

# North Wind

July - August - September 2024

## Voice of the Chair

By Tom Wheeler  
Chapter Chair

### ADK's Trails Program: A Pandemic Hit

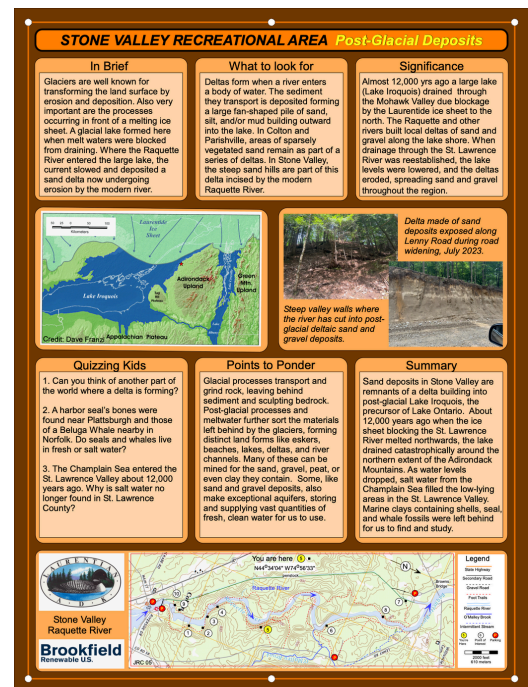
On May 4, I "attended" a Zoom meeting organized by ADK's Trails Manager Charlotte Staats and introducing Virginia Ruhland-Mauhs, volunteer trails coordinator. They spent some time discussing ADK's plans for the coming years.

The trails program was affected by the pandemic, but they intend to get things back on track over the coming year. One matter that was discussed was what local chapters are doing with respect to trails. I spoke about our commitment to the Red Sandstone Trail and the Stone Valley Trail. When I mentioned the latter, Charlotte commented that it was a favorite trail of hers and that as a student at Clarkson she had often hiked it.

### Stone Valley Signage

Our commitment to Stone Valley was demonstrated over the past year by a project to replace informational signs along the trail. The results are spectacular. There are 10 large, new, colorful signs giving detailed information about the history, geology, and ecology of Stone Valley. Each sign has a brief introduction, what to look for, its significance, a quiz for children, a summary, illustrations, and a map showing location of the sign with our chapter logo.

The design team consisted of Mary Jane Watson, Tom Van de Water, and Jeff Chiarenzelli. Marianne Hebert and Tom walked the trails to determine the location for each sign and to document the GPS coordinates. Jeff, a geology professor at St. Lawrence University, did the graphic work, layout, and trail maps.





## Stone Valley Signage (cont).

They were printed by a local company, Northeastern Sign of South Colton. Marianne coordinated the installation on four separate days in April. The installers, along with herself, were Tom Van de Water, Blair Madore, Holly Woodworth, David Trithart, Tom Ortmeyer, Aiden Clothier, Dan French, and yours truly. The work often involved bringing heavy tools, bags of cement, and posts deep into the trail. See page 5 for a photo of some of the crew.

I especially want to thank Marianne Hebert for the hours she spent in coordinating the project's completion. I am sure if you hike the trail you will enjoy this improvement.



*Some of the Stone Valley interpretive sign installers:  
L-R Tom Van de Water, Tom Ortmeyer, Holly  
Woodworth, David Trithart. Photo, by M. Hebert*



*Some of the Stone Valley interpretive sign installers:  
L-R David Trithart, Tom Wheeler, Blair Madore.  
Photo, by M. Hebert*

## Whither the Web Page

Sometime in the coming year our web page will be moving as part of ADK's efforts to have all chapter web pages part of the club's website. We will try to keep you informed as this progresses. We hope it will be seamless.

## Sandstoner Potluck

Finally, I invite everyone to come to Sandstoner Park in Potsdam on July 27 for our annual summer potluck. Details are in the Outings schedule, elsewhere in this *North Wind*. It is an excellent opportunity to see old friends and meet new members of the chapter. There will be a bird walk, and the river offers opportunity for paddling and swimming.

--**Tom Wheeler**, Chapter Chair



## Conservation Report

by Tom Van de Water, Conservation Vice-Chair

Exploring by bicycle from the south end of Orebed Road at Gleasons Mill toward Cranberry Lake is possible in a vast area open to non-motorized public travel. Unfortunately, this is not obvious, with No Trespassing signs and gates, and Conservation Easement signs removed by people who would rather keep the area private.

This and adjacent areas like the Northeast Wilderness Trust lands west of Lampson Falls are important for wildlife and forest habitat. Respectful use by the public can allow them to be used, protected and, hopefully, safeguarded for the future.

Molpus Timber, which owns most of this land, has sold development and public access rights to New York State (except during hunting season). More use by the public (best in the company of a couple of others) can assert rights to access and diffuse any anxiety private camp members have about public use. These lands are close to most Laurentian Chapter members. Maybe newer DEC maps will clearly outline these areas of public access.



Exploring the bog plants along the road to Lows Ridge, photo by M. Hebert

## ADK Laurentian

### Executive Committee

Tom Wheeler – Chair,  
northflow@gmail.com

Holly Woodworth – Vice-Chair, Outings  
hswoodworth@gmail.com

Brenda Curley – Vice-Chair, Education  
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Kathleen Fitzgerald – Vice-Chair, Membership  
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David Katz – Secretary, Webmaster  
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Ellie Menz – Treasurer

Tom Ortmeyer – Advisory Council Trustee  
tortmeyer@gmail.com

### Appointed Positions

Marg Madore – Hospitality Coordinator  
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John Barron – Publicity Coordinator  
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Blair Madore – Red Sandstone Trail Coordinator  
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Mark Simon – Stone Valley Trail Coordinator  
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Jeff Miller – Outdoors Indoors Program  
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Neal Burdick – North Wind Editor  
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Marianne Hebert – North Wind co-editor  
Archivist  
hebertm@potSDam.edu

Merchandise Coordinator—VACANT



## ADK & NPT @ ADKX

By Neal Burdick

An assignment for ADK's *Adirondack* magazine took me to the Adirondack Experience ("Museum" in simpler times not so long ago) in Blue Mt. Lake in mid-June. The museum is featuring an exhibit on the Northville-Placid Trail in this 100th anniversary of the start of its construction. The exhibit is in a small alcove in the Woods & Waters building, and can be a little hard to find. It focuses heavily on the origins of the trail. ("We are a history museum, after all," noted Collections Manager Doreen Alessi-Holmes, who assembled the exhibit from museum but not ADK materials; "we focus on beginnings.")

ADK also then being in its nascent years, I would have liked to have seen the club's role in the building and early promotion of the trail given a bit more prominence. But the exhibit is well done and very interesting nonetheless. You will examine old topo maps annotated by Ed Noyes, one of the two men who over two years built almost all of the 133-mile original trail, now 138 miles long; a thoroughly used early guidebook; and the hiking boots of ADKer L. Morgan Porter, first to measure trails with a mileage wheel.

Also on display are cumbersome-looking gear such as tarps, tents, snowshoes and a mess kit from the 1920s; and a half-size replica of the welcoming arch at the Northville



terminus, suitable for posing under for a selfie. Interspersed are numerous artworks in various media, along with photographs from across the years, including one of legendary hermit Noah Rondeau, who commandeered an abandoned lumber camp near the trail along the Cold River, with a home-made banner welcoming ADKers and 46ers.

But go see for yourself. The museum (excuse me, "Experience") has recently undergone numerous user-friendly renovations and added a variety of artifacts, dioramas and so on. It is open through October 14, but if you miss it this year the NPT exhibit will remain through its 2025 season.

*Noah Rondeau, welcoming ADKers and 46ers at his Cold River City (pop. 1), along the Northville-Placid Trail, from the NPT exhibit at the Adirondack Experience museum.*



# Your Laurentian Chapter Outings Summer 2024

Holly Woodworth  
Vice Chair, Outings

Rating	Effort Level	Elevation Gain (ft.)	Miles	Time (hrs.)
A+	Very Strenuous	4,000	10	10
A	Strenuous	3,000	5 to 10	8 to 10
B+	Moderately Strenuous	2,000	5 to 10	6 to 8
B	Moderate	1,000	5 to 10	5 to 7
C+	Fairly Easy	1,000	5 to 8	4 to 6
C	Easy	Under 1,000	< 5	< 5

\*Check for last minute updates: [www.adklaurentian.org](http://www.adklaurentian.org)

\*Please contact the leader at least one day before the trip.

\*Car pooling makes sense—so does sharing the cost of gas.

**Thu., July 4, 11, 18, 25: Weekly Walk, Munter Trail, Potsdam, 7:30 a.m.** We will walk the trails for approximately 2 miles, 1-hour round trip. Meet in the parking lot behind the Clarkson Walker Arena and Hantz Field off Clarkson Ave., aka Back Hannawa Rd and CR 59. Leaders for each week will vary. Contact Marianne Hebert, [hebertm@potsteam.edu](mailto:hebertm@potsteam.edu) or 315-265-0756. Level C (Easy).

**Sun., July 14: St. Regis Mountain.** St. Regis Mountain is a nice hike that provides great views of the St Regis Canoe Area, particularly from the fire tower. 6.8 miles RT, 1,250 feet of net elevation gain. Moderately strenuous (level B+). Contact Tom Ortmeier, [tortmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:tortmeyer@gmail.com) or 315-244-3707.

**Sat., July 27: ADK Laurentian Chapter Annual Potluck Picnic, Sandstener Park, Potsdam.**

Before-picnic activities 2:00-5:00 p.m. include paddling on the Raquette River, birdwatching in the park, or come early and enjoy the beach. The Potluck Picnic begins at 5:00 p.m. Hotdogs, hamburgers (some vegetarian), condiments provided. Members bring sides and desserts. Sandstener Park Pavilion 43, Pine Street, Potsdam, NY 13676.



*Picnic 2023 photo by M. Hebert*



# Outings Schedule

Summer  
2024

(continued)

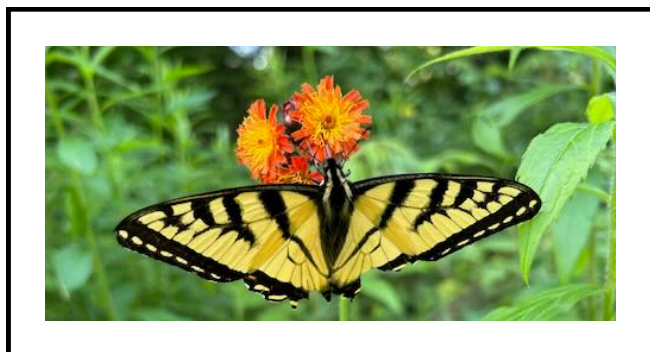


Photo by M. Hebert

**Thu., Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Weekly Walk Bayside Cemetery, Potsdam, 7:30 a.m.** We will walk the roads for approximately 2 miles, 1-hour round trip. Meet at the entrance to the cemetery (730 CR59, aka Back Hannawa Road). Leaders for each week will vary. Contact Marianne Hebert, [hebertm@potsdam.edu](mailto:hebertm@potsdam.edu) or 315-265-0756. Level C (Easy).

**Sat., Aug. 3: Clarksboro Trail & Lampson Falls.** We will hike the Clarksboro Trail to a beautiful overlook of the Grass River Valley. The 1-mile round trip is easy with only 250 ft. of ascent. There is a beautiful rock wall part way up the trail. Those who want a bit more walking can visit Lampson Falls with us before heading home. Both hikes are level C (easy). Contact Holly Woodworth, [hswoodworth@gmail.com](mailto:hswoodworth@gmail.com) or 315-848-2953.

**Sat., Aug. 10: Hike in Keewaydin State Park.** Come explore the new trails at Keewaydin SP. We'll see views of the St. Lawrence and Boldt Castle and explore the forest trails. Option to swim in the pool (bring your suit!). Bring lunch. Day use fee \$7 per car. Fairly easy, 3-4 miles, very little elevation gain (level C). Contact Marianne Hebert, [hebertm@potsdam.edu](mailto:hebertm@potsdam.edu) or 315-265-0756.

**Sun., Aug. 11: Red Tavern Road.** We will first visit the Everton Falls Preserve, a Nature Conservancy site along a branch of the St. Regis River. We'll take the short hike through the forest across the road (level C). Afterwards we'll take a look at the river access and do some clean-up. Finally, if energy persists (optional), we'll explore a very new, little-traveled trail a few miles down the road which ascends a prominence (level C). Those wishing to canoe the river afterwards can do so but this will not be part of the outing. Contact Tom Wheeler, [northflow@gmail.com](mailto:northflow@gmail.com).



# Outings Schedule

## Summer 2024

(continued)

**Thu., Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26: Weekly Walk, Munter Trail, Potsdam, 7:30 a.m.** We will walk the trails for approximately 2 miles, 1-hour round trip. Meet in the parking lot behind the Clarkson Walker Arena and Hantz Field off Clarkson Ave., aka Back Hannawa Rd and CR 59. Leaders for each week will vary. Contact Marianne Hebert, [hebertm@potSDam.edu](mailto:hebertm@potSDam.edu) or 315-265-0756. Level C (Easy).

**Thu., Sept. 19: Owen-Winch-Copperas Ponds hike.** This string of ponds in the Sentinel Range, east of Lake Placid, offers numerous good water scenery for a relatively short hike. We'll do a through-hike south to north. 3 miles, 500 ft. elevation gain (level C). Joint outing with North Woods. Limit 10. Chapter members only, please. John Omohundro, [omohunjt@northnet.org](mailto:omohunjt@northnet.org).

**Wed., Sept. 25: Moxham Mt.** This trail near North Creek has spectacular views from its bald summit ridge. It is a 4.6-mile round trip with 760 feet of ascent. The steeper sections are interspersed with level sections where you can catch your breath. We plan a casual pace, stopping at all the viewpoints. Level C. Contact Holly Woodworth, [hswoodworth@gmail.com](mailto:hswoodworth@gmail.com) or (315) 848-2953.



*Red Sandstone trail rapids  
photo by M. Hebert*



## Backtracks

### Spring 2024

*Once again, adverse weather conditions scuttled several outings in late winter and spring. Following are the reports we received. "TL" translates to "Trip Leader."*

**Sat, Apr 20: Road Walk, Hannawa Falls.** A beautiful sunny morning to do an easy walk closer to home. The Brookfield access roads near Hannawa Falls are a perfect spot to stretch your legs and watch the spring beauty unfold. The river was high, so the falls at the dam were pretty dramatic.

Participants L-R: Leigh Ann Allen, Janice Brown, Tom Ortmeyer, Lis Eno. Photo by M. Hebert (TL)



**April 27: Long Tom Mountain.** Seven of us headed out for Long Tom, SW of Tupper Lake, only to find the gate near Horseshoe Lake locked. With perfect weather and no black flies, we headed for Lows Ridge, but upon checking the map found a peak connected to Silver Lake Mountain that looked like an enticing bushwhack. We crossed an esker, followed a compass angle, switch-backed around a cliff, and arrived for lunch at a rocky outcrop with views south to Blue Mountain. Descending north, we reached the eroded road into Lake Marion and a rushing stream, headwaters of the South Branch of the Grasse River. The walk back to Horseshoe made a good loop.

Participants: Joe and Jaxon Brant, Tom Ortmeyer, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Bonnie Gardiner and Marianne Hebert, with Tom Van de Water, TL.



## Backtracks Spring 2024 (continued)

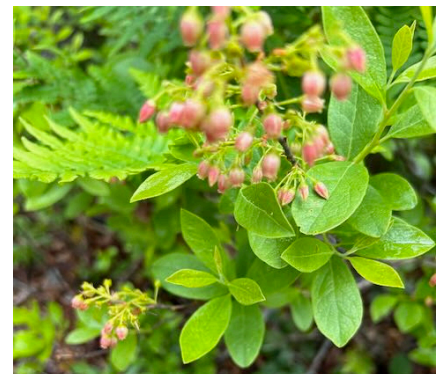
**May 4: Indian Creek Wildflower Walk.** Not too warm, not too cold, not too cloudy, not too clear: the weather was good for wildflowers and wildflower viewing. We identified about 20 species in bloom, as well as several others still waiting their turn. It was also great weather for birds, some visible, some hidden by the woods. The avid birders among us identified about 30 species. David Katz, TL.



**Sat, May 25: Coney Mountain.** We had a perfect day for a joint outing with Potsdam Pride. We took our time on the way up to savor the wildflowers along the way. We found both false and real Solomon's seal, blue bead lily, a rock harlequin bloom, a few trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit and we even got to taste some wood sorrel.

Participants L-R: Nemo Latourelle, Marianne Hebert (TL), Maxine Edman, Peter McCoy, Carolann Jacobs, Jane Khondker, Jane Subramanian, Sara Lynch. *Photo by Aubrey Fox.*

**Sat, Jun 8: Kushaqua Wildflower Walk** The rail trail made for an easy amble as we searched for wildflowers along Kushaqua Lake. We were not dissappointed. There was lots of bunch berries and pink lady's slippers. We also found Labrador tea, huckleberry, purple flag irises. Participants: Jane Khondker, Robin Wooden, Marianne Hebert (TL)



*Huckleberry photo by M. Hebert*



## *In Memoriam: Gordon Berlin Batson*

Laurentian Chapter member Gordon Batson, 91, passed away on Friday, May 24, at Menorah Park of Central New York in Syracuse. With a Ph.D. in structural engineering, he was a long-time professor, and professor emeritus after retiring, at Clarkson University. A quiet, courteous, reserved individual, he enjoyed hiking, cross-country skiing, sailing, traveling, and reading. He is survived by his widow, Chapter member Katharine Batson, who resides at Menorah Park, and their three sons. Gordon was laid to rest in Bayside Cemetery, Potsdam.



Those wishing to remember him may plant a tree at a location of their choice, or help preserve land in his beloved native territory by making a memorial contribution in his name to the Downeast Coastal Conservancy, PO Box 760, Machias, ME 04654.