



## North Wind

The Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

October—December 2021

### TRAIL REGISTERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

David Katz & Blair Madore

If you've hiked a trail on public lands, you've probably signed a trail register at a trailhead kiosk. Traditionally, trail registers were composition books, spiral notebooks, or perhaps something a little sturdier such as the plywood covers used by the DEC. The trail registers have been a great source of information about how many people use which trails, what destinations hikers favor, how far away visitors came from, etc. This information

is used for many purposes, including planning for trail maintenance, justifying expenditures on trail improvements such as bridges and boardwalks, and (thankfully rarely) wilderness rescues. Comments, and occasionally drawings, left in the trail registers provide entertainment for later hikers.

Trail registers also have a few shortcomings—they get wet, run out of pages, occasionally disappear completely, don't work without a writing implement, and need a volunteer to check on them once in a while.

The Laurentian Chapter maintains the Red Sandstone and Stone Valley trails, and this includes looking after these trails' registers. The shortcomings of paper trail registers makes this a challeng-

ing task. What to do? Well, this is the twenty-first century, so we looked for a digital solution.

On your next visit to the Stone Valley or Red Sandstone trails, in place of a physical trail register you will see a sign with a QR code. Scan the **QR code** with your smart phone and you will be linked to a digital trail register where you can record the information you might have written in the paper register in the past.



This is still very much the experimental phase of the Laurentian Chapter's foray into digital trail registers. Hikers are already using the digital registers, and we are happy with the immediate availability of hiker data.

While digital trail registers address the shortcomings of physical trail registers, they are not perfect. We will miss reading the comments of previous hikers and noting which of our friends walked there recently. For

the time being – the Red Sandstone Trail will continue to have both paper and digital registers.



### Laurentian Chapter will celebrate 50 years!

2022 will mark the 50th year since the founding of the Laurentian Chapter. Ideas are being gathered for ways to commemorate this milestone. We want to acknowledge and honor the important people and events in our history, of course, and have one or more outings that relate to this anniversary.

If you would like to help with the planning how we will celebrate this milestone, please contact David Trithart at 315-244-8875 or [dtrithar@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dtrithar@twcny.rr.com). I look forward to beginning this fall on the work needed to make this happen.

## Report from the Chair...

David Katz



Happy Autumn!



**Email Addresses** By now you should have received a notice, probably by email, about this Fall's elections for Laurentian chapter officers. (See details elsewhere in this issue.) If instead you got the notice by postal mail, we don't have your email address. If you would like to receive future chapter communications by email, please contact Marianne Hebert ([membership@adklaurentian.org](mailto:membership@adklaurentian.org)), with your email address so we can update our records.

**Annual Meeting** Traditionally, in the good old days before Covid, the Laurentian chapter held a fall annual meeting, in-person, featuring potluck dinner, speaker, review of the year's activities, officer elections, and a showing of the photo contest entries. Last year, Covid put an end to that. This year, we were optimistic that we would be able to return to our traditional annual meeting, but alas, it is not to be.

However, take heart: In lieu of a formal, indoor meeting this year, please come to the Laurentian chapter's informal, outdoor get-together. We will meet at Higley Flow State Park Saturday, November 7 at noon, for a bag lunch (bring your own) followed by walks on Higley's hiking trails. For bonus activities, come in the morning and join the Friends of Higley Flow for their Fall Clean-up.

**Fiftieth Anniversary** The Laurentian chapter was established in 1972, and plans for celebrating 50 exuberant years of chapter activities have begun. Contact David Trithart ([fiftieth@adklaurentian.org](mailto:fiftieth@adklaurentian.org)) if you would like to help with the planning.

**Photo Contest** There's still time! But not much – entries are due by October 10. Check the website for details.

**Election of Laurentian Chapter Officers** Voting for Laurentian chapter officers will take place remotely again this year. Ballot information will be sent out later in October. If you have not received candidate information by mail or email in the last few weeks, please contact chapter Chair David Katz ([chair@adklaurentian.org](mailto:chair@adklaurentian.org) or 315-386-4393) so we can update our records and make sure we send ballot information to your correct email or postal address.

Candidate Bios are here 

Email additional nominations to chapter Secretary Blair Madore at [secretary@adklaurentian.org](mailto:secretary@adklaurentian.org) by October 10th.

## 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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## Nominating Committee Report

We are pleased to nominate the following candidates to serve on the executive committee starting on January 1, 2022.

**For Chair - Marianne Hebert.** Marianne is currently Vice Chair, Membership (2019-present) and has held a variety of offices in the Chapter including Vice Chair Outings (2015-2019), Secretary (Nov. 2009-Nov. 2011), Social Media Coordinator (2011-present), and served in many roles in the Educational Affiliates Program at SUNY Potsdam. Marianne enjoys leading outings and doing trail work. She is a librarian at SUNY Potsdam.

**For Vice Chair, Education - Blair Madore.** Blair has been a member of the chapter for twenty years. In addition to regularly leading outings, he served as Vice Chair, Education for a two year term and Secretary for a two year term. He is currently the Trail Coordinator for the Red Sandstone Trail and the ADK representative to the West Branch of the St. Regis River Advisory Committee and the Raquette River Advisory Committee.

**For Secretary - David Katz.** David climbed his first Adirondack fire tower at age 4. He became a member of the Laurentian Chapter in the early 1990s and has been the chapter's Webmaster since 2005. He served as Vice-Chair Conservation in 2017 and Chapter Chair since 2019.

# Outings Schedule...Joan Trivilino

October—December 2021



**All participants must be vaccinated**

## Weekly Walks:

**October Clarkson Munter Trails.** Thursday mornings 7:30 a.m. (10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28) We will walk the gravel paths for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip. Meet near the parking lot by Stewarts Gas Station (26 Maple Street, Potsdam). Leaders for each week will vary. Contact Marianne Hebert ([hebertm3308@gmail.com](mailto:hebertm3308@gmail.com)) 315-265-0756 for information.

**November Weekly Walk, Bayside Cemetery:** Thursday mornings 7:30 a.m. (11/4, 11/11, 11/18) We will walk the roads for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip. 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.

**December Red Sandstone Trail Roads.** Thursday mornings 7:30 a.m. (12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23) We will walk the dirt access roads for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip. 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 ([hebertm3308@gmail.com](mailto:hebertm3308@gmail.com)) 315-265-0756 for information.

## Outings:

**Friday, October 1st (late afternoon) a short hike up to the new trail to Twin Falls** near DeGrasse. We will walk up, see some of the rock climbers, and picnic on top. If interested, we could explore the ruins at Twin Falls afterward. Contact Tom Vandewater at 315-261-1723 [tandewater@ccsdk12.org](mailto:tandewater@ccsdk12.org)

### Thursday, Oct. 7th: Hike to South Branch Grasse River

In search of grouse, every time we've hiked the Grass River Railroad Trail to the picturesque South Grasse, we spot Spruce Grouse, ducks, warblers, and sometimes deer. Last trip, we saw the male grouse mating display! This midweek hike is designed to avoid ATV's that may scare the birds, and to hopefully spot grouse feeding in the afternoon sun. This is a level 2 hike of 5 miles RT, with a scenic approach drive past Massawepie Lake. Contact Greg Nye Smith at [smithgn.greg@gmail.com](mailto:smithgn.greg@gmail.com)

**Saturday October 16th: Higley Flow State Park.** We'll sample from the Warm Brook, Beaver Pond and Cedar Brook Trails, 5-6 miles total. Contact Tom Ortmeier at 315-244-3707 [tortmeye@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeye@gmail.com)

**Saturday, October 23rd: Jones Creek Trails, Thousand Islands National Park.** Near Brockville, Ontario. Canadian Shield country. Moderately strenuous. 10 km, Level 3, slow pace. If coming from the US, be sure of requirements both to enter Canada and to return - they are demanding and complicated. Contact John Barron at 613-828-2296 [johnbarron@sympatico.ca](mailto:johnbarron@sympatico.ca)

**Saturday, November 6th: Fall Meeting/Trails Day.** We will hold our Fall meeting at noon at the pavilion at the Higley Flow State Park beach. Bring a bag lunch. Join us for some trail work to prepare for winter use at 9:00AM. Opportunity for a very enjoyable (after lunch) walk on the trails too! Contact Joan Trivilino at 315 276-1663 [joantrivilino@hotmail.com](mailto:joantrivilino@hotmail.com)

**Saturday, November 13th: Goodman Mt.** 3 mi. RT. Easy hike. Located just off Rt. 30 just south of Tupper Lake. This trail in the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest was constructed in 2014 and offers nice views from the open summit. We plan to start hiking at around 11 am, lunch/snack at the summit, and include an optional stop at the brewery in Tupper on the way home. TL David Trithart. 315-244-8875 and Rose Rivezzi. 315-212-1750 [dtrithar@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dtrithar@twcny.rr.com)

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](http://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.



**Saturday, December 11th: Higley Flow State Park Annual Ski/Snowshoe/Hike and Cookout:** Bring your kids, their grandparents, and your dogs to this annual early winter event. We'll choose ski, snowshoe, or hike depending on conditions and do 2-3 miles followed by a cookout at a lean-to. I provide hot chocolate, hot dogs and fixings. Bring a snack to share if you wish. Contact Blair Madore at 315-261-0751 [madorebf@potssdam.edu](mailto:madorebf@potssdam.edu)

**Saturday Dec. 18th: Near-solstice afternoon hike** on the Sugar Island portion of the Red Sandstone Trail. Depending on conditions, microspikes or snowshoes may be required. Contact Tom Ortmeyer at 315-244-3707 [tortmeve@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeve@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, Dec. 28th: Catamount at Carry.** This little mountain once had a ski tow. Rock ledges offer views north over the reservoirs on the Raquette River. We will snowshoe off Route 56 for an elevation gain of 500 feet. 3 miles RT. If the group is willing, we could add some bushwhacking or side-trips. Co-listed with North Woods Chapter. Group limit 8. Members only. John and Susan Omohundro, [adknwoutings@gmail.com](mailto:adknwoutings@gmail.com)

**2021 Laurentian Chapter Photo Contest is Underway!**

The Laurentian Chapter is pleased to announce its 2021 Photo Contest. Please submit photos to contest organizer Tom Ortmeyer at [tortmeve@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeve@gmail.com) Digital submissions are preferred.

Photos must be taken between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021 for this year's contest, and received by October 10, 2021.

Photos submitted from chapter outings are automatically entered.

Photos should be on topics of interest to the Adirondack Mountain Club and Laurentian chapter.

Preference given to photos taken in and near the Adirondacks and the St Lawrence and Ottawa River Valleys.

Photos from Laurentian Chapter members are accepted, as are photos from non-members that are taken on chapter outings.

Since its beginning, the photo contest entries are the archive of chapter activities and outings.

**Who/Where Are We Anyway????**

The Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter comprises about 250 households, mostly in the St Lawrence River and Ottawa River Valley regions, with a few members as far away as Florida and California.

In our region, the Laurentian Chapter:

- ◆ builds and maintains trails,
- ◆ supports and advises other conservation organizations,
- ◆ promotes regional land protection and conservation efforts, and
- ◆ partners with schools, universities, and other organizations to provide environmental and conservation education and teach outdoor skills.

