

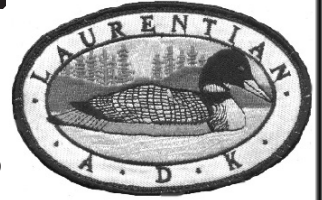


North Wind

The Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

St. Lawrence & Ottawa River Valley Region

January - March 2018



Paul Jamieson and the Jamieson Fund

At the last Executive Committee Meeting, Neil Woodworth and I talked about the future of the Jamieson Fund. I will talk about the fund in a bit, but first I want to introduce Paul to those chapter members who may not have had the privilege to know him.

Paul was born in 1903 in Des Moines, Iowa. In 1929, he joined St. Lawrence University, where he taught English until his retirement in 1965. During his time in Canton, he became an avid hiker, canoer, and snowshoer. He became a staunch environmentalist and Adirondack advocate, and was an active member of the Laurentian Chapter once it was formed. He was a crusader for opening Adirondack waters for recreational paddling, and authored the book *Adirondack Canoe Waters: North Flow*. He also edited the *Adirondack Reader*, now in its third edition.

Jamieson Fund – The Jamieson Fund was created by the Laurentian Chapter in 1984 to further Paul's work, and the chapter and others contributed to it over the years. The purpose of the fund is "to be used to improve public, non-motorized access to the Forest Preserve for hiking and, especially, canoeing, through purchase of fee simple title or easement rights or through other appropriate initiatives toward insuring such access." The value of the fund is a bit over \$55,000. To date, the Fund has been used on at least one occasion to support ADK's advocacy efforts in participating in lawsuits relating to canoe access issues.

While the fund has significant resources, any properties that have come on the market that have suitable potential to improve canoe access have been significantly costlier. Efforts have been made both at the club level and within the Laurentian Chapter to identify potential properties, without success to date. During this same time period, canoe access has improved. In our region, we have benefited from hydro relicensing, easement purchases, and DEC's unit management process to improve paddling access and hiking trails.

I have spoken with several Laurentian Chapter members to date, and now I am writing for asking for input from our chapter members. In general, there is a feeling that the goals of the fund are important, but the difficulties in meeting them are recognized. I am writing to seek input and ideas on this issue from our chapter members. Certainly, suggestions for purchase of land or easements would be welcome, but thoughts on "appropriate initiatives toward insuring such access" would also be welcome. One possibility that has been mentioned is the updating of Eleanor Brown's 1985 book *The Forest Preserve of New York State: A Handbook for Conservationists*. This book is an ADK publication, and has proven useful over the years in our advocacy efforts, particularly in working with legislators, both in educating them on the issues and as a resource as the develop positions on legislation of importance. In many ways, it has held up well over the years, but much has happened within the blue line since 1985, and an updated version would be valuable for our advocacy efforts.

I will look forward to hearing your thoughts on the Jamieson Fund over the next few weeks. You can contact me at tortmeyer@gmail.com or 315-244-3707. I will compile comments and we will discuss them in the chapter executive committee once more before we respond to Neil on this issue.

Tom Ortmeyer

Chair

John Barron

It is an honor to have been asked to serve another term as chair of the Laurentian Chapter. We are a small chapter in the ADK's scheme of things, and yet we manage to accomplish great things including vigorous local and Club-level trail maintenance, diverse and broadly based education support, and an active outings program. For many, the ongoing benefit of belonging to the ADK and the chapter is the outings. I hope we can make the outings program even more vibrant than it is now, which will mean trying to entice more people to come as participants, and more leaders who can run new kinds of trips.

We're grateful to Tom Wheeler for four years of thoughtful and forward-looking leadership. We have a first class executive committee, and top people in the appointive positions as well. It is inspiring to watch the process by which the chapter continues to improve. If things are working well, we try to expand and do more of them. If they're working less well, we think of and try alternatives until something does begin to work. I don't think we planned it as such, but we demonstrate a philosophy that the Japanese call kaizen, meaning "continuous improvement". That's what we'll try our best to do.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee consisted of Randy Saumier (chair), Ken Hobb, and Tom Wheeler. Randy submitted the following nominations at the Annual Meeting:

Chair - John Barron (1st term)
Director - Tom Ortmeyer (3rd term)
Vice Chair, Education - Jeanna Matthews (2nd term)
Secretary - Blair Madore (1st term)
Alternate Director - John Barron

It was moved by Eileen Wheeler, seconded by Marianne Hebert, to elect the slate. The motion carried unanimously.



Trail Work Day. Dam Building. Photo by John Barron

Executive Committee

Chair: John Barron
johnbarron@sympatico.ca
613-828-2296

Outings: Marianne Hebert
hebertm@potdam.edu
315-265-0756

Education: Jeanna Matthews
jeanna.matthews@gmail.com
315-250-0566

Conservation: David Katz
davidk@slc.com
315-386-4393

Membership : Randy Saumier
jus2soon@gmail.com
315-705-4287

Secretary: Blair Madore
madorebf@potdam.edu
315-265-0602

Treasurer: Marie Fernandez de Alaiza
marfagm@yahoo.com
315-262-2617

Director: Tom Ortmeyer
tortmeyer@gmail.com
315-265-8219

Educational Affiliate Program

We have fifteen EAP members for 2017-2018. Four were qualified as leaders coming into this school year, and we qualified eight new student leaders at the leadership workshop in November. The workshop was a lot of fun, taking place partly in-classroom at SUNY Potsdam and partly at Higley Flow State Park where we had students take turns being leader and solving problems on the trail. Experienced student leader Abbey Chimileski assisted John Barron, Marianne Hebert, and Lauren Jackson-Beck in running the event and staging scenarios.

There were five student-led EAP hikes in the fall term, including two with a mountaintop yoga component. There was a huge turnout for Mark Simon's trail maintenance weekend, which was a joint event of the EAP and the regular program. One student, Mari Robinson, took part in the ADK all-Club "Collegiate Outdoor Leadership Summit 2017" at the Loj in October and gave it a good review. We hope we can sponsor several students to attend College Weekend next year.

Appointed Positions

Chapter Archivist: Carolyn Kaczka
gckaczka@twcny.rr.com
315-265-4806

Publicity/Education Affiliate Program:
John Barron
JohnBarron@sympatico.ca
613-828-2296

Newsletter: David Trithart
dtrithar@twcny.rr.com
315-265-8117

Webmaster: David Katz
davidk@slc.com
315-386-4393

E-letter Editor: open

Trails Coordinators
Stone Valley: Mark Simon
Simonm@potsdam.edu
315-262-2571
Red Sandstone: Blair Madore
madorebf@potsdam.edu
315-265-0602

Hospitality: Mary MacKinnon
315-265-6027

Outdoors/Indoors Program - Danielle
Jerry and Bob Platte (907) 231-1332
dgjerry434@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator
Marianne Hebert
315-265-0756
hebertm@potsdam.edu



Trail Work Day. Photo by John Barron

OUTINGS

Jan. - Mar. 2018

Marianne Hebert

Mon. Jan. 1: New Year's Day Potluck and Outing. Spend the afternoon walking, snowshoeing or skiing with Laurentian Chapter members. Outdoor activities start at 2:00pm and continue all afternoon until dark, snacks about 4:00pm. Details forthcoming. Contact Tom Wheeler at (315) 386-2482 or northflow@gmail.com.

Sat. Jan. 6: Robert Moses State Park. A highlight will be the brand new Eugene L. Nicandri Nature Center which opened this year. Trails suitable for both skiing and snowshoeing and we hope to do a little of both. Bring lunch to enjoy indoors at the Nature Center. Beginners and children welcome, and beginner-level instruction available. Snowshoes and skis available for loan on site. 3 miles, Level 1. Very easy. Contact John Barron, (613) 828-2296 or johnbarron@sympatico.ca

Sat. Jan. 27: Snowshoe Wellesley Island State Park. We will explore the trails and visit the newly renovated Nature Center (if it is open). Bring lunch. 3-6 miles RT depending on the will of the group. Level 2-3. Contact Marianne Hebert at 315-265-0756 or hebertm@potdam.edu.

Sun. Feb. 11: Great Camp Santanoni. 10 miles round trip over mostly flat ground. We'll ski this classic route to the Great Camp where we'll cook a hot lunch on our backpacking stove. Level 4, strenuous, for length and remoteness. Contact Blair Madore at 315-261-0751 or madorebf@potdam.edu.

Sat. Feb. 17: Skiing on the Peavine Swamp trail. This famous old ski trail near Wanakena is more scenic than its name suggests. Several possible loops allow us to adapt the route to the weather and snow conditions. Easy to moderate, Level 3. Joint outing with North Woods Chapter. Contact John Barron, (613) 828-2296 or johnbarron@sympatico.ca.

Sun. Feb 25: Snowshoe Hike to Harper Falls. We'll do an early afternoon snowshoe hike into Harper Falls on the Middle Branch of the Grass River, enjoy the falls, and explore some of the trails downstream from the Falls. Four to six miles round trip, and mostly flat. Fairly Easy. Contact Tom Ortmeier at 315-244-3707 or tortmeyer@gmail.com

Sat. Mar.3: High Rock ski. This level trail in Wanakena, in the Cranberry Lake Wilderness area, follows an old truck road to a pleasant lunch spot on rocks overlooking the Oswegatchie River. 7.8 miles RT. If no snow, we'll hike the Moore

Foot travel

Difficulty Level	Feet of ascent	miles
5. Very strenuous	over 1500	10+
4. Strenuous	1000-1500	8-10
3. Moderate	500-1000	5-8
2. Fairly easy	to 499	3-5
1. Easy	level mostly	1-3

Cycling

Leaders should specify mileage, elevation, and surface.

Check for additions, deletions and changes on our chapter website, www.adklaurentian.org

Please contact the leaders at least a day before the trip.

Car pooling makes sense, as does sharing the cost of gas.

trail nearby, which also follows the Oswegatchie River. 4 miles RT, Level 2-3 depending on conditions. Joint outing with North Woods Chapter. Chapter members only. Limit 12. Contact: Leaders: John and Susan Omohundro, adknwoutings@gmail.com.

Sat. Mar. 10: Bear Mountain Snowshoe or hike. This will be a loop beginning at the gate of the Cranberry Lake campground. Nice views of Cranberry Lake. Approximately 5.5 miles RT, leisurely pace. Elevation gain 677 feet. Level 3, Moderate. Contact Marianne Hebert 315-265-0756 or hebertm@potdam.edu.

Sat. Mar. 17: Snowshoeing to Trombley Landing. 3.5 miles RT to a lean-to beside the Raquette River near Tupper Lake. Small hills but little change in elevation. Beginners and children welcome. Level 2. Joint outing with North Woods Chapter. Contact John Barron, (613) 828-2296 or johnbarron@sympatico.ca

Sun. Mar 25: Tupper Triad. Join us as we attempt to snowshoe all three small mountains (Goodman, Coney and Arab) that form this challenge. Together, that is 7.6 miles and about 1700 feet of ascent. Of course, participants can opt out after the first or second hike, as they see fit. (There's no guarantee the leader will make it through all three either). Contact Blair Madore 315 261 0751 or email madorebf@potdam.edu



Snowman at Rainbow Falls. Photo by Blair Madore



Camp Santanoni Photo by Bob Platte

Director

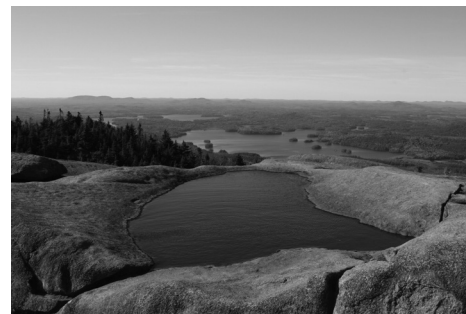
Tom Ortmeyer

Advocacy at ADK

ADK has been active in coping with the crowded conditions that have been occurring in the High Peaks area. The Summit Steward program is a key management and educational activity, and ADK's Stewards by ADK interacted with over 30,000 people this year, mainly in the summer. ADK has a volunteer Steward program for those interested in performing this service.

Parking is an increasing issue at the Heart Lake Property and also along Route 73. Large numbers of hikers have led to trail erosion, and objectionable levels of garbage and human waste along some trails. Finally, the number of underprepared hikers has been increasing, as have the number of back country. ADK staff, Forty-Sixer trailhead volunteers, and DEC rangers and assistant rangers are working together on educational efforts to address these issues. On Columbus Day weekend, the state closed all parking areas along Rte. 73 at the Cascade and Pitchoff Trailheads. This was an experiment, and could well be continued and expanded in the future. ADK and the Adirondack 46ers continue to work together on trail maintenance, and to protect trails and summits.

ADK is also working to address railcar storage on the Iowa Pacific line going to Tahawus. We are working with other Adirondack advocacy groups, and Essex and Warren County Boards of Supervisors. We believe that there are several strong legal arguments against this activity.



Puddle Above / Lake Below.

*Photo by
Jeanna Matthews*

Education

*Tom Wheeler -
for Jeanna Matthews*

It is acknowledged that Camp Colby and High School Volunteer Trails may not be the best use of chapter funds for educational purposes, especially if candidates sign up and then don't go. Furthermore finding candidates has been a heavy burden on Vice Chair, Education. Other ideas for furthering the Education mandate are welcome.



October to December 2017

Sun. Sep 24: Baxter Mountain Hiking with kids. We had a very warm, sunny day with lunch on the summit under a shady tree. Hiking along the ridge, the group encountered a variety of lookouts with views of Keene Valley, the Great Range, and Mt. Marcy. Jeanna Matthews, Chen Liu, Vincent Liu, Gildo Torres, Andrea Torres, Marianne Hebert (TL) and Marie Fernandez de Alaiza (TL).

Sun. Oct. 1: Owl's Head of Long Lake. We had perfect fall weather, sunny and cool. This is not a long hike but not an altogether easy one, with some long steep sections. Great views from the summit and from the fire tower, including nearby Blue Mountain and Long Lake, and distant Wakely Mountain. Marianne Hebert and TL John Barron.

Sat. Oct. 7: Fall foliage hike to Boreas Ponds. We had a bit of a gray and misty day, but still a pleasant walk into the Boreas Ponds tract. Views of the high peaks were obscured by clouds, but the foliage colors were spot on. At the dam, we encountered what appeared to be hatched turtle nests (snapping turtles?). Participants: Mary Jane Watson, Kate Schiltz, Marianne Hebert (TL)

Sun. Oct. 22: Trail Maintenance on the Red Sandstone Trail. Cancelled due to a lack of participants.

Sat. Oct. 28: Hike along the St. Regis in Nicholville. Ten of us, on an ideal fall day, hiked three miles of a network of trails along the St. Regis River, sampling the clear, cold water from a spring, exploring remains of a power dam built a century ago, traipsing the rim of an active sand mine, and skirting a series of beaver ponds. Duncan and Lois Cutter (TLs), Tim Cutter, Rita Lewis, Bill Hull, Will Thomas, Michael and Vanessa Effron, Greg and Pat Snider.

Sat. Nov. 4: Murphy's Point Provincial Park. Seasonally cool, pleasant weather. We enjoyed the tour of the above-ground structures of the old Silver Queen Mica Mine, and of the peninsula that forms most of the Park. Between those points our hike included an unanticipated route-finding adventure. The Park has an extensive network of cross country ski trails that are not portrayed on the summer map. We took one, and regaining our planned route needed a bit of off-trail thinking and some bushwhacking. Good views of of Big Rideau Lake. Several of us lingered afterward

Compiled by Marianne Hebert

for supper and a beer at O'Reilly's Pub in Perth. Kate Schiltz, TL John Barron, Toni Towle, Pat Gray, Marianne Hebert.

Sat. Nov. 11: Hurricane Mountain. Cancelled due to a lack of participants.

Sat. Nov. 18: Janack's Landing

Sat. Dec. 9: Snowshoe at the Newcomb VIC Cancelled due to a lack of participants.

Outdoors / Indoors

Sunday, January 21. Alex French, Sustainability Coordinator, Clarkson University.

The town and village of Potsdam recently passed a resolution to become a Climate Smart Community. CSC is a program that is managed by NYS DEC. Villages, towns, and counties can pledge to become a certified Climate Smart Community. The commitment involves 10 elements including goal setting, decreasing community energy use, and supporting a green innovation economy, all dependent on informing and inspiring the public. This talk will cover how the climate is changing in Potsdam and specific tasks Potsdam or similar communities might take to fulfill the 10 elements needed to achieve a CSC certification. As the Sustainability Coordinator for Clarkson, Alex will also address how the University will be involved, and the general process that the Town and Village of Potsdam might take to move forward.

Sunday, February 25. Tom Ortmeyer and John Barron. *Cycling Routes of the St. Lawrence River Valley and Northern Adirondacks*, a cycling guidebook in electronic form.

After several years of work and revisions, this cycling guidebook to St. Lawrence County, nearby parts of the North Country, and bordering regions of Ontario and Quebec was released this summer by ADK Publications. The authors will describe the growing cycling program in the Laurentian Chapter, how the many varied routes suggested the idea of a guidebook, and the process of developing a manuscript and having it published in the digital age.

Sunday, March 25. Tom Langen, Chair of Biology, Clarkson University

The environmental effects of roads in the Adirondack Park and St. Lawrence Valley Roads and road traffic have a dramatic impact on the surrounding environment, and road ecologists work with transportation engineers and transportation departments on how to mitigate the negative effects of roadways. In this talk, Tom Langen will discuss how roads affect environmental quality in the Adirondack Park region, and some of the ways we can improve how we design and manage our roads.

2017 Laurentian Chapter Photo Contest Winners Announced.

The winners of the 2017 Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter Photo Contest were announced on November 12 at the Laurentian Chapter Annual meeting.

- Bob Platte, Potsdam, took Grand Prize Honors with the photo “Camp Santanoni.”
- John Barron, Ottawa, received First Prize honors in the People category, with “Kingston Ontario Paddle.”
- The Artistic First Prize went to Jeanna Matthews, Massena, for her photograph “Adirondack Balloon Festival Lights Up the Night.”
- “Trail Work Day- Trail Restoration” by John Barron received the Action Category award.
- A crowd favorite at the ceremony was “Andrea and Vincent on Baxter Mountain,” the Portrait award winner by Marianne Hebert, Potsdam.
- Bob Platte’s “Black Swallowtail Butterflies” was recognized in the Nature category
- Jeanna Matthew’s “Hard Frost and Soft Autumn Carpet (Whiteface Mountain) received the Landscape award.
- Photographers Jeanna Matthews, Alison Charles (Waddington), Eileen Wheeler (Canton), John Barron, Marianne Hebert, and Blair Madore (Potsdam) received Honorable Mention recognition.

Photo contest judges were Fiona Barron, Ottawa, Geri Ames, Massena, and Art Boni, Ottawa. Photo entries were submitted by Laurentian Chapter members, plus photos taken on Laurentian Chapter Outings by anyone on the outing. The Laurentian Chapter holds outings throughout the year open to the public. Winning photos can be found on their web site.

Conservation

David Katz

How do you balance people's desire to experience nature with nature's desire to be left alone? The national parks constantly have to deal with this question. Closer to home, DEC has to wrestle with a dramatically increasing number of hikers in the High Peaks. With the North Country's smaller populations, finding this balance might seem to be less of an issue here. But lower people-pressure does not exempt the wild areas in the northwestern Adirondacks from this challenge.

In Summer 2016, DEC solicited comments about the “Draft Amendment to the Kildare Recreation Management Plan of the 2006 Raquette Boreal Unit Management Plan and the Five Mile Interim Recreation Management Plan”. These lands lie east of Carry Falls Reservoir. In plainer English, the proposal, if adopted,

will allow motorized use of logging roads on the easement lands and facilitate non-motorized use of both easement and forest-preserve lands. Because it's hard to get there, these lands do not now see much human traffic. Does the Laurentian Chapter want to encourage more human use of these lands?

On the one hand, the ecosystems can probably accept more human presence without much suffering. On the other hand, rare and endangered species such as the spruce grouse live here, and there isn't much research into how such populations will be affected. On the other other hand, even with motorized access, human traffic away from the motor vehicle corridors will probably still be light, and we want to encourage hikers, bird-watchers, and other visitors to the woods to view it as “their” woods so they will look out for the ongoing health of the woods. On another hand, won't this just lead to yet more people visiting the woods, until we love it to death? On yet another hand, when the original management plan was adopted 15 years ago, motorized access was promised and construction funds were allocated.

The Draft Amendment does not adequately address a few questions, such as: How will illegal motor vehicle use be controlled? Exactly where do endangered plants and animals live and how will they be protected? How will damage to adjoining forest-preserve lands be prevented? Last month we submitted comments offering cautious support to the plan, but requested that these questions be addressed before the final plan is adopted and implemented. DEC's decision is expected in 2018.

Membership

Randy Saumier

New Members - Welcome.

- Robert Diagiaccio and Alka Srivastava
- Maria Gut
- Veronica Hartman
- Julia Rapczynski
- Justice Akwei
- Andrew Barone
- Michael and Venessa Effron
- Sydney LaPan
- Marguerite Mosher
- Eric Nicotina
- Mari Robinson
- William Scofield
- Greg and Cynthia Grover

The Chapter now has a total of 403 members.



North Wind

The Newsletter of the Laurentian Chapter
of Adirondack Mountain Club
7 Barclay St. Potsdam, NY 13676

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VISIT the chapter website, ably
maintained by David Katz, for color
photos, trail maps, updated officer
reports, and outings:

www.adklaurentian.org

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Marianne Hebert:

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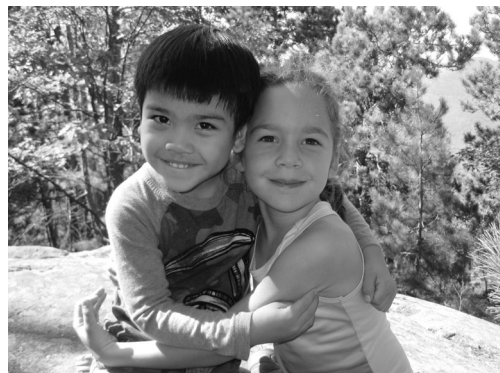
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Adirondack Balloon Festival Lights Up the Night

Photo: Jeanna Matthews



Andrea and Vincent on Baxter Mt. Photo: Marianne Hebert