

THE TRAIL MARKER

August-September Issue 2020

Published by the *New York Chapter, Inc. of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc.*
Peter Stuyvesant Post Office Station P. O. Box 327, New York, NY 10009-9998
Camp Nawakwa on Lake Sebago, 845-351-4135 www.adkny.org

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

Our yearly Open Board meeting for all New York Chapter members will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 11 AM. Due to the current restrictions in place due to the Corona Virus, this year the Open Board Meeting will take place via Zoom. Susanne Flower, Board Director, will set the meeting up and Eve Mancuso, Board Secretary, will send out an e-mail blast to all Chapter Members with the info to login.

Members may ask questions/make comments in three ways:

1. Via the Chat function during the meeting
2. E-mail questions directly to Susanne Flower (susanneflower@gmail.com)
3. Send written questions via USPS mail to:

*New York Chapter, Inc. of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc.
Peter Stuyvesant Post Office Station
P. O. Box 327
New York, NY 10009-9998*

Methods 2 and 3 should be completed between Monday September 7th and Friday September 11th prior to the open meeting to give Susanne Flower the opportunity to gather all of the questions/comments. The questions will be read by the Zoom Host and answered by the appropriate Board member.

The yearly gathering of New York Chapter members provides an opportunity for all to receive updates on the status of the Chapter, the workings of the Board and all committees, and current projects in development. While there will be no voting by the Chapter Membership or the Nawakwans at the meeting, important business matters will be addressed. The questions and answers, comments and suggestions, and the general discussion of topics among those participating in these yearly meetings have always been helpful in considering future plans and action.

- The New York Chapter Board of Directors

ADKNY Board of Directors and Committees

Chapter Chair: Lisa North

LisaNYChapterADK@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Teri Gabel

blaugabels@msn.com

Secretary: Eve Mancuso

Evemancuso@gmail.com

Treasurer: Suzanne Rocheleau

rocheleau3@gmail.com

Director: Marty McDonald

martymcd@me.com

Director: Mark Fedow

fedowf@aol.com

Director: Guy Lingley

glingley@vermacorp.com

Director: Marty Kellerman

mmkellerman@gmail.com

Director: William Burns

wmjburnsjr@gmail.com

Director: Susanne Flower

susanneflower@gmail.com

Membership Committee:

Chair: Jerry Flower jerry.flower@verizon.net

Members:

David Miller snoop353@aol.com

Janet Sibarium jansib@mindspring.com

Newsletter Editor:

Raymond Kozma raymondkozma@gmail.com

Host Committee:

Maryann Poris and Mary Hilley

hostingadkny@gmail.com

Commissary: Maryann Poris maporis@aol.com

Activities Committee:

Marty Kellerman mmkellerman@gmail.com

Camp Committee:

Chair: Don Gabel blaugabels@msn.com

Co-Chair: Bill Burns wmjburnsjr@gmail.com

Members:

Steve Barre sbarre9723@yahoo.com

Eve Mancuso Evemancuso@gmail.com

Teri Gabel blaugabels@msn.com

Hiking Committee:

Chair: Glen Nison gnisonbike@juno.com

Trails Committee:

Chair: William Burns wmjburnsjr@gmail.com

Park Liaison:

Lisa North LisaNYChapterADK@gmail.com

Conservation/Education:

Chair: Ira Stahl irastahl@yahoo.com

Committee on the Environment

Marty Kellerman mmkellerman@gmail.com

Lisa North LisaNYChapterADK@gmail.com

Archives Committee:

Chair: Ellen King ellen_king13@msn.com

Webmaster:

Marty McDonald martymcd@me.com

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 (October-November-December) is September 22, 2020. All submissions can be forwarded to Ray Kozma, at raymondkozma@gmail.com.

New York Chapter Elections – 2020

Nominating Committee: Request for Nominations

Elections for five (5) New York Chapter Board of Directors positions are scheduled to be held in October. The Nominating Committee takes this opportunity to reach out for any recommendations that you may have for someone to serve as a Board Director or Officer. Needed for these positions are Nawakwans with a love of the New York Chapter and Camp Nawakwa and with a willingness to assist in navigating through, weighing in and voting on, the issues that will come up during his or her two-year term on the Board.

Note:

- 1. All Chapter members may vote in the elections.*
- 2. As per ARTICLE IV, Section 1 of the Bylaws: "All Directors and Officers must be Nawakwans."*
- 3. All names must be received by September 1, 2020. The slate of candidates will be posted in the October Trail Marker.*

The following Board positions are open:

Two Officer positions are open for election:

Chair (two-year term)

Treasurer (two-year term)

Three Director positions are open for election:

Director (two- year term)

Director (two - year term)

Director (two-year term)

These current Officers, whose terms of office are expiring, have agreed to run for re- election:

Lisa North (Chair)

Suzanne Rocheleau (Treasurer).

The following current Directors, whose terms of office are expiring, have agreed to run for re-election:

Mark Fedow

Susanne Flower.

Please email to the Nominating Committee (whose members are listed below) the names of any additional willing candidates for the above positions:

Leni Taub lenit831@gmail.com

Nina Ziv nziv123@gmail.com

Gladys Sotomayer gmsotomayer@aol.com

- New York Chapter Board of Directors

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

Chapter News

HIKE SCHEDULE

[July 31 – Friday – 9:00 AM](#) - Nawakwa to Lake Skenonto and back.

Plan on leaving camp at 9 AM. The hike will start from the main lodge to Lake Skenonto and back; 5-6 miles; about 4 hours including lunch, exploring and admiring the landscape of the lake. It is mostly a flat trail circumventing Lake Sebago and veering off over a short hill as we approach Lake Skenonto. The trail may be rocky or slippery and wet at places. Wear hat, sunblock, and appropriate hiking shoes. Remember to spray with bug and tick repellent. Bring water and snack or lunch.

Staying at camp for the day after the hike? Please pre-register with Don & Teri.

Meet at the main cabin [at 8:45AM](#). Easy to moderate Hike. Qualifying (5-6 miles).

Leaders: Yajing Li & Tatiana Helms

Please email to register by [July 29, 9 PM](#).

Tatiana Helms: helmst.2000@gmail.com, [5166980508](tel:5166980508)

Yajing Li: yajinglee@yahoo.com

New Date: Summer Work Weekend 8/22-23

We are planning to have an opportunity to clean up camp, and also get to meet some of our new Applicants. We will be limited to 15 people at camp, and yes, we are going to have a modified group dinner too! Details to come...

From The Activities Committee

On Sat, June 27th our Activities Committee was proud to have once again MaryLynne Malone from the PIPC Regional Museums. She made a very interesting & informative Zoom presentation to 10 Nawakwans on Reptiles & Amphibians. We got to see inside one of the museums that's not open to the public a variety of reptiles & amphibians found in the greater Harriman SP area.... Snakes & lizards & turtles, oh my!

Presentation on 8/15/20 via Zoom – Join Us!

Regional Nature Museums is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: History of the Park

Time: Aug 15, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84408159867?pwd=ZmhKWk9MaEFsSIBCU0p5U21wZlVMdz09>

Meeting ID: 844 0815 9867

Password: 776432

2020 Camp Nawakwa Restricted Access Guidelines

General:

- ****Please give 24-48 hours advance notice****
- **All visitors MUST be registered before coming to camp**
- All normal camp rules will still apply
- Disinfectant and hand sanitizers will be provided in numerous locations

There are two types of areas at camp.

Outside areas – where you will encounter other people.

- When you are in these areas you are required to socially distance, yield to others in more confined areas. Have a face covering available and ready to use in case of close contact.

Inside areas – such as lodge, cabins, bathrooms.

- There are strict numbers of people allowed, social distancing of 6 -10' and a face covering are required. See numbers defined below.
- The main lodge and all 3 bathrooms have limited access and require a face covering.
- The other areas are cabins, tent platforms, and tent sites. You should practice social distancing as you personally see fit for your status. Once you leave these areas, you are returning to outside areas and you will be required to follow social distancing and use of face cover when appropriate.

Day and General Use:

Please carry in-carry out as much as you are able. Be as self-sufficient as possible. Takeout orders from local restaurants would be great. You will be able to use the refrigerators, get fresh water, use the garbage, and recycling. There is no preparing or cooking meals. Use of hot water warming devices and the microwave are allowed. See guidelines for lodge/kitchen and all other areas use below.

Overnight Use:

When you get your email response to your RSVP, you will have an assigned sleeping area, cabin, tent platform, or tent site. While in these areas, members should socially distance as appropriate for your status. When you leave your area, you are back in the outside area, and are expected to abide by the outside guidelines. There is no use of an open flame in the cabins. We suggest opening windows to create air circulation.

Lodge – 6-8 people at a time. We generally discourage congregating in the lodge at all, except for working and inclement weather. You must socially distance and wear a face cover while in the lodge. If there are more than 2 people in the lodge, please open windows to increase air circulation. Please use the provided sanitizer while using the lodge and kitchen. Spray disinfectant on all touched surfaces, be aware of others. One person at a time in each washroom.

Kitchen – Two members at a time. Tasks limited to storing food, microwaving food, getting fresh water, and hot water. Please use hand sanitizer while using lodge and kitchen. Spray disinfectant on all touched surfaces, be aware of others. An additional garbage can will be placed downstairs near the refrigerator to limit the need to go into the lodge.

Cabins – If you would like to use a cabin, let us know when you sign up and according to your “status” you will be assigned a cabin. If you are a single, no one else should be in your cabin. Please bring and use your own bedding. Use hand sanitizer and disinfect door handles. The plastic mattress covers should be left on the bed during use and disinfected after your use.

Platforms/Tent Sites – If you would like to use a tent platform or tent site, please let us know when you sign up and according to your “status” you will be assigned one. Once you leave your camp area, please practice social distancing and have a face covering ready to use.

Bathrooms – One person at a time. There is plenty of air circulation. Use hand sanitizer and spray disinfectant on all touched surfaces, allow to dry. There is an ADK lock on the port-o-potty. It is the small key that keyholders use for all the outdoor locks. The lock is to prevent the overuse we’ve seen this Spring by through hikers. When using the port-o-potty, disinfect and leave the door propped open to allow new air. Lock the door again when leaving camp. The seasonal outdoor shower will not be installed this season.

Dock – There can be 8-10 people (swimmers count as people on the dock) on the dock if all remain socially distant and have a face covering, when needed. Disinfect ladder handrails. If there are 8 or so members on the dock, please be aware that others in camp may want to use the dock and swim area. Please be considerate and give others a chance to swim!

Boat dock – disinfect commonly used items, boats, paddles, life jackets, and locks

Contact Information for Don & Teri

Text:

914-441-9084 (Don)

845-729-9914 (Teri)

Message: 845-359-7518

Email: blaugabels@msn.com

Thank You!

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.

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.

The 2020 Annual Nawakwa Passport

Now that Camp Nawakwa is open, albeit on a restricted basis, there is still time for Keyholders to obtain and make good use of The Annual Nawakwa Passport for 2020.

The fee for the Annual Passport, which covers the Day Fees for all visits to camp for the calendar year, is \$125.00 per individual Keyholder.

To obtain the Annual Nawakwa Passport, Keyholders should send their request (with their name address, phone number and check payable to the New York Chapter - ADK), to:

Raymond Kozma
585 North Railroad Ave-3D
Staten Island, NY 10304

Welcome Applicants!

"Since the New York Chapter Bylaws give the care, responsibility, and privilege of running and maintaining Camp Nawakwa exclusively to the Key-holders of the Chapter (who are also called Nawakwans), it is desirable and necessary that new Key-holder members be recruited on a regular basis. We recruit potential Nawakwans by attracting and inviting like-minded, outdoor-oriented, adult individuals (18 years and older) to become Applicants for Key-holder status. After completing the required qualifying activities, such new Key-holders, will take their place in the long-line of custodians of Camp Nawakwa and its traditions. It is the role of the Sponsor to help the Applicant successfully complete the process of qualifying.

Here are the new applicants for June and the first half of July 2020.

Jessica Scirbona
David Hayes
Maeve Byrne
Scott Sobkowicz
Edward Ryan
Melissa Papirio
Larry Lauer
Michel Tambwe
Jill Mendelson

"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].

Historic Hikes

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 Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail

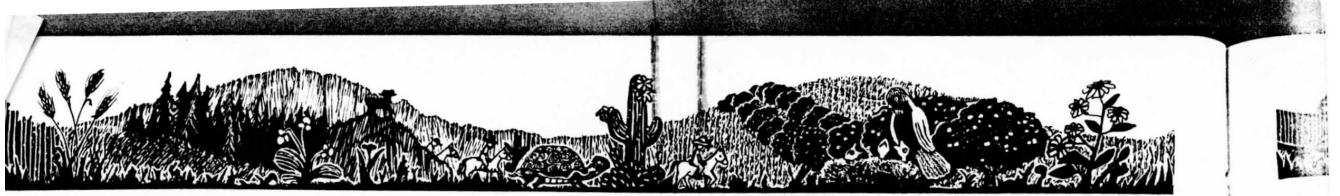
The first seven years of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, from 1920 to 1927, was a period of intense trail building. "In 1927, the longest park path, the 24-mile Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail (S-BM) was blazed from south to north by crews led by Frank Place of the Tramp and Trail Club. With the completion of the S-BM, the intense trail building era within Harriman came to an end." [from *Vista and Visions-A History of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference* by Glenn D. Scherer, page 7.]

Because of the length of this trail, our hike would be planned as an overnight hike, beginning in Suffern. Again, it might be possible to work out logistics where this trail could be hiked in two sections, for anyone not able to do the overnight. (Date to be determined.)

For a look at this trail, I have copied Raymond Torrey's May 1, 1927 description of the Suffern-Bear Mountain trail which he published in his newspaper column *The Long Brown Path*. The font is the same as in the original newspaper article. What is different is that Torrey's article was three-columns (and difficult to read in a reprint) which I have made into the standard single-column. The header is the original from the newspaper. The "25" miles in the title is most likely a typo, as Torrey lists the trail as "24" mile. The three-page article begins on the next page. Enjoy!

- Ray Kozma





STIFF NEW TRAIL CALLS TO HIKERS

Footpath From Suffern to Bear Mountain
Takes in Cliffs, Brooks and Woods in
Scenic 25-mile Course

THE NEW SUFFERN-BEAR MOUNTAIN TRAIL

RAYMOND H. TORREY

The Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail, the ninth of such foot paths for hikers made during the last seven years by volunteer workers from the New York City metropolitan district walking clubs in the Harriman State Park, in the Highlands of the Hudson and in the Ramapo Mountains, is now almost complete. It discloses new scenic viewpoints and new aspects of the hills and forests, lakes and streams of this 40,000-acre preserve.

This new trail is twenty-four miles long, following the curves of ridges, dipping into gaps for springs and water holes, yet pursuing a course intended to combine with scenic values a reasonable degree of directness. It begins at Suffern, on the main line of the Erie Railroad, thirty miles from New York, and follows the Ramapo Rampart, the long straight front of the Ramapo Mountains. Then it angles back to another parallel northeast-southwest ridge and runs north and northeast to the headquarter of the Harriman Park, at Bear Mountain.

It will be a hardy hiker who does this trail in one day, for it rivals in ruggedness the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail, twenty-five miles long, from Tuxedo to the Hudson, which can be easily accessed at various points by train or bus.

Suffern is a convenient point to reach by rail from Jersey City, by trolley from Edgewater and Paterson, by bus from Paterson. A second bus line, from Paterson to Haverstraw, runs along the highway at the foot of the Rampart, with several stops, such as Kakiat, Wesley Chapel, the Suffern Community Club and Ladentown, where trails and old roads climb through the ravines in the mountain front and reach the new through trail on the summits.

The Trail Markers.

The new trail is marked as are others in the Harriman Park, with metal squares bearing a symbol and the initials of the termini of the route. On this trail copper squares, with the initials "S-BM" and a diamond are used. A new method of securing lasting qualities for such a marker has been adopted by Major W. A. Welch, general manager of the Palisades Interstate Park who provides the signs and has encouraged the volunteer workers in this interesting combination of their usual hiking excursions with a definite object in view.

To begin at the south end of the Suffern-Bear Mountain Trail, the hiker should go west from the railroad station to the granite ledges that abut the highway. The trail climbs up a ravine to a ledge which gives a fine view south over the valley of the Ramapo and the mountains westward toward the Wanaque Valley;

then turns right to another viewpoint out east, over the lowlands of Bergen County, N. J., and Rockland County, N. Y.

Just north of the second viewpoint, an old road is picked up, which follows the summit. For the first half mile the route is marked with cairns and paint blazes, but presently the copper markers begin and may be followed thereafter. The trail drops into a notch in a cutover woodlot; then climbs again up a cliff which the trail markers have called the Kitchen Stairs; then on over a level plateau,

Dipping into a cattail swamp; then up again, and out to another viewpoint over the Rockland County rolling Farmlands, with the Palisades and Hook Mountain in the background.

From this view the trail turns left-westward-to gain a crossing at a rocky notch in the Rampart without descending too much. This notch, filled with boulders of all sizes, has been called by Frank Place, President of the Tramp and Trail Club and one of the chief workers on the trail, the Valley of Dry Bones a name that has stuck. From this gap the route climbs eastward again to another open viewpoint: a ledge with an interesting geological feature, a curiously branching dike of diabase in the midst of the granite on the summit.

The trail passes on north, through the brush grown fields of a long abandoned farm; then to a rocky ridge heaped with huge boulders in picturesque confusion, some of them twenty feet high and among the largest of those transported by the ice in this region. This boulder field has been called MacElvalne's Rocks, after a member of the Fresh Air Club, who most ingeniously laid out the route here to make it as rocky as possible,

Cliffs and Boulders.

On the next summit northeast, the trail climbs past a steep cliff called the Hangman's Rock, which look much like the setting in the final scene of "Turandot." This mountain gives another view east. Beyond, the trail dips into a gully where there is a spring, and then climbs Pierson Mountain, past a good example of a "propped rock," where a small boulder melted out of the Ice sheet that covered the Ramapos 2,000 feet deep, to serve as a prop for a much larger block that dropped later on.

The trail curves around to the west side of the mountain, giving a good view west over the interior alleys of the Ramapo Plateau, including the Mountaineer's Meadow and Conklin' Cabin-the only occupied house in the region-and the ledgy slopes of Halfway Mountain.

On the next descent the trail includes a remarkably polished protruding ledge, known as the Egg, later crossing a brook, which provides another good luncheon place. Climbing Horsetable Mountain, past a clump of cubical boulders, the trail passes along the cliffs of Hawk Rock and enters an old wood road at a large white oak, spared as a corner mark of some property line. The road turns northeast and then to the left, proceeding downhill into a deep gully between Catamount and Panther mountains. The trail route around the outside of Panther gives many fine "windows" out to the country eastward and presently brings into view the Hudson, over the ridge of the Tors-Haverstraw Bay, with the Westchester hills beyond.

A Westward Turn.

The trail now curves around westward, over a brook hidden by tumbled boulders, crosses the Tuxedo-Mount Ivy Trail, climbs to Eagle Rock, passes over knobs scarred by fires, and descends to use an old path known as the Red Arrow Trail. This trail follows northwest across File Factory Hollow Brook, the Woodtown Trail

arid Ladentown Mountain, to Breakneck Mountain, which gives views east to the Hudson and west over the lakes and hills of the interior of the park and beyond toward Greenwood Lake. It pursues this ridge northeast to a northern point known as Big Hill, where there is a sort of balcony of open ledges with a splendid outlook to the Hudson.

The S-BM now descends, crosses the Old Turnpike and climbs to the fire observation tower on Jackie Jones Mountain, where one can see the sky-scrapers of Manhattan, thirty-five miles to the southeast. It follows a path down to the corner of the Gate Hill Road and the old Lake Tiorati (Cedar Pond) Road, which it uses a short distance north to cross the north branch of Minisceongo Creek. Just beyond the creek at a set of bars the trail turns to cross the pastures northward and passes through another set of bars at the edge of the woods. On the other side is an old road used by the Boy Scouts as the rim of their White Bar Trail and adopted here by the S-BM. This leads over Grape Swamp Mountain and down to the Lake Tiorati Brook Road, with a fine view out northward.

Eastward, to the right for half a mile the road runs past the bridge over Lake Tiorati Brook, and then the hiker turns in to the left to look for stepping stones over the stream. The trail climbs up the steep, pine-clad cliffs of Pyngyp, for more fine views. It drops into a gap, then climbs the next summit, The Pines; descends again, and crosses the old road over which Anthony Wayne led the Continentals to the storming of Stony Point in 1779.

Soon it reaches the Ramapo-Dunderberg Trail (marked "R-D" with a red dot) at the bottom or the cliffs on the south side of West Mountain; it uses this trail to climb to the summit, where it resumes its own course northward,

Crossing the swampy notch between the south and north crowns of West Mountain, the trail climbs a zigzag route up a cliff called the Fire Escape, and at the top enters the Timp-Torne Trail, marked with a square and the initials "T-T." it uses the T-T a few rods north, then leaves it at an angle and descends to the bottom of the notch, which cuts off from the main mass of West Mountain a high eastern shoulder, with cliffs on its south and east faces; follows the brink of the cliffs, around northward, with views of the Hudson gorge; descends a steep talus slope; enters a cutover area; drops to a pretty brook which comes off the amphitheatre in the centre of the mountain, and follows it on the left side, downhill to a sharp left turn through another notch.

After crossing two more brooks, the way leads up to the old Doodletown Road, over which Sir Henry Clinton sent his flanking body to assault the American forts Clinton and Montgomery in 1777. This it crosses and then makes its way east, crossing the Seven Lakes Drive, the main park motor highway, and descends to the outer curve of the drive, at the foot of Bear Mountain, a few hundred feet west of the park headquarters. A large lettered sign marks the north end of the trail and similar signs have been placed at important points elsewhere along its route.

May 1, 1927

[This article is taken from the Major William A. Welch Document Collection]



The New York Chapter - ADK

Centennial Anniversary Events

(Keep watching this space!)

At the October 1922 meeting of the newly formed Adirondack Mountain Club, Raymond Torrey was asked to form a New York Chapter. By early 1923, formal approval was given by the Main Club for the establishment of the New York Chapter, with Raymond Torrey as our first Chapter Chair. Thus, we will 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 one of the major figures in the development of Harriman Park, the trails and all the camps: Major William A. Welch. See the article on the following page.
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 pages 10 and following.
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



Major William A. Welch

“Major William A. Welch served in a number of roles at the PIPC between 1912 and 1940. He began as a junior engineer in the Palisades Interstate Park, NJ, assisting with drawing and plans primarily for the construction of park facilities and the Henry Hudson Drive. Around 1915, he took over responsibilities as Chief Park Engineer and General Manager, serving in this role until his retirement from the PIPC in 1940.

During his time at the PIPC, Major Welch was responsible for the design and construction of nearly all the parks’ major infrastructure, including all the park dams, Seven Lakes Drive, group camp buildings, the Bear Mountain Administration Building, park electrical and water systems, the Storm King Highway, the Popolopen Viaduct, the Bear Mountain Bridge, and more. He was the founder of the Palisades Trail Conference, which became the NY-NJ Trail Conference and helped design and build the first section of the Appalachian Trail and the Long Path. He served as mentor to the early National Park Service and drew the boundaries of Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountain National Parks while advising park managers and developers in nearly every state in the US.

Major Welch is one of the most significant figures in US environmental and outdoor recreational history, yet very few people know his name.” [The Major William A. Welch Document Collection]

Historic Gleanings from our Archives

(Note: These articles, with photos, are also posted on our website)

Greetings fellow Nawakwa Historians,

1929 – 1930: This period was a busy one in the formation of Harriman State Park. As the attached photo reflects, the land was bare and in need of replanting. During this period the mountain laurel was purchased and transplanted in the Park. 112 Group Camps were in operation. Franklin Roosevelt, Governor of NYS, toured the Palisades parks of which he was very familiar. He said the parks would “relieve us of the dangers of overcrowding in the cities and the strain on our nervous systems.” (1)

On October 24, 1929, “Black Thursday”, the stock market fell by five hundred points. The onset of the Great Depression was at hand and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission would be severely impacted. The residents of Sandyfields, a mountain hamlet in a remote section of Harriman Park opposed construction of a dam as it would flood their properties. Most residents agreed to sell their lands, but some held out as properties had been in their families since the 1700s. Other settlements including Baileytown, Johnstontown, Pine Meadows, Queensboro, Doodletown and others succumbed to the PIPC. (1)

The Depression caused the day liners on the Hudson River to stop operation. Wages were cut across the board for Park employees. Raymond Torrey’s salary was cut in half from \$3,000 to \$1,500 per year. (1)

During this time, single women could not camp in the park. Married women could camp as long as they were accompanied by their husbands. (1)

The Park received needed assistance through Governor Roosevelt’s newly created Work Relief Program. Within weeks, 2,500 men were employed in the park system. They were paid \$4.00 per day minus 50 cents for transportation. They took the train arriving at Bear Mountain. (1)

Back at Camp Nawakwa, in 1929 “a new sleeping cabin was erected (cabin 2) and the washrooms in the Main Cabin were added. The trap door and steep stairs leading to the basement were eliminated and a real staircase was constructed from what was previously the front sleeping room. The pack room was created with shelves and hooks for packs, camping and sports equipment, coats and hats, etc. The kitchen was enlarged. The purpose of the new sleeping cabin was to accommodate the girls’ bunks removed from the main lodge.” (2) The new Women’s Cabin was completely weather proofed. (3) The partition in cabin 1 were removed. Originally the cabin was partitioned into four sections, one of which had a stove. The intention was to provide a small place for a small group coming up during the winter without opening the main building. The idea never worked out. (4)

The January 1930 Trail Marker – “The Editor takes the liberty of again suggesting that we would all do well to get out on the trail much more frequently than we do. Perhaps we are getting too “camp minded”.

WHO SHOULD DO THE DISH WASHING?

The question has arisen again as to the desirability of having paid help about camp on the week-ends. This question has been much discussed and very definite views both “Pro” and “Con” have been brought up. After considerable discussion, the Camp Committee was asked to investigate as to the practicality of securing such “help”.

Footnotes:

1. Palisades 1000 Acres in 100 Years, Robert O. Binnewies (including attached photo)
2. The Trail Marker – April 1929
3. The Trail Marker – December 1929
4. The Trail Marker – January 1930
5. A History by Ira Ayres
- Ellen King, Archivist