Late one June night in 2011, a large animal collided with an SUV cruising down a Connecticut parkway. Beside the road lay a 140-pound mountain lion. Speculations ran wild. Was he a ghostly survivor from a bygone century when lions last roamed the eastern United States? As the facts of the case unfolded, they proved to be as wild as all the speculation. The lion was three years old, with a DNA trail originating in the Black Hills of South Dakota, on a cross-country odyssey that eventually took it within thirty miles of New York City. It was the farthest landbound trek ever recorded for a wild animal in America—by a barely weaned teenager venturing solo through hostile terrain.

Christopher Spatz, a dedicated mountain lion researcher, will present an illustrated introduction to cougar biology, ecology and history. His talk will be based on a new book, *Heart of a Lion: A Lone Cat’s Walk Across America*, by William Stolzenburg.

Come hear Mr. Spatz retrace the lion’s two-year journey—from his embattled birthplace in the Black Hills, across the Great Plains and the Mississippi River, through Midwest metropolises and remote northern forests, to his tragic finale in Connecticut. Along the way, the lion traversed lands with people either gunning for his kind, or championing his cause.

Saturday April 8, 2017 at 2 PM
Boughton Place, 150 Kisor Road, Highland NY 12528
845-691-7578

Come learn about about mountain lion biology, ecology and history

LATE ONE JUNE NIGHT in 2011, a large animal collided with an SUV cruising down a Connecticut parkway. Beside the road lay a 140-pound mountain lion. Speculations ran wild. Was he a ghostly survivor from a bygone century when lions last roamed the eastern United States? As the facts of the case unfolded, they proved to be as wild as all the speculation. The lion was three years old, with a DNA trail originating in the Black Hills of South Dakota, on a cross-country odyssey that eventually took it within thirty miles of New York City. It was the farthest landbound trek ever recorded for a wild animal in America—by a barely weaned teenager venturing solo through hostile terrain.

Christopher Spatz, a dedicated mountain lion researcher, will present an illustrated introduction to cougar biology, ecology and history. His talk will be based on a new book, *Heart of a Lion: A Lone Cat’s Walk Across America*, by William Stolzenburg.

Come hear Mr. Spatz retrace the lion’s two-year journey—from his embattled birthplace in the Black Hills, across the Great Plains and the Mississippi River, through Midwest metropolises and remote northern forests, to his tragic finale in Connecticut. Along the way, the lion traversed lands with people either gunning for his kind, or championing his cause.

Saturday April 8, 2017 at 2 PM
Boughton Place, 150 Kisor Road, Highland NY 12528
845-691-7578

YOU, TOO, CAN BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Getting up close and personal with the Wooly Adelgid

By Sue Mackson

Back in September I received, the following notice:

“Attend a Forest Pest Monitoring Workshop and Help Save Catskill Hemlocks

The only hope for our Catskill hemlocks is your help with early detection and stand health surveys through monitoring. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is an aggressive, devastating invasive insect that kills a host tree in a few years. Our eastern hemlocks, which have little or no resistance to these infestations, have been hit hard by HWA. HWA is currently in the Catskill Park, and there are significant hemlock communities at risk. The workshop will train you to identify and conduct surveys for this invasive species that threatens our Catskill forests. You will have the opportunity to adopt an area in the Catskill Park to survey for HWA.”

I was interested. So on October 8th, I showed up at the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center, near Mount Tremper, where I joined a group of scientists and aspiring citizen scientists (including faculty and students in environmental sciences from SUNY Cobleskill) along with David and Carol White, intrepid hikers and trail-guide authors, for a day of training in the detection and destruction of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The workshop was cosponsored by ADK and CRISP (the Catskills Regional Invasive Species Coalition), which provided the expertise, and was run by Dan Snider and John Thompson (CRISP) and Cathy Peddlar (ADK).

We began with a presentation about the HWA which included chilling slides of forests in the Smoky Mountains where entire areas of hemlock trees had been devastated. Only two percent of these forests are assessed as salvageable. We
Elected Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Chair</td>
<td>Daniel Jones Jr.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jones.daniel.jr@gmail.com">Jones.daniel.jr@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-797-9161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Peter McGinnis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Pmcgin1@aol.com">Pmcgin1@aol.com</a></td>
<td>845-454-4428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ellen Zelig</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ellenzeligcrr@aol.com">ellenzeligcrr@aol.com</a></td>
<td>845-518-0488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ralph Pollard</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ralphpollard@verizon.net">ralphpollard@verizon.net</a></td>
<td>845-462-3389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Director</td>
<td>Christopher Cring</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christopher.cring@gmail.com">christopher.cring@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-249-5305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Director</td>
<td>Jean-Claude Fouere</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcfouere@gmail.com">jcfouere@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-462-0142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alt. Club Director</td>
<td>Brenda Harding</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Brendaharding99@yahoo.com">Brendaharding99@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>845-565-8566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-Chapter Chair</td>
<td>Lalita Malik</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jaltamalik@aol.com">jaltamalik@aol.com</a></td>
<td>845-592-0204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Committee Chairs & Other Volunteers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Sayi Nulu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sayileela@gmail.com">sayileela@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-264-2270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>Jennifer Anderson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dianderson@fairpoint.net">dianderson@fairpoint.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Skip Doyle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skipnewyork@yahoo.com">skipnewyork@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News Media</td>
<td>Michele Van Hoesen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michelevh8@yahoo.com">michelevh8@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>845-691-7442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Chair</td>
<td>Don Urmston</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mrurmston@gmail.com">mrurmston@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-457-4552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Events</td>
<td>Carole Marsh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nanagrace91@aol.com">Nanagrace91@aol.com</a></td>
<td>845-849-2044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Georgette Weir</td>
<td><a href="mailto:georgette.weir@gmail.com">georgette.weir@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-462-0142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Co-Editor</td>
<td>Dana Bennet</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dana.f.bennet@gmail.com">dana.f.bennet@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-247-7259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Co-Editor</td>
<td>Elizabeth Fitzgerald</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elizfit0729@gmail.com">elizfit0729@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database Admin</td>
<td>Eli Cohen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Ebc12533@yahoo.com">Ebc12533@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outings Co-Chair</td>
<td>Sue Mackson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:suemackson@gmail.com">suemackson@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-471-9892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outings Co-Chair</td>
<td>Ginny Faucci</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gefauci@gmail.com">gefauci@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-399-2170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails Chair</td>
<td>Tom Amisson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tamisson@aol.com">tamisson@aol.com</a></td>
<td>845-592-1572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Trails &amp; Paddles</td>
<td>Russ Faller</td>
<td><a href="mailto:russoutdoors@yahoo.com">russoutdoors@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>845-297-5126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY-NJ Trail Conf. Del.</td>
<td>Salley Decker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sadecker2002@yahoo.com">sadecker2002@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>845-454-4206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MeetUp</td>
<td>Sayi Nulu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sayileela@gmail.com">sayileela@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>845-264-2270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEC launches new web page...

This new page, “Catskill Backcountry Information” which can be found at dec.ny.gov, contains information that will be of great interest to anyone who hikes in the Catskills. It includes:

- Current trail conditions and road and trail closures
- Seasonal notices for sportsmen and outdoor recreationists
- Access information for the Forest Preserve and NYC DEP recreation lands
- Tips on outdoor safety and emergency contacts
- Backcountry regulations and regulatory updates

The Catskill Backcountry Information webpage is updated at the beginning of each month, with new information added as needed. DEC Forest Rangers, foresters, wildlife and other field staff provide the updates.

Tips and tricks for families on the trail

Families on Foot: Urban Hikes to Backyard Treks and National Park Adventures

by Jennifer Pharr Davis and Brew Davis

Published in partnership with American Hiking Society, Families on Foot offers practical advice and engaging activities to make hiking even more fun for families. You’ll find clever ideas and inspiration for kids of all ages—from tackling diaper blowouts in the backcountry to using smartphone apps and GPS to engage teenagers with nature. Information for seniors and children with special needs is also included. Available at Amazon.

A new view from the top...

The Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) NY Chapter is working with the Friends of Sterling Forest and the Sterling Forest State Park to restore and reopen the historic Sterling Forest Fire Tower. A work plan is ready and waiting for volunteers to help us out as soon as the weather allows this spring. The FFLA is a nationwide group that works to save fire tower structures and preserve their history. Think you can’t help but don’t have carpentry skills? Don’t worry! Our volunteer group needs assistance on all fronts: organizing, fund raising, building, recording history, demolition, using social media, trail maintenance, leading hikes, cleanup crews and support crews. Name your interest and we’ll find a place for you. If you would be interested in helping out, please contact Laurie Rankin at lauriejrankin@gmail.com.

Microspikes! Don’t leave home without ‘em!

This from the DEC:

“AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 PM on Feb. 1, Dutchess County 911 notified Central Dispatch that two hikers were requesting assistance on Stissing Mountain. The subjects had hiked to the fire tower and were having difficulty coming down the trail due to icy conditions. Two Rangers responded, located the subjects at the fire tower, provided additional equipment, and assisted them back to the trailhead.”
MID-WEEK HIKES: The leaders offer hikes of varying difficulty to different areas of the Mid-Hudson Valley. Hikes may be followed by a stop for refreshments. Leaders: Ginny Fauci, gefauci@gmail.com or 845-399-2170, and Lalita Malik, Lalitamalik@aol.com or 845-592-0204. They will be held every Thursday, weather permitting. To add your name to the Mid-Week hike list, go to the bottom of the weekly email to update your subscription.

MID-WEEK PADDLES: Leader: Glenda Schwarze, schwar582@aol.com. Glenda will lead quiet-water two hour paddles with beach put-ins. Starting in May, they will be held on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. To add your name to the Mid-Week paddle list, go to the bottom of the weekly email to update your subscription.

HARRIMAN DOG-FRIENDLY HIKES: Susan Sterngold and her dogs lead hikes every day in Harriman. Dogs will be on all the hikes, and you’re welcome to bring yours. Hikes are scheduled a few days ahead of time. To receive notifications of the hikes, please join her yahoo group, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/harrimanhike. When signing up, click on Special Notices and mention you are a Mid-Hudson ADK hiker.

HOW TO GET STARTED KAYAKING PRESENTATIONS: Always wanted to try kayaking but don’t know how to get started? All ADK members are welcome to attend and/or assist with these presentations—no kayaking experience is necessary. Contact: Don Urmston, mrurmston@gmail.com or 845-457-4552. Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) trip leader Don Urmston will tell you how to get started, what gear you’ll need, where to go paddling, where to meet other paddlers and where to get instruction on your technique. See and feel the difference in kayaks, paddles and other equipment with our hands-on presentation. Special attention is given to kayak safety and choosing your first kayak. Whether you just want to paddle occasionally or hope to become an expert sea kayaker, this program will get you started. Free to all.

How to Get Started Kayaking Presentations 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 26</td>
<td>Gardiner Library</td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 6</td>
<td>East Fishkill Library</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 8</td>
<td>Standfordville Library</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 20</td>
<td>Saugerties Library</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 3</td>
<td>Goshen Library</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More dates TBA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GENERAL OUTINGS GUIDELINES

- Notify Leader of your intent to join an outing at least two days prior to the outing.
- Be at designated meeting place ten minutes prior to the scheduled departure time.
- Car pooling is encouraged. Riders are expected to share the expenses equally at a rate of $.20 per mile plus any tolls and parking fees incurred.
- Dogs may be allowed on some outings; check with trip leader. If allowed, bring a leash, be able to control your dog, and provide for its needs (especially water).
- Guests are welcome to participate in two outings. After that they are encouraged to become members of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the ADK.

PADDLE GUIDELINES

- PFDs (Personal Flotation Devices) must be worn while on the water.
- On “Big Water” trips, such as those on the Hudson River (see exceptions below), Long Island Sound and Lake George, the minimum boat length is 13.5 ft. and boats must have dual bulkheads or flotation devices in bow and stern, unless the boat is a sit-on-top kayak. Canoes do not come under these “Big Water” requirements.
- Hudson River Exceptions: “Big Water” requirements do not apply to trips into Constitution Marsh or other areas where travel on the Hudson is minimal.

HIKING GUIDELINES

- Wear sturdy footwear as required for season and type of outing.
- Be equipped with water, lunch, snacks, extra clothing and foul weather gear.
- Hike Ratings indicate relative degree of difficulty, and may vary with terrain, weather, season, etc. Check with Trip Leader to verify that the trip is suitable for your ability.
- For more hiking tips/preparedness, check out: https://midhudsonadk.org/outings-calendar/hiking-tips/.

HIKE RATINGS

- Class A - Difficult: More than 1500’ climb or more than 8 miles total distance
- Class B - Moderate: Less than 1500’ climb and 6 to 8 miles total distance
- Class C - Easy: Well-graded trails and less than 6 miles total distance
- Walk: Less than 4 miles total distance; suitable for children

www.midhudsonadk.org
March 2017

WANTED: PADDLING LEADERS & LEADERS-IN-TRAINING

Paddling trips have become a big part of our Chapter’s outings schedule. If you would like to help lead a paddling trip (Leader-in Training) or if you’re ready to jump right in and lead your own trip, contact Russ Faller at 845-297-5126 (before 9 PM) or OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com.

March at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>LEADER</th>
<th>CONTACT INFO</th>
<th>RATING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Mar 4</td>
<td>Kayak Pool Session</td>
<td>Don Urmston</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mruumston@gmail.com">mruumston@gmail.com</a> or 845-549-4671</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Mar 4</td>
<td>High Peterskill End to End</td>
<td>Roberta Forest</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robertaforest@gmail.com">robertaforest@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>B hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Mar 5</td>
<td>Teatown Lake Reservation</td>
<td>Sue Mackson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:suemackson@gmail.com">suemackson@gmail.com</a> or 845-471-9892</td>
<td>C hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Mar 11</td>
<td>Blackhead</td>
<td>Joe Ferri, Shari Aber</td>
<td>914-489-1582 or 914-489-0654</td>
<td>A hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Mar 12 - Thu, Mar 16</td>
<td>Tmax &amp; Topo Hostel Trip</td>
<td>Russ Faller</td>
<td><a href="mailto:OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com">OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com</a> or 845-297-5126</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Mar 12</td>
<td>Sunset/Moonrise Walk at Peach Hill</td>
<td>Sue Mackson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:suemackson@gmail.com">suemackson@gmail.com</a> or 845-471-9892</td>
<td>C hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Mar 18</td>
<td>Kayak Pool Session</td>
<td>Don Urmston</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mruumston@gmail.com">mruumston@gmail.com</a> or 845-549-4671</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Mar 19</td>
<td>Esopus Meadows Preserve</td>
<td>John Ragusa</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.ragusa@bnymellon.com">john.ragusa@bnymellon.com</a> or 917-692-1159</td>
<td>C+ hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Mar 25</td>
<td>Mill-Norrie State Park</td>
<td>Georgette Weir</td>
<td><a href="mailto:georgette.weir@gmail.com">georgette.weir@gmail.com</a> or 845-462-0142</td>
<td>C+ hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Mar 25</td>
<td>Wonder Lake/Laurel Pond</td>
<td>Tom Buckley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TrailHikerTom@gmail.com">TrailHikerTom@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>B hike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Mar 26</td>
<td>Watchung Reservation</td>
<td>Sue Mackson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:suemackson@gmail.com">suemackson@gmail.com</a> or 845-471-9892</td>
<td>B hike</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Catskills have more snow and harsher winter conditions than other mountains in the region. If conditions permit, we will hike only Blackhead. The Catskills generally have more snow and harsher winter conditions than other mountains in the region. If we hike Blackhead, the Catskills will be on hand. $50 gets you 2 hours in the pool and instruction, or work on your own. ($50 per session). Must register in advance. Need a minimum of 6 people or the session will be canceled. 100% of the money goes to the college to support their programs.

Sat, Mar 4: Kayak Pool Session, 2:00-4:00 PM, Orange County Community College, Middletown, NY
Leader: Don Urmston, mruumston@gmail.com or 845-549-4671 (before 9PM)
Clean up your kayak and come get some time on the water this spring. We will work on rescues, draw strokes, sculling and rolling. ACA Level 2 instructor will be on hand. $50 gets you 2 hours in the pool and instruction, or work on your own. ($50 per session). Must register in advance. Need a minimum of 6 people or the session will be canceled. 100% of the money goes to the college to support their programs.

Sat, Mar 4: High Peterskill End to End Snowshoe or Hike (6 miles, B)
Leader: Roberta Forest, robertaforest@gmail.com
Meet at 9:30 at the Coxing parking lot where we’ll leave some cars and shuttle to our starting point. This is a moderate 6 mile hike or snowshoe. Joint with Mohonk Preserve. The preserve fee is $12.

Sun, Mar 5: Teatown Lake Reservation (4-5 miles, C)
Leader: Sue Mackson, suemackson@gmail.com or 845-471-0892 (H), 845-891-7173 (C)
Depending on weather, we’ll head south for a wintry walk in this northern westchester park. No high hills to deal with, pace will be very moderate. We will take a two mile loop walk and, depending on the weather, have an option to add another loop of a mile to mile and a half. Let’s look for signs of spring. Meet to carpool at 10 AM at MacDonalds on Route 9 south of Route 84. May need to use traction devices. Active snow or rain cancels. Check with the leader the morning of hike before 9 AM.

Sat, Mar 11: Blackhead (and possibly Black Dome and Thomas Cole) (5.2-7.6 miles, 1800’–2650’ ascent, A) Joint with the Catskill 3500 Club
Leaders: Joe Ferri, newpaltz33@yahoo.com or 914-489-1582, Shari Aber, shnaber@yahoo.com or 914-489-0654
Another hike with spectacular views of the northern Catskills. If conditions permit, we will do a thru-hike across the Blackhead Range. If weather and terrain are exceptionally challenging, we will hike only Blackhead. The Catskills generally have more snow and harsher winter conditions than other mountains in the region. Be prepared with winter gear including snowshoes and/or microspikes (or crampons). Contact leaders for details including meeting place and time. Registration period: Mar 2 – Mar 9.

Sun, Mar 12: Sunset/moonrise Walk at Peach Hill (C)
Leader: Sue Mackson, suemackson@gmail.com or 845-471-9892 (H), 845-891-7173 (C)
Sunset is before 7 PM (Daylight Savings Time will have begun) and full moon rise is shortly afterward. Meet at 5:45 PM at the entrance to Peach Hill, which has easy ups and downs through an abandoned apple orchard. The site is the highest point in Poughkeepsie, which isn’t saying much, but affords a 360-degree views. We will walk first, then watch. Bring a short poem to share. Flashlight or headlamp will be helpful when leaving, but we will try to walk in the dark.

Sat, Mar 18: Kayak Pool Session, 2:00-4:00 PM, Orange County Community College, Middletown, NY
Leader: Don Urmston, mruumston@gmail.com or 845-549-4671
Clean up your kayak and come get some time on the water this spring. We will work on rescues, draw strokes, sculling and rolling. ACA Level 2 instructor will be on hand. $50 gets you 2 hours in the pool and instruction, or work on your own. ($50 per session). Must register in advance. Need a minimum of 6 people or the session will be canceled. 100% of the money goes to the college to support their programs.

Sun, Mar 19: Esopus Meadows Preserve, Ulster Park, NY (2.5 miles, C+)
Leader: John Ragusa, john.ragusa@bnymellon.com or 917-692-1159
Sunset is before 7 PM (Daylight Savings Time will have begun) and full moon rise is shortly afterward. Meet at 5:45 PM at the entrance to Peach Hill, which has easy ups and downs through an abandoned apple orchard. The site is the highest point in Poughkeepsie, which isn’t saying much, but affords a 360-degree views. We will walk first, then watch. Bring a short poem to share. Flashlight or headlamp will be helpful when leaving, but we will try to walk in the dark.

Lake Placid has great shopping, restaurants and other activities, e.g. dog sledding, the Olympic Center. At the beginning of the week, we are in a good position to have the hostel to ourselves. Go to www.tmax-n-topo.com. We will share pot-luck dinners and cook our own breakfasts in the large, well-supplied kitchen. Bunkroom accommodations will total $112 + tax. Private rooms also available. Please contact leader to register and for more info.

www.midhudsonadk.org
April at a glance

**DATE** | **DESCRIPTION** | **LEADER** | **CONTACT INFO** | **RATING**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
**Sat, Apr 1** | Jenny Lane Loop | Roberta Forest | robertaforest@gmail.com | A hike
**Tue, Apr 4** | Audubon Trails in Sharon, CT | Jennifer & David Anderson | djanderson@fairpoint.net or 518-398-5320 | C hike
**Sat, Apr 8** | Mountain Lion Talk | Kathy Paulsen | kaypea51@aol.com |
**Sat, Apr 8** | Brooklyn Botanic Gardens | Sue Mackson | suemackson@gmail.com or 845-471-9892 | walk
**Sat, Apr 8 - Thu, Apr 13** | Appalachian Trail Backpack | Russ Faller | OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com or 845-297-5126 | A backpack
**Sun, Apr 9** | Long Dock Park and more | Louis Ruidisch | ruidisch3@gmail.com or 845-453-0871 | C+ hike
**Sun, Apr 9** | Harriman State Park | Skip Doyle | OutdoorSkipper@gmail.com | B hike
**Sun, Apr 9** | Sam's Point, Minnewaska SP | John Ragusa | john.ragusa@bnymellon.com or 917-692-1159 | B+ hike
**Sat, Apr 15** | Hyde Park Trails | Salley Decker | sadecker2002@yahoo.com or 845-454-4206 | C hike
**Tue, Apr 18** | AT Bulls Bridge | Sue Mackson | suemackson@gmail.com or 845-471-9892 | C hike
**Sat, Apr 22** | Fahnstock SP | Tom Buckley | TrailHikerTom@gmail.com | B hike
**Sat, Apr 22** | Bantam River CT | Russ Faller | OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com or 845-297-5126 | C paddle
**Sun, Apr 23** | NYC Highline | Sayi Nulu | sayinulu@yahoo.com | walk
**Sat, Apr 29** | Fahnstock SP | Georgette Weir | georgette.weir@gmail.com or 845-462-0142 | B+ hike
**Sat, Apr 29** | Minnewaska SP/ Mohonk Preserve | Michael C. Phipps | phippsmcp@aol.com or 646-373-5891 | A hike
**Sun, Apr 30** | Baskill Wetlands | Don Urmsston | mrurmston@gmail.com or 845-549-4671 | C Paddle

**April 2017**

**Sun, Mar 26:** Watchung Reservation History Trail, (6.5 miles, B)
**Leader:** Sue Mackson, suemackson@gmail.com or 845-471-9892 (H), 845-891-7173 (C)

Still fascinated with Revolutionary War History, I’m going down to NJ, to the mountains where George Washington retreated after his defeat in Manhattan. Description of the hike can be found on the NYNJ Trail Conference web site: [https://www.nynjtc.org/hike/watchung-reservation-0](https://www.nynjtc.org/hike/watchung-reservation-0). I hope you’ve ever set foot in Union County and the trip will require a car trip of almost two hours. Join me for this adventure to the land where oil flows. Please reserve with me by March 24 for carpool and meet time and location.

**Sun, Mar 25:** Mills-Norris State Park, (5 miles, light trail maintenance, C+)
**Leader:** Georgette Weir, georgette.weir@gmail.com or 845-462-0142 (before 9 PM)

The trails were in good shape in mid-January. We’ll see how they look after winter and possibly do some clipping and litter clean up. Walk will include 2.25-mile River Trail along the Hudson.

**Sat, Apr 22:** Bantam River CT
**Leader:** Russ Faller
**Contact:** OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com or 845-297-5126

Meet 9:30 at the lower lot of Minnewaska State Park. Joint with Mohonk Preserve. Minnewaska parking is $10/car or Empire Pass.

**Sat, Apr 1:** Jenny Lane Loop, (7-8 miles, B+)
**Leader:** Roberta Forest, robertaforest@gmail.com

Meet 9:30 at the lower lot of Minnewaska State Park. Joint with Mohonk Preserve. Minnewaska parking is $10/car or Empire Pass.

**Tues, Apr 4:** Audubon hike #1; Audubon trails in Sharon, CT. (5 miles, C)
**Leaders:** Jennifer and David Anderson, djanderson@fairpoint.net or 518-398-5320 (before 9 PM)

Join us in the morning at the Sharon Audubon Center where we plan to hike about 5 miles on gentle trails that wind up and down through deciduous woodlands and to a quiet pond with a boardwalk for viewing wildlife. Bring lunch or snack and a supply of water. Hiking boots or good trail shoes are advised, as there may be wet areas. Hiking poles and binoculars may also be useful. There is a suggested fee of $3 for adults, $1.50 for seniors, at the Audubon Center. Bathrooms will be available. We may also want to drive a short way afterward to do the mile-long pond loop trail at the Audubon Sharon Miles Wildlife Sanctuary nearby. For meeting time and directions, please contact the leaders by Sunday evening, April 2 before 9 PM.

**Sat, Apr 8:** Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and Westward (walk)
**Leader:** Sue Mackson, suemackson@gmail.com or 845-471-9892 (H), 845-891-7173 (C)

Meet at Metro North Train before 8 AM in Poughkeepsie to get to the Gardens before noon, when there is no charge for entry. We’ll look for daffodils and magnolias in bloom, head past the herb garden, check out the native plant area and the Children’s Garden and then, depending on the group, head west to the Gowanus Canal area. Lots of walking on hard surfaces. Bring lunch to eat outside. Please contact leader by March 30.

**Sat, Apr 8:** Special Chapter Event
**Mountain Lion Lecture**
**2 PM, Boughton Place, 150 Kisor Road, Highland NY 12528,**
**Contact:** Kathy Paulsen, kaypea51@aol.com

Christopher Spatz, a dedicated mountain lion researcher, will present an illustrated introduction to cougar biology, ecology and history. His talk will be based on a new book, *Heart of a Lion: A Lone Cat’s Walk Across America*, by William Stolzenburg. (See article on page 1.)
Sat, Apr 8—Thurs, Apr 13: Appalachian Trail Backpack, Manassas Gap to Big Meadows (Shenandoah National Park, VA) (54 miles, moderate pace, A)
Leader: Russ Faller, OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com or 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM)
We will continue our odyssey on the Appalachian Trail. This will be a 6-day (including driving down & back) adventure through the wilds of Virginia and ending at the sumptuous Big Meadows Lodge in Shenandoah National Park. (Sorry, we will not stay at the lodge, but can poke around inside.) The ascents/descents are gentle. Daily mileages range from 8 miles to 15.5 miles; ranging about 5.5 to 10 hours hiking. Thirteen fabulous viewpoints along the way and we’ll linger to enjoy them. Register with leader no later than April 1st. Joint with AMC

Sun, Apr 9: Long Dock Park, Denning’s Point, and Madam Brett Park Combo, (6 miles, C+/D)
Leader: Louis Ruidisch, ruidisch3@gmail.com or 845-896-9332 (H), 845-453-0871 (C)
This hike offers beautiful views of both the Hudson River and Fishkill Creek estuary. We will start at Long Dock Park and follow two trails to Madam Brett Park to enjoy both the estuary and Fishkill Falls. We will then circle back to the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries building before entering Denning’s Point. Bring your camera, lunch and 2 quarts water. Meet by the kayak pavilion in Long Dock Park at 9 AM. Confirm with leader.

Sun, Apr 9: Psalm Sunday Pilgrimage in Harriman State Park (6 miles, 5 hours, B)
Leader: Skip Doyle, OutdoorSkipper@gmail.com
Celebrate Palm Sunday by sharing the verses of your favorite psalm; mine is 118:24. Meet at 9:15 at Slateburg municipal parking lot, 98 Orange Turnpike (Route 59), and carpool to St. John in the Wilderness parking lot. Six-mile hike to Big Hill shelter and JJ Mountain fire tower (1000’ elevation gain). Church services at 3 PM. Refreshments at 4 PM. Newspaper article from prior year (Poughkeepsie Journal) http://www.outdoorskipper.com/uploads/4/9/0/2/49029123/palsundayhike.pdf

Sun, Apr 9: Sam’s Point Area, Minnewaska State Park, Cragsmoor NY (6 miles, B+)
Leader: John Ragusa, johnragusa@brymellon.com or 845-896-9332
Situated on the highest section of the Shawangunk Mountains, the area contains a globally rare community of high-altitude pitch pine barrens and a matrix of chestnut oak forest. We will hike the loop trail around Lake Maratanza, one of the five Shawangunk sky lakes and explore ice-cave crevices as well as numerous scenic vistas. We will also see some of the many old and abandoned kulaks. There is a $10 parking fee, so carpooling is encouraged. It’s free for those with an Empire Pass. Heavy rain cancels. Directions: Take 184 West across the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. Take Exit 6. Turn right onto Route 17K west. Go 2 miles. Make right onto Coldenham Rd. and take to end. Make right onto Orange Ave. Take to end and make left onto Main St. in Walden. Continue on Route 52 west (S. Montgomery St.) for 14 miles, passing thru Pine Bush and Walker Valley. In Cragsmoor, make right onto Cragsmoor Rd. Follow signs for Sam’s Point for 3 miles.

Sat, Apr 15: “Hyde Park Trails” Introduction of the new patch for 2017, 1 PM to 4 PM
Contact: Sally Decker, sadecker2002@yahoo.com or 845-454-4206
Meet at the Vanderbilt National Historic Site. Hikers will be shuttled to the F.D. Roosevelt National Historic Site. There will be a four mile guided hike on the Hyde Park Trail back to the Vanderbilt National Historic Site. The new patch for 2017 will be introduced. Wear good hiking boots/shoes and bring water and snacks. Contact Sally for more information and to register. Pre-registration is not required, but it would be good to know how many ADK members might be joining the hike.

Tues, April 18: Appalachian Trail at Bulls Bridge (2.5 miles, C)
Leader: Sue Mackson, suemackson@gmail.com or 845-471-9892 (H), 845-891-7173 (C)
This narrow, but easy, trail overlooks the rolling Housatonic. A bit of up and down, but no great elevation challenges. Walked this in January and its location was so beautiful we thought it would be more so in spring. We will start in the afternoon at the covered bridge and turn around at a lovely meadow less than two miles away. Meet early afternoon to car pool. Check with leader for meeting place.

Sat, Apr 22: Fahnestock State Park, Three Lakes Trail and the Appalachian Trail (5.5 miles, B)
Leader: Tom Buckley, TrailHikerTom@gmail.com
April 22nd is Earth Day. Let’s celebrate by taking a hike. If you are interested in observing evidence of the very active beaver activity at Fahnestock State Park, you should enjoy this hike. We will see some of the many dams and lodges they have built along the waterways. On last year’s ADK hike we encountered downed trees with fresh beaver bite marks and shavings from earlier that day. I do not expect to actually see any beavers as we hike, but we may be surprised. Email leader for meeting time and place and directions.

Sat, Apr 22: Paddle the Bantam River in Western CT. (easy paddle, C)
Leader: Russ Faller, OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com or 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM)
We’ll enjoy paddling this narrow, flat-water river as it twists and turns through the White Memorial and then spills into Bantam Lake. This is a wildlife preserve filled with all kinds of birds, turtles and other fauna. The banks are undeveloped until you get to the lake. Expect to pull over beaver dams. Bring lunch and water. You must bring boat and equipment to launch. There are rentals in the area. Contact leader for rental list. PFDs required. Beginners welcome! Early-season trip so be prepared for cold and some wind. Contact leader for time and meeting place. Register with leader by 4/29.

May 2017

Tues, May 2: Audubon Hike #2, Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary
Stanfordville, NY (5 miles, C)
Leaders: Jennifer and David Anderson, djanderson@fairpoint.net or 518-398-5320 (before 9 PM)
We are planning a morning walk of 5 miles or less over the varied terrain of Buttercup’s rolling grassland, wooded areas and marsh. Groomed trails will lead us along a bluebird trail to a secluded stream, old orchard and fine view of Stissing Mountain. Bring lunch or snack and a supply of water. Hiking boots or good trail shoes are advised and you may need a hat. Binoculars and poles may also be useful. For meeting time and directions, please contact the leaders by Sunday evening, April 30, before 9 PM.

Sat, May 6: I Love My Parks Day
Sat, May 6: Fahnestock State Park, Three Lakes Trail and the Appalachian Trail (4.5 miles, B, family friendly)
Leader: Tom Amisson, tamisson@aol.com
We will search out various spring wildflowers and explore several iron mine sites. Contact leader for meeting time and place.

Sat, May 6: Annual Riverkeeper Hudson River Sweep: Lower Wappinger Creek
Leader: Russ Faller, OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com or 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM)
Let’s join Riverkeeper’s 6th annual Hudson River Sweep by paddling & cleaning up the lower Wappinger Creek from the falls to the Hudson. Spend as much time www.midhudsonadk.org 6
as you are able. This event does so much more than removing trash from our waterways and shores: it connects people to waterways. The lower Wappinger Creek is our creek. We paddle it. Who else will clean it up if we do not? Trash bags provided. Bring any kind of boat & gear, wear shoes that can get wet, wear clothing that can get wet and dirty. Don’t forget the sunscreen & hat. Meet at 4 PM at the launch at 117 Market St., Village of Wappingers Falls (across from Temple Field). Confirm participation with leader. Contact leader if needing driving directions.

Sun, May 7: Combined Paddle and Hike, Saugerties, NY (B paddle, C hike)
Leader: Shari Aber, shnaber@yahoo.com or 914-489-0654
We will first paddle from Waterfront Park to the lighthouse, around the point and south on the Hudson to the Falling Waters Preserve. There we will hike the trails, exploring the preserve before returning to our boats and Saugerties. Paddle is moderate—big water rules apply—hike is easy (2 miles). Contact leader for meeting time and place.

Sun, May 7: Walkkill River, Middletown to Montgomery (C paddle)
Leader: Don Urmonston, mrumston@gmail.com or 845-549-4671 (before 9PM)
With the opening of a new boat launch in Middletown, we can finally paddle this seldom used section of the Walkkill River. This is an easy paddle but long and the launch might be muddy. We will go with the current for about 10-12 miles. This section is usually clear and no rapids. Beginning paddlers are welcome!

Sat, May 13: Kenco’s 7th Annual Outdoor Fest, 9 AM–4 PM, Volunteers needed for MHADK table!
Contact: Ginny Fauci, gefauci@gmail.com for additional information
Sat, May 13: 5 Hyde Park Trails Patch-in-a-Day (6+ miles at a fast pace)
Leader: Mike Cunningham, hikermiker@yahoo.com or 203-748-7233 between 7 PM-9 PM
For the past 7 years, Mike Cunningham has led a club trip to hike 5 trails and earn a Hyde Park Walkabout patch in a single day. If it rains, bring rain gear. Bring lunch. No dogs. Meet at Roosevelt Farm Lane parking on Route 9G opposite the Val-Kill entrance at 9:30 AM. We will need to drive between hikes. Any emails received after noon on 5/12 will not be answered. Pre-registration is not required.

Sat, May 20: Combined Paddle and Hike, Esopus, NY (C paddle, C+ hike)
Leader: Shari Aber, shnaber@yahoo.com or 914-489-0654
We will paddle from Chodikee Lake to the waterfall on the Black Creek. From there we will hike several of the trails in the Burroughs Sanctuary. Easy 3-mile paddle and 4-mile hike. Contact leader for meeting time and place.

Sat, May 20: Schaghticoke Mountain
Leader: Sue Mackson, suemackson@gmail.com or 845-471-9892 (H), 845-891-7173 (C)
We will begin the hike from Schagticoke Rd at 10 AM. Call leader for meeting place and carpooling. Expect to end within the bounds of the Schaghticoke Indian Reservation and return to our starting point.

Sat, May 21: Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge, Walkill, NY. (3.5 miles, C)
Leader: John Ragusa, john.ragusa@bnymellon.com or 917-692-1159
Established in 1999 to support grassland-dependent migratory birds and wintering raptors, this refuge has been identified as a biodiversity focus area and an important bird area. Two interconnected loop trails wind through the refuge’s open grasslands with views of the Shawangunk Ridge. Two observation platforms are located along the trail. Meet at 12 noon in the visitor parking lot within the refuge. Heavy rain cancels. Directions: Take I-84 west across the Newburgh-Beacon bridge to exit 10S (2nd exit after bridge). Make left onto Route 32 North. Go about 3 miles and continue straight onto Rt. 300 North. Take to end and make left onto Rt. 208. Continue on Wallkill Ave into the Village of Wallkill (you will leave Rt. 208). Turn left onto Bruyn Turnpike (R.O. at corner). Continue about 2 miles and at top of hill, make right onto Hoagerburgh Rd. Go about another mile and make right onto Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge.

Sat, May 27: Nuclear Lake and Cat Rocks on the Appalachian Trail. (8-9 miles, A-)
Leader: Georgette Weir, georgette.weir@gmail.com or 845-462-0142 (before 9 PM)
This is a fairly strenuous hike on the AT from Rt. 55, passing Nuclear Lake on our way to Cat Rocks for the view. Retrace steps to Nuclear Lake, than back on other side of the lake on the Yellow Trail. Contact leader for meeting time/place and carpool/directions.

www.midhudsonadk.org 7
Save the Date! Appalachian Trail Conservancy Biennial Meeting

**August 4th through 11th, 2017.** The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) will hold its biennial meeting and gathering at Colby College in Waterville, ME. This event is largely run by volunteers of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and the Maine Chapter of the AMC. Everyone is welcome to attend this event which includes nightly entertainment and more!

There will be numerous day hikes on the Appalachian Trail, 125 miles of which is within a 90-minute drive.

In addition, there will be opportunities for paddling, biking, and exploring parts of Maine! Registration will begin in May, 2017, but it's not too early to plan ahead for this week in Maine. (One need not register for the entire seven days, as there are numerous options available.)

Please check out the web site (2017 ATC Biennial Meeting) ... and enjoy the video! For questions now, feel free to contact Salley Decker at sadecker2002@yahoo.com. Put “ATC 2017 Maine” in subject line.

---

**Sa, May 27:** Sam’s Point Area, Minnewaska State Park, Cragsmoor, NY (9 miles, 6 hours, A)

Leader: Michael C. Phipps, phippsmcp@aol.com or 646-373-5891

This loop hike offers sweeping views, a waterfall, with several cliffs and edges. Bring 3+ liters of water, snacks, lunch. Dress for the weather. Meet at Sam’s Point Visitors Center at 9 AM. Please confirm with leader.

**Sa, May 27:** 5 mile out and back paddle from Long Dock, Beacon (easy paddle, C)

Leader: Tom Amisson, tamisson@aol.com

We will paddle around Dennings Point into the Fishkill creek estuary. We will see bird life (possibly an eagle or osprey) and other aquatic activity. Contact leader for time (will depend on tide and weather). Suitable for novices, kayak rentals available.

**Mo, May 29:** Memorial Day hike to the veteran’s flag along the Beacon Fishkill ridge

Leader: Chris Cring, christopher.crink@gmail.com or 845-249-5305

Come join the ADK for a hike to visit the United States flag that has been maintained for decades by the Darcy family in honor of Robert Darcy, a veteran, who passed away in 1994. The flag flies high at a clearing with a spectacular view overlooking the Hudson Valley. This mountain range happens to be the location that the first American veterans maintained a lookout to protect George Washington’s headquarters. After arriving at the vista, there will be a short ceremony honoring veterans. This is a moderate to strenuous 3 hour hike with a stream crossing and elevation. Bring water and snacks. Please confirm if you plan on attending or if you have any questions. Meet at Pocket Road Trail Head, Beacon NY at 9:30 AM.

---

**JUNE 10**

**Kingston Kayak Festival**

Sat, June 10, Kingston Point Beach, 53 Delaware Ave, Kingston, NY, 10 AM - 4 PM

A fun-filled day for you and your whole family, whether you’re paddlers or have never paddled before. Bring the kids, grandchildren, spouse, partner and friends. Don’t let the name fool you. It’s not just kayaks. There will be canoes and stand-up paddle boards (SUPs) for you to try. The emphasis will be on education, demonstrations, lessons and tours for beginner paddlers and those who have never paddled before.

If you’re an experienced paddler, there will be activities for you, as well. So bring your own boat and gear.

Go to [www.midhudsonadk.org](http://www.midhudsonadk.org) and click on “Kingston Kayak Fest” under “Outings”. You’ll get the schedule of the day’s planned activities.

Our Mid-Hudson Chapter-ADK has a big presence at this festival. We always need volunteers. You need not be a paddler to be of help. Contact Russ Faller at 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM) or OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com if you want to help at this event. You will not be asked to help for more than a couple of hours. So you’ll still be able to have fun.

A $10 donation to the non-profit Forsyth Nature Center gets you in. Members of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) get in free! Bring your membership card.

---

**Save the Dates!**

**Sat, June 3 – National Trails Day**

Contact: Tom Amisson tamisson@aol.com for information.

**Sat, June 3: Black Creek Paddle & Clean-up**

Leader: Russ Faller, OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com or 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM)

Come help us clean up the Black Creek in the Town of Lloyd. Our chapter worked with the Lloyd Environmental Conservation Council to build this water trail many years ago. The maintenance is typically light work. We’ll have time for a pleasure paddle for those interested. Bring work gloves, loppers, saws & ropes. (If you need tools, contact leader for loaners.) Trash bags supplied. Bring your boat & gear. (Contact leader if you need a boat.) Meet at 10 AM in the parking area at the Black Creek Bridge on Rt. 299 between the NYS Thruway & Rt. 9W. This is across from Motel 299. There’s a sign on the S side indicating the launch for the Black Creek. Please confirm participation by contacting leader.

**End of June: Appalachian Trail Backpack; Rockfish Gap to Troutville, VA (133 miles, 11 days, incl. driving time)**

Leader: Russ Faller, OutdoorsRuss@gmail.com or 845-297-5126 (before 9:30 PM)

Check the summer newsletter, weekly emails or contact leader for more information.
A number of outings were cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. A few cancelled due to lack of interest. If you are not a leader, but would like to suggest an area or trail or body of water you’d like to be covered on our schedule, kindly contact Sue Mackson, suemackson@gmail.com, or Ginny Fauci, gefauci@gmail.com.

Dec 11 Alexander Hamilton Walk in Beacon
Leader: Russ Faller
We got off to an early start this season. We were the first to arrive at Minnewaska. It was still snowing, and we beat the groomers. We had the park pretty much to ourselves, seeing other skiers only on our way back. We took the Upper Awosting Carriage Road out and the Castle Point Road back. The conditions were excellent—deep powder that the groomers, who caught up with us, packed down with rollers. No views that day, but the trees and rocks were beautifully covered in rime. Although six people expressed interest, Paul Silverstein was the only participant.

Jan 1 New Year’s Day Hike on Mt. Taurus
Leader: Jean-Claude Fouere
Another good day with ADK. Six of us started the New Year on the right foot, hiking to Mount Taurus, enjoying a superb view of the Hudson River Valley all the way to the New York City skyline.

Jan 2 Mt. Beacon
Leader: Chris Cring
Members: Chris Cring, Russ Faller, Ron Gonzalez, Roe DiBona.

Jan 22 Winter Walk in Beacon
Leader: Sayi Nulu
The leader, the recorder, Sue, Margaret Douglas and guest Richard Kolb met under a gray sky in dry weather at the river near the Metro North Station in Beacon and walked up the hill to Main Street, where we proceeded along the south side of the street. Stopping to look into store windows, we noted a sign on an undistinguished building marking it as the Beacon Post Office. We checked out the indoor farmer’s market. We passed the hip and refurbished as well as the beautiful and old, such as the Howland Center, and the Star of Bethlehem Church, with its leaded glass window, which enticed us to step inside to admire its interior.

Dec 17 Quick Response X-C Ski #1: Minnewaska
Leader: Russ Faller
The sun was shining on eighteen ADKers and guests for a five-mile loop hike at Mills-Norrie State Park.

Jan 17 New Year’s Day Walk at Vassar College/Farms
Leader: Sue Mackson
Another New Year’s Day with mild temperatures and blue skies, which got folks out (sixteen of us) to Vassar College. Four participants made their own circuit of the campus. The main group walked the edge of the campus down to Vassar Farms, where the sun warmed us as we straddled along. A good number returned to my house for soup, bread and conviviality. It’s become a nice way to start the year. Members: John and Debra Ragusa, Connie Haven, Marsha Kramer, Karl Volk, Sayi Nulu, Judith Ahrens, Doug Kramer, Annette Caruso, Marie Caruso, Paul Rich, Al Poelzl, Jim Temple, Muriel Horowitz, Shirley Freitas. Guest: Jon Horowitz.
wheat and sickle motif and enjoy a short history of the congregation from a member. We remembered which restaurants had changed hands and ethnicities, checked out art galleries, and noted that another factory along Fishkill Creek is being transformed into attractive-looking apartments. We checked out the falls at the end of West Main Street, where the power of water tumbling down rocks was near and mesmerizing. We returned along the north side of the street. Richard, a twenty-year resident of Beacon, pointed out some of the highs and lows of the city’s transformation. We ended at the kayak put-in near Scenic Hudson’s restored building. If you’d come along, you, too, might have spotted some interesting but overlooked detail in the buildings we passed.

Jan 28 Minnewaska State Park Leader: Georgette Weir
Despite a week of heavy rain, then freezing, melting, and more rain, trail conditions at Minnewaska were not bad for our five-mile loop hike. Three MHADKers joined Georgette Weir at the Peterskill Area parking lot, donned microspikes, and enjoyed the beauty of a walk along the Peterskill, the invigoration of a climb up the High Peterskill Trail, and the drama of a rushing Awosting Falls as we circled back to our cars via the Awosting Falls Carriage Road. A perfect short winter hike.

Jan 29 Appalachian Trail from Bulls Bridge Leader: Sue Mackson
I was sure we’d be rained out or snowed out or iced out, but no—the beautiful trail, high above the rushing Housatonic, was clear of all precipitation and only roots hindered our way. Ellie Shortle, Victoria Contino, Joan McDonald and Lalita Malik joined me in a slow but pleasant winter walk of under four miles, turning back at the beautifully maintained lean-to just past the bridge over the Ten Mile River where it empties into the Housatonic. We snacked imagining what the large meadow in front of us would look like in a warmer season and contemplated a spring walk along the same lovely trail—before the leaves obscure the sight of the river. Kudos to the AMC in Connecticut who so carefully maintain the trail, especially for their signs and maps.

Jan 29 Black Creek Corridor Part III Leader: Skip Doyle
The Black Creek from Chodikee Lake to the Hudson River has more waterfalls per mile than any other waterway in Esopus. With (very) early spring run-off, the rapids were roaring. Lunch on the porch of John Burroughs cabin and Sabbath poems by Emily Dickinson completed the day. Part II is planned for May 20.

Wooly Adelgid
Continued from page 1

were shown photos of the small aphid-like insect in different stages of its development. Originally from Japan, these pests feed on the sap of tender hemlock shoots, causing the affected tree to lose needles and stunting new growth. In New York state, death usually occurs within four to ten years after infestation.
the first five centimeters of the tips of these branches. We also leaned back to look at the tops of the trees to determine how dense the canopy was (hemlocks normally allow very little light to filter through their branches) and to measure the approximate percentage of trunk that contained live branches.

Each of our groups covered a few stands, noting the results at each data point, and then returned through the woods to our vehicles and the Catskill Center. We compared our findings. A twig I’d broken off was confirmed to have one HWA on it (there are several look-alikes, insect and otherwise, for which the adelgid can be mistaken). I’ve not been monitoring any area since the workshop, but you might like to undergo the training and adopt an area to survey regularly.

You can become involved with the activities of CRISP through their web site: http://catskillinvasives.com/

Those with smart phones are particularly needed, because there are apps which allow you to monitor certain areas and report electronically. Workshops such as the one I attended will be posted in March. Dan Snider also welcomes your inquiries: Dan Snider, Field Projects Manager, CRISP, Catskill Center, 845-586-2611, dsnider@catskillcenter.org.

Similar workshops have been offered in the Adirondacks, where efforts are being made to suppress the insect before its spread is unstoppable. ADK is a major supporter of these projects. For more information or to volunteer, contact Cathy Pedlar, cathy@adk.org, or call 518-449-3870 (ADK Albany Office). You can also volunteer at http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51116/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=8669.

Test your flower power! Can you identify these common spring ephemerals? (Answers on Page 12.)

Photography by Roberta Forrest
Stay Connected...

Adirondack Mountain Club: www.adk.org
Mid-Hudson Chapter: www.midhudsonadk.org
NY/NJ Trail Conference: www.nynjtc.org

To make a change of address, phone, or email, send a message with specifics to adkinfo@adk.org or call 1-800-395-8080 x2

To be included in the Mid-Hudson Chapter email list or to change your email, please send a message to ebc12533@yahoo.com