

Lower Wappinger Creek Clean Up: From the Falls to the Hudson

By Russ Faller, MHADK Paddler Leader and Water Trails & Paddles Chair



Lower Wappinger Creek Clean Up, May 25, 2025

This outing was a joint venture between the Mid-Hudson ADK, NY/North Jersey Appalachian Mountain Club, Riverkeeper and Kayaking the Liquid Skies Meetup.

On Sunday, May 25th, 17 paddlers from four organizations teamed up to remove trash from the lower Wappingers Creek, a popular and beautiful tidal-water paddle of about 6 miles round trip. Russ Faller, the organizer, told volunteers that there should not be much garbage in the creek. Russ opined that everyone would have a pleasant paddle on a lovely day, without much work. Our dedicated volunteers took their canoes and kayaks and scoured the creek and its banks. We were all shocked by what we found!



Continued on page 13

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 8:
Spring Picnic at Bowdoin Park.

Tuesday, June 17:
Board Meeting on Zoom ()**
at 5:30pm. All are Welcome.

Tuesday, July 15:
Board Meeting on Zoom ()**
at 5:30pm. All are Welcome.

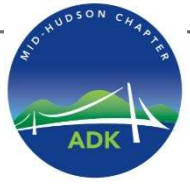
Tuesday, August 19:
Board Meeting on Zoom ()**
at 5:30pm. All are Welcome.

Monday, August 25:
Deadline for the Summer issue of this newsletter.
Your submissions are most welcome.

Sunday, September 28:
Annual Meeting and Fall Picnic at Ulster Landing.

Sunday, December 7:
Holiday Party at Locust Grove.


** Contact midhudsonadk@gmail.com for ZOOM meeting link to attend.



Mid-Hudson Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club

 <https://midhudsonadk.org>

 midhudsonadk@gmail.com

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2025 Elected Officers

- *Chair:* **Annette Caruso** chair@midhudsonadk.org
- *Vice Chair:* **Jeanette Tully-Baker**
- *Secretary:* **Eileen Digan**
- *Treasurer:* **Carla Barrett**
- *Chapter Director:* **Paul Silverstein**
- *Chapter Director:* **Roe Di Bona**
- *ADK Advisory Council Trustee:* **David “Starchild” Koehler**
- *ADK Advisory Council Trustee (Alternate):* **David Mong**
- *Past Chair:* **Georgette Weir**

Committee Chairs

- *Communications:* **Cindy Colter**
- *Conservation:* **open**
- *Database:* **Eli Cohen**
- *Education:* **Sharon Klein**
- *Finance:* **Carla Barrett**
- *Membership:* **Pete Cantline** membership@midhudsonadk.org
- *Newsletter:* **Jeanette Tully-Baker** newsletter@midhudsonadk.org
- *Outings:* **David Mong** 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**

Mid-Hudson Trails, Spring 2025 Edition

Published 06/7/2025

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, David Mong, Shirley Freitas

Submissions/comments/corrections? Please contact the Newsletter Editor at newsletter@midhudsonadk.org

A Message from your Chapter Chair

By Annette Caruso, MHADK Chapter Chair



Welcome Spring

Welcome to Spring, welcome to our new members and a huge thanks to our chapter outing leaders for every level of hikes, paddles and backpacks, along with the trail work and river cleanups that were scheduled. Keep 'em coming!

Our club headquarters has been active as well and has hired their new executive director, Courtney Koenig Worrall. They've also been busy readying the new computer system known as 'IMIS' whose mission is to have a one-stop-shop for chapter members for their website, outing schedules, and communications. It's been a long time coming, but it is coming and – well, not everybody likes change and there will be grumbling, and yeah, there will be bugs, but they will get fixed and we will get used to it so keeping an open mind will help.

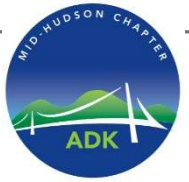


Our chapter right now, thanks to the talented Jeanette Tully-Baker, has the most sophisticated website in the club and therefore was chosen to be the first one converted to IMIS. The logic being, if they can get all the bells and whistles working for us, the rest of the clubs are a piece of cake. That strategy also led to some of the delays on the rollout as getting that functionality in place on a new system required an add-on (a product called 'Chapter Link'), and a bit of a learning curve for the programmers. So stay tuned, there is more to come.

Our chapter's spring picnic at Bowdoin Park June 8th is a great way to meet up with old friends and make some new ones, and am looking forward to seeing many of you then.

See you there, on a hike or on the water!

Annette C
MHADK Chapter Chair



Mid-Hudson ADK Spring Picnic

Sunday, June 8, 2025
Bowdoin Park, Wappingers Falls

Gather: 12:00pm
Picnic: 12:30-3:00pm



Activities include:

- Morning hike in Bowdoin Park

The Club will provide hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments.

We are environmentally conscious, so we ask that you please bring your own plates, utensils, and water bottles/drinks.

You are welcome to bring a dessert, salad or side dish to share.

Member News

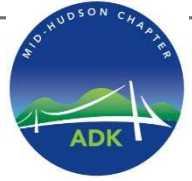


Membership

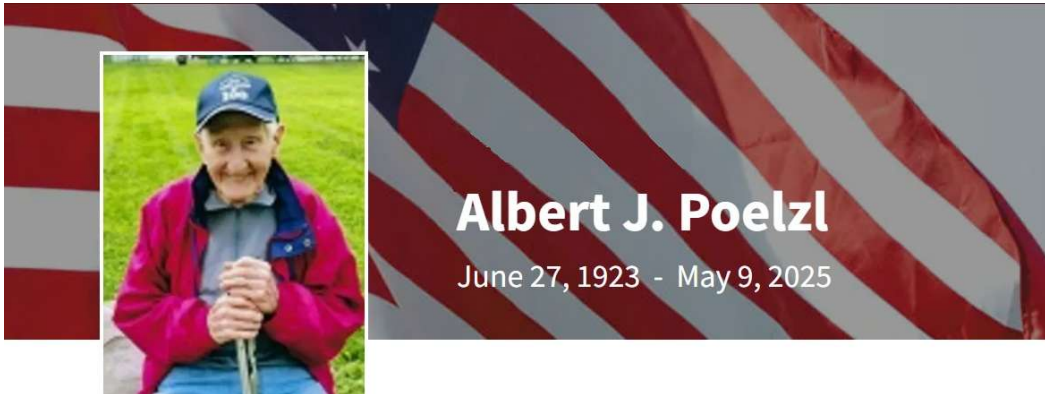
MHADK welcomes the following new members who joined the club from March 2025 - May 2025.

- Catherine McGibney
- Kate Bramson
- Geri Romano
- Ellen Osiecki
- Paul and Theresa Supple
- Terry Hinderman
- Robert and Gina Bergdall
- Albert Shahinian
- Anne-Marie Nordgren
- Deborah Weiss
- Katrina Jokelainen

welcome



In Memoriam: Al Poelzl



Al Poelzl passed away on May 9, 2025 at the age of 101. He was a long-time ADK member. We've collected some memories and photos from his fellow ADKers. Al's obituary, more memories, and photos can be found online: <https://www.whiteandvenutofuneralhome.com/obituaries/Albert-J-Poelzl?obId=42479430>

Al Poelzl: A Reflection

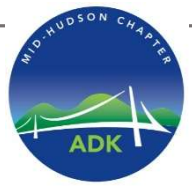
By Georgette Weir, MHADK Past Chair

It was always a surprise to me to remember that Al Poelzl did not move to the country from New York City until he retired in the 1980s—he seemed such a born country boy. He enjoyed handling snakes, the bigger the better. He knew, and remembered, the names of so many wildflowers. He got out on a trail more days than not. He was an enthusiastic volunteer trail maintainer, happiest when he had opportunities to put his small chainsaw to work. He was proud to be making a contribution to the trail community, to the point that he would carve his initials into the cut ends of the blow-downs he removed. It helped make the point that trails didn't keep themselves clear.

Al was always full of stories and enjoyed retelling his favorites. I heard more than once about how he and his wife honeymooned on the summit of Slide Mountain in a tent. I heard about the tree in NYC that sparked a life-long love of plants and nature. About his good fortune in WWII in being based in England and almost coming home with an English wife. About his love for photography -- many of his beautiful nature photographs adorned his home. About his work in building maintenance at Met Life in the City, which recognized his photo expertise with an award. About climbing Breakneck every year on his birthday. (I was part of a small group that accompanied him on his 90th to the flagpole landing that year.)

One story in particular that I heard often involved Jean-Claude Fouere. The three of us were doing trail work in Fahnestock and Al could not get his chainsaw going. J-C (as Al always called him) took a look at the machine and asked, "Did you put any gas in it?" Al roared with laughter when he realized that he had not, and he laughed every time he recalled the incident.

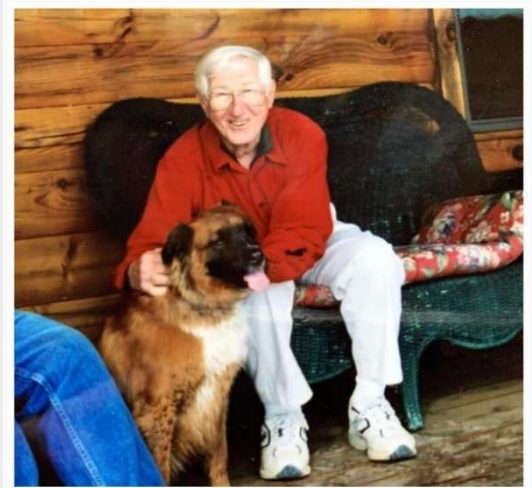
The last time we visited Al was on an unseasonably warm day last fall. We arrived to find him soaking up the sun while sitting against his garage in a chair on the driveway. He led us up the stairs, moving surely from step to step. Inside, the house neat and clean, his nature photographs prompted memories and stories as did pictures of his family and friends. As we prepared to leave, Al said, not for the first time, that he had had a good life and he was ready to leave it, that he wanted "the good lord to take me." Al finally got his wish. Good-bye Al. It was a pleasure to know you. Thank you for leaving the world a better place.



More Memories of Al

By Annette Caruso, MHADK Chapter Chair

Two years ago we dedicated our club picnic to the two Centurions, Jane D and Al P, who were both active members. Jane passed the following year and Al this past May, just before he reached 102. Though I only knew them both these past 10 years I did get to enjoy many Friday breakfasts with them. Jane, well into her 90s, used to drive Al there. I've been on a few hikes with Al, the last one on the Walkway over the Hudson before the chapter's Ice Cream social last year. He carried doggie biscuits in his pockets, so the dogs on the route sought him out, which led to some fascinating life stories he was always ready to share with their owners. Al had never seen those vibrantly colored spongy moths which had infested the walkway and the rest of upstate NY last year, and was sorry to hear they were such a plague. He proceeded to examine them closely before squishing a number of them.



Al Poelz, whose discovery of Rosie in the Stissing Fire Tower made all the difference.
Credit: Linda Dorrer

When Sue M told me of his passing I looked online to find a picture for our weekly blast, and found a story of Al's 'dog rescue' on Stissing mountain along with the photo of him with the dog he had saved, '18 Septembers ago', when Al was 82. Here's the link to the article: <https://www.newpineplainsherald.org/articles/chronicles/my-pine-plains-fire-tower-rescue-18-septembers-ago/>

Remembering Al

By Connie Havens, ADK Member

Al came close to 102, but he always had a spark about him. I was fortunate enough to have had the chance to hike with him. He amazed me with his knowledge of flowers and old stone chambers. He had a way of making the outdoors feel more alive, more connected.

Al had a special fondness for snakes, so I was always on the lookout for them. Now, whenever I see one, I'll think of him.

He'll be deeply missed. His spirit lives on in the trails he roamed, and in the memories of those who had the privilege to know him.



Al Poelz at his 100th birthday party.
Mid-Hudson ADK Spring Picnic,
June 2023

What Happened at Duck Pond?

Submitted by Adrienne Scivolette, ADK Hike Leader



Restoring the Kleine Kill Stream Corridor

What Happened at Duck Pond?

Duck Pond was created circa 1908 on the Kleine Kill stream by constructing a stacked stone, earthen fill dam with drain valves for managing water levels. In 2018, the dam's century-old drainage system failed, reducing the pond's water level and exposing several severe defects. Water levels began cycling due to a broken drain valve, inlet siltation and rainfall accumulation in the watershed.

An inspection by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Dam Safety identified an unrepairable drain valve, significant water seepage at the toe of the dam, and a critically deteriorating spillway, all of which would lead to impending failure of the dam.

Mohonk Preserve engaged a professional engineering firm to assess the dam and develop a remediation plan. A multi-year study involving volunteer committee members, staff and board members was completed in 2022. After extensive review and consideration, the Preserve determined that the optimal conservation action is to restore the Kleine Kill stream corridor with upland wet meadows and beaver analogs for ponding.

What is Happening Now – Manage Water Levels, Re-Vegetate, Monitor, & Restore

- The Preserve is employing a gravity siphon system to maintain consistent water levels, reducing the hydrostatic pressure on the dam and providing habitat for wildlife
- Natural native re-vegetation will be supported through monitoring and invasive plant control
- Engineering designs will be developed to create an upland wet meadow with ponds, beaver analogs and a free-flowing stream, maintain carriage road access and develop educational programmatic sites

Design Concept: Free-flowing stream with upland wet meadows and beaver analogs for ponding

Visit our website to learn more mohonkpreserve.org/duckpond or scan the QR code



From the Hudson River Almanac

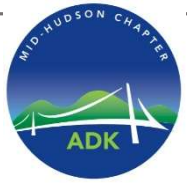
5/19 – Town of Poughkeepsie: On a day when gusty north winds were extra strong, one of the three nestlings in bald eagle nest NY62 was blown out of the nest. In a stroke of serendipitous luck, Mauricette Potthast, walking her dog, came upon the nestling not far from the nest tree.

Mauricette immediately made a call to the DEC Region 3 ECOs (Environmental Conservation Police Officers) alerting them to the need for a rescue. Officer Chloe Murphy responded, carefully gathered up the bird, and transported it, now a fledgling, to the *Friends of the Feathered and Furry Wildlife Center* in Greene County. Once in the care of the Wildlife Center's Veterinarian, the nestling went into surgery to repair a broken radius (wing bone). Dave Loverde, Director of the Wildlife Center, reported that the surgery was successful and they were hopeful that the 66-day-old bald eagle will make a full recovery.

-- Tom Lake

Photo of bald eagle courtesy of Mauricette Potthast [DEC ECO Chloe Murphy]. Reprinted with permission from Hudson River Almanac.





A Californian's Adventure in New England

Written by Shirley Freitas, ADK Member and author

In late May of 2003 a friend and I flew from our homes in the Bay Area to attend a wedding. We rented a car at JFK airport so we could take a short vacation in Maine, where we planned on hiking and hoped to see a moose.

Note that in the Bay Area we hiked every weekend, long grueling hikes that had to be undertaken by 7AM on hot summer days, carefully avoiding rattlesnakes, wild boars, coyotes, and even mountain lions, and always worried about dehydration despite carrying approximately a quarter ton of water. Contemplating Maine, I airily told myself that hiking in a place with smaller mountains, plenty of water, and temperatures below 95 would be a snap.

The proprietor of our Bethel B&B told us of a nearby hiking trail and mentioned that it included "a scramble," a word I'd never heard used by hikers. I didn't ask for clarification. My bad!

Despite a childhood in the Sierra Nevada mountains followed by decades in the very hilly Bay Area, I have a mild fear of heights. An hour into our Maine hike, I found myself stuck halfway up a sheer rock wall, frozen in terror and hyperventilating. The rock was slick with dew, or perhaps the perspiration of frightened climbers who'd gone before us. I couldn't go back down. I dare not continue up. My friend said calmly, "Just use the handholds."

Handholds! On a *hike*? "Don't look down," my friend cautioned – unnecessarily, since I was unable to do anything except stare straight ahead. Groping blindly, I found the first handhold and eventually reached the top. "Wow, what a view!" exclaimed my friend, but I was already heading into the forest to find a different route down, even if it added twenty miles to our itinerary.

The next day we next ventured to a back road through an area where, the proprietor told us, we'd have the best chance to see moose. It wouldn't be easy, she'd warned, because their long legs resembled the thin trees in the bogs, enabling them to be almost invisible. And she warned us to watch out for moose running onto the road.

After enjoying the moose-less scenery along the recommended route for nearly an hour, we stopped to stretch our legs. The moment we emerged from the car we were attacked by swarms of aggressive black insects. We hastened back inside and drove on. Almost immediately, a moose ran in front of our car, stopped abruptly, and stared at us. Only later did we learn that the poor creatures would rather take their chances with cars than with black flies.



On the third morning, we asked the proprietor for another hiking recommendation, one that didn't involve scrambles or black flies, if there were any hiking areas in Maine meeting that criteria. She directed us to a short trail that had just opened for the season a few days earlier.

On the narrow road, we parked on a pull-out just past a bridge over a rushing river that someone had mistakenly designated a "creek." It was a good fifty feet wide and melting snow had turned it into a torrent. Past the bridge it tumbled downward and picked up speed. And surely I wasn't seeing white caps?

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A Californian's Adventure in New England , cont.

We crossed the road to the trailhead. The trail ran alongside the ~~river~~ creek before turning into the forest. A little farther into the woods, the trail signs disappeared. Then the trail ran out. We tried to retrace our steps. When we heard the rushing water ahead I proposed that we walk alongside all the way back to the car. But the land around the creek was thickly wooded and my companion thought we could cross the water. It didn't look deep and there were no rapids in this section, which was wide and shallow. We tied our boots around our necks, rolled up our pants, and started across.

The creek was icy cold and rocky. It was also faster and stronger than it had appeared from the shore. Still, we made our way and were nearly to the other side. Suddenly I took a step and there was no bottom. The force of the water grabbed me and I was pulled into the current. I heard my friend scream and barely managed to snag a branch that, luckily, was still attached to a tree. With some effort I pulled myself upright and back onto the shallow part.



Black Fly season

We retraced our way back to the side we'd started from and forged through the bushes. Fifteen minutes later we arrived at our car. However, my clothes were completely drenched. I took off the jeans, wrung them out and laid them in the back window. But neither the sun nor the car heater dried them. We headed to the nearest outlet mall.

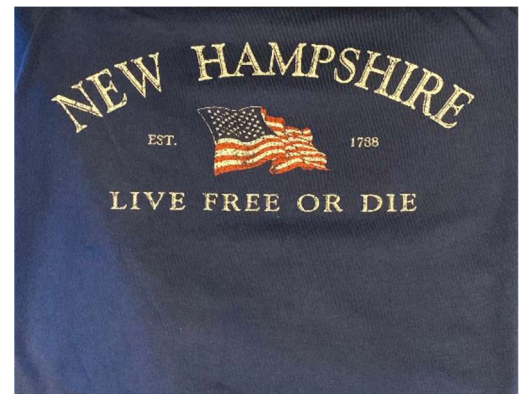
At the L.L. Bean store my friend went in to find me a pair of dry pants. She was unsuccessful. Fortunately, my wet tee shirt was nearly as long as a mini-dress. Unfortunately, a wet mini-dress isn't advisable when you're fifty years old. But I digress.

I apologized to the clerk for my attire and explained that I'd fallen into a river. Without missing a beat, she replied, "Oh, we always get customers who've fallen into rivers."

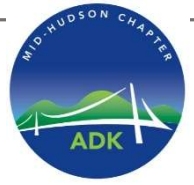
Our stay in Maine came to an end the next morning. We decided to take the scenic route back to New York City where we would turn in the rental car and fly home to San Francisco. So we took Highway 2 past the Presidential Range. We stopped at a little farm stand for maple syrup and I saw a tee shirt emblazoned with the New Hampshire state motto, my favorite of all the mottos: "Live Free or Die." I bought it and, back in the car, put it on.

The drive was beautiful: green lush meadows filled with blooming wildflowers; deep blue sky dotted with cotton ball clouds; majestic mountains to our left, storybook farms to our right.

Somehow, without our realizing it, a long downhill stretch of road put us over the speed limit. Somehow, we'd missed the signs warning us we were in a construction zone and the fines were doubled. Somehow, the New Hampshire state trooper missed nothing – including our New York license plate.



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A Californian's Adventure in New England , cont.

My friend was driving. The first thing the officer asked, even before seeing her license, was, "Are you from New York?" Upon learning she lived in California, he asked if she'd rented the car in New York, if she was flying out of New York, if she had friends in New York, if she planned to stay in New York.

We had begun to sense that New Yorkers might not be treasured in New Hampshire.

He took out his ticket pad, but before writing it he leaned down and looked through the window at me. There I sat wearing my new tee shirt with the state motto.

He handed my friend her papers and said, "Don't drive so fast."

Coda: In September 2015 I moved to Poughkeepsie, where I avoid hikes with scrambles, have not seen a moose, never wear jeans on hikes, and am the proud owner of a mosquito-net hat – take that, blackflies! But my New York drivers' license has made me hesitant about driving through New Hampshire.

-- Shirley Freitas is the author of "The Fire Bell Strikes at Midnight", an evocative historical novel set in California.

From the Hudson River Almanac

5/14 – Town of Esopus, HRM 83: After fishing in Chodikee Lake, I kayaked up Black Creek and came upon a mound of debarked branches and cattails with two beavers resting on top (one was snoozing). Surprised by the appearance of beavers, out during late morning, I realized they were sitting atop their flooded lodge. The heavy weekend rains had made the lodge interior uninhabitable. The water level at the lake's boat launch showed at least a two-foot rise. The entire episode reminded me of stranded flood victims waiting on their rooftops for rescuers.

-- Bob Ottens

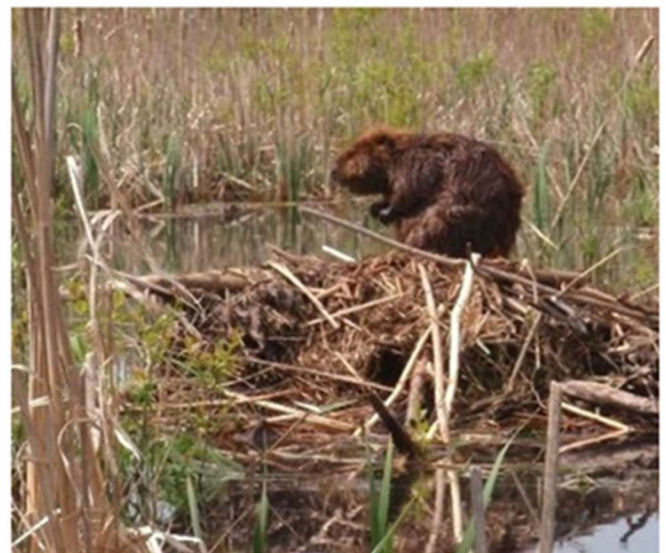


Photo of beaver courtesy of Bob Ottens

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<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/oceans-estuaries/hudson-river-estuary-program/hudson-river-almanac>

Beetle-mania

By Georgette Weir, MHADK Past Chair

The intricate patterns etched into the remains of dead trees — some still standing, some fallen to the forest floor — inspired me to poetry (see sidebar, “Art History”). But what, I wondered, was I actually looking at?

They were, it turns out, the artifacts of wood-boring insects. There are both native and non-native wood borers in our Northeast forests. They include various beetles and wasps, bees and ants, and of course termites.

The trees that had caught my attention were ash trees, and the patterns — called galleries — are tunnels created under the bark of the tree by the larvae of the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) or EAB, as they eat their way toward their pupal and adult stages of life. The galleries are exposed when the bark of an infested tree falls off or is pulled away.

The life cycle of EAB is one to two years. The adults are tiny, generally less than half an inch, with a metallic green color when their wings are closed. They typically emerge from their wooden hideaways beginning in May and extending through warmer months. They lay their eggs in the bark crevices of ash trees. Two weeks later, the larvae emerge and immediately munch



Photo by Georgette Weir

their way into the nutritious sapwood — the part of the tree that moves water and sugars up and down the trunk — that lies just under the bark. The larvae may stay in this state, eating away the tree’s life-sustaining sapwood, for one to two years. Eventually, usually over winter, the larvae will pupate in a chamber just beneath the bark. They transform into adult beetles and emerge in spring to complete and renew the cycle.

Art History

I step over a downed tree
 its bark long gone
 and pause to gaze
 at once-hidden galleries
 of tunnels
 etched into the wood
 winding and twisting like
 an illuminated letter
 in a medieval manuscript
 all that is left
 of the story of hungry grubs
 who ate their way
 to transformation and freedom,
 taking down a mighty tree
 with the power of their hunger.

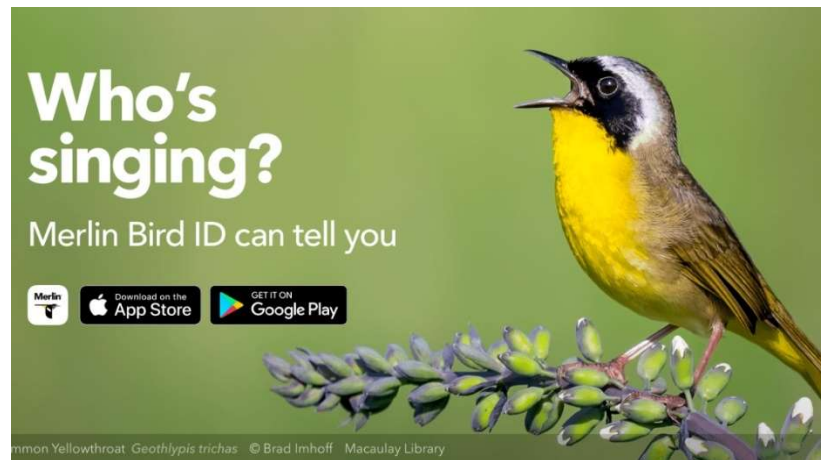
-- Georgette Weir

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Using the Merlin Bird ID app to identify birds

Submitted by Jeanette Tully-Baker, MHADK Vice Chair

Have you ever heard a beautiful bird song, but weren't able to identify the bird? Perhaps you were hiking in the woods, paddling a creek, or even relaxing in your own backyard. Did you know that "there's an app for that"? Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a world leader in the study and conservation of birds and biodiversity, has a free bird identification app that can identify birds by sight and sound: "Merlin Bird ID". The app can be used to identify birds by taking a photo, listening to their calls with the Sound ID feature, or by identifying common birds based on location.



1. Sound ID: Identify Birds by Their Songs

Merlin's Sound ID feature allows users to identify birds in real-time by recording their songs and calls. The app analyzes the audio using AI trained on millions of records in the Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, providing a list of possible species matches. You can compare your recording to the choice that Merlin made to verify.

2. Photo ID: Recognize Birds from Images

With Photo ID, users can upload a photo of a bird, and Merlin will suggest possible identifications. The app's computer vision technology has been trained on millions of images, enabling it to recognize a wide variety of species even from suboptimal photos. This feature is beneficial for identifying birds captured in photographs during hikes or backyard observations.

3. Explore Birds: Learn About Local Species

The "Explore Birds" feature provides users with a customized list of birds likely to be found in a specific location and time of year. By setting your location and date, Merlin offers information on local species, including photos, sounds, and range maps. This is an excellent tool for planning birdwatching trips or learning about the birds in your area.

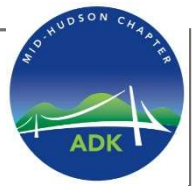
4. Offline Functionality

Merlin allows users to download bird identification data for specific regions, enabling the app to function without an internet connection. You can set your location ahead of time to access identification tools and bird information offline.

5. Personalized Bird Lists

Merlin allows users to build a digital scrapbook of their birding experiences. By tapping "This is my bird!" each time you identify a species, you can create a life list of birds you've encountered.

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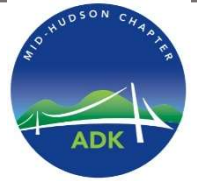
Lower Wappinger Creek Clean Up: From the Falls to the Hudson, cont.

We ended up with a huge pile of trash. There was a broken pedal boat, a tire, two broken plastic chairs, a floating dock, broken metal furniture, ropes of various diameters (one about 2.5"), metal pipes and rods, a 4-foot foam strip, multiple bags of litter and recyclables and, of course, the usual party balloon. What also was found, but could not be carried back to the launch, was a dormitory-sized refrigerator and two huge vinyl tarps that were trapped in the mud and the roots of brush. Look at the photos. It's absolutely astounding how much garbage is dumped into this lovely waterway!

We improved the boating pleasure of all those who come after. It's important for responsible people to make the time and effort to clean up after our less responsible neighbors. Giving back to the places you love is cherishing these places.

The heroes of the day were: Theresa C, Suzanne A, Russ W, Petra W, Jim D, Mark O, Joe G, Louis R, Jonathan B, Jeanette TB, Kathy H, Zsuzsa N, Dave W, Jean-Claude F, Annette C, Martha R, and the leader, Russ Faller.





Beetle-mania, cont.

Ash trees of all varieties in New York — green, white, and black — are vulnerable to EAB, and as is evident throughout our region, the beetles are having a devastating effect. NYDEC reports that trees typically die within 2-4 years of being infested with the beetle. The larvae can live under the bark of trees that are cut up for use as firewood, hence the prohibition on moving firewood more than 50 miles from its source. The idea is to stop or at least slow the spread of the pest.

EAB was first spotted in New York in 2009, and in the Adirondacks in 2020.

Continued from page 11



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Debbie Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
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Sources:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/foresthealth/emeraldashborer/lifecycle>

New York Forests 2017, USDA

Using the Merlin Bird ID app to identify birds, cont.

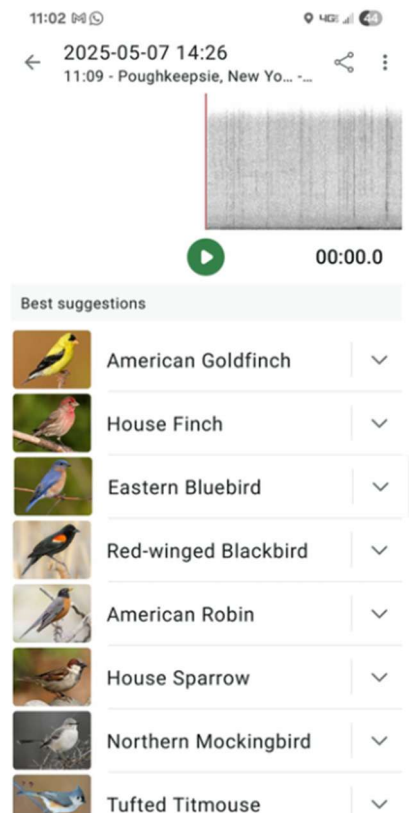
ADK member Shirley F says that in addition to Merlin’s ability to recognize birds even from “suboptimal photos,” *“Merlin seems to hear birds before I hear them (and I have good hearing)... It’s very good at picking up the slightest bird song. I’ve become obsessed with it!”*

But note that Merlin can do a good job at identifying birds, but it’s not infallible. *“Merlin said so”* is really only slightly better than *“My Uncle John, who is a good birder, said that’s what it was.”*

Merlin Bird ID is available for iOS and Android devices, and can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play. You may also want to download the Bird Pack for your area.

Check out this video for a demo of the Merlin Bird ID app: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmSUOLxyatY>

Continued from page 12



Birds identified by Merlin in my Town of Poughkeepsie backyard on May 7, 2025 – photo from Jeanette Tully-Baker

Mid-Hudson ADK Outings Log



March 7, 2025 – May 29, 2025

Key to abbreviations: "MWH": Mid-Week Hike

Mar 7 MWH - Stewart State Forest

Leader: Ginny Fauci

Clouds, sun, blue sky, 40's, windy, muddy. We crossed bridges over the marsh that still had ice on it & saw a new beaver lodge out in the middle. Lots of trash, collected over 3 bags full. Lunch on the trail. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Katy B, Judy B, Sayi N, June A, Louise D, Dave W, Sam & Carol D, Cindy C and the leader Ginny.



Mar 7 to 9 - Hickory Run State Park

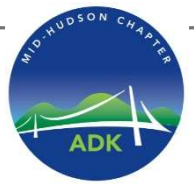
PA Novice Backpacking Workshop

Leaders: Bob Coia, Greg Fogarty, Larry Priori & Mark McAniff

Our third and final introduction to winter hiking and camping workshop was another nice weather event with a good group of folks. Quite a few of the participants had attended previous programs so in addition to the detailed evaluation of each person's sleep system and how to keep warm while standing around in a campsite we had demonstrations and practice on gathering wood and how to build a campfire along with a first aid presentation that included learning how to perform CPR. Saturday afternoon included a 4-1/2 mile hike. High temperature noted of 55 degrees and low of 28 degrees. This time David Mong was



unable to attend due to car problems so the program was capably led by Bob Coia and Greg Fogarty as the leaders of record. Other leaders included Mark McAniff, Larry Priori and Cindy Crosser. The group consisted of 5 leaders and 9 participants. All leaders were ADK members except for Cindy C. Member participants included April H & Yushi K. Non-Member participants were Elizabeth R, Michelle C, Catherine M, Jerzy S, Marisa G, Jackelyn O & Jim D.



Mar 8 - Easy hike at Val-Kill (Eleanor Roosevelt's Hyde Park sanctuary)

Leader: Annette Caruso

What started out as a windy ice-cold wintery day turned out to be a calm, sunny, pleasant hike up to Top Cottage and around Eleanor's Loop for five ADKers: Georgette W, Catherine and David B, Connie H and leader Annette C. Hiking at Val-Kill felt appropriate for International Women's Day, and even though the buildings were closed the spirit of the place is powerful. And Top Cottage in winter is not to be missed, as that is the only time you can see across the Hudson to the Catskills beyond. Photo shows the first sign of spring flowers on the grounds near the house.

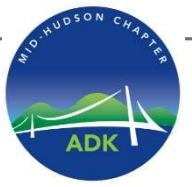


Mar 13 MWH - Rainbow Falls Loop

Leader: Ginny Fauci

Fourteen hikers started off on a windy & chilly day, two left early. Changed to a gorgeous spring day, icy along Peterskill & Rainbow Falls, blue sky, sunny, warm, up to 50°. Spikes on & off, layers off. Lunch on the rocks looking at the Catskills. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Arthur G, Judy B, Jane B, Robin S, Sharron C, Jean M, Linda L, Diane S, Cindy C, Dave W, Annette C, Sam & Carol D and the leader Ginny.



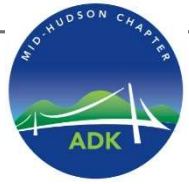


Mar 14 to 17 - Willowemoc Wild Forest Winter Backpack, SW Catskills

Leaders: Russ Faller & Gregg Homeyer

The trip was planned to be a beginner winter sled/backpacking trip, but as Mother Nature was frugal on where she let it snow this winter, the trip became a backpack. Friday we hiked in and set up camp at the DEC primitive campsite on the Western edge of Frick Pond, off the Loggers Loop Trail. We enjoyed a nice fire along with dinner and good conversation was had by all. Saturday's plan was to hike up to Beech Mountain. From camp we hiked along the Loggers Loop trail and bushwhacked, following a stream up a gully, to Hodge Pond. One of our participants shared fond memories with us when the area was once known as the "Beech Mountain Scout Camp". We then continued up Beech Mountain Road to the top looking for the old spring and the best view we could find. However nice views were not to be had as the weather started closing in on top. Surprisingly there was over six inches of snow on the north side of Beech Mountain which is the highest point in Sullivan County with an elevation of 3,126 feet. As Mother Nature would have it, rain came Saturday night and was forecasted to be heavy Sunday afternoon so the group decided it would be best to hike out in the morning. Participants were ADK members Jim C. and leaders Russ Faller, Gregg Homeyer. Guests included AMC Leader Gwen H, Lou N, and Dale S.





Mar 15 – North Redoubt

Leader: Paul Silverstein

A short rolling hike in the Hudson Highlands for our group of friendly hikers. Although we were only 600 feet above the river, we could barely see it in the spring fog. However, interesting historical tidbits were gathered as we hiked among the revolutionary war fortifications across from West Point. Group- Annette C., Judy B., Connie H., Marsha K, Howard S., Jeff K. and Paul S.(leader).

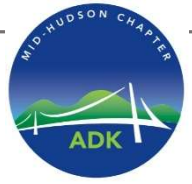


Mar 20 MWH - Burroughs Slabsides

Leader: Ginny Fauci

A gorgeous first day of spring hike! Sun came out, 60's, vest weather, roaring waterfalls, brownies at lunch on the porch at Slabsides. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Judy B, Katy B, June A, Jean M, Sam & Carol D, Annette C, Jane B, Sharron C, Cindy C, Diane S and the leader Ginny.





Mar 22 - Black Rock Forest

Leader: Georgette Weir

Our group of nine enjoyed the rugged ups and downs on some of the less used trails at this preserve. After a quick cardio workout going up Whitehorse Mtn, we headed to Hill of Pines and Rattlesnake Hill, where we ate lunch overlooking Bog Meadow Pond and endless hills and trees. A bit further on, the NYC skyline was visible beyond a dip in the hills. Near the very end, we spotted our first spring wildflowers--colt's foot--a popular photo op. Joining Georgette and Jean-Claude were Pete C., George K. Peter E., Terry H., Betsy S., Paul S. and Sayi N.



Mar 23 – Black Creek

Leader: Annette Caruso

Eight ADK members hiked the Black Creek Preserve trails on the first weekend of Spring, a sunny Saturday with perfect hiking weather. No wind on the trails, although a bit chilly at the lunch stop on the river. The Hudson was really choppy that day with white caps, and when a large barge passed the waves were so big they covered the beach; luckily we were on higher ground. (See picture with the barge & tugboat in the background). Hikers were Jeanette TB, Jonathan B, Pete C, Ellen K, Connie H, Sayi N, Shirley F and hike leader Annette C.





Mar 28 - Fahnestock State Park & Magazzino Italian Art Museum

Leader: Adrienne Scivolette

Hikers Georgette W, Tracy R, Ann C, and Deborah W joined Adrienne on the trail up Round Hill and over East Mountain on a pleasant spring morning. We enjoyed views from Round Hill, trail bridges over streams, stone walls and the remnants of a farming community, a grove of cedars, and a small garter snake. Post-hike, 3 of our group proceeded to the Museum just down the road, where we visited the Sardinian Donkeys, explored the exhibits, and enjoyed a tasty and artfully -presented lunch at the Museum's Cafe Silvia.

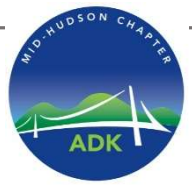


Mar 29 - Roosevelt Historic Sites and Farm Lane

Leader: Georgette Weir

Signs of spring on this easy 5-mile round trip walk from the FDR Historic Site to the Eleanor Roosevelt Historic Site at Val-Kill included crocuses and snowdrops, skunk cabbage and peepers, mud and a garter snake. Joining Georgette W were Margaret D., Connie, H., Sayi N, Pete C, and Patrick W. A lovely walk with lots of conversation. Sayi collected a bag of trash along the way. Thank you, Sayi!



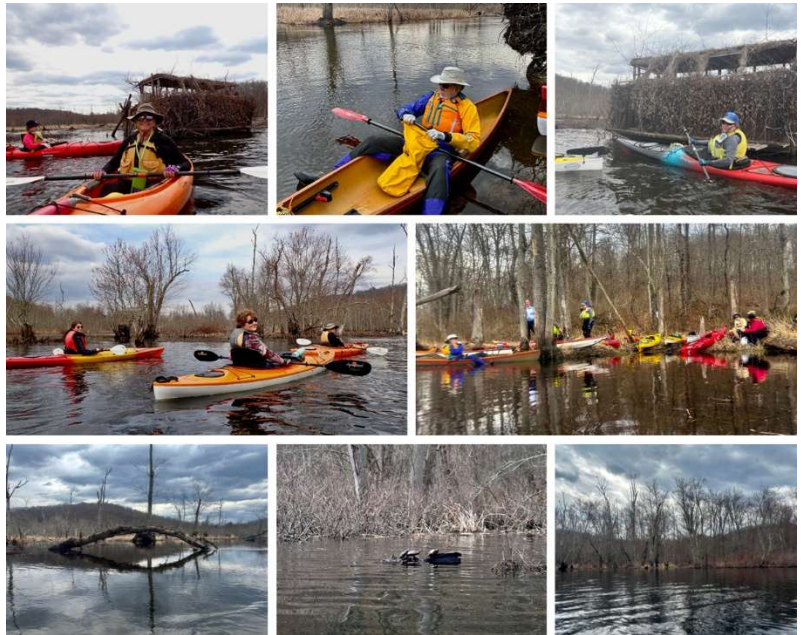


Mar 29 - The Great Swamp Paddle

Leader: Linda Horton

This was a joint outing with Kayaking the Liquid Skies meetup.

The Great Swamp Paddle, 1st of the season, gave us a beautiful day with many sightings of turtles, birds, beaver dams & duck blinds. We crossed over & under some obstacles and enjoyed the scenic Spring views. There was some current to help us on the way back. The air was warm but the water was cold. ADK Member participants were Dave W, Gwen L, and the leader, Linda Horton. We were joined by eight members of Liquid Skies.

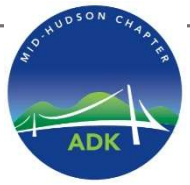


Apr 1 MWH - Minnewaska Ramble hike

Leader: Lalita Malik

It was a beautiful sunny, but chilly day for April. We visited three attractions of Minnewaska State Park Preserve. We started at the Lower Awosting parking lot and walked along the creek to Awosting Falls. Due to recent rains, both the upper and lower falls were roaring. After enjoying the magnificent falls, we continued Sunset Carriage Way to Beacon Hill, enjoying views of the falls through the trees. After enjoying the views of Sky Top from Beacon Hill, we continued on Beacon Hill Trail to Lake Minnewaska, stopping to enjoy views of the Gunks and the valley below. After enjoying the views of the lake and the Catskill mountains, we retreated below the ledge to shelter from the wind for lunch. After lunch we continued our hike around the lake, stopping at a ledge for views of Millbrook Mountain and the valley below. We took a break at the visitor's center, and returned to our cars via the Sunset Carriage Way, with views of the Catskills in the distance. Appx 5 miles, with minimal elevation gain. Hikers were Charlotte M, David (Ace), Case, Gwen L, Arthur G and the leader, Lalita Malik.





Apr 6 - Mills Norrie Hopeland Area and Vlei Marsh Preserve

Leader: Annette Caruso

The rain stopped just in time for the Mills Norrie Hopeland area hike where we were intent to sight the Spring daffodil foray. Although warned that 'flowers open up in the sun' and it was hardly sunny, the five of us were wholly rewarded with thousands of daffodils in full bloom, their heads turned down only slightly – a sight that can only bring smiles. We then caravanned 10 minutes up the road to Vlei Marsh, and were warned of fairy houses in the vicinity, of which there were numerous – very creative structures of roots and wood complete with entryways and designer ornaments. The marsh itself was teeming with activity: herons, geese, ducks and songbirds. The hike became more of a nature walk as we took our time and absorbed the wildlife workings of early spring. Hikers included Ellen K, Jonathan B, Connie H, Marie C and leader, Annette Caruso.



Apr 10 MWH - Black Creek Preserve

Leader: Ginny Fauci

Cloudy day, 40's. Eleven of us crossed the suspension bridge & hiked the trails at Black Creek Preserve to the Hudson and through the woods to where Black Creek flows into the Hudson. Saw a few cormorants in Black Creek. Lunch at the pavilion. Another great day in the woods. Photos from Robin, Arthur, Charlotte and the leader. Hikers were Dea K, Charlotte M, Katy B, Pete C, Jean M, Cindy C, Robin S, Laurie O, Arthur G, Roberta F and the leader Ginny.





Apr 11 - Fahnestock State Park

Leader: Georgette Weir

Although we didn't follow the original plan of a 6.5-mile trail walk at Fahnestock, owing to the threat of rain, too-muddy trails, and a tricky stream crossing, eight club members joined Georgette for Plan B -- a 5.6-mile round-trip walk down and up Sunken Mine Road in the park. Along the way we enjoyed many of the park's characteristic features: ponds, lakes, reedy wetlands, rushing streams, abandoned quarries. We met a crew that was out to inoculate hemlocks against the woolly adelgid and spotted a beaver just before it dove to enter its lodge. Joining the walk that almost didn't happen were: Diane L., Rick L., Ann C., Wendy J., Gwen L., Pete C., Debbi W., and Judy B. It never did rain. So glad we got out!



Apr 13 - Easy Wildflower Walk in Fern Glen - Cary Institute

Leader: Jeanette TB

It was a cool, damp morning, but eleven wildflower lovers met in the Fern Glen at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook. Mike Fargione, Manager of Field Research & Outdoor Programs at Cary, met us and gave a short talk about the Glen and the objectives and history of Cary Institute. We were surprised that not many wildflowers were in bloom; Mike explained that our cold winter probably delayed the flowering. We did see a multitude of skunk cabbage in the wetlands; some had been nibbled by wild turkeys! Nonetheless, we had a lovely stroll through the trails and along the ponds. After our stroll through the glen, some folks headed home while the rest of us hiked the Cary Pines and Wappinger Creek Trails. There were more blooms along the trails than in the Glen! We hiked/walked about 3 miles total. Hikers/walkers included ADK members Ellen Z, Carole M, Judy B, Lalita M, Connie H, Ellen K, Dale H, and the leader Jeanette TB. Non-ADK members included John Z and Kristen C. Photos courtesy of Connie H, John Z, Kristen C and Jeanette TB.



Apr 17 MWH - Mt Taurus Loop

Leaders: Ginny Fauci and Lalita Malik

Mt Taurus on a gorgeous, blue sky, 60's, no-jacket day. Stopped at a few viewpoints on the way to the top & had lunch on the rocks with NYC viewpoint. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were ADK members Karen & Richard C, Cindy C, Judy B, Jean M, Annette C, Judith R, Mary Jean P, Kathy C, Martha R, Dave W, Sharron C, Katy B and the leaders Ginny & Lalita. Our guest participant was Marianne J.



Apr 19 - Lost City Hike

Leader: Roberta Forest

This was a short scenic hike that began at the Coxing Parking area of the Mohonk Preserve. We walked on the High Peterskill Trail until we arrived at the King's Lane, which took us to the base of the Lost City Trail. It was a warm day and most of us shed layers by the time we were on top of Lost City. We enjoyed the views, then followed the trail over rocks and through a cave before taking a break at the end of this trail. Then the High Peterskill Trail took us back to our cars. Participants were ADK members Veronica O, Georgette W, George K, Pete C, Annette C, Eddi Z, Elise L, and the leader, Roberta Forest. Guest participants were Shu T and Blair S. No photos.



Apr 19 - Birdwatching and habitat viewing walk

Leader: Sharon Klein

Hike leader Sharon Klein and Jordan Davis, new owner of the Bird Watcher's Country Store in Tillson, led a group of eight other birders, beginner to advanced, on an exploration of the Mill Brook Preserve in New Paltz. The group listened for birds on the Merlin app and tried to sight them with binoculars. Veteran birders Eric and Jessica identified 17 species. Jordan, who is also a certified arborist, identified trees and spoke about habitat preservation. Mill Brook Preserve is a hidden gem on the outskirts of New Paltz Village. It boasts a wide variety of habitat including a large beaver pond with dam. Participants were Jane B., Cindy C., Ann C., Shirley F., Ellen K., June A., Jessica G., and Eric H.



	Tufted Titmouse
	Louisiana Waterthrush
	American Robin
	Tufted Titmouse
	Northern Cardinal



Apr 22 to 24 - Woodland Valley Creek Backpack

Leaders: Mark McAniff and Greg Homeyer

Starting at Woodland Valley briefly on the Wittenberg- Cornell- Slide trail then followed the property line to the creek and an old barkers road. The road was generally easy to follow and the weather was sunny and a bit warm. Still early in the season the woods were open but free of snow or ice. The creek was a pleasant companion and we dalleyed a bit so decided to forgo heading to Cornell Falls instead went up the ridge toward the saddle. We camped at a bench just before the old growth hemlock stand. Next day we followed the ridge while navigating a number of Catskill ledges until we hit the main trail in the saddle. Trail was generally free of snow, wet in spots but never very muddy, plenty of water available on the eastern side of both Cornell and Wittenberg. Camped part way down the mountain and out the next day still in good weather. Only Mark McAniff & Greg Homeyer were along sharing route finding and good cheer.

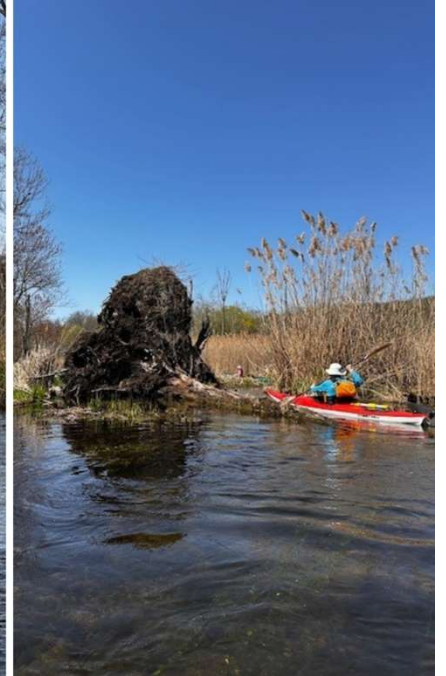




Apr 24 – Great Swamp Paddle, North Flow

Leader: Paul Silverstein

We had a spectacular spring day. Water was running high so we were able to go upstream on the north flow. This rare occurrence allowed us the novel opportunity to explore the middle section of the Great Swamp. At the end, we also stopped in at the great blue heron rookery near the put in. We saw about 30 nests. We also saw green heron, sandpiper, Louisiana waterthrush, bald eagle, merganser, black vulture, flicker, muskrat, beaver, and lots of turtles, tree swallows and red wing blackbirds. Paddlers included ADK members Jean-Claude F, Judy B, Sam D, Carole D, Betsy S and the leader, Paul Silverstein.



Apr 24 MWH - Ferncliff Forest Wildflowers & Fire Tower

Leader: Ginny Fauci

Awesome wildflowers, trout lilies, Jack-in-the-pulpit, anemones, hepatica, Solomon's seal, trillium, Canada mayflower, bloodroot, wild ginger, wild sarsaparilla, lesser celandine, skunk cabbage & dandelions at Ferncliff Forest, lunch by the 80' Fire Tower with views of Hudson, Kingston Bridge and Catskills. Six of us enjoyed ice cream at Del's after the hike. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Roberta F, Howard S, Katy B, Dea K, Jean M, Diane S, Robin S, Laurie O, Sharron C, Annette C, Charlotte M and the leader Ginny.





Apr 27 - Locust Grove Historic Site Leader: Georgette Weir

With strong winds and cool temperatures, it felt more like early March than late April at Locust Grove's Spring Garden Faire, where our chapter offered a short talk on hiking, a hike, and information about our club and chapter. MHADK members Dea K and Connie H and two guests--Lynn D and Nancy K--accompanied Georgette W. on a short walk on the trails. Annette C. coordinated our chapter's tabling volunteers. Thank you Dea K, Cindy C, and Paul S for supporting the outreach efforts.



May 1 MWH - Tulip Fest at Mohonk Mountain House Leaders: Ginny Fauci and Lalita Malik

A beautiful day for a hike up to the Mountain House, sunny, blue sky, in the 70's. Lunch by the gardens after wandering through the beautiful tulips. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Eddi Z, Cindy C, Judy B, Roberta F, Katy B, Angeles O, Amy K, Shari A, Jean M, Sharron C and the leaders Ginny & Lalita.





May 2 - Fahnestock State Park

Leader: Georgette Weir

Five MHADKers enjoyed a true spring hike (though with summer-like temperatures) filled with the calls of migrating birds (Baltimore oriole, Eastern towhee, b&w and yellow warblers) and the sights of many emerging flowers (dwarf ginseng, sessile bellwort, red trillium, blue and white violets, and high-bush blueberry!), occasional mud under foot, and plenty of water running in streams and brooks.

Kathy A, Judy B, and Karen and Richard C joined Georgette W for the 6.5-mile circular ramble. A fine day to be out in the woods!



May 4 - Earth Day cleanup

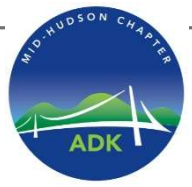
Hackensack River paddle

Leader: Linda Horton

This was a joint cleanup with Kayaking the Liquid Skies meetup and registered with Riverkeeper & American Rivers for Earthday.

Five Kayaking the Liquid Skies members came, one a former ADK member whose membership had lapsed. No ADK members joined us. We collected 5 large bags of trash, 2 were recyclable. The collection was registered with Riverkeeper & American Rivers. The trash was taken back with us to dispose of.





May 8 MWH - FDR Trails

Leader: Ginny Fauci

Wandered the trails at FDR on a beautiful blue-sky sunny morning. Wildflowers, mushrooms, ferns, fishing spider. Had lunch at the pavilion and walked through gardens. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were ADK members June A, Connie H, Greer R, Cindy C, Charlotte M, Lalita M and the leader Ginny.



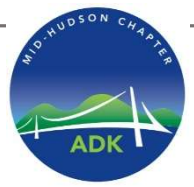
May 9 to May 11 - Southern Harriman Backpack

Leader: Russ Faller

The whole month has been unusually rainy. Much wetter than most Aprils. As the leader drove to Reeves Meadow, it was pouring. He thought, "Why am I doing this?" As we gathered at Reeves Meadow, it still rained. I had planned to take a shorter route to camp at the Big Hill Shelter, instead of a longer trail for a tent site past the shelter, but this still seemed like no fun. John H. came up with the idea of going to a coffee shop in Tuxedo to wait out the rain. He had noted that the forecast called for a slowing down of the rain in the early afternoon. So we enjoyed sandwiches, chili and hot beverages in a dry, pleasant environment. Back in

Harriman, we still had to hike in the rain, but it was short and no one got too wet along the way. We had the shelter to ourselves, which is unusual, but how many hikers would have wanted to start a backpack in that kind of weather? John H. & Jan G. chose to sleep in the shelter, while everyone else set up tents in the light rain. The next day, we packed up and started on the Suffern Bear Mtn. Trail to Pine Meadow Lake. It was a beautiful morning with a blue sky and cotton-ball clouds. It was windy, but the temperature was just right for backpacking. Along the trail, the person in the lead started to step off a boulder, then pulled back as an East Timber Rattlesnake glared up at him. The snake wasn't going to put up with anyone disturbing its sunbath. So, we decided to have lunch and wait out the snake. In the end, the snake made us find another way. It was his spot! We found a lovely, grassy tent site on Pine Mountain Lake. It offered a view of the lake, through the trees, and a cascade on the lake's nearby inflow stream for our water source. On a sunny, brisk Sunday, we followed the Pine Meadow Trail back to Reeves Meadow. As we approached the Meadow, the traffic became heavy. We realized that we had not seen many other hikers until that moment. Participants were: John H, John O, and the leader, Russ F (ADK) along with Larry Y, Bon C, and Jan G (AMC).





May 12 - Lake Taghkanic Paddle

Leader: Glenda Schwarze

Beautiful day and weather although the water was a little choppy. An all ADK group of Barbara H, Bill M, Judy B & leader Glenda S. Photo by Bill Miller.

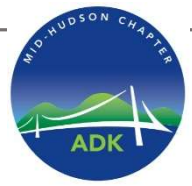


May 18 - Locust Grove Historic Site

Leader: Georgette Weir

On our rain date to do trail work at Locust Grove, we got lucky with the weather--cool, windy (no bugs), and no rain! Ten Mid-Hudson ADKers turned out to help clean up trails at this preserve overlooking the river. We covered a few miles over four hours, picking up sticks, collecting two bags of trash, trimming some low-hanging branches, making one larger blow-down passable by removing branches with loppers and small saws, and enjoying views of the Hudson River, bird calls in the woods, spring flowers, and one black snake. Joining Georgette for this community service outing were: Dea K, Carole M, Margaret D, Ginny F, Sue M, Ellen Z, Annette C, Marie C, and Lalita M. Thank you all!





May 18 - The Great Swamp Obstacle Course 2025 Leaders: Jeanette TB and Jonathan Baker

It was water, water, everywhere! The recent heavy rains had flooded the swamp. That was good news since we easily paddled over all beaver dams. But we had other challenges: the current was very strong and the winds were over 10mph, so paddling upstream was arduous. We paddled almost 3 miles until we came to a large, impassable downed tree; only one member was willing to portage around it (the young 'un, Jonathan), so we turned around. We had envisioned a "lazy river" experience downstream, but the strong current kept us busy as we dodged obstacles and paddled under tree limbs with the swift current. Eventually we emerged from the treed area into the swampy area, where we relaxed while floating back to the launch. We caught sight of several lovely herons along with red-winged blackbirds; we heard a multitude of other birds. We also spied the heads of a few swimming beavers. Total mileage was 5 3/4 miles. Paddlers were all ADK members: Russell L, Pete C, Theresa M, Veronica O, Jen S, Russ F, and the leaders Jeanette TB and Jonathan B. Thanks to Jen S and Veronica O for the great photos!

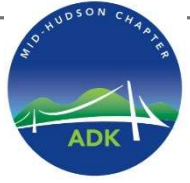


May 22 MWH - Vanderbilt Mansion & Apple Pie Bakery Leader: Ginny Fauci

A rainy day outing! Five of us toured Vanderbilt Mansion & then checked out Bard Rock on the Hudson. Four of us went on to the C.I.A. and Apple Pie Bakery for lunch. Another great day in the outdoors. Joining Ginny were Judy B, Robin S, Sharron C and Cindy C.



Mid-Hudson ADK Outings Log



May 24 - Paddle from Lasher Park to Ramshorn Creek & Roecliff Jansen Kill

Leader: Linda Horton

This was a joint paddle with Kayaking the Liquid Skies Meetup group..

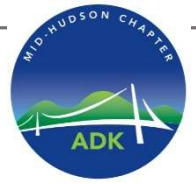
Attended: 6 people, 4 ADK members, 2 Liquid Skies members. We had a nice 10.5 mile paddle on the Hudson River into Ramshorn Creek and Roecliff Jansen Kill . Conditions ranged from sun with clouds to intermittent rain. We saw a lot of birds: eagles, osprey, egrets, red wing blackbirds, hawks, turtles and jumping fish. It was a beautiful nature paddle. ADK participants were: David W, Debbie A, Judy B and the leader, Linda H.



May 25 - Lower Wappinger Creek Clean Up: From the Falls to the Hudson

Leader: Russ Faller

See feature article on page 1.



May 26 – Lion’s Head peak via Appalachian Trail

Leader: Paul Silverstein

We followed the Appalachian Trail through a luminous green canopy to the peak. Lots of spring flowers and migrating birds. Capped off by a spectacular view of the Taconic mountains and a local ski jump (1/2 Olympic size.) 4.5 miles hike. Team- Judy B, Betsy S and the leader, Paul S.



May 29 MWH - Top Cottage & Valkill tour

Leader: Ginny Fauci

Another rainy day outing, but it didn't rain. The sun even popped out a few times. Hiked up to Top Cottage and then took a tour of Valkill including the upstairs. Lunch by the stream. Three went back & hiked Eleanor's Walk after lunch. Another great day in the woods. Hikers were Judy B, Gwen L, Katy B, Jean M, Sharron C and the leader Ginny.

