boston is just east of Adams, NY and south of the Zoo.

Its initial purpose was forest fire detection. But fate had other plans. It journeyed—perhaps via Harrisville or Dadville—to the Thompson Park Zoo. Restored, repaired, and rebuilt and now stands as a living piece of history, inviting us to climb and reflect.

From the website: <https://nysfla.org/alphalist.html> I found this gem of history regarding the New Boston Fire Tower. It was initially installed North of State Rt. 177 at the Hamlet of New Boston.



The structure on New Boston was an 80' Aermotor LS40 tower erected by the Conservation Department in 1950. With the advent of aerial detection, this tower closed at the end of the 1970 season. The tower was dismantled and removed

Local Fire Tower Guide

by DEC personnel in 1982 to their facilities. I understand it was in storage for a bit and then sent to a local fab shop for reparations and shipped to the zoo for installation.

The tower was then loaned to the Thompson Park Zoo, in Watertown. In 2016, with the assistance of a grant from FFLA, the tower was restored and reopened to the public at the zoo. There is a dedication plaque at tower which reads:

New York State Living Museum

FIRE TOWER

The tower was originally constructed in 1914 at New Boston on Tug Hill, the tower was moved to Thompson Park in 1989. The project was conceived and developed by Mr. John Falge, a Landscape Architect who works for the NYS Department of Transportation. John has served on the Board of Directors since 1995 and has been a major driving force behind all the renovations and new construction at the NYS Living Museum.

The Fire Tower was in pieces when it was retrieved from the NYSDEC facility in Dadville, Lewis County. Over the years, while in storage, several components were lost or used elsewhere and numerous new pieces had to be fabricated. The galvanized steel material is extremely hard and during the three-year period of construction over 100 drill bits and 30 saw blades were burned up while drilling and sawing all the pieces required to reassemble the tower.

The bottom section of the tower is actually 8 feet below the ground. Four large holes were drilled by Niagara Mohawk and the steel legs set in concrete in order to safely anchor the tower. This tower is approximately 55 feet tall. The original tower was over 85 feet tall. It is estimated that over 3000 hours of time has been expended to reconstructed this fire tower.

The Following Organizations and People made this project Possible.

The Tower is On-loan from: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Transported to the site and Tower Roof Constructed by;

New York State Department of Transportation

Foundation Holes Drilled by:

Niagara Mohawk-A National Grid Company

Support for Hardware and Tools

State Street Hardwar, Watertown, New York

Tower Roof Rested in Place:

Town of Watertown Fire Department

Tower Construction Team

John Falge-Project manager

Glenn Dobrogosz, Mark Frachette, Al Gianfagna, Peter Gaskin, Cary Howard, Tom Hunt, Ray Oaks, Peter Duderkirck, Ben Peyton, Dave Tapke, Terry Wood

Graphics Donated by:

Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

I did speak to NYS DEC-Region 6 and the Dadville facility is what we know today as the DEC Demonstration Center in Lowville.

Gathering more history on the tower, our member, Ron Fillhart recalls, “*The fire tower came from somewhere on the Tug Hill. The tower was placed at the park but was in need of repairs before it could be opened to the public. Our chapter donated half the cost of doing the repairs. I think it was around \$750. Given our donation, we were offered a chance to have the logo on the tower. I think Phil Waite was Chapter chair at the time.*”

In speaking with Vicki Jo White, another chapter member, she tells us, “*I actually painted the stairs on the tower with a paint that has grit in it for better traction. I did this on a windy day, I believe it was March 2004, and I painted fast and furious because I’m afraid of heights and just wanted to get it done. It was a good experience and it was part of*

Local Fire Tower Guide

my two year internship at the zoo when I was enrolled in the Animal Management program that is now called Zoo Technology.“

The Black River Chapter is happy to announce it has adopted a garden Zoo New York! Garden #20 at the base of the Fire Tower has been weeded and cleaned up for visitors to enjoy. Hostas and Lilies are growing strong and plans to add a little bit of color with some native perennials are in the works. Today our Conservation Committee works with the Zoo



and now maintains the garden below the tower.

You can see the plaque in the center photo. Reading this plaque tell us, it was no simple task to move it from New Boston, repair and rebuild it and install it in the Zoo. You have to gain a deep appreciation for that project.

Let's delve into some more of the fire tower design, fabrication and installation efforts of the early 1900s.

Fire Tower Design, Fabrication and Installation

Inserting some details about fire tower design I found the following link to be very informative. <http://www.friendsofstregis.org/a-history-of-aermotor-towers-by-fred-knauf/>. I've tried to summarize what Fred covered in detail regarding the construction and installation of a tower similar to the Zoo's. However it is a different model he highlights the efforts involved. Remember in the 1900's they were still developing pathways into the Adirondack and did not have the technology we do today.

The LL25 model towers, ordered in 1915, featured thinner steel components and used steel rods instead of cross braces near the top to reduce wind load. Aermotor sourced steel from mills in South Chicago/Gary, Indiana, with raw iron likely from Northern Michigan. The steel was processed, labeled, and shipped by train to major hubs like Syracuse and Albany for final delivery.

In 1918, William G. Howard highlighted the immense effort required to set up fire observation towers in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Train cars delivered steel and components to local yards, from where they were transported to the nearest rail siding or community. Rangers coordinated labor and vehicles to move materials, often using horse-drawn wagons or early motorized trucks. The challenging terrain and early road conditions made transporting tower pieces to remote mountain sites a significant task.



Photo: Hauling pieces ever upward. Photo-from-1920-Conservationist Magazine

Laborers cleared primitive roads up mountains using old logging paths to transport fire tower components. When roads became impassable, they used sleigh-like contraptions and winches. Great care was taken to avoid damaging or losing parts. Delivery took days to weeks, with crews setting up camps and battling elements. Aermotor provided blueprints, and teams drilled holes, set rods, and poured concrete to secure the tower's base.

After the concrete hardened, tower shoes were mounted, and corner pieces were supported with angle braces. Wood

Fire Tower Design, Fabrication and Installation

stairs and landings were added for safety and ease of construction. The cab sides and roof were installed, with workers climbing out windows to secure the roof without safety harnesses. Despite careful planning, errors occurred, such as with the Mt. Adams tower, which ended up with a slight spiral due to a misaligned footer.

After installing the flag pole mount and windows, workers packed up their tools and moved them back down the mountain. Originally, no safety mesh was applied to the fire towers. The process in the 1930s was similar but somewhat safer and easier, as towers were built on lower mountains. Weather often caused delays, requiring the labor force to camp out. Once the tower was up, further improvements were made for the observer's efficiency.

Photo: (L) The tower goes up. Two two-man teams placing a cross member of the Mt. Adams fire tower in 1917. Photo Conservationist Magazine.

Photo: © Another image of the Mt. Adams tower being erected. Believed to be taken from the original wood tower in 1917. Image, NYS Digital Archives.

Photo: ® Another view of Mt. Adams tower this one showing the primitive cabin near the summit.

Photo: (L) A brand new Aermotor fire tower believed to be atop Cata-mount Mtn. Conservationist magazine, 1919 (I think that was the year).



Photo: © CCC boys erecting the Jersey Hill Fire Tower in the 1930's. NYS Digital Archives

By 1916, telephones and lines were installed at observation towers, with observers responsible for maintaining them. In wooden structures, phone lines ended at the tower base, requiring observers to climb down to communicate. The Aermotor towers, with enclosed cabs, allowed phones to be mounted inside, improving communication between observers and rangers when smoke was detected.

Photo: 1918 photograph of the Black Mountain Observer, William Noble, and telephone. The left window of each side of the cab opened while the right window was stationary. The phone was mounted on wooden planks...not sure if they were movable but it would seem they should have so they didn't



block a direction. Image: NYS Conservation Commission Report, NYS Library



The range map table, possibly designed by Aermotor or the New York State Conservation Commission, was a simple yet brilliant addition. Made from household water pipe supplies, it featured a four-legged stand supporting a circular table that could be shifted along parallel pipes. This allowed observers to look around window frames and corners. Some original tables still exist, but many were repurposed or discarded during reconstructions. Before this invention, map tables were not guaranteed in wooden towers.

Fire Tower Design, Fabrication and Installation

Photo: The structure of the range map table installed in all New York State fire towers. Note the two horizontal pipes just under the table where the table would slide on. Image: NYS Digital Archives



Photo: Kinnie Williams showing how an observer would use the table and alidade to sight a smoke. Image from NYS Digital Archive



Photo: An Osborne Fire Finder which had both angular horizontal and vertical controls. A mechanism could be attached to this to generate the topography being seen. This photo is of the Custer Peak Lookout Tower in South Dakota.



In the late 1910s, as experienced woodsmen left the force, Kinnie Williams developed an improved topographic map table. Using an Osborne fire-finder, he created panoramic maps of the mountains visible from each fire tower, marking important peaks with numbers and scoring the map with 360-degree lines. State and private fire towers were also flagged. A smaller topographic map was mounted in the center and protected under glass.

Photo: Zoom of a portion of the 1912 Adirondack Conservation Commission map showing fire observation stations (fire towers - black circles), state phone lines (black lines), public telephone lines (red lines), fire wardens (black plus signs) and forest rangers (black squares). Note that no formal road exists between Long Lake and Tupper Lake at that time. NYS Conservation Commission Annual Reports



Photo: A more modern table using the original alidade. This image is from the demonstration tower at Lowville. Photo F. Knauf.

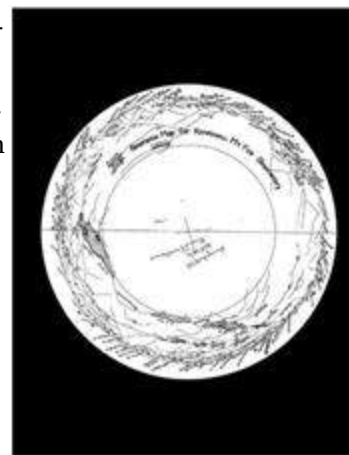
A metal alidade sighting device was placed atop the glass map table, allowing observers to pinpoint fire locations accurately using binoculars and a nearby phone. This setup enabled immediate communication with rangers. Panoramic maps were installed in most Adirondack Mountain towers

but not in the Catskill towers. Over time, these maps were replaced by newer topographic map tables.



Photo: The Kempshall Mountain panoramic map drawn by Kinnie Williams in 1921. It had to be a really clear day to draw one of these. Image: NYS Digital Archives

So, next time you ascend those steps, remember the watchmen who stood there before you. Their vigilance echoes through time, reminding us to protect what we love—the forests, the views, and the legacy of fire towers.



And kudos to our chapter for preserving this heritage!

Upcoming Chapter Events

AUGUST

FLAT ROCK RESERVOIR PADDLE

Tuesday, August 27 – 9:00 am- Flat Rock Reservoir is located by Lower Oswegatchie, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flat_Rock_Reservoir) in St. Lawrence County, New York. There is a hard surface ramp launch access on county Route 3, designated with brown/yellow signage. We will meet at the dock/parking area at 9:00 am and paddle for about 2 hours. The shoreline is about 6 miles - we can do more or less as the group desires. Please be sure to bring your PFD, water, snacks. There is a small island where we can pull up, take a break and swim. A small picnic area is available also. Please RSVP

to Lindaburns1008@gmail.com or leave a msg at 516-662-5020. I would appreciate RSVPs because if no one responds I may cancel. Rating level C (easy). Coordinates: N 44.22106 W 75.07519

Link: (<https://mapper.acme.com/?ll=44.22103,-75.07547&z=19&t=M&marker0=44.22103%2C-75.07547%2C42.3%20km%20S%20of%20Canton%20NY>)



WRIGHT MOUNTAIN HIKE

Saturday, August 24th, 7:15 am Come along on this moderate trip to the top of Wright Peak which is #16 out of 46 on the list, but #1 for wind factor. A US B-47 bomber crashed here in 1962, and most of the wreckage remains. The height of this peak is: 4,580 feet and roughly 7 miles with an elevation Gain: 2,400 feet. This will be a day long hike and can be very windy at the summit. Driving to HPICs is 1 hr. 55 minutes (95.3 mi) via State Rte. 3 E from Harrisville. Once we have a list of folks interested in going we can have a call prior to the trip so everyone knows what to bring and we can answer your questions. **Please let us know by August 17th** if you'd like to come. The trip will be led by Rich and Dave. Please contact them at: blackriveradk@gmail.com, if you are interested



SEPTEMBER

TOOLEY POND PADDLE (LABOR DAY)

Monday, September 2 – 9:00 am (<https://www.stltrails.com/trails/trail/tooley-pond>). Approximately 1.5 miles Route. Quiet Pond. We will meet at the parking lot directly on the lake at 9:00 am. Expect to paddle about 2 hours. Directions: From NY S 3 travel west from Cranberry Lake, turn north onto the Tooley Pond Road. Follow this road approximately 5.8-miles. You will pass a sign marking the Clare town line; the pond will be on your left and the parking lot is there. Also, across the road, there is an outhouse and a camping site. Please be sure to bring your PFD water, snacks. Please RSVP to Lindaburns1008@gmail.com or leave a msg at 516-662-5020. I would appreciate RSVPs because if no one responds I may cancel. Rating C (easy). Locate on map: [ACME Mapper 2.2 - 41.0 km SxSE of Canton NY](#)



Thursday, September 5th 7:00 pm Black River Chapter Meeting, Location TBD.

TUG HILL TRAVERSE TRAIL WORK DAYS [7]

Friday, September 6, 2024 10:00 am - 2:00 pm and others.

THOMPSON PARK WORK DAY

Saturday, September 14– 9:00 a.m.–noon. We will be assisting in Friends of Thompson Park work day. We have a number of members who call Watertown home and surrounding area members who use Thompson Park. Let's show up and lend a hand. Location to meet TBD. RSVP not required. Contact Dave Clements with any questions at blackriveradk@gmail.com

Upcoming Chapter Events

MUSHROOM WALK AND TALK

Sunday, September 15th, 10:00 am. Matt, Linda and Liam Carney invite you to join in a discussion and walk around the Baker Woods Preserve discussing the area and its mushroom inhabitants. There will be an initial update on the Preserve and Liam will provide a 10-20 min presentation with a question and answer period prior to a 1-2 mile walk in the woods. Participation is limited to a max of 20 attendees. There will be a suggested minimum \$10 donation per individual including children over 5.

While mapping and cutting the trails in the Baker Woods Preserve 7 or 8 years ago, Liam Carney began to pay closer attention to the trees, plants and fungi of his native woods. After moving back to Natural Bridge, he began to cultivate shiitakes on hardwood logs in a white spruce plantation that his parents planted the year he was born. For the past several years, he has been growing a wide variety of specialty mushrooms for market as Cogumelo Mushrooms. Liam has certification as a Community Mushroom Educator through the Cornell Small Farms program and as an expert in wild mushroom identification by Mushroom Mountain. Join us for a brief overview of mushroom ecology and biology, a short hike in search of specimens in the Baker Woods, and discussion. Sign up early to hold your spot by contacting Rich at: ross97@gmail.com or 267-218-0921. Remember, it's not every day you get to explore the hidden world of mushrooms with an expert. So mark your calendar and get ready for an enlightening and fun-filled day at the Baker Woods Preserve



TUG HILL TRAVERSE TRAIL WORK DAYS [8]

Saturday, September 21st, 2024 10:00 am - 2:00 pm and others.

BAKER WOODS PRESERVE FALL CLEAN-UP

Saturday, September 28th - 10:00 am. Once again we will meet at Baker Woods to help Matt & Linda Carney prepare the trails for fall & winter, clean up brush, prepare the garden for spring, see if any work needs to be done on the new Sensory Trail that was introduced this summer, inspect signage and possibly stain them. We will meet at 4114 Factory Rd in Natural Bridge at 10:00 am and work till 12:00 pm. Breakfast will be provided, bagels, muffins. Please remember to bring water, snacks, gloves, and any tools that you may think helpful. Afterwards you are welcome to hike the various trails. Please RSVP to Lindaburns1008@gmail.com or leave a msg at 516-662-5020. I would appreciate RSVPs to ensure enough food for everyone. Rating level C.



INDIAN HEAD AND RAINBOW FALLS HIKE

Saturday, September 28th- Enjoy this approximately 11-mile loop trail near Keene, New York. This hike is accessed through a conservation easement with the Adirondack Mountain Reserve (AMR). Generally considered a challenging route. This pristine trail is dotted with waterfalls and great views. Indian Head has amazing, iconic views of the high peaks. It's a long hike with no rock hopping or scrambles. If time allows, we will also visit Rainbow Falls. Beware that no dogs are allowed on the property and this restriction is strictly enforced. RSVP by September 20th,

Distance: ~11-miles, Elevation Gain: 1978 feet, Rating: B+, Leader: Lindsey S., Please RSVP to confirm attendance, as well as for information regarding meeting location and time. Carpool opportunities are possible. Email: lindsmit22@yahoo.com or 315-480-4999



Upcoming Chapter Events

OCTOBER

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 5th, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Join us at the Mina Anthony Nature Center on Wellesley Island for this family-friendly fall day. Enjoy craft and food vendors, live music, farm animals, arts and crafts, a scarecrow contest, birds-of-prey demonstration, and more! *Exact details not available at the time of printing as far as costs and events.* Keep an eye on Facebook or look for email updates..



TUG HILL TRAVERSE TRAIL WORK DAYS [9]

Saturday, October 12, 2024 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

RT 3 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Saturday October 12th - 10:00 am noon. This is our Fall cleanup and it should be much easier than the last Spring cleanup that was the first one done on this section of highway in many years. Our goal is to clean up 4 miles of this highly visible corridor for travelers to and from the Adirondacks. We need the support of our members and friends to continue this great initiative! During the morning, we'll be picking up trash along our adopted stretch of highway. Remember to bring your gloves, boots, trash grabbers, water, sunscreen, and bug repellent. Parking will be at Glider Oil Office.. For more information, please contact Dave at 404-569-3122. Come take a walk. Fill up a bag. Talk with friends.

NOVEMBER

HEART LAKE FALL WORK WEEKEND

Friday-Sunday November 1st-3rd. Join us and many other volunteer members from across NYS as we prepare the Heart Lake Property for the winter. This annual event includes: taking down and prepare for storage the big cabin tents, dismantling the bunk beds and moving them to storage, cleaning up the campsites, and Lean-tos. The LOJ window screens need to come down, brush cleaned, stored and the winter storm windows go back up. There will be plenty of wood to split and stack for winter months. For first timers attending the Fall Work weekend, we will continue with the Halloween costume theme for Saturday night snack time before dinner. Costumes are optional but we had great participation in the past. If you feel inclined, bring your favorite Halloween treats or candies to share. Oh yes, pack your Tylenol or Advil or pain med of choice as the raking team will be inviting all to help out. Once you sign up, more details will be provided. Mark your calendars. If you know you plan to attend, just let Tim Randolph know at his email: trand6863@outlook.com. The Black River Chapter is a large supporter of this event with about 8 members attending last year. Should you have any questions, please contact, Rich, Linda, Dave, Caryn, Ray, Carol and others who attend these events regularly.



BARNES CORNER SKI TRAIL

Saturday, November 16th - 9:30 am-noon. Come help us prune and clear the trails for the Ski Season. This trail system is well used and we have a Volunteer Service Agreement with DEC to assist in maintaining it. Whether you XC Ski or not please come give us a hand and get a hike in before winter closes in. Meet at the main parking lot of Rte. 177. Contact Dave Clements with any questions at blackriveradk@gmail.com



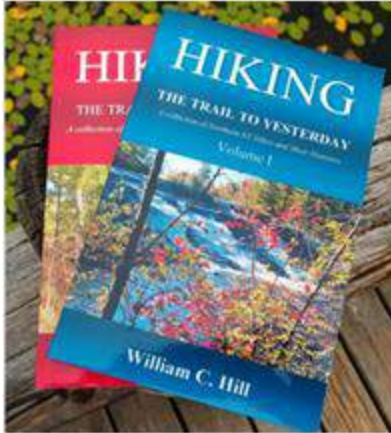
Black River Chapter Annual Dinner

Join us on: November 9th, Saturday, 1:00pm – 4:00pm at the Elks Lodge, 1762, 511 Fulton St, Carthage, NY 13619 as we celebrate 45 great years of the Black River Chapter.

We are pleased to have **William Hill** as our guest speaker, a lifelong hiker in our beautiful Adirondacks. He will share his experiences and adventures with us.

Mr. Hill resides in Edwards, NY and is the author of several articles and books: "Hiking, the Trail to Yesterday" Vols 1 & 2.

From his website, (<https://>



hikingthetrailtoyesterday.wordpress.com/) William states: "Many of my hikes are to places of local historical significance, and my goal is to share with you some of the places and times and to help preserve a record for future generations."



This is open to all members of the Black River Chapter, spouses and guests. Dinner will be a buffet consisting of roast pork, sliced steak, salad, rolls, potatoes, vegetable, desserts, coffee, tea. A CASH bar is available for beverage purchases.

Our meeting after dinner will include a year in review presentation, election of officers, presenting the member of the year awards. Should you have any questions, please contact Linda Burns at Lindaburns1008@gmail.com.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Celebrating 45 Years

Name: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

Email: _____

_____ I plan to attend with _____ guests OR _____ I do not plan to attend

\$20.00/person \$ _____ total \$ _____ Donation

Each **ADK Member** will also receive an appreciation gift for their membership with the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Enclose a check for \$ _____ for each person made out to Black River Chapter and send to:

Doreen Hanson, 17408 Star School House Rd, Dexter, NY 13634.

Please send this in **ON OR BEFORE October 25th**. Thank you! Hope to see you!

Name (s) of Guests _____

Backtracks-2024

MAY

TUESDAY TRAILS at Robert G. Wehle State Park - May 7th

It was a fantastic night at Robert G. Wehle State Park for our Tuesday Trails hike! Mother Nature was certainly putting on a great show - flowers, sunsets, warm weather with a slight breeze (a rarity on Lake Ontario!). It was a great evening to explore the Snakefoot Trail with some great fellow-trekkers!

Thank you to all that have been coming out to support our Tuesday Trails events. We have had a number of attendees ask about bringing their dogs on these hikes. Dogs are welcome to walk/hike with us as long as:

1. the location we choose to hike permits dogs,
2. they are licensed and current on vaccinations,
3. they are leashed and well-socialized with other dogs and children. We select sites to hike that are accessible to the public and cannot predict who or what we will encounter on the trail,
4. Leave No Trace principles are followed by the owner (<https://lnt.org/3-ways-you-and-your-pet-can-minimize...>).

By following these dog rules, we can make sure our Tuesday Trails hikes are a positive experience for everyone – humans and canine companions alike! We look forward to hitting the trails with you and your furry friend!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY (RT-3) CLEANUP

May 11th, Saturday, was an overcast day and it seems to be the norm this spring - with occasional light rain greeted us as we started our first cleanup on our newly adopted stretch of Route 3, a gateway to the Adirondacks. Our seven (Rich, Terri, Matt & Linda, Rick, Dave & Caryn) roadside warriors worked hard on both sides the road, picking up everything from empty (and full) cans, bottles, cups straws and a variety of car parts for a total of 350 pounds of trash filling about 20 large bags! Great job team - we hope you got the rest you surely deserved afterward!



Thank you for all your help - couldn't have done it without you . And thankyou to Glider Oil Company, Inc. for the use of their parking lot and to Save The River for the 5 gallon pails and scales. And to the NYS DOT Jefferson County for the hard hats, safety vest, grabbers and bags.

TUESDAY TRAILS at Baker Woods Preserve - May 14th

What a great night to be in the beautiful woods of the Baker Woods Preserve. The weather couldn't have been better for the 14 attendees (and Norman the turkey) to learn about the perennial gardens and explore the new Sensory Trail (a trail designed by Encompass Recreation and IRLC for people on the Autism spectrum). After heading out on "Norm's Path" and the Woodcutter Loop trail, we split into two groups - one set out on the hike down Woodcutter while the other took TaTa's trail and connected with the Hemlock Hill



Backtracks-2024

trail for a “saunter” through the trees.

Many of the hikers/walkers expressed their surprise at how the preserve gave them the feeling of being “in the Adirondacks” and not knowing it was basically in their backyard.

Talks of future trail trekking in Baker Woods Preserve South were excitedly discussed.

Last stop was at the The Peacock & Pony farm, run by Matt & Linda Carney, to visit the goats and rabbits.



LAKEVIEW WMA CLEANUP

May 18th, Saturday, 10:00 am. The day started out drizzly but ended up beautiful, warm and sunny. A total of nine adults and five children participated. We picked up about six bags of trash. Kudos to Cindy Stewart for being the only person willing and able to walk all the way to the mouth of Sandy Creek and pick up trash on the way back (3-1/2 miles out and 3-1/2 miles back). Doreen Hanson, Wendy Newell, and Jeff Cox made it as far as they could, probably about half way; the rest of the participants picked up on the beach near the park.

We had a beautiful walk and saw some neat sand sculptures, and great natural objects. The Applebee's gift card was won by Jeff Cox. Submitted by Wendy

When Doreen asked a fat bike beach rider if he had seen Cindy and how she was doing, he described her as a lady on a mission. She managed to fill three full bags, while the rest of us only managed about two bags each, totaling around seven bags. The area closest to Southwick's had already been cleaned by another group earlier in the month. Cindy left an area uncleaned because we called her back after 4-5 hours. The rest of us were too unfit to walk to the area that still needed cleaning. Submitted by Doreen



Backtracks-2024

TUPPER LAKE TRIAD

May 19th, Sunday. It was a fantastic day to complete the Tupper Lake Triad! We started the day at Coney Mountain, then headed to Goodman Mountain and ended the day on Mount Arab. The weather was perfect, the mud was minimal and the bugs were not bad.



The group had a great day of hiking and sharing stories. Coney Mountain offered breathtaking 360 views, we enjoyed lunch at the top of Goodman Mountain and Mount Arab did not disappoint.

The views from the top of the fire tower were spectacular. We were even lucky enough to explore the restored Ranger Station at the top. We hiked a total of 7 miles. Thank you to everyone who joined us today. We hope to see everyone on our next adventure! Submitted by Lindsey Smith.



ADOPT-A-GARDEN AT ZOO NEW YORK, THOMPSON PARK-WATERTOWN

Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club is happy to announce it has adopted a garden Zoo New York! Garden #20 at the base of the Fire Tower has been weeded and cleaned up for visitors to enjoy.

This tower was originally installed in 1914 at New Boston on Tug Hill and was in use for spotting forest fires in the Tug Hill region until its decommissioning in 1981. The fire tower was moved to Thompson Park Zoo (now Zoo New York) in 1999, where it remains as a piece of living history. The zoo acquired it in 1999 and had it opened to guests until 2011 when its condition got bad enough that it had to be shut down. After the tower underwent renovations with financial support by the ADK Mountain Club and the Fire tower Lookout Association, it reopened in 2016, allowing visitors breathtaking views of the surrounding area.

Hostas and Lilies are growing strong and plans to add a little bit of color with some native perennials are in the works. This garden and many others can use your help. If you are available to help with watering and a light amount of weeding, contact Caryn Clements (caryn.clements@gmail.com) or contact Zoo New York for more information.

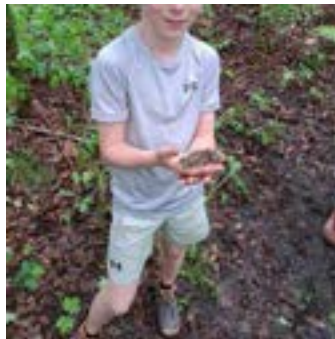


Backtracks-2024

TUESDAY TRAILS at Joseph A. Blake Wildlife Sanctuary -

May 21th After a brief "rain delay," we ventured off for another lovely hike through the woods at Joseph A Blake Wildlife Sanctuary Tuesday evening. Mayflies greeted us in the parking lot but disappeared once we traveled down the Peggy and Ben Coe trail, where both frogs and birds were heard. Then, following the Red and Green Trails, we meandered through both wet and dry areas and past the hemlock stand where we attempted to lure barred owls into sight. Toads and mushrooms added to the fun!

Thank you to everyone that came out for a walk in the woods and to Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust for providing such a great place to play right in our backyard!



LITTLE BEAR SENSORY TRAIL RIBBON CUTTING - BAKER WOODS PRESERVE

On **May 25th**, Encompass Recreation and Indian River Lakes Conservancy deserve a round of applause for their commitment to bringing their vision of ensuring that ALL families and children, including those with sensory needs, can enjoy the beauty of nature at Baker Woods Preserve, NY. They should be so proud of their achievement!



Matt and Linda Carney have worked countless hours to bring the Sensory Trail to life (and they are adding bits and pieces to it still). Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club was happy to be a small part of this wonderful creation!

OTTER CREEK PRESERVE

On **May 28**, It's raining, it's pouring . . . must be a Tuesday Trails night! Sprinkling rain joined us at Otter Creek Preserve as we explored a couple of trails at Otter Creek Preserve. Owned and maintained by the Thousand Islands Land Trust, this preserve offers a great walk through the trees just feet away from Rte. 12 in Alexandria Bay.

The woods were on display in both sight and sound and putting on a wonderful show - blackberry blossoms, wild phlox, Canadian anemone and mayflower lined the winding pathway while being serenaded from the canopy by Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Indigo Bunting and



Backtracks-2024

Red-eyed Vireo.

Plans to return to this great site this summer are in the works!



MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS COMMUNITY FAIR

May 31st Friday, 5:00-7:30 PM. Our chapter was requested to participate in the Mental Health Matters Community Fair hosted by the Adams Free Library and sponsored by the LEAD Council of the Northern New York Community Foundation. The event was held at the Six Town Meeting Hall in Adams.

Rich and Doreen hosted a table top display with photos of various outdoor activities that we held over the various times of the year. It was well attended and many people stopped by to ask questions and signed up to be on our mailing list of upcoming events. Attendees were given passports to be stamped by each booth they visited, which allowed them to receive a choice of sub, chips, cookie and soda. However everyone received a meal, which worked out great.



JUNE

11TH ANNUAL CHAUMONT BARREN HIKE: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

Our **June 1st**, 11th annual Chaumont Barren hike was a fantastic event, and it's clear that this tradition should continue for years to come. This year, we had the pleasure of introducing at least seven new hikers to the beauty of Chaumont Barren. As I led the group, the air was filled with excited voices exclaiming, "Oh, look at that!" and "What kind of flower is that?" It was heartwarming to hear so many people discovering the wonders of nature, with comments like "Do you see this?" and "Look over here!" echoing through the trail. One hiker even exclaimed, "Wow, I never saw prairie smoke before... Wow!"



Backtracks

The hike itself was a manageable 2-mile loop, perfect for both seasoned hikers and newcomers alike. Thank you to everyone who joined us this year. Your enthusiasm and curiosity made the hike truly special. Let's keep this tradition alive and look forward to many more adventures together! Submitted by Doreen Hanson

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: LEAVE NO TRACE WORKSHOP

Saturday June 1st, 10:00 am–2:00 pm - Rich and Lindsey led an informative session celebrating National Trails Day at the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center in Wellesley Island State Park.



We only had three people from NYS Parks attend and learn or review the seven principles. In the photos, one principle is to leave what you find for others to see. However like a missing puzzle piece, the picture is not complete. The other photo represents taking out what you bring in and understand how long it takes for various items to decompose. Feedback from participants stating it was great and plans are to return during the summer to offer more training to the campers staying at the park.



ing to the campers staying at the park.

ANTIQUÉ BOAT MUSEUM FAMILY DAY

Saturday June 1st, 10:00 am–2:00 pm It was a beautiful, sunny day at the Antique Boat Museum Family Day where Dave met a good number of people interested in the ADK Mountain Club and what it offers locally. The Chapter Jenga Game brought a few more little and big kids into the booth to learn about hiking the High Peaks. Rich joined him after teaching the Leave No Trace training at Wellesley Island State Park for some rousing games of Mountain Jenga.



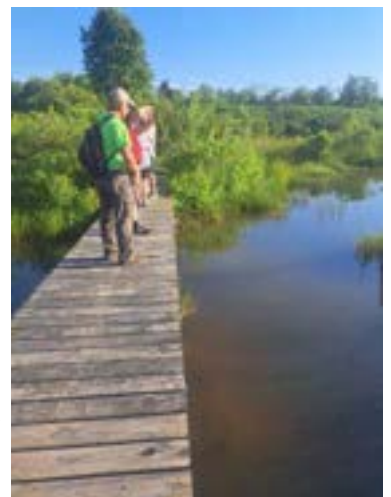
TUESDAY TRAILS

Tuesday, June 4th - Downybrook Nature Reserve

What no rain?? How can it be a Tuesday Trails walk without it? Mr. Sun and Mr. Heat were our companions this past Tuesday at Downybrook Nature Reserve in Brownville. Our group was given a very informative guided walk by Lee Elsworth, Land Steward with Ontario Bays Initiative (OBI) Land Trust, owners of this fantastic reserve.



We learned the history of the land and the trails that were lovingly created by twin sisters Helen and Mary Eldrett, the diverse terrain features and the variety of plants and animal residents. Our trek through the trees afforded us a cool break as well as a symphony created by the many birds (Merlin identified over a dozen different ones). If not for the occasional vehicle



sounds on Perch Lake Rd, you would think you were standing in the Adirondacks. While most of the group departed after the walk on the West trail, a couple of intrepid attendees set out to explore even more on the East trails!

Backtracks

GENESEE VALLEY CHAPTER'S 25TH ANNUAL OUTDOOR EXPO **Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9:30am – 3:30pm**



Our chapter again attended and supported the **Genesee Valley Chapter's 25th Annual Outdoor Expo**. Free and open to the public, the Outdoor Expo is held at one of the area's best places for outdoor gatherings and recreation, Mendon Ponds Park.

Several people stopped by and discussed their future hiking plans in Northern New York.

Local clubs and organizations were on-site to talk about their work, share their knowledge of the outdoors, and provide a chance to try out the latest gear.



I LOVE OUR RIVER DAY CLEANUP

Saturday, June 8th Alexandria Bay How great to be able to lend a hand cleaning the shoreline of the St. Lawrence River. A fellow Laurentian Chapter member joined us as we worked our way up Otter Creek via kayak and safety boat. We filled a large trash bag with a lot of debris adding to the many bags collected by volunteers in downtown Alex Bay. And Dave won a door prize too!

TUESDAY TRAILS at River Gate

Tuesday, June 11th - Rivergate Trail | Clayton, NY



What a great trail! The skies were overcast which kept the temperature comfortable for our trek on the Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail. We walked the rail-to-trail path to the trestle bridge where birds were abundant. And a bobcat was also seen crossing the trail!

In 1993, the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) began acquiring pieces of the old New York Central/Penn Central Railroad bed in Clayton, Orleans, Theresa, Redwood and Philadelphia. The rails-to-trails project is named for the former director, Louise "Sissy" Danforth, who was the inspired energy behind its development. It's a multi-use trail in several sections that can be accessed from several points. TILT encourages multiple ways to enjoy the trail by scheduling biking and hiking treks.



BLACK RIVER WATERSHED CONFERENCE

Thursday June 13th, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The 14th annual Black River Watershed Conference was held at the VIEW ARTS Center in Old Forge, NY. This year's conference provided attendees with an abundance of updates for those living and working in the 5 counties and over 60 communities in the watershed on topics including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydroelectric dam relicensing process, Soil and Water Conservation District updates, a habitat restoration project completed by Ducks Unlimited and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, the impact of solar on agricultural land and stormwater, Climate Smart Lewis County, and more! It was interesting to hear that there will be signage on the Black River to assist paddles in knowing where they are.



Backtracks

CATHEDRAL ROCK HIKE & FIRE TOWER

Saturday June 15th 10:00 am Couldn't have picked a better weather for our hike to the Cathedral Rock Fire Tower on The Ranger School campus in Wanakena, NY. A dozen members and returning hikers joined Rich and Dave on the one mile hike up to the fire tower. We encountered the usual trail conditions in the Adirondacks - wet areas and a few bugs.

Unfortunately, we did have a couple of hikers injure themselves in the slick areas that required First Aid intervention (Dave, Caryn and Rich are all Wilderness First Aid certified). Mishaps can happen on the easiest of trails, which is why the ADK Mountain Club has been strongly encouraging members to undergo OLG Leader training. Joining an ADK Mountain Club Chapter outing offers participants peace of mind



knowing they are in the company of knowledgeable, safety-oriented leaders.

While the view from the top was wonderful, the ice cream at "What's the Scoop" in Star Lake was the perfect ending to our trip.



JULY

NEW YORK ANNUAL LOON CENSUS-STAR LAKE

Saturday, July 20th, 7:15 am Loon Census 7/20/24 - What an absolutely fabulous day! Last year 2 of us were out on Star Lake taking the Loon Census between 8:00 am - 9:00 am and finally at 8:55 a saw 2 loons. This year, 5 of us went on the hunt for loons and were mightily rewarded with multiple sightings!! 8:04 was our first sighting of a single loon. But at 8:10 we saw a group of 7 near the Stone Cut Bridge. Paddling around and through Third Lake, Ridge Point, finding ourselves at Hiawatha Island was another single loon sighting. At 8:51 we encountered 2 in First lake, and 8:57 another 4 near Brownie Island! Perfect weather, company, and outstanding loon activity. Some of these may have been the same loons moving around the lake, but we will leave that to the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservancy in Saranac Lake to make that determination! Submitted by Linda Burns



A SPECIAL THANKS. To Caryn Clements, our interim Chapter secretary, who sends out periodic email updates of upcoming events and backtracks, keeping our members informed as quickly as possible. She also updates Facebook, Instagram and monitors the chapter email regularly. Much of the information provided here in this newsletter comes from her work. Caryn, thank you very much.

Black River Chapter / Publications Editor
PO Box 156
Natural Bridge, NY 13665



Please email the editor any questions, comments, and/or suggestions at: blackriveradk@gmail.com

US Postage

Mail to:

Upcoming Events

8-24-24 Sat	10am	Trail work	Tug Hill Traverse Trail work [6]
8-27-24 Tue	9am	paddle	Flat Rock Paddle, Linda
9-2-24 Mon	9am	Paddle	Tooley Pond Paddle, Linda
9-6-24 Sat	10am	Trail work	Tug Hill Traverse Trail work [7]
9-14-24 Sat	10am	Trail work	Thompson Park Work Day, Dave
9-15-24 Sun	10am	Talk/Walk	Mushroom Walk & Talk, Matt, Linda, Liam
9-21-24 Sat	10am	Trail work	Tug Hill Traverse Trail work [8]
9-28-24 Sat	10am	Trail work	Baker Woods Fall Cleanup, Linda
9-28-24 Sat	Call	Hike	Indian Head & Rainbow Falls, Lindsey
10-1-24 Sat			Autumn Festival
10-12-24 Sat	10am	Trail work	Tug Hill Traverse Trail work [8]
10-12-24 Sat	10am	Cleanup	Rte.3 Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, Dave
11-1-3, 24 Fri-Sun		Work Weekend	ADK Loj Fall Work Weekend, ADK
11-9-24 Sat	1pm	Meeting	45th Year Annual Meeting-Elks, Linda
11-16-24 Sat	9:30am	Cleanup	Barnes Corner Ski Trail, Dave

Follow us on **FACEBOOK** for additional events and updates. Please make sure your address and email information is up to date. Send any updates to our email address: blackriveradk@gmail.com