

THE NIAGARA EXPLORER

Newsletter of Adirondack Mountain Club Niagara
Frontier Chapter

November Monthly Program

Our November program featured photographer, Kevin Szen, who presented us with an entertaining slideshow of the amazing images of nature he captured at Olmstead's Cazenovia Park in South Buffalo. Who would have thought there would be such diverse wildlife in this urban setting!

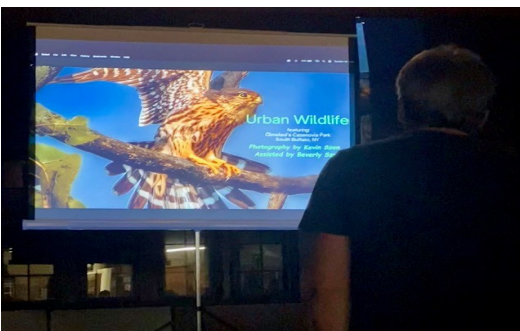
Kevin has observed and photographed 87 species of birds in Cazenovia during his daily walks through the park. His numerous photos of birds included owls, osprey, eagles, white mallards, and even our beloved loons! He also captured beautiful images of mink, fox, coyotes, and deer at his favorite hangout.

Kevin really wowed us with his macro photos of insects and arachnids.

He informed us that he doesn't use a tripod and often gets within inches of his subjects. Yikes- some of these insects look downright terrifying when viewed up close! The images did, however, have us marveling at the intricate features of these tiny creatures. To say we saw them in a whole new light is an understatement; his up close images are incredible!

Kevin mentioned that he's been taking photos for over 50 years, and his dedication and love for this art form is evident in his photographs. It was apparent throughout the presentation that even after all these years of spending time observing and photographing fauna, he's still in absolute awe of nature!

Along with explanations of his photos, and his humorous comments about the subjects (the room was often filled with laughter), he also gave us tips on how we could take better photos with our cameras and/or phones. He revealed which lenses he used, instructing us to "follow the food" to find the subject, get close for the best shot and most importantly,



DECEMBER 2023

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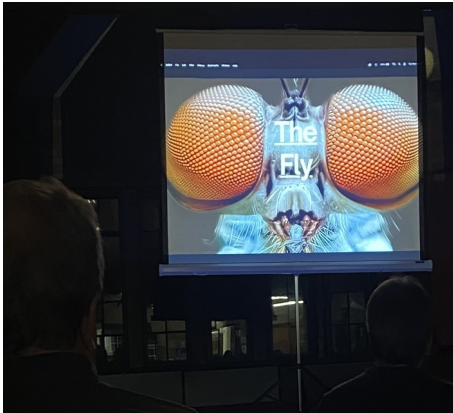
Website: adk-nfc.org

Facebook Group: [ADK-Niagara Frontier Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/ADK-Niagara-Frontier-Chapter)

MeetUp: <https://www.meetup.com/adk-nfc/>

Follow us on [Instagram \(adk_nfc\)](https://www.instagram.com/adk_nfc)

[Chapter Outings & Events Calendar](#)



November Education Recap

November’s education session brought us our own **Paul Gannon**, previous Chair of our chapter, providing some basic training on how to dress for the weather to stay warm and dry. The focus of the presentation was the “3 layer system”, a method for maintaining a comfortable body temperature by wicking sweat away from the skin (base layer), keeping warm (mid layers) and protecting from the elements (outer layer). Keeping warm and dry this winter means more fun in the outdoors! **Jon Coupal, Education Chair**

November Program (con’td) Looking ahead...

abide by the three P’s- persistence, patience, and practice.

It’s encouraging to note that a park that was once polluted and practically devoid of wildlife, has recovered and has experienced an incredible resurgence. Nature is resilient!

We’re sorry for those who missed out on this fun-filled evening, but you can still view, and be blown away, by Kevin’s photography by visiting his Social Media accounts: Facebook.com/kevinszen; Instagram.com/kszen716 -**Susan Kolasz & Pamela Sander**

January - ADK 46er, Jason Lape, will take us on his mountain climbing adventures stemming from his pandemic inspired goal to climb every major peak in the eastern US.

February - Mary Ronan, Environmental Educator with Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve, will present a program entitled, “Freedom Seekers-Naturalists of the Northeast”



Arachnid, (class Arachnida), any member of the arthropod group that includes spiders, daddy long-legs, scorpions, and (in the subclass Acari) the mites and ticks, as well as lesser-known subgroups.

DECEMBER ADK MEETING AND HOLIDAY DESSERTS SOCIAL

Join us on **December 12, 2023 at 7pm** at the Amherst Community Church, 77 Washington Highway, Amherst, NY

Our December monthly meeting will be a bit different this year. We are not able to have the traditional potluck dinner due to changes in Amherst Community Church policy and by the Department of Health regulations.

Rest assured that the elves will make the evening festive, fun, and full of cheer!

TIME: 7 pm to 9 pm

WHAT TO BRING: pop, beer, wine – feel free to bring your favorite glass!

MENU: ASSORTED DESSERTS, COFFEE, TEA

This meeting will be an opportunity for some major socializing- so come prepared to talk and laugh a lot!

We'll have the usual great door prizes, and one special **"members only"** prize!

(Current members may fill out one special ticket for the opportunity to win a pair of Leki hiking poles!)

REMEMBER – DO NOT BRING ANY FOOD TO THE MEETING



Advisory Council Report

The Advisory Council is working on revising some of the requirements of the Outings Leader Guide (OLG). There are concerns about how to grandfather experienced leaders and meet some of the requirements that require hard to get training programs. I don't expect any significant changes to occur in the immediate future, and for now efforts to get everyone certified will have to continue. The three basic level one requirements, co-leading a trip for people who haven't led one, the basic Leave no Trace online training and the online or equivalent sexual harassment training are required for leaders by the end of December. Higher level requirements aren't required until the end of next year, although completing all of the requirements takes planning.

A new computer system is being implemented by the club. It will include functions for chapters such as a place to list people who have completed OLG requirements, a member list, a place to post chapter documents and other information and a place to do a yearly signing off of the liability form used for outings.

A major grant for the new Cascade Center is being held up by the Parks and Recreation Department which wants to have tight control over the use of the site. This has not been acceptable to staff and the board, so the grant will probably not be accepted. You may see continuing coverage of this issue on websites such as the one for the Adirondack Explorer. A major fundraising campaign is being discussed to complete funding for the Center.

The club's budget for next year is in process and will be approved soon. The club is financially healthy at this point due to grants and bequests.

A list of new board members has been sent out and when they are approved you will see information on them in the Adirondacks.

Kate Hacker, Trustee representing the Niagara Frontier Chapter

Conservation Corner

Several ADK members recently attended a meeting organized by the Western New York Environmental Alliance (WNYEA) to learn more about the ambitious worldwide plan to preserve 30% of earth's ecologically productive land and waters by the year 2030. This plan has been adopted by the UN Biodiversity Conference and has become United States and New York state policy. The goal is to protect habitat to help maintain biodiversity so the world's species will be more resilient to climate change and human disturbance.

Speakers discussed how their groups can actively support the 30 x 30 plan.

Julie Barrett O'Neill, NY State DEC Region 9 Director- Organize Open Space public meetings to identify what local lands should be purchased/preserved by the state; assist companies with information on how to repurpose brownfield sites instead of building on virgin land to reduce urban sprawl.

Marcus Rosten, Wildway Director, Western NY Land Conservancy- Currently protects 7100 acres of land via 22 nature preserves & 60 conservation easements. The organization strives to strategically protect ecologically sensitive land to create a wildlife corridor in western NY that will connect to a national eastern seaboard wildlife corridor.

Greg Stevens, Chair, Niagara River Greenway Commission- Assists with distributing funds to local groups and municipalities to create functional riparian habitat and to protect lands along the Buffalo Niagara River corridors. Will complete the Greenway Trail along the waterfront in 2024. Currently assisting with land protection on Grand Island.

Margaret Wooster, WNY Environmental Alliance- Discussed the importance of biodiversity.

Use this link to hear the meeting in its entirety. [WNYEA 30x30 Conversation 20231111 - YouTube](#)



Conservation Corner (cont'd)

The ADK Niagara Frontier chapter is a member of WNYEA. The WNYEA mission is to protect, conserve, manage and restore healthy, resilient, thriving ecosystems and communities in western NY through collective action, collaboration, and campaigns.

The WNYEA mission supports the 30x30 policy. **Jay Burney**, WNYEA Advocacy Chair, will spear head the local 30 x 30 initiative by collaborating with interested individuals and organizations to develop an action plan. To provide input please complete a questionnaire at [30 x 30 - WESTERN NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE \(wnyea.org\)](https://www.wnyea.org/30x30).

Include your contact information at the bottom of the form to receive up to date information about the 30 x 30 campaign and upcoming events. Or scan the QR code to the right.

To become more involved you can indicate if you would like to join Jay Burney to develop a local action plan.

All ADK members are welcome to attend the Niagara Frontier Conservation Committee meetings to discuss conservation topics and plan upcoming events. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month in-person and/or by zoom.

See the ADK Niagara Frontier Chapter Weekly Email for further details.

-Lynn Rehfeld-Kenney,
Conservation Chair



30 x 30 Kickoff Survey



Library Corner

Fall into a Good Book

Next time you are at a monthly ADK meeting check out the newly organized library cart! There is a wide variety of books about the Adirondacks as well books on backpacking, paddling, birding, the environment and other subjects. Once you pick out a book or two, remember to sign them out on the sheet attached to the clipboard. Any questions or suggestions for new books contact **Karen Coupal, Librarian**



Message from the Chair

ADKers,

On behalf of your executive committee, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. I have my fingers crossed that our winter will be more conducive to outdoor activities like snowshoeing and skiing. I look forward to sharing some stories with you at the holiday party as we get ready for 2024.



Your executive team is committed to continuing to bring you great education sessions and programs at our monthly meetings in the coming year. We are also committed to increasing the number of local and ADK-based outings. We have several members trained to be leaders under the new guidelines and are looking forward to getting outside.

Remember, be bold, start cold!

See you outside,

Mike



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