



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

# Chepontuc Footnotes

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

## PROGRAM

### Exploring Iceland in photographs

7PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025  
SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DUTCHER ROOM

Lenore and Jack Reber — longtime chapter members — are back with another great program! "Exploring Iceland" will have you visiting volcanoes, glaciers, waterfalls, and birdlife, as well as hearing about the interesting customs and architecture.

Join us for photos and stories from their July 2013 and June 2016 trips to one of their favorite countries!

SAVE THE DATE  
3.19.25



## PROGRAM

### Get to know the timber rattlesnake

7PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025  
CRANDALL PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

William S Brown, Ph.D. will present "Timber Rattlesnakes: How They Live and What They Do." Bill will summarize the basic biology of the timber rattlesnake and focus on some of the research questions that are useful for evaluating its conservation status. He will frame this perspective toward outdoor enthusiasts and naturalists who may encounter a rattlesnake in the wild. In New York, Timber Rattlesnakes are distributed in two dozen counties. Many populations were extirpated or depleted throughout the state over the past two centuries. The species was listed as "threatened" in 1983 and has been fully protected by New York State law for the past 40 years. Please join our friends from the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society for this joint program.

SAVE THE DATE  
4.23.25



# Thanks for getting involved!

A shout out to our hike and outings leaders who have continued to train on their own time to meet the new ADK certification requirements for leading outings. My hat is off to each of you who have taken this on and continued to work through the logistics and requirements to get your certification. Ultimately, the return is not just for the chapter to continue to offer the outings, but the satisfaction each of us gets from helping others get out and enjoy the outdoors while meeting others who enjoy the same.



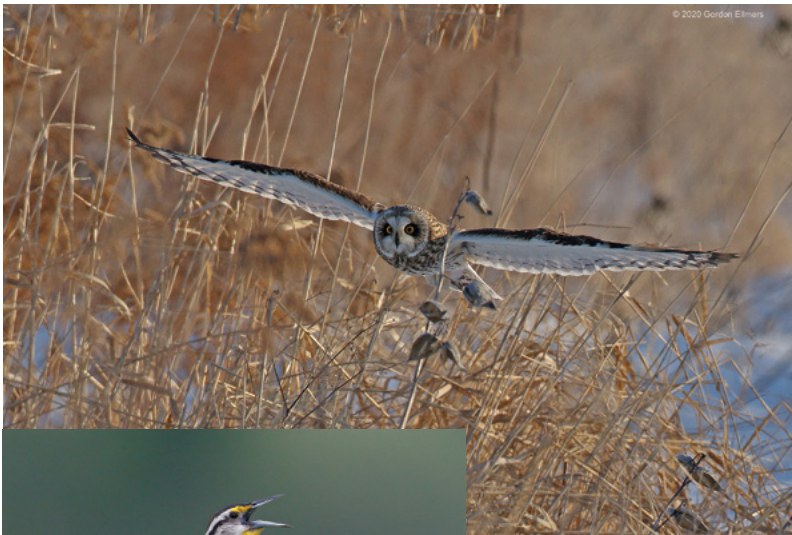
The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour was held from January 31 to February 2. Congrats again to each of our committee members and volunteers whose hard work and dedication make this event possible. As a member, your continued participation and attendance are what make this a successful event year after year. This event and raffle benefit the ADK Summit Steward Program and the ADK GFS Chapter Buck Mountain trailhead stewardship.

I want to welcome and thank two of the newest additions to our Chapter Officers and Committees.

First, Deb Balliet has taken over social media responsibilities under Publicity (Chair position still vacant). Deb is helping to spread the word for all of our events, programs and outings. Second is Liz Rovers who has agreed to be our Alternate Trustee and at the same time filling the Membership Chair position. Welcome and thank you!

Along those lines, we are beginning the process of assembling the Nominating Committee to prepare the slate of candidates for 2026 Chapter offices. I want to encourage anyone involved in Chapter outings, events, committees, and Chapter members in general to volunteer to be a part of the Nominating Committee. Participating on the Nominating Committee does not involve much time commitment. Contributing suggestions for potential candidates or the criteria for selecting those candidates is the most valuable part and an important way for members to inform the direction of the Chapter. Current vacant positions are Education Chair and Young Members.

— Kim Brown



ABOVE: SHORT-EARED OWL  
LEFT: EASTERN MEADOWLARK

## Get a glimpse into the Grassland Bird Trust

7PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025  
SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY DUTCHER ROOM

Join us to hear about the wonderful Grassland Bird Trust. Have you ever been in a grassland at dusk with the Adirondack Mountains in the

background and watched ten or more Short-eared Owls fluttering like butterflies about 20 feet over your head? If not, you've missed something truly wonderful.

Grassland Bird Trust (GBT) is a 501(c)(3) land trust conserving critical habitat for endangered, threatened and at-risk grassland birds. GBT's mission is to protect and conserve critical and vanishing grassland habitat for endangered, threatened, and rapidly declining grassland birds in the 102,000 acre Washington County Grasslands. NYS grassland birds include the State Endangered Short-eared Owl, the State Threatened Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Eastern Meadowlark and Bobolink. Altogether there are 11 grassland bird species at risk in NYS.

GBT is a stop on the NYS Birding Trail, a statewide map of birding



hot spots. GBT's 2.6-mile trail winds through the grasslands and along the Dead Creek, offering spectacular views from all directions. With a little

luck, you'll see increasingly rare grassland birds. On Dead Creek, beavers have built dams and created a wetland area. So, you may see them or the muskrats and the bird species that have the wetlands as their habitat. It is a wonderful walk, appropriate for all ages, with eight benches strategically positioned along the way for maximum viewing enjoyment. The benches are conducive to a technique called 'slow birding.' It involves relaxing for a bit letting the birds come to you and then not just getting a glimpse of them but observing their behaviors.

Speakers include Samantha Carouso Peck who holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University studying the behavior, learning, and communication of birds, and Keith Swensen who is currently Vice-Chair of GBT, having served on the board for 6 years.

# BANFF CENTRE

## MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

Thanks to all who donated and bought tickets for our raffle, which had an excellent variety of artwork and outdoor items; we raised **\$2,441 for ADK's Summit Steward Program**. Congratulations to all the winners. We also gave away 35 early bird prizes and 10 prizes from the stage each night. This is always a fun part of the evening and wouldn't be possible without our great sponsors and friends! If you'd like to donate something to be given away next year, let us know: [banff@adk-gfs.org](mailto:banff@adk-gfs.org)

Thanks to Sue Beadle and the Guild of Adirondack Artists for the beautiful "Mountain Art" show. Thanks to Jim Coutant, Licia Mackey and Gretchen Steen for baking 1,300 cookies that were given away during the event and all of you who gave a donation for them.

A big thank you to the Banff committee (and their spouses): ADK-GFS — Deb Balliet,

## A GREAT WEEKEND OF FILMS, ART, AND CHARITY

Kim Brown, Mo Coutant, Kathi Noble, Anne Paolano, Lynne Silverberg with help from Licia and Steve Mackey; **Rocksport** — Sue Beadle; **Fountain Square Outfitters** — Matt and Nancy Fuller

**Raffle items and door prizes:** ADK-GFS Chapter, Adirondack Extreme, Adirondack Mountain Club, Adirondack Theatre Festival, Common Roots Brewing Company, The Crossroads Country Store, Fountain Square Outfitters, Glens Falls Symphony, Hudson Hats, Hudson Headwaters Health Network, Nemer Auto Group, The Queensbury Hotel, Rick's Bike Shop, Shady Business, The Sports Page, Summit Yoga, Rocksport Indoor Climbing Gym, Bethany Adams, Sue Beadle, Kim & Malcolm Brown, Jim Coutant, Morris Kopels, Joy Muller McCoola, Gabi Moore & friend, Liz Mulshine, Steve Myhrberg, Don Polunci

**Banff World Tour in Glens Falls tentative dates for 2026: Jan. 30- Feb. 1**

## THANK YOU, SPONSORS!



## ADK FIRE TOWER CHALLENGE

Fire Tower Challenge 2.0 is up and running. Please go to: <https://members.adk.org/members/members/get-involved/adk-fire-tower-challenge.aspx> to submit your completion form and payment online. If you have any questions please contact

Courtney Haskins  
Robert Linhart  
Kayla Rackowski  
John Holdredge  
Patty Holdredge  
Michael Colwell  
Stephen Lambert  
Matthew Dricoll

Bobbie Jo Willitts  
Kelly Creamer  
Katie McBeth  
Cynthia Gretzinger  
Uljana Ostapjuk  
Amy Ambrose  
Gary Ogden

Kory McMahon  
Lloyd Harris  
Michelle Barno  
Deborah Bedard  
Kathy Campell  
Mike Smith  
Nick Lanzillo *Winter Rocker*  
Tricia Sweet

the FireTower Challenge committee at [firetower@adk-gfs.org](mailto:firetower@adk-gfs.org).

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

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### BUCK MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD STEWARD PROGRAM WANTS YOU!

#### What's a Trailhead Steward?

Weekend summer mornings you'll find us at the Buck Mountain-Pilot Knob trailhead talking to hikers about the essentials for every backpack

for every hike and Leave No Trace principles protecting our public wild lands. It's good work. Please join us. Email us for info: [trails@adk-gfs.org](mailto:trails@adk-gfs.org)

## ADK Saratoga-Glens Falls Chapter Committee Officers and Chairs

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

<b>Chapter Chair</b>	Kim Brown 908-304-8357   <a href="mailto:chapterchair@adk-gfs.org">chapterchair@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>First Vice Chair</b>	Laura Fiske <a href="mailto:vicechair@adk-gfs.org">vicechair@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>2nd Vice Chair</b>	Jess Krause <a href="mailto:vicechair@adk-gfs.org">vicechair@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	John Caffry 518-798-0624   <a href="mailto:secretary@adk-gfs.org">secretary@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Steve Mackey 518-793-6484   <a href="mailto:treasurer@adk-gfs.org">treasurer@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Past Chapter Chair</b>	Brian Coville 518-350-4117   <a href="mailto:pastchair@adk-gfs.org">pastchair@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	Maureen Coutant
<b>Alternate Trustee:</b>	Liz Rovers
<b>Members at Large</b>	Thomas Khairallah Jeff Mans Kathi Noble

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Conservation</b>	Paul Dietershagen 401-529-5034   <a href="mailto:conservation@adk-gfs.org">conservation@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Education</b>	Vacant 908-305-8357   <a href="mailto:education@adk-gfs.org">education@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Gretchen Steen 518-638-6139   <a href="mailto:hospitality@adk-gfs.org">hospitality@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Liz Rovers <a href="mailto:membership@adk-gfs.org">membership@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Vacant <a href="mailto:newsletter@adk-gfs.org">newsletter@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Outings</b>	Wayne Richter 518-893-7895   <a href="mailto:outings@adk-gfs.org">outings@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Programs</b>	Anne Paolano 518-798-3055   <a href="mailto:programs@adk-gfs.org">programs@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Trails</b>	Tom Ellis 518-638-6139   <a href="mailto:trails@adk-gfs.org">trails@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Co-Chair</b>	Jim Schneider
<b>Website</b>	George Sammons 518-832-7437   <a href="mailto:webmaster@adk-gfs.org">webmaster@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Young Members</b>	Vacant <a href="mailto:ymsg@adk-gfs.org">ymsg@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Fire Tower</b>	Tim Noble 518-668-3046   <a href="mailto:firetower@adk-gfs.org">firetower@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Annual Dinner</b>	Anne Paolano 518-798-3055   <a href="mailto:annualdinner@adk-gfs.org">annualdinner@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Publicity</b>	Vacant <a href="mailto:publicity@adk-gfs.org">publicity@adk-gfs.org</a>
<b>Banff Film Festival</b>	Mo Coutant <a href="mailto:banff@adk-gfs.org">banff@adk-gfs.org</a>

### Get social

Instagram: [@adkglensfallssaratoga](https://www.instagram.com/adkglensfallssaratoga)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/adkgfs](https://www.facebook.com/adkgfs) or  
[facebook.com/SaratogaYMG](https://www.facebook.com/SaratogaYMG)

Learn more: [adk-gfs.org](http://adk-gfs.org)

## OUTINGS & PROGRAM CALENDAR

Date	Day	Type	Destination	Leader(s)	Rating
<b>MARCH 2025</b>					
5	Wed	Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting	Kim Brown	NR
16	Sun	Hike/Snowshoe	Adirondack Hike/Snowshoe	Chandra Geremick	B
19	Wed	Program	Saratoga Springs Public Library Dutcher Room	Anne Paolano	NR
22	Sat	Hike/Snowshoe	Boreas Mountain from The Branch on Blue Ridge Road	Jeff Mans, Anna Gomez Domenech	A
22	Sat	Hike/Snowshoe	Southern Adirondacks/Lake George Region	Kim Brown	B
<b>APRIL 2025</b>					
2	Wed	Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting	Kim Brown	NR
12	Sat	Hike	Stillwater Locks Area Hike	Rich Crammond	C
19	Sat	Hike	Southern Adirondacks/Lake George Region	Kim Brown	B
23	Wed	Program	Crandall Library Community Room, Glens Falls	Anne Paolano	NR
26	Sat	Hike	Hopkins Mountain via Mossey Cascade Brook	Jeff Mans	B+
26	Sat	Trail work	Trail Work — Tongue Mountain Range	Steve Mackey	C+
27	Sun	Walk/Hike	Southern Adirondack Hike	Chandra Geremick	B-
<b>MAY 2025</b>					
7	Wed	Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting	Kim Brown	NR
10	Sat	Hike	Hudson Crossing	Rich Crammond	C
16	Fri	Bike	Lake George	Steve Mackey	C+
17	Sat	Hike	Southern Adirondacks / Lake George Region	Kim Brown	B
18	Sun	Hike	Vermont Wildflower Hike	Chandra Geremick	B
21	Wed	Program	Saratoga Springs Public Library Dutcher Community Room	Anne Paolano	NR
24	Sat	Trail work	Hadley Mountain	Steve Mackey	C+

## OUTINGS

*All are welcome!*

### UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7pm
- Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 7pm — **IN-PERSON MEETING**
- Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 7pm  
Kim Brown: 908-305-8357, kim137@me.com

The March and May meetings will be virtual, via Zoom. The in-person April meeting will be held in the semi-private Brewers Room at Common Roots in South Glens Falls. We will purchase our own meals and dine at 6pm with meeting to follow at 7pm.

All chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings. Please email chapterchair@adk-gfs.org to let us know you'll be in attendance and Zoom information will be provided.

### Adirondack Hike/Snow Shoe Hike/Snowshoe

Sunday, March 16, 2025, time TBD, Rating: B  
Chandra Geremick: 518-424-0679

The hike has not been chosen yet. However, it will be somewhere between 5 to 7 miles with up to 2,000 feet of elevation gain. I have a few hikes in mind. Send me a text or email, and I will add you to the list, once everything is set. Plan on spending the day. You will need snowshoes and microspikes. I will send a checklist in the email with what you'll need to bring.

### "EXPLORING ICELAND" Program

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 7pm, Anne Paolano: 518-744-6359

Please see writeup on [front page](#).

### BOREAS MOUNTAIN FROM THE BRANCH ON BLUE RIDGE ROAD Hike/Snowshoe

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 7:30am, Rating: A  
Jeff Mans: 518-265-4135

Colead: Anna Gomez Domenech  
What better way to celebrate the first weekend of spring than a visit to Boreas, and a reminder that winter has not yet let go of its grip, as only the Greek god of the north wind, winter, and ice, Boreas,

knows well. While the existing old roads and jeep trail for about 5 miles up to the site of the former fire tower observer's cabin may appear springlike, and belie the trail conditions to be encountered for the last steep mile to the summit, be prepared for possible waist-deep snow from that spot onward, and without the luxury of a broken trail. However, the views from the summit of Boreas are simply magnificent, and not to be missed since the public was given a 2012 easement along the existing trail to the summit of Boreas. Total round trip is a little over 12 miles. Very easy going along the existing roads. Although not a High Peak, at 3,776 feet it is the 64th highest Adirondack peak, and offers spectacular views of the High Peaks. Meetup at the Schroon Lake Tops parking lot at 7:30am, or the Branch Parking Area at 8am.

### WHAT'S UP SATURDAY? SOUTHERN ADIRONDACKS / LAKE GEORGE REGION Hike/Snowshoe

Saturday, March 22, 2025, time TBD, Rating: B

Kim Brown: 908-305-8357

Geared for those new to hiking and those coming back to the outdoors! Pace will be

slow to moderate with distance between 4-8 miles. Let me know if you want to be on my email list and I'll share what we are doing and where to meet. (I have extra traction spikes and snowshoes if you do not have any.)

## STILLWATER LOCKS AREA **Hike**

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 8am, Rating: C  
Rich Crammond: 518-584-2380

This will be an approximately 1-mile loop hike to the point where the Hoosic flows into the Hudson River. Just a nice little hike to look for eagles. Meeting place will be just off the highway between the long and short canal bridges across the Hudson River from the "only" caution light in Stillwater.

## WHAT'S UP SATURDAY? SOUTHERN ADIRONDACKS/LAKE GEORGE REGION **Hike**

Saturday, April 19, 2025, time TBD, Rating: B  
Kim Brown: 908-305-8357

Geared for those new to hiking and those coming back to the outdoors! Pace will be slow to moderate with distance between 4-8 miles. Let me know if you want to be on my email list and I'll share what we are doing and where to meet.

## "TIMBER RATTLESNAKES: HOW THEY LIVE AND WHAT THEY DO" PRESENTED BY WILLIAM S. BROWN, Ph.D. **Program**

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 7pm

Anne Paolano: 518-744-6359

Please see writeup on [front page](#).

## HOPKINS MOUNTAIN VIA MOSSEY CASCADE BROOK **Hike**

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 8:30am, Rating: B+  
Jeff Mans: 518-265-4135

Approximately 7 miles round trip located along Route 73 near Keene Valley. About a 2,200 foot gain in elevation, and some incredible views of the Ausable Valley and the surrounding High Peaks. Meet at the Tops parking lot in Schroon Lake at 8:30am.

## TONGUE MOUNTAIN RANGE

### Trail work

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 9am, Rating: C+  
Steve Mackey: 518-338-8173

Our chapter has been taking care of the Northern Tongue Range for many years. We will mainly be cutting any blowdown that is across the trail. We'll also clean or create a few water bars and brush back any branches or little trees that are impeding the trail. We start at the Deer Leap trailhead (at the top of Tongue Mountain) and finish at the Clay Meadows trailhead. We might go in from both trailheads, depending on how many people we have. I have quite a few different tools, so I can probably supply you with a saw or loppers if you don't own any. I will let everyone participate; you won't just be moving stuff that we cut. I find it very satisfying to "give back" and leave the trail better than I found it. We also have another trail nearby that we can work on if we get a big turnout. We adopted the trail along Northwest Bay. However, we will probably schedule that separately. ADK, as you probably know, has an "adopt a lean-to program," but they also have an "adopt a trail program". We can teach you everything you need to know to adopt a trail on your own.

## SOUTHERN ADIRONDACKS

### Walk/Hike

Sunday, April 27, 2025, time TBD, Rating: B-  
Chandra Geremick: 518-424-0679

This hike will be TBD, but will be a smaller local hike as we prepare for the warmer months. Stretch your legs and get ready for the season with a 3-5 mile hike. I will send out a destination and gear list with my email.

## HUDSON CROSSING **Hike**

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 9:00 am, Rating: C  
Rich Crammond: 518-584-2380

Just a neat little outing by the Hudson River with around two miles of hiking up to Eagle Point and back. Meeting place is the Hudson Crossing dead-end parking lot north of Lock 5, Schuylerville. Drive across the locks to the parking area. See you there, hiker buds.

## LAKE GEORGE **Bike**

Friday, May 16, 2025, 5:00 pm, Rating: C+  
Steve Mackey: 518-338-8173

We'll meet at the parking area for the Glens Falls/Lake George Bike Trail off of Country Club Road. We'll bicycle to Lake George and have pizza at one of the pizza places in Lake George and then bicycle back. It would be good to have a light or at least a head lamp. It is around 16 miles round trip. Some hills, but not too bad. The bike trail is paved, so any kind of bike will work.

## WHAT'S UP SATURDAY? SOUTHERN ADIRONDACKS/LAKE GEORGE REGION **Hike**

Saturday, May 17, 2025, time TBD,  
Rating: B

Kim Brown: 908-305-8357

Geared for those new to hiking and those coming back to the outdoors! Pace will be slow to moderate with distance between 4-8 miles. Let me know if you want to be on my email list and I'll share what we are doing and where to meet.

## VERMONT WILDFLOWERS **Hike**

Sunday, May 18, 2025, time TBD, Rating: B  
Chandra Geremick: 518-424-0679

Bromley Mountain via the Long Trail. Plan on a lovely day of flower hunting. Roughly 5.7 miles with 1,420 feet of elevation gain. This is a beautiful time of year to watch the earth bloom!

## "GRASSLAND BIRD TRUST" PRESENTED BY SAMANTHA CAROUSO PECK, Ph.D., AND KEITH SWENSEN **Program**

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 7pm

Anne Paolano: 518-744-6359

Please see writeup on [page 2](#).

## HADLEY MOUNTAIN **Trail work**

Saturday, May 24, 2025, 8:30am, Rating: C+  
Steve Mackey: 518-338-8173

I joined the Hadley Mountain Fire Tower Committee a few years ago, and lead a trail work day in both the spring and fall. We will be clearing any blowdown, cleaning the water bars, and opening up the Observer's Cabin. I have a key to the cabin, so you can check out where the observer and his family used to live. Sometime this spring, we will be installing a panorama in the fire tower, so you might be one of the first ones to see it. We will meet at the Hadley Trailhead. If you just want to hike up Hadley, you are also welcome to come along.

**Annual Halloween Hike at the Bear Slides in Lake Luzerne**

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, Chandra Geremick and Anthony Szmul  
Fun times in Luzerne! We had a little party at the trailhead and everyone voted on costumes to win awards for truly unique costumes. There was a scarecrow, a clown, a pirate, an '80s rocker, Star Man, a traffic cone, three hikers, queen of the forest and a devilish king of the forest, complete with horns! (Unfortunately the horns went for an unplanned swim down the slide.) Treats and fun were had and then we set out on our hike. Luzerne charms all who enter and the Bear Slides never disappoint. The cascading mini waterfalls and silvery pools were a perfect backdrop for our costumes. We all enjoyed lunch and headed back. **Participants:** Anthony S., Neal V., Joe B., Christina F., Chris F., Gabby M., Luco B., Paul G., Sarah H., Pete F., Joe C.

**Southern Adirondacks/ Lake George Region**

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, Kim Brown

We hiked Buck Mountain from the Shelving Rock Trailhead — 5.2 miles with 1,400 feet of elevation gain. It was a bit cold with temperatures in the 20s working up to 30 degrees and only a slight wind. We had clouds the entire day. We wore spikes and there was a hard-packed trail with just a couple of inches of snow on top. Very beautiful in the woods and there was increased snow as we made our way farther up. Toward the summit, we had approximately 5-8 inches on the trailside, but with hard-packed trail we were not post-holing. At the top, we were still able to enjoy views even though it was cloudy. Views of the tips of the High Peaks that were normally visible unfortunately were not to be seen. Thanks to all for a fun day and to those who did trail work on the way up and down. After we made our way back to the car, a hunter came out and told us someone left their poles a short way back! Thanks to Deb for going back to retrieve those for the person that left them. We had 10 including the hike leader. Two of the folks came all the way from Plattsburgh since they were working on the Adirondack 9 Challenge (Canine 9 which you can choose to do without a dog). **Participants:** Kim Brown (hike leader) Peter F, Gabi M, Anthony B, Kathy B, Debbie V, Don B, Dawn R, Laura F, and Scott A.

**Wilton Wildlife Park Hike**

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, Rich Crammond

Just a real nice day to spend with fellow ADK-ers. Nice to see Ray Bouchard after years ago on the trail. We took a well-deserved break at the old lean-to after our approximately 50-yard bushwhack, while thinking back to longer ones with Jayne Boudier. We had extra gear for the winter-like day hike. We didn't see any wildlife, but had a good day in the great outdoors. Doesn't get any better. **Participants:** Jack Whitney, Pat Desbians, Ray Bouchard, Rich Crammond.

**Lake George Recreation Center Trails**

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, Kim Brown

This was a perfect day for those who wanted to practice what they learned at the winter beginner hike program. Temperatures were cold, 5 degrees with some sun. Trail conditions allowed for a bit of practice with both snowshoes and microspikes, as well as testing out clothing layers and food for cold weather. Thanks to everyone for being so well prepared! We hiked for 2 hours and 1.7 miles. Everyone was well prepared and enjoyed the outing! **Participants:** Hike leader Kim Brown, Cathy F, Don H, and Sandra R.

**First Day of Winter High Peak**

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, Jen Ferriss

The hike to Cascade and Porter was postponed to the following Saturday due to sub-zero temperatures and cloudy skies at the summit. Instead, I offered an alternative hike up Black Mountain for the Winter Solstice — a single-digit summit seemed more reasonable. Joe and I drove through snow squalls and reached the summit, where we had the trail all to ourselves. Little did we know that the snow-covered car in the lot belonged to the hiker from Castleton, Vt., who was reported missing later that day. In retrospect, if the weather had been nicer, we might have explored more and found him sooner. We both felt shaken by the experience. Saturday, December 28, looked perfect for a hike — pleasant summit temperatures and the potential for a blue sky. However, by mid-morning on Friday, spotty freezing rain warnings were issued for northern Saratoga and southern Warren County, foiling our plans once again. No one wanted to risk driving on black ice. As a result, I decided to hike Buck Mountain to complete my Winter 12ster round. It was surprisingly warm on the way up, but once we broke above the treeline, we were hit by a swift southerly wind. We used our imagination to identify The Sagamore and the Tongue Range before descending to the trail junction, where we enjoyed an early lunch. Those who arrived after us likely got a view, but we had the summit to ourselves and cherished the beautiful morning in the woods.

**Participants, Black Mountain:** Joe B.

**Participants, Buck Mountain:** Joe B. and Jim Z.

**Wright Peak**

Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024, Jeff Mans and Pete Fedorick

What's not to like about howling winds on Wright's summit with mild temperatures in the 40s. Not to be deterred by three groups that had been turned around near the summit by the high winds on the final approach on open rock, we just added a layer and kept a low center of gravity to stay on our feet as we fought the gusts. A kaleidoscope of nature's raw energy was on full display to awaken our senses and make me want to shout! In minutes, we watched the weather change back and forth before our eyes, as clouds flew over the snow-capped crown on Algonquin and rumbled through the valleys below, while being buffeted by the Sirens' wind. Surrounding peaks would appear in a patchwork backdrop of blue and white skies, and disappear as quickly under a blanket of clouds. As always, a trip to Wright is not complete without a visit to the bronze memorial tablet marking the crash site of a B-47 strategic bomber and crew, with a search and a few spruce traps to make it more interesting in winter. As we began our descent, we met the only other hiker we saw all day on Wright. And for those we met headed for Algonquin, hopefully someone had a wingsuit to take advantage of the wind there. **Participants:** Jeff Mans (leader), Pete Fedorick (co-lead), and Elen W.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED****LEND A HELPING HAND AT UPCOMING EXPO!**

The Membership Committee is preparing for the Summer Outdoor Expo at the Saratoga Springs City Center on Saturday, March

22, and Sunday, March 23. We will be sponsoring an information booth with the Albany Chapter



and could use volunteers to provide general ADK Club information to members of the public. If you can work a few

hours either day please email [chapterchair@adk-gfs.org](mailto:chapterchair@adk-gfs.org). It's a lot of fun!

**Southern Adirondacks / Lake George Region**

Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025, Kim Brown and Peter Fedorick Jr.

We hiked Brown and Huckleberry, the two northern Tongue Mountain peaks. The day started in the low teens and went up to the mid-teens by the end of the hike, but it felt colder because of wind gusts in the 20-mph range. The rain earlier in the week had melted some of the snow, but with cold temperatures later in the week the trail had hardened. We just needed spikes and did not have to carry snowshoes. Trail conditions were good (not the blowdown you will see in the southern range) and the cold not uncomfortable if you were prepared. A few folks had found using the chemical hand warmers helpful. Several folks were new to my hiking Saturday group and several in the group had not been up to the two unmarked peaks before or in the winter. We left the Deers Leap trailhead at 9:30 and stopped at Brown for group pictures. Views of the lake were foggy and cloudy. We then headed down, then up to the Five Mile Lean-to for a very quick lunch. After that, we went on to Huckleberry, then returned quickly to the Deers Leap trailhead. The in and out was approximately 6.5 miles with 1,500 feet of elevation gain. Four from our group signed out and proceeded to do Five Mile Mountain and returned safely back to Deers Leap for an additional mile. Thanks to all for helping to make it a fun and enjoyable day. **Participants:** Hike Leader Kim Brown, Co-lead Peter Fedorick Jr., Johnny C, Linda F, Margie L, Jeff L, Alan C, Debbie V, Jim M, Gabi M, Sophia F, Stacy D, Laura F, Shelly N, Mary B, Judy G. and Scott A.

**Northwest Bay Trail — See the 100mph winds tree damage**

Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025, Kim Brown

We had a small group, likely because this trip was so short notice. Anyway, I had heard from Mo Coutant about all the trail work that had been done on this trail after the 100mph winds that occurred last August. We just needed spikes, no snowshoes. The scene was absolutely amazing — the damage from mother nature was impressive and the trail work that had been done to open the trail back up was even more impressive. Work was accomplished over many days by the joint efforts working with the DEC and our chapter volunteers and 46er volunteers. I urge everyone to go see for themselves. We had a great day for this short winter hike. **Participants:** Hike Leader Kim Brown, Anne V, Scott A, Gail S, and Alan C.

**Adirondack Snow Shoe/Hike TBD**

Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025, Chandra Geremick

Rooster Comb Trail — This was a little over 4 miles with 1,729 feet of elevation gain. We had a nice mix of experienced winter hikers, intermediate hikers, and even newbies. There was a wonderful fresh dusting of snow that protected us from the ice. It was not enough snow for snowshoes, but we all brought them, just in case. It was a steep but short climb with such a worthwhile view. We had very little wind, but still didn't linger long at the top. It was chilly, but only when you stopped moving. Coming down from the steep and snowy summit was a new experience for some, so they took it slow. After that, it was smooth sailing and quick back to the trailhead. We had a great time and even stopped at Noonmark Diner. Apparently the pie is DEFINITELY homemade, lol.

**Participants:** Bonnie S., Andrew A., Mara D., Alex D., John W., Joe E., Paul G., Romina C., Chelsea L., Stephen J., Edward F.

**Southern Adirondacks/ Lake George Region**

Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, Kim Brown and Peter Fedorick

We went to the Blue Mountain fire tower and were glad we did! We started out with enough snow for snowshoes right out of the (not plowed) parking lot. It was mostly cloudy and in the 20s, with the wind shielded by the trees. Up, up we went, slow but steady (for most of us!) It was definitely a nice workout, but we were rewarded with magical scenery with snow puffs dripping on the trees covering the overhead of the trail as we made our way to the top. It was much windier on top, so we had a quick lunch by the caretaker cabin and took more pictures. Overall mileage showed a bit higher than the marked trail with 5 miles round trip and 1,600 feet of elevation gain. Thanks to Jim and Virginia for packaging up and taking out a full construction bag full of garbage and bottles that someone had left at the parking lot! A great day for all led by Kim Brown and co-lead Peter Fedorick Jr. **Participants:** Jim M, Chris F, Alan C, Johnny C, Laura F, Linda F, Scott A, and Virginia T.

**Esther and Whiteface**

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, Wayne Richter

We had a splendid day for this hike. Although not a given in this somewhat snow-starved winter, we had the good fortune to be able to start out in snowshoes. The trail was well-packed as we ascended the relentless upgrade along the old ski lift. Once reaching the first view, the trail moderated. We had a snack at the junction with the herd path to Esther, then headed to Esther. We had some nice views of Whiteface as the skies cleared, along with beautiful snow on the trees. Once on our way down from Esther, we began encountering other hikers. Just before reaching the ski lift, we encountered a pair of snowboarders working their way down the trail. We wondered if they had ridden the lift up and had mistaken our trail for a part of the ski area. Where would they end up? Where the trail passes below a massive wall for the road, we encountered a bunch of people digging what looked like snow caves in the embankment. It turned out that they were doing avalanche rescue training. We soon emerged onto the open arete, as always a spectacular snowy journey that feels like being on top of the world. The wind on the summit was lighter than forecasted, and we were able to find enough protection to eat lunch in the beautiful sunshine. We had a quick descent and were finished well before dark. **Participants:** John Acacia, Katie Chwazik, Patrick Fourspring, Chandra Geremick, Wayne Richter.

**Southern Adirondacks/ Lake George Region**

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, Kim Brown

Black Mountain Firetower was our hike — 5.6 miles round trip with 1,300 feet of elevation gain. We lucked out with the weather — no precipitation and brisk with low teens for temperatures and very light wind. The trail would have been a river if it had been warm, but the cold gave us rivers of ice. Nice ice for spikes was the mantra. We had enough sun to keep us warm, with snow not deep enough for snowshoes but very pretty. We took our time working our way through the upper terrain. Eventually, we got to the top and had lunch in the sun overlooking northern Lake George. On our way down, our hike leader was caught by surprise and yelled out because a wee mouse crossed the trail. No, it was not a bear, just a mouse! Another wonderful day in the woods. **Participants:** Hike Leader Kim Brown, Linda F, Anne V, Johnny C, Tracy O, Brian P, Laura F, Eileen H, and Scott A.



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A MAP OF ...

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