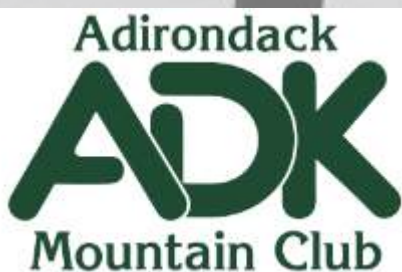


**Black River Currents**  
**A Publication of the**  
**ADK/Black River Chapter**



**Winter 2024-2025**  
**WINTER PREPAREDNESS GUIDE**  
**AND NEWSLETTER**  
**Volume 33 Issue 4**

**2025 Chapter Officers**

**Chapter Chair**  
Rich Ross

**Vice Chair**  
Jeff Cox

**Secretary**  
Caryn Clements

**Treasurer**  
Linda Burns

**Advisory Council Trustee**  
David Clements

**Chapter Advisors**  
Matt & Linda Carney  
Kristine King

**Membership Committee**  
Dave Clements  
Rich Ross

**Conservation/Trails Committee**  
David Clements

**Education & Outings Committee**  
Caryn Clements

**Publicity Committee  
Facebook & Newsletter**  
Linda Burns  
Caryn Clements  
Rich Ross

**Email:**  
[blackriveradk@gmail.com](mailto:blackriveradk@gmail.com)

**Instagram:**  
[@blackriveradk](https://www.instagram.com/blackriveradk)

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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](mailto:blackriveradk@gmail.com)

*Black River Currents* is published quarterly, printed by Coughlin Printing (Watertown, NY) and distributed to its members who “opt-out” of electronic copies. Color copies are available at the ADK Website: <https://adk.org/chapter/black-river/>

**Membership**

Membership data is still improving as corrections and modifications are made continuously. Several new members and renewals have occurred since 10/1. More refined information is forthcoming.

Membership as of 10/1/2024			
Senior Member	36	Member	56
Families	62	Family Members	90
Life Members	2	Total Members	186

**Front Cover** Snow Shoe at White Pine Pond, Feb 9, 2020

**Back Cover:** White Pine Pond Road

Next newsletter deadline February 1st, 2025

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## Message from the Black River Chapter Chair and Newsletter Editor

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Farewell to 2024 and welcome to 2025! It's utterly amazing how much we have accomplished in 2024 and what we have planned for 2025. We have a great team with lots of ambition and brilliant ideas. I surely hope you join us in 2025 if you didn't in 2024.

Our Annual Meeting was a success, reflecting on all our outstanding events and outreach. When preparing our 2025 budget, we first asked our team, "What do we want to do? What did the member survey show, and can we do that?" Needless to say, if you asked for it, it's likely included. We appreciate the team's effort to make it happen.

So, what are we going to do?

For 2025, we are aggressively seeking new members. The plan includes several table events to share our chapter's activities and answer any questions for those interested in joining.

- Our first table event will be at the 35th annual Winter Environmental Conference on Saturday, January 27, 2025, at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel in Clayton, NY.
- Another table event will be at the Genesee Valley Chapter ADK Expo on Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 9:30am to 3:30pm at Mendon Ponds Park, Beach Area near Honeoye Falls, NY.

Bicycling was a huge request. With the development of new Rail to Trail sites, this should be easier and safer than bicycling on the open road. Several trips are in the early planning stages.

Training is also a top priority. ADK offers many free programs for members, which can help on the trail and beyond. Courses include Map & Compass, Sexual Harassment Prevention, First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, Leave No Trace, and Outdoor Leadership. These courses, worth over \$500, are part of your membership. If you or your family are interested in hiking here or in the Adirondacks, consider these opportunities. Some leaders may ask you to attend a pre-trip meeting to ensure everyone is well-prepared and address any questions. Trip leaders will be equipped with first aid kits and the training to ensure safe and enjoyable

outings.

Some of the training is at the ADK Heart Lake Property. It's important to know more about who ADK is and see all its amenities. There you will find the LOJ, campground, lean-tos, museum, amphitheater, educational yurts, High Peaks Information Center (HPICS), Hungry Hiker, and you can even hike up Mount Jo. If you have never been there before, let's plan a visit for you to meet some of the staff.

The ADK Club organizes two volunteer work weekends each year at the Heart Lake Property to help prepare it for summer and winter. These events offer a great opportunity for you to attend and to meet volunteers from chapters all over the state.

Our chapter will continue to be civic-minded, maintaining ski and hiking trails, managing wildlife areas, and participating in roadside cleanups under the Adopt-A-Highway Program. We'll also explore local preserves throughout Jefferson and Lewis County.

Another tweak was combining Education & Outings into one committee, helping to add more value to the outings.

At the annual meeting, the Interim Executive Director of ADK shared the following message:

*"Please give everyone my best and congratulate yourselves on an incredibly vibrant, powerhouse of a chapter, especially for one with a smaller membership base upon which to draw. You're leading the charge!"*

If that isn't a great compliment to start the year, I'm not sure what else she could say.

The newsletters will continue to offer, educational content, Club news, upcoming Chapter events, and a segment called "Backtracks" which tells you what the chapter has done.

If you are interested in helping out on any committee or would like lead the charge, please speak to one of our leaders and let them know.

Thank you for making this a great chapter! Annual Meeting Photo below.



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## Our New Officers for 2025

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During our Annual Meeting we voted to approve the following positions for the ADK/Black River Chapter. All the candidates were approved unanimously.

Our Chair (5th yr.) is **Rich Ross**. The Chair shall be the chief elected official and spokesperson for the Chapter. The Chair shall call and preside at all meetings of the Chapter and Executive Committee, shall create all ad-hoc committees with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, shall propose a budget for the next fiscal year for approval by the Executive Committee, and shall perform all other duties ordinarily expected from the office of the Chair. The Chair shall be a member ex-officio of all committees except the Nominating committee and the Financial Review committee.



The Vice-Chair (1st yr.) is **Jeff Cox**. The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair. The Vice-Chair supports all other members of the Executive Committee as well as Appointed Positions.



Our 2025 Secretary is **Caryn Clements**. Caryn was our interim Secretary in 2024. She shall be responsible for records and shall maintain a record of all meetings and correspondence and shall perform other duties ordinarily associated with the office of Secretary. The Secretary shall act as the Chapter Archivist to maintain the documentary history of the Chapter.

Our new Treasurer (1st yr.) is **Linda Burns**. The Treasurer shall receive funding granted to it by the Club and such other monies as may be donated, granted, earned, or collected by the Chapter and maintain a bank account for the chapter. The Treasurer shall pay the Chapter expenditures authorized by the Executive Committee, keep the financial records of the Chapter, assist the Chair in preparing a proposed annual budget for approval by the Executive committee, and submit to ADK Headquarters the proposed budget and an annual financial report of the Chapter at the end of the Club's fiscal year. The budget shall be prepared and presented to the Executive committee for approval, prior to



sending it to the Club. The Treasurer shall report financial activities at the Executive Committee meetings. Yearly activities shall be reported at the Annual Meeting.

**Advisory Council Trustee will Be David Clements.** The Advisory Council Trustee shall represent the Chapter at meetings of the Advisory Council of the Club and shall report to the Executive Committee and Chapter membership on Advisory Council discussions and decisions. If the Advisory Council Trustee is unable to attend an Advisory Council meeting, the Chapter Chair may attend or shall designate an Alternative Trustee to attend that meeting. Alternate Trustees may be appointed or elected, or the Chair may be the Alternate.



### Chapter Advisors

The Chapter Advisors' responsibility is to help oversee the



operation of the Chapter and aid in making policies and decision.

**Kristine King** (1st yr.) continues to be one of our Chapter Advisors for 2025 and is joined by two returning advisors, **Matt and Linda Carney** (3rd yr.).

A special thank you goes to our outgoing leaders who helped get us to where we are today. Your help was greatly appreciated.



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# 2025 Chapter Committees

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This is a brief overview of our strong working team of committees which are vital to any organization. There is always room for more members to consider any of the open positions.

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the Chapter and the Council Representative. The Executive Committee shall have responsibility for conducting the business affairs of the Chapter. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be open to members of the Chapter and invited guests unless the Executive Committee, for good reason, declares an executive (closed) session.

## Other Committees:

The Chapter shall have committees to conduct certain functions as described in this article. Committee chairs or co-chairs shall be appointed by the Chapter Chair with approval by the Executive Committee. At the discretion of the Chapter Chair, a Committee Chair may serve as Chair of more than one (1) committee. The chair of each committee except the Nominating and Financial Review Committees shall appoint members to that committee from among volunteers from the Chapter's membership and report the names to the Chapter Chair and Secretary. Meetings of each committee may be held at the discretion of the Committee Chair, or at the direction of the Executive Committee. All committee activities and public statements shall be in accordance with Club policy

## Nominating Committee.

The Chair, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee. This Committee shall present to the Chapter members, at the Chapter meeting preceding the Annual Meeting, a slate of nominees for the elected office. Additional nominations for any or all of these positions may be made from the

floor at the same meeting, nominees' consent having been previously obtained. **We will be looking for members to assist with future nominations.**

## Financial Review Committee

A Financial Review Committee of two (2) shall be appointed by the Chapter Chair to review the account of the treasurer, and report in writing to the Executive Committee, when deemed necessary. Our chapter is looking for some accounting minded members to assist in this committee. **We need two people.**

## Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee shall keep members aware of current, environmental issues and shall recommend conservation policy to the Executive Committee for action on behalf of the whole chapter. The Conservation Committee shall co-ordinate and oversee any related conservation activities of the Chapter, including attendance and involvement in local conservation meetings, and maintenance activities for trails and waterways.

**This will be led by David Clements (2nd yr.) .**

## Education Committee

The Education Committee shall schedule educational activities to promote development of skills and safety. **This will be led by Caryn Clements. (2nd yr.)**

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall seek applicants for membership, shall supervise membership procedures, shall assist in developing programs to attract new members, and shall be responsible for an up-to-date membership list. **Several members of the executive committee are involved in this and led by David Clements (2nd yr.)**.

## Publicity Committee

The Publicity Committee shall inform the members and general public of the activities of the Chapter using media formats such as Chapter Newsletters and bulletins, social media, email and submissions to local publications.

**This is led by Linda Burns, and supported by Rich Ross and Caryn Clements.**

## Outings Committee

The Outings/Events Committee shall coordinate the scheduling of chapter activities. **This is becoming more of a group effort with the support of the officers of the club.**

Please welcome them to the 2025 Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

If anyone is interested in assisting the chapter in any open positions or committee, please contact the chapter via email at: [blackriveradk@gmail.com](mailto:blackriveradk@gmail.com),

Also, feel free to contact any chapter officer should you have any questions or would like to help coordinate an event.

We also appreciate those that have served in previous positions and the past contributions they've made to the chapter.

From all of the Black River Chapter Officers and Committees, enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Be safe! We'll see you on the trail.



# Upcoming Events-2024-2025

## December 2024

### MASSAWEPIE HIKE/SNOWSHOE WITH LINDA

**December 14th, Saturday, 10:00 am. –2:00 pm.** Massawepie Hike/Snowshoe - We will meet at the entrance to Massawepie Scout Camp, on Rt 3,65 Massawepie, Tupper Lake, NY 12986, at 10:00 a.m. am and as a group will drive in tandem and begin from one of the parking areas. We will hike the yellow to the white trail to yellow walking along the esker to Horseshoe Pond and take a break for lunch/snacks. Then we return along the yellow to white to yellow along Boottree Pond, or taking the roadway is an option. Approximately 5 miles rt at a leisurely pace. Rating is Easy, C, mostly flat with some incline. I expect that we will complete this by 2:00 p.m.. Leader Linda Burns. Please RSVP to [lindaburns1008@gmail.com](mailto:lindaburns1008@gmail.com) or 516-662-5020, as if no one responds I may cancel the event. Be sure to bring water, snacks, etc.



### FAREWELL 2024 NEW YEAR'S EVE WALK WITH VICKI

**December 31st, Tuesday, 3:00 pm–4:00 pm.** Maple Ridge Center walk. Please come out and join the Black River Chapter on New Year's Eve from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Maple Ridge Center located at 7421 East Road, Lowville, for an easy and family friendly walk. We will meet at the parking area and walk the track located at the center and reminisce about the past year and say farewell to 2024! This event is rated C (easy). Please RSVP to Vicki at (315)777-0886. Please be prepared for the weather and dress accordingly.

## January 2025

### WELCOME 2025 FIRST DAY HIKE WITH VICKI

**January 1st, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.—Noon** Lowville Forestry Demonstration Area hike. Now that we've said goodbye to 2024, let's welcome in 2025 with a First Day Hike at the Lowville Forestry Demonstration Area located at 7319 NY Route 812, Lowville, NY.

We will meet at the main parking area at 10:00 a.m. and explore this beautiful park until noon. This is a very family friendly event and is rated C (easy). Please RSVP to Vicki at (315)777-0886. Please be prepared for the weather and dress accordingly.



### BEAR MT. CRANBERRY LAKE HIKE/ SNOWSHOE WITH LINDA

**January 4th, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m.** Bear Mt. Cranberry Lake Hike/Snowshoe Meet at the Trailhead on Rt 3 marked "Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, Gilbert Tract Ski Trail, Trailhead Parking". This trailhead is just east of the Cranberry Lake Campground on Rt 3. Rating is Moderate, B, 6 miles rt, flat with gentle elevation. This hike will be at a leisurely pace and expect to finish by 3:00 p.m. at the latest. Leader Linda Burns.

Please RSVP to [lindaburns1008@gmail.com](mailto:lindaburns1008@gmail.com) or 516-662-5020, as if no one responds I may cancel the event. Be sure to bring water, snacks, etc.

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# Upcoming Chapter Events-2025

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## February 2025

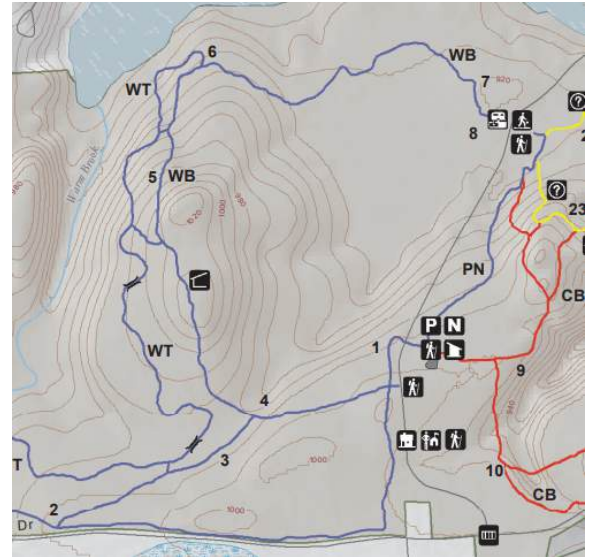
### HIGLEY FLOW PARK HIKE/SNOWSHOE WITH LINDA

**February 15th, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the warming hut, where there is parking. Just before the parking area is a facility where you can rent ski equipment for \$7 and snowshoes for \$3 per day.

Address: 442 Cold Brook Dr, Colton NY 13625 We will take the WB inner trail which is 3 miles. Moderate, Rating is B due to elevation. Depending upon the weather and skill level of the group a shorter trail is an alternative, CB to BP trails. There is a bit of elevation: Higley Flow State Park Winter Trail Map.

Expect to finish by 2:00 p.m. at the latest. Leader Linda Burns.

Please RSVP to [lindaburns1008@gmail.com](mailto:lindaburns1008@gmail.com) or 516-662-5020, as if no one responds I may cancel the event. Be sure to bring water, snacks, etc.



### WINONA FOREST SKI WITH CINDY

**February 1st, Saturday, 10:00 am.** Visit Winona Forest in any season and you will see the value this forest brings to our area. In winter, it becomes a skier's paradise with the best groomed trails in the county. Meet at CCC camp on County Road 90. We will ski 5 to 6 miles at a pace that we can also enjoy the beauty of the forest. RSVP to [cindykaystewart@yahoo.com](mailto:cindykaystewart@yahoo.com) or 315-405-2195. Rating C+



### WHETSTONE GULF HIKE/SKI- VICKI

**February 12th, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – Noon** Come out and join the Black River Chapter for a hike/snowshoe or ski outing at Whetstone Gulf State Park on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 from 10 a.m. - noon. The park is open all winter for the public to use and there is no entrance fee.

Whetstone is located at 6065 West Road, Lowville, NY 13367. We will stay within the park and enjoy the creek trail as well as other areas of the park.

Please be prepared for the weather and dress appropriately. We will meet in the main parking area, next to the beach area, at 10:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Vicki at (315)777-0886.



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## Upcoming Events-2025

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### TUPPER LAKE BREWSKI- RICH

**February 22nd, Saturday, 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.** Join Rich as we travel to Tupper Lake to join the Tupper Lake BrewSki. It's a 1.5-mile-long Brewfest! Grab your X-C skis and snowshoes and follow the beer trail. The annual Tupper Lake BrewSki will take place at the James C Frenette Sr Recreational Trails\*. Participants ski or snowshoe to different brew stations set up along the beautifully maintained cross-country ski trails.

Breweries from around the region will be on hand to pour samples as you gather and mingle by the fire pits set up at each location. Contact Rich at ross97@gmail.com to consider car-pooling. The Tupper Lake BrewSki is presented by the Town of Tupper Lake.\* The James C Frenette Sr Recreational Trails are located at The Tupper Lake Golf Club.



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## Navigating Winter

### How to Stay Safe on the Trails in Cold Weather

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Provided by Leave No Trace—Mark Eller

October 22, 2024

Authors Becca and Luke McGraw are professional educators with the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Teams.

Recently, Luke and I set out for a late afternoon hike just outside Boulder, Colorado. Lulled by the summer evening, we lost track of time and found ourselves miles from home in the dark. To make matters worse, a sudden storm soaked us in minutes. While we were fortunate to know the area well, this experience highlighted how easily one can become lost or disoriented, even on a familiar trail.

As winter approaches, the risks associated with getting lost increase significantly, making it crucial to plan your hike carefully and practice Leave No Trace. Here are our guidelines to help you avoid getting lost and what to do if you find yourself in that situation.



### Plan Ahead and Prepare

Before heading out in cold weather, it's crucial to plan ahead. Sharing your itinerary with someone else creates a built-in safety net and can aid search and rescue efforts should you get lost. Packing essentials like a reliable light source and extra layers is especially important in winter, as temperatures can drop rapidly.

If the forecast includes temperatures at or below freezing, equip yourself with insulated clothing, gloves, and a hat. Consider bringing traction devices, crampons, or snowshoes to handle icy and/or snowy trail conditions. Carry multiple navigation tools—such as a cell phone and a physical map—to ensure redundancy if one method fails. Check your location frequently, especially if the terrain is unfamiliar or if the weather seems threatening.

### When Lost, Stay Calm and Assess

Even the best-laid plans can go awry, so it's important to know what to do if you find yourself disoriented. First, stay calm. Stop and carefully observe your surroundings, scanning the landscape for any landmarks or recognizable features



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## Navigating Winter

### How to Stay Safe on the Trails in Cold Weather

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to help reorient yourself.

If you cannot determine your location, stopping moving is better than getting further lost. Only move if you have a compelling reason, such as needing to stay warm, find shelter, or seek a clearing where you can be seen from above. Ideally, you can retrace your steps and find the trail that will bring you back to safety, but proceed with caution and try to verify that you're on the right track. This Forest Service resource suggests additional tactics if you get lost in the woods.

If you carry a cell phone, do not hesitate to call for help if you believe you're in danger. Regardless of make or model, most mobile phones feature an emergency SOS feature, and some can access GPS-based emergency networks. This REI article reviews additional options like personal locator beacons (PLBs) and satellite messengers.

### Mindful Stewardship in Challenging Situations

Environmental stewardship might not seem like the top priority in an emergency situation, but practicing Leave No Trace while you're lost can help maintain your composure and sense of agency. Practicing Leave No Trace in emergencies is about preserving the environment while ensuring your safety. Your Leave No Trace skills will help minimize unnecessary impacts from hastily made campfires or inadequate human waste disposal. Keeping a level head and respecting the environment will help your focus.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of search and rescue personnel, most lost hikers are found, with the majority of searches resolved in less than 24 hours. This misadventure can serve as a learning opportunity and a strong reminder to step onto the trail with respect.

For 25 years, the Subaru/Leave No Trace teams have provided tangible solutions to serious issues facing our outside spaces while reaching over 15 million people every year. Learn more about the vital work of our mobile education teams. Proud partners of this program include Subaru of America, REI, Thule, Fjällräven, and AllTrails.

Find more winter tips at: <https://lnt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Winter-Recreation.pdf>

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## Winter Preparedness-Be Aware of Invasive Species

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Winter is here and there's many fun activities that you can enjoy this season like snowshoeing, cross country skiing, ice fishing and much more! SLELO PRISM has some great tips for you to consider while you're spending time outdoors this winter to protect your favorite hiking trails, forests, and waterways from invasive species. Through their Pledge to Protect program, you can subscribe to monthly email blogs featuring more tips like this and earn prizes for taking actions to protect your favorite outdoor places now and for generations to come. **Follow These Actions to Protect Your Favorite Outdoor Spaces This Winter.**

### WHILE WINTER HIKING, SNOWSHOOWING AND SKIING

**The Issue:** Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is an invasive forest pest that kills hemlock trees. Hemlocks are an important tree species that provide many ecosystem services for both nature and people. HWA is known to be present in NYS. In the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario region, HWA is confirmed present in Oswego County and is thought to be spreading along the Eastern Lake Ontario shoreline.



The graphic features a background image of a snowy forest. At the top, the text 'Virtual HIKE CHALLENGE' is displayed in a mix of white and green fonts. Below this, there are three icons: a hiker, a hemlock branch with a white woolly mass, and the iMapInvasives logo. A dark green banner at the bottom contains three columns of text: 'Take a Hike', 'Check Hemlocks for White Woolly Masses', and 'Report & Share'. Below the banner, the hashtag '#VirtualHikeChallenge' and the website 'sleloinvasives.org/VirtualHikeChallenge' are listed, followed by 'Win Cool Prizes'.

# Winter Preparedness-Be Aware of Invasive Species

## How You Can Help:

- Participate in a Virtual Hike Challenge to learn how to survey for HWA, to find suggested survey trails, and to win prizes ([sign up here](#))!
- Visit public trails in forests this winter and check hemlock tree branches for the presence of white woolly masses. *Look along the branches where the needles connect.*

Report observations to [iMapinvasives](#) (mobile app or online)

**Join guided hikes to get hands-on training to learn to survey for HWA.**

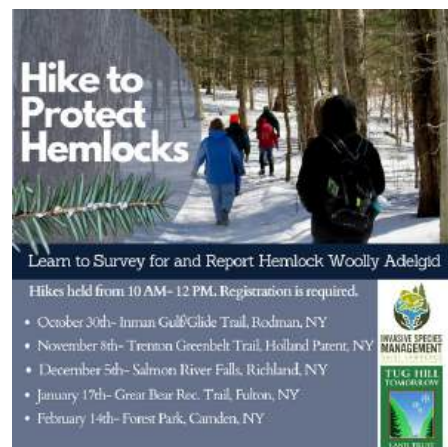
**Hikes are held from 10 AM-12 PM.**

### Registration Required

December 5th- Salmon River Falls, Richland, NY

January 17th- Great Bear Rec. Trail, Fulton, NY

February 14th- Forest Park, Camden, NY



## WHILE ICE FISHING

### The Issue:

Invasive fish outcompete native fish and disrupt the aquatic food web. Impacts of invasive fish can reduce fish populations which can have negative effects on the fishing industry.

Invasive fish can be intentionally introduced as sport fish or food sources or dumped into waterways as unwanted aquarium pests. They can also be unintentionally spread by the bilge water of boats or by people who unknowingly use an invasive juvenile fish as bait.

### About Invasive Species

Invasive species are non-native species that cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health. Invasive species are easily spread by people and can have huge consequences when introduced to natural ecosystems.



### How You Can Help:

- Learn to recognize and report invasive fish and keep an eye out for them while fishing.
- Report sightings of invasive fish you encounter to [iMapInvasives.org](#).
- Dispose of unwanted aquarium animals and plants in the garbage, not in waterbodies.
- Use local bait and dispose of unused bait in the trash or above the waterline on dry land.
- Clean, drain and dry your boat and equipment.

# Winter Preparedness-Be Aware of Invasive Species

**Northern snakehead** (*Channa argus*), and **tench** (*Tinca tinca*), are two invasive fish that are not yet known to be established in the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario region but could easily be spread to the area.

**You can help by keeping an eye out for these species and reporting sightings.**

If you believe you have caught a northern snakehead:

- **DO NOT RELEASE IT.**
  - Kill it immediately (remember, it can survive on land) and freeze it.
  - If possible, take pictures of the fish, including close ups of its mouth, fins and tail.
  - Note where it was caught (waterbody, landmarks or GPS coordinates).
  - Report it to your regional NYS DEC fisheries office or to NYS DEC's Invasive Species Bureau at [isinfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:isinfo@dec.ny.gov) or (518) 402-9425.
  - You can also submit a report through [iMapinvasives](#).
- Learn more about northern snakehead at the [NYS DEC website](#).

If you believe you have caught a tench:

- Note your location.
- **Do not release the specimen**, put it on ice.
- Take close-up photos of the specimen.
- Notify the SLELO PRISM Aquatic Restoration and Resiliency Coordinator, [Brittney.Rogers@tnc.org](mailto:Brittney.Rogers@tnc.org)
- Learn more about tench on the [SLELO PRISM website](#).

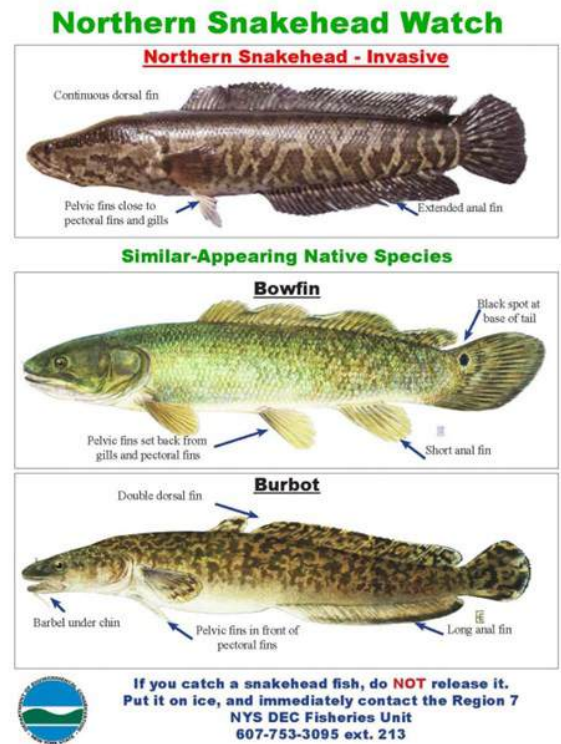
## Did you enjoy this article?

Take the Pledge to Protect and get monthly email blogs showcasing actions you can take to protect your favorite hiking trails, paddle ways, forests, garden, and community from the impacts of invasive species! The Pledge to Protect was developed by the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) as a resource intended to inform and inspire you to protect your lands and waters from the impacts of invasive species.

## About SLELO PRISM

The St. Lawrence–Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) is one of eight PRISMs that span the state of New York. The PRISM network stemmed from recommendations from the NYS Invasive Species Task Force in 2005 and became fully established in 2014. PRISMs are funded by the NYS Environmental Protection fund in coordination with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and various partners. PRISMs have made tremendous progress towards preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species and mitigating the impacts of existing invasive species within the state.

SLELO PRISM is hosted by The Nature Conservancy and was formally recognized by NYS in 2011. Their mission is to protect native habitats, biodiversity, natural areas, and freshwater resources, utilizing a collaborative and integrated approach to invasive species management with an emphasis on prevention, early detection, rapid response, education, and outreach .



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# Backtracks

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## AUGUST

### FLAT ROCK RESERVOIR PADDLE

**Thursday, August 22 –9:00 am-** Though we were a small group of three, our paddle on August 22 at the serene Flat Rock Reservoir was nothing short of spectacular. With calm waters mirroring a brilliant blue sky, and the company of wonderful companions, it truly was a day to remember. This easy yet delightful paddle lasted for two blissful hours—an experience that was as relaxing as it was enjoyable. Here's to more such memorable adventures on the water!



### WRIGHT MOUNTAIN HIKE

**Saturday, August 24th, 7:15 am** This turned out quite embarrassing for a couple reasons. No one signed up early for the pre-hike discussion and secondly, and even if they did, there were no accommodations in the area due to another Lake Placid event. Let's try again next year.

## SEPTEMBER

### TOOLEY POND PADDLE

**Tuesday, September 3 –9:00 am** At long last, paddling the serene waters of Tooley Pond came true on September 3. Just two of us set out, embarking on a leisurely and peaceful journey amidst the delicate beauty of lily pads. For two delightful hours, we drifted along, capturing snapshots of the vibrant flora and fauna that surrounded us. It was a picture-perfect day in every sense, one that we'll treasure forever.



### THOMPSON PARK WORK DAY



**Saturday, September 14– 9:00 a.m.–noon.** Saturday's workday at Thompson Park was a whirlwind of efficiency, as tasks were completed in record time. An enthusiastic group of volunteers, including representatives from Watertown High School, IHC, JCC, and the Black River Chapter, gathered to lend a hand. Wheelbarrows were filled with mulch, which was then moved to newly established trail areas and spread out by the team. It was heartwarming to see both young and seasoned community members working together to enhance our beautiful park.

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# Backtracks

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## MUSHROOM WALK AND TALK

**Sunday, September 15th, 10:00 am.** Matt, Linda, and Liam Carney hosted an enlightening discussion and walk around the Baker Woods Preserve, focusing on the area's diverse mushroom inhabitants. The event kicked off with a 10-20 minute presentation by Matt and Liam, providing an update on the Preserve before leading the group into the woods.

Seven or eight years ago, while mapping and cutting trails in the Baker Woods Preserve, Liam Carney began to pay closer attention to the trees, plants, and fungi of this native forest. During this time, he also started cultivating shiitake mushrooms on hardwood logs within a white spruce plantation that his parents planted the year he was born.

Liam's well-attended overview of mushroom ecology and biology was both informative and engaging, as he led the hike in search of various specimens, sparking intriguing discussions among the participants.



## BAKER WOODS PRESERVE FALL CLEAN-UP

**Saturday, September 28th - 10:00 am.** Once again, Matt and Linda Carney graciously welcomed folks from the Black River Chapter, as well as some local volunteers, to Baker Woods for a day of trail preparation ahead of winter. Our morning began with delicious ham and cheese croissants, fueling a fantastic group of 20 dedicated volunteers who rolled up their sleeves and worked diligently for two hours. It was heartwarming to see familiar faces and newcomers alike.



Our efforts saw us tidying up the sensory trail, creating a new sandbox, tending to the trails, and giving the deck and tables a good wash. Several adventurous volunteers even crossed the river to attend to those trails. The camaraderie and spirit of the day were truly spectacular



# Backtracks

## INDIAN HEAD AND RAINBOW FALLS HIKE

**Saturday, September 28th-** It was the perfect day to visit Indian Head and Rainbow Falls. The weather was beautiful and the leaves were just changing colors. The trail was in pristine condition and there were many waterfalls to see along the Gill Brook Trail. The views along the hike were more amazing around each corner. The group had a great day of hiking and sharing stories. We saw a great amount of wildlife. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the hike. We hope to see everyone on our next adventure!



## OCTOBER

### RT 3 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP

**Saturday October 12th - 10:00 am noon.** This Fall cleanup was much easier than the one we did in the Spring which was the first one done on this section of highway in many years. We had a great turn out with 11 volunteers. Half the crew started at the beginning and the other started 1 mile ahead. This highly visible corridor for travelers to and from the Adirondacks.

All told we picked up about 12 bags approx. 220 lbs. and a carpet, some plywood and miscellaneous auto plastics.



## NOVEMBER

### HEART LAKE FALL WORK WEEKEND

**Friday-Sunday November 1st-3rd, New date: October 25-27th.**

For reasons unknown, the date changed and attendance dropped off dramatically. However, there were 10 available volunteers who were able to attend this work weekend. The weather started out cool but ended up being great. The primary task was to get the campground cleaned up, some wood split and stacked, raking, as well as the window screens removed and storm windows installed. The canvas tents were already down and stored. We also met some of the ADK staff and toured their offices above the LOJ.

The accommodations were great in that we had the place to ourselves. Family style dining was tested out and well accepted as a new mode of being more efficient.

Saturday night was a Masquerade Ball that included the volunteers and site staff personnel. It started with the Halloween costume parade which we had great participation. A mysterious visit from Lady Fang horn.



Further entertainment included, eating the hung donut, mummy wrap, charades and finished with the Tomato Dance.

The Black River Chapter is a large supporter of this event with only 1 member attending this year.

We look forward to seeing you in the spring.

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# Backtracks-Annual Meeting

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This year's annual meeting took place on Saturday, November 9th, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Elks Lodge, 1762, 511 Fulton St, Carthage, NY 13619. We celebrated 45 fantastic years with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" led by Cindy Stewart. The event saw a great turnout of around 40 attendees.

The meal was a sumptuous buffet featuring roast pork, sliced steak, salad, rolls, potatoes, vegetables, desserts, coffee, and tea. A cash bar was also available for beverage purchases. Two cakes were provided to top off the meal.



Our guest speaker, William Hill, a lifelong hiker of the Adirondacks, shared captivating stories of his adventures through some of the lesser-known trails. The inquisitive audience asked several questions, and he generously offered to assist with future hike

plans. Hill, an author of two books—\*Hiking 1\* and \*Hiking 2\*—signed and sold copies during the day.

Two tables were set up at the event: one for the Chapter and one for St. Lawrence and Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO), highlighting the activities of both groups.

The Chapter's annual meeting included an update on the busy year, which featured

over 75 events. These events encompassed outreach, clean-up projects, table events, high-peak adventures, training sessions, and Tuesday trails. Dr. Manoj Vora was recognized for completing 58 high peaks in Colorado over 14,000 feet. A message from Julia Goren was read, and the results of a member survey were delivered. The meeting concluded with elections, and the new officers were announced, as listed earlier in the newsletter. A busy 2025 lies ahead of us.



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## NATURALLY LEWIS BREAKFAST MEETING

Naturally Lewis hosted a Business & Community Leader Breakfast on **September 19th!** Themed "What Makes a Good Place?," this event brought over 75 leaders from across our communities together to talk about #LewisLife and have some fun roundtable discussions!

Both Linda Burns and Rich Ross attended leaving copies of our Chapter Newsletter and picked up some good ideas and connections for 2025.



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](mailto:blackriveradk@gmail.com)

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## Upcoming Events

Date	Day	Time	Event	See Page
12-14-24,	Sat	10:00 am	Massawepie Hike/Snowshoe- Linda	p6
12-31-24,	Tue	3:00 pm	Farwell 2024, New Years Eve Walk with Vicki	p6
1-1-2025,	Wed	10:00 am	Welcome 2024, First Day Hike with Vicki	p6
1-4-2025,	Sat	10:00 am	Bear Mountain Hike/Snowshoe- Linda	p6
1-18-2025,	Sat	10:00 am	Higley Flow Hike/Snowshoe- Linda	p7
2-1-2025,	Sat	10:00 am	Winona Forest ski- Cindy	p7
2-12-2025,	Wed	10:00 am	Whetstone Gulf Hike/Ski- Vicki	p7
2-22-2025,	Sat	12:00 pm	Tupper Lake Brewski- Rich	p8

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](mailto:blackriveradk@gmail.com)