

Chapter Chair's Message

by Ed O'Donnell

Dear Nawakwans,
Lest you think the Board has been having some relaxed retreats or junkets (just kidding), every month we meet for two hours, alternating months of face to face meetings with conference calls. Ten hard working members gather to tackle camp repairs, budget shortfalls and planning for weekends. Every month we approve the prior meeting's minutes and post them on the web site, so everyone is welcome to see what we are working on.

In brief, here are a few items:

Thanksgiving – this past fall season was one of storm damage to the Park. Would we be able to get access for Bill Hladky's Thanksgiving? We spent a lot of time back and forth trying to get use of the camp, finally not getting an access until the last minute. Approval came so late, we were lucky to have a back up offer from Bob Susser and the AMC. Many thanks to Bill for his offer to host and Bob for his invitation.

Jerry Flower and I attended the opening of the new REI store in Soho. We effectively networked with over a dozen outdoor organizations and businesses. We plan on hosting an invitational weekend or two in May and June to increase ADK NY membership.

The Boy Scouts were approved by the Board to use the camp for a service weekend, but again the storm damage precluded this from happening. Maybe next year?

David Miller did yeoman's work by reaching out to Neil Woodworth at the Main Club and advocated for ADK to get the State to pay for our foundation and roof - \$100K! Derek Lomer, our Camp Chair, put together a letter outlining our construction needs along with some photos. Let's keep our fingers crossed – no promises.

The Board clarified the club's murky policy on camp use by key holder members versus non key holders (members, applicants, guests...). It's published in this TM and posted on the web site.

The Main Club in Lake George is looking into whether they might be able to add us to their liability policy for a cheaper rate. The Board will be posting a protocol on what to do when we are bothered by noise from Baker Camp. Three new members were approved in October and a fourth in December. This is not an exhaustive list of recent work by the Board, but as you can see, they are a hard working group. Kudos.

Ed O'Donnell, Chapter Chair



Election Results

Re-elected to the Board of Directors:

David Miller - Director

Janet Sibarium - Secretary

Welcome, New Keyholders!

Amy Westphal

Yajing Li

Keiko Mori

Alexandra Neuber

Shizuko Okumura

Suzanne Rocheleau

Lockers available for rent

Many Nawakwa members find it convenient to rent a locker at Camp to store such items as sleeping bag, tent, air mattress, toiletries, towels, spare shoes, change of clothing, hiking gear, camp chair, and other necessities of camp life. The lockers are fairly spacious, and at \$35 a year, they're probably the cheapest real estate you'll ever rent.

If you don't have a locker currently but would like to enjoy the benefits of having one, you should notify Jerry Flower at membership@adkny.org or drop a note to ADKNY Membership, 802 W. 190th Street #1F, New York, NY 10040 with a check for \$35.

Social Media Expert Wanted!

ADKNY is seeking a web-savvy member to manage content and communications on our Facebook page, as well as other electronic means of keeping members connected, such as Twitter. Please email Board Member David Miller at snoop353@aol.com if you can contribute your time and expertise to this vital position.

Bald eagles spotted at Lake Sebago

Returning from a walk on the White Bar and Victory trails on the last day of 2011, a group of 5 hikers including the TM editor saw 2 adult bald eagles perched contentedly in a tree on the edge of Sebago, near Baker Camp.

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,

Glen Nison, 718-625-2182

gnisonbike@juno.com



Photo by Servetti

Simplified Camp Fees

Starting January 2012

Some Nawakwa trivia: how many different fees could someone be charged for using the camp? Two, four, eight, ... the answer is 16 – I think. Hard to believe? Let's not wonder why it's so hard to recruit hosts. You need to be an Event Planner, Gourmet Chef and now a CPA! Let's call it "fee creep." No one starts out by creating a complicated fee system, but every year or two, a Board decides that there is a sound reason for adding a different fee. Sometimes it's a bit more, but sometimes it's a bit less.

What was the old structure?

Weekdays	
Regular Member	\$10
Regular Member	\$10
Senior Members	\$ 8
Applicants	\$12
Guests	\$15
Children under 12	\$ 3
Saturday	
Regular Member Day	\$ 6
Regular Night	\$15
Senior member	\$ 6
Senior Night	\$10
Applicants day	\$ 7
Applicants night	\$17
Guests day	\$ 8
Guests night	\$20
Children under 12 day	\$ 2
Children under 12	\$ 3

Members for over 50 yrs Free

The new fee structure is ten (\$10) per day for anyone over 13 and five dollars (\$5) for children 12 and under. If you stay overnight, you have incurred another day fee. This makes the system very simple. No difference for seniors, guests, applicants, weekdays, weekends.... You can't stay at a hotel for free overnight, and so the camp fee for staying overnight is simply the incurrence of another day fee. Members for over 50 years are still free.

Hosted Weekends: January 2012

(visit www.adkny.org for updates)

Winter Wonderland : January 14 - 15

Join Chapter Chair Ed O'Donnell for his first Martin Luther King Day hosting.

Lots of logs to be burned, hot chocolate, hearty soup and great meals. Meals will include Saturday dinner, Sunday Breakfast and a trail lunch. After a day's worth of hiking and snow shoeing, we'll sit by the lodge fireplace and toast 'smores.

Ed O'Donnell 718-777-6338

eodonnell@goodwillny.org



Photo by Mizanur Rahman

Hikes: January–March 2012

(visit www.adkny.org for updates)

Hikes Chairperson: Glen Nison

718-625-2182

gnisonbike@juno.com

Please check schedules of various public transportation options as fares and schedules may have changed.

Saturday, January 21 • Nyack Circular

Moderate 7-mile hike from Towt Road, Nyack, including the Long Path and Buttermilk County Park Trails. Bus riders take the Coach Red and Tan 9 bus to Main Street and Broadway, Nyack, boarding at Port Authority at 8:15am or at GWBT at 8:40am and arriving at Nyack at 9:26. Leader will board the bus at either PABT or GWBT. Drivers wait for the bus riders at the parking lot next to and south of the standing clock located on Main Street, Nyack a short distance west of Broadway (drivers arriving via 9W look for rt 59 exit sign and exit EAST (onto Main st) and follow Main St 1/2 mile to the clock). There will be one-mile shuttle to Towt Rd. All hikers please call leader.

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

Sunday, January 22 • Riverside Park

A moderate, level walk from 116th St. to 66th St. followed by a nice bowl of hot soup (or whatever) at Ollie's. Meet 10:30 inside the Broadway & 116th St. subway station, but outside of the turnstiles. Optional small contribution for Riverside Park Fund.

(hikes, continued)

Will take place no matter what the weather, but call or email me (preferably) beforehand to make sure that the walk is on. No pets; no smoking. Not qualifying. Bob Susser, 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com

Saturday, January 28 • Arden: We Will Be Warm

Slow, short, roughed. Rain is no go. If you need creeper/insteps bring. If snow on ground be certain feet will be warm. Deep snow: call. Thermos of piping hot liquid/ food good idea. For smooth trail lovers, this is not your hike. Bill Hladky 914.410.4385 or wehldky@yahoo.com Public Transport: Short Line Bus: #401 is a Saturday only bus. Leaves Port Authority 8:30, arrives at Arden at 9:25. be sure to tell driver when you get on that you are getting off at Arden. Leader meets the bus.

Saturday, February 4 • Bronx Botanical Gardens

No flowers but plenty of stately, snow-clad trees in this winter wonderland. Take the 10:23 Harlem Line train from Grand Central, arriving at the Botanical Garden Station at 10:42. Or, take the No.2 subway to Allerton Ave., then the No.26 bus to the Mosholu Gate. Meet just outside the Mosholu Gate at 10:45. Admission to the Gardens is free on Saturdays until 11. If driving, park in the lot by the station (\$12) or on a nearby street. No coordination of rides. Visit will end around 3 but, of course, you're free to leave at any time. Call or email me (preferably) beforehand to make sure the visit is on. Bring lunch and beverage, or buy it in the cafeteria. No pets; no smoking. Not qualifying. Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com

Saturday, February 4 • Stonetown's Other Half B 5.5 B

Meet 9:30 AM at Stonetown Recreation Area ball fields parking off Mary Roth Drive in West Milford, New Jersey. From here we shuttle to Lake Riconda Drive to begin the hike with a challenging uphill on White Trail to Harrison Mountain. We descend south on Red Stonetown Circular Trail, possibly lunching at Tory Rocks or near Signal Rock, hiking through meadows back to the ball fields parking. Qualifying and joint with ADK North Jersey/Ramapo Chapter. Register with leader by 2/3. Rain or snow cancels. Stabilicers required. TC map 115. Despina Metaxatos dmetaxatos@hotmail.com or 201.952.4151 (NCA 9 PM)

Saturday, February 25 • Wanaque: (NJ)

the Wild Sides Views, short, slow, really roughed landforms. Rain is no go. If you need creeper/insteps bring. If snow on ground be certain feet will be warm. Deep snow, call. Thermos of piping hot liquid/food good idea. For smooth trail lovers, this is not your hike. No public transport, will attempt to match riders and drivers. Bill Hladky 914. 410.4385 or wehldky@yahoo.com

Sunday, February 26 • Rockefeller Preserve

A winter wonderland of snow-covered carriage paths and panoramic vistas. Around 6 miles at a moderately slow pace. Take the 10:20 MetroNorth Hudson Line train from Grand Central, arriving in Philipse Manor at 11:12. This train may also be boarded 10:40 at the Marble Hill station, one block from the 225th St. stop on the #1 subway. Out in time for the 4:10 train back to NYC. Call or email me to confirm, and if you would like or can offer a ride from NYC. No pets; no smoking. Qualifying. Bob Susser 212-666-4371; rsusser@aol.com.

TIMES IN RHYME

by Conservation Chair Peter Varley

Another year has ground to a close,
Was anything that happened important, who knows?

Printing the Trail Marker on paper has come to an end,
Too much of our meager budget on it did we spend.

So for those who missed them or had little time,
Past Conservation columns are presented summarized and in rhyme.

Indian Point is safe so they say,
Leave it alone, go on your way.
Cool water in, warm water out,
Is damage done to life forms, yes without doubt.
The ground shakes and the seismic needles dance,
Does it matter, why take a chance.

Energy independence, what a great theme,
But it's not as possible as it might seem,
Gas is trapped in the ground below,
Let's smash up the rock and let it f ow.
Inject the slurry, we're in a big hurry,
Environmental concerns don't make us worry.

The arrival of termites is greeted with dread,
Concern about their impact lies ahead.
Its dead wood and cellulose the food they seek,
If you spot them do not be meek.
Report their presence so action may be taken,
If defenses aren't mounted, Nawakwa is forsaken.

They come by land, water and by air,
And where they establish themselves will be despair.
Native species would cry out if they could,
To expel the invasives from their neighborhood.
Asian Beetles, loosestrife, Phragmites and Canada Geese
Are just a few of the invaders we need to police.

They scurry here and they scurry there,
And act as though they had not a care.
Sharp shrieks and a dive for cover,
Danger lies behind this bush and another.
Cute little critters and who'd have thunk
That they would go by the name of chipmunk.

And so ends a review of the past,
It's into the future our view is now cast.
What of the year ahead?
Will it be filled with despair and dread?
Or will hope be like a lightning's f ash,
Destroying the notion that's all about cash.
That individuals standing together may discover,
It's all about protecting our Mother.
Treat her kindly, treat her well,
And we all will have a friendly place to dwell.



Photo by Servetti

After Lean Acorn Crop in Northeast, Even People May Feel the Effects

By RITCHIE S. KING – The New York Times
Submitted by Bill Hladky

In Central Park, more than 1,000 trees in the red oak family were spangling the scenery with the colors of autumn. But this year, they were failing to do something else they generally do in the harvest season: produce acorns.

“I remember going into areas and you’d get the crunch of acorns under your feet,” said Neil Calvanese, vice president for operations at the Central Park Conservancy. “And this year, you kind of have to search around for them.”

It is a phenomenon happening not only in New York but also throughout the Northeast. While last fall set a recorded high for acorn production, at roughly 250 pounds per tree, this year is seeing a recorded low, with a typical tree shedding less than half a pound of its seeds, said Mark Ashton, a forest ecologist at Yale University. On average, oaks produce about 25 to 30 pounds of acorns a year.

“Scarlet oak, black oak, true red oak,” Dr. Ashton said. “These are the ones that dominate our forest, and these are the ones that aren’t producing acorns this year.”

Coming on the heels of an acorn glut, the dearth this year will probably have a cascade of effects on the forest ecosystem, culling the populations of squirrels, field mice and ground-nesting birds. And because the now-overgrown field mouse population will crash, legions of ticks — some infected with Lyme disease — will be aggressively pursuing new hosts, like humans.

“We expect 2012 to be the worst year for Lyme disease risk ever,” said Richard S. Ostfeld, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, N.Y. “We are already planning educational materials.”

Editor’s note: While we’re on the subject, The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has lots of useful information about ticks here: <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html>



Lake Sebago 12.31.11

Photo by Servetti

Camp Improvement Fund Donors

The Board gratefully acknowledges the following benefactors, as well as another 14 anonymous donors, who have contributed to the Camp Improvement Fund:

Jill A. Appel
Frank Bamberger
Diane G. Booth
Herb Coles and June Fait
Adam Conrad and Ellen Libretto
Lois DeConca
Janice Dunham
Helga Feder
Noam Kornfeld
Fred Mazelis
Glen Nison
Daphne Prior
David Robinson
Janet Sibarium
Ernest H. Spillar
Peter and Lee Sternlight
Leni Tabb
Deirdre Tourin
Jim and Maryanne Van Blarcom
Hsin Wang

Our total collected so far (as of December 29, 2011) is \$2,250. Donations received after the cutoff for this issue will be acknowledged in the next Trail Marker.



The handiwork of a Sebago beaver

Photo by Servetti

To Frack Or Not To Frack: New York Enters The Next Round Of The Drilling Debate

by Jillian Rayfield 12.29.2011

One side points to videos of people setting their tap water on fire. The other looks to an economic boom in Pennsylvania. But New Yorkers in general are mostly split on whether to lift a moratorium on hydrofracking in the state, and the debate over the decision is likely to continue well into 2012.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) had hoped that in the coming year the state would lift a moratorium on drilling in the Marcellus Shale in western New York. The shale, which also extends into parts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, is considered a prime source for extracting natural gas through a process called hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. This involves horizontally drilling into the shale rock and flooding it with chemicals to crack it open, allowing the gas to escape.

Over the past few years, there's been a dramatic increase in hydrofracking activity in the shale. Pennsylvania, for instance, has issued over 8000 permits and started over 4000 wells since 2008. Drilling companies and other supporters of lifting the ban point to Pennsylvania's recent economic windfall and a NYSDEC study that estimates fracking would directly create 25,000 jobs in New York.

Currently, New York has a ban on fracking permits in the shale, pending the release of new regulations by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. But though the NYSDEC had planned to release those regulations sometime in the new year, fears about the potential environmental impact of hydrofracking could delay a decision until the summer — or even until 2013.

A major concern is that the process could potentially contaminate the state's water supply since the shale is so close to the main water source for much of the state — including New York City. In some fracking site-adjacent towns, homeowners have reported that their tap water has turned brown or become highly flammable.

Though drilling companies claim that the shale is too deep to affect drinking water — and that there has been no direct link between flammable tap water and the fracking chemicals — a recent report from the EPA linked fracking chemicals to contaminated water for the first time, after a study of groundwater in the town of Pavillion, Wyoming.

"We have long argued that new gas development using the risky fracking technology should not be permitted in New York unless and until it has been demonstrated that it can be done safely. We're simply not there yet," Kate Sinding, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council, wrote in a blog post.

Emily DeSantis, an NYSDEC spokeswoman, said the report is "specific to Pavillion," and that New York drilling would be even deeper "and not within underground sources of drinking water."

"New York would require rigorous casing and cementing standards and a minimum of 1,000 feet of separation between the high-volume hydraulic fracturing activity and the deepest ground water," DeSantis said, the New York Daily News reports.

It's tough to pin down a direct link between the chemicals and

water contamination, because as Elizabeth Kolbert explained in a recent edition of the New Yorker, the drilling companies can legally keep the chemicals in the fracking solution secret:

In the 2005 energy bill, largely crafted by Vice-President Dick Cheney, fracking was explicitly exempted from federal review under the Safe Drinking Water Act. As a result of this dispensation, which has been dubbed the Halliburton Loophole, drilling companies are under no obligation to make public which chemicals they use. Likely candidates include such recognized or suspected carcinogens as benzene and formaldehyde.

The NYSDEC began studying the environmental impact of hydrofracking in 2008, when the state first put its moratorium on fracking permits into place. Right now, the NYSDEC is in the public comment stage for its report on the potential environmental impact of fracking and proposed new regulations. It recently extended the length of this period from 90 days to 120 days, which means it will end on January 11.

In late November, the NYSDEC also held a series of hearings in New York over the plan to lift the ban — with high-profile guest appearances from actor Mark Ruffalo and "Gasland" documentary producer Josh Fox — so the NYSDEC could hear some of those public comments.

So far, the NYSDEC Commissioner says, they've received well over 15,000 comments, which means the review process could last until the spring, and a final decision on lifting the ban could even be delayed until 2013.

Another potential roadblock is proposed legislation by a bipartisan coalition of state lawmakers — including Sen. Greg Ball (R), and state Assemblymen Robert Sweeney (D) and Robert Castelli (R) — that would ban fracking for one year until more studies can be done on the potential environmental impact. Add that to the fact that Gov. Cuomo has not allocated any funds in the state's budget for 2012 to regulate fracking and drilling, and there is a lot of potential for the decision to be put off for some time.

"Without the funding to properly regulate and without the manpower to properly oversee this industry, we must put the brakes on fracking," Ball said in a speech last week. "It's our fundamental responsibility to learn from the mistakes of other states like Pennsylvania and avoid the devastating effects of hydraulic fracturing here in New York."

"Families have had their drinking water contaminated, experienced death of their livestock and witnessed the values of their homes drop by 90 percent. How is this acceptable?" Ball asked.

"Along with Senator Ball, I continue to support the idea for a moratorium on high-volume, horizontal hydrofracking until such a time all the evidence is in and we elected officials, who are stewards of the environment, can make an informed and intelligent decision on this important matter," Castelli said, The Daily Peeskill reports. "This natural gas has been in the ground for 288 million years. It can stay in the ground a little longer until we make an informed decision."

Jillian Rayfield is a Reporter/Blogger for TPM

Fall Work Day/Weekend 2011 Many thanks to all the hard working men and women who came to lend a hand, and thanks especially to Tom Schiels and Kim Killion for hosting the weekend, and preparing the delicious meals that kept everybody happy!

Photos by Glen Nison



the sailboat comes up for storage



Everod - split the wood, not the sailboat!



Mark and Rich bring in the fleet



splitting and storing wood for the winter



David at work



Kim creating magic on the griddle



A happy and hungry group



Rich working up an appetite



Steve and Mark discuss the day's work



Robert, Rich and Katya working to replenish our wood pile

Access to Camp

Access to Nawakwa is available to all keyholders at any time during the season, May 15 to October 15. During the off-season, permits to use the camp must be requested ahead of time by contacting Ed O'Donnell eodonnell@goodwillny.org. The Park requires a minimum of 48 hours advance notice to grant an off-season permit, so please contact Ed MORE THAN 48 hours before the time for which you would like a permit.

Keyholders are welcome to bring guests to camp at any time and are expected to accept responsibility for orienting their guests, explaining the rules, etc. Guests may not remain at camp on their own after the keyholder has departed.

Nawakwa applicants are welcome to register as participants for hosted weekends. They may also come during hosted midweeks provided the midweek host or another keyholder specifically agrees to act as applicant host; please call first to arrange this. Applicants may additionally visit camp as the guest of a keyholder during non-hosted periods.

Applicants who wish to bring friends or family members who are not Nawakwa applicants themselves should contact the host/keyholder to arrange a visit.

ADK-NY Chapter members who are not Nawakwa keyholders (or applicants) are also welcome to register as participants for hosted weekends and may visit during hosted midweeks provided the midweek host or another keyholder specifically agrees to act as guest host; please call first to arrange this. They may additionally visit camp as the guest of a keyholder during non-hosted periods.

Any guest who is not a keyholder must be "hosted" by a keyholder during the entirety of his or her stay at Nawakwa. The main purpose of this rule is safety, but access to the camp is also a privilege. During hosted weekends and weekdays, the host will often agree to host individuals who are interested in visiting to see what the camp is about, typically in anticipation of applying for membership.

We ask that guests be hosted so there is someone (the keyholder) who accepts responsibility for orienting the guest, explaining the rules (e.g., no swimming without an adult on the dock—someone who agrees not to walk away and leave swimmers unattended), and ensuring that there is a positive experience. If you have any questions about these rules, seek out a Board member.



David, Steve, Kim and Lisa at Lake Skenonto, 12.31.11 Photo by Servetti



On the Beech Trail

Photo by Servetti



On Popelopen Torne

Photo by Servetti



On Hi Tor

Photo by Steve Zubarik



On Popelopen Torne

photo by Servetti