



## North Wind

The Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

January—March 2022

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2022!



### Mystery on the Red Sandstone Trail

...Blair Madore

On Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>, I was hiking on the Red Sandstone Trail with two students Claudia Beltran and Paxton Smith, from the Clarkson Timber Bridge Team. We were looking at ways to rebuild an area of the trail that frequently washed out.

Along the way, we encountered what looked like an old grave stone. We were all quite amazed and surprised. At first, I thought it was made of stone but then realized it was carved into wood and was in remarkably good shape. It couldn't possibly be a real grave marker that was over 60 years old, could it?

I'm the Trail Coordinator for the Red Sandstone Trail and I have walked this part of the trail at least 25 times in the last few years and this was the first time I noticed it. Surely someone put this up recently, maybe as a prank or for a scavenger hunt or other activity? As it turns out, my first thoughts could not have been more wrong. The stone read:

LENA  
COOKLIN  
JULY 1946  
JULY 17 - 1961



...cont'd on page 5

## 50th Anniversary celebrations of the ADK Laurentian Chapter

Remembrances and memories of our chapter wanted!

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we would love to hear from you.

Do you have a fond memory or a funny story to share with the chapter in the Summer edition of the *North Wind*? Please include a photo if possible. Contact Joan Trivilino at [trivilinoj@gmail.com](mailto:trivilinoj@gmail.com) or 315 276-1663.

We are planning some special events to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Our chapter was incorporated on April 17, 1972. 50 years later we are ready to celebrate our many accomplishments and more importantly, our members. Please be on the lookout for these events in our *North Wind* Spring and Summer newsletters.

Looking toward summer, we want to have an outdoor catered event to bring members and families together to celebrate. The fall will usher in a closing event to mark the conclusion of the anniversary.

Report from  
Outgoing Chair  
David Katz



Looking over my notes to remind myself of the Chapter's activities this year, here's what I found:

- Trail maintenance. The Laurentian Chapter continues to lead trail maintenance activities on the Red Sandstone and Stone Valley trails. In practice, this means Chapter Outings where we cut branches, level trail surfaces, harden stream crossings, and occasionally build bridges. This year we also adopted the Tooley Pond Road waterfall trails, featuring a trail maintenance outing in late spring.
- Outings. Adding up walks, hikes, and paddles, all told we were in the woods more than 70 times this year. Check our Events calendar for this winter's outings.
- Outdoors-Indoors. These indoor presentations about unusual outdoor activities have been popular winter Sunday evening events for several years. 2021 was no exception, although there was no sharing of cookies and coffee since we had to hold them by zoom rather than in person. Check our Events calendar for this winter's Outdoors-Indoors offerings.
- Photo contest. Being out on the trail seems to bring out the best in the Laurentian Chapter's photographers. None of the winners are pros, so take out your camera (or camera app) and enter the 2022 photo contest.
- River Advisory committees: We don't spend all of our time on outings. We also participate with DEC and other organizations that affect the health of our local wild lands and the quality of our time in the woods. For example, as part of hydropower licensing agreements, River Advisory committees composed of government, public, and private entities oversee spending for infrastructure improvements on several North Country rivers. The Laurentian Chapter participates in the Raquette, Oswegatchie, and West Branch St Regis committees.
- Executive Committee. As usual, the New Year sees changes in our Executive Committee membership. **Holly Woodworth**, who has represented the chapter on ADK's Board of Directors for the last couple of years, will be leaving the Executive Committee, as is **Jim Burdick**, outgoing Vice-Chair for Education. Our thanks to both. **Marianne Hebert** will preside over the chapter's activities as Chair. I will be handling the chapter's secretarial duties so that **Blair Madore** can take on the Education position that Jim is leaving. Last but not least, we welcome **Mary MacKinnon** as Vice-Chair for Membership.

2022 marks the Laurentian Chapter's 50th anniversary and the 100th anniversary of ADK as a whole. We are planning many celebratory activities as 2022 unfolds.

Please join us!

Report from  
Incoming Chair  
Marianne Hebert



As incoming Chair, I am excited and a bit apprehensive about my new responsibilities. I am heartened that I will have access to the wisdom of past-Chairs—David Katz who will continue as Chapter Secretary, and John Barron who will continue as Publicity Coordinator. Their knowledge and expertise are just a few keyboard-clicks away. I am grateful to the new and continuing officers and volunteers in appointed positions who help make the Chapter run so smoothly.

2022 will be an interesting year for the Chapter as we are seeing big changes at Club headquarters. Recently the ADK Board of Directors approved further bylaws revisions which changed how Chapters will be funded. They also approved the purchase of the Cascade Cross Country Ski Center which will bring new opportunities for the Club and ADK members.

2022 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Laurentian Chapter, and we are seeking volunteers and ideas to help with celebration planning. If you have time, ideas or suggestions, let us know!

The upcoming year is sure to see continued challenges with COVID. Vaccines and masking will continue to be required for some time. We will continue to seek guidance on keeping everyone safe, and we are grateful for your cooperation. Outdoor activities are the safest way to get together, and I hope to see everyone out on the trails.

**ADK Laurentian Chapter Executive Committee**

[Marianne Hebert](#)

Chair, Social Media Coordinator, EAP Outings Coordinator  
[chair@adklaurentian.org](mailto:chair@adklaurentian.org)

[Joan Trivilino](#)

Vice-Chair, Outings  
[outings@adklaurentian.org](mailto:outings@adklaurentian.org)

[Blair Madore](#)

Vice-Chair, Education, Red Sandstone Trail Coordinator  
[education@adklaurentian.org](mailto:education@adklaurentian.org)

[Tom van de Water](#)

Vice-Chair, Conservation  
[conservation@adklaurentian.org](mailto:conservation@adklaurentian.org)

[Mary MacKinnon](#)

Vice-Chair, Membership  
[membership@adklaurentian.org](mailto:membership@adklaurentian.org)

[David Katz](#)

Secretary, Webmaster  
[secretary@adklaurentian.org](mailto:secretary@adklaurentian.org)

[Tom Ortmeier](#)

Advisory Council Trustee  
[trustee@adklaurentian.org](mailto:trustee@adklaurentian.org)



# Outings Schedule...Joan Trivilino

## January—March 2022



**All participants must be vaccinated**

### Weekly Walks:

**Weekly Walk, Red Sandstone Trail Roads Every Thursday morning in January, February, and March, 7:30 a.m.** 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 [chair@adklaurentian.org](mailto:chair@adklaurentian.org), 315-265-0756.

**Saturday January 8, 2022- Ski into Clear Pond in the White Hill Wild Forest in Parishville.** It is 1.9 mi. from the paved road (where we park) to the pond, following a snowmobile trail. The trail continues along the north side of the pond. Depending on how far we can go, the round-trip will be 4 to 5 miles. This is a moderately strenuous trip. It will be weather dependent for skiing. We will hike if there is no snow. Contact David Trithart [dtrithar@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dtrithar@twcny.rr.com)

**Sunday January 9, 2022- Mt. Van Hoevenberg snowshoe.** We will determine starting time as trip gets closer. This is a 4.4 mile RT hike with elevation gain of 892 feet. We will be using the South Meadow approach. Please note we will have a bit of a walk from the road to the trailhead. It gets pretty busy in that area. Contact Dana Chudzinski [chudski63@yahoo.com](mailto:chudski63@yahoo.com), 315-244-5315.

**Saturday January 15, 2022- Mt. Arab climb.** We’ll use spikes or snowshoes on this 2.2 miles RT for an elevation gain of 764 feet. The view from the fire tower can be awesome. Perhaps we’ll lunch on the porch of the observer’s cabin. A joint outing with North Woods Chapter. Group limit 10. Contact John Omohundro [adknwoutings@gmail.com](mailto:adknwoutings@gmail.com)

**Saturday January 22, 2022- Snowshoe or hike to Church Pond** in the North Branch of the Grasse River on a relatively easy walk of about 5 miles. Contact Tom Van de Water 315 261-1723 or [tvandewater@ccsdk12.org](mailto:tvandewater@ccsdk12.org)

**Saturday & Sunday January 29-30, 2022 Winter Weekend at Higley Flow State Park.** Check [higleyfriends.org](http://higleyfriends.org) for details.

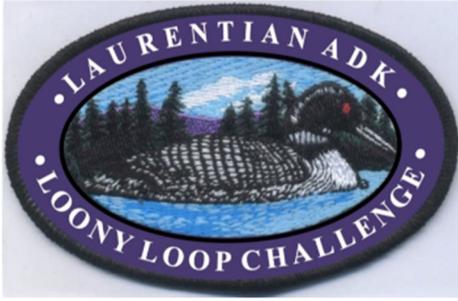
**Saturday February 5, 2022- Beginner snowshoeing at the Nicandri Center.** We will snowshoe in the afternoon on the trails from the Nicandri Center at Robert Moses Park near Massena. The center has snowshoes available, and no previous snowshoeing experience is needed. We’ll have a brief training session and go out for 2-3 miles on the trails there. Contact Tom Ortmeyer [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com), 315-244-3707 Level 2 Fairly Easy.

**Saturday February 12, 2022- Hike or Snowshoe Catamount Mountain (South Colton).** This small mountain offers a nice overlook of the Carry Falls Reservoir. Depending on conditions, we can hike or snowshoe. The first mile is a gradual climb, and then gets pretty steep for the last ½ mile. 3-4 miles RT, 330 ft elevation gain. Level 2, slow pace. Contact Marianne Hebert, 315-265-0756 or [hebertm3308@gmail.com](mailto:hebertm3308@gmail.com)

**Saturday February 19, 2022- Stone Valley Snowshoe.** We will celebrate the reopening of the Browns Bridge by snowshoeing the Stone Valley Loop. We’ll start on the north end on the west side, and stop for a picnic lunch in Colton before our return on the east side of the river. 6-7 miles in length. Contact Tom Ortmeyer [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com), 315-244-3707 Level 4 Strenuous.

The Details		
<b>Foot Travel—</b>		
<b>Difficulty Level</b>	<b>Elevation Gain</b>	<b>Miles Traveled</b>
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
<b>Cycling—</b> 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.		

# Loony Loop Challenge



The Chapter launched the Loony Loop Challenge in the Fall of 2020. Since then, 30+ patches have been awarded. Participants seem to be evenly split between Canadian and the US. We are thrilled with the level of participation so far, and hope residents on both sides of the border continue to explore hiking in the St. Lawrence Valley Region. While travel across the border is still a bit cumbersome, folks interested in earning a patch can complete hikes from both the US and Canadian hikes. The hikes are suitable for snowshoes and some are skiable, so the winter is perfect for the Loony Loop Challenge Check it out:

[https://adklaurentian.org/?page=loony\\_loop\\_challenge.html](https://adklaurentian.org/?page=loony_loop_challenge.html)

## Director's Report...

Holly Woodworth



### December 2021

#### Facilities:

ADK's Board voted in October to purchase the 200-acre Cascade Ski Center near Lake Placid for approximately \$2.5 million. The purchase is expected to close soon. The facility will continue as a ski center. In addition, the club will use it for education programs and as an information center. The ski center will be operated by the current owner this winter season and ADK is expected to begin running it in April. The headquarters in Lake George is for sale. When this property sells, the proceeds will be used to decrease the future mortgage on Cascade.

#### Governance Changes:

At the December Board meeting the Board elected the 2022 members and revised the Bylaws without any member input. The new bylaws will change the way chapters are funded. Chapters will no longer receive a specific share of member dues and will need to submit a budget to headquarters to justify all funds given to the chapter. The revisions include language that allows the Advisory Council input in the selection of future Board Members and future Bylaws changes. If the Advisory Council votes against either Board Members or Bylaws changes, approval requires a vote by membership.

Beginning in 2022, chapters no longer have representation on the Board of Directors but have a representative on the Advisory Council. The Laurentian Chapter will be represented by Tom Ortmeyer.

#### Welcome New Members:

Jason Snyder (Colton)  
Esme Snyder (Colton)  
Helen Snyder (Colton)  
Cora Snyder (Colton)  
Gwen Bonner (Colton)  
Jessica Wodatch (Washington, DC)  
John Bonee (Canton)  
Angela and Ed Browne (Potsdam)  
Edward Browne, Jr. (Potsdam)  
Hannah Browne (Potsdam)  
Madeline Browne (Potsdam)  
Charlotte Browne (Potsdam)  
Connor Galton (Milton, VT)  
Lynne Matott (Potsdam)  
Renee and Aaron Stauffer (Nicholville)  
Levi Stauffer (Nicholville)  
Isaiah Stauffer (Nicholville)  
Brian Moore (Gouverneur)  
Gregory Oudenheusden (White River Junction, VT)

### SAVE THE DATES "Outdoors Indoors" Zoom Lecture Series

#### Spring 2022 Schedule

- ⇒ **Jan. 30, 2022.** William L. Romey. Title: "Sabbatical Down Under". Contact [indoors@adklaurentian.org](mailto:indoors@adklaurentian.org)
- ⇒ **Feb. 27, 2022.** Tom Langen. Title: "An Introduction to the Natural History of the Adirondack Mountains". Contact [indoors@adklaurentian.org](mailto:indoors@adklaurentian.org)
- ⇒ **Mar. 20, 2022.** Holly Chorba. Title: "Why I Miss the Adirondacks When I'm Away". Contact [indoors@adklaurentian.org](mailto:indoors@adklaurentian.org)

Below is the zoom link:

<https://clarkson.zoom.us/j/92200443454>

# Mystery on the Red Sandstone Trail

...cont'd from page 1

If this was real, I imagined that a young woman had drowned in the river. Wouldn't that be such a tragic event it would appear in the local paper? A few hours scouring records for July 1961 led to nothing. I posted the picture on the ADK Laurentian Chapter's Facebook page. Lots of people tried to help but no one could find any concrete information. There was no "Lena Cooklin" in any of the easily available databases. There were mentions of people named Cooklin living in the North Country (past and present) but that was as far as we got.

I emailed *North Country Now* to publish the picture and ask if anyone had information. The next morning, I began getting emails and phone calls. The story emerged a bit at a time over the day and we had a nearly complete story by that night. Several people who walk the trail frequently told me that the marker has been there for many years—at least three; at least 10; one even said 20. If it was more than 20 years old, it predated the creation of the trail. Maybe it was real?

Several people thought it was a grave marker for a family pet. After all, we often don't know the exact date of birth of our pets but, we do know when they pass. That would explain why we could not find any newspaper report of a young woman drowning or a name in a birth or death registry. Several people told me that Lena is a common dog name.

An avid outdoorswoman and ADK member, Eileen Visser, was one of the people who had seen this grave marker for many years. She and a friend, Judy Brassard, who was good at local genealogy, began a search and found records about the Cooklin family.

*"A Clarence Cooklin family lived on the Back Hannawa Road during the 50's and 60's up to the 1970's. Clarence was Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for BOCES in Norwood. Upon retirement they moved to South Carolina where he is buried. He had a son, Earl who moved to Michigan by 1971 and a daughter Barbara who married and lives in Salem, South Carolina."*

Eileen also used public records to determine Clarence Cooklin and his family lived at 261 County Route 59 (the Back Hannawa Road). This property is west of the road and not adjacent to the river. How would a marker for a family member or pet end up close to the river?

Mimi Vandusen, the Director of the Potsdam Public Museum confirmed some of the information from Eileen. In fact, Mimi knew that Barbara Cooklin Maxwell lived in South Carolina and still regularly participated in the Museum's Facebook group. Mimi had seen the grave marker some years ago but had not been able to find any specific information at the time. Mimi offered to try contacting Barbara for further information.

That evening I was contacted by Mark Gerrish who owns the property between the Back Hannawa Road and the trail. The trail and the land between the trail and the water is owned by Brookfield Power Authority. Mark told me that he purchased the property in 1978 and not long after, Mr. Cooklin from across the street came over to visit him. Mr. Cooklin informed him that his dog was buried on Mark's property down near the river.

At this point, the mystery was solved. We knew this was the gravesite of a family dog and the marker had been there for over 60 years! This was a very interesting piece of the history of the trail and clearly important to preserve out of respect for the Cooklins and for future generations of hikers to experience.

The next morning, Judy Brassard told me she spoke with Earl Cooklin. Earl was 15 in 1961 and grew up with Lena, their pet collie. Lena went missing on July 17, 1961 and Earl and a friend found her at the edge of the river there. Lena had already passed away. Earl found a sturdy piece

of oak and carved the marker. He has never had another dog.

The next day I received a phone call from Earl himself! He explained the situation further. That July 17th was a very hot day and they thought Lena had gone down to the river to cool off. Earl and Lena frequently hunted and fished in that area. When Earl and his friend went to look for her, they found her already dead. She was much too heavy to carry back up the steep bank so they buried her on the spot. Earl said he carved the grave marker from a piece of oak and applied at least 10 coats of varnish on it. No wonder it was so well preserved!

I told Earl that Eileen Visser volunteered to help create an interpretive sign to share this tale with hikers. We hope to install it on the trail near the grave marker for all to enjoy this touching story and piece of local history for many years to come.



Lena and Earl...1949