

THE TRAIL MARKER

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Camp Nawakwa on Lake Sebago, 845-351-4135
www.adkny.org



Chapter Chair's Message

by Ed O'Donnell



Spring is finally here, after one heck of a winter. The Park and our camp were battered by a couple of heavy snow storms, one of which caused our Camp Chair, Derek Lomer, to be concerned over the stability of the Lodge's roof. He and I trudged through some heavy, deep snow to shovel off the roof of the Lodge. We removed about forty percent of the snow before the setting sun caused us to retreat back to the main road. And if that wasn't distressing enough, we were battered by a hurricane-like storm that has caused additional damage in the Park. Let's hope that we've avoided any significant damage.

A more mundane, but certainly no less important issue, is our finances. We have finally received our analysis of the 2008 and 2009 finances.* I am cautious not to use the words audit or review, as the by-laws are very clear that we can obtain an audit, review or compilation. Each of which is different. Our Board member, Noel Schulz, CPA, has guided us through this process, and clarified for us what the characteristics of each are. Gary Carmosin, CPA, a former Knickerbocker member, volunteered to compile our books. This is all by way of saying that the books were carefully, competently and completely reviewed by a qualified professional.

In short, we saw an \$8K surplus in 2008, with a \$4K loss in 2009; that is a difference of \$12K. Here is our analysis:

Expenses:

- Both 2008 (\$3000 for 2 footings) & 2009 (\$1000 for asbestos analysis of several roofs) were charged to 2009. No 'lease credit' expenses were charged to 2008.
- For the first time ever, we recognized a charge of \$900 for D & O/Director's & Officer's insurance. The club will continue to retain this type of additional insurance (plus general liability insurance), as most Board members are unwilling to serve without it. Board member David Miller, an insurance agent, endorses the need for this type of insurance.
- \$1250 in termite extermination (prior years cost upwards of \$3K). We reduced costs by doing it ourselves.

- 2009 saw a \$500 repair on the camp stove
- 2009 had increases in costs for: propane, postage for the Trail Marker, and liability insurance costs.

Revenue:

- Camp fees were \$10K in 2008, but only \$7K in 2009, mostly due to bad weather.
- 2008 saw few dollars in donations from the annual appeal. We chose NOT to make an appeal in 2009 until the financials (audit, review or compilation) were available for public review. Our problem was that no one was willing to perform any of those analyses of the finances. This issue has now been resolved.*

What does the Board plan to do to address the above issues?

- Reduce Trail Marker costs (printing and mailing). \$6400/year for printing and mailing the TM was the second largest Chapter expense in 2009 (insurance at \$8K was largest). Some ADK Chapters have completely eliminated all printing and mailing. We do not have a plan to do this at present, but this is an option.
- We have 35 empty lockers for rent at \$35/ea. = \$1225 potential income.
- Do our best to increase hosted weekends to recognize greater income.

The Board has looked long and hard at these financials, and for the first time that I am aware of, has created a formal, balanced budget. That budget will be posted on the web site.*

We will be sending out an annual appeal quite soon. I, for one, plan on making a healthy donation. I hope you will too. Let's hope for a great season!

Ed O'Donnell
Chapter Chair

* The finances are posted on our web site with the same password used to see the Trail Marker. The budget will be posted shortly.

Gas Pains

by Conservation Chair Peter Varley

Marcellus Shale has been around a long time. It was formed during the Devonian Period in Earth's history and is currently important because it contains natural gas. Gas was trapped in pores and fissures of the rock as organic matter decayed.

Shale deposits extend 600 miles and are in four states. In New York, much of Catskill Park and NY Watershed Boundary West have deposits, as do some state and local parks. Gas companies now want to tap that gas.

Drilling technology and techniques have evolved over the years. It is now possible to drill down 2000 feet and then bore horizontally into the shale. The rock is then "fractured" by injecting water and sand to keep rock fragments apart. Gas is freed and is extracted.

Few would question the need for gas. But, can it be gotten in an environmentally sound way?

Before drilling, a supportive infrastructure is built. Access roads and a drilling pad are constructed. Large amounts of water are used in the extraction process, so the roads must be able to support tanker trucks that carry it. Most of the drilling equipment runs on diesel fuel, and that is stored on-site. Once drilling begins, water and sand are forced into the well. Various chemicals are added to the water to facilitate its movement. Companies do not disclose what the chemicals are, nor are they required to. The water is then extracted, often laden with toxic substances, and stored in "ponds".

In New York State, the Department of Environmental Conservation is the authority that issues drilling permits. It is in their sole discretion if a permit will be issued. They are currently reviewing permitting regulations.

There are many issues that need to be resolved before gas extraction might, if ever, be considered environmentally sound. Extractive processes by their nature, are going to affect the environment in which they take place. To make environmental sense, the benefits must far exceed the costs.

Some of the "costs" involve water. Vast amounts are used. Where will it come from? New York has no regulations on how much water may be taken from an aquifer. How is the extracted water, often containing toxic substances, to be disposed of? The oil and gas industry is exempt from complying with the Clean Water Act. What are the effects on a community if injected water moves into the ground water? What happens if heavy rains cause a "pond" to overflow? Who is responsible for treating contaminated water, the public or the driller?

Drilling has a positive aspect aside from gas production. Rural landowners receive fees and royalties in return for granting access to their land.

Is there adequate governmental oversight of drilling?
Let me and those who make policy know your opinion.

Hosted Weekends: April–June 2010

(visit www.adkny.org for updates)

May 8–9 Mother's Day Weekend/Long Island Chapter Invitational

"Sir?" said Jeeves. He had been clearing away the breakfast things, but at the sound of the young master's voice cheesed it courteously.

"You were absolutely right about the weather. It is a juicy morning."

"Decidedly, sir."

"Spring and all that."

"Yes, sir."

"In the spring, Jeeves, a livelier iris gleams upon the burnished dove."

"So I have been informed, sir."

"Right ho! Then bring me my whangee, my yellowest shoes, and the old green Homburg. I'm going into the Park to do pastoral dances."

-P.G. Wodehouse

Please join Kim Waldhauer, Giacomo Servetti and Lisa Bedford (LI Chapter) as we welcome Long Island Chapter members to experience the joys of Nawakwa. Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast and hikers' lunch provided.

Please call 845-947-0054 by May 5th to register (no calls after 9:00 PM) or email gservetti08@gmail.com

Be sure to sign up for Steve Zubarik's Nawakwa Loop Hike on Sunday morning! See Hikes for details.

May 15–16 Annual Spring Clean Up Weekend

For volunteers who are staying for dinner, healthy chow (baked ziti and salad for carnivores and vegetarians) with easy clean-up guaranteed. Please register by Wednesday, May 12th. Please indicate if you are a vegetarian or carnivore, and if you're staying overnight for Sunday's breakfast and lunch.

Host: Janet Sibarium (Registrar) 212 – 254-0738 or e-mail jansib@mindspring.com

May 22–23 Varleys' Vernal Veggie Weekend

Vittles and vinextraordinaire served to give vim and vigor to all participants. Don't vascillate.

Host: Marilyn Varley 914/698-2339 by 9 p.m., Thurs. May 20th.

Memorial Day Weekend May 29 - 31

Spend one, two, or three days at Nawakwa with Despina Metaxatos and Ingrid Strauch. Saturday's dinner menu will feature a Greek theme, and Sunday's will be a vegetarian delight. (Sunday and Monday breakfasts and lunches also provided.) Come early to help us slice, dice, and chop. Please register with Ingrid by 9 PM Thursday, May 27, and specify which meals you are signing up for and whether you are vegetarian or omnivore.

To register, contact Ingrid: E-mail preferred: ingrids@rapaportpublishing.com or phone: 718-624-4996. (NCA 9 PM)

Co-Hosts: Ingrid Strauch and Despina Metaxatos

(weekends, continued)

June 5-6 Late Spring Weekend

Menu undecided at press-time, but healthy, nutritious and easy to prepare is guaranteed! Omnivores and vegetarians will have plenty to savor. E-mail registration preferred: jansib@mindspring.com or leave message on tel. 212 – 254-0738. Please indicate which meals and if you are a vegetarian or omnivore! (Please register by Thursday June 3rd @ 9:00 p.m.)

Co-Hosts: Janet Sibarium (Registrar) & Lisa North

June 12-13 AMC Invitational Weekend

Join Bill Hladky welcoming AMCers to our lodge and activities of hiking, canoeing, kayaking, AND cooking our delicious hut like meals. This is mountain laurel blooming time at camp and along the hiking paths. There will be a hike (4-5 miles on our local trails) for those arriving by bus in Tuxedo. Help with cars is needed to store the bus people's non hiking gear and shuttle it to camp. Cooking will be simple, plentiful, and cost conscious: with help, it will meet or exceed our gourmet standards. Please RVSP by Thursday before 9:00 P.M. .

Host /Registrar Bill Hladky: e-mail: wehldky@yahoo.com
Tel: home: 914- 410- 4385 or cell: 914- 874-4640

June 19 – 20

Although the menu is not yet determined, host Noel Schulz promises healthy and delicious food. With strawberries in season, Noel will include fresh picked strawberries from a local farm for each meal.

Host: Noel Schulz. Please register no later than Thursday, June 17 9:00 PM. Tel 201-445-6445 or noelschulz@verizon.net. Please indicate the meals you are signing up for, and if you are a vegetarian or omnivore.



2010 Palm Sunday Hike Photos by Steve Zubarik

Hikes: April–August 2010

(visit www.adkny.org for updates)

Saturday, April 3 • Ringwood Circular

Join us for an easy hike at a slow pace up to the ridge of Mt. Defiance. Enjoy some nice views, pass three lovely ponds and walk through the beautiful formal gardens of Skylands Manor House. Joint with AMC and qualifying. Five miles at an easy pace with a few ups and downs. Take 8:45 am Coach USA / Short Line bus. Purchase ticket at Short Line Ticket Windows (north wing). Train arrives in Suffern, Rockland County at 9:38am. Meet in parking lot opposite bus ticket office near jct. Rtes 59 and 202 in business district.
Leader: Renate Jaerschky 845-368-1749

Saturday, April 3 • Garrison

Osborn Loop. Woods roads and trails, with a substantial uphill at the start (but no scrambling). Around 7 miles at a moderate pace. It is not necessary to register, but you must call or preferably email me beforehand to make sure that the hike is on, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:50 train from GCT arriving in Garrison at 11 (fare: OW\$10.25/Srs.\$6.75). You can also connect to this train by taking the 9:40 local at the Marble Hill station (one block from the 225th St. stop on the #1 subway) and changing at Croton-Harmon. Fare: OW\$7.75/Srs.3.75. Please use the restrooms on the train and please sit in the first or second open car. Drivers from NYC: Saw Mill River Pkwy. to exit 26, Route 9A North to Route 9 North to Route 403 West to Garrison station. Park in the large commuter parking lot on the east side of the station. Sorry, but no children; no pets; no smoking. Qualifying. Out in time for the 5 pm train back to NYC. Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com

Saturday, April 10 • Northern Harriman

A moderately paced 9-mile hike in search of signs of spring. Expect some steep ups and downs. Bus riders take 8:30 AM Shortline bus to Arden; drop-off point is right near the "Welcome to Harriman" sign on Rt. 17. Walk down Arden Valley Road to parking lot. Drivers meet in the parking lot at the end of Arden Valley Road (called the "Elk Pen" on Northern Harriman Bear Mtn. Trails map). Rain cancels. Qualifying. Joint with AMC.
L Ingrid Strauch ingrids@rapaportpublishing.com.

Saturday, April 10 • Mt. Taurus

A long uphill, but at a moderate pace, and rewarded with spectacular views of the Hudson Valley. Around 6 miles. It isn't necessary to register, but you must call or preferably email me beforehand to make sure the hike is on, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:50 train from GCT arriving in Cold Spring at 11 (fare: OW\$10.25/Srs.\$6.75). You can also connect to this train by taking the 9:40 local at the Marble Hill station (one block from the 225th St. stop on the #1 subway) and changing at Croton-Harmon (fare: OW\$7.75/Srs.3.75). Please use the restrooms on the train and please sit in the first or second open car. Drivers from NYC: Saw Mill River Pkwy. to exit 26, Route 9A North to Route 9 North to Route 403 West to Route 9D North to Route 301 (which is Main St. in Cold Spring), left on Main St. to its end at the Depot Cafe. Park temporarily in their parking lot or on a nearby street. Out around 4, but you might want to hang around in Cold Spring for a while afterwards for some refreshment. No children, no pets, no smoking. Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com

(hikes, continued)

Saturday, April 17 • Fahnestock

Various trails through woods and high-level meadows with alpine-like vistas. Around 8 miles at a moderate pace. It is not necessary to register, but you must call or preferably email me beforehand to make sure that the hike is on, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:50 Hudson Line train from GCT, arriving in Cold Spring at 11. Fare: OW\$11.25/Srs.\$7.50. Connection to this train may also be made by taking the 9:40 from the Marble Hill station (a block west from the 225th St. subway stop on the #1 train) and changing at Croton-Harmon. Fare: OW\$8.50/Srs.\$4.25. Please sit in the 1st or 2nd open car of the train, and please use the restrooms on the train. Drivers from NYC: Saw Mill River to 9A, to 9, to 403, to 9D; make a left on 301, which is Main St. in Cold Spring. Go to the end of Main St. and park temporarily in the parking lot of the Depot Cafe or on a nearby street. There will be a short shuttle and we will be taking all of the cars. Out around 5, but plan to hang around for a while afterwards for some refreshment at the Depot Cafe. Sorry, but no children; no pets; no smoking. Qualifying. Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com

Saturday, May 1 • Dater County Park and Harriman

Moderate 6 ½ mile rather circular hike mainly on Dater Mountain County Park trails and partly on Harriman trails. Bus riders take the 8:30 am Coach Shortline Bus at Port Authority to Sloatsburg to meet drivers in the parking lot behind the Sloatsburg Municipal building at 9:10am. Leader will be on the bus. All hikers please call leader to assure transportation to the trailhead. Qualifying.

Leader: John Lipsett 212-867-8280 work 212-864-6109 home

Sunday, May 2 • Lake Welch A delightful getaway in an area not often explored. We'll be guests of the SBM, LP, and Beech trails. Around 8 miles at a moderate pace. Email or call to confirm that hike will take place, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:14 Jersey Transit train from Penn Sta., changing at Secaucus for the 9:31 Port Jervis train to Sloatsburg, arriving at 10:12 (Fare: RT \$15.50/Srs.\$10). Or, take the 9:10 ShortLine bus from PABT arriving in Sloatsburg at 10:07 (Fare: RT \$25.90/Srs.\$12.90). Out in time for the 4:28 train back to Penn Sta. Sorry, but no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying. Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Sunday May 9th 9:30 AM • Nawakwa Loop Hike. Walk off Mother's Day breakfast with a circular hike to Stony Brook and the Cascade of Slid. Pastoral dancing permitted. Qualifying. Steve Zubarik 845-786-3247 szubarik@optonline.net

Sunday, May 9 • Rockefeller State Park Preserve.

A leisurely stroll of around 6 miles along some of the shady carriage paths and intimate wooded lanes with panoramic vistas which characterize this beautiful preserve. Take the 10:20 MetroNorth Hudson Line train from Grand Central, arriving in Philipse Manor at 11:12. (RT fare: \$14.50/Srs.\$9.50) This train may also be boarded 10:40 at the Marble Hill station, one block from the 225th St. stop on the #1 subway RT fare: \$7/Srs.\$3.50. Sit in first or second car of train. Email or call to confirm that walk will take place, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Sorry, but no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying. Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Sunday, May 16 • Central Park Tree Identification.

A relaxed stroll along the northern Central Park "tree trail" described in the book "New York City Trees" by Ned Barnard. Both tree experts -- whose assistance will be much appreciated -- and complete beginners are cordially welcome. (Please note: this walk will necessarily involve many stops.) Meet 10:30 AM at the northwest corner of 84th St. & 5th Ave. The walk will end around 3 PM, so bring lunch. Email or call to confirm that walk will take place. Not qualifying. Leader: Bob Susser, 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Saturday, May 22 • A walk through Inwood & Fort Tryon Parks, with a visit to the Cloisters.

Around 4 miles at a moderate pace. After a stroll through Inwood Park, we cross over into Fort Tryon Park -- with its majestic outlook over the Hudson -- for lunch (bring lunch and beverage). After lunch, a visit to the Cloisters (admission is "pay what you wish" -- \$1 is fine), then through the rest of the park, including the Heather Garden. Take A train to 207th St. -- meet 10:30 on the corner of 207th & Broadway. The walk should end around 3. Give me a call Saturday evening if the forecast calls for rain or thundershowers. No smoking. Not Qualifying. Bob Susser: rsusser@aol.com, 212 666-4371.

Sunday, May 23 • Central Park Tree Identification.

A relaxed stroll along the southern Central Park "tree trail" described in the book "New York City Trees" by Ned Barnard. Both tree experts -- whose assistance will be much appreciated -- and complete beginners are cordially welcome. (Please note: this walk will necessarily involve many stops.) Meet 10:30 AM at the northeast corner of 85th St. & CPW. The walk will end around 3 PM, so bring lunch. Email or call to confirm that walk will take place. Not qualifying. Leader: Bob Susser, 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Saturday, May 29 • Bronx Botanical Garden.

Roses, azaleas, lilacs, magnolias, tulips, and tulip trees. Take the 10:23 Harlem Line train from Grand Central, arriving at the "Botanical Garden" Station at 10:42. Fare OW \$3.50 with "City Ticket." Alternatively, take the 4 or D subway to "Bedford Park Blvd." and then the #26 bus east to the Mosholu Gate entrance -- or, the 2 subway to "Allerton Ave." and then the #26 bus west to the entrance. Meet just inside the Mosholu Gate at 10:45. Admission to the Garden is free on Saturdays until noon. If driving, park in the lot by the station (\$10) or on a nearby street. No coordination of rides. Visit will end by 3, but of course you are free to leave earlier or stay later. Email or call to confirm that visit will take place. Bring lunch and beverage, or buy it in the cafeteria. Sorry, but no pets; no smoking; children ok. Not qualifying. Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Sunday, June 13 • Johnstown Circular.

A ridge walk on the Blue Disc and other trails, passing by Lake Skenanto with its oceans of mountain laurel (now at their peak). Around 7 miles at a moderate pace. Out around 4. Email or call to confirm that hike will take place, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:14 Jersey Transit train from Penn Sta., changing at Secaucus for the 9:31 Port Jervis train to Sloatsburg, arriving at 10:12 (Fare: RT \$15.50/Srs.\$10). Or, take the 9:10 ShortLine bus from PABT arriving in Sloatsburg at 10:07 (Fare: RT \$25.90/Srs.\$12.90). Out in time for the 4:28 train back to Penn Sta. Sorry, but no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying. Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

(hikes, continued)

Saturday, June 19 • Fahnestock. Various trails through woods and high-level meadows with a profusion of wildflowers and alpine-like vistas. Around 8 miles at a moderate pace. Out around 5. Email or call to confirm that hike will take place, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:50 train from GCT arriving in Cold Spring at 11:00 (fare: OW\$10/Srs.\$6.50). This train may also be boarded 9:40 at the Marble Hill station (one block from the 225th St. stop on the #1 subway), with a change at Croton-Harmon for the express. Fare: OW\$7.50/Srs.3.75. Sit in first or second car, and use restroom on train. Sorry, but no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying. Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Sunday, June 27 • Popolopen Gorge. Starting from the Fort Montgomery Visitors Center we'll take the Popolopen Gorge Trail -- mostly pretty flat, but with a few short steep uphill (but no scrambling). Then over the new bridge to the 1779 Trail, and back to the Visitors Center, with an optional visit afterwards to the Bear Mountain Zoo. Around 5 miles at a moderate pace. Email or call to confirm that hike will take place, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:50 train from GCT arriving in Garrison at 11 (fare: OW\$10.25/Srs.\$6.75). You can also connect to this train by taking the 9:40 local at the Marble Hill station (one block from the 225th St. stop on the #1 subway) and changing at Croton-Harmon. Fare: OW\$7.75/Srs.3.75. Use restrooms on train, and sit in first or second car. Drivers from NYC: Saw Mill River Pkwy. to exit 26, Route 9A North to Route 9 North to Route 403 West to Garrison station. Park temporarily in the large commuter parking lot on the east side of the station. There will be an approximately 6-mile shuttle to Fort Montgomery. Sorry, but no children; no pets; no smoking. Out in time for the 5 pm train back to NYC from Garrison. Qualifying. Bob Susser 212 666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

Sunday, July 25 • Mt. Taurus. A long uphill, but spectacular views of the Hudson Valley from the top. Around 6 miles at a moderate pace. Take the 9:50 Hudson Line train from GCT arriving in Cold Spring at 11 (OW\$10/Srs.\$6.50). You may also take the 9:40 train at the Marble Hill station (one block from the 225th St. stop on the #1 subway), changing at Croton-Harmon for the express (OW\$7.50/Srs.3.75). Sit in first or second car and use restrooms on train. Out around 4, but plan to hang around afterwards in Cold Spring for some refreshment. Email or call to confirm that hike will take place, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Sorry, but no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying. Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com

Saturday, August 21 • Garrison. Mostly woods roads and trails, but a substantial uphill at the start (no scrambling). Around 7 miles at a moderate pace. Email or call to confirm that hike will take place, and if you need or can offer a ride from NYC. Take the 9:50 Hudson Line train from GCT arriving in Garrison at 10:56 (OW\$10/Srs.\$6.50). You may also take the 9:40 train at the Marble Hill station (one block from the 225th St. stop on the #1 subway), changing at Croton-Harmon for the express (OW\$7.50/Srs.3.75). Sit in first or second car of train, and use restrooms on train. Out in time for the 5 pm train back to NYC. Sorry, but no children, no pets, no smoking. Qualifying. Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com



2010 Palm Sunday Hike Photos by Steve Zubarik



2010 Palm Sunday Hike Photos by Glen Nison

Volunteers Wanted!

We are always seeking volunteers to lead hikes. Familiarity with trails and hiking experience is all that is required. If you are interested, please contact the Hikes Chairperson.

Need a locker?

Submitted by Ingrid Strauch

Many Nawakwa members find it convenient to rent a locker at camp to store such things as a sleeping bag, tent, change of shoes and clothes, spare flashlight, toiletries, and other necessities of camp life. The lockers are fairly spacious (bigger than what you had in junior high school), and at \$35 a year, they're probably the cheapest real estate you'll ever rent.

Right now, there are 35 empty, available lockers, so if you'd like one, please send a note to Jerry Flower at membership@adkny.org, and he'll assign one to you.

On a related note, every year a certain number of personal items—clothes, towels, etc.—accumulate at camp, often coming to rest in the pack room or on the floor in the locker areas. Some of these items have no doubt been forgotten—sometimes permanently—but in some cases, it appears that the owner is using these public areas as long-term storage. Unfortunately, that inconveniences other camp users, who end up with less space for their belongings in the pack room when they visit camp or who can't access their lockers easily because of stuff on the floor.

The shelves in the pack room are intended to be used by day or overnight visitors to stow their gear while they are at camp. When they leave camp, their gear should either leave with them or be stored in their lockers until their next visit. The floors in the locker areas are never appropriate places to store personal items.

One of the tasks for this year's **Spring Cleanup Weekend—May 15 and 16!**—is to sort through camper belongings left over the winter on the pack room shelves and on the floor in the locker areas. Items may be tagged, so the owner knows they need to be moved, or they may be moved to an out-of-way storage area in the basement; eventually, if property remains unclaimed and unmoved, it may be donated to a worthy cause or auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Now...anyone need a locker?



Dutch Doctor Shelter photo by Giacomo Servetti

Spring Trail Maintenance

by Trails Chair Bill Burns

There should be plenty of work to do on our trails this Spring with all of the winter snowstorms that we encountered. It will be good for all of us to get back on our hiking trails. I will send trail maintainers a letter at the end of April to remind you that the first trail maintenance report is due June 30, 2010. Please try to submit your report by e-mail.



Carol Burns doing trail maintenance on the TMI

Camp Chair's Report

At the camp this year we have many work projects to accomplish. Here is a short list of the most substantial of these:

- Replacing asphalt shingle roofs on cabins 3, 4 and 5. This might be done by a contractor or by members if there is sufficient interest from members in doing these ourselves.
- Replacing wood hand rails on the camp paths. This is an inspiring project for those who enjoy the carpentry craft.
- Continuing with the stone step construction, particularly between the lodge and the dock. Last year we were fortunate to have the talented efforts of Steve Zubarik, Carl Mockert and Kim Waldhauer. They spent many Tuesdays creating sturdy stone steps up to the cabins. For this project we may need to get rocks delivered from a quarry and have a work group of four people rather than two.
- Installing steel tie rods and turnbuckles in the main lodge. I will be doing this myself this summer.
- Install wire fence around cess pit behind the men's outhouse.
- Replacing the rough sawn wood siding on areas of the main lodge and cabins where it has deteriorated.

I also have a long list of miscellaneous tasks to take care of over the season. **On Saturday May 15 we will have our Spring Cleanup.** This will be a great time for members to join in and contribute to the upkeep of the camp. **Due to the two large trees that fell between cabins 3 and 4, our focus will be on sawing and splitting the huge amount of wood now on the ground.** (see photos below) These two trees are over 18" in diameter and took down the power line and crushed the roof of the women's outhouse. Members are encouraged to come and pitch in. We will also be setting out the swim raft and setting up the boat dock, and there is lots of cleaning to be done in the lodge and cabins.

There is a lot of other work to do around the camp so all are welcome. This will be a qualifying activity for applicants.

As the park administration reduces maintenance services to group camps due to New York State's severe budget crisis, more and more of the camp maintenance will have to be managed by the club. It is likely that we will either have to find a lot more member participation or raise fees.

Tree removal is one area that the park administration has taken care of in the past. Lately they seem to be getting behind on this. Safe removal of dead trees such as the one in front of cabin four requires a bit of expertise. This may be something that the club will have to pay for in the future. If there are any members with experience in this and an interest, please email me.

I always think of work at Nawakwa as recreational. I do it because I enjoy working outdoors with others. Some of the above projects I find very engaging, others I have no interest. I am sure other members share this selective joy in the work. Steve, Carl and Kim's work on the stone steps is a great example. If any of the above projects or any other work interests you, I hope you will get involved. Please email me if you can do anything. I am always happy to coordinating members and materials.

Derek Lomer, Camp Chair
derek@adkny.org



Winter storm damage photos by Derek Lomer

2009 Fall Outing Report

The 2009 Fall Outing, hosted by the New York Chapter, was a success, despite the low attendance. The outing was held at the Holiday Inn in Suffern, New York, just a few miles from Harriman State Park. We also offered the choice of staying at Nawakwa, our camp on Lake Sebago, but only one non-New York Chapter member took us up on this arrangement.

The outing was almost cancelled in August because of an insufficient number of registrations required to meet the hotel contract. The hotel contract was re-negotiated to include smaller banquet facilities for under 100 participants. Some basic facts:

- There were 81 registrations, of which 10 did not show.
- 68 participants were registered for the banquet.
- 50 of the registrations came during the last 30 days preceding the event.
- 3 walk-in registrations
- 22 of the registrations were for fall outing committee members or hike leaders (and a few children) that did not pay the registration fee.
- The New York chapter had the most participants – 27
- Participants came from 13 chapters.
- There were 31 planned trips over the three days, of which 14 events were cancelled because of low or no registrations.

Positive comments that were provided at the registration desk and on the evaluation forms included:

- The event was very well organized and planned
- Participants overwhelmingly enjoyed the event
- There were many different activities to choose from.
- The band (at the banquet) was good – not too loud.
- There were no reports of injuries or lost hikers.

Negative comments and suggestions for future outings included:

- We should add either rainy day options or not cancel hikes (it rained Sunday and some of the hike leaders cancelled their hikes)
- Some hotel rooms were dark and musty (for those that had rooms facing the indoor courtyard pool)
- One hike leader did not have a car and the participant did not want to drive to the trail head. It was suggested that the need for volunteers to drive should have been included in the hike description.
- Include the chapter affiliation on the badges
- There should be more outings in the downstate area
- Group breakfast would have been nicer

Despite the small turn out, the event posted a small profit of \$290, which was sent to the main club along with the hotel deposit. The event was a lot of work, especially for myself, chair of the event, and the registrar, Janet Sibarium. I found it difficult to get volunteers early in the process to take on the projects of coordinating the trips and arranging for the entertainment. It was important to arrange for the hotel and banquet at least one year before the event. Hikes and other events had to be finalized early enough to get the brochures printed and distributed. In the end, we were all happy that the event went well and everyone had a good time.

By Noel Schulz,
2009 Fall Outing Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 8–9 Mother’s Day Weekend/Long Island Chapter Invitational

Please join Kim Waldhauer, Giacomo Servetti and Lisa Bedford (LI Chapter) as we welcome Long Island Chapter members to experience the joys of Nawakwa.
Be sure to sign up for Steve Zubarik’s Nawakwa Loop Hike on Sunday morning!

May 15–16 Annual Spring Clean Up Weekend

For volunteers who are staying for dinner, healthy chow (baked ziti and salad for carnivores and vegetarians) with easy clean-up guaranteed.
Host: Janet Sibarium

May 22–23 Varleys’ Vernal Veggie Weekend

Vittles and vinextraordinaire served to give vim and vigor to all participants. Don’t vascillate.
Host: Marilyn Varley

Memorial Day Weekend May 29 - 31

Spend one, two, or three days at Nawakwa with Despina Metaxatos and Ingrid Strauch. Saturday’s dinner menu will feature a Greek theme, and Sunday’s will be a vegetarian delight.

June 5-6 Late Spring Weekend

Menu undecided at press-time, but healthy, nutritious and easy to prepare is guaranteed!
Omnivores and vegetarians will have plenty to savor.
Co-Hosts: Janet Sibarium (Registrar) & Lisa North

June 12-13 AMC Invitational Weekend

Join Bill Hladky welcoming AMCers to our lodge and activities of hiking, canoeing, kayaking, AND cooking our delicious hut like meals.
This is mountain laurel blooming time at camp and along the hiking paths.

June 19 – 20

Although the menu is not yet determined, host Noel Schulz promises healthy and delicious food. With strawberries in season, Noel will include fresh picked strawberries from a local farm for each meal.

See Pages 2 and 3 for all details.