



## North Wind

*The Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club*  
*July—September 2021*



### The Red Sandstone Trail

Blaire Madore

#### Part I – About the trail

The Red Sandstone Trail is one of two trails

maintained by our club (the other being Stone Valley) as part of an agreement with the landowner, Brookfield Power. The trail existence and public access to it is part of an agreement between Brookfield and New York State that allows them to dam the river and generate hydropower. The Red Sandstone Trail runs from Hannawa Falls to the northern tip of Sugar Island. As a round-trip, it is over 5 miles in total distance. You can also start from the northern trailhead off the back Hannawa Road, and hike just Sugar Island as a 3 mile loop.

Link to trail description:

<https://adklaurentian.org/?page=trails.html>

Link directly to map:

[https://adklaurentian.org/pages/pdf/maps/red\\_sandstone\\_trail.pdf](https://adklaurentian.org/pages/pdf/maps/red_sandstone_trail.pdf)

The trail displays a fascinating variety of environments and features to stimulate you in all seasons. The southern end features access to the river near the base of the dam with a collection of sandstone rocks. As water levels can change suddenly, Brookfield advises against accessing the river bed especially during high water.

Just a quarter mile north of the Hannawa trailhead is an overlook of the Hannawa Gorge—spectacular during times of high water. The trail passes several old Sandstone quarries (now submerged) with only one remaining active. There is a LOT of sandstone on the trail and it becomes evident why it was mined here. There is a high bluff overlooking Sugar Island Flow with incredible views of the area and the dam just below you. If you look north just ½ mile you can follow the pipeline that extends from the dam to the surge tower and pump house where electricity is generated.

The remainder of the trail is a loop around Sugar Island—mostly flat. Here you have opportunities to observe the rapids in the river, trilliums and other wildflowers in season, beaver activity, garter snakes, deer, and more. There is a large, unusual stand of American Blue Beech (a/k/a Ironwood). Take a moment to observe the trunks that look like the muscled arms of a blacksmith. At the tip of the island is a great place for a lunch break whether hiking or boating, as there is a picnic table, boat landing and a BBQ. The return hike follows part of the old Hannawa-Potsdam train line and features more beaver activity.

If you do walk the trail, please sign in at our trail registers. Keeping records of users helps our partner and landowner justify their commitment of resources and is valuable when it comes time to renegotiate their license with New York State.

We will be adding signs at the trailheads this summer so you can use your phone hands-free to register electronically.

...cont'd on page 3



Photo: Jeff Miller

## Director's Report...

Holly Woodworth



### Covid Re-opening:

Now that New York's Covid restrictions are lifted, the ADK Loj, and other facilities will begin to operate normally. Committee and Board meetings will be held in person. ADK maneuvered the pandemic thanks to the hard work of staff who secured PPP funding and worked hard to revise processes to allow the club to continue to function despite the necessary Covid protocols. Facilities in the North Country are fully staffed this season.

### Implementing the New Strategic Plan:

The plan to strengthen ADK's education focus and recruit younger members has begun. The education staff has trained 150 Trailhead and Summit Stewards from various organizations and 20 Student Conservation Association Natural Resources Stewards in Leave No Trace skill/ethics. Educational Programs/Skills Workshops are booked throughout the summer. A list of the offerings is on the ADK.org website. ADK will be bringing back rock climbing on Mt. Joe and plans to offer several introductory Rock Climbing courses this summer.

The new Advisory Council has been formed and its charter was approved by the Board. Our chapter is well represented by Tom Ortmeyer.

...cont'd on page 5

## 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!

Donald Berkman (Canton)  
James Cline (Massena)  
Edward Coppola (Keene, NH)  
Brenda Curley (Dekalb Jct)  
William Eckert (Potsdam)  
Lindsay Hayden (Massena)  
Megan Lane & Dan Kent (Lisbon)  
Jennifer McConnell (Potsdam)  
Elizabeth Scarlett (Hammond)  
Dean Woodward (Herman)

## Lillypad Pond Hike

The hike into Lillypad Pond on Sat. May 15 went very well. It was a beautiful day. Participants were Kathleen Fitzgerald, Brenda Curley, Rose Rivezzi, and Joan Trivilino. The trail is well-marked and easy to follow. The round-trip is over 6 miles, and it's rarely flat walking, but it was mostly dry, with only a few rock-hopping spots. We didn't see much wildlife—no otters like last time we were there. It still has a wonderfully remote feel to it, yet it's only a short distance away.



Photo: Rose Rivezzi





# The Red Sandstone Trail

*cont'd from page 1*

## Part II – Maintenance

It takes a lot of work to maintain a trail like this. Luckily, we have many regular trail users who, of their own volition, act as trail stewards by moving small downed branches, collecting trash and trimming back imposing brush. I am aware of some of these wonderful people who use the trail very regularly and help to keep the resource usable for all of us. They include Bob Platte and Danielle Jerry; Jeff Miller; David Trithart; Jenica Rogers, Justin Capen, and Gwyneth; and David Brouwer. I'm certain there are many more trail stewards I am not aware of but my thanks to all of you.

Of course, the trail needs work that goes beyond basic maintenance. In that case it is up to me to organize the efforts, arrange for materials and recruit volunteers to do the work. In fall of 2019 the Clarkson Timber Bridge Team helped me build a fantastic new bridge at the northern tip of Sugar Island. We built it solid in the hopes it would last 25 years or more with just basic maintenance. The plan is to update each bridge on the trail to that level of quality.



*New bridge at the northern tip of Sugar Island*

2020 was largely wiped out by Covid so there is a lot of deferred maintenance to perform. On May 2, a group of 16 volunteers joined me to work on two separate projects. The first was bench cutting on the sloped trail between the pipeline and the river. We installed about 60 feet of cedar logs to support our newly cut trail. This was a huge improvement. Brenda Bennet and Gino Schiavone were key in completing this project as they returned May 16 to finish it.

The second was a set of landscaped stairs made from cedar

logs near the top of the hill above Sugar Island Flow. This area of the trail was badly eroded and to prevent further erosion and provide safer footing for hikers we installed a water bar and stairs. Marianne Hebert was our team leader for this project but we had lots of help.

One area in need of a lot of work is commonly called the gulch. It is a steep slope along Sugar Island Flow where the existing stairs and bridge have been washed out. Hikers should use extreme caution in traversing this area. We hope to completely rebuild this section of the trail this year.

## Part III - Volunteers Always Needed

Volunteers for trail work are essential to maintaining a good trail. There are two work dates scheduled for the Red Sandstone Trail—July 24 and September 11. Please consider joining us. Many hands make light work; or in this case, many hands make heavy work possible. If you enjoy trail work and would be willing to work at other dates and times, please contact me so I can keep you on my mailing list.

The Red Sandstone Trail is a remarkable resource that exists only because the community continues to use it and continues to support it. Thanks for being part of our Red Sandstone Trail community of users.

Blair Madore  
[madorebf@potsdam.edu](mailto:madorebf@potsdam.edu)  
 315-261-0751



*New stairs above Sugar Island Flow*

## Outings Schedule...Joan Trivilino

July—September 2021



### Thursdays July 15, 22, 29 Weekly Walk, Bayside Cemetery 6:00pm:

We will walk the roads for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip. Social distancing is still required. Mask required if participants are not vaccinated. Meet at the entrance to Bayside Cemetery (730 CR59 "Back Hannawa Road"). Leaders for each week will vary. Contact Marianne Hebert, [hebertm3308@gmail.com](mailto:hebertm3308@gmail.com), 315-265-0756 for information.

### Wednesday, July 14 Pirate Hike on the Red Sandstone Trail:

Children of all ages are invited to participate in this 3 mile hike. Hear the legend of the Pirates of the Raquette River and search for their lost treasure. Bring bug repellent, water and snacks, though some food will be provided. Limited to 24 participants. Masks or vaccination required to participate. This is a joint event with the Potsdam Public Library Outside (PPLLO). Contact William Eckert [weckert@potsdamlibrary.org](mailto:weckert@potsdamlibrary.org) or Blair Madore [madorebf@potsdam.edu](mailto:madorebf@potsdam.edu) 315 261 0751 to register.

### Saturday, July 25 Trail Work on the Red Sandstone Trail:

Join us in various trail projects that typically involve brush trimming, building stairs, repairing bridges and building boardwalks. Wear gloves and bring water and insect repellent. Tools are provided. Expect to work for about two hours. Contact Blair Madore [madorebf@potsdam.edu](mailto:madorebf@potsdam.edu) or 315 261 0751.

### Wednesday, July 28 Evening Paddle:

We'll paddle down the Little River and up the Grasse to Taylor Park in Canton. We'll take a break at the park, and then return. Contact Tom Ortmeyer [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com) or 315-244-3707 to confirm. Life jackets required.

### Thursdays August 5, 12, 19, 26 Weekly Walk, Clarkson Munter Trails 6:00pm:

We will walk the gravel paths for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip. Social distancing is still required. Mask required if participants are not vaccinated. Meet at 6:00pm near the parking lot by Stewarts Gas Station (26 Maple Street, Potsdam). Contact Marianne Hebert [hebertm3308@gmail.com](mailto:hebertm3308@gmail.com) or 315-265-0756.

### Saturday, August 7 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 [madorebf@potsdam.edu](mailto:madorebf@potsdam.edu) or 315 261 0751.

### Sunday, August 8 Wolf Lake Loop:

We'll start at the trailhead near Talcville and hike this beautiful loop past Moon, Wolf and Huckleberry Lakes. Each Lake has a lean-to and we plan to stop for a snack at one of them. The trail passes some areas of beaver activity and interesting rock formations. We plan a leisurely pace. The trip is approximately 5 miles over rolling terrain. Contact Holly or Neil Woodworth at [hswoodworth@gmail.com](mailto:hswoodworth@gmail.com) or 315 848-2953.

### Thursdays, Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Weekly Walk, Bayside Cemetery 6:00pm:

We will walk the roads for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip. Social distancing is still required. Mask required if participants are not vaccinated. Meet at the entrance to Bayside Cemetery (730 CR59 "Back Hannawa Road"). Leaders for each week will vary. Contact Marianne Hebert, [hebertm3308@gmail.com](mailto:hebertm3308@gmail.com) or 315-265-0756.

### Saturday, Sept 18 St. Regis Mountain Hike:

We'll climb St. Regis Mountain and enjoy the late summer views from the fire tower. 6 miles RT, 1500 foot elevation change. Contact Tom Ortmeyer [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com) or 315-244-3707. Strenuous.

### Saturday, Sept 24 Trail Work on the Red Sandstone Trail:

Join us in various trail projects that typically involve brush trimming, building stairs, repairing bridges and building boardwalks. Wear gloves and bring water and insect repellent. Tools are provided. Expect to work for about two hours. Contact Blair Madore [madorebf@potsdam.edu](mailto:madorebf@potsdam.edu) or 315 261 0751.

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: <a href="http://www.adklaurentian.org">www.adklaurentian.org</a>		
*Please contact the leader at least one day before the trip.		
*Car pooling makes sense—so does sharing the cost of gas.		



## Holly Woodworth's Director's Report

...cont'd from page 2

The council is a forum to improve communication between chapters and allow for sharing of best practices. It will also be the conduit for communication of Board decisions and directives as the Board moves from Directors representing their chapters to Directors selected for their expertise.

The Council will have the following Standing Committees to share specific best practices and issue guidelines for Chapters:

- Outings & Meetings
- Conservation & Advocacy
- Education
- Chapter Development
- Communication
- Membership Development
- Technology



### Other News from the Board

- The Board is discussing a re-design of the hikers parking lot to make it more efficient and environmentally-friendly.
- The Lake George Headquarters will be put up for sale in the near future. The building no longer meets the needs of the organization. Current staff at that location will work from home or from smaller leased space in the surrounding area.
- The Bylaws that were passed last year were sent out for review by an organization with expertise on non-profit bylaws—the New York Council on Nonprofits (NYCON). After review of the NYCON report, the Bylaws will be amended to ensure that any future changes to the Bylaws and selection of Directors requires approval of the members in accordance with the letter sent to members during the Bylaws vote.

### Becoming Involved at the Main Club Level:

ADK is looking for Board members for 2022. We are looking for ADK members who have expertise related to the club's activities including Governance, Hospitality, Fund Raising, Advertising & Finance etc. Anyone who is interested in serving should send their Bio to Virginia Etu at [Virginia@ADK.org](mailto:Virginia@ADK.org).

ADK members also have the opportunity to join the Advisory Council's committees listed above or the Board Standing Committees: Finance, Properties, Human Resources, Audit and Stewardship. Contact Tom Ortmeyer about Advisory Council Committees and Virginia Etu to express interest in the Board Committees.

If you have any questions regarding this information feel free to reach out to me at [hswoodworth@gmail.com](mailto:hswoodworth@gmail.com) or 315 848 2953.



*Heron on the Raquette River near Potsdam*

*Photo Credit: Hollis Easter*

