



THE NIAGARA EXPLORER

Newsletter of Adirondack Mountain Club
Niagara Frontier Chapter

From the Programs Co-Chairs

- Website: adk-nfc.org
 - [Chapter Outings & Events Calendar](#)
 - Facebook Group: [ADK-Niagara Frontier Chapter](#)
- Follow us on [Instagram \(adk_nfc\)](#)

Our chapter's annual picnic was held at Akron Falls Park Cummings Lodge on June 10th, and enjoyed by over sixty members! Thanks to everyone who volunteered and contributed to making the picnic run smoothly. We'd like to thank the following:

Mary Schraven for reserving Cummings Lodge and Erie County Parks for having all the amenities in place, both inside and outside Cummings Lodge.

Hospitality stars, Carol, and Dave Shuster, for food planning, purchasing, buffet table set-up, grilling, and clean-up. Please acknowledge Carol and Dave's hard work and dedication to our chapter when we next gather, which is our September 12th monthly meeting and annual ice

cream social that includes a member's picture show.



Mike Radomski for his enjoyable and information-packed, easy 4-mile hike through Darien Lakes State Park. Most of the hikers had never experienced this trail which often has very muddy sections and should be avoided. With our current drought, we enjoyed dry footage.



appreciate Lynn and Doug who graciously share their knowledge and enthusiasm!

Hawk Creek Wildlife Center's 3 pm program was a huge hit! The mission of this non-profit organization is Every living thing on our planet has a purpose – fulfilling the Circle of Life. At Hawk Creek Wildlife Center, our

mission is to educate, empower and preserve so that we will all thrive

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together. We inspire minds to become environmental stewards and conserve wildlife to fulfill the circle of life for generations to come. Five live animal ambassadors educated, entertained, and inspired the audience.

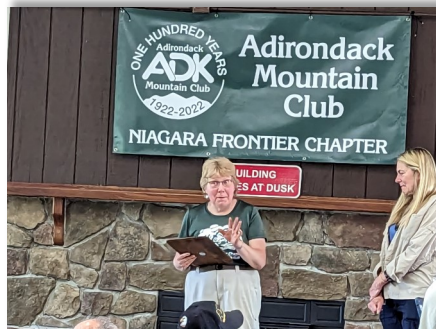
Hawk Creek staff member Matt honorably handled and provided interesting facts and his love for each animal was heartwarming. To learn more about Hawk Creek, visit

www.hawkcreek.org.

The Conservationist of the Year award was presented by Conservation Chair, Lynn Kenney, to Brenda Young, Ph.D., from Daemen University. Brenda is a Professor of Biology, and Chair of



Global & Local Sustainability and is a well-respected powerhouse in education



and environmental arenas. Her contributions are immeasurable.

Our business meeting focused on the election of chapter officers, and everyone was pleased to hear the continuation of terms for key chairs (Mike Radomski, Frank Meyer, Kate Hacker)! And Jonathan Coupal, our new volunteer Education chair, handed out his ADK Experience Survey, which will be a great tool to access members' interests and opinions for future programs,

education workshops, monthly meetings, and communication. Please contact Jonathan Coupal for education workshop suggestions. *

These last two years we've set up programs and education workshops that hopefully members

have enjoyed. We are currently scheduling for the upcoming year and appreciate everyone who provided referrals or topics for monthly programs. Please don't hesitate to contact us with your ideas for programs. *

- Pam Sander and Sue Kolasz

* Please see the last page of newsletter for chair contact information

Newsletter & Electronic Communications Chair Needed!



Our chapter has an opening for a Newsletter & Electronic Communication Chair. Responsibilities include the creation and distribution of our

monthly electronic newsletter, as well as keeping content up to date on the ADK-NFC website. If interested or to learn more, please contact Mike

Radomski (mike.radomski@gmail.com) or Nicole Pane (nicoleg165@hotmail.com).

Message from the Chair

I am not sure if the annual picnic closes out the ADK-NFC year of programs or kicks off a summer of outings, either way, it was very memorable this year. First, I would like to thank the picnic committee for organizing a great event; the food was amazing, the program entertaining, and the location worked out incredibly well.

Although the bike ride and paddle did not work out due to low water and poor air quality, the nature walk led by the Kenneys was well attended, as was my hike through Darien Lakes State Park. Both groups enjoyed nature and good company while working up a sweat or ID'ing several different species of trees, birds, and

plants. We all met back at the Cummings Lodge after a quick side trip to see the park's namesake, Akron Falls. Although a trickle, still a nice feature to marvel at.

We had some time to socialize before the program from Hawk Creek Wildlife Center. The animals brought by Matt stole the show, however, his humor and knowledge kept the crowd engaged and laughing. I am not sure which of the creatures was my favorite. It is hard to choose between the predators like the Raptors and Barn Owl or the cute Opossum and Skunk.

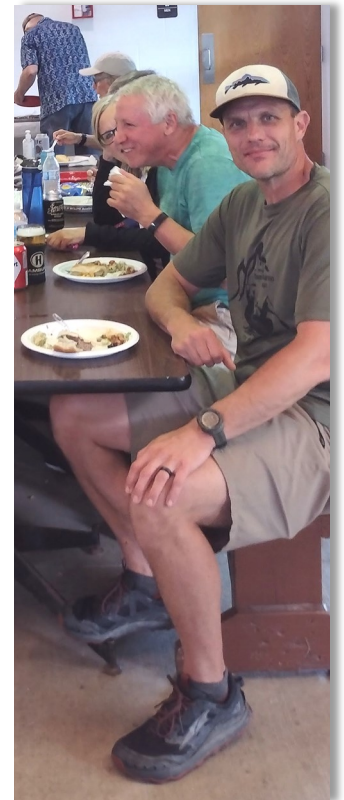
After eating too much at the potluck, we had our business meeting where we voted on the slate of officers. This was followed by the

Conservation Committee presenting the Conservationist of the Year award to Dr. Brenda Young of Daemen University.

The highlight of the picnic for me was meeting the founding members of the ADK-Niagara Frontier Chapter. Remember the club was founded in 1971! We laughed over stories of romance and hijinx in the outdoors. We had 4 past presidents including the club's 2nd president. What struck me was the bond these early members formed back in the 70s and still had today. I hope that everyone present at the picnic can find the same level of friendship and adventure in each other.

See you outside,

Mike



Urban Treks Challenge

The 2nd Annual Western New York Urban Treks Challenge is brought to you by Outside Chronicles and the Black Rock Riverside Alliance (BRRAlliance). This challenge was created to get people out on our urban trails during our beautiful Buffalo summers.

The WNY Urban Treks Challenge includes 16 treks, each with a unique landmark. The landmarks include; monuments, bridges, and trees. Each park has a highlighted 'Suggested Trail' that takes you past each Challenge Landmark.

The challenge runs June 15th—October 15th. For more information or to register, visit <https://outsidechronicles.com/urbantreks/>





Join a community of outdoor enthusiasts

ADK Mountain Club Niagra Frontier's Younger Members Group

Who are we?

The ADK-NFC's Younger Members Group is a community of members ranging from around **22-45 years old** who are passionate about exploring, protecting, and learning more about the outdoors.

2023 Event Highlights

- ADK High Peaks Outing
- Winter/Summer Backpacking
- Winter Hike & Happy Hour
- Allegheny Day Trip

Contact Emma at emmapiascik@gmail.com for more information.

Welcome New Members!

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to our chapter:

Jeffrey Abramowitz

Meredith Volker

Kevin Janicki

Shannon McGrath

Kenneth Armstrong



Please fill out our Chapter Survey!

Tell us how we're doing and win one of two 1-year ADK membership renewals. Please respond online to our 5-minute survey to tell us about your experiences being a member of the ADK Niagara Frontier Chapter, and what we might be able to do better. Click on this URL to access and respond to

the survey: <https://forms.gle/H74G7FznRWKNzkNs8> or access the QR code to respond.

We'll do the drawing for the two free renewals at our September meeting. Thanks in advance!



Chapter Outings

July 4 (Independence Day Tuesday) Paddle, Lower Niagara River - Lewiston to Youngstown

Rating A-B easy moving water.

Meet at Lewiston Docks (near the end of Center St.) at 9 to unload boats and begin vehicle shuttle. \$4.00 launch fee.

This popular 5 mile gorge trip takes about 2 hours, ending at the Youngstown Public Dock - Water St. ramp.

Afterwards, we'll head back to Lewiston for lunch at The Silo restaurant.

Wearing a proper fitted and fastened PFD w/ whistle is required.

Bob & Patti Van Hise: adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

Watch our ADK-NFC Facebook group for any changes or updates.

July 21 (Friday): Paddle the Erie Canal and Canal Fest of the Tonawandas

Meet at the Sweeney St. (at Niagara St.) roller launch in North To-

nawanda for a 6pm launch. (Paddlers without poly boats may also launch earlier 1/2 mile farther down Sweeney St. by Service Dr.). We will paddle down the canal to CANAL FEST, then up Ellicott Creek. Canal Fest takes place this year July 16-23.

Wearing a proper fitted and fastened PFD w/ whistle is required.

Bob & Patti Van Hise: adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

Watch our ADK-NFC Facebook group for any changes or updates.

August 12 (Saturday): Paddle, Outer Harbor

Meet at the South entrance to Gallagher Beach on Fehrmann Blvd for a 9AM launch, where we will head out to paddle along the breakwall.

Wearing a proper fitted and fastened PFD w/ whistle is required.

RSVP in case of needed changes.

Bob & Patti Van Hise, adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

Watch our ADK-NFC Facebook page for updates.

August 26 (Saturday): Paddle, Buffalo River

Meet at Mutual Riverfront Park on Hamburg St. at Smith St. for a 9AM launch. Plastic kayaks are recommended for this roller launch. Paddle through the impressive urban corridor past towering grain elevators and the SS Columbia, the century old 200 ft. predecessor to the Canadiana.

Wearing a proper fitted and fastened PFD w/ whistle is required.

RSVP in case of needed changes.

Bob & Patti Van Hise, adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

Watch our ADK-NFC Facebook page for updates.

August 25-28: Younger Members Summer High Peaks Weekend Outing

This younger members outings will be an extended weekend trip to the ADK High Peak region. We will drive up Friday 8/25 in the afternoon to set up before dark, have 2 full days to play, and drive back Monday, 8/28 in the morning.



Chapter Outings (continued)



There are 2 campsites booked at the ADK Loj campground, where we will have 6 people per site. As the outing gets closer to the date, we can arrange transportation, food, gear, and other logistics. There are 4 more open spots - RSVP to Emma Piascik @ emmapiascik@gmail.com if you are interested!

September 4 (Monday): Labor Day Paddle



Lower Niagara River - Lewiston to Fort Niagara (A-B easy moving water)

Meet early at Lewiston Docks (near the end of Center St.) at 8AM to unload boats (\$4 launch fee) and begin vehicle shuttle to Fort Niagara (early enough to avoid entrance fee).



This popular 6+ mile gorge trip takes 2+ hours, ending at the Fort Niagara Park boat ramps.

Afterwards, we'll head back to Lewiston for lunch at The Silo restaurant.

Wearing a proper fitted and fastened PFD is required. RSVP in case of needed changes.

Bob & Patti Van Hise, adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

Watch our ADK-NFC Facebook page for any changes or updates.

September 18 (Monday): Paddle, Clear Lake

Genesee Rd. in North Collins.

A 50 acre reservoir built in the 1920s to service the Gowanda State Hospital, Clear Lake is surrounded by 500 acres of forest with a beautiful, remote Adirondack feeling. Clear Creek flows into the Lake from the northern end via a beautiful marsh that's teeming with aquatic plants & wildflowers.

Wearing a proper fitted and fastened PFD w/ whistle is required.

RSVP in case of changes.

Bob & Patti Van Hise, adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

Watch our ADK-NFC Facebook page for any changes or updates.

Keep up to date on outings by checking the events calendar on our website:

<https://adk-nfc.org/events/>

Our Executive Committee

Chair

Mike Radomski
 mike.radomski@gmail.com

Outings Chair

Frank Meyer
 edendds@gmail.com

Conservation Chair

Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney
 woodthrush3@hotmail.com

Programs Co-chairs

Sue Kolasz
 sue728115@yahoo.com
 Pamela Sander
 sanderpamela88@gmail.com

Education Co-chairs

Sue Kolasz
 sue728115@yahoo.com
 Pamela Sander
 sanderpamela88@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Vacant

Advisory Council Trustee

Kate Hacker
 hackerks@gmail.com

Webmaster

Jonathan Coupal
 jonathan@coupal.us

Treasurer

Doug Gaffney
 dgaffney@roadrunner.com

*Newsletter Editor & Electronic
 Communication Chair*

Nicole Pane
 nicole9165@hotmail.com

Secretary

Larry Beahan
 larry_beahan@roadrunner.com

Hospitality

Carol Schuster
 carolfschuster@gmail.com

Archivist/Historian

Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney
 woodthrush3@hotmail.com

Outings Co-chair: Waterways

Bob Van Hise
 adkpaddles.bvh@gmail.com

Outings Co-chair: Biking

Vacant

*Outings Co-chair: Hiking &
 Winter*

Leslie Salathe
 lesliesalathe@live.com

Librarian

Karen Coupal

