

## Leave It To Beavers: Earth's Ecosystem Architects

By Sharon Klein, Hike Leader and Education Chair



Stock photo: Pixabay

On September 12th, I organized an outing to the Cary Institute property in Millbrook with 11 Mid-Hudson ADK members and their friends to learn about beavers and their habitat. The walk and talk were given by Cary Institute naturalist and beaver expert Michael Fargione.

Since becoming an avid hiker, I started noticing -- and have subsequently become fascinated with -- beavers, our largest rodent. I noticed more and more habitat that appeared to be created by beavers in various stages of creation, from mature wetlands with dead trees sticking out of bogs, to lakes and ponds with large mounds in the middle that are homes to beaver families, called lodges. I identified habitat everywhere from Pecoy Notch, on the way to Sugarloaf Mountain, to the trail leading up to Ashokan High Point, to Route 209 south of Ellenville, to numerous bogs and ponds on the back roads of the Rondout Valley and Route 28 corridor.

*Continued on page 15*

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### **December 15: Holiday Party at Locust Grove**

12:15pm Hike  
4:00pm House Tour  
5:00pm Social Hour and Trivia  
5:45pm Dinner  
7:00pm Dessert, coffee, tea  
8:00pm Cleanup

RSVP by December 11. Details on page 5.

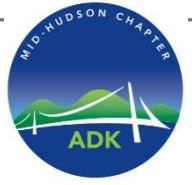
#### **December 17: No Board Meeting**

#### **January 21: Board Meeting on Zoom**

#### **Fri, Feb 14 to Mon, Feb 17 (President's Day Weekend) – Wiesel Cabin at Heart Lake**

**February 15:  
Deadline for the Winter issue of this newsletter.**  
*Your articles, photos are most welcome.*


#### **February 18: Board Meeting on Zoom**



## Mid-Hudson Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club

 <https://midhudsonadk.org>

 [midhudsonadk@gmail.com](mailto:midhudsonadk@gmail.com)

 Follow us on [Facebook](#)

### 2024 Elected Officers

- *Chair:* **Georgette Weir** [chair@midhudsonadk.org](mailto:chair@midhudsonadk.org)
- *Vice Chair:* **Annette Caruso**
- *Secretary:* **Eileen Digan**
- *Treasurer:* **Ralph Pollard**
- *Chapter Director:* **Paul Silverstein**
- *Chapter Director:* **Dea McNealy**
- *ADK Advisory Council Trustee:* **David “Starchild” Koehler**
- *ADK Advisory Council Trustee (Alternate):* **David Mong**
- *Past Chair:* **Carla Barrett**

### Committee Chairs

- *Communications:* **Cindy Colter**
- *Conservation:* **open**
- *Database:* **Eli Cohen**
- *Education:* **Sharon Klein**
- *Finance:* **Ralph Pollard**
- *Membership:* **Pete Cantline** [membership@midhudsonadk.org](mailto:membership@midhudsonadk.org)
- *Newsletter:* **Jeanette Tully-Baker** [newsletter@midhudsonadk.org](mailto:newsletter@midhudsonadk.org)
- *Outings:* **David Mong** [outings@midhudsonadk.org](mailto:outings@midhudsonadk.org)
- *Programs:* **open**
- *Publicity (Webmaster / Facebook / Meetup):* **Jeanette Tully-Baker**
- *Social Chair:* **Dea McNealy**
- *Trails / NY/NJ Trail Conference Rep:* **Georgette Weir**
- *Water Trails & Paddles:* **Russ Faller**
- *Rep. to Hyde Park Trails Committee:* **Salley Decker**
- *Ad-Hoc Library Committee:* **Carla Barrett**

### Mid-Hudson Trails, Fall 2024 Edition

Published 11/29/2024

**Mid-Hudson Trails** is the newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. Published quarterly.

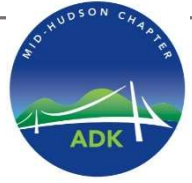
Newsletter Editor: Jeanette Tully-Baker

Newsletter Team: Georgette Weir, Annette Caruso, Pete Cantline, Dave Mong, Shirley Freitas

*Submissions/comments/corrections? Please contact the Newsletter Editor at [newsletter@midhudsonadk.org](mailto:newsletter@midhudsonadk.org)*

# A Message from your Chapter Chair

By Georgette Weir



## Brief Update on the State of Our Chapter and Highlights from the Year

As many of you know, ADK has been engaged in significant restructuring and updating the past few years. A couple of the changes that have been in the works reached down to chapters in a big way this year and will continue to affect our operations.

### Outings Leaders Guidelines:

- These guidelines, which require certification of ALL ADK volunteer leaders, began to take effect this year. To simplify, there are 3 basic levels of activity and associated certification: easy, moderate, and strenuous or multiday. The first level of certification, required of ALL our leaders, went into effect Jan. 1. The next two levels of certification will be required as of Jan. 1, 2025. The club instituted these levels to standardize training across the organization. Level 1 requires the taking of two online classes: Sexual Harassment Prevention and an introductory Leave No Trace (LNT) class. LNT gives guidelines to reducing our impact in the outdoors. Level 2 requires Level 1 certification as well as a map and compass course, a leadership training course, and basic first aid. Level 3 requires certification in Levels 1 & 2 as well as Wilderness First Aid and a longer Leave No Trace course. The sexual harassment prevention training must be taken each year.
- While the club, through its chapters, provides financial support for our outing leaders to take the necessary classes, those leaders volunteer their time, attention, and study. As of mid-November, our chapter had 24 certified Level 1 leaders; three certified Level 2 leaders; and ten certified Level 3 leaders. Thirty-seven certified outing leaders in total—a very good showing. The commitment of our leaders is the reason we continue to have an active outings program that is the envy of many other chapters.
- In helping us get to this strong position, I want to especially thank our outings chair, David Mong, new to us this year. Dave has focused his years—decades—of experience as an outing leader, outing program organizer for several clubs, and years of relevant technical experience to helping get the Mid-Hudson chapter effectively on-board with what has been a challenging process. All who enjoy our outings owe David a big thank you!

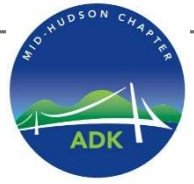


### Club Migration to a New Central Database Known as iMIS.

This is a work in progress and, unfortunately, it has been a difficult transition, the burden falling particularly on ADK staff—many of them new to the club. The ultimate goal is for all data on chapters, members, and anyone who participates in ADK activities to be housed on a central ADK database. Eventually, all chapter websites will be based there. As I write this in November, our chapter is scheduled to begin the migration process soon. We have one of the most complex chapter websites, and our team of volunteers (Jeanette Tully-Baker, Annette Caruso, David Mong, Eli Cohen, and Georgette Weir) eagerly volunteered to migrate early and to work with ADK staff in exploring the opportunities and potential pitfalls of the process. We hope our experience will help ease the transition for other chapters in the future.

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# A Message from your Chapter Chair



Continued from page 3

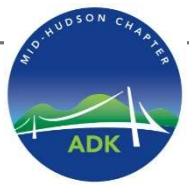
We will keep you informed about progress and what changes you might expect in your Mid-Hudson ADK experience. For now, it is perhaps enough for everyone to be aware that online accounts exist for all ADK members. They can be used to sign up for club workshops and events at Heart Lake, purchase or renew ADK memberships, and make reservations at ADK facilities. Signups for chapter activities may also be required in the future, but that is still a question. I encourage everyone to pay attention to news from your chapter and our club, including in the Adirondac magazine.

## A few other notes about our Chapter

- **Finances:** We are very responsible stewards of the financial support we get from the club and expect to end the year in the black. We meet and likely exceed the club's accountability guidelines. For that, a very big thank you to our longtime Treasurer, Ralph Pollard. Unspent money will be credited to our account for 2025.
- **Membership:** Current records indicate that we have more than 500 active members.
- **Library Program:** For at least four years our chapter has had a productive partnership with libraries throughout the Mid-Hudson region. With financial support from the club, we have funded close to 80 nature-education events and programs designed and administered by local libraries. Most have targeted children and families. This has brought the ADK and the Mid-Hudson Chapter to hundreds of people who likely were unfamiliar with ADK. Carla Barrett is stepping down as chair of that program and it is coming to an end. But it was a great program while it lasted. (See separate story this issue.) Carla, thank you for your creativity and leadership with that!
- **Parting Words**  
The best part about being an ADK volunteer? The People! Though I am stepping down as chapter chair, I look forward to continuing to be in touch with ADK people by volunteering with our chapter, on the board as past chair, in the field as an outing leader, and at the social and educational events that will be on the calendar. I have enjoyed my stint as Mid-Hudson chapter chair and thank all who helped make it a positive experience. I especially thank those who are stepping up into new positions on the board or who are continuing. No matter the changes in the world at large, it is always good to get out in nature and work to understand and protect it with others who share that love.

I hope to see you in the great outdoors!

*Georgette Weir*  
*Mid-Hudson Chapter Chair*  
*2022-2024, 2018-2020*



## Annual Holiday Party and Potluck Supper

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Locust Grove Estate, 2683 South Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



*Would you like to attend and want a ride to/from party? The board is working on arranging for rides and will try to accommodate. Please RSVP early and let Carole know you would like a ride, and provide your address.*

### 12:15pm Easy Walk at Locust Grove

Start the afternoon with an easy walk along the trails in Locust Grove with Georgette Weir. The trails in the woods below Samuel Morse's historic mansion are generally easy, but there are some up and down and rocky sections. Anyone that wants to join us for the walk should meet in the parking lot at 12:15pm. RSVP separately to Georgette at [gwmhadk@gmail.com](mailto:gwmhadk@gmail.com).

After the walk, those willing and able are invited to help us set up tables and chairs for our holiday party that evening.

### 4:00pm House Tour

This is an optional tour of Samuel Morse's historic mansion. The fee is \$15 and space is limited; please reserve in advance when you RSVP for the party. Locust Grove was purchased by Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraph, in 1847 and Morse along with the architect Alexander Jackson Davis remodeled it in 'Tuscan' style. He sold it to William and Martha Young in 1901, who filled the house with a vast collection of 18th and 19th century furniture, paintings, silver and porcelain. Their daughter opened the house and grounds to the public in 1979 with collections intact. A sight to see!

### 5:00pm Social Hour

Festivities commence at 5:00pm with appetizers and drinks. And join in the fun with our new ice-breaking Trivia Game. How much do you know about the Mid-Hudson ADK and the Hudson Valley? Prizes will be awarded!

### 5:45pm Social Hour

The potluck dinner starts 5:45pm and a dessert table follows. The club is providing *compostable* plates, cutlery and cups, along with hot/cold drinks and light libations. 🍷

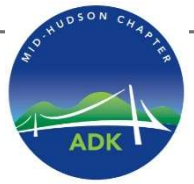
### 7:00pm Dessert

At 7:00pm the dessert table will be filled with delicious desserts, coffee and tea.

### 8:00pm Cleanup

**RSVP by Wed., Dec. 11** with Carole Marsh at 845-235-2322 or [pcatm43@gmail.com](mailto:pcatm43@gmail.com)

- What appetizer, main dish, salad or dessert you will contribute?
- Will you be joining us for the optional 4pm House Tour?
- Do you want a ride to the party? If so, please mention to Carole and provide your address.



## ADK Fall Outing Report

By David Mong, Outings Chair

The ADK held their fall outing October 25-27, 2024 at the Ashokan Center in Olivebridge NY. This year the program was hosted by the Albany Chapter. As the program was held in our chapter territory and we have more hiking leaders than some of the nearby chapters, we had an outsized impact which contributed to the success of the program. The weather and food were great as was the opportunity to engage with fellow ADK members from across the region. Many of the hikes included opportunities to learn about Leave No Trace (LNT), which are ways to reduce our impact on the outdoors and how to communicate to others better ways to avoid less than LNT behavior. We want to particularly recognize the contributions by our leaders & members who scouted out, led or co-led the hikes: Annette Caruso, Marie Caruso, Robert Coia, Russell Faller, Jean-Claude Fouere, Shirley Freitas, Sharon Klein, Russell Ley, Mark McAniff, David Mong, and Georgette Weir.



*Ashokan Promenade Walk. We walked far enough to see an eagle and carried a Luggable Loo bucket for sanitary waste, as there are no portable toilets along this route. This was part of the club's effort to promote Leave No Trace (LNT). Great views and a nice group. Photo by John Gansfuss.*



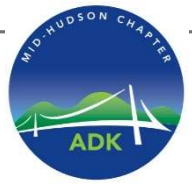
*Hiking into the Cathedral Gorge area at Ashokan Center. Photo by Jean-Claude Fouere.*



*Part of the group demonstrating the use of an eight-person emergency shelter to get out of the wind or rain. The body heat of the folks inside warms it up. It is like a large stuff sack with drawstrings on each end.*



*This walk was on the dam holding back the water of Ashokan Reservoir. Since it was the drinking water supply for NYC we carried a portable toilet in a five-gallon bucket. We practiced ahead of time creating a privacy barrier. Fortunately, it wasn't needed.*

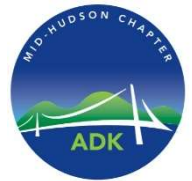


## Slate of Officers for 2025 & 2026

The following were elected at our Annual Meeting, Sept. 30, 2024. Terms begin Jan. 1, 2025 and end Dec. 31, 2026.

- Chapter Chair: **Annette Caruso**
- Vice Chair: **Jeanette Tully-Baker**
- Treasurer: **Carla Barrett**
- Secretary: **Eileen Digan**
- Chapter Director (one of two): **Paul Silverstein**
- Chapter Director (one of two): **Roe Di Bona**
- Chapter Advisory Council Trustee: **David “Starchild” Koehler**
- Alternate Chapter Advisory Council Trustee: **David Mong**

## Member News



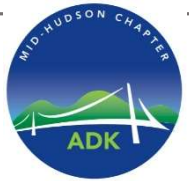
## Membership

MHADK welcomes the following new members who joined the club from July - October 2024.

members who joined the club

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teresa Byman</li><li>• Kirstin Young</li><li>• Bonnie Ackerman</li><li>• Kurt Flehinger</li><li>• Joseph Chenier</li><li>• Kathleen Ann Davis</li><li>• Victoria Ferreira</li><li>• Sharon Lipovsky</li><li>• Colin Phillips</li><li>• Matt Miller</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michael Hoch</li><li>• Margit Meyer</li><li>• Theresa Czaplak</li><li>• Ernie Enzien</li><li>• Kirsten Jacobson</li><li>• Laurie Owens</li><li>• Sharon Greenwald</li><li>• Gwen and Mark Davis</li><li>• Kathleen Smith</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ann W. Ramsey</li><li>• Allison and Burke Blackman</li><li>• Jacob Brill</li><li>• Jennifer Sue Swain</li><li>• Ellen Mann</li><li>• Laith Naayem</li><li>• Lorraine Seach and Rick Kjeldsen</li><li>• Jennifer H. Giammatteo</li><li>• Francoise Legoues</li></ul> |
|--|--|---|

*welcome*



## In Memoriam: Dave Kaplan 1927-2024

By Carla Barrett

Dave Kaplan passed away on Nov 8, 2024. He was a long-time member of ADK who skied, paddled, and swam from his youth all the way into his 90s. Dave's official obituary can be accessed on the link below. These words of fellow ADKers describe his colorful life and personality.

*"Dave Kaplan was a very easy person to spend time with. He was kind, helpful and funny. He had a vast knowledge of outdoor sports, a very creative sense of humor, and the strength of a bull. He shared his knowledge of paddling and skiing with less experienced MHADK members by giving paddling strokes instruction to beginners during some of the canoe trips he led. He also offered x-c skiing lessons to MHADK members. His sense of humor was sometimes macabre. For instance, during a whitewater canoe trip, he once announced that, if his boat capsizes and he drowns, the group should gather his gear, but do not have to evacuate his body because he is biodegradable. Dave was most often the strongest hiker, paddler and skier in the group even though he was the oldest. I and others who spent time with Dave will always miss him but cherish the memories of their time with him."* (Russ Faller)



Dave Kaplan

*"Always enjoyed sharing stories with David about our different adventures with both lake and white water Grumman canoes. Trips on the upper Lehigh when there were dam releases. He was always more adventurous (I would stop at a "750" release) than I was."* (Dan Jones)

*"Dave and Arlene (wife) attended the Outing Leader's gathering when Sue Mackson started them. The gatherings were at my house and then at Pete McGinnis'. After Arlene passed, Dave hosted the gatherings. He came to Zoe's for the Senior's recognition event two years ago. He drove himself and had fun. It is good to know he stayed at home until the end."* (Lalita Malek)



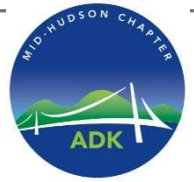
Dave Kaplan

*"He had a printing business in the Bronx. Together with his wife, he was on ski patrol at hotels in the Catskills, finishing Ski Patrol in his 80s, or maybe older, at a Catskill ski resort on the Massachusetts border. He and his cousin led a bunch of paddles. Dave delighted in using scurrilous language and startling folks. He had hiking buddies long before he joined ADK and did some rigorous mountain hikes. Once or twice he hosted our Outing Leaders picnic at his home which borders a lake in Red Hook."* (Sue Mackson)

*"RIP Dave. I also used to go to his house for the outing leaders' annual picnic. He had such great stories to tell. Really nice guy. Every fall he led a hike to Burger Hill & Ferncliff Forest."* (Ginny Fauci)

*"Our annual outing leader planning meeting used to be held at Dave's house on the lake, a beautiful scene with a potluck, grill for BBQ and swimming. We held our meeting on his dock, half of us would be in the water. It was a really nice way to meet."* (Annette Caruso)

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*“Dave was a one of a kind gentleman with a distinctive personality. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed a few "off-color" phrases now and then (more now). I appreciated his New York City influence. He never tired talking about Arlene, his wife, whom he adored. He was passionate about skiing and went far and wide to teach, vacation, and be on slopes, well into his nineties. I used to visit Dave on Round Lake where he lived near Rhinebeck. Since I love lake swimming, he graciously invited me to swim there many times. We would kibbitz and chat with other friends and neighbors. I remember Dave leading many ADK hikes in and around Rhinebeck and Staatsburg. He attended many ice-cream socials, picnics, and other social events over the years. I will fondly remember Dave, his life and his endearing personality.” (Carol Gray)*

*"While engaging in the ADK Voices Project in 2022, I had the great pleasure of visiting Dave in his home. He showed me 75+ year old mementos documenting his adventures, and recounted many stories. He was particularly proud of how he and Arlene organized and taught paddle weekends on Fire Island way back when. Unfortunately, I couldn't convince him to record for the Voices project. I heard from my High School colleague, Tom McCullough, of how he taught skiing to celebrities at Grossinger's Hotel Resort in the 1960's. Dave took a very young Tom under his wing and taught him about the outdoors. Tom went on to summit Denali in 1974 and made more than one visit to Mt Everest as a doctor for climbers." (Carla Barrett)*

Official David Kaplan Obituary:

<https://www.dapsonchestney.com/obituary/David-Kaplan>



*Dave Kaplan with protege Tom McCullough in the 1970s. Tom is in the blue shirt and rimmed hat.*

*Note the wooden snowshoes, old style hiking boots and packs, wooden skis.*

# Mid-Hudson ADK Library Support Program



*Submitted by Carla Barrett*

As the fourth and last year of this Mid-Hudson Chapter Program winds down, we received several more library reports. These reports reflect the creativity and energy of our local Libraries. They also confirm how far a relatively small amount of money (average is \$500) can go in opening eyes, minds, and hearts to nature and the environment, especially in children. (*Editor's note: The reports have been edited for brevity.*)

*Carla Barrett*

*MHADK Program Founder and Committee Chair*

## **Plattekill Library Program: Geology Rocks**

The Plattekill Library presented a fun and stimulating program entitled "Geology Rocks" to its patrons, thanks to a grant from the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. This grant, "Learning About and Appreciating Nature and the Environment," enabled the library to acquire both books and specimens related to the identification of rocks, minerals, and fossils. Also, library staff was able to present geological-themed programs: a geology story-time, a talk from a local geologist, and a tween/teen craft night involving rocks and crystals. Patrons were able to check out geology kits as well as geological books. This program hopefully provided our patrons with a greater knowledge of geology by increasing their access to geological material and information. The grant amount given to the Plattekill Library was \$448, which was used to pay a presenter and purchase rock specimens, geology books, and materials used in our three geology programs.

The Geology Rocks program was a great success. All of the programs, particularly the program given by the local geologist, were well received and well attended. Hopefully both the recently purchased geology books as well as the geology kits will continue to circulate among the patrons at the Plattekill Library as well as the greater Mid-Hudson Library community.

### **Geology Storytime:**

On July 11th, 2024 at 11am, the Children's Librarian provided a geological themed program to those patrons attending the story time. In addition to reading the children stories about rocks, the children and their parents and/or caretakers created numerous rock-themed crafts. These crafts included making moon rocks, pet rocks, and a succulent made of rocks. The program was attended by 8 children, 1 baby, and 5 adults.

### **Hudson Valley Geologist:**

On July 15th, 2024 at 6pm, local geologist Aiden Vasiu-Rogers gave a talk to families at the Plattekill Library. He discussed the subject of geology and provided interesting information about the local geology of the Hudson Valley. Patrons were also given access to check out geology kits and geology books at this event. Eighteen patrons attended the program.

### **Teen Crystal Program:**

On August 1st at 6pm, the Children's Librarian provided a geology-themed craft program for our local tween and teen patrons. The program was attended by 6 tweens, 2 teenagers and 1 adult. The patrons who attended created marbled rocks using nail polish and water. Once the rock creations dried, we sprayed them with polyurethane spray to ensure their durability. We also made crystal and wire pendants and strung them on satin cords. Lastly, we created geodes from rocks covered with aluminum foil, paint and salt.

## **Woodstock Library Youth Program – Nature Detectives**

Our program presenter, Natalie Acker-Raymond, led 50+ children varying in age from 3 – 12 in an outdoors workshop to explore nature through observation, crafts, art and storytelling. Her fee, \$600, was paid by the Library. The \$450 ADK grant was spent for program supplies, including drawstring backpacks, butterfly nets, bug viewing jars, magnifying glasses, binoculars, journals, and various craft items. Our attendance for this program varied, but was pretty consistent. Not every child came to every session but we still had good attendance. The total attendance for all eight events was 144. The children had a wonderful time and the parents who stayed to accompany them had high praise for the program. Here is an example of an e-mail we received:

*"Thanks so much for... this amazing program!!! WOW!! We loved everything about the nature event.... Teddy loved warming up with some painting in her journal...and then being led ... under some rocks...to have a multi book story time...and to even meet a snake!! The explorer bags and programming were beyond generous..."*

This program was a great success and we are already looking to schedule another session next year when we will be in our new building with new surroundings. We had so many compliments and thanks from parents, and the kids were excited to receive their explorer kits. I also directed them to our Nature Explorer Backpack STEM kits to check out, which have nature guides for them to learn more about what they were seeing, as well as to the annual "I Bird NY Challenge" from the NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

## **Red Hook Library Program – Field Station**

Thank you again for your generous support of the Red Hook Public Library's Field Station. We are about to begin Phase Four of our plan but realized over the summer that this will be two-year undertaking. As such, I wanted to share what we have accomplished already with the grant funds, and our plans for year two.

In the Spring of 2024, the Library partnered with the Village of Red Hook's Public Space Initiative to design the Library Field Station, located in the wooded area between our parking lot and the Cramer's Vly Pond. In Phase 1, together with volunteers from Bard College, the Library cleaned up half of the wooded area of invasive species, debris and other unnecessary matter. It is in this half that we will install our seating area, didactics, and wooded trail. The second half of the area will be cleaned up in Spring/Summer 2025, but will be left as a bird sanctuary. Woodchips for the path were donated by Dave's Tree Service, and an initial path was constructed. Due to pond overflow in the Spring, we have had to adjust the planned pathway.

We used the MHADK grant funds to purchase seedlings, native pollinator seeds, landscaping tools, and a seed growing tower, so that we could showcase both plans for our field station and our Seed Lending Library as well as share tips for growing plants from seed. The seedlings were then transplanted to our Field Station. By the end of 2024, we plan to installed initial seating areas, and finalize signage content, with signage installation now planned for Spring 2025. We have contracted a local sustainable nursery in Red Hook to develop a list of seedlings and plants to be added to our field station in Spring 2025, which will be provided to the Library at cost. Funding has been secured through additional grant funds as well as from our operations budget.

We hope to be able to open the Field Station to the community by early Summer 2025 as part of our Naturalist-in-Residence program. I will send MHADK a formal invitation when a date has been secured. I will also send pictures when our seating has been added, when the signage goes up, and when our Spring planting is complete.

## Thomas Edison Went Camping with a U.S. President

*Submitted by Salley Decker*

In 1915, a group known as the Vagabonds embarked on a series of summer camping trips around the U.S. These wayfaring travelers weren't just any old campers, but rather some of the most well-known figures in American history: inventor Thomas Edison, industrialist Henry Ford, naturalist John Burroughs, and businessman Harvey Firestone. The idea was conceived in 1914 when Ford and Burroughs traveled down to Florida to tour the Everglades with Edison. In 1915, Edison, Ford, and Firestone took a road trip throughout Southern California, and it was during that excursion that the group's nickname was chosen.



Before long, these expeditions ballooned into a sophisticated operation, with some trips featuring as many as 50 vehicles carrying staff and equipment. The group journeyed through the Adirondacks, the Catskills, Appalachia, and many other stunning natural sites across the country. The American public grew fascinated with these expeditions. The Vagabonds even attracted the attention of sitting President Warren G. Harding, who briefly joined them in 1921 for a camping trip in Maryland. Harding chopped wood, rode horses, and sat around the campfire before returning to Washington, D.C. Three years later, the Vagabonds were invited to join President Calvin Coolidge at his childhood home in Vermont in 1924, where they spent an hour taking photographs, discussing politics, and exchanging gifts. Unfortunately, these trips began to attract too much unwanted public attention, forcing the Vagabonds to disband later that year.

The Vagabonds link: <https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-resources/popular-topics/the-vagabonds>

## A Bit About Grizzly Bears

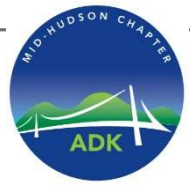
*By Pete Cantline*

Award-winning author and outdoorsman Kevin Grange recently headed to Katmai National Park in Alaska to observe grizzlies as they fish, face off, and fatten up for winter. He documented his research in his book *Grizzly Confidential*. Grange's adventures led him to participate in a bear defense class; join a mission to recover GPS collars dropped by the bears; watch grizzlies test commercially-proposed coolers; count whitebark pine cones containing nutritious pine nuts; travel to the Alaska's Emerald Isle to learn about the relationship between brown bears and the native people; and to interview a bear attack survivor and celebrity bear trainers.



Photo by Jean Beaufort from [Wikimedia](#)

*Continued on page 13*



An annual event he observed, 'Fat Bear Week,' held in Katmai National Park and Preserve, draws thousands of bear lovers to watch, in person and via solar-powered video cameras, as the bears feast on salmon at Brooks Falls where the fish famously hurl themselves upstream to spawn. When the salmon feast is over but before the bears head off to their dens, observers from around the world vote for the heftiest grizzly.



*Bear watchers on the Brooks Falls Platform in Katmai National Park and Preserve. The bears might appear to be randomly situated along the river, but experts say that a chess game of hierarchy and dominance is constantly taking place to determine who gets the best places. ©ED MACKERROW/IN LIGHT OF NATURE*

Historically, the term “brown bear” refers to bears that have access to the ocean and marine life, while “grizzly bear” refers to bruins found in the interior of North America. The genetic differences between these bears are negligible.

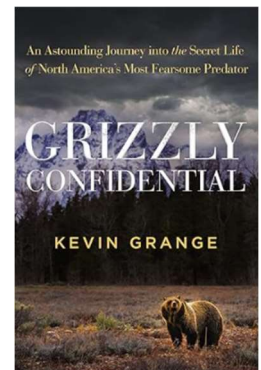
The space for bears to feast in Alaska is actually much smaller than in, say, Yellowstone or the Tetons, but because the salmon resources are so abundant, the bears are willing to tolerate each other and people in closer proximity than they would usually tolerate. But they are still wild and dangerous. After they leave the den, they have six months to eat a year’s worth of food. A bear can eat up to forty fish a day when it is in a state of hunger that can never be satisfied, no matter how much it eats. When there is an abundant supply, bears eat only the fattiest part of the fish -- the brains, skin and eggs -- to maximize the nutritional benefits.

Along the streams, the positioning of bears varies with dominance. The big male adults are the most dominant, followed by sows with cubs, then the other adult males and females down to the hungry and hormonal teenagers.

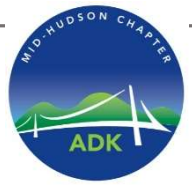
Grizzly bears are often referred to as ‘ecosystem engineers’, tilling the soil with their long claws, dispersing seeds via their scat, and scattering salmon carcasses throughout the forest. The discarded carcasses replenish the forest and surrounding ecosystem with nitrogen, carbon, phosphorus and other minerals.

Mr. Grange offers that “the wilderness, without wildlife, is just scenery.”

*Taken from an article in the Fall issue of the [National Parks magazine](#), whose source was “Grizzly Confidential: An Astounding Journey into the Secret Life of North America’s Most Fearsome Predator,” by Kevin Grange.*



*Editor’s Note:* The bears seen in the Hudson Valley are American Black Bears, the most common bear in North America. “Black bear” is a misnomer since they may be any color from black to dark brown to cinnamon or even gray or white. They are smaller than Brown and Grizzly Bears, lack the distinctive shoulder hump, and have shorter claws.



## The Mountain Detective

By Annette Caruso

Most of my evenings at home are spent enjoyably watching British murder mysteries, the best kind being a series that one can binge on if time allows. Recently I came across ‘The Mountain Detective’ (available on Amazon Prime or PBS). Though it’s French, not British, it satisfies one’s mystery lust and can be watched with English subtitles. It inspires that desire we in ADK have all experienced: to climb mountains.



In a fictional town in the French Alps, the mountain detective of the story spends his work and any leisure time traversing across or rock-scrambling

up magnificent peaks. The cinematography alone is worth the watch. Set in present times, the subject matter of each episode is relevant to current social conditions and issues, and it’s fascinating how these play out when set on French mountainsides. The detective, his boss, and one other officer police a vast jurisdiction humanely and by the mountain rules, which don’t always align with their head office in Marseille. The mountain (and the good guys) always win in the end which reminds us there’s hope for humanity, and of our precious relationship with nature.



Annette Caruso at Huckleberry Point

## Appalachian Rocket

By Paul Silverstein

I was a bit tired last summer as we finished up the Appalachian Trail section near Kent, CT. Seven-plus miles with a fair amount of vertical felt like a good workout. Then we ran into a through-trail hiker, and I was humbled thinking about the 2000+ miles he hiked.

But my mind exploded when I read about Tara Dower, who, on September 21, set the new record for the through-hike, completing it in 40 days and 18 hours! I’ll save you the math -- that’s over 50 miles a day every day for over a month. Whaaaattttt!!

If you haven’t already devoured this story, read more here:

<https://www.runnersworld.com/news/a62330229/tara-dower-appalachian-trail-record/>



“Everywhere is within walking distance if you have the time.”  
– Steven Wright; posted by Tara Dower on her website

## Leave It To Beavers: Earth's Ecosystem Architects, cont.

Wherever I saw lodges, I searched the various parts of the pond and found dams the beavers had created to raise the water level of the pond. Some of the ponds had several dams, which created ponds within ponds and different levels of water. Once I started actively looking for beaver habitat, some of the habitats I discovered were quite elaborate and extensive, covering large swaths of land, with a system of dams, ponds, and lodges, surrounded by chewed trees.

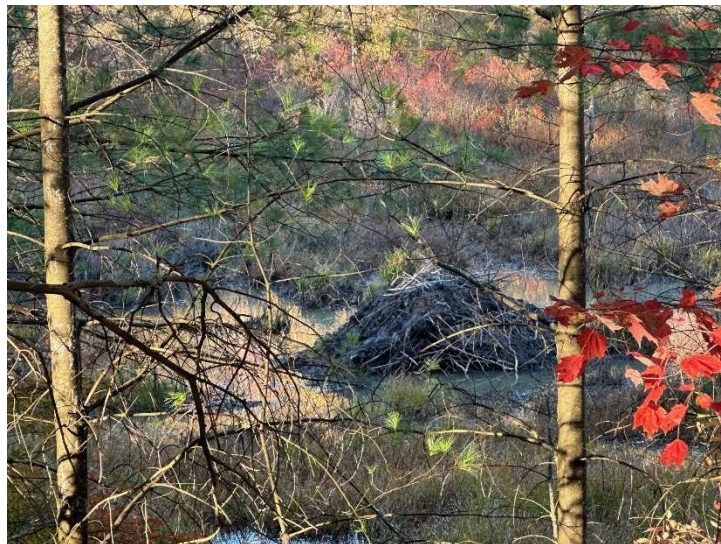
I began to develop what I called "beaver radar." I was immediately able to identify beaver habitat. Once identified, I would try to find the dam and lodge to determine if this was an active beaver system. It became somewhat of an obsession, as anyone who has hiked with me knows. I started taking an inventory of beaver habitat, often pulling off on the side of busy roads to view their lodges sticking out of the water, hoping to get a glimpse of them in action. I thought of getting a bumper sticker made that said "Warning, I brake for beavers."

Having witnessed my fascination, a friend bought me a book called "Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter" by Ben Goldfarb. I learned about how this country was built on the blood of the beaver trade, almost bringing them to extinction; how they have made a spectacular comeback; and how they have turned dry and barren land into lush and complex ecosystems that are habitats for thousands of species.

On the Cary Institute walk, Mike Fargione took us through their extensive property, which is home to a vast system of beaver lodges and flooded lands. He talked about the ecosystems beavers create, how they manage water and create habitat for other species, and how their burgeoning population has created problems for human-made infrastructure.

I personally experienced that problem. While hiking in a remote section of the Catskills, the trail passed through private property before exiting back into the forest. A section of the trail, which was also an access road to a residence, had become flooded. Before crossing the road, we saw beavers heading toward where we were headed. We waded through the wetlands that were being created and saw dams being built on both sides of the trail.

*Continued on page 16*



*Active lodge seen along Ashokan rail trail*



*Typical beaver habitat and pond, along O&W rail trail, Stone Ridge. The raised embankments of old railroad beds collect water from streams on the sides, and provide ideal opportunities for creating dams and protected lodges*

## Leave It To Beavers: Earth's Ecosystem Architects, cont.

Then, about an hour later, we heard gun shots coming from the direction from which we had just come. We presumed that was coming from the disgruntled property owner who probably had had enough of his road flooding.

Beavers are a keystone species, meaning, they are one of the species that form a foundation for healthy ecosystems. They are essential to the survival of thousands of species. It is essential that we continue to find ways to co-exist with them and provide sustainable work-arounds that enable both the beavers and the humans to live together and peacefully co-exist.

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### Editor's notes:

*A keystone species is an organism that helps define an entire ecosystem. Without its keystone species, the ecosystem would be dramatically different or cease to exist altogether...if the [keystone] species were to disappear from the ecosystem, no other species would be able to fill its ecological niche. - National Geographic*

*Sometimes referred to as "ecosystem engineers" of the forest, beaver continuously work to create new wetlands and ponds by building dams and lodges. They are incredible workers and prolific builders, carrying mud and stones with their fore-paws and timber between their teeth to build well-maintained dams. These dams turn small streams into ponds and lakes which provide excellent areas for other animals to use and thrive. "Considering the effects of climate change, water stewardship may prove to be the beaver's greatest gift to humankind." -National Park Service, "Arcadia's North American Beaver: The Ultimate Keystone Species"*

*The benefits of beaver ponds include increasing the biodiversity of fish, amphibians, birds, and even large mammals. By creating habitat, beavers improve water quality, decrease erosion, remove pollutants from surface and ground water, and recharge aquifers. -Info from Beaversolutions.com*

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## Be on the Lookout: Japanese Barberry

The Japanese Barberry is classified as a New York State Invasive Plant. The bright red berries of this thorny shrub are especially striking this time of year, after the leaves have fallen from the surrounding trees. Once established, this invasive plant can quickly take over a forest understory, creating a monoculture that prevents native plant growth and provides safe harbor for mice, which can carry ticks with Lyme disease. Forests invaded with Japanese barberry have been documented to contain up to 10 times the quantity of Lyme infected ticks as a similar uninvaded forest.



**What you can do:** Avoid planting Japanese barberry and hand-pull any occurrences of the plant on your property.

Article from **NYS DEC Delivers: November Invasive Species News**

More info: <https://nyis.info/species/japanese-barberry/>

# Mid-Hudson ADK Outings Log



August 11, 2024 – November 24, 2024

Key to abbreviations: "MWH": Mid-Week Hike, "MWP": Mid-Week Paddle

## Aug 11 - Hudson River Paddle: Chelsea to Stoneco Point to Village of Wappingers Falls, NY

### Leader: Russ Faller

This small group had an interesting paddle up the Hudson River to Stoneco Point, which used to be a high point on the river until the NYS Governor's house there burned in the 1800s and it was bought by a quarrying company. From there we paddled back down the river and went up the Wappinger Creek to the Victorian industrial site known as the Bleachery. We took out at the boat launch on Market St. in the Village of Wappingers Falls. Paddlers were John S, David H, and the leader. *(No photos)*

## Aug 12 MWP – Paddle White Pond, Carmel NY

### Leader: Glenda Schwarze

White Pond always seems beautiful. Group consisted of guests Patricia L, Diana R and members Roz W, Charlotte M, Joan B, Louis R and the leader Glenda S. *(No photos)*

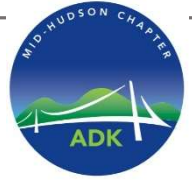
## Aug 23 - Mt Beacon North Side Ramble

### Leader: Adrienne Scivolette

Exploring trails and woods roads on the north (and less traveled) side of Mt Beacon on a beautiful weather day was just perfect! We spotted a new plant we hadn't seen before, called Shining Sumac; walked by a gorgeous Doe who seemed quite happy to share the space with us; and admired multiple views of the Hudson, Catskills and the east side quarry. Tracy R and Dave W joined Adrienne on another of her favorite places to explore.



# Mid-Hudson ADK Outings Log



Continued from page 17

## Aug 25 to 28 - Western High Peaks Wilderness Backpack Leader: Christine Silber

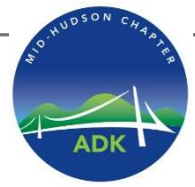
A group of nine intrepid backpackers hiked more than 30 miles on the Northville Placid Trail (NPT) from Long Lake, NY, to the Seward Trailhead near Tupper Lake, NY. We stayed at Fish Creek Pond campground Saturday night, left cars at the Seward Trailhead on Corey's Road on Sunday morning, and drove south to Long Lake. We hiked north to Plumleys Point on Long Lake where we had a nice swim and camped for the night. Monday we hiked to Seward lean-to and had a wonderful afternoon swimming and sunning on the rocks at Miller's Falls. On Tuesday we left the NPT and turned northwest on the Ward Brook trail. We camped near the Ward Brook lean-to Tuesday night and celebrated the first anniversary of a member of our group completing the AT! On Wednesday we hiked out via the Blueberry foot trail to Corey's Road and drove south to our cars in Long Lake. Member participants were Manny G & Bill P. Guests were Teresa B, Kurt F, Diane L, Jim M, Dale S & David T with Chris Silber as leader.



## Aug 26 MWP - Sojourner Truth Park Paddle - New Paltz Leader: Glenda Schwarze

Very pleasant day and pleasant paddling with Lou. Group consisted of members Louis R & leader Glenda S. (No photos)

# Mid-Hudson ADK Outings Log

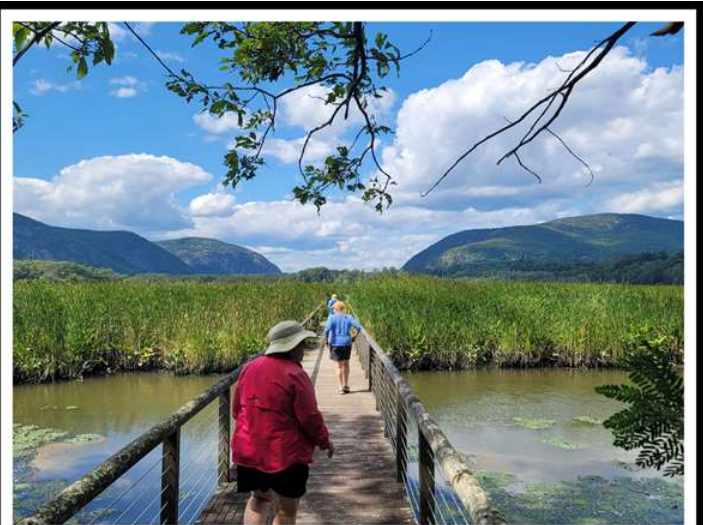


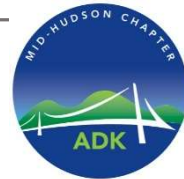
*continued from page 18*

## Sep 2 - Constitution Marsh Paddle/Swim/Hike

**Leaders: JeanetteTB and leader-in-training Jonathan Baker**

This was a truly memorable adventure! Nine ADK members and one guest launched into Foundry Cove and paddled under the RR bridge before the tide prevented us from entering the marsh. The day was sunny and cool; perfect for paddling, but not so much for swimming. The water in the pool beneath the waterfall was too cold for most of us to swim; only Jonathan had the courage to plunge into the water (others ventured up to our ankles). Some of us enjoyed the swing before the waterfall area became very crowded with paddlers. After leaving the waterfall, we paddled slowly, identifying the many flowers along the banks. When we stopped at the Audubon Center for lunch, we counted eleven boats instead of the expected ten. A very sweet man named Klaus, who was with another tour group, had gotten confused at the waterfall and mistakenly followed us! After a call to the tour group, their guide quickly arrived to pickup Klaus. After lunch we hiked to the picturesque boardwalk, snapping photos and relaxing (i.e. napping!). The total mileage for paddling, swimming and hiking was 6.8 miles. The fun group consisted of ADK members Russell L, Charlotte M, Connie H, Gwen L, Dea M, Pat L, Judy B, along with leaders JeanetteTB and Jonathan B. Guest Lissa M joined us. And we can't forget to include Klaus as an unofficial visitor. Thanks to Charlotte, Jonathan, Gwen and Lissa for the awesome photos.





## Sep 5 MWH - Duck Pond to Mountain House Loop

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Gorgeous day for a hike to the Mountain House & gardens with side trip to Lily Pond. Lunch at Copes Lookout, deer, barred owl, another ice cream day, colorful gardens, sunny, 70's, low humidity. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Sharron C, Tamar M, Linda L, Kathy O and the leader Ginny F.

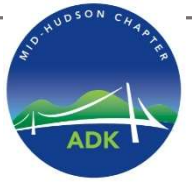


## Sep 9 MWP – Lake Taghkanic in Ancram Paddle

### Leader: Glenda Schwarze

Great spot. The park was closed for the season, so we had the lake to ourselves. Interesting way to check out the park by paddling along the shore. Toni was especially pleased with the Lake & went back to the lake 2 X on her week pass. Paddlers were ADK members Lou R, Louise D, Toni W, and the leader Glenda S. Guest paddlers were John C and Heidi P.





## **Sept 12 - Interpretive Hike about the American Beaver**

**Leader: Sharon Klein**

See cover story on page 1.

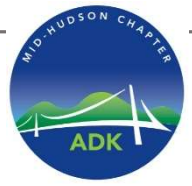
Hikers included Liz R, Jim A, Alexa G, Mike F, Louise D, Sherri G, Rachelle G, Amy K, Jeff K, Sharon S, Lalita M and the leader Sharon K.

## **Sep 12 MWH - Lost City/Compass Rock Loop**

**Leader: Ginny Fauci**

Beautiful day to hike Lost City and Compass Rock. Sunny, 70's, blue sky. Leisurely lunch on Compass Rock enjoying views of the Catskills. Two of us walked over to Split Rock at the end. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Tamar M, Katy B, Sharon G, Nancy R, Richard C and the leader Ginny F.





## Sep 15 - Paddle and Swim the Rio Reservoir

**Leaders: JeanetteTB and Jonathan Baker**

Wait... why is the parking lot at the Rio Reservoir Boat launch empty? Where are the fishermen and boaters? As we headed to the waterfront, we were shocked to find that somebody pulled the plug on the Rio Reservoir. The water level was at least 5 feet lower than normal. Paddling was a challenge in some areas where our boats scraped the bottom. Our usual lunch "beach" area was super-wide, strewn with rocks, and had a 6 foot dropoff into the water at the edge of the beach. It was not easy getting in and out of our kayaks there. (Splash! "Where's my wallet?") As the skies clouded and the wind kicked up, only one brave paddler jumped into the water to swim. But what fun conversations we had as we relaxed during lunch! We paddled south to the dam to check out the water level: yup, it was low. We chatted with several folks who've lived in the area for years; none had ever seen the water level so low. It was a mystery. Total mileage was about 7 miles. Paddlers were ADK members Gwen L, Judy B, Dea M, and leaders JeanetteTB and Jonathan B.

Update: The Rio Dam is one of the hydroelectric power stations in the Mongaup River Hydroelectric System. Although it may not explain the low water levels, there was a whitewater release scheduled the morning of our paddle. Hopefully someone downstream in the Mongaup River had some fun in the Class II+(III) rapids! Not us... we thoroughly enjoyed our quiet water paddle.





## Sep 19 MWH - Illinois Mountain, Highland

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Exploring Scenic Hudson Trails on Illinois Mountain from Berean Park in Highland. We took the red, white and yellow trails that started out around the lake and then went around the woods just below the private towers on top. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Sharron C, Richard & Karen C, Cindy C, Lalita M, Dea K, Katy B and the leader Ginny F.

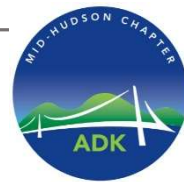


## Sep 20 to 22 - Stockport Middle Ground Paddling/Basecamp, Hudson River, Columbia County

### Leader: Russ Faller

The weather and river conditions were perfect. No rain, light winds and generally calm water. We ended up camping on Gay's Point (which is actually an island) because one site on Stockport Middle Ground was taken and the other had suffered storm damage. On Friday we paddled up Stockport Creek to the cascade and explored Stockport Marsh on the way back. On Saturday, we paddled to the ill-fated late 1800s ice house ruins, the largest ever built on the Hudson, but built too late. Then, we crossed the river to Rattlesnake Island and eventually landed at Cossackie. We were thrilled that the village's Riverfront Festival was in full swing. There were probably 100 food and crafts vendors, a band playing in the gazebo, children's rides and witches, goblins and other assorted monsters roaming about. The witches danced to witch songs, e.g. "...must be the season of the witch." Some of us had lunch at the festival, while others went to a riverside restaurant for lunch on the deck. We paddled back to camp along the west shore. Our outing was terminated, by the overwhelming majority, on Sunday morning. Everyone did their own thing or went home, except for the leader. Participants were: Rich C, John S, Victoria J, David H, Eric L, Dave W, Marie C, Linda H (all ADKers) & George B, Todd F, & Debbie A (ADK guests) & the leader, Russ Faller.

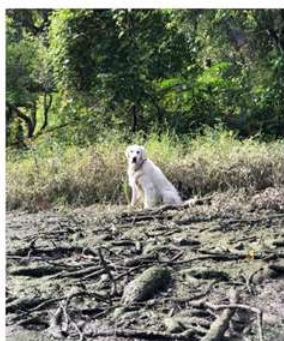




## Sep 22 - Paddle the Esopus Creek in search of the Saugerties Seal

**Leaders: JeanetteTB and Jonathan Baker**

As we paddled the Esopus Creek in search of the seal, we saw all different types of fauna: a light-colored Golden Retriever sitting alone on an empty sandbar, several Great Blue herons, and a pair of ospreys calling to each other (first identified by sound via the Merlin app). But no seal. We dejectedly paddled around the lighthouse into the north cove and enjoyed lunch on the sandy beach. Just before we took a walk to the lighthouse, we noticed a small black head in the water. It was Seal#246! He heard us calling to him, changed direction, and swam toward us. We got a few great photos before a woman with a large dog ("seals love dogs") brought the dog into the water. When the dog started barking, Seal#246 swam away. As he was leaving, he did a little dance in the river by spinning around and smacking the water. At first it seemed cute, but no doubt he was telling the dog to stay away. But we were thrilled to catch a glimpse of him. Total distance was 4.25 miles, including the hike to the lighthouse. Paddlers included guests Carol C and Lorraine S, along with MHADK members Charlotte M, Pete C, Russ L, Gwen L, Veronica O and the leaders, JeanetteTB and Jonathan B. Thanks to Charlotte, Gwen and Veronica for the fabulous photos.





## Sep 23 MWP - Sleightsburgh Park Paddle

**Leader: Glenda Schwarze**

Another nice kayaking day - little sun, no wind. Decided to go see the Hudson before heading up the Rondout. The Hudson was beautiful. Participants were members Louis R, Theresa M and guests Antonia W & Heidi P. Leader was Glenda S.



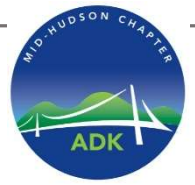
## Sep 23 to 27, West Canada Lakes Wilderness Backpack

**Leaders: David Mong & Bob Coia**

We had an interesting and enjoyable week in the Adirondacks. We immediately changed our plan to work around another group ahead of us at the trailhead who signed the register as taking the campsite we wanted and camped a few miles in at Muskrat Lake instead. The next day we moved a couple miles further in, to Indian Lake where we spent the next 3 nights. We had hoped to go in much further but we needed to work around predicted bad weather to keep the group safe. We had tons of rain on two nights and much of another day. We used weather reports from our satellite device to avoid getting very wet on our hike



outings. We saw no other backpackers but did encounter several groups of bear hunters. The leaders spent an extra night in the woods before the backpack and the participants spent an extra day in the woods after the backpack ended. The group consisted of members Jim C & Ron G, along with leaders David M & Bob C.



## Sep 29 – Pre-Picnic Hike from Ulster Landing Park to Turkey Point

**Leader: Ginny Fauci**

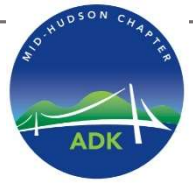
Six hardy hikers started out in a light rain that stopped before we got too far. Spent some time at Turkey Point on the Hudson before heading back. Cloudy, 60's. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Charlotte M, Marie C, Louise D, Dave W, Lissa M and the leader Ginny F.



## Sep 29 – Pre-Picnic Kayaking on the Hudson River

**Leader: Jean-Claude Fouere**

Two of us enjoyed a short kayak paddle on a misty morning along the west shore of the Hudson River from Ulster Landing (river mile 91.5) to Turkey Point (river mile 92.85), and back to partake with fellow ADK members at the chapter membership potluck. Participants were Russell L & Leader Jean-Claude F. (No photos.)



## Sept 29 - 2024 Annual Meeting and Fall Picnic at Ulster Landing County Park

The day started with a light rain but it didn't impact Ginny F leading 6 hikers on the pre-picnic hike to Turkey Point nor Jean Claude F and 1 other determined paddler to kayak Turkey Point via the Hudson. Annette C started up the coals under an umbrella and lucky for us the rain stopped in time to grill and serve under a clear sky. Forty-six+ MHADKers gathered in the pavilion at Ulster Landing County Park, enjoying hamburgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers along with a delicious array of side dishes and desserts. After our feast, Georgette W chaired our Annual Meeting where we recognized the board, committee members and volunteers for the many accomplishments of the year and voted for our 2025-2026 officers. When we finished clean up JeanetteTB led 5 other paddlers on a leisurely post-picnic paddle to Robert E Post Park. Many THANKS to our Social Committee (Dea M, Annette C, Carole M, and JeanetteTB) for organizing the event!



## Sep 29 – Post-Picnic Paddle from Ulster Landing Park to Robert E. Post Park

### Leader: JeanetteTB

Five ADKers gathered for an impromptu paddle after the Fall Picnic. The afternoon was cloudy and cool, but no wind; the river was like glass! Lots of bird sightings along the shoreline: herons, osprey, a juvenile eagle(?). Late late afternoon is a lovely time on the river! Total 6 miles to Robert E. Post and back. Paddlers were Dave W, Russell L, Dea M, Jonathan B and the leader, JeanetteTB.

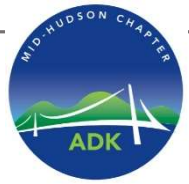




**Sep 30 - Kayak Rescue Skills & Paddle Strokes Class, Long Dock Park, Beacon, NY  
Organizer Russ Faller; Instructor Linda Horton; Assistants Dave Webber, Marshall Seddon & Gary Archer**

We changed the venue to the Hudson because the water was about 13 degrees warmer than White Pond. Everyone got individualized attention since we had 4 highly qualified instructors to only 6 "students". The advantage of paddling within the paddler's box was explained. Paddle strokes demonstrated and practiced included forward, reverse, sweep, draw, sculling, high & low bracing. Assisted and self-rescues were demonstrated and practiced via several approaches, including the heel hook, swim-up, sling, paddle float and cowboy re-entries. Marshall & Dave demonstrated the rescue of an unconscious paddler by flooding the cockpit, floating the victim into it, then righting the kayak and pumping the water out. We had fun while we honed our kayaking skills for several hours. It was a beautiful day on the water. Participants were: Molly K., Charlotte M., Pat L., Gwen L., Russell L., Louise D. (all ADKers) & the Organizer, Instructor and Assistants.





## Oct 3 MWH - Rainbow Falls Loop

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Gorgeous day, high 60's, sunny, blue sky, pretty clouds, leaves turning color. The Peterskill was very low and not much water at Rainbow Falls. We had lunch on top of the ridge after our climb out of Huntington Ravine.

Fantastic views of the Catskills as we headed down the other side. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Richard & Karen C, Cindy C, Dea K, Tamar M, Arthur G, Laurie O, Katy B and the leader Ginny F.

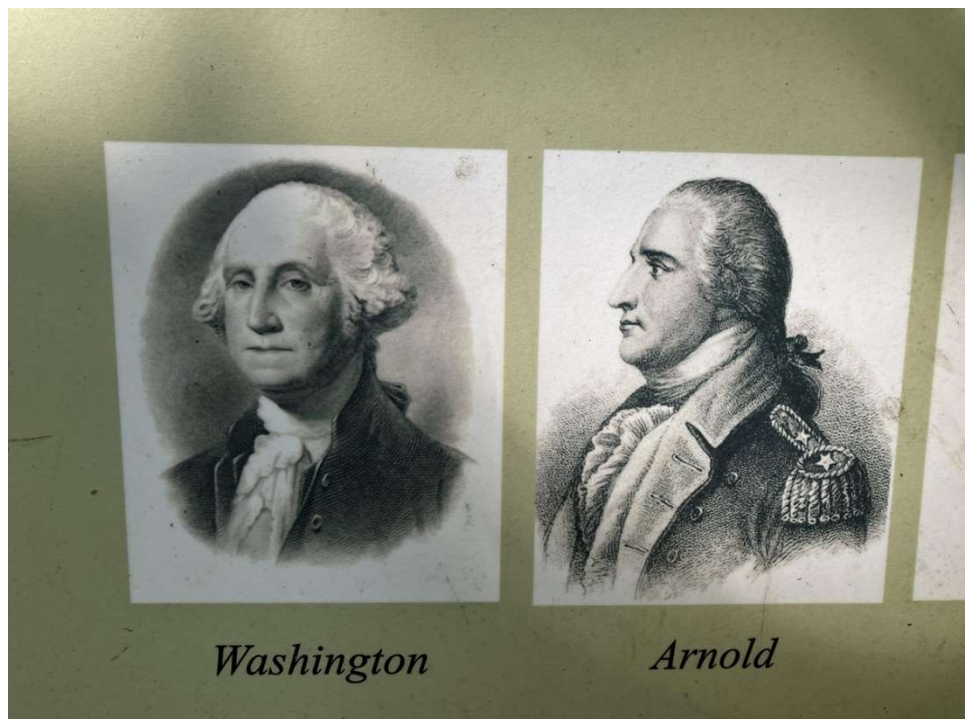


## Oct 6 - North and South Redoubts + Garrison School Forest Loop.

### Leader: Georgette Weir

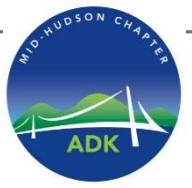
Despite it being a spectacular autumn day, our party numbered just two for a moderate 5-mile lollipop hike that took us to Revolution-era historic locations (the info sign at S. Redoubt reported that George Washington stood there and got the news about Benedict Arnold's betrayal of West Point across the river). Ann C. and Georgette W. enjoyed the brilliant morning light, views onto the Hudson and West Point, and good conversation. A good stretch of the legs on a perfect hiking day!

Photo: Our virtual hike companions.



*Washington*

*Arnold*

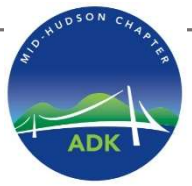


## Oct 6 - Paddle the Rondout Creek

### Leader: JeanetteTB

Ten paddlers launched in the glass-like water of the Rondout on a beautiful autumn day. As we paddled upstream we passed the Feeney Shipyard, where several boats were waiting for repair. One of the more interesting boats was Amogy's NH<sub>3</sub>Kraken: the world's first carbon-free, ammonia-powered tugboat. It was originally constructed in 1957 and retrofitted with Amogy's ammonia "cracking" technology, with an ammonia-to-electrical power system. Continuing to paddle upstream, we found the narrow lock of the old D&H canal; it was difficult to turn around in the 14 foot kayaks. Then we passed under the Eddyville Bridge, which was rebuilt in the late 1950's (rumor has it that the bridge started off being green, then silver, then light blue, and now it's painted bright red). The Eddyville Dam was a bit of a disappointment; no water was flowing over the dam due to the lack of rain. After stopping for lunch, we paddled around Gumaer Island and noticed the empty eagle's nest. As we were returning to the launch, the group decided to continue paddling downstream to the lighthouse. Dave W mentioned that the existing lighthouse was not the original; there were two previous lighthouses in the Rondout. He guided us to the remains of the 2nd lighthouse; there was not much left of it other than a set of stone steps (it was supposedly dynamited.) We paddled around the breakwater jetties and finally reached the existing lighthouse (#3), built in 1913. (Someday we'd love to tour the inside of the lighthouse!) As we paddled back to the launch, we patiently waited to cross the creek while numerous boats (including the Rip Van Winkle) passed us by. Our total distance was 8.25 miles. Paddlers included ADK members Jonathan B, Pete C, Steven G, Cathie S, Dea M, David W, Louise D, and the leader, JeanetteTB. Guest paddlers included Lissa M and Jared P.





## Oct 10 MWH - North Point Loop at North Lake

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Very windy, windchill in the 30's, lots of layers to start. Gorgeous fall day, blue sky, sunny, pretty colors, a little warmer in the woods. Lots of fun mini scrambles and great views along the way. Artists Rock, Sunset Rock, Newman's Ledge, Badman's Cave, North Point for lunch. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Lisa M, Linda L, Katy B, Sharon G, Chris D, Arthur G, Jean M, Sharron C and the leader Ginny F.

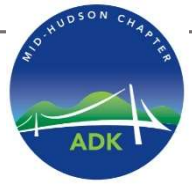


## Oct 17 MWH - Thomas Cole to Olana on Hudson River Skywalk

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Yearly fall trip from Thomas Cole to Olana on the Hudson River Skywalk on a beautiful day, blue sky, no wind, in the 40's & 50's. Five of us did the Skywalk, one met us in the middle and the other three met us on the East side of the bridge. It was third Thursday at Olana so we all went to a very interesting free lecture 'All About the Rural Cemetery Movement', had lunch on the benches with a great view of the Hudson River & Catskills and then took a walk around. Three stayed for the free self-guided tour and the rest of us headed back across the Skywalk to our cars. Another gorgeous day in the outdoors. Hikers were Jean M, Cindy C, Connie H, Katy B, Louise D, Sam & Carol D, Lisa M and the leader Ginny F.





## Oct 20 – Annual Autumn Gertrude’s Nose Circular

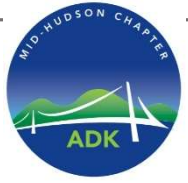
### Leader: Roberta Forest

We had beautiful, warm weather for my annual leaf peeper hike. We met at the visitor’s center of Minnewaska state park. From there we walked to the start of the Gertrude’s Nose trail. From here, there were colorful views in red, orange, yellow and green. All under a cloudless blue sky. From there, we hiked along to Millbrook Mountain, stopping along the way to cool off at nature’s icebox, to do our one long, scramble uphill, and then to stop for a welcome lunch break. From there we continued to Millbrook Mountain where we stopped for views before heading back to Lake Minnewaska on the Millbrook trail. This trail is usually wet, but after a few weeks with no rain, there was little wetness to be seen. Participants were Roberta F., the leader, and Robin S, Jane B, Carla B, Veronica O, Kay B and Sayi N.



**Glacial Erratics** are large boulders that were plucked and transported by glaciers 12,000 years ago. As glacial ice melted, the erratics dropped onto these rock faces.

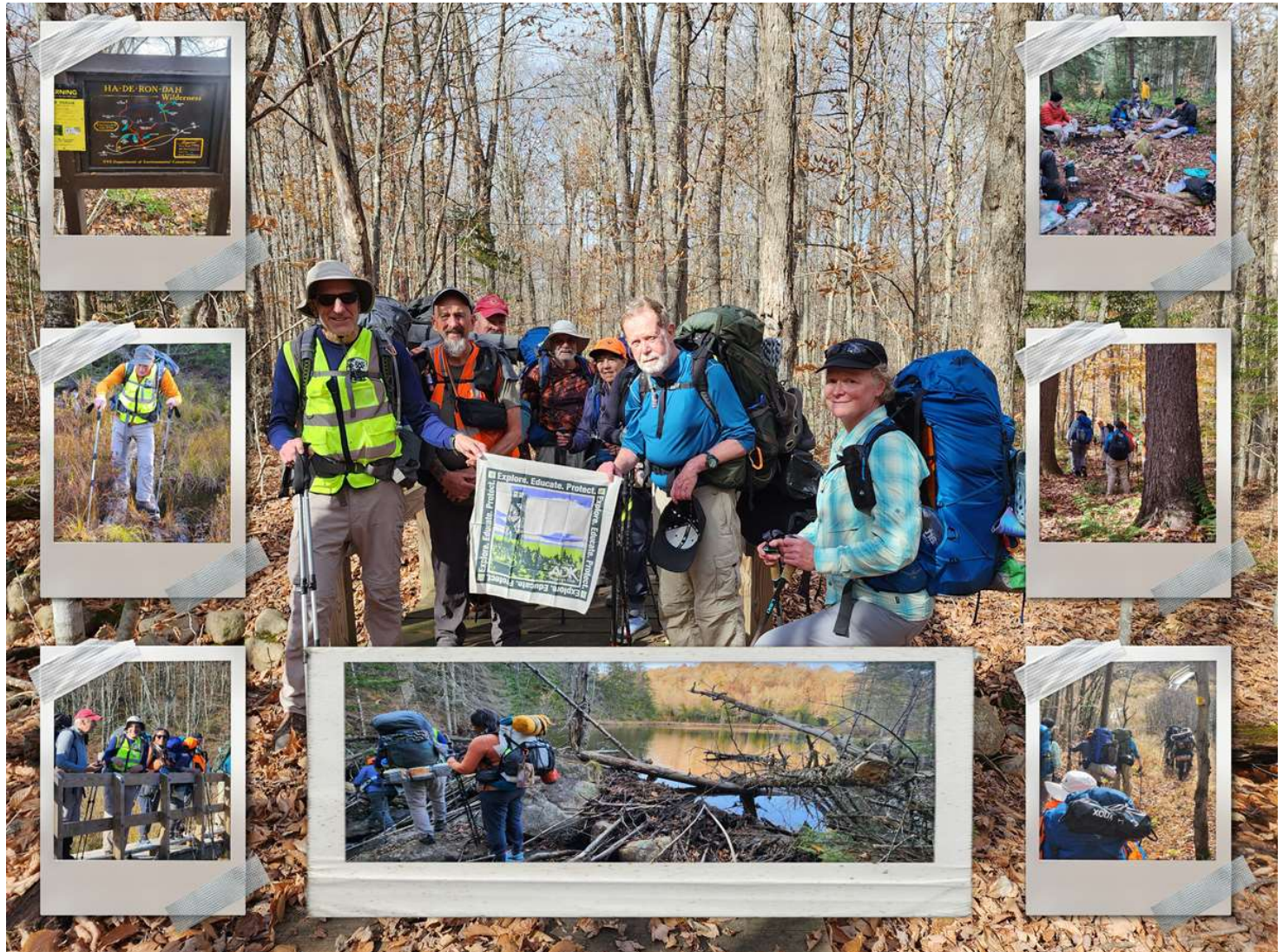


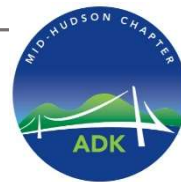


## Oct 21 to 24 - Ha-De-Ron-Dah NY Wilderness Backpack

**Leaders: David Mong & Bob Coia**

This was planned as a three-night backpack into a very remote and lightly used wilderness area in Thendara NY, which is next to Old Forge. As has been the case in the past, we saw no other hikers or backpackers and only one hunter. We entered from Thendara on the southeastern edge of the wilderness area and headed north 4-1/2 miles to set up a base camp at a designated site on East Pond. The trail had been described as being intentionally low maintenance. On the first of the planned day hikes, about 2-1/2 miles from camp, one participant got a sprained ankle even though we were moving slowly and carefully among the thick layer of fallen leaves. After splitting up that person's pack and taping the ankle for better support, we made it carefully back to camp for the second night. The next day we packed up and hiked out a day early so the participant could get out under their own power and not take a chance they might need to be carried out. The group split up and carried most of that participant's gear. Besides this unfortunate injury, we had animals come into camp twice during the night where we all got up to scare them away. We plan to go back again next year. All 9 in the group were ADK members - Carmen S, Caroline C, Jeff C, Gregg H, Jim C, John O, Christine S and leaders David Mong and Bob Coia.





## Oct 23 to 26 - Adirondack Base Camp Paddling

### Leader: Rich Cerruto

Rich led a four-day base camp paddling trip in late October allowing us to catch the last vestiges of fall foliage in the pristine Adirondack Park. We parked our cars at the Follensby Clear Pond Boat Launch on October 23rd and paddled about 30 minutes to a DEC campsite where we set up camp and relaxed.

On Day 2 we did a Follensby Loop which consisted of about 10 miles of paddling and 4 short portages totaling about 1600 meters. Because we left most of our gear at base camp we could do "one pass" portages carrying our canoes and day packs. Rich and David H. carried skin-on-frame canoes they each built earlier this year at Rich's home shop. Eric L.

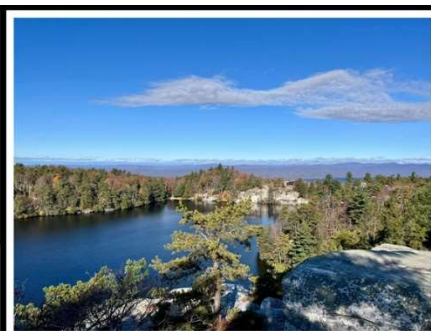
purchased a used kevlar canoe at an outfitter. On Day 3, with sunny skies with no wind we paddled into Upper Saranac Lake up to Green Island and back. On Day 4 we broke camp and went home. Paddlers included David H, Eric L, and the leader, Rich C.

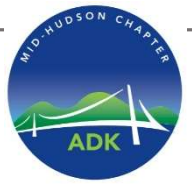


## Oct 24 MWH - Gertrude's Nose Loop

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Started out cool, but quickly turned much warmer, in the 60's. Sunny, blue skies. Snack on Millbrook Mountain, lunch at Gertrude's Nose. Colors were good, a little breeze. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Greer R, Gaye M, Margaret M, Jean M, Cindy C, Karen & Richard C, Ann C, Nancy L, Sharron C, Sharon G, Katy B and the leader Ginny F.





## Oct 31 MWH - Pine Road to Copes Lookout & Back

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Three of us started out from Pine Road on a sunny, unseasonably 80°, wispy clouds, blue sky, hazy views, gorgeous. Halloween day. Lunch at Copes Lookout. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Jean M, Lisa M and the leader Ginny F.



## Nov 7 MWH - Storm King

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Eight hiked the Storm King loop on another unseasonably warm November day, in the 70's, short sleeves, blue sky, mostly sunny, windy on top. Break on viewpoint facing Hudson River south and lunch on viewpoint facing Hudson River north. Six took the short side trip to Butter Hill while the other two headed down Bluebird & all met at the ruins before hiking out. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Sheila L, Cindy C, Peter E, Jim D, Jean M, Sharron C, Lalita M and the leader Ginny F.



# Mid-Hudson ADK Outings Log

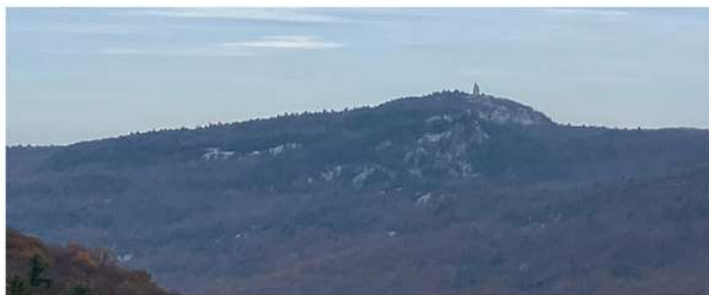
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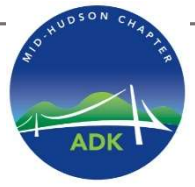


## Nov 10 - High Peterskill Trail end to end

### Leader: Roberta Forest

This was a shuttle hike. We met at Coxing, left some cars, and drove to the lower lot of Minnewaska, where the hike began. This hike stayed on just one trail, the High Peterskill trail, from start to finish. The weather was sunny and cool, perfect hiking weather. As we climbed up the ridge, we had views of Beacon Hill, just across at the next ridge, as well as a distant view of Compass Rock and Skytop. After rolling hills, we descended to the Peterskill, whose level was extremely low, and climbed up to Compass Rock. We had a snack there and continued to a viewpoint across to the Upper carriage road of Mohonk, where we had lunch. From there, it was all downhill to the end of the trail. Participants were Russ F, Eve-Marie S, Pete C, Mike A, Jane B, Robin S, Diane S, and the hike leader, Roberta F.





## Nov 14 MWH - Minnewaska Ramble

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Seven of us wandered around some of the lesser-used trails in Minnewaska stopping for lunch at the picnic tables overlooking the lake. Watched an eagle flying over the lake and landing in a tree on the other side. In the 30's, maybe up to 40 at lunch. Blue sky, pretty clouds, warm sun, then the clouds took over & the temp dropped. Nice views, lots of bear scat, dry trails. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Arthur G, Sharron C, Connie H, Kathy S, Cindy C, Lalita M, and the leader Ginny.

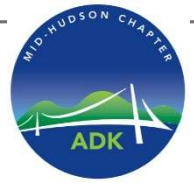


## Nov 20 MWH - Mohonk Preserve/Mountain House Loop

### Leader: Ginny Fauci

Took a different route up to Mountain House, a little longer, but more scenic. Lunch at the 2-story gazebo. Pretty clouds, some sun, in the 50's. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Louise D, Connie H, Cindy C, Sharron C, Carla B, Margaret M, Jim D and the leader Ginny.





## **Nov 22 to 24 - Siamese Ponds Wilderness Backpack**

### **Leaders: Russ Faller & Gregg Homeyer**

With conflicting long range weather reports for the weekend, what started out to be a group of eight ended up being four hardy backpackers for a late fall backpack in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness. Instead of going up to Peaked Mountain Pond where there are only tent sites, we elected to go to our second day campsite, Hour Pond. Hour Pond was about 3 miles in and had a lean-to. This ended up being a good decision considering the weather went from rain to wet snow with snow on the ground at the higher elevations on Friday. Saturday was a mix of rain and snow as the front moved through. Our plans to day hike to Puffer Pond changed when we discovered the bridge crossing the Hour Pond Brook had washed away. We elected to come out on Sunday as one of the participants was experiencing leg issues from the hike on Friday. The hike out on Sunday was in spring-like conditions. The leaders camped out at Thirteenth Lake and climbed the Balm of Gilead Mountain Trail on Monday for some great views of the area. We saw no other backpackers but did encounter several hunters. All four in the group were ADK members: Caroline C, Mark M, and leaders Russ Faller and Gregg Homeyer.

