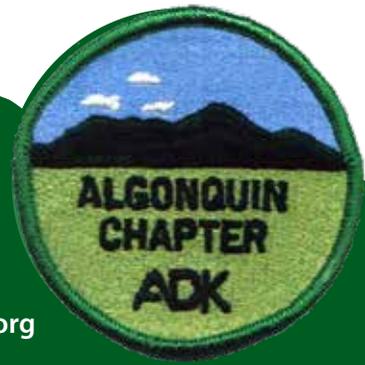


MOUNTAIN TOPICS

Volume 54 Issue 1 ■ February-April 2026 ■ facebook.com/adk.plattsburgh ■ adk.org



CHAPTER PROGRAMS

All meetings are held at the Old Clinton County Courthouse meeting room (2nd floor). Use handicap entry.

Friday, February 6th at 7pm

Why Should We Care What Happens to the Environment in Alaska? Some Critical Issues for Consideration.

Presented by: James Liszka



Prof. Liszka is Senior Scholar at the Institute for Ethics in Public Life and Professor of Philosophy at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. He is the author of Charles Peirce on Ethics, Esthetics and the Normative Sciences; Moral Competence: An Integrated Approach to the Study of Ethics (second edition); A General Introduction to the Semiotic of Charles Sanders Peirce; and The Semiotic of Myth: A Critical Study of the Symbol (Advances in Semiotics).

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Friday, March 6th at 7pm

Upping the Game on Environmental Progress

Presented by: Curt Gervich

Professor Gervich is an environmental planner. He helps communities, usually small towns and cities, envision their future and develop a roadmap to meet their goals. As an environmental planner, he makes sure that these goals are infused with principles of sustainability, justice and equity, and resilience. He often works in contexts where food, water, energy and biodiversity intersect. His specialty is community engagement and participatory planning. As such, he creates innovative ways for grassroots stakeholders to be involved in planning processes.



Friday, April 10th at 7pm

Nordic Skating opportunities in Champlain Valley and Eastern Adirondacks: like pond skating, but different "

Presented by: Mark Malchoff

Mark Malchoff retired in 2020 after almost 40 years as a Sea Grant Extension Specialist, including 26 years with Lake Champlain Sea Grant. Mark has enjoyed outdoor pursuits since his youth. In retirement, his traditional hunting and fishing interests have mostly given way to cycling, paddling, skiing and skating.



World Water Day Celebration

**Saturday, March 21
11 am–3pm at the
Champlain Centre Mall**

Join us for a celebration of clean water in the Lake Champlain Basin. Visit with more than 40 organizations that are working to protect water quality and ecosystems. Activities include exploration of the lake



on a gymnasium-sized floor map, fishing pole casting, and demonstrations of river protection with a hands-on, table-sized landscape model.

The event includes a **Celebrate Water Contest**, with awards presented for several categories of student work. Entries can include writing, essays, art, poetry, video, music, history, science or technology. Students have entered videos about cyanobacteria monitoring, acrostic poems, laser cut wood panel mosaics, and a water story quilt. Other popular entries include photos, journal entries, and sculptures. Check out the LCBP Art and Clean Water page for some inspiration!

For more info and contest registration:
watershedmatters.org/cbei-programs/world-water-day

If you would NOT like to receive a digital version of Mountain Topics please email adk46er12087@gmail.com

CHECK OUT FACEBOOK: ADKPLATTSBURGH & ADK.ORG FOR MORE OUTDOOR ADVENTURING INFO!

New Year, New Leadership

The new year brings new leadership to the Adirondack Chapter. Bill Merrill and Mark DuBrey are the new Co-Chairs, and Anne Bailey will act as Secretary. The other officers, both elected and appointed, will continue in their positions. We thank Justin Schultz, our outgoing Chapter Chair, for his service the past two years. Justin became active in the chapter around the time he and his young daughter Kaylee finished climbing their 46 High Peaks. Justin shared an entertaining video he made of their adventures in the mountains. For the 75th anniversary of our chapter, Justin made another video, with interviews of members, and vintage photos. The anniversary video is still posted on YouTube under "ADK Adirondack Chapter 75." Watch it, and you'll enjoy memories of good times past, and join us for outings and activities to make happy memories for the future. We wish Justin well, as he has moved to the Albany area to be closer to his daughter. As we begin the new year, we welcome members and friends to become more active in support of the club and all it offers.

SUNY PLATTSBURGH SPEAKER SERIES LIFE LONG LEARNING FOR ALL

On the first Wednesday of each month, faculty from SUNY Plattsburgh will meet with the public in the **Plattsburgh Library** from **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** in the library's second-floor auditorium for lively discussions and Q&A.

FEB 4th – Nolan Cool, Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), *Isaac Johnson: Stone Mason & Freedom Seeker*

MAR 4th – Matt Harrison, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, *Early Tourism on the Champlain Canal*

APR 1st – Regan Levitte, SUNY Plattsburgh Writing Center, *Reuse, Reclaim, Recycle: The History of Fan Fiction and Its Potential Futures*

For more information:
carmannb@cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov

Wildlife Spotlight

The **ermine (ur·muhn)** (or short-tailed weasel, *Mustela erminea*) is the Adirondack's smallest weasel. Females are one-half to one-thirds the size of males. It is considered to be fairly common and widespread across the entire park, occurring at all elevations and in all terrestrial habitats.

Key Facts about the Ermine

Year-Round Presence: Ermine are active all year and do not hibernate during the winter in NY.

Seasonal Coat Change: Their coat is brown with a white belly in the summer. In winter (typically from December to March/April), their fur turns a brilliant white to help them camouflage in the snow, but the tip of their tail remains black in all seasons.

Habitat: They can be found in various environments, frequently using the nests or burrows of their prey for shelter.



Evasive Nature: While common, they are generally elusive and can be difficult to spot. Looking for their distinctive tracks in the snow is often the best way to confirm their presence.

Diet: They are efficient carnivores and their diet primarily consists of voles and mice, but they will also hunt squirrels, chipmunks, and small hares.



SUNY PLATTSBURGH CENTER FOR EARTH SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT (CEES) SEMINAR SERIES

All seminars are on **Fridays at 3:30pm** in **Hudson Hall Room 106** (unless otherwise noted). All seminars are **free and open to the public**.

JAN 30th – Dr. Eric Sandvol, University at Buffalo, Department of Earth Sciences, *Imaging the deep interior of the earth*

FEB 6th – Dr. Ezra Schwartzberg, CEO, Adirondack Research, *Making maps for research*

FEB 13th – Sarah French ('20), Farm Manager, Redshirt Farms, *The Making of a Farmer*

FEB 20th – Dr. Aude Lochet, Sea Grant Lake Champlain, Water Resources Extension Specialist, *What the foam?! Plastic foam pollution in Lake Champlain*

FEB 27th – Mitchell O'Neill, New York Natural Heritage Program, Invasive Species Biologist, *Leveraging invasive species data to inform natural resource management*

MAR 6th – Bianca Lynch ('22), Emily Reinhardt ('22, '24), and Emma Stewart ('22), City of Plattsburgh, Community Development, *The role of planning, recreation, and community engagement*

MAR 27th – Dr. Laura Webb, University of Vermont, Department of Geography and Geosciences, *New insights on polyphase deformation in the N.E. Appalachians*

APR 3rd – Dr. Emma Kast, University of Cambridge, Department of Earth Sciences, *Cenozoic megatooth sharks*

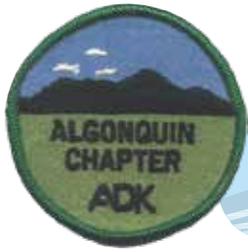
APR 10th – Dr. Samuel Ramsey, University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, *Drivers of honey bee colony losses*

APR 17th (6:00pm in Feinberg Library) – Noah Bonesteel ('25), North Country Artist, *Natural successions*

APR 24th – Natural Resources and Ecology MS Student Proposal Talks

APR 29th – (Wed. Noon) – Amélie Przedwiecki, Natural Resources and Ecology MS Student, *Assessing ecosystem health*

For complete titles and descriptions:
<https://www.facebook.com/SUNYPlattsburghCEES>



FEBRUARY-APRIL 2026 OUTINGS & PROGRAMS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 7PM

Program and Business Meeting, at Old Clinton County Courthouse. See cover for details.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Snowshoe Cascade Mountain in Keene, round trip 4.4 miles (~4 hours). Elevation Gain: 1886', moderate. Forested trail leads to a rocky summit with excellent views. Leader: Bill Merrill 518-578-7321. *Sign up by 2/8.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Snowshoe Ampersand Mountain in Saranac Lake. Elevation: 3353', 5.4 miles (4-5 hours) round trip. Elevation Gain: 1775', moderate. Bring snowshoes and lunch. Leader: Kimberly Smith, 518-645-0447. *Sign up by 2/13.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Snowshoe/X-C Ski & Chili Fest at The New Land Trust! (More info on back page). 3 mile flat loop, easy. Leader: Kimberly Smith, 518-645-0447. *Sign up by 2/20.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 (FIRE TOWER)

Snowshoe Lyon Mountain, the highest mountain in Clinton County! 3830', 8 miles (7-8 hours) round trip, difficult. Bring snacks/lunch. Leader: Kimberly Smith, 518-645-0447. *Sign up by 2/27.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 7PM

Program and Business Meeting, at Old Clinton County Courthouse. See cover for details.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

Snowshoe Mt. Jo in Lake Placid, NY. Round trip 2.5 miles (~2 hours). Elevation Gain: 711', easy. The hike is a relatively short two-mile loop that takes you to the top of this wonderful little peak overlooking Heart Lake and has spectacular views of the High Peaks and the MacIntyre range. Leader: Bill Merrill 518.578.7321. *Sign up by 3/7.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Snowshoe/X-C Ski to the Great Camp Santanoni in Newcomb, out & back 9.5 miles round trip, Elevation Gain: 698', moderate. Tours with AARCH volunteers. Artist's Studio will be open as a warming hut. Bring your own cup and enjoy free coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. Leader: Kimberly Smith, 518-645-0447. *Sign up by 3/13.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Hike Rainbow Falls in Saint Huberts, NY, round trip 8.5 miles (~4-5 hours). Elevation gain: 1100', moderate. Much of the hike is on the dirt Lake Road of the Adirondack Mountain Reserve. The trail to the 150' falls follows along a stream that leads through a deep canyon with steep sides that leads to the base of the falls. Leader: Bill Merrill 518.578.7321. *Sign up by 3/31.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Hike Bear Den in Wilmington. Height: 2650', 3.3 miles (3-4 hours) round trip, Elevation Gain: 1479', Moderate. Leader: Kimberly Smith, 518-645-0447. *Sign up by 4/3.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 7PM

Program and Business Meeting, at Old Clinton County Courthouse. See cover for details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Hike Rattlesnake Mountain in Willsboro, Height: 1316', out & back 3 miles (2-3 hours) round trip. Elevation Gain: 1316', easy. Leader: Kimberly Smith, 518-645-0447. *Sign up by 4/17.*

ADVOCATE for ADK

Lobby Days are scheduled where we can advocate for the Catskills and Adirondacks, other public parks and wild lands, and environmental funding state-wide.

Our first **ADK Lobby Day Prep Call** (Zoom Meeting) will be **February 6**, at **6:30pm** so whoever is attending Lobby Days from ADK has a chance to learn more about the budget requests and has an opportunity to ask questions before the events.

There is also an EPF Lobby day on **February 10**, but this tends to be a smaller more targeted event, so if you are interested in this event please contact Jake to coordinate.

Adirondack Park Lobby Day February 23

Contact Andrew Williams, awilliams@adirondackcouncil.org, or sign-up Adirondack Park Lobby Day 2026.

Parks and Public Lands Advocacy Day February 25

With Catskill Park and Adirondack Park Teams. If you have questions, contact Will Cote, wcote@ptny.org. Sign up with QR Code below:



Contact: **James Liszka, Ph.D.**
ADK Advisory Council Rep.
518-565-6099



Scan QR code and become an ADK Mountain Club Member today!

TRIP REPORT

by Kimberly Smith

Sunday, December 14th
the Algonquin Chapter hiked **Corbeau Creek East Trail** in Chazy. Light snow came down as we broke the one mile trail. We worked up an appetite, then stopped at **Frencheez** in Rouses Point for a hot meal! Highly recommend the **Cauli-Power** (lightly breaded, pickle-brined cauliflower deep fried to perfection and served with Cajun Ranch). *Yummy!*



TOWN OF PLATTSBURGH PARKS & REC

Call 518-562-6860

Cross-country ski trips and snowshoe trips through March 31. Must pre-register by noon the day before each program by calling 518-562-6860. Participants must bring snacks, water and dress in layers appropriate for the temperature.

The Town has a limited number of snowshoes and cross-country skis to be borrowed on each program day. If you need to borrow skis or snowshoes let us know when you pre-register.

FEB 17th LUMINARIA SNOWSHOE
6-7PM at The New Land Trust

For full schedule go to:
plattsburghny.myrec.com



Northern New York Audubon is having a **Winter Outing Event, Saturday, February 21, 9:00am**, at Point au Roche State Park. Meet at Deep Bay Parking Lot. Bring binoculars, snacks, water and dress for the weather. **To register: email Mark Baran, mbara009@plattsburgh.edu.**

New Land Trust Chili Festival

Sunday, February 22



Ski and snowshoe on the New Land Trust trails on your own or join our Chapter outing (see schedule on page 3)! Bring your homemade chili or a food item to share. We will gather in the Clubhouse at Noon. Taste and vote for your favorite chili! For more information visit website www.newlandtrust.org



ALGONQUIN CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2026

ELECTED

CHAIR

Bill Merrill 518-578-7321
Mark DuBrey 518-846-7514

SECRETARY

Anne Bailey 518-563-5794

TREASURER

Kay Washbourne 518-569-7780

CHAIR OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bill Merrill 518-578-7321

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE

ADK ADVISORY COUNCIL

James Liszka 518-565-6099

APPOINTED

MEMBERSHIP

Marilyn Smith 518-561-3167

PROGRAMS

Becky Hubbell 704-816-0285

PUBLICITY

Alix Heuston 518-569-2386

EDITOR

Kimberly Smith 518-645-0447

OPEN POSITIONS:

Archives, Conservation, and Outings

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
adk46er12087@gmail.com



Cartoonival February 6 – 15th

The Saranac Lake Winter Carnival is the longest-running event of its kind in the eastern U.S. Since 1897, it has grown into a 10-day festival that includes sports, performances, two parades and three sets of spectacular fireworks.

For more info: saranaclakewintercarnival.com

Sat, February 7th, 10 a.m.
Ice Palace 4-mile Fun Run

Sat, February 7th, 7-8 p.m.
Lighting of the Ice Palace
and Hotel Saranac
Opening Fireworks Display

Mon, February 9th, 6-7 p.m.
Snowshoe Races at Dewey Mountain

Thu, February 12th, 6-8:30 p.m.
Torchlight Skiing & Fireworks

Sat, February 14th, 1-3 p.m.
Gala Parade

Sun, February 15th, 2-4 p.m.
Kiddie Parade

Sun, February 15th, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Closing Fireworks