

ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB ONONDAGA CHAPTER (ADK-ON) FALL BUSINESS MEETING REPORT



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1. Business Meeting/Annual Banquet Agenda

- Social Hour at 5pm
- Dinner At 6pm
- Business Meeting
 - Welcome
 - Clar-Willis Award (FLTC), NCTA
 - Outing Leaders Awards (presenter: Lisa Druke)
 - Trail Work Acknowledgments (presenter: Tony Rodriquez)
 - Distinguish Volunteer Award (presenter: Kathy Disque)
- Election of 2010 Officers (proposed slate)
 - Jon Bowen, Chair
 - Sigi Schwinge, Vice Chair
 - Kathy Disque, Treasurer
 - Missy Ethridge, Secretary
 - Gail Opanhoske, Director
 - Bill Coffin, Margie Ong, Advisors
- Bylaw changes
- Vice Chair comments (Sigi Schwinge)
- Program: "Restoration of the Aqueduct in Camillus", David Beebe

2. Directors' Report

Directors: **Gail Opanhoske and Cindy Chayka**

3. Conservation Committee

Chair: **Mary Kunzler-Larmann**

Associate Chair: **Kathy Disque**

- Met three times in Schenectady area with Club Conservation Committee. This includes Canoe Routes Sub-Committee and Wild Lands Stewardship Program.
- In 2009 the Club Conservation Committee has continued to:
 - Track State budgeting process & monitor legislative outlook affecting our public land
 - Guide ADK strategic planning as it relates to Conservation
 - Continue protective and environmental lobby efforts, for example:
 - Advocate for Bigger Better Bottle Bill
 - Preserve clean air legislation
 - Work with DEC on policy regarding use of Adirondack lands and waters, for example:
 - Low's Lake: addition to Five Ponds Wilderness Area & floatplane restriction recommendations
 - Work for ATV legislation--- responsible use of public lands
 - Advocate for roadless and motorless use of public lands— statewide
 - Advise DEC on reclassification of easement lands
 - Assist in state land management planning (UMP) process
 - Advocate for new land acquisitions
 - Assist in state land management planning (UMP) process
 - Follow DEC Lands & Forests Proposed Rule-Making announcements & provide comment
 - Provide comment to APA on Snowmobile Trails Construction & Maintenance Guidelines proposal
 - Inform on Marcellus Shale Formation natural gas drilling – and hydro-fracturing technology
 - Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program updates and expansion
- **The Wild Lands Stewardship Program** – adopters explore and monitor a unit or section of Forest Preserve or other public lands. The sub-committee administers and promotes the program.

- **Canoes Routes Sub Committee** – monitor and work to assure preservation of existing canoe routes, river and lake access, promote the opening of new routes.
- I also attended DEC Region 6 & 7 Open Space Planning Advisory Committee meetings in Cortland, Watertown and Lowville, representing ADK and the North Country Trail Association.

Paul Ertelt, ADK Communications Director, has been producing and distributing an excellent email **ADK Conservation Update**. This has been an effective means of communication with members club-wide highlighting important issues and, when needed, asking for our letter- writing support. To receive this Update, if you are not already, contact: Paul Ertelt, Communications Director, ADK, 518 449-3870, paulertelt@adk.org.

4. Education Committee

Chair: **Lucy Hawkins**

5. Internet Communications Committee

Chair: **Patti Prince**

For 2009, the website www.adk-on.org was maintained. Over the last year, more information from the quarterly newsletter has been published on the website. Starting in the summer of 2009, the long descriptions of the outings as well as contact information has been added to the website in a PDF format. With this last addition, the majority of the newsletter is available on the website.

The ADK_ON Yahoo! group has been maintained over the past year. There are currently 105 local chapter members in the group. The Yahoo! group is restricted to members of the Onondaga chapter. A Facebook group was recently created and everyone is invited to join. The Facebook group is a public group. A link to join both of each of these groups is on the <http://www.adk-on.org/membership.html> page.

6. Membership

Co-Chairs: **Peg Whaley and Gail Opanhoske**

As of October 31, 2009:

Club Members: 27,043 (an increase of 16 since last year)

Chapter Members: 1,307 (a decrease of 4 since last year)

Affiliate Members: 22 (a decrease of 3 from last year)

- Members who were officially recorded Forty-Sixers in 2008:
 - Walt Jackemuk
 - Paul Sheneman (winter 46er)
 - Martha Loeffler

- Members who were Fingerlakes Trail End-to-Enders in 2008
 - None

- Members who completed the Fire Tower Challenge in 2008 and 2009
 - Kathy Bowen
 - Jon Bowen

- Members who completed the ADK Quest recently:
 - None

Several of our Chapter members have received FLTC recognition for their hiking accomplishments on the Finger Lakes Trail:

Completed Onondaga Trail (47 miles): Mike Whelsky, Joe Dabes, Rich Breslin, Horst Schwinge, Sigi Schwinge.

Completed all FLT branch trails (270 miles): Horst Schwinge, Sigi Schwinge.

Completed Delaware County Hike Series (71 miles): Mike Loftus, Jean Loftus, Theresa Evans, Melissa Boose, Kathy Disque, Jon Bowen

7. North Country Trail Team (NCTT)

Team Leader: **Mary Coffin**

The **mission** of the NCTT is to extend the FLT and NCT Onondaga Trail ~22 miles eastward from Spruce Pond to Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area, at the junction of the NCT north, FLT Onondaga and Link Trail south. It is a 2-3 foot wide footpath/hiking trail open to foot travel only. The project involves four season scouting, obtaining landowner permission, negotiating with DEC, flagging, construction, blazing, certification and seeking stewards to maintain the trail.

2009 was a very productive year with project **96% complete, 1 mile to go**. About 0.5 miles in DeRuyter State Forest and 0.4 miles in Tioughnioga WMA. When complete:

36% State land ~8 mi

23% Onondaga County ~5 mi

27% private ~6 mi

13% Temp road connector. ~3 mi

1. **The FLT O1 map** has been extended to 25.6 miles and the **O2 map** is now 21.2 miles as GPSed by Joe Dabes September 2009.

2. **New mileage this year** extended the trail 2 miles on private land in the New Woodstock area from Webber Road across Route 13 to Smith Road, and 1.6 miles in the Tioughniouga WMA north of Damon Rd. to the FLT Onondaga terminus on Holmes Road north. FLT signage is at all trailheads and NPS carsonites have been installed on the newly certified sections. Brosseaus have blazed all new sections and placed register boxes. Ray Sergott and Chuck Caster have done extensive drainage work in wet areas.

2. **Volunteers in 2009** have participated in over 45 trail work events and expended nearly 1100 person hours on the extension trail alone. At the NPS rate, of \$18/hr = \$ 19,800 sweat equity value on new Onondaga trail projects alone.

3. **NPS-NCT Certification:** Application will be sent to FLTC and NPS for 1 mile completed trail east of route 13. The 1.7 mile section in Tioughniouga WMA and private access off Damon Rd. was certified in August. All other completed off road sections of the Onondaga Trail are certified and noted on Maps O-1& O-2.

4. **Easements:** We accepted the donation of an additional easement on the trail between Highland Forest and Dam Rd. near DeRuyter Lake from Mrs. Jean Pitt. Several others are in the works. Trail easements protect the ribbon of trail in perpetuity regardless of who owns the land.

5. **Outreach:** We made an update presentation to the Town of Fabius Board of Supervisors to show trail progress since their resolution of endorsement 10 years ago.

6. **Landowners:** We have four new landowners. All landowners recieved a letter of appreciation for ADK-ON and we made personal visits to ~ten landowners during the year.

7. **Part 190 No Bike Signs** have been posted by DEC in DeRuyter State Forest to protect the NCT/FLT as a foot trail as per the Tioughniouga UMP.

8. **Trail usage:** The word is out, brochures are being picked up and registers are filling. We have encountered non club hikers on all new sections. People are using the new sections of trail. This is rewarding.

8. All of the above could have not been accomplished without the hard working, loyal ADK trail volunteers. Many thanks. Think about joining us in the spring.

8. Newsletter

Chair: **Mike Loftus**

The four quarterly Newsletters were issued using the same printer entered address and posting system that was initiated in 2008.

9. Outings Committee

Chair: **Lisa Druke**

Spring Outings Schedule: **Melissa Boose**

Summer Outings Schedule: **Kathy Disque**

Fall Outings Schedule: **Jon Bowen**

Winter Outings Schedule: **Lisa Druke**

Peg Whaley

Statistician: **Hal Boyce**

By Season				
Winter '08/'09 = 36	Spring '09 = 41	Summer '09 = 72	Fall '09 = 46	
Total Scheduled Outings 2009 = 195*				
* Approximately 20% of the outings were inside the blue line, Walking Wednesday's was counted once, total includes work hike outings				

By Type	# of Outings	By %
Hike/snowshoe	130	65
Work Hike	26	13
Canoe	18	9
Ski	17	8
Other (bike, social, etc.)	10	5

- Note Winter outing is sometimes both ski/snowshoe, each were counted

Outings by leader:

There were 39 leaders who scheduled one or more outings.

Members who led 4 or more outings as of October 11, 2009:

Name	Trips	Name	Trips
Mary Dineen	19	Marilyn Rees	8
Dick Lightcap	16	Ron Overy	8
Mary Coffin	14	Jon Bowen	7
Theresa Evans	10	Brenda Veilleux	7

Bill Coffin	10		Hal Boyce	7
Tony Rodriguez	9		Lisa Druke	7
Sigi Schwinge	9		Charlene Zebley	6
Kim Whitehead	9		Bill Brosseau	4
Kathy Disque	8		Peg Whaley	4
Kathy Bowen	8			

10. Pigeon Lakes Wilderness Area

Chair: **Mary Coffin**

Nov 8, 2008 Windfall Trail Work- 3 ADK Iroquois Chapter members cut some of the blowdown, but a chainsaw is needed to handle a couple of spots. There is a spot where the trail direction is confusing and needs trail marker to indicate direction. The witch hobble was bad. They had the snow. The trail had a lot of wet areas. 3ppts, 24 person hr, Charlene Zebley leader

Nov 16, 2008 Norridgewock Trail: 2 ADK Onondaga workers hiked to the new beaver pond and did the following trail work: nailed markers on the reroute around the pond and nailed a reroute sign at each end of the new trail, removed a couple of new blow-downs, using loppers and a handsaw. Water levels were very high after the previous day's rain, the beaver dam crossing was very difficult. We will need to do more reinforcing of the dam next summer. 2ppts, 8 person hours, Kathy Disque leader

Feb 22, 2009 Cascade xcski loop: Recreational ski trip, 6 ppts, Kim Whitehead leader

May 17, 2009 West Mtn Work Trip: Group inspected entire trail from Uncas Rd. to summit, side and overhead cutting, removed ~ 15 trees by handsaw, removed smaller blowdown or flicked off the trail and cut drainage on lower section of road-trail. Trail needs 3 large tree trunks cut with chainsaw or ax, bridge between Upper and Lower Ponds repaired and reset, and one bog bridge is tipped, more drainage needed, a new bog bridge is needed. Markers are good except for summit junction to Otter Pond/Higby Rd. side and colors are confusing in places. More information Trail Conditions section of final DEC report. 13 ppts, 175.5 person hours including drive time, Sigi Schwinge leader

May 27, 2009 Recreational Hike on Norridgewock Trail - We had 31 participants that hiked from Twitchell to Beaver River, there was light rain in the morning and bugs in the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed lunch at the Norridgewock Lodge and a narrated boat tour back to Stillwater Landing at the end of the day. Kathy Disque Leader

July 11, 2009 Norridgewok Work trip: We had thunderstorms so we only cut brush on about a half mile of the section from Razor Back Pond Rd to Oswego Pond. 10 hr. Kathy Disque Leader

August 1, 2009 Constable Pond/West Mt. Work trip: Work performed: side and overhead cutting, 2 trees removed by handsaw, smaller blowdown pulled or flicked off trail, some drainage on main trail, inspection of trails(Chub Pond, Mays Pond, Constable Pond). Constable Pond: Main (blue) trail is heavily overgrown by witchhobble and other growth along Constable Pond. Good to excellent on main trail up to where Constable Pond starts. The new puncheons on the main trail help a great deal, but after a heavy rain there are still many bootsucking mud patches left after the Queer Lake turnoff to warrant some attention. 2 volunteers worked 7 hrs, driving time 5 hrs. (total 24 per.hr.) Horst & Sigi Schwinge leaders

Aug 27, 2009 Norridgewok and Constable Pond Work Trip Work trip: Group of 4 volunteers completed sidecutting from Razor Back Pond Rd to Oswego Pond then moved on to Higby Rd. to Constable Pond on the West Mtn. trail. Group completed sidecutting to the Chub Lake turnoff and noted that a very good sign is now at the turnoff. Still no sign at the Mays Pond trail turnoff. 4 volunteers worked 4.5 hrs. = 18 hrs work Paul Sirtoli, Horst and Sigi Schwinge, Kathy Disque(leader)

Sept. 6, 2009 Moose Sighting Norridgewok Trail: On the way out of Beaver River on Sunday, along the Twitchell trail, Kathy Disque saw a real live bull moose! She was heading south, only about 1/2 mile from Beaver River and saw an enormous moose starting to run away through the trees with a big rack of antlers. The spot she saw him was after the first uphill on the trail, and just before the start of the big hill, right at the base of the big hill there is a little brook that crosses, about 75 yards or so before that brook.

Total = 259.5 hours at NPS rate of \$18/hr = \$4671.00 value to DEC

11. Publicity Committee

Chair: Loraine Baxter

In January, 2009, press releases were sent out naming the 2009 Executive Committee members and general information about the Adirondack Mountain Club. Several hikes have been publicized throughout the year in an effort to promote ADK and to attract others to join. In this effort, flyers were posted in several local libraries as well as at Beaver Lake. This information was also sent to television stations and Syracuse newspapers. Other featured programs included ADK sponsored educational programs and slide shows.

Syracuse Family Times posted information provided by ADK members in their July issue about hiking with children. The North Country Trail Junction Dedication Hike received some coverage as well.

Hikes will continue to be publicized and sent to the media. A special thank you to all hike leaders that have so graciously responded to my requests.

12. Social Committee

Chair: **Mary Dineen**
Kathy Bowen

The Social Committee held five events during the 2008-2009 season. The following events were held:

Fall Dinner and Meeting at Arrowhead Lodge, 61 attended

Holiday Gathering at Baltimore Woods, 43 attended

Spring Potluck Dinner at Arrowhead Lodge, 79 attended

Hike Leaders Picnic at Ryder Park, 20 attended

Fall Picnic at Land o Pines Camp (Marc delPozzo), 40 attended

Programs were given by Julia Goren on the High Peak Summits and by Greg Smith about his Beaver Lake trip to Alaska.

13. Trails Committee

Chair: **Tony Rodriguez**

- Completed reconstruction, in two stages, of the washed out bridge in the Mariposa State Forest, with participation by the Fabius Boy Scout troop.
- Rerouted three sections of trails affected by logging, severely wet areas, erosion activity, and relocation out of a ditch.
- Following a consensus meeting of the minds, instead of the formerly proposed bridge across Cheningo Creek in Taylor Valley, 8 large flat boulders were proposed downstream of the beaver dam. DEC completed the installation by October 1. During the short high water periods it may still be more prudent to use the alternate road walk.
- Began the extensive proposal to correct the steep and hazardous conditions of the trail above Tinker Falls. The northern end has been completed and plans are being developed to set up an Alleycat Trail Crew project next summer to work on the south side stream crossing and steep incline.
- Performed the usual trail maintenance tasks of removing blowdowns, DR mowing extensive brush and briar growth, clearing briars in areas inaccessible by the DR mower, and leveling (benching) of uneven terrain.
- Bill and Anne Brosseau continued their munificent, marathon blazing activities both on new trails and refurbishing of blazes on existing trails.

14. Treasurer

Treasurer: **Kathy Disque**

ADK Onondaga
Budget 2009

	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2008 Actuals</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
Revenues:	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 13,411.15	\$ 12,000.00
Expenses:			
Membership	\$ 200.00	\$ 41.86	\$ 200.00
Social	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,845.34	\$ 2,000.00
Outings	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,059.50	\$ 2,600.00
Trails	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 984.52	\$ 1,250.00
Administration	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,109.55	\$ 1,000.00
Conservation	\$ 350.00	\$ 371.24	\$ 300.00
Education	\$ 300.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 200.00
Internet Communications	\$ 100.00	\$ 124.26	\$ 150.00
Others	\$ -	\$ 698.02	\$ -
Donations	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 3,800.00
Total Expenses	\$ 12,300.00	\$ 13,114.29	\$ 11,500.00

Cash Assets as of Nov 1/09

Bank Accounts	\$ 11,629.49
Savings Account total	\$ 6,691.18
Trails Protection Account	<u>\$ 8,801.18</u>
Total Cash Assets	\$ 27,121.85

Ballot: Bylaw Changes

Proposed Change #1

Article VI, Section 1, item 3 to be changed to:

“Motions and other business shall be approved by a majority vote of those voting. Abstentions will be recorded but will not be counted as negative votes”

In Favor _____ **Against** _____

Proposed Change #2

Article VI, Section 2, item 1 to be changed to:

“ten (10) standing committees” add “Landowner Liaison”
Article VI, Section 2, item 13 to be added:

“The Landowner Liaison Committee has the responsibility to protect and preserve any hiking trails sponsored by the Chapter including West Mountain Trail, Finger Lakes Trail, North Country Trail and any other hiking trails formally adopted by the Chapter by written agreement”

In Favor _____ **Against** _____