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Agenda and proposed slate of officers - for Fall Business Report, Post Standard, Yahoo and Facebook

## Business Meeting/Annual Banquet Agenda

\* **Social Hour** 3:00 PM

\* **Business Meeting** 3:30 PM

\*Welcome (Sigi Schwinge)

\*Outing Leaders Awards (presenter: Lisa Druke)

\*Trail Work Acknowledgements (presenter: Tony Rodriguez)

\*Recognition and Awards (presenter: Peg Whaley)

\*NPS Awards (presenter: Mary Coffin)

### \* **Election of 2017 officers (proposed slate)**

\*Mike Ogden, Chair

\*Gretchen Barfoot, Vice Chair

\*Kathy Disque, Treasurer

\*Missy Ethridge, Secretary

\*Jon Bowen, Director

\*Sigi Schwinge, Advisor

\*Dick Harper, Advisor

\* **Program 4 PM**

\*Catherine Forbes, ADK Director of Development

\* **Dinner 5 PM**

## **1. Directors' Report-Directors: John McCoy**

The club as a whole continues to be in good financial standing operating at or below budget in most areas, and most areas are seeing a revenue increase from last year. The 2017 budget will be voted upon at the next meeting in December. By the time you are reading this, the high peaks info center (HPIC) will be under renovation and construction will be started on a new campground loop, wash house and concession stand at Heart Lake. Stay tuned for exciting news and celebrations for ADK's "second century" in 2017 as ADK turns 100!

## **2. Conservation Committee-Chair: Mary Coffin/Associate Chair: Kathy Disque**

### **ADK-ON Conservation Committee Annual Summary**

**1. Boreas Pond Classification ADK and BeWildNY Proposal:** In mid-October APA published 4 plans and none of them mirrored exactly the environmental groups plans. **Watch for meetings and hearings throughout the state. None are in CNY but ADK is considering running busses to either Albany or Rochester. A large turnout of ADKers is expected. Watch for the Action Alert. ADK needs your support.**

Wednesday, December 7, 2 p.m. DEC headquarters, 625 Broadway, Albany.

ADK and BeWildNY still support 2/3rds Wilderness except for 5.7 miles of Gulf Brook Rd. to LaBeir Flow open to motor vehicles and Wild Forest south of Gulf Brook Rd. Paddlers and hikers will still need to hike/portage to the ponds by foot for approx. 1 mile. A snowmobile trail is supported close to Blue Ridge Road in the Wild Forest to the south of Gulf Br. Rd. But no motorized access is suggested for the ponds themselves.

If these purchases (Boreas Wilderness, Casey Brook Tract, MacIntyre east and west) are added as Wildernesses to the adjacent Dix Wilderness and High Peaks Wilderness then 280,000 acres of contiguous wilderness, largest in the east, will be created.

**2. The New York State Constitution** is up for possible revision in 2017 (every 20 yr.). The last revision was in 1997. The Conservation Committee will be considering the ramifications on the present Article 14 protections of the Catskill and Adirondack and all other Forest Preserves. If a Constitutional Convention is convened 100% of it is up for possible revision.

**3. ATV Use on Public Roads and Public (State) Lands:** The NYS Assembly defeated the ATV budget bill passed by the Senate. BUT a similar bill will probably be included in 2017. Strong ADK support will be needed again to protect the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve, State Forests throughout the state and other state lands through which our trails (FLT, NCNST etc.) pass. Only a repeat of the 1000's of responses will again defeat ATV bills. In 2016 ATV bills supported youth aged 12 and adults to ride ATVs on state lands and state roads at speeds up to 55mph.

**4. Over Crowded, Impacted High Peaks:** Weekends and holidays this years have attracted 1000's to the high peaks, especially trailheads from Heart Lake and Route 73.

The impact on safety, sanitation and overuse has taken a toll on our mountain trails. DEC Rangers are stopping and turning around cars at South Meadow Rd. after the lot is full and ticketing any illegally parked cars between South Meadow Rd. and the Loj. DEC has prepared a list of hikes outside the High Peaks:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9163.html>.

**5. State Land Master Plan (SLMP) Amendments:** APA has voted to allow use of some non-natural materials in the Wild Forest areas such as steel cables for bridges as long as the decking is wood, fiberglass outdoor privy units etc.

**6. Rail Trail Compromise:** DEC, APA and Governor approved a plan for NYS owned Adirondack RR tracks. Tracks will be removed from Tupper Lake to Lake Placid (34mi.) to build a multiuse trail. Stakeholders are meeting over the fall and winter to consider trail designs to accommodate snowmobiles, bikes and pedestrians. Part of the funding will come from scrap of the scrap metal from the rails. Tracks between Tupper Lake and Big Moose (45 mi.) as well as all the way to Utica will be restored for tourist trains.

**7. Conservation Committee trip** to The Great Swamp Conservancy brought out 22 participants on a beautiful fall day. We focused on restoration efforts to reclaim the wetland ecosystem after it was drained a century and a half ago for agriculture.

**8. Other issues** discussed this year include: Essex Chain UMP implementation, NYS budget, EPF and legislation updates, invasive species monitoring both terrestrial and aquatic, potential ATV use of State lands, support for funding for the [Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) [LWCF], SLUMP Land Bank Amendments.

### **3. Education Chair Person-Chair: Lucy Hawkins**

As Education Chairperson and the support of other ADK Members we have had 14 programs in the 2016 season. The following events were:

January and February no Education Programs

April 17<sup>th</sup> -Lakeview Natural Beach

April 26<sup>th</sup> -Slide Show: Wild Flowers

May 1<sup>st</sup> -O. D. von Engeln Preserve & Lime Hollow Center

May 3<sup>rd</sup> -Wild Flowers Cazenovia Gorge

May 15<sup>th</sup> -Spring Flowers FLT/NCT

May 21<sup>st</sup> -Historic Site Montour Falls

May 29<sup>th</sup> - Spring & Wild Flowers Brookfield Swamp

June 4<sup>th</sup> - Wild Flowers Chaumont Barrens

June 5<sup>th</sup> - Wild Flowers Fawn Lake

June 19<sup>th</sup> - Wild Life Paddle Lakeview Pond

July 2<sup>nd</sup> -Wild Flower Hike Volney

July 16<sup>th</sup> - 315 Years old Pine Tree Charles Lathrup

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> -Wetlands & Swamp Habitats Great Swamp Conservancy

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> -Wildlife Hike Beaver Lake

Thank you everyone for helping out.

### **5 Finger Lakes Trail-Liaison: Mike Ogden/ Sigi Schwinge**

Our ADK Onondaga Chapter maintains 50 miles on the main FLT trail and 45 miles on the Onondaga Trail. Sigi Schwinge and Mike Ogden represent ADK-ON on FLT's Board of Managers.

## News

The FLT has not found a permanent full time Executive Director as of yet. Quinn Wright originally stepped forward to fill the position part-time until a new E.D. could be found. Since that hasn't happened, he has now decided to fill in full-time for 2 years to give the Board of Managers more time to fill the position.

Check out the updated interactive map at <http://www.fltconference.org/trail/go-hiking/interactive-map-segmented/>. When you zoom in you will see a drop-down menu on the upper right. You can hide or show symbols on the map just by checking or un-checking. If you click on the yellow "FLT" symbol a menu will pop up showing the latest revision date for that map. It will also show a link to the trail condition notice for that map and a link to the store if your map is out of date. If you click on the parking (P) symbol a menu pops up where you can type in your address and it will give you driving directions to that parking area from your location. Go to the site and explore.

### **Upcoming events on the FLT.**

February 18, 2017 - The winter Howard Beye Hike will be at the Huckleberry Bog Nature Trail on map B3.

April 29, 2017 - Spring Wally Wood hike on the International Loop on map M19

Spring-Fall - The FLT County Hike series will begin in the Catskills at the very eastern point on May 20, 2017.

June 9, 10, 11 - The FLT Spring Weekend hosted by ADK-ON will be held at TC3 (Tompkins-Cortland Community College) near Dryden.

Summer 2017 - The Ed Sidote Hike (TBA)

Check the FLT website at <http://www.fltconference.org/trail/> for more information as it becomes available.

## **6. Internet Communications Committee-Chair: Patti Prince**

### Facebook Group

Membership: 299, 86 added within the last year

The Facebook group is a very active group. To join, search for **Adirondack Mountain Club - Onondaga** in the Facebook search box at the top of the screen. Request to join the group. People post hike photos and everything related to getting outside in nature.

### Yahoo Group

Membership: 134, 6 added in the last year

To join, go to the Groups section in Yahoo and in the search box search for **Adirondack Mountain Club Onondaga**. Request to join the group. The group is posting important hike related messages such as reminders on upcoming hikes.

Web Site

<http://www.adk-on.org/>

The web site is being updated and the new site will be live shortly. The new site will be able to be more readable on mobile devices including phones. It also will include a few new features including our Facebook group's feed. Let us know what you think about the new site.

## **7. LANDOWNER RELATIONS COMMITTEE -Chair: Bill Coffin**

Landowner Visits: Committee members visited 38 landowners this year. 29 more are not available because they reside too far from our driving capability. Our visits are brief.

Nearly all owners are very friendly and supportive.

Emphasis: The FLTC and the NCTA are not private use clubs like hunting. We are a non-profit, long distant community service for the hiking public.

Landowner Committee: Fewer workers were available this season due to some chronic illnesses and we wish good recovery. Those left still got the job done.

New Trail Agreements: We have 4, all from new owners from property sales.

Hunting Closures: Rte. 41 area Cortland County: A short and permanent hunting closure has caused a very long road walk. The only thing we can do at this time is to improve the road walk. We are talking to two other owners so far. We have ideas but they must wait to see what develops.

Easements: The Exec. Comm. should consider a policy that all easements shall have no hunting closure unless it is insisted on at the time of the donation. The FLTC Board is working on an easement enforcement policy.

Another Re-location: This one is on top of Jones Hill on private property. The owner is frustrated by trespassers that caused high use trail impact at Tinker Falls and Labrador Hollow. MT bikes are the usual problem. Scouting by Tony Rodriquez, Mary Coffin and Ed O' Shea finds the Jones Hill re-location won't be so simple and nothing stops the determined trespasser who is common in high use areas.

Landowner Identification Maintenance: We need the complete name(s), address, parcel number, e-mail and phone number updated at least once per year. Also, a trail overlay on a tax boundary map. I proposed a computer program be written at the FLTC last April and it was met with much interest as a basic trail management tool. It was delegated to a specialist but no news yet.

The only practical way is for Mt Morris headquarters would do the updates and inform the sponsors to follow-up and confirm. Only a few people in FLTC do tax maps and tax rolls. There are 65 individuals and 15 groups who sponsor the FLT trail sections.

Hiker Right-of-Way Sign: I proposed to the FLTC last June that the attached sign to be posted on several trail locations. This involves the Dennis violation of our trail easement. FLTC is seeing its lawyer and no decision is back yet.

New Lean-to in Hoxie Gorge: This is a fine new lean-to on a very pretty site in a DEC forest. But a private land closure nearby could put it out of business. Lean-tos must have two-way accesses secured by easements or public lands. This area is most distant for ADKON and is now maintained by local volunteers. A new trail organization is needed here to serve the FLTC.

## **8. Membership- Chair: Peg Whaley**

Thru September 30, 2016

The Chapter 1,321 (down 8 from Sept. 2015)

Affiliates 28 (remains the same from Sept. 2015)

The Club 27,612 (up 375 from Sept. 2015)

## **9. North Country Trail Team (NCTT)-Team Leader: Mary Coffin**

**1. Volunteer Trail Work Hours:** 66 chapter members have participated in **1,935 person hours** on the North Country National Scenic Trail [NCNST] concurrent with the FLT and explorations on the Adirondack route. Approx. 80% (83 miles) of ADK-ON's FLT sponsorship is also NCNST. Thanks to all trail volunteers.

**2. FLT Map 20 relocations and Revisions:** Two landowners and DEC have permitted former trail to be reopened between Underwood Hill Rd. and Baker School House State Forest Rd. to replace most of the road walk on M20 except during hunting season. Unfortunately, we lost permission for the trail between Rt. 41 and Mt Tego. We still need to construct a 28' footbridge across Smith Brook (protected stream) after the DEC permitting and SEQR processes are complete.

**3. Community Family Trips:** Nine people participated in 2 trips in the Fabius and New Woodstock area on NCT/FLT Map O2

**4. Adirondack NCNST route:** We offered 3 recreational hikes on Adirondack NCT route trails (Stone Dam Lake & Big Brook, Long & Rock Ponds, Pillsbury Lake), cleared trail (cross cut saw team) in Siamese Ponds Wilderness, scouted off trail in Black River Wild Forest and sent the GPS tracks to DEC as potential new trail.

**5. North Country National Scenic Trail Day, Sat. Sept 24:** ADK-ON hosted two hikes, one on the Adirondack route in West Canada Lakes Wilderness and one on NCT/FLT Map O2 in Madison County.

## **10. Newsletter-Chair: Liz Herboldt**

The quarterly issues for 2016 were printed and mailed.

## **11. Outings Committee-Chair: Lisa Druke**

Members: Kathy Disque, Missy Ethridge, Mary Niemi

Statistician(s): Barbara Ullrich (retired Sept. 30, 2016), Jon Bowen

## **Outings Statistics (Nov 1, 2015 – Sept 30, 2016):**

- Number of Scheduled Outings: 185
- Number of Completed Outings Reported: 176
- Number of Individuals on One or More Outings: 295
- Total Outing Participation (count of all recorded names on outing reports): 1383
- Average number of persons per outing: 7.9

**Participants in 20 or More Outings:**

Schwinge, Sigi	46	Ogden, Mike	26
Coffin, Mary	40	Druke, Lisa	23
Coffin, Bill	37	Bowen, Jon	22
		Swinburne,	
Kotula, Chris	37	Gail	22
Dineen, Mary	35	Urban, Patricia	22
Frio, Dick	33	Disque, Kathy	21
Whaley, Peg	32	Furze, Ann	21
Smith, Jerry	30	Grant, Dave	21
O'Shea, Ed	29	Brosseau, Bill	20
		Evans,	
Barfoot, Gretchen	28	Theresa	20
Niemi, Mary	28		

**Leaders in 4 or More Outings:**

Schwinge, Sigi	34	Bowen, Jon	6
		Ethridge,	
Rodriguez, Tony	22	Missy	5
Coffin, Mary	15	Lightcap, Dick	6
Druke, Lisa	14	Ogden, Mike	6
		Veilleux,	
Dineen, Mary	12	Brenda	5
Coffin, Bill	9	Evans, Jay	5
Smith, Jerry	9	Niemi, Mary	5
Whaley, Peg	9	Bowen, Kathy	4
		del Pozzo,	
Disque, Kathy	9	Mark	4
Evans, Theresa	8	Whaley, Pat	4
Frio, Dick	8		

**12. Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area**

Chair: Sigi Schwinge Steward and Work Hike Coordinator



We had 6 maintenance hike outings in the PLWA this year:

In May 6 volunteers walked in from Big Moose/Higby Rd. and worked a loop of the West Mtn. trail to Chub Pond, Queer Lake trail and Mays Pond trail back to the trailhead.

In May, Rich Adams checked the West Mountain Trail to the summit and did some blow-down removal.

In June 8 volunteers worked the Windfall Pond and Chain Ponds trail with heavy blowdown.

In July, Kathy Disque had a work hike on the center part of the Norridgewock Trail, plus another work trip to side cut the section from Oswego Pond to Twitchell Pond trailhead and remove blow down. In September Kathy led a recreation hike from Twitchell Pond trailhead to Beaver River. The trail needs professional work and a DEC Forester went out in August to take a look at the southern section. Hopefully, planning has begun at DEC to restore the trail.

In August 6 people finished the work from the Windfall Pond trailhead, Queer Lake and Chain Ponds trail.

In October 8 people came out to admire the luminous fall colors around Cascade Lake and we worked the Cascade Lake connector trail to the Chain Ponds Trail.

The DEC opened the lower portion of the trail to Sucker Brook Bay to bicycles, but it is still a foot trail from there to the summit. The chapter will no longer sponsor West Mtn. Trail, but Rich Adams, who has a cabin nearby and likes to hike the trail, is interested in taking over.

I want to thank everyone who hiked and worked alongside me for doing this important service for all persons who had a better hiking experience because of it. Please support us again next year.

### **13. Publicity Committee-Chair: Jenna Weitzel**

In September Peg Whaley's New Member Open House at the Baldwinsville Library was in the Post-Standard Thursday Neighbor's section, on Channel 9's [localsyr.com](http://localsyr.com) site and should have been in the Baldwinsville Messenger. Mary Coffin's Great Swamp

Conservancy Stroll was in the P-S Sunday Empire section and Channel 9's [localsyr.com](http://localsyr.com) site.

For the month of October Peg Whaley's October 23 New Member Hike, Jon Bowen's Oct. 29 Taughannock Falls Outing and Sigi Schwinge's Erie Canal Hike on Monday Nov. 7 have been submitted to multiple sites for on-line or print publication.

#### **14. Social Committee**

We had four very pleasant events in the past year:

November 21, 2015 - Banquet/Potluck at Collamer United Church, 50 people attended

December 5, 2015 - Holiday Gathering at St. Paul's Church (with prior walk), 40 people attended

March 19, 2016 - Spring Potluck at Collamer United Church, 45 people attended

September 11, 2016- Fall Picnic at Land O' Pines, 40 people came.  
Thank you to Mark del Pozzo.

This is our first year as Social Chairs, organizing the Spring and Fall potlucks. Mary Dineen, Kathy and Jon Bowen and Peg Whaley have organized last year's Holiday Gathering and will do again this year on December 10. We thank everyone who brought a dish, helped setting up, clearing up, or just enjoying the wonderfully tasty food.

#### **15. Trails Committee-Chair: Tony Rodriguez**

Trail Sections Transitions:

- Cortland County route 41/McGraw-Marathon Road: Pursuant to Bill & Mary Coffin's negotiations the new landowner of a previously closed section-north and south of McGraw-Marathon Rd.-has granted permission to reopen the former trail, which will eliminate a currently lengthy road walk, and reconnect with Baker Schoolhouse State Forest. On the negative side, at the landowner's insistence, the short connection from route 41 to Mt. Tego is closed, requiring a road walk leading to the Taylor Valley State Forest off Telephone Road.
- Morgan Hill State Forest: The lumber company has asked for closure of their part of the trail ascending from Spruce Pond to Jones Hill. Apparently, they are not happy about bikes that have been trespassing through their property. We are working to obtain approvals from Onondaga County and DEC to establish a reroute.

- Various trail sections were logged this season but impacts on the trail have not been significant, so hikers have not been restricted.
- Three of our trail stewards can no longer maintain their trail sections, so if you are interested in joining our steward family please let me know. The sections are: Morgan Hill Road to the Hemlock Glen leanto; Skyline spur trail in Heiberg Forest; Chippewa Falls spur trail. On the other side of that coin we want to welcome back Rich Adams as a steward, and John Heslop as a new steward.
- The FLTC has initiated a process for obtaining trail usage stats on an annual basis. If you steward a section with a register box it should be equipped with a new, yellow, waterproof register notebook for that purpose. We have managed to supply most of the boxes, but still have a few more to go, so if your section is lacking one please contact me.
- Trail work statistics for the season ending 9/30/2016: there were 189 work events totaling 2814 hours of work; there were a total of 15 individuals who contributed more than 50 hours each, topped by Bill Brosseau and Mary Coffin with over 200 hours each. Thanx much to all who participated.

**16. Treasurer-Treasurer: Kathy Disque**

	Actual Spending <u>2015</u>	Budget <u>2016</u>
Revenues:	\$ 12,461.22	\$ 12,000.00
Expenses:		
Membership	\$ 92.20	\$ 150.00
Social	\$ 1,249.50	\$ 1,600.00
Outings	\$ 4,299.28	\$ 4,500.00
Trails/NCT/FLT/ Landowners	\$ 593.64	\$ 750.00
Administration	\$ 1,222.02	\$ 1,000.00
Conservation	\$ 297.09	\$ 300.00
Education		
Internet Communications	\$ 71.88	\$ 300.00
Others	\$ 393.53	\$ -
Donations	\$ 3,350.00	\$ 4,567.80
Total Expenses	\$ 11,569.14	\$ 13,167.80

Cash Assets as of 10/24/16

Checking	\$ 5,932.58
Savings	\$ 10,731.25
ADK certificate of deposit	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>
Total Cash Assets	\$ 20,663.83