



## TRAILMARKER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club – Iroquois Chapter

Established in 1972

January/February, 2025



**Fetterley Forest**

**Photo by Mark Perrin**

### **Chairman's Corner**

Greetings Chapter members. I wish all a peaceful and healthy new year full of hope and wonder.

Our annual Christmas dinner was a most pleasant gathering with fewer than twenty participants. Per chapter tradition, the food (and desserts) was delicious and varied. The evening program presented by Paul Sirtoli depicted the Weizel cabin highlights from January, 2024. Thank **YOU** to all the participants who made the dinner a special occasion.

Looking forward to 2025, the chapter will continue to meet at the New Hartford public library at 6 PM on the first Tuesday for the following months: January, March, May, September, November.

June will be the annual picnic at the Sherrill Brook Park and December the Christmas dinner at the First Baptist Church in New Hartford. Please note that a scheduled chapter meeting on a declared snow for the New Hartford school district will cancel the meeting. Note to that the library closes at 8 PM; our meeting must end 10 minutes prior.

The biggest highlight is Doug Tinkler has agreed to assume the chairmanship role for the Iroquois Chapter. For this transition to occur, there needs to be a quorum at the January meeting - twenty voting members present - to vote him into the position. Doug brings to the chapter chairmanship a revitalized energy, vision, new ideas, and the technological expertise that aligns with the direction the ADK organization is now heading. Please welcome Doug as he assumes the responsibility as chapter chair.

## Chairman's Corner continued.....

As I step away, I wish to thank the many individuals, past and present, who were part of the team that helped the chapter grow. I was just outside spokesperson for those individuals who labored behind the scene to move the chapter forward. It is to you folks who deserve the credit and recognition. I am SO indebted to your guidance, insights, and support. Thank **YOU**.

**Paul Sirtoli**  
**Chapter Chairman**



**TO DO LIST**

**Attend Iroquois Chapter meeting**

New Hartford Public Library  
@ 6 PM in the Corisanti Room.

**Program -** Hiking the Northville - Lake Placid trail, a photographic journey by Brian and Wendy Sanders.

## See the latest planned trips below

### Hadley Mountain

Sunday January 12, 2025

Let's hike **Hadley Mountain**, my favorite smaller mountain!!

Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup> Please contact the trip leader for the exact start time.

The trailhead is north of Lake Luzerne, about 2 hours from the Utica area.

We will meet at the trailhead, or it may be possible for some to carpool.

We will need microspikes and snowshoes for this hike.

Hadley is about **3.6 miles round trip**, with an elevation gain just over 1500 feet.

This trail climbs gradually and steadily from the start, more level near the top.

There is a beautiful view at the summit, even if you don't climb the fire tower.

This is an easy to moderate hike, with a difficulty rating of **C+/B**.

The pace will be determined by the group.

Since it's winter, weather will be a big factor to consider.

If there are any concerns about the weather, such as high winds, heavy precipitation, or very cold temperatures, this trip may need to be rescheduled.

To discuss interest and confirm time, contact **Heather Lester** at [hlesterhome@gmail.com](mailto:hlesterhome@gmail.com).

I'm super happy to get out and play in the snow with anyone who would like to join!!

**\*\*\*\*\*Please note: You must reach out to discuss the plan to participate\*\*\*\*\***

### Whetstone Gulf

Saturday, January 18, 2025

We will traverse the rim of the gulf walking up the east side, crossing the top of the gulf on a road and descending the west side to return to the parking lot. The hike is about five miles with about 420 feet elevation gain from the parking lot to the turn around point. Winter hiking conditions are expected. Snowshoes and/or micro spikes are likely to be needed. I rate this as an easy hike. We plan to bring chilli to share after the hike.

Email Doug Tinkler @ [DT46x40@yahoo.com](mailto:DT46x40@yahoo.com) with questions or to join.



Come join us at Potato Hill Farms for a day of Snowshoeing

Saturday February 1, 2025 at 10am

**11904 Potato Hill Rd. Boonville, NY, 13309**

The Potato Hill Farm (PHF) campus offers over 4 miles of well-maintained biking, hiking, xc-skiing and snowshoeing trails across 170 acres of land. It is a working farm which includes Black Welsh Mountain sheep, Alpine Dairy goats, Percheron horses, alpacas and donkeys.

**What to expect:** The farm is open to public and on weekends offers free loans for snow shoes. This Snow shoe event is open to members and non-members, and is an all ages and experiences friendly hike. We will remain within the farm trails which are well groomed. Expect to be out enjoying the outdoors at a leisurely pace for approximately 1-2hours. Be sure to bring your own snacks and water. Bagged lunch is encouraged to enjoy together following the hike.

**Please be prepared for weather and dress appropriately. Avoid cotton, and dress in easy to adjust layers.**

**Rating:** Easy C

**Trip leader(s):** Erin Ulrich

**Please call/text if interested:** Erin at (315) 982-2586



**For additional trip offerings, last minute additions and updates check out our Facebook Page or Meet-up page at <https://www.meetup.com/Iroquois-Chapter-of-the-Adirondack-Mountain-Club>**

Hi All,

Here is my plan for the **Winter Octet Hiking Challenge**. As always, feel free to edit as needed for the Trail Marker. I will enter this information into Facebook as an event, but I do not have access to Meet Up.

Happy Holidays,  
Mark

Come join me as I once again take on the Otsego Octet hiking challenge. The winter list is now out and I have set aside **February 8 and March 1** to head out on the trail. This year's winter challenge has several places that are different as compared to the summer and fall challenge. Listed below is a link to the official website. I am flexible, as to which hikes I complete, so if you have something in mind, please be sure to let me know. Stopping for lunch is always a possibility. Final arrangements will be made amongst those that are looking to go. If you are interested, drop me an email, or send me a text message.

<https://otsegooutdoors.org/our-challenge/>

Mark Perrin

[mperrin63@gmail.com](mailto:mperrin63@gmail.com)

315-725-4725

Below are upcoming training courses offered by the Adirondack Mountain Club for Certified Trip Leaders, those wanting to become trip leaders or anyone just wanting to improve their outdoors skills:

**Wilderness First Responder**  
March 26-March 30 2025

**Wilderness First Aid -**  
May 10-May 11, 2025

For more information on these training courses and others check out the full descriptions at <https://adk.org/skills-workshops/>

## Weizel Cabin Weekend

Weizel Cabin weekend scheduled for January 17-20, 2025, has been postponed until 2026. The exact date to be advertised in a future newsletter.



## New Text Message System

Join the Adirondack Mountain Club, Iroquois Chapter text message alert system. Send a text message to the number 81010. The message should be @adkir then follow the prompts.

**Best wishes to a Happy, Healthy 2025. Good friendships, happy trails and mindful of gratefulness!!**





# Back Tracks



## Otsego Octet Fall Challenge.

On November 9th, club members Doug Tinkler, Bill Lupino, and Paul Sirtoli joined me as I finalized the Otsego Octet Fall Challenge. Together we visited: Lordsland Preserve, Fetterley Forest, Glimmerglass State Park, and Basswood Pond to round out a full day of hiking. Each location has its own unique character and was a great experience. Lordsland Preserve had two separate trails so, of course, we had to do them both. Fetterley Forest has a great overlook of Canadarago Lake. For Glimmerglass State Park we hiked the Sleeping Lion Trail and ended up eating lunch by the Hyde Hall Museum. The final location of Basswood Pond is a true gem in my book! It's only about 45 minutes from and has an awesome lean-to next to the pond. Someday I hope to return for an overnight visit.

**Submitted by Mark Perrin**



## **Oneida Rail Trail**

Saturday, December 14, 2024

The conversations with people on the walk. The perfect weather. Crisp Autumn air under bluebird skies. Real nice seeing old friends & meeting new future friends. Those phrases were in the text messages I received after the walk.

Our day on the trail turned into 9.5 miles and about 3 hours and 45 minutes along the very flat and easy to walk Oneida Rail Trail, the West Shore Trail and the Empire State Trail. We needed the later two in order to create a loop of sorts.

As advertised, we did see some historical sites. At one point early in the day we stopped the group to check out a site commemorated by a placard illustrating two rail lines and a buggy path running in parallel and a water tank for the steam powered train engines of the era. We could clearly make out the geographic features that remained of that history. Shortly after, we spotted a few deer holding their ground in the leaf free trees. That was certainly a surprise given the homes and businesses that frequently popped in and out of view along the trail. The walk also took us through a section of the Canastota Village. There we saw some in the group window shopping. And in a split of a moment, Lisa popped into a bakery. She says she had driven past it a number of times and always wanted to check it out. Some of us regretted not joining her inside. Upon returning to our starting point and our cars, we enjoyed some holiday cookies. Thank you Mindy and Lisa for sharing the tasty treats.

But it wasn't the historical sites, nature or window shopping so much that made the day fun, it was all those that joined the walk and shared in the conversations. Thanks to Andy, Tom, Heather, Lisa, Mindy, Bob, Mark, Paul and Nancy for joining the walk.

**Submitted by Doug Tinkler**

## **Great Swamp Conservancy**

Sunday, November 17, 2024

We met at 9:00 am at the Great Swamp Conservancy and were fortunate to arrive at the same time as a center volunteer. She graciously opened the buildings and provided me with a map that displayed the property's looping paths. The map enabled us to devise a plan and route to thoroughly check out the grounds. With some new faces, we went through quick introductions by everyone, and then we set out to see what the conservancy had to offer in November.

The first path, the Bluebird Trail, led us to the Deer Swamp Trail and that led us to the edge of the Great Blue Heron Rookery. We did not see any herons but did spy their large nests perched high in the trees. After doubling back to the main Bluebird Trail, and a short walk from there, we found a blind that at the right time on year enables watching the herons without being detected. Further on the trail we found the Woodcock Trail loop. This section had field grass providing the habitat for Woodcocks.



## Great Swamp Conservancy (Continued)

Time of year again didn't work for us and we did not rouse any Woodcocks. From there we circled the open grasslands and found our way to the Woodland Trail. In this mature upland forest, it was pleasant walking through the gentle terrain over leaf covered ground and observing the variety of trees. From there, we doubled back along the Bluebird Trail to find the Cross-Over Trail. This trail connected two sections of the Bluebird Trail and our sole purpose was to make sure we checked out all the trails!

We wandered back to our starting point and I asked who was interested in another short loop. Everyone wanted to keep going. So we extended our walk using the Wetland Trail which was a perimeter trail for a wetland and home to Osprey. We did not see any Osprey but did experience the wetness of the wetland; even the 900 foot boardwalk built and intended to keep guests above the water at some points were a challenge to keep our toes dry and above the water.

Great Swamp Conservancy has lots of diverse habitat and was fun to check out. A return trip in late Spring or the early summer is a good bet. Thanks to Ralph, Deb, Marvin, Paul, John, Erin, Mindy, Lisa, Nancy and Andy for sharing the morning outdoors. And special thanks to Mindy for baking and sharing her wonderful cookies.

**Submitted by Doug Tinkler**



## Notes from the November ADK Advisory Committee meeting

I was able to attend a portion of the 11/18 Advisory Committee meeting on Zoom and have a few notes of interest to our chapter.

ADK is in the process of installing a new software, IMIS, that will replace the current communication and data management functions of the club. The purpose is to replace up to 12 software systems (that ADK has been using to manage membership, events calendar, email, membership records, chapters websites, and other functions) with a single system.

One goal is to move some of the membership data management to the chapters. Each chapter will name at least one (and up to 4) administrator who will have special access to the IMIS system. The administrators will be able to manage the membership roster including adding membership information, searching, exporting and printing the roster, and eventually emailing members. This roster data will also include the certificate levels of trip leaders. Training certificates can be uploaded to the system for review and approval by the appropriate ADK training administrator. Access is through the ADK website, chapter administrators will sign in on an administrators tab. Each individual member can also make an account through the website, where they can sign in and manage their own membership data, including uploading their own training certificates for approval by the ADK. Chapter administrators can do this for members that do not want to do this themselves.

We will also be able to email chapter members, and ADK support staff can help set this up. Some of the membership data has been glitchy in the new system, and I suppose the email function will work better as the membership data is cleaned up. ADK staff will work with the chapter administrators to clean the membership data. For example, there have been some problems with data on family memberships. The membership rosters show current paid members and also includes unpaid members. It was suggested that this gives an opportunity to reach out to former members that may be interested in rejoining.

Another goal for the IMIS system is to be a hub for events. Chapter websites are being developed, ADK support staff hopes to complete this by the end of 2025. The current calendar will be phased out and replaced through the IMUS system. An events tab on the website will allow posting and viewing of outings and, I think, registering to participate. Chapter administrators can access a list of registrants (and I assume you could email registrants). There will be a YouTube video on how to do this.

Non-members will be able to sign up for trips. They will make a guest account on the website with a guest membership number. The trip leader will be able to contact guest participants and email them a trip waiver and information on the trip. The guest membership would also provide the future opportunity to invite guests to join the club.

As a test case, and success story, the ADK Fire Tower Challenge is being hosted by the IMUS system. So far there have been more than 40 online submissions through their system. This brings to mind our own chapter's Wilderness Camping Challenge that could benefit from something like this.

From the discussion at our last chapter meeting, on trip information and participation, membership, etc., there may be some things that we could take advantage of.

ADK staff working on IMUS are David Lynch ([david@adk.org](mailto:david@adk.org)) and Luke Whitlow ([luke@adk.org](mailto:luke@adk.org))

We will need to decide who will be our administrators and submit them to:

[support@adk.org](mailto:support@adk.org)

Submitted by Brian Sanders

## CHAPTER OUTINGS

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Effort Level</i>	<i>Elevation gain</i>	<i>Miles (round trip)</i>	<i>Time in Hours</i>
A +	Very Strenuous	4000 ft +	10 +	10 +
A	Strenuous	3000 ft +	5 - 10	8 - 10
B +	Mod. Strenuous	2000 ft +	5 - 10	6 - 8
B	Moderate	1000 ft +	8 - 10	5 - 7
C +	Fairly Easy	1000 ft +	5 - 8	4 - 6
C	Easy	under 1000 ft	under 5	under 5

Requesting suggestions for new outings that you would like to see added to the calendar. Let me know your ideas and we will put them in future Trailmarker newsletters and on the Meet-up site. When submitting trips please use the following format:

- \*Trip length (miles)
  - \*Trip duration (hours)
  - \*Elevation to be climbed (feet)
  - \*Mention of any special equipment or other factors
  - \*Brief description of the level of difficulty to be expected during average conditions.
  - \*Brief description of the trip plan, including parking and possible hiking options.
  - \* Provide Trip Leader contact information.
- You can reply by email or if you have any questions call or text me at 315-360-0359.  
**Bill**

## Iroquois Chapter Contact Information

**Chairman – Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759**

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**Vice Chair – Wendy Sanders 315292-3632 or**

[wintermama@hotmail.com](mailto:wintermama@hotmail.com)

**Secretary – Charlene Zebley 315-942-5176**

[charz46r@gmail.com](mailto:charz46r@gmail.com)

**Treasurer – Mark Perrin 315 725 4725**

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**Membership –Ed Kobos [kk2b@aol.com](mailto:kk2b@aol.com)**

**Stewardship (Lean-tos) – Norm Landis**

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**Stewardship (trails) – Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759**

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**Programs – open**