



TRAILMARKER

Newsletter of the Adirondack Mountain Club – Iroquois Chapter
Established in 1972
Spring, 2026



St Regis Mountain



Chairmans Message

I hope you all had a great winter enjoying some cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or walks in the snow. But, it's looking like Spring outside.

Good news! As of February 25th, Adirondack Mountain Club is getting all Chapter outings and activities on the club website calendar. This allows members and the public to see everything the Club including its Chapters are organizing without searching the internet for individual Chapter website pages, Facebook pages or Meetup sites. For us, using the ADK organization website to advertise our outings is a new welcome outlet. We will, for now, keep our Meetup site and Facebook page.

Our Chapter will have an exhibit in the display case located near the front entrance at the New Hartford Public Library for the month of April. Stop by and check it out.

To find the ADK Chapter outings calendar, search <https://adk.org>

Use the menu choice Get Involved and click on Chapters.

Scroll down the page, find and click on Iroquois.

Scroll down the new page and pick Calendar.

You will see our chapter events.

Chapter Chair
Doug Tinkler

Next Meeting and Presentation

April 7, 2026

6:00 pm

New Hartford Public Library

Oxford Road, New Hartford

The Most Interesting of the Least Visited National Parks -A slide presentation by Julie and Jeff Rubinstein.

See The Latest Planned Outings Below



Earth Day - Community Cleanup

April 22, 2026

The Iroquois Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club invites you to help clean up our community this Earth Day.

To cover as much ground as possible, we are asking volunteers to collect litter in their own neighborhoods or along their usual walking routes. You can dispose of your collected garage filled bags in the dumpster provided by the Town of New Hartford, located near the New Hartford Village Salt Barn (behind One Genny and Cliff's at 2 Mill Street).

The dumpster will be available for drop-offs all day on Wednesday, April 22. We will be taking a group photo of volunteers at 6:00 pm near the dumpster - please join us! Together, we can keep our neighborhoods beautiful.

For more information **contact Wendy Sanders** wintermama@hotmail.com

Trail Work

May 9, 2026

We will continue our trail work on trails of the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness.

This is a popular group activity and will include side cutting brush and cutting up and removing limbs with a handsaw. Club will provide the tools. Bring your own work gloves, lunch, snacks and water.

For more information or to sign up, **contact Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759**

Spring Trail Work

April 25, 2026

We will work on the Brown' Tract Trail in Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness. This is a popular group activity and will include side cutting brush and cutting up and removing limbs with a handsaw. Club will provide the tools. Bring your own work gloves, lunch, snacks and water.

For more information or to sign up, contact Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759

Great Swamp Conservancy - Spring Migration

May 3, 2026

We will join others at the Great Swamp Conservancy to see migratory birds. For more information or to sign up, **contact Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759**

Iroquois Chapter picnic

June 2, 2026

6 pm
Spruce Pavillion
Sherrill Brook Park, New Hartford, NY 13413

For members and family. Please bring a dish to share, your own place setting and beverage. Chapter will provide hamburgers and hotdogs.

If any questions, **contact Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759**

Edible Plant Walk Guided by Natalie Levine

September Date TBD

More information to follow
RSVP required

To join a list of participants, **contact Doug Tinkler 315-271-4759**

Lean-to Stewardship

Our chapter continues to steward the lean-tos at Middle Settlement Lake and Middle Branch Lake. Bob Kane is our chapter lean-to coordinator. Given the snow still present in the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness, he's decided to hold off announcing days he will organize outings to those lean-tos. Please watch our Facebook and Meetup sites and the ADK website for his chapter led lean-to outings.



ERIE CANAL TRAIL BIKE RIDES

Come join me on April 8th and/or April 22nd as I trade in my skis and snowshoes for two-wheeled pedal power. See the trip details listed below for each event. Riders should make sure their bike is in good working order and ready to go. Trail conditions on the bike path consist of both pavement and hard packed stone dust and is meant for bikes. Participants need to contact me directly to confirm their registration and to receive updates on any weather related delays or changes.



April 8, 2026

Today we will meet at the trailhead parking area off North Genesee St. at 5:30 pm and travel to Oriskany and back. The total distance is 12.8 miles.

April 22nd

Today we will meet at the Ilion Marina on Rt. 51 at 5:30 pm and travel to Little Falls and back. The total distance is 20 miles.

Mark Perrin, 315 725 4725, mnperrin63@gmail.com

Often, we have outings and activities not listed in our Trailmarker newsletters. You can find more of what we are doing on our Facebook group and Meetup group: Adirondack Mountain Club - Iroquois Chapter and now the ADK website, <https://adk.org>

Back Tracks



Weekly Evening Snowshoes

In January Mark Perrin for each week and I one time in February led local snowshoe outings. We checked out Root Glen and the Kirkland Trails, Valley View Golf Course, The Kirkland Trail in Deansboro and Sherril Brook Park. All were snowshoe outings starting at 6 pm and in the dark and using headlamps to navigate except the Saturday morning at Root Glen and the Kirkland Trails outing. Each lasted just longer than one hour with the Saturday outing the longest at one and one-half hours. We found it very relaxing to be in the woods after work even in the dark. The headlamps shining their beams against the white snow was plenty to illuminate the trail and to see our direction.

Thanks to Mark for leading and Deb Pasch, Wendy and Brian Sanders, Dawn Lazovic, Deb White, Bill Lapino, Nancy Tinkler, Joe Reich, Steve Blair and Margaret Kemp who joined one or more of the outings.

Submitted by Doug Tinkler

Potato Hill Farm Cross Country Ski

January 17, 2026

Thanks to Dawn, Mark, Nancy and Deb who joined the Saturday morning ski. We had good skiing conditions with a fresh couple of inches of snow on top of wonderfully groomed trails. We managed to cover about 4 miles of trails including the fun modest downhills.





At our February 3rd program meeting at the New Hartford Public Library, Tom Cole presented to our club his story about his trip to Romania and the Carpathian Mountains to hunt Chamois. I want to thank Tom for his stories and photographs that made it feel like we were part of his trip.

**I saw these flowers while hiking.
What are their names?**





ADK Voices

Founded in 1922, ADK has been teaching people how to explore and protect New York's public lands for over a century. ADK Voices celebrates that legacy by capturing brief oral stories with photographs that ADK has touched. Stories cover ADK history, conservation, outdoor experiences, and more.

Interested in sharing your stories? Email adkvoices@gmail.com for more information.

Bear Cans

Need a Bear can for your next outing? The Iroquois Chapter has a bear can that members can sign out for their adventures.

Remember that in the High Peaks Wilderness Area bear cans are mandatory for 3 seasons out of the year and many people prefer to use them wherever and whenever they head into the backcountry.

Contact Mark Perrin mperrin63@gmail.com

The Iroquois Chapter Welcomes the Following New Member

(Since our last published Trailmarker)

Peter Madden

ADK Fire Tower Challenge

Adirondack Fire Towers were once essential for forest safety and conservation. After the Great Fires of 1903 and 1908, which devastated over one million acres of forest preserve, a more effective system for managing wildfire detection and public safety became necessary. Built in the early 20th century, these towers allowed observers to spot wildfires before they could spread, helping to protect the region's vast forests. As fire detection methods advanced, many towers were decommissioned, but today, they stand as historic landmarks and popular hiking destinations, offering stunning panoramic views of the Adirondack landscape. Preserving these structures honors the region's conservation history and provides a unique opportunity for visitors to connect with the past.

Today, the Adirondack Mountain Club and the Glens Falls/Saratoga Chapter work together to sponsor the Fire Tower Challenge, which encourages participants to explore a variety of regions throughout the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. This popular hiking challenge invites outdoor enthusiasts to experience the rich history and beautiful views of these areas by hiking to the summits of at least 23 fire tower peaks—18 in the Adirondack Park and 5 in the Catskill Park. The challenge promotes adventure and physical activity while highlighting the critical role fire towers have played in forest conservation and public safety. It also includes a stewardship component, reinforcing one of the core tenets of the Adirondack Mountain Club's mission.

Upon completion, hikers can apply for a certificate, patch, and recognition from ADK, making it a rewarding way to experience the diverse landscapes and heritage of the region. The challenge can be completed in any season, with an optional winter challenge that requires summits to be reached between December 21 and March 21. Whether tackling it in warmer months or braving the winter conditions, the Fire Tower Challenge is a meaningful way to engage with many regions throughout New York States Forest Preserves.

The Adirondack Fire Tower Challenge will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2026 with over 2,500 completers so far – are you ready to be the next? For more information go to: <https://members.adk.org/members/members/get-involved/adk-fire-tower-challenge.aspx>

This spring.....

Oh, the places you'll go!

CHAPTER OUTINGS

| Rating | Effort Level | Elevation Gain | Miles (Round Trip) | Time in Hours |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| A+ | Very Strenuous | 4000 Ft + | 10 + | 10+ |
| A+ | Strenuous | 3000 ft + | 5 to 10 | 8 to 10 |
| B+ | Moderate Strenuous | 2000 ft+ | 5 to 10 | 6 to 8 |
| B+ | Moderate | 1000 ft+ | 8 to 10 | 5 to 7 |
| C+ | Fairly Easy | 1000 ft+ | 5 to 8 | 4 to 6 |
| C | Easy | under 1000+ | under 5 | under 5 |

Iroquois Chapter Contact Information

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Chairman | Douglas Tinkler | 315-271-4759 | DT46x40@yahoo.com |
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| Advisory Council Representative | Brian Sanders | 315-709-4149 | sandersbrian@hotmail.com |

For additional outing 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>

The Trailmarker is published March, June, September and December. If you would like to contribute material to the Trailmarker, send it by email by the 20th of the prior month to the Trailmarker Editor for consideration.