

THE TRAIL MARKER

June-July Issue 2020

Published by the *New York Chapter, Inc. of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc.*
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To All New York Chapter Members: Camp Nawakwa Update

NOTICE: Camp Nawakwa (as well as all camps in Harriman Park) is officially closed. Keyholders should be not be accessing or using Camp Nawakwa until official notice of approval for camp use is given by the Park.

Over the Memorial weekend, Gov. Cuomo surprised the State by announcing camping and outdoor recreation is open. David Bourne, of Harriman Group Camps, feels the State may be scrambling to devise a way that can happen, and the Park may get new guidelines sooner rather than later. He requested group camps develop their plans for opening camp safely. The Board of Directors is finalizing such a plan and will be submitting it to the Park for approval. Camp opening is a fluid one and we will keep you updated.

- New York Chapter Board of Directors

From the Main Club: Hiking During Coronavirus Pack a Face Mask, Maintain Social Distance

Outdoor recreation is a good outlet for staying healthy but being outside does not mean that you are safe from spreading or catching the disease. Though case numbers are improving in New York State, coronavirus is still a major risk and social distancing measures are our best defense against another outbreak. We strongly encourage all outdoor recreators to bring a cloth face mask and hand sanitizer or soap and maintain social distancing while on the trail. The following situations all represent places where social distancing may be impossible, and a face mask will be necessary:

- A busy trailhead/parking area
- Public restrooms at trailheads
- When passing others on the trail
- At a destination (summit, pond, etc.)

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Problems Receiving the Trail Marker?

See the solution to the problem as explained on page 3 of this issue.

Change of address: Moving? Please contact the Main Club AND the NY Chapter Membership Chair, Jerry@adkny.org, to notify us of your address change.

Notice: ADKNY Members occasionally receive email notifications about hosted weekends, hikes and related Camp events. These notifications are only to be sent by the Secretary, the Hosting Committee or the Newsletter Editor.

Mass-emailing the membership for any other reason is bad etiquette and is prohibited.

Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-York-Chapter-of-the-Adirondack-Mountain-Club/167423969980047>

Follow ADK-NY on Twitter!

Get updates on Nawakwa happenings on Twitter! Go to https://twitter.com/ADK_NY, click on follow, then receive news, reminders, and special notices effortlessly! Account managed by Ingrid Strauch.

Deadline for submissions to the next edition of the Trail Marker (August-September) is July 22, 2020. All submissions can be forwarded to Ray Kozma, at raymondkozma@gmail.com

Do You Know of Any Member Who Is Not Receiving the Trail Marker?

Last year, a problem with the email delivery of the Trail Marker to some members was discovered. We are working with the Main Club to resolve the issue. [First check that the email is not in the spam folder.]

The mailing list used to distribute the Trail Marker is provided by the Main Club. It is based on the information they have for all current members of the New York Chapter. Even though you have paid your annual dues, if the email address they have is incorrect or no longer in use, that is the email they forward to us and which we use for the Trail Marker.

A list of members who are not receiving the Trail Marker, along with their current email addresses, is being put together. This list will be sent to the Main Club so they can update their records.

If you know of anyone who is not receiving the Trail Marker, please contact them and ask them to send the following information to susanneflower@gmail.com:

Name
Address
Email Address

Be Sure to See the Updated adkny.org Website with Links to Instagram and Twitter!

We've updated the website of the New York Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, adkny.org to a more user-friendly design featuring easy to navigate pages and many more photographs. The website is available to all New York Chapter members and includes details on how to obtain Nawakwa membership status - which everyone is encouraged to do!

Please email me at martymcd@me.com if you have any problem accessing the website. I'm happy to walk anyone through the setup.

Thanks!
Marty McDonald
Webmaster

From the Main Club (ADK Public Affairs):

The Restore Mother Nature Bond Act: Protecting the Environment and the Economy

This November, New York State voters have the chance to be part of an exciting, once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect clean water and restore wildlife habitat while also creating jobs and strengthening New York's economy. The [Restore Mother Nature Bond Act](#) that passed the Senate and the Assembly this spring is planned to be on November's ballot. New Yorker's will decide to approve the \$3 billion dollars Bond Act for:

- Helping communities prevent flooding by protecting areas that can slow down floodwaters

- Restoring shorelines so they can protect homes, roads, and other assets from storms

- Protecting open space, forests, and lands that filter pollution out of our drinking water

- Restoring streams, wetlands, and floodplains to support wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and improve water quality

- Upgrading transportation infrastructure (such as culverts) to reduce flooding and improve fish passage

- Improving clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure systems

- Helping farmers reduce pollution and keep our water clean

- Building new outdoor recreational amenities

- Expanding the use of clean energy

Some have asked: amid the COVID-19 crisis, is this the right time to be considering this action? The answer is **yes**. It makes sense to invest now because it not only saves taxpayer dollars later, but it's also good for the economy. The Bond Act can jump start our economy by funding transportation and infrastructure projects. It will not only protect New York's natural resources and wildlife for generations, but it will also start creating jobs immediately. Studies show that every dollar invested in conservation returns \$7 in economic benefits. This investment is going to save taxpayers money in the future by protecting against costly damage associated with climate change; Superstorm Sandy alone cost New York City \$19 billion. No new tax is proposed to fund this Bond Act. As with past bond acts, the debt will be paid from the general budget debt service payment funds. What does that mean for taxpayers? The cost of a \$3 billion Bond Act per household in New York would be about \$29 per year. Because no new taxes are being proposed to fund this Bond Act, this is an opportunity for taxpayers to ensure a portion of their current tax dollars are spent on protecting the environment.

ADK supports the Restore Mother Nature Bond Act because it will provide necessary funding to help protect open space, clean water, streams and wildlife habitat in the Adirondack Park and across the state. This will, in turn, increase opportunities for responsible recreation, and help protect communities from the impacts of climate change. Please [take action now by thanking NYS Legislators](#) for passing the Restore Mother Nature Bond Act.

Doing Some House Cleaning?

Cleaning out some closets or the attic or basement? If you find old documents from the New York Chapter, let Ellen King, our Archivist, know about it! Ellen is gathering records to make our archiving of materials as complete as possible. Whatever you find could be very valuable. Ellen can be reached at ellen_king13@msn.com. Tel: 201-247-0243.

Ellen King, our Archivist, said: *"Including me in the Trail Marker has worked! Please see Geoff Weaver's lovely note below. "*

Hello Ellen:

I was a member of Nawakwa from 1966 to around 1997. Like my father, I was not a hiker, rather a staunch Camp member. (I walked around the block only once). To get to the point, around the early '70's to make a long story short, I was asked if I would take a pile of useless stuff home and throw it out. I took it home and found it interesting. I packed it back up, put it in a big steamer trunk and forgot about it. I began to save other records (mainly my Trail Marker). Then I bought a house with a barn! You guessed it, the camp stuff along with other old stuff went in the barn for 23 years. Recently I sold that plot with the barn, so I had to empty the barn, and low and behold what do you think I came across? That's right. Stuff you might want.

In no particular order some items are: Handbook of Information 1949, Bylaws 1974 and back, correspondence from Ira Ayers plus funeral and burial info, a letter from and the complaint letter re Tenny Dickson, o-l-d rosters and activity schedules, Trail Markers, o l d financial records, etc. Then there are my father's old photos in a loose leaf notebook of 83 pages. Herb Hauptmann generously contributed some of his photos.

- Geoff Weaver

Geoff has since mailed all the material to Ellen King, our Archivist.

Note: Ellen has begun to send out, via weekly emails, articles of interest from our archives concerning the beginnings of the New York Chapter and our camps in Harriman. Included in all this is a wealth of information and photos from Geoff Weaver's collection.

Anyone who is interested in joining this group of "Nawakwa Historians" is asked to contact Ellen at ellen_king13@msn.com. Ellen's postings, including photos, are also being migrated over to our new website as well.

Activities Committee News

The Activities Committee has scheduled a Zoom Talk on Snakes & Reptiles for Sat, 6/27 @ 7:30, presented by Marylynn Malone of the PIPC Regional Museum. Password Code TBA....

Welcome Applicants

"As per our long-standing practice, each Applicant for Nawakwa membership has the help of two Sponsors during the Applicant's Qualifying period (a twelve-month period during which an Applicant must satisfactorily complete five Qualifying Events plus meet with their Sponsors). A Sponsor is a current, active Nawakwan who has been a Keyholder for at least one year and who agrees to help the Applicant learn about camp and the responsibilities of membership so that the Applicant may successfully complete the process of qualifying" (Sponsor-Applicant Handbook). Accordingly, we welcome the following Applicants:

New Applicants

Antonio Cesare
Mary James
Judith White
Michael Savas
Anna Kellerman
Juan Valencia Rojas
Anthony Marcus
Jo Sanson
James Kinsey

Welcome Recent Keyholders

"Since the New York Chapter Bylaws give the care, responsibility, and privilege of running and maintaining Camp Nawakwa exclusively to the Keyholders of the Chapter (who are also called Nawakwans), it is desirable and necessary that new Keyholder members be recruited on a regular basis. We recruit potential Nawakwans by attracting and inviting like-minded, out-door oriented, adult individuals (18 years and older) to become Applicants for Keyholder status. After completing the required qualifying activities, such new Keyholders, will take their place in the long-line of custodians of Camp Nawakwa and its traditions." Accordingly, we welcome these recent Keyholders:

Carlyle Jackman - Sponsors: Jason McGinnis and Jim Slovik

Rebecca Lenetsky – Sponsors: Ruby Kornfeld and Joe Rinaldi

Tomasso Lana – Sponsors: Janet Sibarium and Sara Wiehart

Rebecca Cittadini – Sponsors: Teri Gabel and Katie Bronson

In Remembrance



Jim Slovik

We regret to inform everyone that long-time member Jim Slovik passed away on May 3, 2020. Jim's daughter, Sofia, informed us of this sad news on May 4th. The November 1973 issue of the Trail Marker lists 'James F. Slovik' as a new member. Jim was Trails Chair from 1974 – '75.

On May 3, 2020 we lost our good friend and longtime member, Jim Slovik. I met Jim through our Brooklyn College Outing Club, the Open Road Club, in the early 70s. Jim joined the New York Chapter in 1973 and was a passionate advocate for the friendships established while maintaining our facilities and our stomachs! Jim was one of my sponsors when I became an applicant in 1979 (John Blenninger was my other sponsor) – I'm glad I got to have this photograph taken of the three of us on the porch in 2016. (photo by Lalla Grimes). Jim had a tragic accident in 2019 which prevented him from joining us at the club for many months. We will all remember Jim's good nature and willingness to jump in when help was needed on work weekends and during the years in general. He would happily transport members to the bus or train in Sloatsburg if they needed a ride, never complaining about doing this even though he would rather have been sitting at the swim dock. Jim was also an active member of the then Green Mountain Club (now Thendara Mountain Club) on Lake Tiorati since 1974 where he was just as important in hosting and maintenance. His loss will be greatly felt by both clubs which he loved especially in his retirement. Jim and I lost touch for many years while he was working with the Federal Government, but since his retirement we spent many long weekends or midweeks at both camps where we had great conversations, lots of laughs and wonderful conversations around the fireplace or on the porch. I will miss my good friend Jim, but I have many great memories of the times we spent together. RIP good friend. - Glen Nison

I did not know Jim as well as some others in the club, but I wanted to say three things about him that I admired and appreciated.

First, he was the kind of guy who was always willing to lend a hand at the club. Every weekend and activity he was involved in, he pitched in with energy and good humor. I never saw him shirk a task or avoid a challenge. He always cheerfully participated in everything, sometimes even volunteering his own equipment and money.

Next, he was a man with kind heart. I never heard him say a bad thing about anyone (unless it was a politician) and he tried to do good things for people at every opportunity. I remember one time the wipers on my car gave out when I was at camp. He dropped everything to lend me tools and advice on how to fix them. Three years later they still work.

Lastly, I'll remember his sense of humor. He liked to tease, but he did it with a wink and a grin. He appreciated a good joke and was a generous audience for any of Glen's silly puns or my clumsy wisecracks. He might roll his eyes, but he'd still reward us with a hearty laugh. He will be missed by many of us around camp. - Alex Wilke

"I got to know Jim fairly well over time and especially from a weekend he hosted where there were only three of us. Jim appeared to be a compassionate and generous person who since the 1970's was dedicated to Nawakwa and the outdoors. Jim's true nature, according to Buddha, is the nature of no birth and no death." - Suse Wenzel

Jim is a gentle soul. I will always remember him for the nice conversations I had with him. May he rest in peace. - YaJing Li



Jim at Nawakwa in 2016 with John Blenninger (one of Jim's sponsors) and long-time friend Glen Nison. Jim and John were Glen's sponsors. (Photo by Lalla Grimes)

Historic Hikes: The Ramapo-Dunderberg (Tuxedo-Jones Point) Trail

As part of our anticipating the New York Chapter's 100th Anniversary, we are outlining a series of 'historic hikes' in which we try to recreate early hikes and visit places treasured by that first generation of chapter members. The dates for these hikes will be announced once the COVID-19 pandemic has ended.

The First Trail: The Tuxedo-Jones Point Trail [See the related article in this issue about the NY-NJ Trail Conference and the New York Chapter. Excerpts below are taken from *Vista & Visions – A History of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference* by Glenn D. Scherer.]

In 1920, Major William Welch began informal talks to enlist the existing 'walking clubs' as partners in opening Harriman State Park to other less experienced hikers:

"Working together with Raymond H. Torrey, a New York Outdoor writer, J. Ashton Allis of the New Jersey's Green Mountain Club; and William W. (Billy) Bell of the Appalachian Club, Welch formulated a plan to build an extensive trail system within Harriman." ... "Allis reported that he had already spent four days scouting the west side of the park with Meade C. Dobson (a New York trapper who would help found the Adirondack Mountain Club a year later). The two men had discovered "great possibilities of making trails off the beaten paths which will open hidden scenic beauties." The meeting [of October 19, 1920] concluded with the approval of a formal proposal by Welch for the Tuxedo-Jones Point Trail, Stretching across Harriman Park from the Ramapo River to the Hudson.

"The Tuxedo-Jones Point Trail (later renamed the Ramapo-Dunderberg, or R. D.) quickly took shape. Almost 24 miles long and requiring nearly 3,500 feet of climbing, the R-D was planned as an overnight trip. With many New Yorkers concluding their work week on Saturday morning, hikers could catch the ferry to New Jersey by noon, take the mail line of the Erie Railroad north to Tuxedo, and hike straight into the woods on the R-D. By Saturday night, they would be deep inside Harriman Park, camp, and continue on to Dunderberg Mountain and Jones Point the next day, arriving in time to catch a Sunday evening train on the West Shore Railroad back to New York.

"By the spring of 1921, the first great transpark trail was completed and hailed a success The finished R-D climbed steeply away from Tuxedo, giving broad view of the Ramapo Valley. It twisted north and east and crossed the summits of eight major mountains including the Timp, with its spectacular views all the way to Manhattan. Finally, it descended the broad loaf of the Dunderberg to Jones Point. "The way to the river is through the woods and over summits," Torrey exclaimed proudly, giving "new and finer views of the Hudson on every mountain."

Our hike would be planned as an overnight hike, beginning in Tuxedo. It might be possible to work out logistics where someone could join the hike for a day, rather than doing the overnight.

- Ray Kozma

The New York Chapter - ADK

Centennial Anniversary Events

(Keep watching this space!)

There had been some questioning as to what the official year for the establishment of the New York Chapter was (and thus the date for our centennial). Although at the ADK meeting in October of 1922 Raymond Torrey was asked to form a New York Chapter, it seems that the task was not completed until 1923. Part of the explanation, perhaps, is that the Main Club had to give formal approval to the establishment of any new chapter, with the new chapter having to have a certain minimum number of members (today the requirement is 25) before approval. Whatever the reasons, it was not until 1923 that formal approval was given by the Main Club for the establishment of the New York Chapter. From our own records, we know that there was the start of a Board of Directors in 1923, with Raymond Torrey as the first Chapter Chair. Since the year 1923 is what the main club lists for the official beginning of the New York Chapter, we will therefore be celebrating our 100th Anniversary in 2023.

1. As a way to count down to the anniversary, the Trail Marker will carry articles about the history, significant events, and people connected to the development of the Main Club and the New York Chapter. In this issue, we highlight early and fruitful relationship between the New York Chapter and the Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference (formed October 19, 1920 by Major Welch and representative of the major hiking clubs at the time) and renamed on April 25, 1922 as the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.
2. We will be conducting a series of 'historic hikes and outings' in which we try to recreate early hikes and visit places treasured by that first generation of chapter members. Please see description of another historic hike on page 8.
3. A Committee is being formed to plan a grand celebration in 2023 to mark our 100th Anniversary. The date and venue are not set yet. Right now, we are looking for help from any and all New York Chapter members who might be interested in working on the planning committee. If interested, please email Susanne Flower (susanneflower@gmail.com) or Ray Kozma (raymondkozma@gmail.com).

The Creed

"I believe in the Out-of-Doors, the woods, streams and hills, the wildlife that lives therein; I believe that man's care for them in a state of nature consistent with conservation is his best investment for the future." New York Chapter, 1923

The New York Chapter and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

From their very beginnings, both the New York Chapter and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference have enjoyed an extraordinarily positive and fruitful relationship. Of course, the Trail Conference was first called the Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference (1920) and did not become the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference until 1922. And ADK didn't exist until April of 1922, with the New York Chapter following in 1923. But the individuals who would establish these groups were there and working alongside one another from 1920 onward, brought together by Major Welch (who was appointed General Manager of the Palisades Interstate Park in 1912).

Raymond Torrey (who helped form the Trail Conference and who would form and become the first Chapter Chair of the New York Chapter- ADK) was called "an indomitable spirit"... "who was the driving force behind all the metropolitan trail building, clearing, and maintaining from 1920 to 1938" (from *Vista & vision – A History of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference*, page 12).

Meade Dobson (who conceived the idea of forming the Adirondack Mountain Club) was with the Trail Conference from the start. Along with J. Ashton Allis of the Green Mountain Club, the two men "spent four days scouting the west side of the park" and discovered "great possibilities of making trails off the beaten path" (*VISION & VISTAS*, page 4).

Torrey and Allis scouted the very first 6-mile section of the Appalachian Trail "and volunteers from the Adirondack Mountain Club [NY Chapter] ...cleared and blazed the trail" (*VISION & VISTAS* page 5). In 1926, Torrey scouted the section of the S-BM from Cat's Elbow to the Bear Mountain Inn.

We might never know the names of all those first ADK trail blazers, but one we do know is that of Kerson Nurian (the Nurian Trail, which he called "The Short Trail," was one he blazed and that is still with us). Nurian became infamous for a while because of the "trail wars" that broke out in the 1930s (Raymond Torrey was evidently called in to mediate and negotiate a fair settlement). The book, *Harriman Trails: A Guide and History* by William J. Myles, on pages 50 and 101, describes "The Great Ramapo Trail Wars." On page 86 there is a picture of Kerson Nurian sitting on the dock of Camp Nawakwa in animated conversation with others.

In addition to "The Short Trail," Nurian also blazed the HTS trail, the Triangle Trail, and the White Cross Trail. In 1939, Nurian asked the Trail Conference to take over the maintenance of the White Cross Trail. "The Adirondack Mountain Club [New York Chapter] to which Nurian belonged was assigned the task, and they have continued to maintain it since then." [*Harriman Trails*, page 180.]

The New York Chapter continues its long history of cooperation with the Trail Conference through its Trail Maintenance work. A stalwart group of New York Chapter members helps to maintain portions of: The RD trail, the Triangle trail, the AT, the White Cross trail, the Long Path, the White Bar trail, and the Tuxedo-Mount Ivy trail. The maintainers, and all of us when we hike these trails throughout Harriman, are honoring the legacy given to us by that first generation of trail blazers.

[The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference can be found on-line at: nynjtc.org. Consider becoming a Trail Conference member if you're not one already.

Interested in becoming a Trail Maintainer? Contact our Trails Chair Bill Burns at: wmjburnsjr@gmail.com.]

- Ray Kozma

Historic Gleanings from our Archives

THE SAGA OF A PARKING AREA

The official opening of the new parking area will be on Saturday, November 26, at 4 PM at NAWAKWA. RSVP if you can attend.

The parking space on the lake side has been augmented by about 200 feet, and thus space for some ten cars.

The project was started in the early Seventies. The width of the area filled in was just less than two feet, similar to the stretch above the paint shed. The closest portion to Camp added about 25 or 30 feet, which enabled the 'Host Parking' to be moved closer to the main building. The portion going down the hill further out passes the lake foreman's dirt road on the right, then up the hill to where the parking area widens, for a distance of 175 feet, or a total of 200 feet. The filling is from two to five feet in depth, and six or seven feet in width and consists of:

1. All coal ashes from 1973-1986.
2. Hundreds of abandoned iron plates that once held the Erie tracks to the railroad ties.
3. All loose rocks, from fist to head size, within 100 yards of Camp.
4. Rocks rolled into rain drains along the road from Seven Lakes Drive to Camp. These were picked up by car, as were any nearby loose rocks.
5. Near my home, cemeteries were constantly abandoning rocks and many loads of 30 to 40 rocks were transported in my car.
6. Our lake foreman dropped off five or six loads of fill.
7. When our road was improved, discarded waste was made use of.
8. A few inches of marble dust, left for our gleaning, was collected after a Park project near the outer gate was completed.
9. Pebbles that were pushed off the road by our cars were used to fill in chinks between the rocks.
10. Several hundred pails of dirt and rocks were used as fill.

An engineer-member who viewed the job said that probably 140 cubic yards of varied fills were used.

It was a labor of love. A typical work day, from one to four hours, gave me a workout for 25 to 35 days of each year.

Arthur Wickborn

6.

TRAIL MARKER
NOVEMBER 1988

More from the Archives

Source: October 1940 Trail Marker:

NAWAKWA IN TREND WITH THE TIMES

The mechanization of the modern age has reached even Nawakwa. On the Millie Stager and Louise Faske week-end, who should appear in his red airplane but one of our old-time members, George Thorpe, and not to be outdone, one of our prospective members, Kenyon Peck, appears on his bicycle.

Both have different stories to tell. George had been promising us a visit for some time and was delighted to see the Old Homestead from above and on the level, and to note the looks of astonishment on the faces of the ADKers as he taxied over to the dock. After explanations on the question of reservations, a hearty welcome was extended by all present.

Kenyon's story is a little different. After working much harder than George to reach Camp, it is reported that he parked the machine in the locker room, assuming he was among friends. In the morning there was a flat. Questioning and dour suspicions seemed to be of no avail, and what's more, there was no pump or repair outfit. However, our old standby, Lou Porter, came to the rescue and furnished transportation to and from Sloatsburg. Only for the wheel, though!

The ultimate outcome of a rather unusual week-end found Ken pedaling down the road to Sloatsburg late Sunday afternoon, after watching George disappear out of sight in his red plane.

Ellen King, ellen_king13@msn.com, 201-247-0243

[Editor's Note: The Louise Faske mentioned in the article was Ellen King's mother.]

