



chepontuc — "Hard place to cross," Iroquois reference to Glens Falls

Chepontuc Footnotes

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GLEN FALLS-SARATOGA CHAPTER OF THE ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB



Cycling in the French Alps September 20, 2023, 7 pm, Saratoga Springs Public Library In-person

In 2012, amateur cyclist Don Berens rode some of the classic French Alpine climbs of the Tour, and from the roadside watched the pros ride two mountain stages. He'll show slides of his trip, share some of the history of the Tour de France, and celebrate the excitement and color of one of the world's great cultural and athletic events.

YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU! IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR VOLUNTEERS 2024 NOMINATIONS

At the annual October meeting, chapter officers are elected to serve the chapter for the fiscal year. Please keep in mind that there are no prerequisites required for any of the positions listed below; only the willingness to serve as a leader for the chapter.

We will have vacancies for the following three positions:

1st Vice-Chair - The 1st Vice Chair oversees and coordinates the activities of the Chapter committees designated by the Chair. The 1st Vice Chair will serve as an elected member of the Executive Committee and perform all duties assigned by the Chapter Constitution & Bylaws. Approximate time commitment: should be able to devote approximately two hours/monthly to attend chapter Executive Committee meetings. (1 year term)

2nd Vice-Chair - The 2nd Vice Chair oversees and coordinates the activities of the chapter committees designated by the Chair and in the absence of the Chair and 1st Vice-Chair shall conduct the monthly Executive Committee meetings. Approximate time commitment: should be able to devote approximately two hours/monthly to attend chapter Executive Committee meetings. (1 year term)

Trustee - The Trustee serves for both the Club and the Chapter. The Trustee shall represent the Chapter on the Club Advisory Council, serve as an elected member of the Chapter Executive Committee and perform all duties assigned under the Club Bylaws and Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. Approximate time commitment: Attend monthly chapter Executive Committee meetings (1-2 hours); attend Club Advisory Council meetings (at least 4x/year, 6-8 hours); file written reports on Advisory Council and club activities for the Chapter newsletter 6x/year). (3-year term)

Nominations are due August 1, 2023. Nominations and officer biographies will be published in the September through November newsletter.

Please contact me directly with any questions or nominations. Thank you in advance for considering volunteering for one of the positions listed above.

Pat Desbiens, Chair, Glens Falls/Saratoga Chapter Nominating Committee—pdesbien@nycap.rr.com

Chapter Chair Report ~ Brian Coville



I recently tabled for the Glens Falls - Saratoga ADK Chapter at the Wilton Wildlife Festival with our very patient editor, Jen Ferriss. It was a good experience talking with people that are new to the area and looking for outdoor adventures and education, as well as people that had already done a lot of local hiking and are now introducing hiking to their children. It was also great talking with Jen and the chapter Nominating Committee Chair, Pat.

I am looking forward to volunteering as a Buck Mountain Trailhead Steward this summer to continue to make a positive impact on the hikers we meet. We are always looking for volunteers; it doesn't have to be a big commitment of time. Events, trail work and stewardship are just a few opportunities.

Switching gears... ADK announced a gear consignment program at the Cascade Welcome Center accepting tents, sleeping bags and pads, backpacks, single or double-blade paddles, hiking boots, trekking poles, hammocks, and camping stoves. I haven't brought any gear there yet myself because I don't entirely trust myself to avoid picking up a lot of affordable gear in the process of selling my current equipment. If you have extra gear, it's probably worth looking into and a good excuse to check out the Cascade Welcome Center.

ADK Saratoga - Glens Falls Chapter Committee Officers and Chairs

Executive Committee Officers		Committee Chairs		Committee Chairs	
Chapter Chair 518-350-4117 chapterchair@adk-gfs.org	Brian Coville	Conservation 401-529-5034 conservation@adk-gfs.org Co-Chair	Aimee Viens Rutledge Paul Dietershagen	Trails 518-638-6139 trails@adk-gfs.org Co-Chair	Tom Ellis Jim Schneider
First Vice Chair 908-304-8357 vicechair@adk-gfs.org	Kim Brown	Education 908-305-8357 education@adk-gfs.org	Kim Brown	Web site 518-832-7437 webmaster@adk-gfs.org	George Sammons
2nd Vice Chair vicechair@adk-gfs.org	Vacant	Hospitality 518-638-6139 hospitality@adk-gfs.org	Gretchen Steen	Young Members ymg@adk-gfs.org	Vacant
Secretary 518-798-0624 secretary@adk-gfs.org	John Caffry	Membership membership@adk-gfs.org	Vacant	Fire Tower 518-668-3046 firetower@adk-gfs.org	Tim Noble
Treasurer 518-793-6484 treasurer@adk-gfs.org	Steve Mackey	Newsletter Editor 518-290-0703 newsletter@adk-gfs.org	Jennifer Ferriss	Annual Dinner 518-798-3055 annualdinner@adk-gfs.org	Anne Paolano
Past Chapter Chair 518-668-3046 pastchair@adk-gfs.org	Kathi Nobel	Outings 518-893-7895 outings@adk-gfs.org	Wayne Richter	Publicity publicity@adk-gfs.org	Stephanie Graudons
Trustee Alternate Trustee:	Thomas Khairallah Vacant	Programs 518-798-3055 programs@adk-gfs.org	Anne Paolano	Banff Film Festival Mo Coutant banff@adk-gfs.org	
Members at Large	Maureen Coutant Jeff Mans	Learn More: adk-gfs.org		Get social Instagram: @adkglensfallssaratoga	

Outings and Programs Calendar

Date	Day	Type	Destination	Leader(s)	Rating
* July 2023					
1	Sat	Hike	Old Gick Farm and Fox Parcel	Jack Whitney	C+
2	Sun	Hike	Letterbox Challenge #5- Galway Nature Preserve	Jessica Gottung	C-
8	Sat	Hike	Tongue mountain Range via Northern loop	Anthony Szmul	A+
8	Sat	Hike	Great 8 Trail Challenge Kalabus -Perry and Neilman preserve	Jack Whitney	C+
11	Tue	Bike	Evening Ride	Jen Ferriss	NR
15	Sat	Bike	Bike Ride - Feeder Canal Trail and Empire State Trail	Steve Mackey	B
15	Sat	Paddle/ Camp	Boreas Ponds Camp and Paddle (Sat-Sun)	Jeff Mans	A-
16	Sun	Hike	Montcalm Point Hike and Swim	Neal Van Dorsten	C+
29	Sat	Hike	Great 8 Trail Challenge Camp Saratoga North and Opdahl Farm	Jack Whitney	C+
* August 2023					
5	Sat	Hike	Great 8 Trail Challenge, Camp Saratoga South and Edie Road trailhead	Jack Whitney	C+
12	Sat	Bushwack	Erebus mountain/Fishbrook pond loop	Anthony Szmul	A+
12	Sat	Hike	Cook Mt. Photo hike	Jack Whitney	C+
19	Sat	Camp/ Hike	Long Lake to Cold River Hike, Camp and Swim (Sat-Sun)	Jeff Mans	A
* September 2023					
13	Wed	Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting	Brian Coville	NR
14	Thu	Walk	Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery	Rich Crammond	C
23	Sat	Hike	Hadley and Spruce mountain	Anthony Szmul	B+
30	Sat	Hike	Stony and Center Ponds Fall Color Hike	Rich Crammond	B-

ADK Fire Tower Challenge by Kathi Noble



Congratulations to the following hikers who completed the ADK Fire Tower Challenge

Lesly Hazzard, Fort Plain
 Carlos Banks, Delanson
 Taryn Brandt, Colorado Springs, CO
 Tara Pleat, Cossayuna
 Nora Janack, Owls Head
 Jacque Shea, Jr., Owls Head
 David Smith, Brockport
 James Crisalli, III Fort Plain

Chad Wilkes, Saranac Lake
 Cherie Williams, Waterville

Congratulations to the following hikers who have completed the Winter Fire Tower Challenge:

Steve Markel, Hornell
 Serena Lafayette, Gouverneur
 Christina Jager, Albany
 Eve-Lyn Schwartz, Montreal, QC
 Karen Seward, Delmar
 Robert Williams III, Waterville

Outings and Programs

OLD GICK FARM AND FOX PARCEL - [Hike]

Sat, Jul 1, 2023, 9:30 am, Rating: C+
Jack Whitney - 518-793-9210,
jackwhitney1758@gmail.com
- Join us for the Wilton Wildlife "Great 8 Trail Challenge." Earn a patch on completion of this challenge. We will start with the Old Gick Farm and Fox parcel and hike the rolling terrain. About four to five miles. Meet at the Exit 16 park and ride at 9:15am or the Gick Farm trailhead on Route 50 at 9:30am.

LETTERBOX CHALLENGE #5- GALWAY NATURE PRESERVE - [Hike]

Sun, Jul 2, 2023, time TBD, Rating: C-
Jessica Gottung—jgottung001@nycap.rr.com
- Enjoy a local hike, collect stamps, earn a prize! Check out Letterboxing with the Saratoga PLAN <https://saratogaplan.org/letterboxing/>. This hike is about 2.5 miles round trip and 400 feet of elevation gain. Plan on a steady pace with a short break to check out the letterbox. This hike will be in the morning. Contact leader for time and meeting location.

TONGUE MOUNTAIN RANGE VIA NORTHERN LOOP - [Hike]

Sat, Jul 8, 2023, 5:30 am, Rating: A+
Anthony Szmul - 518-796-7921, aszmul@roadrunner.com
- I'd like to explore the northern loop of the Tongue Mountain range with those who wish to join me. The trip is approximately 12 miles round trip. We will move at a steady pace with many stops including Deer Leap from our first intersection off the trailhead north of the Clay Meadows trailhead. We will also explore Brown Mountain and Five Mile Mountain. Our final destination on that range will be Five Mile Point, where we go to enjoy Lake George and go for a swim if anyone pleases, so pack your swimsuit and towel if you want to jump in the lake! We will head back to the trailhead the way we came, so there are plenty of ups and downs. This hike is also perfect for those trying to complete the Lake George 12ster! We will get an early start at the Exit 18 park and ride by the brick building at 5:30am to get a parking spot, or at the trailhead north of Clay Meadows at approximately 6:10am.

GREAT 8 TRAIL CHALLENGE KALABUS -PERRY AND NEILMAN PRESERVE - [Hike]

Sat, Jul 8, 2023, 9:00 am, Rating: C+
Jack Whitney - 518-793-9210
jackwhitney1758@gmail.com
- A great hike through the scenic woodlands. From the trailhead on Gailor Lane, a dirt road off Homestead Road in Northumberland, the trail crosses a stream, goes up and down hill and has a large grove of oak trees, as well as logging roads that make for easy walking. Kalibus-Perry Preserve is about three and one half miles and Neilman Preserve is about 1.6 miles. Meet at the Exit 16 park and ride at 8:45am.

EVENING RIDE - [Bike]

Tue, Jul 11, 2023, 5:30 pm, Rating: NR
Jen Ferriss - ferrissj@gmail.com
- Join me for a loop or two around the Saratoga National Park tour road. This is a hilly ride, so expect some fast descents and some slow grinds up. Mileage is approximately

11 to 22 miles. All paces welcome. Meet in the main parking lot around 5:30, wheels in motion at 5:45. <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/bike-the-tour-road.htm>.

BIKE RIDE - FEEDER CANAL TRAIL AND EMPIRE STATE TRAIL

Sat, Jul 15, 2023, 10:00 am, Rating: B
Steve Mackey - 518-338-8173, smackey33@verizon.net
- We will meet at the official start of the Glens Falls/Lake George Bike Trail. It is off of Country Club Road, sort of near Sprinkles Ice Cream Shop. It's not the lot across the street from Sprinkles; it's a little further north and it has some rental bikes, bike rack, porta potty, etc. We will head the "other way" towards Glens Falls. We will eventually hook into the Feeder Canal Trail. We will take the Feeder Canal Trail through Hudson Falls, and eventually meet up with the Empire State Trail. We will ride all the way to Fort Ann (unless it is really hot out), and then turn around and ride the same route back. Total distance is around 25 miles, but I would add plus or minus 5, because it is tricky to figure. There are almost no hills. We pass several Stewarts, so we probably will take a break, and get an ice cream at one of them.

BOREAS PONDS CAMP AND PADDLE (SAT-SUN)

Sat, Jul 15, 2023, 9:00 am, Rating: A-
Jeff Mans - 518-265-4135, adkhighlander@aol.com
- We'll need to coordinate a meet-up and transportation to Boreas Ponds on Saturday morning to bring our boats in and set up camp, and go for a day of paddling to explore the ponds, with an evening camp out. Perhaps a short paddle on Sunday morning and/or pack out. Welcome to join for just a day excursion on Saturday. Meet-up at Schroon Lake Tops supermarket parking lot on Route 9 (Main Street) at 8 am. Rain cancels.

MONTCALM POINT HIKE AND SWIM

Sun, Jul 16, 2023, 9:00 am, Rating: C+
Neal Van Dorsten - 518-644-7034, Nealvan@aol.com
- A wonderful diverse hike along the shores of Lake George to Montcalm Point, where we will take a swim and then be picked up by boat and transported back to Bolton Landing. This 6 mile hike will be done at a leisurely pace to enjoy the scenery and wildlife and spectacular views of the lake. This hike is very limited so sign up early. We will meet in the public parking area at the south end of town, adjacent to the Bolton Brewery. Please be on time and arrive a little before 9 am.

GREAT 8 TRAIL CHALLENGE CAMP SARATOGA NORTH AND OPDAHL FARM - [Hike]

Sat, Jul 29, 2023, 9:00 am, Rating: C+
Jack Whitney - 518-793-9210, jackwhitney1758@gmail.com
- Let's explore the fields and woodland around this Wilton Wildlife Preserve. Maybe we'll see some Karner Blue butterflies amongst the blue lupine. Bring your camera or cell phone for some photos. We will start from the trailhead on Scout Road. We can spot a car at the Ballard Road trailhead. Round trip around five miles. Meet at the Exit 16 park and ride at 8:45am, or Camp Saratoga trailhead on Scout Road at 9:00 am.

Outings and Programs

GREAT 8 TRAIL CHALLENGE, CAMP SARATOGA SOUTH AND EDIE ROAD TRAILHEAD - [Hike]

Sat, Aug 5, 2023, 9:00 am, Rating: C+

Jack Whitney - 518-793-9210, jackwhitney1758@gmail.com

- Today we complete the Wilton Wildlife challenge. Starting from Scout Road, we will hike the southern part of Camp Saratoga, then drive over to Edie trailhead. Total mileage is around four miles. Meet at the Exit 16 park and ride at 8:45am. or at 9:00am at the Camp Saratoga trailhead on Scout Road.

EREBUS MOUNTAIN/FISHBROOK POND LOOP

Sat, Aug 12, 2023, time TBD, Rating: A+

Anthony Szmul - 518-796-7921, aszmul@roadrunner.com

- I thought I'd organize a hike to Fishbrook Pond, and from there we'll bushwhack to Mount Erebus. That is all I need to complete my Lake George 12ster—I kid you not! It's 8.6 miles total, but to Fishbrook Pond there's a trail about 2 miles from the Dacy Clearing trailhead. I'd like to meet early at the Exit 18 park and ride at 5am because Fishbrook Pond is great swimming, so bring your bathing suits if you'd like and we can jump in the water after we hike Mount Erebus. Rain date will be Sunday August 13. We will go at a steady pace!

COOK MT. PHOTO HIKE

Sat, Aug 12, 2023, 8:30 am, Rating: C+

Jack Whitney - 518-793-9210, jackwhitney1758@gmail.com

- This is short hike with extraordinary views of northern Lake George. The summit is a mixture of oak, beech and maple trees with views to the south. Bring your camera for some memorable photos. Round trip is around four miles. Meet at the Exit 18 park and ride at 8:15am. Slower pace to allow time for photos.

LONG LAKE TO COLD RIVER HIKE, CAMP AND SWIM (SAT-SUN)

Sat, Aug 19, 2023, 8:30 am, Rating: A

Jeff Mans - 518-265-4135, adkhighlander@aol.com

- We'll plan to take a Saturday morning boat ride on Long Lake to Plumley Point where we'll land and hike the Northville Placid Trail to Cold River, and to our destination at the Seward Lean-to and Big Eddy, the best swimming spot in the Adirondack Wilderness! We'll spend the day swimming and exploring the area and camp overnight at the Seward Lean-to or campsite. Sunday, we can swim and explore the area in the morning, and then break camp to return to Plumley Point and boat ride back. Bring a life preserver if you have one-if not we will have one for you. Trip is limited in size due to boat ride, and do not overpack so we don't overload the boat. Must be able to swim. Meet-up location likely to be Schroon Lake Tops at 8:30 am, but exact location and time TBD depending on participants. Rain cancels.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, Sep 13, 2023, 7:00 pm, Rating: NR

Brian Coville - 518-350-4117, Brian_Coville@Outlook.com

- The meeting will be a virtual meeting via Zoom. All chapter members are welcome at the meeting. Please email chapter-chair@adk-gfs.org for the Zoom information if you would like to attend. The Zoom link will also be provided to the Executive Committee in the meeting agenda.

GERALD B.H. SOLOMON SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY - [Walk]

Thu, Sep 14, 2023, 9:00 am, Rating: C

Rich Crammond - 518-584-2380

- This will be a walk of around 1 mile through a well-kept landscape. The trip leader will point out some interesting things about this beautiful final resting place for our veterans and their dependents. See you there hiker buds.

HADLEY AND SPRUCE MOUNTAIN - [Hike]

Sat, Sep 23, 2023, 5:30 am, Rating: B+

Anthony Szmul - 518-796-7921, aszmul@roadrunner.com

- Come join me, if you like, on a couple of fire towers in the southern Adirondacks! We will carpool from Exit 18 by the emergency medical, and big brick, building, to Hadley Mountain first. Hadley Mountain is 3.6 miles round trip, with a gorgeous view of the Great Sacandaga Lake on the fire tower. After Hadley Mountain, if anyone is interested we will head over to the Spruce Mountain trailhead. Spruce Mountain is another quiet place to hike that is 2.4 miles round trip, and gorgeous in the fall. People have the option to only hike Hadley Mountain with me if they want to, as well. The trip total with Spruce Mountain would be approximately 6 miles. We shouldn't need microspikes that early in late September but you will need to dress warmer.

STONY AND CENTER PONDS FALL COLOR HIKE

Sat, Sep 30, 2023, 9:00 am, Rating: B-

Rich Crammond - 518-584-2380

- This will be an approximately 6.4 mile round trip hike with some ups and downs along the way, but not steep. Please dress for cool or cold weather and rain. We will try to hike to Center Pond, also, if the trail is good. Trailhead: Access off NY 28N, 3.9 miles north of the Olmsteadville Road - NY 28N intersection in Minerva and 2.8 miles south of Hewitt Road in Aiden Lair. Look for the trailhead

Save the Date
Chapter Annual Dinner Meeting
Friday October 20, 2023, In-person
Embassy Suites, Saratoga Springs
Featuring Steve and Licia Mackey's
Antarctica Trip



Buck mountain Sun, Apr 2, 2023, Anthony Szmul

- Well it was a perfect day with no clouds! The snow was a little mushy with some muddy spots, but everyone came prepared. We hogged the views of Lake George! Chandra Gerekick and I were the only hikers, but it was peaceful.

Hudson Crossing Springtime Outing Sat, Apr 8, 2023, Rich Crammond

- This was a great little hike because the old hiking buds were together once again. It's really nice to share the great outdoors with other people who enjoy it as much as myself, for as long as we can be out there. We saw bluebirds, cormorants, mallards, Canada geese and many dog walkers, but no eagles. Next time, guys. It was all good and we still had a fine nice day by the river. It "really" didn't get no better. Good luck to Sharon with her ADK outings in the future. Thanks to everyone for spending time with us. Participants: Bob Aspholm, Reg Prouty, Jayne Boudier, Sharon Gavitt, Marilyn Bellafigliore, Robert Bellafigliore, Rich Crammond.

Black mountain point loop Sat, Apr 15, 2023, Anthony Szmul

- So by far this was the best hike I've led! We went counter-clockwise with our first destination on the summit of Black! The views were a little hazy, but going down the clouds burned out. There were more views going down on the south side of the mountain. On the way to Black Mountain Point we hung out by the runoff waterfalls, taking pictures. When we got to the point, it seemed to be everyone's favorite including mine. The lake was so calm and clean, we could see the bottom to approximately 15 feet in depth; that was so cool! We all had our lunches there and hung out at the rock. I was brave enough to go swimming - lol - but I didn't stay in long! We then stopped at the lean-tos at the two ponds. At Black Mountain Pond there were salamanders and this little freshwater eel swimming at the rocks that we all enjoyed seeing. It was definitely a trip to remember! The participants with me (Anthony Szmul) were Don Berens, Mark Seymour, Dave White, Joe Babcock, Cathy, George Nesbitt.

Trail Work - Tongue Mountain Range Sat, Apr 29, 2023, Tom Ellis and Steve Mackey

- The weather was rainy, and it looked like we might have to reschedule. We decided that if it was drizzling, we would go, but if it was pouring, we wouldn't. (On the drive to Panera, as luck would have it, it was sort of in between). Six of us showed up, ready to go, so off we went. We took two cars, and the original plan was to hike from both directions, and swap car keys in the middle. When we actually met, the group headed north had left a couple of big blow downs, so we decided to all head south, and clear those too. We simply had the women hike ahead and go get the car that we had left at the Deer Leap Trailhead. We didn't actually count what we cleared but I would guess that it was at least 20+ blowdowns, plus lots of branches and saplings that were encroaching on the trail. The trail is now in excellent shape, with zero blowdowns left. Great job by everyone! Participants: Tom Ellis, Jen Ferriss, Karen Provencher, Steve Mackey, Mo & Jim Coutant.

Saratoga National Historical Park Sun, Apr 30, 2023, Steve Mackey

- This trip also had possible rain, but it held off until after we were done, so it wasn't an issue. I had downloaded a National Park app that had Saratoga National Park on it. There was a tour included that had the stops numbered and would narrate each stop telling what you were seeing, and what happened before and during the battle. I even brought along a bluetooth speaker to play it for everyone. The first couple of stops were fine, but by about the third stop, we were discovering that the Saratoga part of the app, was to put it mildly, "not ready for prime time." When we were all done, we stopped at the visitor center and talked to one of the staff, telling him all the problems we had discovered. It sounded like each park handles their own web sites, so it might be a while before they get it fixed. I suggested that they get one of the web designers from a big historical park like Gettysburg, and give him/her an all expense paid vacation to Saratoga, for a month. Time will tell. It was a nice pleasant ride, and we did learn a lot about all the details of the battles. When we were in the visitor center, we all watched the excellent movie. Participants: Steve & Licia Mackey, Mo & Jim Coutant, Jen Ferriss, Alan Cohen, and Anthony Szmul.

Washburn Ridge in Hoffman Notch Wilderness Sat, May 6, 2023, Jeff Mans

- Starting up the south end of the Hoffman Notch trail from Loch Muller, we proceeded to what appeared to be the south-east base of the Washburn Ridge and jumped off into the woods and climbed until we reached the height of the south ridge where a few tall pines stood sentry and a knob rock outcrop revealed a hidden natural shelter on the other side. We proceeded northward along the ridge and found ourselves climbing and descending several steep little peaks as we bushwhacked north, very similar to the Pinnacle Ridge from Elk Lake that leads to Blake, except that each of those peaks are a bit more work. Along the way we found a few signs of past human excursion, but otherwise it was all wilderness. Although there were cliffs along the way, we never found a spot that afforded us open views, but were rewarded nevertheless with open filtered views of the High Peaks to the northwest, and Hoffman, Blue Ridge and Hornets Cobble to the east. In a col between two of the ridge peaks we found a wet area that was inhabited by a large number of noisy frogs that quickly muted as they sensed our approach. When we reached the last peak on the ridge, I must have been spatially disoriented and was persuaded to drop east towards the northern end of the Hoffman Notch Trail. In the end it worked out fine since our descent was steep and showcased Hornets Cobble, and we reached the trail and were able to enjoy some nice falls on Hoffman Notch Brook as it flowed towards The Branch. Great day, and special thanks to Jen Ferriss who performed unofficial co-lead duty enabling us to complete our adventures. Participants: Jeff Mans, Jen Ferriss, Karen Provencher, Ganesh Nadarajan, George Nesbit, John Sasso and Chris Lincoln.

Saratoga Battlefield / Devils Hollow Sat, May 6, 2023, Rich Crammond

- No participants for this outing so Mrs. Crammond and I went walking along the trail by the Champlain Canal, Route 4 area south of Schuylerville. This looks like a good hike for future ADK outings. We saw many birds of prey and a neat swampy place between the tow path and river. Great place for water birds also. Participants: Debbie and Rich Crammond.

Crown Point walk/bird banding visit Mon, May 8, 2023, Maureen Coutant

- It was great to get back up to Crown Point for the bird banding station. We arrived around 10:30 and learned all about the bird banding process. There was a flock of blue jays that was passing through or hanging around and got caught in the net. After the birds were recorded, you could hold and release a bird. Afterwards, we took a walk around the park, spotting leopard frogs, columbine, fossils, and of course the ruins of the forts that are part of the park. In addition, we walked along the lake over to the lighthouse. We couldn't go up, but it's an impressive building with great sculptures on it. Great day out! Participants: Kim Brown, Mo Coutant, Carmelita DeCicio, Paul Dietershagen, Julie Leonelli, Licia Mackey, Karen Provencher (plus we met up with Barb Bave and Maureen Roberts).

Southern Adirondacks/LG Region Sun, May 14, 2023, Kim Brown

- It was a Mother's Day made to order: clear skies, cool temperatures in the mid 50's when we started out at 8:30am, and not too buggy. Tree leaves were filling out and wildflowers were in bloom. We had several people in our group who had never been to the gazebo or waterfall, and some hadn't been up in quite a while. We were early enough that we had only a few people on the trail on the way up. We had a snack at the gazebo, took some pictures, and headed out to waterfalls. Yes, they were still running, big enough to make the lovely waterfall sound and an easy crossing. We had another snack before crossing and most of us headed up to do upper loop. On our very relaxing return, more people were coming on the trail including many families enjoying the perfect Mother's Day weather. We had a very well behaved mascot for the day thanks to Neil bringing his new rescue, Ripley. Group size 8 including Kim Brown (leader), Neil V, Susan J, Dan H, Jeff L, Heidi M, Katie Y, and Dave C, and of course Ripley. Mileage approximately 3.7 miles with 800 feet of elevation gain.

Crane mountain Sat, May 20, 2023, Anthony Szmul

- The hike was very gradual! It was a nice little morning walk around the Crane Mountain loop! We were lucky to capture views on the top, since we didn't get rained on like the weather report showed. We also enjoyed hanging out at the rocks on Crane Mountain Pond! That was where we had our lunch. It was just three of us including me. Participants besides myself were Cathy Angelo and John Susko. They also enjoyed the hike!

Fairy Ladder Falls, Fish Hawk Cliffs, Rainbow Falls and Beaver Meadow Falls Sat, May 20, 2023, Jeff Mans

- Two stalwart hikers have now joined the GFS charter members of the FLF Club. With a wet and cloudy forecast that beat back most interested participants one-by-one, two of us

ventured up Lake Road from the AMR parking area with permit in hand and were rewarded with about as nice a day and views as you could possibly hope for with the exception of blue bird skies, although they both made guest appearances throughout the day. The views of the Ausable Valley and Lakes, steeply tucked between Colvin and Sawteeth, and the High Peaks to the east from Indian Head are always spectacular no matter how often you visit, and we decided to hog some views while grabbing a bite to eat. Descending back to the Gill Brook Trail and continuing our climb towards Colvin, we reached the Elk Pass Trail that takes most people to Nippletop, and found snow, but we were looking for a good spot to descend through the thick woods and thread the needle down steep embankments to reach Gill Brook. Having reached a stream, my intelligence suggested that it was the small tributary that fed into Gill Brook downstream, so across the rather flat and relatively open delta we proceeded, and as if we had radar, came out on Gill Brook about 30 feet from the base of Fairly Ladder Falls in all its glory at 3130 feet according to my GPS. With snow still on the mountains, the flow of water put on a dazzling display as it cascaded over about 100 feet of the ladders hued in rock and formed over the millennia. This seldom visited spot found through a short but dense bushwhack is cause for unbridled delight. My special thanks to Jayne Boudier and Nick Ringleberg who previously led an outing here on 4/22/17, and was the source of my inspiration to find "the elusive Fairy Ladder Falls," and to my one stalwart companion that day, Virginia Touhey, without whom I probably would not have ventured to this remote spot in the wood where you are likely to imagine finding a skeleton as well as any other place in the deep woods off the beaten track. Oh, what fun we had. Participants: Jeff Mans and Virginia Touhey.

Hadley Mountain Trail Work Sat, May 20, 2023, Steve Mackey

- Most of the regulars had other commitments, so it ended up being just three of us, myself, Licia, and Vicki Rockefeller. We painted the window trim in the cab, as well as most of the floor (we needed a little more green paint to finish). We took off the winter shutters and door, and got the observer's cabin ready for the summit steward. We also cleaned about 25 water bars, so the trail is all ready for any rain storms we get this summer. We got lots accomplished for only a small crew. I'll post a date in a future newsletter for our work day in the fall. It's usually late October, after the leaves have fallen.

Brant Lakes Bike Loop Sat, May 27, 2023, Andrew Meunier

- This turned out to be an excellent day for a ride. Despite a somewhat cool start, the sun warmed us as we rolled out of the Hub. We enjoyed views of Brant Lake and took turns making our voices echo across Beaver Pond. The Adirondack General store offered all manner of muffins, coffee, and breakfast sandwiches (only 13 miles to get there, but fresh, cool air whets the appetite!). Schroon Lake was bustling with folks opening their cottages and contemplating a chilly dip. This was nice ride with a great group of people. With Kathleen Henry, Bill Doran, Bob Bellafiore, Marilyn Bellafiore, Jay Ephraim, Neal Van Dorsten, Valerie Pietrefesa, Chris Baldwin, Rich Indyk, Terri Indyk, Joe Wagner, Ben St. Andrews, and Andrew Meunier.



Chepontuc Footnotes

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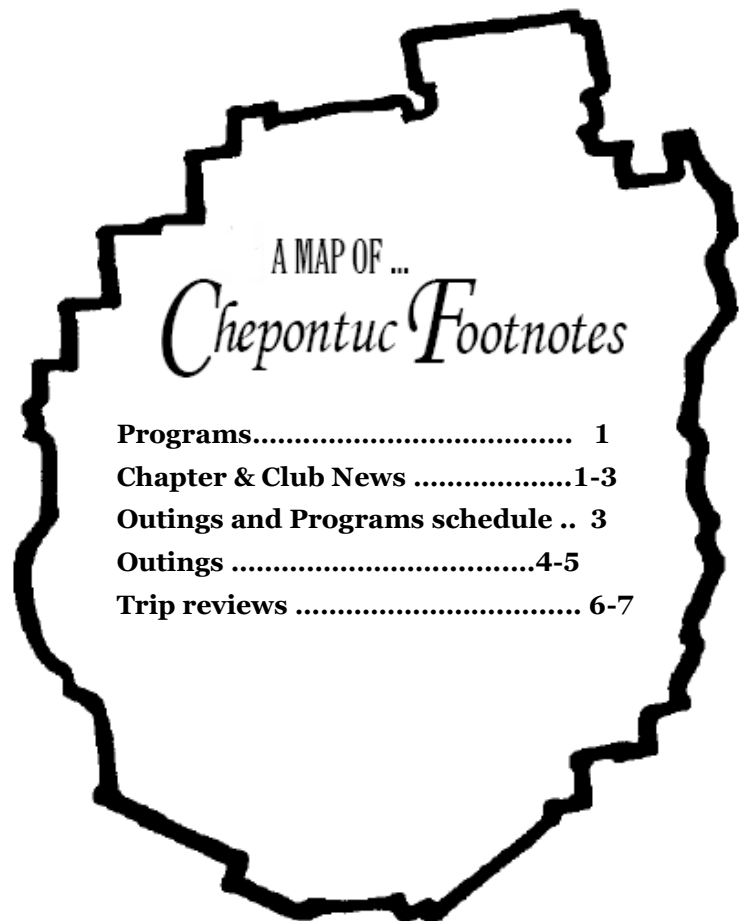
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