

Black River Currents

A Publication of the
Black River Chapter



Adirondack
ADK
Mountain Club

Summer/Fall 2026
**TRAINING FOR WINTER &
NEWSLETTER**
Volume 35 Issue 2

2026 Chapter Officers

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Discover the Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

The Black River Chapter serves members primarily in Jefferson and Lewis Counties, encompassing the Eastern Lake Ontario shoreline, the northern portion of Tug Hill, the Black River Valley, and the western edge of the Adirondack Mountains.

We offer something for everyone, from active conservation efforts to a wide range of outdoor adventures and social gatherings. Chapter outings include hiking, paddling, cross-country skiing, and more. We also host seasonal picnics, dinners, and other community events.

You don't need to be a triathlete or travel far to enjoy our activities. Hikes range from short, easy walks to challenging high peak climbs. Many events are local and accessible, with no long drive to the Adirondacks required.

• Want to learn more?

Find us on Facebook: *Black River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club* or Email: blackriveradk@gmail.com

- *Black River Currents* is published three times a year printed by Coughlin Printing (Watertown, NY), and mailed to members via USPS.

- Color copies are available online at the [ADK Website](#)

Membership

As of 7/21/2026

Family Member	97
Adult Member	48
Senior Member	41
Family Life Member	4
TOTAL	190
2026 New Members	9

7/21/26 iMIS



■ Family Member ■ Adult Member ■ Senior Member ■ Family Life Member

Cover Photos Front: taken by Carol Bango Back: taken by Rich Ross

Next newsletter deadline November 1st, 2026

From the Editor

It's hard to believe we're already in the heart of summer and school starts in just a few weeks. As always, the season has flown by with competing events, family obligations, and outdoor opportunities. We didn't even manage to schedule a summer picnic this year, there's simply been a lot going on.

Even so, we've had some wonderful outings, and there are more on the horizon. Winter will be here before we know it, and the theme of this newsletter is simple: **use your summer activities to prepare for winter fun.** Whether you're hiking, paddling, biking, or just staying active, all of it builds the strength and stamina that make XC skiing and snowshoeing even more enjoyable. Just thinking about winter on a hot, humid day makes things feel a little cooler.

There's been **plenty happening across the chapter.** Tug Hill Traverse work continues; we biked the Black River Trail; held a Volunteer Appreciation Brunch; completed both the Baker Woods Preserve and ADK Heart Lake volunteer work events (as well as the JBL Fly-in); hosted several Tuesday Trail outings; staffed tables at the Winter Environmental Conference and the 1000 Islands Family Free Day; held a short Leave No Trace workshop at Beechwood State Park; conducted the Star Lake Loon Count; and we still have a full slate of hikes, paddles, and bike trips ahead. Weather wasn't always in our favor, but enthusiasm stayed strong.

We're also partnering with Leave No Trace and Zoo New York to upgrade the LeanToo at the zoo with fresh stain and new poster displays, a great collaboration that reinforces responsible recreation in our region.

ADK's New Website Is Almost Here. The new ADK website is finally on the horizon and is expected to launch within the next week or so. We're incredibly excited to see it go live and share it broadly. The updated site will include a dedicated page for each chapter, making it easier for members and prospective members to connect with their local ADK community.

Don't forget **ADK's Fall Outing**, which already has more than 175 people registered. I'll be leading two hikes, Mt. Arab and Mt. Coney, and hope to see some of you there.

This fall brings **several civic-minded volunteer opportunities:** Baker Woods, the ADK Heart Lake property, and a new one for us at Johns Brook Lodge. If you join the Heart Lake Work Weekend, you'll see firsthand the many improvements made this past year. And if you've never been to JBL, their work weekend is absolutely worth the effort.

To wrap up the year, our **Chapter Annual Meeting** will be held in November at Tug Hill Estates, with Spencer

Busler from the Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) as our speaker. We'll also elect chapter leaders for several open positions and vote on bylaw updates. Another round of chapter t-shirts will be available, be sure to select your size on the reservation form.

By then, we should have a solid plan for our **ADK Winter Outing in February 2027.** If you're interested in helping with that event, please let us know. It's a fun weekend with a new venue this time, and early sign-ups are always appreciated.

As with any club, administrative improvements are underway. ADK is working with each chapter on **updates to the Outing Leader Guide.** The first version had its growing pains, but this next revision will strengthen ADK's reputation as a well-trained, well-organized outdoor community, something that sets us apart from groups with minimal training. Our chapter is also refining our bylaws to better align with New York State nonprofit requirements. These changes are minor and will not affect your membership.

You may have heard that **Cascade Ski Center has been sold** to a like-minded group committed to keeping it operating much as it has in the past, just under new ownership and management.

We've done a lot this year, and while we haven't been able to update you on every event, those who participated reported they were fantastic. As chapter chair and board member, I've spent a lot of time as a campground host, substitute Trailhead Steward, and parking assistant at Heart Lake, and I've learned more than I expected. I've attended all board meetings and helped wherever needed. ADK is a large organization with a big mission, and it works hard to protect the wilderness and support its members.

We even organized a special trip for one of our members who turned 85 this year. This is a reminder of how meaningful these shared experiences can be.

I'd also like to **encourage members to consider leadership training.** A few more outing leaders would help new members feel welcome and give us the ability to offer even more activities.

I hope you enjoy this issue and everything we've put together for you. Please let us know what's on your mind. If something interests you, be part of it. Your ideas and involvement make this chapter strong.

Thank you for making this a great little chapter.

See you out there.

Rich

Chapter News & Updates

Why We're Updating Our Chapter Bylaws

Over the past year, the Executive Committee has been reviewing our Chapter bylaws to make sure they stay clear, current, and aligned with New York State's Not-for-Profit Corporation Law (N-PCL). These updates don't change who we are or how we operate and they simply strengthen our structure, clarify a few procedures, and help us run smoothly as we continue to grow.

Key improvements include:

- A clearer conflict-of-interest section that meets state nonprofit standards and supports transparent decision making
- Improved financial oversight language, including how our Financial Review Committee reports
- Updated officer removal and vacancy procedures so transitions stay smooth and predictable
- Clarified committee roles and Executive Committee authority, reflecting how we actually operate today

A few small wording updates to modernize the bylaws and make them easier to read.

These changes do *not* affect membership, dues, outings, events, or how the Chapter functions day-to-day. They simply help us stay organized, compliant, and ready for the future.

What the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law (N-PCL) Is and Why It Matters

What is the N-PCL?

The New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law (N-PCL) is the set of state rules that govern how nonprofit organizations in New York are formed, structured, and managed. It covers everything from board responsibilities and meeting procedures to financial oversight and conflict-of-interest requirements.

What does the N-PCL cover?

It provides the legal framework for:

- How nonprofits are formed
- Board and officer duties
- Meeting, quorum, and voting rules
- Committee authority
- Financial oversight and reporting
- Conflict-of-interest and whistleblower policies
- Record-keeping requirements

Dissolution procedures

It also defines the powers nonprofits have such as owning property, entering contracts, electing officers, and adopting bylaws.

Why does the Black River Chapter need to comply?

Even though we are a Chapter of ADK, we are still a New York nonprofit entity and must follow state law. Compliance ensures:

- The Chapter stays in good legal standing
 - Officers and volunteers are protected when acting in good faith
 - Financial practices meet state expectations
 - Governance is transparent and defensible
- The Chapter remains eligible for grants, donations, and tax-exempt benefits

Why update the bylaws now?

The N-PCL has been modernized in recent years, especially around governance, financial oversight, and conflict-of-interest rules.

Updating our bylaws now ensures we stay aligned with these standards and avoid compliance issues down the road.

Chapter News & Updates

Call for Chapter Officer Candidates — Your Chapter Needs You!

As we look ahead to our Annual Meeting this fall, the Black River Chapter is preparing for the election of officers. This year, **all elected positions are open**, and we have **one Chapter Advisor seat that needs to be filled early**, as one of our Advisors is stepping down before the end of their term.

This is the moment each year when we invite our members to step forward, bring their energy and ideas, and help guide the future of our chapter. Serving as an officer is one of the most meaningful ways to support ADK's mission and strengthen the work we do together, from outings and education programs to conservation projects and community partnerships.

Our bylaws encourage turnover and fresh perspectives, and we welcome both long-time members and newer members to consider taking on a leadership role.

Positions Open for Nomination

We are seeking candidates for **all elected positions**, including:

- **Chair** — Provides leadership for the chapter, presides at meetings, proposes the annual budget, appoints committees, and serves as the chapter's spokesperson.
- **Vice Chair** — Supports the Chair, assists officers and committee chairs, and steps in when the Chair is unavailable.
- **Secretary** — Maintains minutes, correspondence, and the documentary history of the chapter.
- **Treasurer** — Manages chapter funds, prepares financial reports, and coordinates with ADK Headquarters on annual reporting.
- **Chapter Advisors** — Offer guidance, help shape policy, and support chapter operations.
 - **One Advisor seat is open immediately due to an early departure.**
- **Advisory Council Trustee** — Represents the chapter at ADK Advisory Council meetings and reports back on club-wide initiatives.

Why Consider Serving?

If you enjoy working with people, care deeply about conservation and outdoor recreation, or simply want to help strengthen our chapter, we encourage you to consider running. You don't need prior experience, just enthusiasm, reliability, and a willingness to contribute.

And keep in mind: several positions require only a small time commitment, often just a couple of hours a month. Even a modest contribution of your time can make a meaningful difference

Leadership in ADK is collaborative, supportive, and rewarding. You'll learn new skills, meet great people, and help shape the chapter's direction for the next three years.

How to Get Involved

If you're interested or would like to learn more about any position, please reach out to any current officer or member of the Nominating Committee. We're happy to answer questions and help you explore where your interests and strengths might fit.

Fresh voices keep our chapter strong.

If you've ever thought, "*Maybe I could help*," this is your chance.

Current Leadership					
Chair	Rich Ross	6th year	Advisor	Matt Carney	2nd term 1st year
Vice Chair	Carol Bango	Interim	Advisor	Linda Carney	2nd term 1st year
Secretary	Caryn Clements	2nd year	Advisor	Kris King	Leaving
Treasurer	Linda Burns	2nd year	AC Trustee	Dave Clements	2nd yr

Training for Winter-Now!

How Summer and Fall Shape Your Best Cold Weather Adventures.

For many local northern New York travelers, winter is the season that lingers in memory long after the snow melts; the quiet forests, the blue shadowed trails, the satisfying crunch of snowshoes on a cold morning. But what most people don't see is the preparation behind those effortless winter outings. The hikers and skiers who move confidently through deep snow in January are often the same people who began preparing in July.

Winter rewards those who train early. And the off season, the warm, green months when winter feels far away, is when the foundation for safe, enjoyable cold-weather travel is built.

Why Winter Demands More

Traveling through snow and cold is fundamentally different from three season hiking. Every step requires more energy. Every decision carries more weight. And every piece of gear matters.

Snowshoes add resistance. Cold temperatures increase calorie burn. Heavy layers restrict movement. Short daylight compresses your margin for error. And winter's beauty comes with challenges: icy slopes, drifting snow, unpredictable weather, and the ever present need to stay warm and dry.

This is why winter training doesn't begin with the first snowfall, it begins months earlier, when the days are long and the trails are dry.

Build the Engine: Fitness That Carries You Through Snow

The most successful winter adventurers aren't necessarily the fastest or the strongest, they're the ones with steady, reliable endurance. Snow travel is slow, deliberate, and energy intensive. A strong aerobic base is your greatest ally.

Steady Aerobic Conditioning

Long, moderate effort hikes in summer and fall build the cardiovascular capacity you'll rely on when breaking trail in deep snow. Think of these outings as "winter miles in disguise."

Strength for Stability

Leg and core strength matter more in winter than any other season. Snowshoes, winter packs, and uneven snow surfaces demand strong stabilizing muscles. Hills, stairs, cycling, and simple bodyweight routines all contribute to safer winter travel.

Balance and Agility

Roots and rocks in summer mimic the instability of snow and ice. Every time you navigate uneven terrain, you're training the micro-muscles that keep you upright when the trail disappears under a white blanket.

Sharpen the Skills That Keep You Safe

Fitness gets you down the trail. Skills get you home.

Navigation Confidence

Winter navigation is unforgiving. Trails vanish. Blazes hide behind snow-laden branches. Whiteouts erase the landscape. Practicing map and compass skills in summer builds the muscle memory you'll rely on when visibility drops.

Trip Planning Discipline

Winter demands conservative choices, earlier start times, shorter routes, realistic turnarounds, and backup plans. These habits are easiest to build when conditions are mild and not when you're cold, tired, and racing daylight.

Emergency Readiness

A small problem in summer can become a serious one in winter. Summer is the ideal time to refresh first aid skills, review emergency procedures, and check communication tools. Good judgment is a skill and like any skill, it improves with practice.

Gear: Prepare Before You Need It

Winter gear is your life support system. It deserves attention long before the first frost.

Inspect and Repair

Snowshoe bindings, trekking poles, headlamps, packs, and layers all benefit from a mid-summer check. A frayed strap or weak buckle is easy to fix now and a real problem in January.

Evaluate Your Layering System

Moisture management is the heart of winter comfort. Summer hikes are a perfect time to test how your base layers wick, how your mid-layers breathe, and how your shell vents heat.

Shop Early

The best winter gear, boots, gloves, traction, and technical layers, often sells out by late fall. Shopping in July through September gives you better selection, better prices, and time to break in new equipment.

Train Where You Are: The Northern NY Advantage

Northern NY offers a natural training ground for winter,

Training for Winter-Now!

even in the warm months.

Steep summer trails build the strength needed for snowshoe ascents. Hot weather conditioning improves cardiovascular efficiency, a surprising but real benefit for winter endurance. And chapter outings provide low pressure opportunities to practice pacing, communication, and navigation with others.

Every mile you hike now is a deposit in your winter adventure bank.

Looking Ahead

Winter may feel distant in July, but the habits you build now will shape the kind of winter you have making you confident, capable, and ready for the quiet beauty of the cold season. Whether you're preparing for your first snowshoe hike or gearing up for another year of Northern NY winter challenges, the path to a great winter begins long before the first snowflake falls.



Winter Safety — Starts Now

How Off Season Habits Build Safer Cold Weather Adventures

When most people think about winter outings, they picture snow covered forests, crisp air, and the quiet beauty of the North Country in January. What they *don't* picture is July. Yet for anyone who wants to travel safely and confidently in winter, whether on snowshoes, skis, or microspikes, summer is when the foundation for safe winter adventures is built. Winter rewards preparation. And the safest winter travelers are the ones who start early.

Build the Fitness That Protects You in Cold Weather

Winter travel is demanding. Snow, layers, and cold temperatures all increase the workload on your body. The best safety tool you can bring into winter is a strong aerobic base.

- Steady aerobic conditioning — Long, moderate hikes now reduce fatigue related mistakes later.
- Leg and core strength — Strong stabilizing muscles help prevent slips, falls, and overexertion.
- Balance and agility — Uneven summer trails mimic the instability of snow and ice.

A well conditioned body stays warmer, reacts faster, and makes better decisions.

Practice the Skills That Matter Most When Conditions Turn

Winter safety is built on judgment, navigation, and the ability to adapt. These skills are far easier to develop in warm weather.

- Navigation refreshers — Map and compass skills practiced now become second nature when visibility drops.
- Trip planning discipline — Build habits around turnaround times, route alternatives, and conservative choices.
- Emergency readiness — First aid refreshers, gear checks, and communication plans all start in summer.
- Good decisions in winter are rarely made for the first time in winter.

Prepare Your Gear Before You Need It

Many winter incidents begin with small gear failures that snowball into bigger problems. Summer is the ideal time to prevent them.

- Inspect and repair equipment — Snowshoe bindings, poles, packs, and headlamps all deserve a mid-summer check.
- Evaluate your layering system — Test moisture management on warm weather hikes.

Winter Safety — Starts Now-Continued

- Shop early — July–September is the best time to find quality winter gear without the December rush. A few minutes of attention now can prevent hours of cold, wet, or unsafe travel later.

Train Your Judgment — The Most Important Winter Skill

Fitness and gear matter, but judgment is the true safety tool. Winter conditions change quickly, and the ability to recognize risk early is what keeps outings safe.

- Group management skills — Practice pacing, communication, and cohesion on summer outings.
- Scenario thinking — Ask “What would I do if...?” long before the snow arrives.
- Turnaround discipline — Build the habit of choosing safety over summits.

Winter rewards conservative choices — and punishes hesitation.

Use Summer ADK Outings as Training Grounds

Every warm season outing is an opportunity to build winter safety skills.

- Chapter outings as training — Practice communication, pacing, and navigation with others.
- Local trails for conditioning — Steep summer climbs build the strength needed for snowshoe ascents.
- Heat conditioning — Surprisingly, training in heat improves cardiovascular efficiency for winter.

The North Country give us everything we need to prepare long before the first snowflake falls.

Looking Ahead

Safe winter travel doesn’t begin in December. It begins now with fitness, skills, judgment, and gear readiness built slowly and steadily through the summer and fall. By starting early, you give yourself the best chance to enjoy winter’s beauty with confidence, comfort, and a wide margin of safety.

Winter Gear Prep

Start Early, Stay Safe, and Enjoy the Season Ahead

For many North Country adventurers, winter is the most rewarding season of the year, quiet trails, crisp air, and the satisfying rhythm of snowshoes or skis on fresh powder. But winter also demands more from our equipment than any other season. The difference between a great outing and a dangerous one often comes down to whether your gear is ready for the conditions.

The best time to prepare your winter kit isn’t December. It’s now, long before the first snowflake falls.

Why Early Gear Prep Matters

Winter gear is your life-support system. It keeps you warm, dry, mobile, and safe when temperatures drop and daylight fades. Small failures that are merely inconvenient in summer can become serious problems in winter.

A worn snowshoe strap, a weak headlamp, a forgotten pair of mittens, these are the kinds of oversights that lead to cold hands, slow progress, or forced turnarounds. Early preparation gives you time to inspect, repair, replace, and test your equipment without the pressure of an approaching storm or a last minute trip.

Start With a Full Gear Audit

Pull everything out, snowshoes, skis, poles, traction, layers, packs, and accessories. Spread it out and look at it with fresh eyes.

Snowshoes & Bindings

Check for cracked decking, loose rivets, worn crampons, and brittle straps.

Flex bindings to ensure they’re not stiff or cracking from age.

Replace worn parts now; many manufacturers sell repair kits.

Traction Devices

Inspect microspikes or crampons for broken chains, bent points, or rust.

Ensure the elastomer harness still stretches easily in cold temperatures.

Poles

Test locking mechanisms.

Check the winter baskets which make a huge difference in deep snow.

Winter Gear Prep-Continued

Headlamps

Replace batteries and carry spares.

Test brightness and runtime; LEDs dim over time.

Packs

Look for worn buckles, frayed straps, or zippers that stick.

Confirm your pack can comfortably carry winter layers, food, and safety gear.

A thorough audit now prevents surprises later.

Dial In Your Layering System

Winter comfort is all about moisture management. Sweat is your enemy; dry layers are your insulation.

Base Layers

Choose synthetic or merino wool, never cotton. Test wicking performance on warm weather hikes.

Mid Layers

Fleece, grid fleece, or lightweight puffy jackets provide warmth without bulk. Practice adjusting layers on the move.

Shell Layers

Waterproof, breathable shells protect against wind and snow. Check for delamination, worn seams, and zippers that need lubrication.

Hands & Feet

Mittens are warmer than gloves; bring both. Inspect winter boots for sole wear, insulation breakdown, or leaks. Test sock combinations to avoid blisters and cold spots.

Your layering system should be something you trust and not something you guess at.

Safety Gear: The Essentials

Winter demands a few items that rarely leave the pack.

- Map and compass, and the skill to use them.
- Emergency bivy or shelter, lightweight, compact, and potentially life saving.
- Fire-starting kit of waterproof matches, lighter, and tinder.
- Extra insulation with a dry puffy or fleece reserved only for emergencies.
- First-aid kit, updated and winter ready.
- Navigation backup — fully charged phone or GPS with offline maps.
- Hot drink setup — insulated bottle or thermos.

These items aren't optional in winter, they're part of responsible backcountry travel.

Shop Early, Shop Smart

The best winter gear often sells out by late fall. Shopping early gives you:

- Better selection
- Better prices
- Time to break in boots
- Time to test layers
- Time to return or exchange items

Used gear shops and online marketplaces are especially active in summer and early fall. Many people upgrade equipment at this time of year, creating opportunities for high quality secondhand finds.

Test Everything Before Winter Arrives

A gear system is only as good as your familiarity with it.

- Take your winter pack on fall hikes.
- Practice layering on cool mornings.
- Test snowshoes and traction on early season snow.
- Try your headlamp on a dusk walk.
- Pack and unpack your winter kit until it becomes second nature.

When winter arrives, you want your gear to feel like an extension of your body and not a puzzle you're solving in the cold.

Looking Ahead

Winter in the North Country is beautiful, challenging, and deeply rewarding. Preparing your gear early ensures you can enjoy the season with confidence, comfort, and a wide margin of safety. Whether you're gearing up for your first snowshoe hike or your fiftieth, thoughtful preparation now sets the stage for a great winter ahead.



Upcoming Chapter Events-2026

August 2026

Tug Hill Traverse Trail Workday

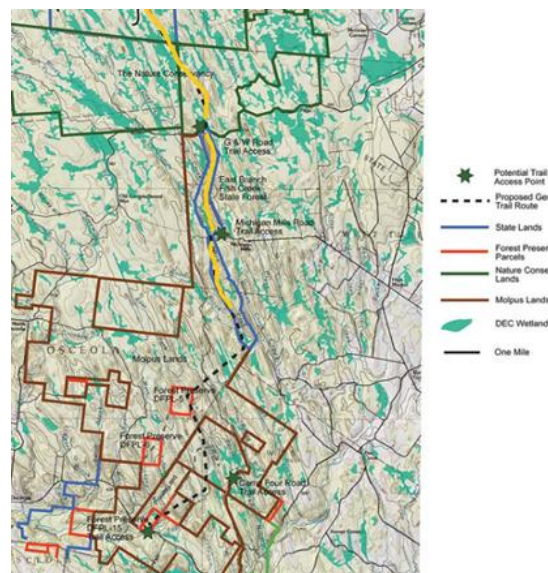
Friday August 7th 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. The Tug Hill Traverse Trail began with a simple idea shared around a campfire: *"Wouldn't it be great to hike straight through the middle of Tug Hill?"* That spark turned into a plan, partners came together, and today we're helping build a trail that's becoming a reality right before our eyes.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers, **10 miles of the Traverse are already complete**, stretching south from the Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area through forests, wetlands, and hemlock groves. When finished, the trail will run **more than 20 miles**, connecting Montague and Osceola and offering hikers views of Fish Creek, rich wetlands, and rugged rock outcroppings — the first non-motorized trail of its kind in the region.

This project is a true community effort, guided by Bob McNamara and supported by partners including the Black River Chapter of ADK, DEC, the Tug Hill Commission, and The Nature Conservancy. Every volunteer hour moves this vision forward. Today, we're adding another piece to that vision.

Join Cindy Stewart and let this year be the year you add "trail builder". There are a number of workdays scheduled this summer and into the fall. Feel free to attend one or more of them. Bring insect repellent, gloves, water, lunch, and tools such as pruners and loppers. Rating C+ (fairly easy).

Registration required at Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust. <https://tughilltomorrowlandtrust.org/events>



Scenic Ride on the Black River Feeder Canal Trail!

Saturday, August 15th –This ride along the historic Black River Feeder Canal Trail is a step up from the previous one, offering beautiful scenery and an enjoyable dirt path route. This round-trip event covers ~10 miles each way, following the mostly flat towpath alongside the canal from Boonville to Forestport. The packed dirt surface ensures a smooth ride for all cyclists, making it a great choice whether you're experienced or newer to longer distances.

Come connect with fellow riders, enjoy the fresh air, and take in the peaceful canal surroundings. If you're interested or have questions, reach out, we're looking forward to making this ride unforgettable! Rating C+ **RSVP required at:** blackriveradk@gmail.com

Tug Hill Traverse Trail Workday

Saturday August 15th 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. Here is another opportunity to help with this trail as noted above.

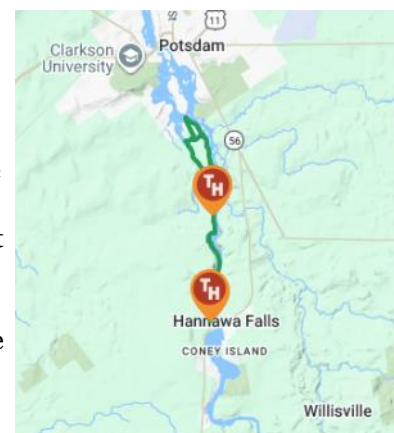
Red Sandstone Trail

Monday, August 24th – Enjoy a relaxed pace hike along the beautiful Red Sandstone Trail, a scenic route that follows the Raquette River and features varied terrain including riverbank paths, gravel sections, and a few stair climbs. This ~7-mile round-trip outing offers easy to moderate difficulty, with plenty of opportunities to take in the river views and explore interpretive signs highlighting local history.

We will meet at the **southern access** of the trail at **9:45 AM**, ready to begin hiking at **10:00 AM**. Parking is available on the east side of Mill Street, directly across from the Hannawa Falls Fire Department (Mill St, Potsdam, NY 13676).

Come enjoy a peaceful morning on one of the North Country's most charming riverside trails. **Rating: C Leader:** Linda Burns

RSVP required: lindaburns1008@gmail.com or text 516-662-5020.



Upcoming Chapter Events-2026

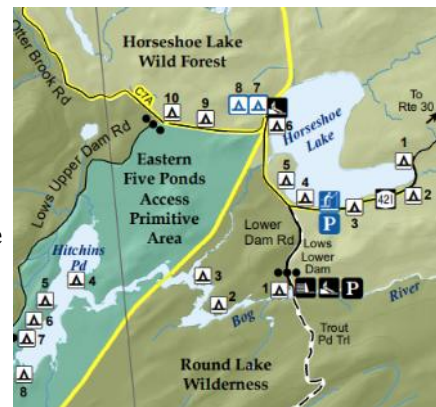
Paddle Wanakena

Saturday, August 29th – Join us for an easy, gentle paddle on the beautiful waters around Wanakena. This outing offers a calm route suitable for all experience levels, with scenic views and a peaceful stretch toward the historic Ranger School. The paddle to the Ranger School is approximately **1½ miles** (3–4 miles round-trip). We can turn around there or continue a bit farther, while staying clear of the larger Cranberry Lake.

We will meet at **9:00 AM**, ready to be on the water by **9:30 AM**. The put-in is located just past **Otto's Abode**, 6 Hamele St, Wanakena, on Front Street. Please unload your boat at the put-in, then park along the nearby streets, at the lot over the Wanakena bridge, or at the Moore Trail parking area.

Bring lunch — after the paddle we can enjoy the picnic tables near Otto's, and there are snacks and drinks available inside as well. **Rating: C Leader:** Linda Burns

RSVP required: lindaburns1008@gmail.com or text 516-662-5020



September 2026

Big Trout Lake Hike

Thursday, September 10th – Join us for a scenic 5.4-mile round-trip hike to Big Trout Lake, following a gentle old gravel roadway with approximately **300 feet of elevation gain**. This easy-to-moderate route offers a peaceful forest setting and a relaxed pace, perfect for enjoying early fall conditions in the Tupper Lake region. We will meet at the **trail-head at 10:00 AM**.

Directions: From Tupper Lake head south on Route 20 for about 8 miles, almost to Goodman Mountain Trailhead, turn right onto Route 421 and drive 5–6 miles. The trailhead parking area is on the left at **Low's Lower Dam**. After the hike, there is an optional stop at **Raquette River Brewery** for refreshments and conversation. **Rating: C Leader:** Linda Burns

RSVP required: lindaburns1008@gmail.com or text 516-662-5020

Tug Hill Traverse Trail Workday

Friday, September 11th 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Tug Hill Traverse Trail Workday

Saturday September 26th 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

2026 ADK Fall Outing

Friday, September 18th—Sunday, Sept 20th

Rich Ross from our Chapter will be leading two hikes. Details provided at the Fall Outing



Left to right: Bob McNamara, Ray Spahn, Cindy Stewart, Maddie Wakeman, Zach Wakeman, Bob Keller. Not picture, Jan Bogdanowicz.



Mt. Arab / Fire Tower

A steady 2-mile round-trip climb with 750 feet of gain brought hikers to Mount Arab's semi-open summit and historic fire tower. A short side trail offered views of Arab and Eagle Crag lakes, and the restored 35-foot tower delivered full 360degree Adirondack panoramas. A classic short hike with a big view payoff.

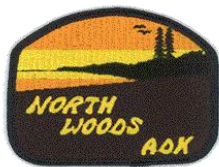
Coney Mountain

This 2.3-mile round-trip hike uses gentle switchbacks to reach Coney's exposed summit, one of the Tupper Lake Triad peaks. Mud was minimal, the climb was friendly, and the reward was sweeping 360degree views—especially striking toward the Seward Range. A perfect quick outing with outstanding scenery.



ADK Fall Outing September 18th-20th, 2026

The **2026 ADK Mountain Club Fall Outing**, hosted by the **North Woods Chapter**, will be held **Friday, – Sunday at the Saranac Village Young Life Camp**.



This premier Adirondack retreat facility is gently nestled on the shores of beautiful Upper Saranac Lake, and is in the heart of prime paddling, hiking, and biking country. In addition to a long list guided outings available to all registrants, evenings will be filled with live music and dancing.

For longtime ADK members, new members, and anyone who loves recreating in the Adirondacks, this weekend retreat is an opportunity to meet and explore wild places with fellow outdoor enthusiasts. All ages are welcome.

Outings

Some examples of planned outings include:

- High Peaks Hikes
- Hiking Mt. Van Hoevenberg, Ampersand Mountain, and Mt. Arab Fire Tower
- Cycling on the recently completed Adirondack Rail Trail

Paddling throughout the St. Regis Canoe Wilderness

If you prefer relaxing, enjoy the peaceful camp facilities with activities suitable for all ages, including an indoor gym, game room, and lake swimming. Individual sign-up for organized outings will be emailed separately to registrants.

Fees:

- All attendees must pay a \$35 registration fee for basic Fall Outing operational costs.
- Accommodations: Attendees booking on-campus rooms will have a separate accommodation fee (see below for details).

Meals: Attendees wishing to stay elsewhere may opt to pay just for Friday night and Saturday night receptions and dinners only.

Accommodations & Meals:

Accommodations are non-smoking. Pets are not allowed. Rates listed are per person. Reduced rates are available for children.

Base Rate: \$200

- Dorm-style buildings featuring a variety of shared room sizes accommodating from 3 to 9 guests per room. Every effort will be made to allot bottom bunks to adults over 16. These dorms have shared bathrooms.
- Linens provided (pillow, pillowcase, fitted sheet, flat sheet, blanket and towel).

Rates are based on per person for two nights and include two receptions, two dinners, two lunches, two breakfasts, and use of the campus facilities.

Premier Level One Rate: \$220, very limited availability

- Housing that features a variety of private double-occupancy accommodations (queen beds) and private single-occupancy (1 bunk bed), some with private bathrooms and some with shared bathrooms.
- Shared kitchen and living area.
- Linens provided (pillow, pillowcase, fitted sheet, flat sheet, blanket and towel).

Rates are based on per person for two nights and include two receptions, two dinners, two lunches, two breakfasts, and use of the campus facilities.

Premier Level Two Rate: \$230, very limited availability

- Housing that features a variety of private double-occupancy accommodations (king or queen beds, or two twins), some with private bathrooms and some with shared bathrooms.
- Linens provided (pillow, pillowcase, fitted sheet, flat sheet, blanket and towel).

Rates are based on per person for two nights and include two receptions, two dinners, two lunches, two breakfasts, and use of the campus facilities.

Meals-Only Rate (\$28)

This option is for attendees NOT staying on campus and includes Friday and Saturday evening receptions and dinners only.

Children

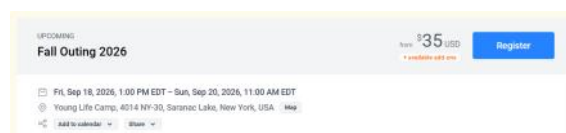
Children ages 3–16, accompanied by a parent or guardian, will receive a reduced rate of 50% off accommodations and meals. Please email adkfo26@gmail.com for code to use at check out.

Parking

Limited on-site parking for registrants staying on campus will be available at no additional cost, and carpooling is encouraged. For participants staying off campus, parking will be limited and may be restricted to a satellite parking lot, depending on demand. Carpooling is strongly suggested for all participants.

Registration: www.adk.org

Search for Outdoor Programs-All Events- Fall Outing 2026



Upcoming Chapter Events-2026

October 2026

Baker Woods Fall Clean-up!

Saturday, October 3rd – We're heading back to one of our favorite local preserves for a morning of stewardship and community. This fall clean-up is a great way to give back to a beautiful local resource while enjoying time outdoors with fellow volunteers. Work will run from **9:00 AM to about 11:30 AM**, with tasks suitable for all comfort levels.

A light breakfast of **muffins, coffee, and tea** will be provided. This past spring, nearly 30 volunteers joined us and stayed afterward for a lunch of hot dogs and salads — and we'll be doing the same again on October 3.

Location: Baker Woods Preserve, Factory Road, Lewis County — about 2 miles outside the hamlet of Natural Bridge.

Directions: From Route 3 in Natural Bridge, turn onto **Depot Street**, just past the Treats N' Tiques ice cream store. After approximately **200 yards**, take the **left fork** over the Indian River and continue **2 miles** on Factory Road. Parking for the Preserve is on the **right-hand side** of the road.

Come lend a hand, enjoy good company, and help keep this wonderful preserve thriving. **Leader:** Linda Burns **RSVP required:** lindaburns1008@gmail.com or text 516-662-5020.



Bicycling the Rail Trail!

Wednesday, October 7th – Enjoy a scenic fall ride on the Adirondack Rail Trail as we cycle from **Tupper Lake to Floodwood** and back. This relaxed outing covers approximately **16 miles round-trip**, following the smooth, gentle trail through beautiful forest and wetland scenery. This is not a race — we'll ride at a comfortable pace, enjoy the views, and take breaks as needed. We will meet at the **Tupper Lake Train Station**, 37 Depot Street, at **9:45 AM**, ready to begin riding at **10:00 AM**. Bring a lunch or snacks for our break at Floodwood — a perfect spot to rest and enjoy the surroundings before heading back. **Rating: C Leader:** Linda Burns **RSVP required:** lindaburns1008@gmail.com or text 516-662-5020

Johns Brook Lodge Volunteer Work Weekend

Friday October 16th-Sunday October 18th— Here is an opportunity to apply your skills and enthusiasm to the ongoing upkeep of iconic JBL. Especially if you have never hiked there from the Garden, it is an amazing place and has been for over 100 years. This is an ADK-wide volunteer effort that occurs twice a year: getting the place ready in the Spring for an upcoming season of hiking in the High Peaks; winterizing the place in October.

These weekends are a fantastic way to meet fellow chapter members, connect with ADK staff, and spend meaningful time outdoors while helping care for one of ADK's most historic backcountry lodges. JBL sits 3.5 miles from the Garden trailhead in Keene Valley, and the hike in is part of the experience, a shared journey that sets the tone for a fun, unplugged, and rewarding weekend. Food, lodging, and great company are all provided at no charge to you.

Volunteer Requirements

- Must be an active ADK member
- Must have a sexual harassment training certificate completed within the past 12 months
- Must be prepared for some physical activity, including a 3.5-mile hike in and out
- Must be comfortable in a backcountry, no-cell-service environment and ready to have fun

If you're looking for a friendly, low-pressure way to get involved, meet people, and contribute to ADK's stewardship mission, this is a perfect opportunity. We'd love to have you join us for one of the weekends.

It's been said, *"We take volunteers of any skill level, many hands make light work. Having said that, always recruiting more volunteers that are good at carpentry, etc."*

If you have any questions or would like help getting signed up, feel free to reach out. To get further details or sign up contact [Zack Hyde \(zhyde@adk.org\)](mailto:zhyde@adk.org) or [Nathan Stokes \(stokesnm@gmail.com\)](mailto:stokesnm@gmail.com).

Upcoming Chapter Events-2026

Paddle at Flat Rock Reservoir

Wednesday, October 14th – Join us for a peaceful fall paddle on the Flat Rock Reservoir, a beautiful stretch of quiet water perfect for a relaxed outing. We'll explore both sides of the reservoir at an easy pace, covering roughly **4 miles** over about **2 hours**. We will meet at **9:30 AM** at the parking lot located at **3147 State Highway 3, Oswegatchie**. After the paddle, feel free to linger at the picnic table with snacks or lunch you've brought along — a great way to enjoy the crisp October air and good company. **Rating: C Leader:** Linda Burns
RSVP required: lindaburns1008@gmail.com or text 516-662-5020

ADK/Heart Lake Volunteer Work Weekend

Friday October 30th—Sunday November 1st -As autumn settles into its late season calm, it's time to gear up for another rewarding **Fall Work Weekend** in the Adirondacks. This annual tradition brings volunteers together to support ADK's Heart Lake property through meaningful stewardship projects, camaraderie, and time outdoors. Work officially begins **Friday morning**, so come ready to roll up your sleeves and make a difference. Early arrivals on **Thursday, October 29th** are welcome. As we approach the weekend, staff will finalize a comprehensive task plan. Specific projects will be shared closer to the event, but rest assured, there will be plenty of valuable work to support these cherished areas. For now, we simply want to get the dates on your calendar and encourage you to consider joining us for this important effort. For additional information or to sign up contact Tim Randolph at: trand6863@outlook.com
We look forward to seeing you at Heart Lake for another productive and enjoyable Fall Work Weekend.

November 2026

Mt. Van Hoevenberg Hike

Saturday, November 7th – Join us for a rewarding fall hike up **Mt. Van Hoevenberg**, one of the newest sustainably designed trails in the Adirondacks. Opened in October 2018, this route offers a thoughtful, durable trail layout and leads to one of the finest panoramic views of the High Peaks. The hike is 3.6 miles round-trip with an elevation of 2,860 feet. While not a race, the trail does include stair sections, and we will pace ourselves comfortably. Expect the outing to take 4+ hours, including a well-earned break at the summit. We will meet at the trail head register at 9:45 AM, ready to begin hiking at 10:00 AM. Trailhead directions: Finding the start can be a bit tricky at the new Olympic and hiking center. From the parking lot, go through the gate and look left for a blue ORDA sign (not the traditional brown and yellow DEC sign). Walk toward the old bobsled run — from there you'll see the trailhead and register. After signing in, hikers begin a gentle climb that gradually opens to spectacular High Peaks views.
Rating: B Leader: Linda Burns **RSVP required:** lindaburns1008@gmail.com or text 516-662- 5020.



Hike McKenzie Mountain

Tuesday, November 10th (*Rain date: November 12th*) – Tackle the longest of the Saranac Lake 6! McKenzie Mountain is a full- day adventure, covering **10 miles round-trip** from the Lake Placid side. This route offers a gradual start along a ski trail before transitioning to a red- marked path that climbs steadily toward the summit. Expect a challenging but rewarding outing with excellent views and classic Adirondack terrain. We will meet at 9:45 AM at the Lake Placid / Whiteface Inn Lane Trailhead, ready to begin hiking at 10:00 AM. Trailhead location: Whiteface Inn Lane (County Route 31), off State Route 86, just west of Lake Placid. Parking is roadside — please be careful not to block the road. This approach is the more direct route from Lake Placid. Plan for up to 5 hours to reach the peak and about 4 hours for the return. This is a full-day hike, so be sure to bring lunch, water, snacks, poles, and layered clothing.
Rating: B+ / Challenging Leader: Linda Burns **RSVP required:** lindaburns1008@gmail.com or text 516-662-5020



Black River Chapter Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 21, 2026

Tug Hill Estates, 4051 Yancey Road, Lowville, NY

The Black River Chapter will hold its 2026 Annual Meeting at **Tug Hill Estates**, and we invite all members and friends to join us for an afternoon of community, good food, and shared purpose. This annual gathering is a chance to reconnect, reflect on the year's accomplishments, and look ahead to the adventures and stewardship work to come.

Event Schedule

- **12:00 PM** – Check-in
- **12:30–12:45 PM** – Buffet lunch served
- **1:30 PM** – Presentation by Spencer Busler from Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT)
- **2:15–2:30 PM** – Annual business meeting
- **3:30 PM** – Adjourn

Lunch Menu

Tossed salad, Homemade **Broccoli Cheddar** soup, **Bourbon Chicken Flatbread** sandwich, Entrée: **Bruschetta Chicken**, Side: **Roasted Seasonal Vegetables**, Dessert: **Seasonal Cobbler or Crisp**



RSVP & Contact Email: blackriveradk@gmail.com

Phone: 516-662-5020 (Linda Burns).

Mail your reservation slip and check to the address below.

=====

2026 ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATION FORM

NOVEMBER 21st, 2026

Name: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

Email: _____

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

\$25.00/per person \$ _____ total and donation (optional) \$ _____

\$10.00/member shirt ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL total \$ _____

Member Shirt Order (\$10.00 each – partially subsidized by the chapter)

Only available to members who pre-order. Shirts will be distributed at the meeting.

Enclose a check for \$ _____ for each person and shirt (member only) made out to **Black River Chapter** and send to:

Linda Burns, 5 Pitcairn Path, Harrisville, NY 13648

Please send this in **ON OR BEFORE October 31st**.

Thank you! Hope to see you!

Name (s) of Guests _____

ADK Winter Outing Weekend – Save the Date

**February 26–28, 2027 Massawepie
Scout Camp, Tupper Lake, NY**

The ADK **Black River Chapter** is excited to host a **Winter Outing Weekend** at the legendary **Massawepie Scout Camp** — a rare chance to experience this vast Adirondack property in its quiet, snow covered season. This three-day gathering will bring together ADK members and friends for outdoor adventure, winter skills, and community.

What to Expect

Participants can look forward to a mix of guided and selfled activities, including:

- Snowshoe hikes on Massawepie’s extensive trail network
- Cross country skiing on forest roads and lakeshore routes
- Winter skills sessions (navigation, layering, cold weather safety)
- Evening campfire socials and chapter meet ups
- Photography, nature walks, and relaxed time in a classic Adirondack setting

Lodging & Meals

Indoor lodging will be available in heated camp buildings, with shared common spaces for meals and evening gatherings. Additional details on accommodations and meal planning will be provided as the event approaches.

Registration

Registration fees have **not yet been finalized**. Updated information will be shared as soon as pricing and registration procedures are confirmed.

Volunteer Recruitment – Be Part of the Team

The Black River Chapter is assembling a **volunteer crew** to help make this Winter Outing Weekend a welcoming, well run, and memorable experience. We’re looking for ADK members from any chapter who can assist with:

- Leading or co-leading winter outings
- Helping with check-in, hospitality, and participant support
- Meal prep, kitchen assistance, and dining hall coordination
- Fire building, evening programs, and general logistics
- Safety support and gear check guidance

Whether you can offer a few hours or the full weekend, your help strengthens the event and builds connections across chapters. **No prior winter outing leadership experience is required** — we’ll match volunteers with roles that fit their comfort and skills. A volunteer interest form will be shared soon.

Stay Connected

More details — including registration, volunteer opportunities, and a full schedule — will be released in the coming months. Chapters and individuals are encouraged to keep an eye on announcements from the Black River Chapter.

Email: blackriveradk@gmail.com



Backtracks-2026

April 2026

Black River Trail Bike Trip

April 4th Saturday. – Eight Black River Chapter members gathered at the Poor's Island parking area for our early season bike ride along the Black River Trail. With cool spring air and clear skies, the group set off together and enjoyed a relaxed ride through the scenic corridor that follows the river into Watertown.

The trail was in great shape for early April, and the pace allowed plenty of time for conversation, wildlife spotting, and taking in the views along the water. Riders continued on to the Watertown Water Park before turning back, making for a pleasant out and back trip that welcomed in the new season of chapter activities.

It was a simple outing, but exactly the kind that reminds us why we come together with good company, a beautiful trail, and the joy of getting outside after a long winter.

Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at Tug Hill Vineyards

Sunday April 10th - On this bright spring day several of our chapter members gathered at Tug Hill Vineyards to celebrate the people who keep the Black River Chapter moving forward, our volunteers. The trails we walk, the events we host, and the community we continue to build all shine a little brighter because of their dedication.

The brunch offered a peaceful setting to relax, share stories, and reflect on the past year's accomplishments. Surrounded by friends and fellow stewards of the outdoors, volunteers enjoyed good food, warm conversation, and a well earned moment of recognition. Volunteer appreciation packages were handed out that included a pen and thankful poem.

This gathering was more than a meal. It was a heartfelt thank you to those who give their time, energy, and spirit to help our chapter thrive. Their commitment is the reason our outings run smoothly, our programs grow, and our community remains welcoming to all who love the Adirondacks. We are grateful for every one of them.



Baker Woods Spring Workday

Saturday, April 18th Nearly 30 volunteers turned out for our annual Spring Workday at Baker Woods, making this one of our strongest showings yet. Beginning at 9:30 AM at 4114 Factory Road in Natural Bridge, members and friends rolled up their sleeves to prepare the trails, gardens, and outdoor spaces for the busy seasons ahead.

Teams spread out across the property to clear brush, tidy garden beds, inspect the Sensory Trail, and check signage for needed repairs or staining. With so many hands pitching in, the work moved quickly and the morning had the easy rhythm of neighbors working side by side.

Backtracks 2026

What began as a simple workday turned into something even better.



With such a great turnout, the group decided, on the spot, to fire up the grill for an impromptu cookout. It was the perfect way to wrap up the morning: good food, laughter, and time to enjoy the space we had just refreshed together.

Baker Woods is ready for spring and summer thanks to the dedication of everyone who came out. This event continues to be a shining example of what our chapter can accomplish when we come together.



Backtracks 2026

Kanik Trail Hike (Tuesday Trail)

Tuesday, April 21st - The birds were quiet as we walked the James Kanick trail in Calcium on our first Tuesday Trail outing. It was great to see new members and returning trekkers (6 in total) out for a delightful evening.



Spring Work Weekend at Heart Lake – Event Recap

ADK's annual **Spring Work Weekend** at Heart Lake took place **April 23rd–26th**, and this year's gathering was one for the books. Volunteers from across the state came together for several days of stewardship, teamwork, and community.

As Tim Randolph shared, the group enjoyed **five straight days of incredible weather**, a rarity for Spring Work Weekend. With sunshine and warm temperatures, volunteers were eager to get started early each morning, and the crew not only completed every assigned task but also tackled several additional projects.

Volunteers rolled up their sleeves and took on a wide range of jobs essential to preparing the LOJ property for summer operations. Crews raked and cleared leaves, ran backpack blowers, and kept chainsaws busy removing downed trees. Roadways were graded, logs and wood were moved, and the wood splitter team stayed active splitting and stacking a fresh supply of firewood.

Backtracks 2026

A new laneway to HPIC was completed and topped with wood chips, cabin tents were set up, and the LOJ was fully “summerized.” Adirondack chairs were brought out of storage and inspected, storm windows were swapped for screens, hinges were oiled, gardens were planted, and supplies for Johns Brook Lodge were weighed and loaded.



Meals were excellent throughout the weekend, thanks to Day Jordan and the kitchen staff. Volunteers enjoyed happy hours on Friday and Saturday, complete with cheese and sausage platters.

Black River’s own Rich Ross provided dessert treats on Saturday evening and shared a Fall Work Weekend movie, including the Halloween costume gathering, which added fun and nostalgia to the evenings.

Mark and ADK provided each volunteer with an **ADK Work Weekend pull on cap**, a thoughtful token of appreciation. We were also pleased to welcome several first time attendees: Sarah Mastro, Joe Smith, Cate DiNoto, and Charlotte Jaanimag. (If we missed anyone, please let us know.)



Tim extends his thanks to all volunteers for their hard work, patience, and good spirits—and to ADK staff for their excellent support and coordination. Formal dates for the **Fall Work Weekend** will be announced soon. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this Spring Work Weekend such a success. We look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

May 2026

Black Pond Wildlife Management Area Hike

On **May 12th at 6 PM**, twelve Black River Chapter members gathered for an evening walk through the **Black Pond Wildlife Management Area**, one of the ecological treasures of the Eastern Lake Ontario Marshes Bird Conservation Area. This rare lakeshore barrier beach and wetland complex is known for its rich bird habitat, sweeping dunes, and quiet shoreline... and it delivered all of that and more.

The accessible path and boardwalk guided the group through wetlands alive with spring activity. Members enjoyed identifying the area’s diverse flora and spotting plenty of fauna along the way: **birds, frogs, and even a few snakes... oh my!** From the observation platform, the group paused to take in the expansive views and listen for the calls of migrating

Backtracks 2026

and resident birds moving through the marsh.

The walk continued out to the Lake Ontario shoreline, where the late-day light and cool breeze made for a peaceful finish to the outing. As always, Black Pond rewarded those who took the time to explore it.

After the hike, several participants gathered to enjoy **homemade rhubarb pie**, a perfect ending to a beautiful evening outdoors. As one member put it, *"It's a good evening when you go home with your belly full, the songs of the birds still singing in your ears, and remembering beautiful Lake Ontario's breeze on your face."*

A heartfelt thankyou to everyone who joined us for this memorable spring outing.

Massawepie Hike

Saturday, May 16th - On a clear spring morning, chapter members met at the entrance to the Massawepie Boy Scout Camp for a relaxed two-hour hike through one of the North Country's most beautiful forested properties. The large sign along Route 3 made the meeting spot easy to find, and by 10 AM the group was gathered and ready to explore.

Although the specific trail was chosen the morning of the hike, the options at Massawepie never disappoint. The network of paths winds through quiet woods, past wetlands, and along the edges of the camp's lakes and ponds. Members enjoyed an unhurried pace, time to talk, and plenty of opportunities to take in the scenery.



A highlight of the outing was reaching the **famous "Tree of Girth,"** a

massive old-growth white pine well known in camp lore. The group took time to admire its size and even measure its impressive circumference, always a fun moment for anyone seeing this Adirondack giant for the first time.

After the hike, many stayed to enjoy lunch and snacks together, making the outing as much

about community as it was about the miles walked. Rated a "C" for its easygoing nature, this trip offered a perfect spring warm-up and a reminder of how fortunate we are to have places like Massawepie in our region.



Backtracks 2026

Jacques Cartier State Park Hike (Tuesday Trail)

Tuesday, May 19th Like its namesake, a small group of intrepid explorers came to the shores of the St. Lawrence River at Jacques Cartier State Park in Morristown. The easy 2.1 mile network of trails brought us past a small, but hopeful, waterfall and stream with a lovely seating area. The wooded trails are very well maintained and offer little elevation change. We look forward to returning for cross country skiing or snowshoeing in the winter.



Chaumont Barrens Hike

Saturday, May 30th - It did not disappoint again this year at Chaumont Barrens! Our group of 11 trekkers (new members, long-time members, legacy members and Facebook followers) set off to see what treasures awaited us on this unique property. For some, it was their first time to this Nature Conservancy managed site while for others it was an annual visit that is their kickoff for summer exploring.

The ladyslippers and columbine put on an impressive show but the prairie smoke was the main attraction (we may have been about 24-48 hours before peak blooming but it was still a wonderful site). The partly cloudy skies and light breeze made the 2.1 mile walk an easy one as we wound our way along the alvar landscape covered in grasses, yellow buttercup and reindeer lichen and forest path lined with white cedar, wild sarsaparilla and blue phlox. And let's not forget the deep-fissured limestone and fossilized bedrock.



We hope you are able to join us again next year in Chaumont!



Backtracks 2026

June 2026

Tug Hill Traverse Trail Hike

Saturday, June 6th, -We had a group of **13 hikers**, an impressive turnout considering the weather forecast, the bugs, and the lingering winter debris on the trail. This outing was designed as an **introductory hike for new participants**, planned for just a couple of hours—but as it turned out, people weren't in any hurry to leave.

At the beginning of the hike, I (Cindy Stewart) promised everyone the **full Tug Hill experience**: rugged twisty-turny up and down trails, winter blowdown to step over, rain in the forecast, and of course... bugs. I told them they'd go home with sore muscles, wet muddy boots, and a few "red badges" courtesy of the black flies.

In the end, none of that mattered. Muddy boots and bug bites were forgotten as enthusiasm for the trail took over. Hikers lingered long after the outing officially ended, talking about the route, the scenery, and the fun they had navigating Tug Hill's terrain. I tried to wrap things up several times, but the conversations kept going—always a good sign. It was exactly the kind of welcoming, low-pressure outing we hoped for, and a great introduction to the beauty (and personality) of Tug Hill.



1000 Islands Family Free Day & Table Event

Saturday, June 6th, Three Black River Chapter members represented ADK at the Antique Boat Museum's annual summer celebration, a lively event that brings together families, outdoor enthusiasts, and local organizations along the St. Lawrence River. Although the weather proved a bit discouraging and reduced the number of visitors stopping by our booth, the day still offered plenty of energy, activity, and opportunities to connect.

Despite the clouds, the museum grounds were buzzing with excitement. Visitors cheered on the always entertaining Cardboard Boat Regatta, explored kids' crafts and games, and lined up for the \$5 speedboat rides that offered a thrilling spin on the river. Live music from the Bad Husbands Band kept spirits high, while food trucks and museum gallery tours added to the festive atmosphere.



Even with the weather limiting foot traffic, our presence helped keep ADK visible in the community and connected us with those who braved the conditions to celebrate the start of summer.



Star Lake Loon Count

Saturday July 18th — **Another successful day for the Black River Chapter's loon count!** Despite an unfavorable weather forecast, a dedicated team of four set out hoping conditions would improve. When we arrived at our Star Lake put-in at 7:30 a.m., a light drizzle greeted us but our spirits were high. Boats were launched at 7:50, the rain eased, and we headed out across the lakes.

Our first sighting came in the northern end of Third Lake: a mother loon with her chick. Moments later we heard the tremolo call of the male, and soon spotted him toward the southern part of the lake keeping watch over his family.

We also had some unexpected help from a friendly couple cruising slowly through Second Lake. They reported two adult loons, one near Hiawatha Island and another near Brownie Point, adding valuable observations to the morning's count.

The rain held off until all boats were safely back on their trailers. A splendid day on the water and another meaningful contribution to loon conservation.



Black River Chapter / Publications Editor
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Natural Bridge, NY 13665



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

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Mail to:

Upcoming Events

August 7 th	Traverse Trail Workday
August 15 th	Black River Feeder Trail Bike
August 15 th	Traverse Trail Workday
August 24 th	Red Sandstone Trail
August 29 th	Paddle Wanakena
Sept. 3 rd	Chapter Business Meeting
Sept. 10 th	Big Trout Lake Hike
Sept. 11 th	Traverse Trail Workday
Sept. 18-20 th	ADK 2026 Fall Outing
Sept. 26 th	Traverse Trail Workday
Oct. 3 rd	Baker Woods Fall Clean up
Oct. 7 th	Bicycling the Rail Trail

Oct. 14 th	Paddle at Flat Rock Reservoir
Oct. 16-18	JBL Volunteer Work Weekend
Oct. 30-Nov 1	Heart Lake Volunteer Work Weekend
Nov. 5 th	Chapter Business Meeting
Nov. 7 th	Mt Van Hoevenberg Hike
Nov. 10 th	Hike McKenzie Mountain
Nov. 21 st	Chapter Annual Meeting
Feb. 26-28	2027 Winter Outing

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
Questions?? Call (315) 775-8375