

## The Chair's Report: Things Change

by Tom Wheeler

We received a notice from Brookfield Power last fall that they wish to revisit our agreement to manage trail maintenance on the Stone Valley and Red Sandstone Trails, which are on their property. We have been directed not to do trail maintenance until a new agreement is in place. This stopped ongoing trail work, in particular at O'Malley Brook.

Tom Ortmeyer has spearheaded our negotiations, together with our trail coordinator Mark Simon and Blair Madore. A draft was negotiated with Brookfield's representative and approved by the Chapter's Executive Committee. At this writing, Brookfield is slowly going through its processes to have a legal document prepared for signatures. It appears the final document will have to be signed by ADK's executive director on our behalf as well as by Brookfield. We are hopeful that this bureaucratic process can be completed quickly because early spring is a critical time for performing trail work.

Outings are a very important part of what we do. ADK has established required training for trip leaders, and Dana Chudzinski has been working hard to encourage members to meet that requirement. While Level One requirements can be easily met online, more advanced training often requires paying for an appropriate course. The Executive Committee has authorized reimbursement for course fees up to a maximum of \$200 for any one person, with specific limitations.

We encourage you to consider becoming a trip leader; if you wish to apply for reimbursement, contact either Dana or myself for more details. By the time you read this newsletter a long and very white winter will be over and the new season will welcome new outdoor opportunities.

For health reasons, Marianne Hebert has moved to Connecticut. For decades Marianne volunteered thousands of hours to the Chapter. In addition to leadership positions such as chair and Outings chair, she pioneered our efforts in social media; regularly led Chapter outings, including Weekly Walks in Potsdam; organized our recent fiftieth anniversary celebration; obtained a grant for historical signs along the Stone Valley Trail; produced this newsletter; and more. Aside from ADK, one of her many involvements was to serve on the Board of Directors of Azure Mountain Friends. They claim that no one is irreplaceable, but she might very well be a counterexample. She will be missed. We wish her the best.



## A Walk Near Home

David Trithart

It's great to have so many nice walking and hiking options here in the North Country. A while ago I walked with my wife, Rose Rivezzi, on a short section of the Red Sandstone Trail along the west bank of the Raquette River near Potsdam. The trail continues all the way to Hannawa Falls, but there wasn't time to go that far. We turned back toward Potsdam and passed the Sugar Island power dam for the second time. We could see a spur trail coming down to the river from the other side; It comes off a Brookfield Power service road that is also a pleasant walk. Both that trail and the one we were on come out near the dam and Rt. 56 bridge in Hannawa.

Add to those two the Clarkson Munter Trail on the west side of the river nearer Potsdam, and it started to look to me like a walkable loop. It would involve walking on the Back Hannawa Road to connect the two west-side trails, as well as along Rt. 56 to get back to Potsdam from Hannawa. I knew immediately that I had to give it a try.

A few days later the mild, dry, early autumn weather got me started from our home off Pierrepont Ave. in Potsdam. I headed downstream through Ives Park and across the Rt. 11 bridges over the Raquette. Immediately past the second bridge, on the left is the start of the Munter Trail. It is well used by walkers, dogs, and bicyclists and follows a lovely route upstream to the edge of Bayside Cemetery.

From there I shifted onto the Back Hannawa Road and followed it until I reached the gated (to cars) gravel road to the Sugar Island power station. Continuing alongside the penstock (large-diameter pipe) that brings water to the station's turbines, I passed a parking area and started to climb on the gravel road to the dam.

Just before the dam, an indistinct trail branches steeply right. It is marked as a Canoe Carry -- but that's another story.



Brookfield access road, east side



## A Walk Near Home, cont'd

Coming out at the top under power lines, you reach a view down to the river and the Sugar Island dam. The marked trail drops to the river bank, which it follows closely, crossing a few bridges maintained by ADK volunteers. Soon you pass the old sandstone quarry, just out of sight but easily accessible.

The trail slowly climbs out of the trees into recently cleared land under power lines. Then it moves back toward the river but stays high above the bed. It ends on Mill St. in Hannawa Falls, where you go left to reach Rt. 56 upstream of the dam.

Cross the bridge and very shortly you will see, behind Chip's Place, the service road that leads to another Brookfield power plant. The road follows the canal that carried water to the original plant, one of the oldest on the Raquette, and remains in use today even though pipes have been installed for subsequent hydro facilities. This road gets some use, by service vehicles, up to the plant. But it continues, with little apparent use, beyond. It ends at a gate where it meets the short branch road called "Old State Rt. 56."

Walking along "new State Rt. 56" to complete the loop back to Potsdam isn't the most interesting part of the outing, but there is ample shoulder. The day I did this walk it took me 3-1/2 hours, without haste but with few stops.

Did this "loop trail" have a name? Not that I knew or could discover. I tried to come up with one; the best I could do was "The Raquette three-dam ramble." It's not in the same class with the Stone Valley Trails a short distance upstream, but it has its attractions. And it's not far from home - mine and many others.



Sugar Island dam



Trail along west side riverbank



## Cycle Outing Cycles Through Again

ADK Cycle Outing is set for June 14–19, 2026, and will again be based at North Country Community College's Saints Suites, 140 Payeville Lane, Saranac Lake. The Suites are directly adjacent to the Adirondack Rail Trail, which is now open from Lake Placid to Tupper Lake. This year's leaders will be Tom Ortmeyer and Greg Smith from the Laurentian Chapter and Julie Leonelli from the Glen Falls–Saratoga Chapter.

ADK Cycle Outing is a bicycle touring event with day trips ranging from 20 to 55 miles. Some trips focus predominantly on cycling, while others allow time for relaxation and sightseeing.

Cycle Outing 2026 will feature both rail trail and road rides. Normally, three trips per day are offered: short, medium, and long. One ride will take the Rail Trail east to Lake Placid. The western section of the trail, from Saranac Lake to Tupper Lake, is 23 miles, and there are multiple ride options on this section. Popular road routes include the Ice Cream Loop (to Donnelly's!), the Red Tavern Road Loop, the Franklin Falls Loop, and the Little Tupper Lake/Sabattis Bog Loop. All participants meet every afternoon to discuss that day's trips and plan for the next day.

Rates are \$475 for ADK members and \$495 for non-members. This price does not include meals. Special events include a welcoming Happy Hour starting at 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 14, and a picnic on Monday the 15th, weather permitting.

Registrations are on line, at <https://adk.org/adk-cycle-outing-2026/>





## Fall Outing 2026

### Wait – Fall Outing? It’s barely spring!

It may be only April as this *North Wind* comes out, but it’s not too soon to plan to be part of ADK’s Fall Outing, hosted by our neighboring North Woods Chapter, Friday, September 18 – Sunday, September 20 at the Saranac Village Young Life Camp. This premier Adirondack retreat facility on the shore of Upper Saranac Lake is in the heart of prime paddling, hiking, and biking country. In addition to a long list of guided outings available to all registrants, evenings will be filled with live music and dancing.

Outings will include hiking Ampersand Mountain and Mt. Arab with its restored fire tower, cycling on the recently completed Adirondack Rail Trail, and paddling in the St. Regis Canoe Area. Camp facilities include an indoor gym, game room, and beach.

For information on fees, accommodations, meals, and more, check [ADK’s Events Calendar](#).



## ADK Laurentian

### Executive Committee

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Ellie Menz – Treasurer

Tom Ortmeyer – Advisory Council Trustee  
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David Trithart – Advisory Council Alternate  
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### Appointed Positions

Marg Madore – Hospitality Coordinator  
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John Barron – Publicity Coordinator  
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# Outings and Events

## April - June 2026

*Dana Chudzinski*  
*Vice Chair, Outings*

3	A+	Very Strenuous	4,000	10	10
3	A	Strenuous	3,000	5 to 10	8 to 10
2	B+	Moderately Strenuous	2,000	5 to 10	6 to 8
2	B	Moderate	1,000	5 to 10	5 to 7
1	C+	Fairly Easy	1,000	5 to 8	4 to 6
1	C	Easy	Under 1,000	< 5	< 5

\*Check for last minute updates: [www.adklaurentian.org](http://www.adklaurentian.org)

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

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

## Outdoors - Indoors Program, Winter 2026

Our final Outdoors - Indoors program of the year (with thanks to Jeff Miller for setting these up):

### **Sunday, April 26:**

#### **SCUBA, Jungle Treks, Bathing Elephants, Bangkok Wats, and Fabulous Food**

Relive two weeks in April 2024 with Danielle Jerry and Bob Platte in Ko Tao with their SCUBA instructor son, boating, trekking, and wildlife viewing in Khao Sok National Park, and touring and eating their way through Bangkok, Thailand.

7:00 p.m. in the Potsdam Civic Center Community Room.

For more information, contact Jeff Miller, [jeff@stlawu.edu](mailto:jeff@stlawu.edu).

## Thursday Weekly Walks

We will walk every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., typically for 1 hour/2 miles. In April and June we will walk the Munter Trail. In May we will walk the Bayside Cemetery roads. Contact Tom Ortmeyer, [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com) or 315-244-3707. Level C.

See the events schedule below for details.

# Outings and Events

April - June 2026

**Thursdays, Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Munter Trail** 7:30 a.m. We will walk the trails for approximately 2 miles, 1-hour round trip. Meet in the parking lot behind the Clarkson Walker Arena and Hantz Field off Clarkson Ave., aka Back Hannawa Rd and CR 59. Leaders for each week will vary. Contact Tom Ortmeyer, [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com), 315-244-3707. Level C (Easy).

**Saturday, Apr. 25: Gould Lake Conservation Area** About 5 miles RT of hiking in this area north of Kingston, Ontario. Less than 100 ft net change of elevation but trails are rugged in places (about 500 ft total gain). Pace: slow. Trailhead is at Conservation Area barn parking lot at south end of Gould Lake (44.46N, 76.59W). Contact John Barron, 613-828-2296 or [johnbarron@sympatico.ca](mailto:johnbarron@sympatico.ca). Level C.

**Sunday, Apr 26: Outdoors-Indoors - SCUBA, Jungle Treks, Bathing Elephants, Bangkok Wats, and Fabulous Food** Relive two weeks in April 2024 with Danielle Jerry and Bob Platte in Ko Tao with their SCUBA instructor son, boating, trekking, and wildlife viewing in Khao Sok National Park, and touring and eating their way through Bangkok, Thailand. 7:00 p.m. in the Potsdam Civic Center Community Room. For more information, contact Jeff Miller, [jeff@stlawu.edu](mailto:jeff@stlawu.edu).

**Saturday, May 2: Whalen Park to Nicandri Nature Center Bike Ride** We'll ride a combination of road, paved bike path and the gravel Richards Dike Path, to the Nicandri Center in Robert Moses State Park. We'll lunch there, and then return. 21 miles. Leader: Tom Ortmeyer, [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com) or 315-244-3707. Level B.

**Sunday, May 3: Buck Mountain Fire Tower** This is a moderately difficult 2.3-mile (RT) hike with an elevation gain of 493 feet. For those working on the fire tower challenge, this is a good one to check off the list. Meet at the trailhead on the Sabattis Circle Road at 9 a.m. We will organize a carpool from Potsdam if necessary. Contact Dana Chudzinski, 315-244-5345 or [chudski63@yahoo.com](mailto:chudski63@yahoo.com). Level C.

**Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28: Weekly Walk, Bayside Cemetery Potsdam** 7:30 a.m. We will walk the roads for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip. Meet at the entrance to the cemetery (730 CR59, aka Back Hannawa Road). Leaders for each week will vary. Contact Tom Ortmeyer, [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com) or 315-244-3707. Level C (Easy).

**Saturday May 16: Azure Mountain Trail and Summit Work Day** We'll do spring cleaning such as side-cutting, brushing out, water bar cleaning, and erosion control. Sign-up required, limit 6 participants. Leader: Tom Ortmeyer, [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com) or 315-244-3707. Co-Leader: Mike McLean. Level C.

**Friday, May 29: Clarksboro Trail** Hike to the lookout point above Twin Falls. This will be an afternoon hike starting at 3 p.m. with an anticipated total hike time of 2-3 hours. The hike is about 2 miles (RT) with an elevation gain of 500 feet. Side trips to one or two falls off Tooley Pond Road. Meeting point: kiosk at junction of Tooley Pond Road and Lake George Road, east of DeGrasse. For more info contact Tom Van de Water, 315-261-1723. Level C.

# Outings and Events, April - June 2026, continued

**Thursdays, Jun 4, 11, 18, 25: Weekly Walk, Munter Trail** Potsdam, 7:30 a.m. We will walk the trails for approximately 2 miles, 1-hour round trip. Meet in the parking lot behind the Clarkson Walker Arena and Hantz Field off Clarkson Ave., aka Back Hannawa Rd and CR 59. Leaders for each week will vary. Contact Tom Ortmeyer, [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com) or 315-244-3707. Level C (Easy).

**Sunday - Friday, Jun. 14 - 19: ADK Cycle Outing** Based at North Country Community College. See details on page 4. For more information or to register, visit <https://adk.org/adk-cycle-outing-2026/>

## Backtracks

**Feb. 21: Lost Pond snowshoe** A foot of snow the night before obliged us all to spend much of the next morning digging out. The roads were clear by 10 a.m., so we caravanned to Cranberry Lake, where we had to do some more snow shoveling to get into the parking lot. O frabjous day!

Someone had snowshoed on our trail the previous night or early that day. Snow clung to every branch, making for awesome scenery in the young hardwood forest making up the first part of the trail.

About halfway around the north side of Lost Pond, our predecessor's snowshoe track ended and our work began. The sun didn't emerge, but the bright sky illuminated the beaver-flooded pond and its many snags. Our forest was predominantly large evergreens. We saw an osprey nest, and the tracks of a snowshoe hare.

We passed over little bridges at the west end of the pond and found a spot with a sitting-log on the south side for lunch, reveling in the mild weather and lack of wind. Shortly, we came upon the tracks of a big coyote. Some very large cherry trees. And a spruce punctured many times by a sapsucker. Completing our loop, we picked up own nicely-packed trail and padded out easily, stopping to admire the cliffs and icefalls near the trailhead.

--John Omohundro,  
Saranac Lake

