

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

ONONDAGA CHAPTER

TALK OF THE TRAIL Winter 2025

December ❄️ January ❄️ February



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS EDITION

- Tribute to Mary Coffin
- Awards
- Widowmakers
- Outings



Adirondack
ADK
Mountain Club

ADK ONONDAGA CHAPTER

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Submissions for the spring edition accepted until February 1. Send to Jamie Condon.

ABOUT THE COVER

Mary & Bill Coffin
working the Hazel Hoes.

Photo Courtesy Bill Coffin

ADK ONONDAGA CULTURE

We believe diversity makes us stronger. We believe inclusion fuels our cause. We welcome people of all races, ages, genders, sexual identities, religious affiliations, and national origins. Join us today!

AN ADK SIZED WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Mary Fedorko, Jim & Sara Kohlbrenner, Richard & Moseson, Alex Alois, Kevin Burghardt, Carl Geiger & Kelly Wypych, Travis & Jennifer Hayden, Michael Kowalski, Jeff Letterly & Lara Philip, Rod Radford, William & Susan Street, Joan Young.

Latest Membership Stats	Membership as of September	Affiliates	Change Since June
Onondaga Chapter	1,326	8	+121
Adirondack Mountain Club Overall	unknown	n/a	unknown

CHAPTER EMAIL UPDATES

Join our Google Group:

<https://groups.google.com>

Search for our group name:
ADK-On-Email

FIND ADK ONONDAGA ONLINE

<https://adk-on.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/adkonondaga>

https://www.instagram.com/adk_onondaga_chapter/

<https://www.meetup.com/adk-onondaga-chapter-outings/>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

To update your mailing address, phone number or email address, email

membership@adk.org or call
800-395-8080



Note from the Editor

Jon Bowen summed it up, "we'll all miss Mary".

Thank you to everyone who sent words and pictures to add to this newsletter as a tribute to Mary Coffin.

You overwhelmed me. If I missed publishing a Mary story that you sent me, I deeply apologize. Please send it to me for a future newsletter! I've left off photo captions as there were so many photos I wanted to put in here and captioning them became problematic. If there is one you wish details on, email me and I will reach out to the person who provided the photo and/or tell you what I know.

-Jamie Condon

BY BRUCE HOLLOWAY

Remembering Mary Coffin's Legacy of Service

Earlier this summer, Jack Belanger, a grad student from Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication, reached out to the ADK Onondaga Chapter to profile its legacy of outdoor stewardship. When it came to capturing this history, longtime members Bill and Mary Coffin, who together have dedicated over 40 years to trail conservation, were a natural choice. As we all mourn the loss of Mary Coffin, this interview is a tribute to her passion and lasting contributions to New York's hiking trails. You can read the full interview here: <https://www.thenewhouse.com/off-campus/chittenango-couple-celebrate-40-years-trail-clearing/>

Salute to the Trails Crew

The maintenance crew removal of LOTS of trees and branch blowdown has finally ended earlier in October. I have never seen so many blowdowns on the Onondaga and FLT trails!

Thanks to all who helped clear them.

So long Fall

What a beautiful Fall we just went through this mid-October. I was looking out the back of my house and thinking this year was the most colorful (I think I say this every year). But now I expect November has brought the last of the leaves off the trees, and leaves have turned the woods from color to shades of gray. Then I realize that when the snow comes, the woods are absolutely beautiful again. The snow covers the ground and hangs delicately on the tree branches.

But don't wait for the snow, get outside for the enjoyment of chilly weather hiking, in anticipation of the snow!



Fall Meeting/Dinner 2024

BY PAT URBAN, SANDY MANCA, PEG WHALEY

Thank you to everyone who came to our fall meeting/dinner, November 2, to make it a fun event. A special thank you to John Lang for a sizable donation which enabled us to have it at Highland Forest. Shoutouts also go to Ann Furze and Kathy Campbell who led morning hikes. In addition, Mary Niemi read a beautiful tribute to Mary Coffin, a beloved ADK member, who passed recently. We were also honored to have Nathan Hayes, Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, who spoke on his vision for the future of the Finger Lakes Trails. Thank you again to all who attended.



BY HAROLD KYLE

We had a great team effort in 2024. Our chapter has logged over 2,600 hours performed by 122 different volunteers between October 2023 and September 2024. 58 of these volunteers were new. The highlights of the trail work in 2024, included:

- Recovery from hundreds of downed trees that occurred during July tornadoes on the M22. Within two months, all trails in our region were cleared of downed trees.
- Three reroutes of local trails including a much more sustainable switchback heading to Jones Hill from Spruce Pond.
- Better blazing and signage on trailheads throughout the region.
- Construction of almost 50 puncheons between Deruyter State Forest and the western exit from Cuyler Hill State Forest.

We've had two sections of our local trails unexpectedly close down for hunting between October 1 and January 1 this year:

1. The trail between Deruyter Reservoir and Highland forest is temporarily closed.
2. The trail between Midlum Spur Rd and Maxon Creek State Forest is closed.

The first should be temporary because the Finger Lakes Trail is (right now) working to protect our easement to access this trail. Always please use the FLT's website for updated maps and information on trail closures: <https://fingerlakestrail.org/>

The Finger Lakes Trail is a patchwork of footpaths on both private and public land. Maintaining access to the private land takes a lot of patience, negotiation, and determination by volunteers (such as our Chapter's Landowners Committee) and by FLT's paid staff and contractors. If you enjoy using the Finger Lakes Trail, please don't forget to support the FLTC's efforts to keep our trail open by joining as a member or donating during the upcoming Fall Appeal.

With the 2024 trail maintenance season winding down, we're looking forward to tackling the following projects in 2025:

- A reroute to avoid a Slip N Slide on O2 in Deruyter State Forest between Tromp Rd and Stanton Rd.
- A trail to connect the Irish Hollow spur from Midlum Rd, so that we can retain access from the east during hunting season (see above).
- A possible bridge on the O2 south of Damon Rd to replace the landowners' pontoon bridge.
- Additional box steps at Chippewa Falls.
- With the support of the ADK Onondaga Landowner Committee and the FLTC, trying to obtain easements to protect our access to trails.

Mary Coffin passed away unexpectedly last month on the first day of a recent FLTC leadership retreat. There, I was asked to describe someone who embodies the best values of the FLTC. Two words came to mind when talking about her as a model for the organization. First, she was an outstanding steward in all senses of the word: stewarding the land with her conservation, stewarding people by cultivating new volunteers, and stewarding the trails with her hard work. Second, despite her passing she has left an enduring legacy through her decades-long work. Unlike temporary closures of trails, her work preserving trails lives on through the easements, volunteers, and work she planned. We will miss Mary greatly but will always have her as our mentor and guiding light. The ADK Onondaga, the FLTC, and the NCT are all committed to continue down the trail she scouted out for us: making our long-distance footpaths endure through stewardship.

BY HAROLD KYLE

It's hard to single out one person as Trail Master in 2024, so ADK Onondaga will recognize two Trail Masters in 2024.



Kim Putnam – Trail Master 2024

The first has been a crucial member of all our maintenance teams and joined most if not all our trail outings in 2024. The Spruce Pond reroute would never have happened without her benching. She brings a can-do attitude, lots of determination, a Rogue Hazel Hoe and Nutter Butter. With her Rogue Hazel Hoe in hand, she benches like she's mining for gold. Everyone in the Chapter loves someone else who loves to bench, so our first Trail Master award of 2024 goes to Kim Putnam.

Joe Condon – Trail Master 2024

Any other year, a single Trail Master would suffice, but we were hit with tornadoes on several of our Finger Lakes Trail sections this year. Trees were littered everywhere. Now, our Chapter has historically embraced the crosscut saw as a way of slowly savoring sawing through blowdowns. I think if we used crosscut saws after the July winds, we'd be savoring the sawing well into next year. So, we greatly appreciate our chainsaw sawyer for blasting quickly through hundreds of trees. When he shows up for trail work, the 10-foot rule doubles to 20 feet. The second Trail Master award of 2024 goes to Joe Condon.





Qinru Qi, Qing Wu, and Alex Wu Steward of the Year 2024

We have about 55 volunteers who maintain Finger Lakes Trail sections, varying in length from a half mile all the way up to 3 miles. For many of the volunteers, this is their main way of giving back to the FLT and to the ADK Onondaga Chapter. Many trail stewards don't come to outings or to business meetings, so some in the Chapter might be unaware of their efforts. To recognize excellence in maintenance of trail sections, we honor a Steward of the Year.

This Steward of the Year is actually a family of stewards. They tackle the work of not one but two sections. They visit their sections frequently and they often bring friends to help. They don't have a simple section, either—contending with a steep hill that frequently has blowdowns. They have stretches of brambles and of poison ivy. This year they had to share the stewardship with a family of beavers whose pond sat precariously a foot above the path. The trail remained open throughout all these challenges and was always a pleasure to hike. The ADK Onondaga Chapter recognizes Qinru Qi, Qing Wu, and Alex Wu as Steward(s) of the Year for their work on O2-9 Armstrong Pond and O2-10 Hirt Hill. *-Harold Kyle*

FLT Wally Wood Distinguished Service Award - Sigi Schwinge



This year, the Finger Lakes Trail Conference presented the Wally Wood Distinguished Service Award to Sigi Schwinge, recognizing her decades-long dedication to preserving and promoting the Finger Lakes Trail. This esteemed award is presented annually to individuals who have made exceptional, long-term contributions to the FLTC. The award honors the legacy of Wallace "Wally" D. Wood, a visionary and founding President of the FLTC, who conceived the idea of a long-distance footpath spanning New York State.

Sigi Schwinge's involvement with the FLTC and the Adirondack Mountain Club spans more than three decades, during which time she has exemplified leadership, commitment, and passion for hiking and conservation. Sigi has completed the FLT end-to-end three times—a testament to her love of the trail itself. Her roles within the FLTC have included serving as a board member, program chair, and liaison between the FLTC and ADK, fostering collaboration and shared stewardship between the two organizations. Sigi has also served as our chapter Chair. Today, Sigi coordinates ADK Onondaga's stewardship over the Pigeon Lakes Wilderness Area, continuing her legacy of trail preservation and responsible outdoor leadership.

In addition to her official roles, Sigi actively engages the hiking community by leading hikes on our official chapter's outing schedule and hosting the popular Monday Walk n Talk hikes, which she established years ago to provide hiking opportunities for those who aren't comfortable venturing out on their own. Her enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment make Sigi an invaluable member of the ADK Onondaga Chapter. Congratulations Sigi!

Major Achievements of Members

- ✓ Erin Potter completed the Finger Lakes Trail (main trail)
- ✓ Sandy Manca completed the Northeast 115 (peaks over 4,000 feet)

Congratulations to Erin and Sandy - *Peg Whaley*

MARY NIEMI (at the Annual Meeting)

We want to acknowledge the recent passing of Mary Coffin on October 25 and to share with each other and her family our deep love and admiration for her. She was an extraordinary person who lived an impactful life using her intellect, personality, values and experience to focus on creating and preserving local, state and national trail systems.

As a former science teacher and lifelong outdoors person, she continued to learn and became a treasured source for trail history and development. Most of all, she was a kind and welcoming presence who connected with people in our chapter and in the wider community. I was asked at the ADK Fall Outing in Olivebridge, NY if I knew the "famous Mary". Her fame is well-deserved from her many contributions to the hiking community, but Mary was a truly humble person who never sought the spotlight.

A memorial service will be planned at a future date with her family when we can give Mary a fitting tribute for a life well lived and who touched so many people in such positive ways.



DICK LIGHTCAP

I hiked many miles with Mary through many years. We also did lots of trail building and maintenance together. I always felt that her work on The North Country Trail was exemplary. She contributed so much to the construction of that trail. She was such a good friend to me as she was to so many. I miss her.



FLORENCE AND BOB GRIMM

We first met Mary on ADK Extended Outings in Canada, The Olympic Peninsula, Tug Hill and countless other trips. Her leadership skills and personality led to a strong friendship with her and Bill. We were the driving force in having Mary receive ADK's Distinguished Volunteer Award.

We were welcome at their home as they have at ours. As recently as this past summer we shared a family celebration at the home of our daughter in Morrisville.

Mary's positive attitude and lightheartedness are sorely missed.



LISA DRUKE

Mary was one of a kind and will be greatly missed by all!



JAMIE CONDON

If I had to sum up my short experience with Mary Coffin in one word it would be Generous. Mary was generous with her time, generous with her knowledge, generous with her kindness and generous with her patience.



BOB ROSATI

I will always remember Mary's gentle way of "guiding" us to create a trail. Instead of stating "you are doing it wrong", she would hint you might want to consider using another technique. She was an amazing teacher, mentor and friend and I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned and grown from her wealth of knowledge. She will be missed, but we will continue to carry on her work establishing the North Country Trail in the Adirondacks.



PEG WHALEY

Mary's love and enthusiasm for trails was contagious - whether it was building, maintaining or preserving. Her knowledge and perseverance will surely be missed.

DICK FRIO

Great educators inspire. Mary was my inspiration. She graciously shared with me her extensive knowledge of trail maintenance and trail design. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have known her and hiked the trails with her.



JON BOWEN

We'll all miss Mary.

I will miss Mary on our flagging trips for the NCT near Stone Dam Lake trail. She recruited me to Vice Chair and Chair of our chapter. She got me involved with FLTC and Bill recruited me for the FLTC board. Later she had me involved with the NCTA. My life would have been much different without Mary.



PAT URBAN

I remember Mary for her kindness, patience, and knowledge of trails, landowners, conservation issues, people to contact with issues and much, much more. She had a passion for maintaining trails and developing new trails in the North Country. Shortly after I became a trail steward Mary taught me how to use a hazel hoe to bench my trail. She also taught me how to properly blaze trails. Her enthusiasm was contagious and made you want to live up to her standard. We have lost a great ADK leader.



RUTH DORROUGH

Mary respected organizational structure and contributed with wisdom and intelligence to its processes. However, the impact she had on so many lives grew from her remarkable ability to connect with individuals, nurturing unique strengths, personalities, and interests. Those of us who experienced her fun loving, knowledgeable and kind servant leadership have indeed been blessed.



One of Mary's Awards

<https://northcountrytrail.org/2015-national-park-service-midwest-region-enduring-service-award-mary-coffin/>

DEBBIE & GARY KARL

My husband Gary and I became acquainted with Mary about six years ago after responding to an article she wrote for ADK's Adirondac magazine that included a request for volunteers to help establish the new Jones Hill trail in the Hoffman wilderness nearby us at Schroon Lake.

From the start Mary was exceptionally and consistently committed, kind, caring and responsive—and, above all, inspiring!!! She was patient and instructive in teaching us trail building skills. We were blown away and humbled to imagine years (actually, decades!) of backbreaking work Mary and her "friends" had done on trails for the rest of us to enjoy. As much as anything, we learned that to volunteer with Mary was to become her friend.

Mary welcomed us with open arms, encouraging us to become stewards on a portion of the new trail as well. As with every other initiative concerning Mary, she facilitated every single detail, faithfully over time.

Mary also did an amazing job organizing the National Scenic Trail Celebration hosted nearby in 2023, a multi-day event that really introduced us to the magnitude of this wonderful trail initiative, nationally.

While we have not had the pleasure of meeting Mary's husband Bill or the rest of her family, she spoke of them lovingly, voicing pride in each of them and in their accomplishments.

How I wish I had a photo that includes Mary. However, Mary was always the one behind the camera—spotlighting others, not herself.

Gary and I were shocked and saddened to learn of Mary's passing, wishing for more time together. We hope to carry on enjoying and maintaining a trail she loved, in her honor.

JENNA WEITZEL

Some 25 years ago Mary Coffin taught a session on backpacking. The group met on the deck at her house to learn among other things: how to pack and what to take on a backpacking trip, food choices, stoves, appropriate dishware, water purifying pumps, a tool for digging a hole for bodily function #2, where to dig the hole and packing out all trash and paper. Mary didn't miss anything!

She even showed us how to fashion a wash basin for tent bathing/hygiene by cutting the top off a clear gallon milk jug leaving the bottom which weighed almost nothing and could fit in the bottom of a pack, be filled with pack contents and retrieved to hold water once camp was set up. Not of interest to the guys but I carried and used mine on all my backpacking trips.

Then Mary put a beginner's backpacking w/e outing on the schedule. With out backpacks and tents we hiked to Queer Lake and set up our tents. Mary undertook the herculean task of digging a trench hole to handle the whole group's #2 bodily functions. It was a brutal job breaking through tree, bush and weed roots and hard packed soil.

Mary led us on a hike in the area and then we returned to fix our supper and get ready for bed . I had a 3 person tent and agreed to share it with another woman. The woman confided to Mary that she didn't wear panties to bed and was worried that I might be appalled. So Mary took me aside to tactfully appraise me of the issue and verify I would be OK with it. I doubt that I would have even noticed. My tent mate turned out to be a real talker and I think we kept most of the campers awake until way after midnight. Jim Wade eventually hollered at us.

Next day we had breakfast, took down the tents, repacked and (me on shaky legs) we hiked back out. It was a monumental task to organize that whole weekend but Mary didn't miss a thing (including filling in that trench hole for #2 and covering it with heavy branches and debris.)

Mary was so organized and competent, always with that "almost shy" unassuming smile that she made what she did look effortless, but we who knew her realize she was a gentle powerhouse. I hope she knew how much she was loved, admired and appreciated.



We will honor Mary's vision by continuing to support and develop the NCT trail through the Adirondacks, keeping her dream alive. - *Bob Rosati*

NORM KUCHAR

Walt Hayes and I, of ADK Schenectady, did a lot of exploring for the North Country Trail in the eastern Adirondacks, making about 75 exploratory hikes along the trail's proposed route from 2006 to 2019. During this time, Mary was always the rock, always full of energy for exploring and building the trail. When we became discouraged about the slow progress on the trail, Mary's perseverance lifted us out of our despair. The completion of the Jones Hill section of the NCT last month - first completed section in the eastern Adirondacks - is a real monument to Mary and the energy she brought to the party.

In May of 2012, Mary accompanied us on a NCT exploration to Jones Hill. Here is a photo taken at the summit of Jones Hill. Explorers were: Walt Hayes, Dave Loux, Mary MacDonald, Norm Kuchar, Virginia Adler and Mary Coffin. At the end of the hike, Bill Coffin met us at a trailhead and provided the NCT sign.



STEPHANIE CAMPBELL

I had the honor to work alongside Mary for four years in my professional capacity as the North Country Trail Association's Regional Trail Coordinator in New York and Vermont. During this time, she graciously allowed me to learn from and assist her in furthering her legacy of completing the NCNST across the Adirondack Park. I will remember her most for her sharp memory, keen forethought, zest for adventure and hard work as well as kindness toward others. When I was at my lowest in my personal life, Mary was always there to listen and lend support without thought or hesitation. She was a one of a kind colleague, friend, and human being. My life is better for having met her and I will carry her memory forward in my professional work to keep the fire of passion for trails kindled in the hearts of future generations of volunteers just the way she would have wanted.



Mary & Stephanie discussing the NCTA:

<https://archive.storycorps.org/interviews/mary-coffin-and-stephanie-campbell-north-country-trail-association-september-2023/>

One of Mary's many articles:

<https://www.protectadks.org/my-relationshipaddiction-with-the-north-country-national-scenic-trail-in-the-adirondack-park/>

BY DICK FRIO



In the spring after we cleared multiple blowdowns near the bridge, we left this large Widowmaker for Mother Nature to deal with. MapO1 Onondaga Branch Trail. *Photo Courtesy Dick Frio*



ADK-ON member, certified FLT chainsaw sawyer Joe Condon, removes that Widowmaker from the trail. *Photo Courtesy Dick Frio*

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the noun Widowmaker was first used by William Shakespeare in his play King John in the 1600s. Later, the term gained popular use in American folklore, as Pecos Bill, the famous cowboy, rode a horse named Widowmaker and used a rattlesnake called Shake as his lasso. The African Cape Buffalo, responsible for over 200 fatal gorings each year, is also known as the Widowmaker. In medicine, the word describes a critical blockage in the left anterior descending artery, often leading to fatal heart attacks. Meanwhile, in Australia, the eucalyptus tree has earned the nickname Widowmaker for its tendency to drop heavy branches onto cars, houses, and sometimes people.

In forestry, the term emerged when native forests were being harvested with axes and crosscut saws. If a sawyer didn't notice broken branches up in the crown of a tree, these branches could fall as the tree was felled. Since most forestry workers were men, the lethal branches came to be known as Widowmakers.



Come along strap secured to Widowmaker *Photo Courtesy Dick Frio*

This past spring, our sawyer crew was tasked with clearing a large blowdown near the bridge heading east toward Hemlock Lean-to in Morgan Hill State Forest. As we worked, we noticed a particularly large Widowmaker dangling precariously. Rather than tackle it immediately, we decided to let Mother Nature bring it down

naturally so we could remove it safely once it was on the ground. That day, our crew included Joe Condon, Dick Harper, Bruce Holloway, Dave Grant, and Bob Rosati, and we all took bets on when that branch might finally come down.

Despite tornado-like winds throughout the summer, the branch stayed perched above the trail, presenting a significant hazard. Then, on September 27, while clearing a few blowdowns in preparation for the Morgan Hill Meat Grinder trail race the following day, Joe, Bob, and I finished our work early and checked on the stubborn Widowmaker. Much to my surprise, Joe happened to have a come-along winch in his truck. Though I was hesitant, we managed to get that branch safely on the ground and removed the blowdown entirely. Sometimes, things just go right on the trail! Sadly, no one won the betting pool.

Date(s)	Outing	Leader(s)
Repeating	Walking Wednesday	Mary Niemi/Bruce Holloway
Mon, Dec 2	Lights on the Lake	Sigi Schwinge, Theresa Evans
Sat, Dec 7	Camillus Forest Unique Area	Mary Niemi
Sun, Dec 8	Moss Lake Snowshoe in Memory of Mary Coffin	Sandy Manca
Sun, Dec 15	Great Bear Springs 10k Hike	Kathy Campbell
Sat, Dec 21	Pratt's Falls Winter Solstice Hike	Lisa Druke
Sun, Dec 29	Holiday Gathering - Land O' Pines	Peg Whaley, Mary Dineen
Sat, Jan 4	Stoney Pond Snowshoe	Sandy Manca
Sun, Jan 5	Snowshoe Onondaga Spur Trail Rt 13 to Shackham Rd S	Kathy Campbell
Mon, Jan 6	Clark Reservation	Sigi Schwinge, Theresa Evans
Sat, Jan 11	Nelson Swamp Unique Area Snowshoe	Lisa Druke
Thu, Jan 16	Snowshoe Hoxie Gorge	Erin Potter
Sat, Jan 18	Highland Forest Hike/Snowshoe	Mary Niemi
Sat, Jan 25	Lime Hollow Nature Center Winter Solace Hike	Sigi Schwinge, Theresa Evans
Sat, Feb 1	Fellows Hill Loop Snowshoe/Hike	Mary Niemi
Mon, Feb 3	Green Lakes State Park	Sigi Schwinge, Theresa Evans
Sun, Feb 9	Moxham Mountain	Lisa Druke
Sat, Feb 15	Rob's Trail Preserve Traverse	Theresa & Jay Evans
Sun, Feb 16	Hike The Stone Valley Loop Trail on the Raquette River	Kathy Campbell

Hike Leader Ratings

Leader Level	Rating	Effort Level	Elevation Gain (ft.)	Miles	Time (hrs.)
1	C	Easy	Under 1,000	< 5	< 5
1	C+	Fairly Easy	1,000	5 to 8	4 to 6
2	B	Moderate	1,000	5 to 10	5 to 7
2	B+	Moderately Strenuous	2,000	5 to 10	6 to 8
3	A	Strenuous	3,000	5 to 10	8 to 10
3	A+	Very Strenuous	4,000	10	10

Notice to Participants

Choose only outings suitable to your abilities; call the leader if you are unsure. Outing leaders are not guides; they are volunteers willing to share their knowledge and experience with you. Please give them your cooperation and respect. Stay with the group at all times. Stay behind the leader unless permission is given to go ahead, and then stay within sight of the group. Make sure the leader is aware if you must leave the group. Dress properly for the type outing and the weather, and be prepared for changing weather conditions. The leader has the right to refuse anyone who is not prepared for the outing.

New hikers should call the leader before their first outing. Most outings starting in the

morning are designed for a full day with return to the meeting place prior to dinnertime.

Hazardous weather or insufficient snow on snowshoe and/or cross-country ski trips may require a change of destination.

Transportation: Refer to Covid-19 table for carpooling guidance. Passengers are expected to contribute toward the cost of the transportation.

Risk: There are risks involved in our outings. Anyone participating does so at their own risk, and is required to sign the *Release of Liability Form* provided by the leader.

Overnight Outings: Overnight outings are open only to ADK members.

Dogs: Please contact the leader in advance if you would like to bring a dog. It is up to the leader to decide if a dog is allowed to join the hike.

Meeting Places

Participants gather at a meeting place as designated in the outing write-up. Primary meeting places are:

Thruway Exit 34: For outings to the east and northeast. Park & Ride Lot is on the left as you approach the toll plaza from N. Peterboro St (Canastota).

Thruway Exit 39: Park & Ride Lot (relocated to Jones Rd). Heading west on Rt. 690, the Jones Rd. exit is located just before the 690 exit for the Thruway entrance.

DeWitt Wegmans Park & Ride For outings to the southeast. Exit Route 481 at Fayetteville. Wegmans is on Route 5 east of the Route 481 exit. Meet at the Bus Park and Ride in front of the Hobby/Lobby.

Green Hills Plaza For outings to the south and southwest. Parking lot is on the east side of South Salina Street across from Green Hills Farms, just south of the Syracuse city line.

Camping World (old Gander RV) Cicero, NY. For outings to the north. From NY 31, take the access road for I-81 N. Camping World is on the right just past the on-ramp for I-81.

Hike Equipment Checklist

- ✓ Water (amount appropriate for outing/weather)
- ✓ Lunch and extra food
- ✓ Clothing appropriate for outing/weather
- ✓ Rain gear
- ✓ Map and compass
- ✓ Headlamp or flashlight (extra batteries)
- ✓ Whistle
- ✓ Waterproof emergency blanket
- ✓ First-aid kit
- ✓ Hiking poles (if you use them)
- ✓ Work gloves (for work hikes)
- ✓ Bright clothing (in hunting season)
- ✓ Snowshoes/skis (in winter)

9163 Walking Wednesday **Every Wednesday 9:00 AM**

Meeting Place: Dewitt Wegmans' Park & Ride (in front of Hobby Lobby)

Rating: Level 1 C, Easy, 4-5 miles, ~4-6 hours

Long Distance Trail: FLT, NCT100

R/T Drive (miles): Less than 100 miles

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 60, DeLorme p. 61, DeLorme p. 77, FLT-O1, FLT-O2, FLT-M21

Leader(s): Mary Niemi, 315-751-7492, maryrwniemi@gmail.com and Bruce Holloway, b.holloway.adk.on@gmail.com (for info).

Every Wednesday some of our members take a 3-6 mile hike on one of the many trails in CNY. The first Wednesday of each month during Spring, Summer and Fall is usually devoted to trail maintenance. The Wednesday hikes welcome new participants. Please bring lunch and sufficient water. Call or email the leaders if you have Wednesday free and would like to hike.

9164 Lights on the Lake **Mon, Dec 2 3:00 PM (Contact Leader)**

Meeting Place: Long Branch Park Onondaga Lake (at picnic area parking). We will also carpool from the east side. **Contact Leaders to confirm meeting time(s) and place(s).**

Hike Level: Level 1 C, Easy, ~4 miles out-n-back
Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 2-3 hrs.

Map Reference(s): Delorme p. 61

Leader(s): Sigi Schwinge, SigiSchwinge@aol.com, Theresa Evans, [315-414-0431](tel:315-414-0431)

We'll walk along the shore to the Salt Museum while watching sundown across the lake and coming back marveling the Lights on the Lake.

9165 Camillus Forest Unique Area **Sat, Dec 7 9:00 AM**

Meeting Place: DEC parking area Thompson Rd., Camillus, NY (off Rte. 173)

Hike Level: Level 2 C+, Mod. Strenuous, 4 miles
Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 3 hours

Map Reference(s): Delorme p. 60, Camillus Forest Unique Area trails

Leader(s): Mary Niemi, [315-751-7492](tel:315-751-7492), maryrwniemi@gmail.com

Enjoy the trails, views and old growth forest in this pretty area in the town of Camillus. Bring water & snacks. Enjoy the trails, views and old growth

forest in this pretty area in the town of Camillus. Bring water & snacks. Depending on the weather it will be a boot hike or snowshoe.

9166 Moss Lake Snowshoe in Memory of Mary Coffin

Sun, Dec 8 9:00 AM

Meeting Place: Canastota Exit 34
Hike Level: Level 1 C+, Fairly Easy, (A)
Outing Distance: 5 miles
Est hrs (excl. driving time): 3.5 hours
R/T drive: 180 miles
Map: DeLorme p. 36, ADK West Central, ADK Nat Geo 745
Leader: Sandy Manca, smank777@aol.com, [315-807-9442](tel:315-807-9442)

Will there be snow? Mary often put the first snowshoe of the season on the schedule. She was optimistic and usually right. Join me on this snowshoe around Moss Lake with the option of hiking to Sis and Bubb Lakes. We will hike if there is a lack of snow. Bring lunch. Inclement weather call Leader, rain cancels.

9167 Great Bear Springs 10k Hike

Sun, Dec 15 12:00 PM

Meeting Place: Great Bear Springs Recreation Area
Great Bear Rd, Fulton, NY 43.26571, -76.35188, intersection of Rt 57 and Great Bear Rd.
Hike Level: Level 1 C+, Fairly Easy
Outing Distance: 6.6 miles
Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 3 hours
Map Reference(s): DeLorme p.46
Leader(s): Kathy Campbell, [315-427-3917](tel:315-427-3917), kathy.al.campbell@gmail.com

We plan to complete Long Loop, described on Great Bear website as 10K: <https://friendsofgreatbear.org/maps> (to download 10k map). Gently rolling trail with arrows labeled 10K, which overlap numerous trails. Please RSVP to leader who will contact participants prior to hike regarding need for microspikes or snowshoes. Unlikely to be skiable.

9168 Pratt's Falls Winter Solstice Hike

Sat, Dec 21 10:00 AM
Meeting Place: Pratt's Falls County Park, Meet at the park entrance. 7671 Pratts Falls Rd, Manlius, NY

Hike Level: Level 1 C, Easy, 4 miles
Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 2 hours
Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 61
Leader(s): Lisa Druke, lisadruke@gmail.com, [315-447-4018](tel:315-447-4018)

Let's celebrate the winter solstice with a hike at Pratt's Falls. The small hills along the trail will keep us warm as we walk the parameter trail and visit the falls. Bring snack and water and dress in layers. Contact leader with any questions.

9169 Holiday Gathering - Land O' Pines

Sun, Dec 29 11:00 AM
Meeting Place: 8644 Preston Hill Road, Camden
Directions: Land O' Pines is on your right just past Preston Hill Gravel - black mailbox. Watch for the ADK signs.

Hike Level: Level 1 C, Easy, 2-3 miles
Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 2 hrs
Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 57
Leader(s): Peg Whaley [315-633-0154](tel:315-633-0154), Mary Dineen [315-424-1284](tel:315-424-1284)

Join us for a chapter Holiday tradition at Land O' Pines. Bring a snack to share and BYOD (bring your own drink). We will take a short walk (or snowshoe) then come back and sit by the fire and visit. PLEASE RSVP - bad weather will cancel.

9170 Stoney Pond Snowshoe

Sat, Jan 4 10:00 AM
Meeting Place: Cazenovia Lake Parking Area on Rt. 20 (near Rt 92)

Hike Level: Level 1 C, Easy, 4-5 miles
Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 3.5 hours
R/T Drive: 20 miles approx.
Map: DeLorme p. 62
www.cnyhiking.com/StoneyPondStateForest.htm
Leader(s): Sandy Manca, smank777@aol.com, [315-807-9442](tel:315-807-9442)

Snowshoe to the lean-to overlooking the farmlands of Madison County in this "close to home" state forest. If there is a lack of snow, we will hike. Bring lunch. Rain cancels, if in doubt, call the leader to confirm.

9171 Snowshoe Onondaga Spur Trail Rt 13 to Shackham Rd S

Sun, Jan 5 8:30 AM

Meeting Place: DeWitt Wegmans Park-n-Ride (in front of Hobby Lobby) (to carpool)

Note: Look for black Subaru Outback

Hike Level: Level 2 B, Moderate, 7 miles

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 4.5 hours (due to potential snowshoe travel)

Long Distance Trail: FLT, NCT100

R/T Drive (miles): 66 miles (including spotting cars at each end)

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 61

Leader(s): Kathy Campbell, [315-427-3917](tel:315-427-3917)

kathy.al.campbell@gmail.com,

This is a point-to-point hike, walking the Onondaga Spur of the FLT from the Rt 13 DEC, Truxton parking lot to Shackham Rd S, Tully pull-off. There are a few steep sections. Be prepared with microspikes and snowshoes depending on conditions, along with usual winter travel 10 essentials. **RSVP** to trip leader 24 hrs prior to departure time so adequate transportation can be planned.

9172 Clark Reservation

Mon, Jan 6 9:30 AM

Meeting Place: Clark Reservation

Hike Level: Level 1 C, Easy, 3-4 miles

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 2-3 Hrs

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 61

Leader(s): Sigi Schwinge, SigiSchwinge@aol.com,

Theresa Evans, [315-414-0431](tel:315-414-0431),

tj_evans@verizon.net

We'll pick a loop appropriate for the weather. Bring water and a snack.

9173 Nelson Swamp Unique Area Snowshoe

Sat, Jan 11 12:00 PM

Meeting Place: Cazenovia Lake Parking Area on Rt 20 (near Rt 92).

Hike Level: Level 1 C, Easy, 4 miles

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 2 hours

Long Distance Trail: NCT100

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 61

Leader(s): Lisa Druke, [315-447-4018](tel:315-447-4018),

lisadruke@gmail.com

Join me for one of my favorite winter hikes. We will follow an old rail-trail south of Cazenovia and complete the walk with a side hike on the nature trail with an overlook of Chittenango Creek. The trail is concurrent with the North Country Trail (NCT100 Challenge 2025). Bring snowshoes (with 6 inches or more of snow), snacks, water, and dress in layers.

9174 Snowshoe Hoxie Gorge

Thu, Jan 16 10:00 AM

Meeting Place: **Contact Leader to confirm.** Meet at Hoxie Gorge, option to carpool depending on member interest/availability.

Hike Level: Level 1 C+, Fairly Easy, ~7 miles

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 4 hours

Long Distance Trail: FLT

R/T Drive (miles): ~75 from Syracuse area

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 77, FLT-M20

Leader(s): Erin Potter, 607-372-1646,

erin.potter@fingerlakestrail.org

Snowshoe (or winter hike if there isn't enough snow!) about 6 miles of the FLT main trail through the beautiful Hoxie Gorge area. Car spotting will be needed for this traverse from Steve Russell Hill Rd to the Hoxie Gorge Lean-to and out to Hoxie Gorge Rd.

9175 Highland Forest Hike/Snowshoe

Sat, Jan 18 9:00 AM

Meeting Place: DeWitt Wegmans Park-n-Ride (in front of Hobby Lobby). Contact Leader if meeting us at 10:00AM at Skyline Lodge parking lot.

Hike Level: Level 1 C+, Fairly Easy, 5 - 6 miles

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 4 - 5 hrs.

R/T Drive (miles): 30 miles

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 60, Highland Forest Trails

Leader(s): Mary Niemi, [315-751-7492](tel:315-751-7492),

maryrwniemi@gmail.com

This will be a boot hike or snowshoe depending on the weather. We will hike the Highland Forest trails and check out the new trail markers. Bring snacks and water.

9176 Lime Hollow Nature Center Winter Solace Hike
Sat, Jan 25 Contact Leader

Meeting Place: Green Hills Plaza (across from Green Hills parking lot)

Hike Level: Level 1 C, Easy, 3-4 miles

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 2-3 hours

R/T Drive (miles): 65 miles

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 61,

www.limehollow.org

Leader(s): Theresa & Jay Evans at [315-414-0431](tel:315-414-0431)
or

tj_evans@verizon.net

Come join us for a walk at this nature center in Cortland. Bring snacks/lunch, water as we meander various trails. The pace will match the group's desire. Snowshoes or microspikes may be needed dependent on the conditions.

9177 Fellows Hill Loop Snowshoe/Hike
Sat, Feb 1 9:00 AM

Meeting Place: DeWitt Wegmans Park-n-Ride (in front of Hobby Lobby). Contact Leader if meeting at 10:00AM at the Herlihy Rd. snowplow turnaround

Hike Level: Level 1 C+, Fairly Easy, 5 miles

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 3 hrs.

Long Distance Trail: FLT

R/T Drive (miles): 50 miles

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 60, DeLorme p. 61

Leader(s): Mary Niemi, [315-751-7492](tel:315-751-7492),

maryrwniemi@gmail.com

Depending on the weather, this will be a boot hike or a snowshoe. We will begin with a heart pumping climb up the hill and follow this beautiful loop trail. Bring snacks and water.

9178 Green Lakes State Park
Mon, Feb 3 10:00 AM

Meeting Place: GL - West Beach Parking

Hike Level: Level 1 C+, Fairly Easy, 3-5 miles

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 2-3 hrs

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 61

Leader(s): Sigi Schwinge,

SigiSchwinge@aol.com, Theresa Evans [315-414-](tel:315-414-0431)

[0431](tel:315-414-0431), tj_evans@verizon.net

We'll pick a loop appropriate for the weather
. Bring water and a snack.

9179 Moxham Mountain
Sun, Feb 9 8:00 AM

Meeting Place: Contact Leader

Hike Level: Level 2 B, Moderate, 5.4 miles, (A)

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 4.5 hours

R/T Drive (miles): 300 miles

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 38, Nat'l Geo 744

Leader(s): Lisa Druke, [315-447-4018](tel:315-447-4018),

lisadruke@gmail.com

Last year, the weather did not cooperate for this snowshoe. Hoping for some snow this year. The trail to Moxham Mt. was constructed in 2012 and has many scenic views including nice views from the 2418' summit. In the future, the trail will become part of the North Country National Scenic trail. Dress in layers and be prepared for variable weather conditions. Bring water, lunch and a hot drink. Contact leader for an update on conditions and gear requirements.

9180 Rob's Trail Preserve Traverse
Sat, Feb 15

Meeting Time/Place: **Contact Leader**

Hike Level: Level 1 C+, Fairly Easy, 3-5 miles

Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 3-4 hours

R/T Drive (miles): ~190 miles

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p.58,

www.nature.org

Leader(s): Theresa & Jay Evans at

tj_evans@verizon.net or [315-414-0431](tel:315-414-0431)

Rob's Trail Preserve is located on Bald Hill Rd, Springwater, NY 14560, and allows access to 2 undeveloped Finger Lakes (Hemlock and Canadice Lakes). We will be hiking the Hemlock Trail (to its shoreline and back to the parking area is 3 miles) which descends to the shore of Hemlock Lake. The return will be an upward climb. If snow/trail conditions are amenable, we can look for the Connector Trail (.25) to hike the Loop Trail (1.75). Bring hike poles, snowshoes/microspikes, snacks/lunch, water, and an exploratory spirit; the area is noted as a comeback locale for the Bald Eagle, who nest at the south end of Hemlock Lake. The trails, distance, and speed of hike will depend on the group. An end of hike option is to drive north to Pittsford, NY, to have a wonderful meal at Aladdin's Natural Eatery (about 40 miles north of the trailhead). It's an easy return home via the NYS Thruway. Hope folks will join us.

9181 Hike The Stone Valley Loop Trail on the Raquette River

Sun, Feb 16 7:00 AM

Anticipate 2.5-hour drive time not including a comfort break.

Meeting Place: Camping World (old Gander RV) (Cicero) (to carpool). **RSVP to trip leader is required** 24 hours prior to departure to ensure enough drivers for group size.

Hike Level: Level 2 B, Moderate, 7.8 miles
Est. hrs (excl. driving time): 4-6 hours, Higher difficulty level was noted due to possible icy conditions on steep portions of trail.

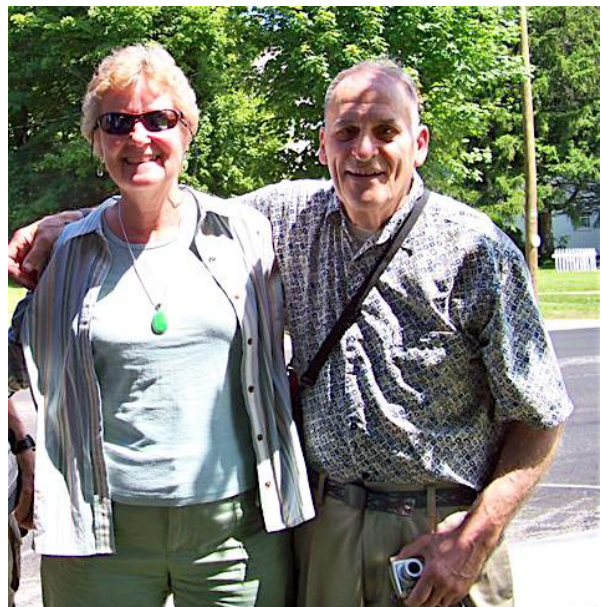
R/T Drive (miles): 266 miles (~2.5 hr drive one way)

Map Reference(s): DeLorme p. 100

Leader(s): Kathy Campbell, [315-427-3917](tel:315-427-3917)
kathy.al.campbell@gmail.com,

The Stone Valley Trail offers great opportunities for waterfall viewing along the 7.8 mile loop which parallels the Raquette River, including the dramatic 1.5 mile stretch below the dam in Colton, NY. Multiple iconic North Country waterfalls, including "The Tubbs," are located along the trail, along with informational kiosks describing the natural surroundings and history of the Raquette River.

Note: While the scenery is dramatic, care must be taken to navigate ice and snow. Microspikes, snowshoes and trekking poles, along with the usual weather appropriate clothing, water, lunch and snacks are necessary for this outing.



Mailing Address:

Adirondack Mountain Club
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Kirkville, NY 13082

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