



North Wind

The Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

April—June 2021

HIKE LOCAL DURING THE PANDEMIC...by David Katz

A year ago, our hiking worlds suddenly shrank to include only places we could comfortably visit without stopping anywhere on the way. Our ambitious summer travel plans were abruptly put on permanent hold. But we still needed to get outside, walk, and paddle, perhaps even more so than before. There are, of course, lots of hiking and paddling opportunities inside the blue line, but what about closer to home? What about those 50 or more state forests and other green patches on county maps in St. Lawrence County outside the blue line?

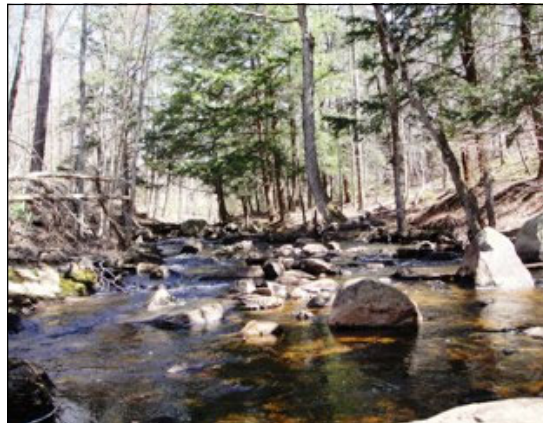
Anne and I started exploring these local destinations last spring. By early summer, we had visited 15 or 20 state forests plus a few other publicly-owned lands. Some had accumulated a few piles of junk, but most were pristine. Some were crowded with hikers and other outdoor revelers, but in most places we walked for 2 or 3 hours without encountering another human being.

Here are a few of our favorite state forests. Each offers walks of 2 to 4 miles that take 1 to 3 hours. For maps, visit the DEC website (<https://dec.ny.gov>) and search by name. These walks are a small sampling of what's available in our backyard. For other ideas, both in St. Lawrence County and in nearby Ontario, visit the [Laurentian Chapter's Loony Loop Challenge page](#). Or consider joining one of the 24 local trips this spring on our [Outings page](#).

It's a welcome relief to again travel farther afield and visit places unreachable last year. But for those days when you don't have the time or inclination for a long trip, it's worth remembering that you can get into the woods or out on the water within a 20-minute drive of almost everywhere in St. Lawrence County.

Taylor Creek & Glenmeal State Forests, Pierrepont

There are 2 old gravel roads that enter Taylor Creek State Forest from the Selleck Road. The entrance east of Crary Road is generally high and dry. The entrance west of Crary Rd takes you through a couple of muddy spots and eventually goes underwater in an old beaver pond. The beaver pond is now a heron rookery and featured lots of heron activity last spring.



Orebed Creek

If the weather has been dry, follow the road across the beaver pond and continue south. (Extra credit for finding the abandoned building site and stone-lined well.) While you're in the neighborhood, it's worth a visit to Glenmeal State Forest. Stop at the entrance on CR 24, and enjoy a couple of miles of easy walking on footpaths and an old logging road.

High Flats State Forest, Parishville

The gravel Donovan Road makes a great early Spring road walk before it opens to motor vehicles, but there's no traffic even after the gates are open. The road passes a large beaver pond—home to at least one otter last spring. Two foot trails and several mountain bike trails branch off from the road. Take the first foot trail to the right for a woods walk to the very scenic Close Pond.

Orebed Creek State Forest, Russell

If you want a long uphill walk for some exercise, park about 0.2 miles along the Ritz Road where the state land starts on the left. Walk uphill about a mile, almost to the end of the road, and take the path to the left down to Orebed Creek and explore the shoreline. If you're experienced with off-trail walking, follow Orebed Creek downstream to where it passes under the Ritz Road and then follow the road back to your car.

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Report from the Chair...

David Katz



A big round of applause for outgoing *North Wind* editor David Trithart, and a hearty thank you to Andy Rawdon for taking over as editor. Andy grew up in Saranac Lake, graduated from SUNY Potsdam in 1977 and following a career in law, retired in 2018 and returned to the North Country.

This issue of *North Wind* is our first regular issue since last spring, when the coronavirus wreaked havoc with our plans for the year. Now that the influence of the coronavirus seems to be diminishing to a manageable level, we plan to resume *North Wind's* regular quarterly schedule.

Do you enjoy walking the Red Sandstone and Stone Valley trails? Would you like to help keep the trails in prime walking condition? The Laurentian Chapter maintains both trails, typically spending a day or two on each trail every year.

This spring, Blair Madore will be coordinating an April 25th work day on the Red Sandstone trail. And we have a bonus opportunity this spring: Jim Burdick will be leading a work day on the Debar Mountain trail on May 22nd. Please consider participating in one (or both) of these projects. No experience necessary; enthusiasm a plus. Visit our [Events page](#) for details.

ADK Laurentian Chapter Executive Committee

[David Katz](#)

Chapter Chair, Webmaster, E-Letter Editor
315-386-4393

[Joan Trivilino](#)

Vice-Chair, Outings
315-276-1663

[Jim Burdick](#)

Vice-Chair, Education, Merchandise Coordinator
716-338-7237

[Tom van de Water](#)

Vice-Chair, Conservation
315-261-1723

[Marianne Hebert](#)

Vice-Chair, Membership, Social Media Coordinator, EAP Outings
315-265-0756

[Blair Madore](#)

Secretary, Red Sandstone Trail Coordinator
315-261-0751

[Holly Woodworth](#)

Director
315-848-2953



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From the Membership Committee...

Marianne Hebert

Welcome New Members!

Margaret Backus
Thomas Gokey
Maggie Hayes
Donald Lamitie
Daniel Novak
Jen Parla
Robert Stephens
John Wilson
Christine Wais

HIKE LOCAL DURING THE PANDEMIC...cont'd from page 1

If you don't want the long uphill road walk, and you're experienced walking off-trail, and the water levels aren't too high, park about 0.6 miles farther along the Ritz Road where it crosses Orebed Creek. Follow Orebed Creek upstream on either bank until you reach the giant beaver meadow, cross the stream, and follow it back downstream to your car. If you haven't had enough, continue to follow Orebed Creek downstream to the state forest boundary and then back upstream to your car.

Bay State Forest, Hammond

This is a road walk on the gravel Alamogan Road, unless you decide to bushwhack. It's worth it. When we visited in late April last year, every imaginable wildflower was in bloom, right along the roadside, and there was no other car or pedestrian traffic. There is a beaver pond maybe half way along on the left that would make a good lunch spot if the bugs aren't too bad. Although the road goes all the way to Lonesome Bay on Black Lake, there is no legal access to the water at normal water levels.

Southville State Forest, Stockholm

For a visit to the West Branch St Regis River, park at either entrance to the Southville State Forest trails on the West Stockholm-Southville Road. If you can tolerate the trash heaps along the upper parts of the trails, the reward is worth it. Continue along the trail to the river and enjoy a half-mile walk along the river bank. It's also worth exploring the rock foundation walls off the short spur trail at the west end of the trail system.

Outings Schedule...Joan Trivilino

April—June 2021



April Weekly Walk, Red Sandstone Trail Roads. Thursday mornings 7:30 a.m. (4/15, 4/22, 4/29) We will walk the dirt access roads distancing and masks are required. If the roads are icy, traction devices such as micro-spikes are recommended. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the trail head parking lot located off the “Back Hannawa Road” (CR59) between Potsdam and Hannawa Falls. From Potsdam, at the intersection of RT 11 and Clarkson Ave (County Route 59), drive south for 2.5 miles. The dirt access road to the northern parking lot is on the left just past Sweeney Road. A brown “trail parking” sign marks the entrance to the parking lot. Leaders for each week will vary. Contact [Marianne Hebert](#) 315-265-0756 for details.

Saturday April 10 - Annual tour of the waterfalls on Tooley Pond Road. This consists of several short hikes from roadside to water-falls and back. Spring flooding usually makes this a spectacular display of waterpower and a great opportunity for photographs. About 3 miles in total with minimal ascent (Level 1 - 2). Contact [Blair Madore](#) 315-261-0751 for details. Usual covid protocols are in place and there is a maximum of eight participants.

Thursday April 22- Earth Day Hike. Joint outing with North Woods chapter. We'll walk on mostly even ground, visit two lean-tos and stop at the third, on Osgood Pond, to enjoy lunch and a celebration of the day. Each participant should bring a bag to collect trash and a bit of nature writing, poetry, or image to share with the group. Round trip about 3-4 miles. C+ difficulty rating. Limit 12. Contact [Joan Trivilino](#) 315-276-1663 for details.

Sunday April 25 - Trail work on Red Sandstone Trail. Participants will work in small groups on brush cutting, bridge building, side cutting and stair building. Please wear gloves and bring water and a snack. Tools will be provided. Contact [Blair Madore](#) 315-261-0751 for details. Usual covid protocols are in place but there is no limit to participants as they will be assigned duties in different areas in small groups of 2-4.

May Weekly Walk - Clarkson Munter trails. Thursday mornings 7:30 a.m. (5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 5/27) We will walk the gravel paths for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip. Social distancing and masks are required. Meet near the parking lot by Stewarts Gas Station, 26 Maple Street, Potsdam. Leaders for each week will vary. Contact [Marianne Hebert](#) 315-265-0756 for details.

Saturday May 8 - Hike the trails of Wellesley Island State Park. About 3.5 miles with little elevation so Level 1-2. This is part of the ADK Laurentian Chapter Loony Loop Challenge. Contact [Blair Madore](#) 315 261 0751 for details. Usual covid protocols are in place and there is a maximum of 8 participants.

Saturday May 15- Hike Lilypad Pond in White Hill State Forest. It's a 6.6 mi. RT from the Clear Pond parking area. Difficulty is moderate, but elevation gain is negligible. Contact [David Trithart](#) 315-265-8117 for details.

Saturday May 22- Debar Mountain trail work. We'll meet at the parking lot across from the Roxy in Potsdam and leave at 8am. Bring any manageable handsaws, rakes, pickaxes, work gloves, BUG NETS, long sleeves, and pants. We'll work our way up the mountain. Potentially after we can bushwhack to a shoulder off the side of the mountain (prime moose habitat) or visit the Debar Lodge area. Contact [Jim Burdick](#) 716-338-7237 for details. Social distancing and masks required. It's ~7 miles round trip with ~1700 ft elevation gain, but not technical. Rain Date Saturday, May 29.

Saturday May 22- Breeding Bird Atlas III, ebird, and the High Falls of the Big Salmon River. We will hike the trail to the High Falls of the Big Salmon River and walk along the Barnesville Road in Titusville State Forest. The falls are impressive and there is a good trail of ~1 mile. We will participate in the third [Breeding Bird Atlas](#) observing birds and bird behavior. The atlas uses the ebird app to record results so we will include instruction and demonstration of this useful and powerful app. Five participant limit. This is a prime migration and breeding period so we should have some interesting observations. Beautiful scenery, deep woods, slow pace walking up to four miles. Contact [Tom Wheeler](#) 315-386-2482 for details. Early start TBD. Should we exceed the number wishing to sign up we may do a second session later in the week. Binoculars and cellphone (either android or ios) will be used. There is limited cell coverage so participants should download the app ahead of time.

Outings Schedule...April—June 2021 (cont'd)

June Weekly Walk, Bayside Cemetery. Thursday mornings 7:30 a.m. (6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24) We will walk the roads for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip. Social distancing and masks are required. Meet at the entrance to Bayside Cemetery (730 CR59 "Back Hannawa Road"). Leaders for each week will vary. Contact [Marianne Hebert](mailto:Marianne.Hebert@adklaurentian.org) 315-265-0756 for details.

June 5 - Carry Falls Reservoir paddle. We will travel north to south or south to north depending on the weather and wind conditions. If there is sufficient wind we plan to raft up canoes and put up a sail for easier propulsion. Bring a lunch and prepare for fun on the water. Contact [Blair Madore](mailto:Blair.Madore@adklaurentian.org) 315 261 0751 for details. Usual covid protocols are in place and there is a maximum of 8 participants.

June 6 - Breeding Bird Atlas III, ebird, and Silver Hill State Forest. We will visit one of the local state forests near Degrasse. We will explore scenic roadways, paths, and an easy bushwhack through a pine plantation. Less than twenty miles from Canton, the forest has a variety of scenic habitats, waterfalls, and forests and is not often visited in June. We will also participate in the third [Breeding Bird Atlas](#) observing birds and bird behavior. The atlas uses the ebird app to record results so we will include instruction and demonstration of this useful and powerful app. Five participant limit. This is a prime migration and breeding period so we should have some interesting observations. Beautiful scenery, deep woods, slow pace walking up to four miles. Contact [Tom Wheeler](mailto:Tom.Wheeler@adklaurentian.org) 315-386-2482 for details. Early start TBD. Should we exceed the number wishing to sign up we may do a second session later in the week. Binoculars and cellphone (either android or ios) will be used. There is limited cell coverage so participants should download the app ahead of time.

June 16 - Evening paddle from Ives Park. We'll meet at 5:00pm at Ives Park in Potsdam, and paddle the Raquette around the islands. We'll stop for a picnic along the way. Contact [Tom Ortmeyer](mailto:Tom.Ortmeyer@adklaurentian.org) 315-244-3707 for details. Life jackets required.

Saturday June 19 Breeding Bird Atlas III, ebird, and Deer River State Forest. We will be visiting a state forest near Dickinson south of 11B in Franklin county. Less than twenty five miles from Potsdam, the forest has a variety of scenic habitats, waterfalls, and forests and is not often visited in June. We will also participate in the third [Breeding Bird Atlas](#) observing birds and bird behavior. The atlas uses the ebird app to record results so we will include instruction and demonstration of this useful and powerful app. Five participant limit. This is a prime migration and breeding period so we should have some interesting observations. Beautiful scenery, deep woods, slow pace walking up to four miles. Contact [Tom Wheeler](mailto:Tom.Wheeler@adklaurentian.org) 315-386-2482 for details. Early start TBD. Should we exceed the number wishing to sign up we may do a second session later in the week. Binoculars and cellphone (either android or ios) will be used. There is limited cell coverage so participants should download the app ahead of time.

Wednesday June 23 - Evening paddle on Hannawa Pond. We'll meet at 5:00pm at the cartop launch at the junction of Lenny Road and Browns Bridge Road, and paddle Hannawa Pond. We'll stop for a picnic along the way. Contact [Tom Ortmeyer](mailto:Tom.Ortmeyer@adklaurentian.org) 315-244-3707 for details. Life jackets required.



Raquette River Islands—Potsdam (Google Maps)

The Details

Foot Travel—

Difficulty Level	Elevation Gain	Miles Traveled
5—Very Strenuous	> 1,500 feet	10+
4—Strenuous	1,000—1,500 feet	8-10
3—Moderate	500—1,000 feet	5-8
2—Fairly Easy	< 500 feet	3-5
1—Easy	Mostly level	1-3

Cycling—Leaders will specify mileage, elevation and surface.

*Check for last minute updates: www.adklaurentian.org

*Please contact the leader at least one day before the trip.

*Car pooling makes sense—so does sharing the cost of gas.

BACKTRACKS



New Year at Higley Flow State Park, Jan 2, 2021

Several Laurentian Chapter members enjoyed a New Year outing at Higley Flow State Park. We skied and snowshoed on fresh snow to ring in a fresh year. We enjoyed snacks and camaraderie around an open fire. It was great to see people outside smiling under toques and masks.

Photo Joan Trivilino



Ski to Clear Pond, White Hill, Parishville, Jan 9, 2021

We had eight skiers, and fantastic winter conditions, for the just over 5 mile RT past the north shore of Clear Pond. Temperatures in the single digits warmed up under full sun with no wind. This is a snowmobile trail, but their tracks were old and we often had ski tracks to follow. This little pocket of wilderness right in our backyard is always a joy to visit.

Participants: Stefan Grimberg, Jan DeWaters, Tom Ortmeyer, Heidi Mauk, Bonnie Gardinier, Joan Trivilino, Rose Rivezzi and David Trithart

Photo: Rose Rivezzi



Dean Road Walk along the Grass River, Mar 20, 2021

We had a beautiful sunny day for our walk on the Dean Road, along the Middle Branch of the Grass River. We started at the kiosk on the river, and walked up the dry road with snow on either side. We went off the road to view an unnamed waterfall, and then took a break at the nearby bridge over the river, before heading back on this warm last day of winter.

L-R: Dana Chudzinski, Marianne Hebert

Photo: Tom Ortmeyer



