

Foot – Loose!

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), published quarterly – January, April, July, and October

Volume 22, Number 2

April 2010

ONCE UPON A TIME

As I sit here, with a warming fire at my back while outside the temperature has at last reached up to zero degrees, as the wind whips the snow to pelt against my rattling windows, bringing us a wind chill factor of minus 15, I think about this area's winters and how I fit in. It is now just that period between two major U.S. holidays, Christmas and New Years, mixed in with Hanukah (never mind all the optional spellings of that holiday, Ashura, Kwanzaa, Yule (for the Pagans) and Boxing Day (for Canadians). A good time for reminiscing and contemplation.

When the first snows of this season had fallen, I was forced to think about the multitudes of changes in my own life. At one time with the snow descending, even horizontally, it had been a signal to me to get out and strap on my skis or snowshoes and just jump right into it all. I recall, especially when recently arrived people to these shores (metaphorically speaking) would kvetch to me about how horrible were the winters up here, I had to tell them that if you're not into outdoor winter activities then you're not going to enjoy winter here at all and that it's going to seem as if it lasts forever; it's the wrong place to live, or go to college.

But time has caught up to me, and last year I finally gave away my skis, after a few years of holding on to them just as keepsakes from a former life. Well, I've never been a very good skier at any rate, never having gone much beyond being an accomplished beginner. But I sure loved the activity of it, the rhythm of it. Nowadays, when the first snows fly I think of hauling more wood from my various caches in sheds and under tarps, and throwing another billet into my woodstove.

There's much more for me to tell about changes in my outdoor activities, from hiking, backpacking, canoeing (whitewater as well as mild canoe camping), all of which I've had to forgo.



Irwin Gooen

What about the changes around me? Well, first of all, especially in as much as this being written specifically for *Foot-Loose*, for ADK folks, there have been many changes there since I first joined in the early 70's. I had been chair of our chapter for two years, the 2nd year primarily because I couldn't locate the "holy grail" book that I was supposed to pass on to the next chair. Well, I've seen our little chapter grow into quite a big chapter, if one considers the membership list. Not all members, of

course, are active in the various ways that one can be considered "active". And the tenor of the monthly meetings, with program for a speaker along with a pot-luck dinner, certainly has changed from my initial days with the club when meetings were solely for business and showing our new hiking boots.

And the chapter, (thanks be to Jo Koenig for its existence) has grown and grown...as we, for the most part have certainly aged. I recall that during my early years here I was also a member of the local Audubon Society chapter, (again, a tip of the hat to Jo K.) and had taken my 11-yr old stepdaughter to a meeting because she was such a bird-lover. Her plaint to me had been that there had been no other young people there, and that all she saw was grey heads. She and I had had also gone on a number of back-packing trips, and I wonder what she would say about our ADK at this point. Yes, there's a lot more grey around, yet some are still doing hiking and skiing, which I can no longer do.

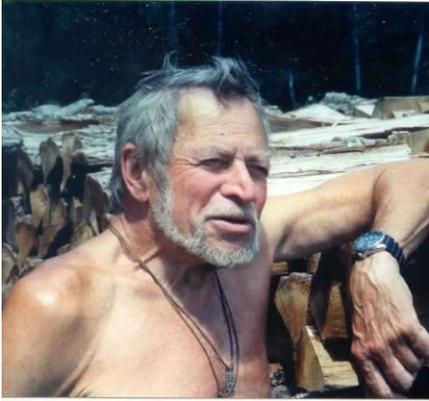
I've had any number of canoes during these years, buying and selling some, and finally settling on three that met my different needs and abilities, plus one I have kept as a loaner to others. I've given away, tearfully, those top three.

Of course, although devoted to outdoor activities, I was no stranger to the overall community that surrounded my homestead during my 40 or so years as a transplanted northerner up here, very indirectly, from my native NYC, born and bred ("and buttered" as Dylan Thomas phrased it), where I had spent my earlier deformative years.

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I have seen Oneonta and its environs go through any number of changes



during these years. It's been an amazing growth (not all of which is pleasing to me) and very big changes, which are still going on. Of course, change and growth are signs of vitality, and I wel-

come that, generally. On earlier visits to Oneonta in the 1950's, I had characterized it as a "one-horse town." Now, as I had written in a recent poem, it's a two-horse, maybe a three-horse town. To me, the biggest change has been in the demographic composition. Coming of age on the Lower East Side, an immigrant area of Manhattan, I was used to seeing and living in a very ethnically (and, need I say "racially") mixed area. Oneonta had so few Black families, that I knew them all, and where they lived (for those who don't know, I worked as a letter carrier here in town for about 12 years.). Not the same at all now I'm please to say. I have also seen some women in burqas, much to my amazement, and who knows where this will all go. I won't be around to see it, so let me know.

Another sign of changes is that when I moved here and someone gave you her or his phone number, it was often given in the last 4 digits, as all started with 432. No way today, Jose! And then there's the cell-phone business with the first 3 digits giving no hint at all where the person lives, and people who aren't listed in the phone directory at all. In this technical revolution of the communications (which has also brought us tinny-sounding toy phones), it appears that many also live with the assumption that everyone is on-line. Just today I was told I could get this piece of wring to the editor via computer. Well, I'm not on-line. I never thought that I'd be considered old-fashioned, but I'll clue you to something: I've never had a television set.

Irwin Gooen

Winter 2009-10 Trip Reports

Crumhorn Mtn

Tuesday, December 22. About a dozen of us met and had a snowy walk or snow shoe thru the Crumhorn Mtn. Boy Scout Camp and on around the lake.

Lucille Wiggin

Leatherstocking Golf Course Ski & Snowshoe

Tuesday, January 5. Twenty-four people gathered at the Farmer's Museum. Eleven opted to cross country ski; the others went snowshoeing. We did the perimeter of the Leatherstocking Golf Course, and on the "lake side" several skiers were very daring (Lucille, Monica, Steven among others) and climbed up the hill to "tour" down. Nuala and Norma Lee continued around the lake side with Ted; then Kay caught up to them. Everyone slowly made their way back to the parking lot where discussion was offered about the restricted parking at Mary Dunkle's home.



So several parked at the Otesago Hotel and walked up Westridge. No one wanted to miss the hot soup and sweets that were waiting for us!!! Counting noses at the house, it was decided that everyone who had started, did indeed return! It turned out to be a lovely day for an outing with at least 6" of new, fluffy snow.

Kay Kantorowski

Gilbert Lake State Park Outing

Tuesday, January 12. On a sunny, 22 degree day, 23 ADKers donned skis or snowshoes to enjoy the groomed trails at Gilbert Lake State Park. Ten participants went around the Lake twice on snowshoes and two others went on the "Wilderness Trail." Eleven skiers went along one side of the lake, crossing the road, connecting with the trail loop passing "Ice Pond" and "Twin Fawn Ponds." Despite the chill, everyone was warm upon return and felt pleasantly exercised and ready to enjoy a handful of trail mix.

Basswood Pond Ski & Snowshoe

Tuesday, January 19. We had typical winter weather on Tuesday which means a lot of consideration went into whether or not to proceed with the outing. We did, and sixteen hearty souls, plus one professional photographer, showed up. A light



snow fell throughout the ski/snowshoe which made the woods road at Basswood Pond State Forest feel like a magical place. Anita Briggs, a freelance photographer, walked along, in and around us, taking photographs. She said to look for them in the Daily Star. Some of us had trouble getting our cars out of the

parking area at the end. Luckily Steve Bonnell and Linda Melchionne were there with their trust Jeep. Thanks for the help Steve and Linda.

Rita Salo

Country Club Road Hike

Tuesday, January 26. Due to conditions beyond their control (rain and ice) the Fielders had to change their hiking route from the Greenway to a road walk. Sixteen people left the Fielders' home via Plains Drive, past the Soccer Hall of Fame and to the Country Club and back. Once back at the Fielders' home everyone warmed up with soup (mulligatawny and/or bean), bread and hot tea and cocoa. A good time was had despite the change of route.

Scott & Doug Fielder

Adirondack Loj

Monday – Wednesday, February 1-3. The Susquehanna group that spent three days at the Adirondack Loj had a wonderful time. The weather was perfect for driving and skiing. Although the snow was not very deep, there was still enough to ski and snowshoe on the property. We all went to Mt. Van Hoevenberg Center to use the many trails of varying degrees of difficulty.



Gathered at the Loj fireplace

Temperatures in the mid-twenties made the conditions for skiing absolutely perfect. The snow was the best I have skied in a few years!! Mel was cooking and the meals were great. After dinner we sat front of the large fireplace talking and laughing. Join us next year, Jan 31 - Feb 2, 2011

Aleda Koehn

Texas School House State Forest

Tuesday, February 2. This state forest is a 1200 acre parcel located in the town of New Lisbon about 6 miles north of Gilbert Lake State Park. The area is being logged now. At least one hardwood section we walked through had been thinned. Our hike was, I believe, our 5th annual winter hike in Texas School House. We've seen temperatures in the single digits and deep snow. This day was mild with about 2.5 inches of powdery snow.

Locomotion was eclectic. Three hikers skied, three snowshoed, eleven wore boots and crampons, and one was barefoot.



find the barefooter?

The hardwood stands were virtually empty of tracks save a couple of foxes, but action picked up in the softwood on the ridge with deer, squirrels and a mouse. Back in the car we saw two hawks – one, I think, a northern harrier, and the other a red-tail. Several people, new to the area, vowed to return in the summer.

Joe Hart

Winter Wonderland – Gilbert Lake State Park

Tuesday, February 16. We had near perfect winter conditions for our ADK activity at Gilbert Lake Park. A variety of choices lay before us. Some brought snowshoes, some cross country skis; others brought everything including hiking boots and walking poles. Snowshoeing and cross country were the popular choices. A real snowstorm had been promised by the weather report; some folks who had planned to come canceled because at home the snow was coming down hard. You can never really tell about the Gilbert Lake area. It did snow, but it was manageable and we had no trouble on roads from the Oneonta area.



One of the groups on the trail

Three groups started out and by the end of the morning we found tht more Gilbert Lake found that more Gilbert Lake trails had been explored in one morning then we could remember happening before. A group of snowshoers went up the west side

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of the lake then into the Ice Pond/Twin Fawns Trail. They took the Wilderness Trail and finished off by going back through the cabin area, back to the Lake and to parking lot. The cross county skiers started out on the east side of the lake, up to the large shelter and along the CCC Road. They split there with one group doing the whole Ice pond/ Twin Fawns and back to parking lot. Another small group did the Red Pine Trail and back to the lake and parking lot. Still others did the option routes to Spring Pond, Twin Fawns and Ice Pond then back. It seemed all participants had a fun, challenging time. Gilbert Lake State Park is a fine place to go with many options for healthy activities year around. Try it out. Photos include a snowshoeing group, the Wilderness Trail followed, and ADKers back at the cars.

Goodyear Lake Outing

Tuesday, March 2. Thirteen people met at Goodyear Lake for the outing - 4 walked the lake roads, while 2 skied and 7 snowshoed on the railroad tracks. Even with mounds of snow around us, it began to feel spring-like as the sun came out and warmed the air (and us). Those who returned to the house early enjoyed sitting on the deck in the sun and watching the backyard birds at the feeders. We ended our morning with soup and chili for lunch.

Currie Marr

Lower Riddell Snowshoe

Tuesday, March 9. On a very sunny, 48 degree March day, Barb and Jack Meeks led a snowshoe outing in Lower Riddell State Park, an enjoyable experience for the 12 participants.

Barbara & Jack Meeks

Crumhorn Mt Walk to Ross Gas Well

Tuesday, March 16. Our group of 18 met at the Crumhorn Mt. Boy Scout Camp and walked the dirt road a mile to the gate of the Ross gas well on Shutter Rd.; first well in Otsego Co.



Crumhorn gas well

Here we were met by Richard Nayh, the geologist for Gastem USA based in Montreal, Canada. We proceeded the 1/4 mi to the well where he talked to us, answering our questions, for an hour and a half. After enjoying a return walk to our cars, six of us enjoyed a lunch at Jackie's Restaurant in Milford.

Lucille Wiggin

Winter 2010 Meeting Reviews

Wednesday, January 20. Several members provided visual and narrative reviews of various outdoor adventures.

Wednesday, February 17. Aleda Koehn, Carol Saggese and Julie Smith shared their Utah National Parks camping and hiking experiences with stories and photos.

Wednesday, March 17. Peter Hujik, Otsego Land Trust Executive Director, described his position and OLT plans to protect open space, lands of scenic value, ecosystems, farmland, and forest lands in Otsego County. Jean and Joe Seroka thank

Aleda, Rita and John, Lucille and Julie for cooking our first annual St. Patrick's Day dinner. The food was delicious and Aleda's idea to have this dinner and organize it are very much appreciated. If anyone wants to be one of the cooks for next year, let Jean and Joe (988 7007) know now so you can be sure to be "one of the chosen cooks" for 2011. Many thanks to all you ADKers for all the food you prepare and bring to all our pot lucks. It never ceases to amaze us how we usually manage to have a good assortment of foods and wonderful programs each month.

Meetings Ahead, 3rd Wednesdays

Chapter members and guests meet at the Elm Park Methodist Church for 6 p.m. pot luck dinners followed by programs at 7 p.m.

April 21. Monthly meeting at Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St. Oneonta. 6 pm potluck dinner followed by 7 pm program. Deb Zack, Development Director, and Neil Woodworth, Executive Director of ADK, will talk to us about various events that have impacts on the Adirondacks and other locations in New York State.

May 19. Monthly meeting at Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St. Oneonta. 6pm potluck dinner followed by 7pm program. Ernie and Heide Mahlke will tell us about their bicycle trip on one of the numerous bike paths that exist in Germany. They rented bikes for a nominal charge at the railroad station and took the trail thru historic Dresden, Meissen and Pirna along the Elbe River.

Irwin Gooen also will present part of the program. His presentation will comprise an exhibition of various slides taken over various years on various waterways in Northern Canada. The youth involved range in age from pre-teen to late teen; the adults involved range in age from...well, "never mind" he said. The visual images will be accompanied by some talk regarding these trips and what misheh'gaas (craziness) led him to undertake it. Be forewarned!

June 16. Annual potluck picnic, 5-8 pm at the Briggs Pavilion, Gilbert Lake State Park.

SUSQUEHANNA CHAPTER SPRING 2010 SCHEDULE

Outings

ALWAYS CALL LEADERS FOR DETAILS

Area codes are 607 unless otherwise noted

Riders should contribute a fair share toward gas.

Each trip's leader must have all participants sign the liability release form which may be downloaded from our website: www.susqadk.org.

Ernie Mahlke, 432-2583, will be happy to hear from people who want to hike on week-ends and include them in any plans he and Heide may have. For bikers looking for group rides, please call Leon and Lucille Wiggin, 432-1022 and Frank and Jean Oakley, 263-5832. Both Wiggins and Oakleys will again be riding as much as possible this season.

Dates	Leaders	Phone	Destinations
April 6	Bev Hensle	286-9126	Stevens Road
April 13	Aleda Koehen	432-8870	Pine Lake
April 20	Carolyn Staley	432-6815	College Camp
April 27	Rita Salo	432-3656	Brookfield horse Trails
May 4	Rod & Sally Hebbard	829-5811	Hebbards Property
May 11	Kay Kantorowski	547-5528	Basswood Pond
May 18	Julie Smith	432-8642	Gilbert Lake
May 25	Joe Hart	829-8358	Lords Land Preserve (meet at Price Chopper-9:30 am)
June 1	Linda Melchionne & Steve Bonnell	315-858-0359	Basswood Pond
June 8	Virginia & Currie Marr	432-5434	TBA
June 15	Lucille Wiggen	432-1022	Crumhorn Mtn.
June 22	Minica & Irv Peters	315-858- 0261	Canadargo Lake
June 29	Linda Pearce	432-8969	Goodyear Lake

Your executive committee, wishing to reduce our carbon footprint, encourages members from outside Oneonta to carpool to meetings and activities.

Welcome New & Renewing ADKers

Wendy Steinhacker	44 Walnut St.	Cooperstown, NY 13326
Edward Kranz	487 Dirt Rd	Delancy, NY 13752
Diana Portalatin and Mark Davies	16 Union St	Oneonta, NY 13820
Beverlee Forster	615 Smith Rd	Danville, PA 17821

We'll see you at meetings and on the trails

LOCAL TRAIL MAINTANENCE LEADER NEEDED

Are you one of those folks who wake up at night worried that your saws are rusting away down there in the basement? Rats may be gnawing on the handles of you lopping shears? Are you concerned that while you've been frittering away your time making money and raising kids you've lost touch with your inner lumberjack? Well my friend, you've come to the right place!

Susquehanna Chapter is looking for a Trails Chair. The job requires organizing work parties on 3 or 4 days a year for work in local state forests. The work consists primarily of clearing blowdown and replacing signage. It's good if you have a light

chainsaw.

Naturally, you'll ask, "if it's such a creampuff of a job – why don't you do it?" Well, I did it for over 10 years. It was a great ride but now I've run out of gas.

If you are interested but have questions, call me, Joe Hart, at (607)829-8358 and I'll sweet talk you into it. It's fun to do; you have wonderful help from chapter members and the satisfaction of making a visible and important contribution to the hiking community.

Joe Hart

Director's Report

On a sunny day in March, the Board of Directors had a busy morning at the Lake George headquarters. Substantial reports were presented, summarizing the many activities of the committees that keep ADK running and progressing, but here are some of the highlights:

Facebook - a Facebook logo has been added to ADK's Web site, to encourage people to visit ADK's new Facebook page, which currently has 1,333 fans. This kind of social networking is one more way for members to communicate and be involved; for example, it was a key way to get members to attend a rally for restoring proposed cuts in the State budget for environmental matters. It reaches out to a younger demographic; in fact, 28% of the fans are between 25 and 34 in age. Check it out!

Membership - In 2009, new members totaled 4,600, with members in 16,417 households (up from around 15,700 in '08). ADK works hard at this, and has begun an exciting new pilot

program in which 3 chapters will partner with a college in their area, offering membership benefits to college students. The pool of interest is huge; one study of incoming students revealed that 800 of them wished to be involved in outdoor activities. ADK will offer activities for the students, and allow them to meet their "volunteer community activity" requirements by doing trail maintenance work. Talk about 'win-win'! The hope is that after college these graduates will maintain their memberships.

Expertise - ADK's reputation as a successful operation is expanding! This summer, a group of Chinese Park and Land planners will visit the U.S, and part of their trip will include a tour of ADK, as a model on how to do this right! Also, it was mentioned that ADK could well advise the State on how to run a visitor center, since ours operates at a profit, whereas the State plans to close its two visitor centers in the Adirondacks this year, due to budget problems.

Linda Seifried, Director

Chapter Financial Report Adirondack Mountain Club, Susquehanna Chapter Financial Report, 2009

<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">ACCOUNT BALANCES</td> <td style="width: 10%;">12/31/2008</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Savings</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,443.87</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Checking</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">819.04</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chapter Deposit Note (est.)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,976.78</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,239.69</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>INCOME</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dues share</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,934.10</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">49.58</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loj outings</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">740.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dinners</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">TOTAL INCOME</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,723.68</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>EXPENSES</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loj outings</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">919.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Director (governor) expenses</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">340.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rent</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">255.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Special projects</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Programs</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exec. 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Nina Hart, treasurer

ADK Mission Statement

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) is dedicated to the protection and responsible recreational use of the New York State Forest Preserve, and other parks, wild lands, and waters vital to our members and chapters. The club, founded in 1922, is a member-directed organization committed to public service and

stewardship. ADK employs a balanced approach to outdoor recreation, advocacy, environmental education, and natural resource conservation. ADK encourages the involvement of all people in its mission and activities; its goal is to be a community that is comfortable, inviting, and accessible.

Scariest Hiking Trail in the World

The Glens Falls-Saratoga ADK Chapter Younger Members group has recommends checking the following website for a

YouTube video dubbed “Scariest Hiking Trail in the World.” The web address: www.youtube.com/watch?v=W09MhqpdMoM.

ADK’s Advocacy Efforts Continue to Pay Dividends

Adirondack Mountain Club’s advocacy efforts are continuing to pay off in increased protection for the Adirondacks, the Catskills and other wild places in the Northeast from the ravages of acid rain. Under a settlement with New York and other states, Duke Energy Corp. has agreed to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from its Gallagher Generating Station by 86 percent.

This settlement will not only eliminate nearly 35,000 tons of sulfur dioxide emissions each year from this Indiana power plant, it will also help pave the way for future settlements and future pollution reductions. The settlement would not have been possible without earlier federal court victories by ADK and its partners.

Gas Drilling Update

ADK has taken a “cautious” position on Marcellus shale drilling. Within our Susquehanna Chapter area, citizens groups have expressed concern and provided forums for residents and others to learn more about procedures and potential consequences. A March 23rd open meeting titled “What Lies Beneath, What Lies Ahead” at Morris School and organized by Concerned Citizens of the Butternut Valley (CCBV) provided information and discussion among about 100 people who listened and responded to comments provided by Franklin geologist, Brian Brock; Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District manager, Scott Fickbohm; and attorney and Afton town board member, Mary Jo Long, who has much experience with the issue of gas-drilling.

Brock provided an overview of the geological processes that created the gas bearing strata referred to as the Marcellus and Utica shales and the Herkimer sandstone. He described how horizontal drilling, which employs hydro fracturing, or “fracking,” impacts the sub-strata. Brock emphasized the many ancillary factors associated with fracking, such as the need to bulldoze access roads to well sites and digging pits for water and drilling waste. He also listed equipment and structures common at gas drilling sites, such as derricks, drilling pipe, generators, mud-handling units, chemical stockpiles, and offices. “Horizontal drilling requires 2 to 9 million gallons of water for individual wells,” he said. According to Brock, the overall process translates into “hundreds of truckloads of water, hundreds of tons of sand per well, and tens of tons of chemicals per well.”

Scott Fickbohm highlighted issues addressed in his agency’s response to the NYS Department of Environmental Protection’s draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement – a docu-

ment which ultimately will regulate fracking, should it in fact be permitted by the state. Fickbohm has responded to the entire 800-page draft in a paragraph by paragraph 130-page response. This response is available under department listings at the Otsego County website, www.otsegocounty.com. Characterizing the SGEIS as “not as good as it could have been,” Fickbohm said, “What is missing is any description of environmental impacts. Without knowing impacts to the environment, we can’t know how to assess risks and mitigate them.” In Fickbohm’s opinion, water withdrawals from gas-drilling operations will not negatively affect large bodies of water, such as the Susquehanna and Unadilla rivers; however, withdrawals of ground-water and local smaller stream water concern him. Fickbohm is more concerned about negative impacts on the soil surface than what may happen underneath if fracking occurs. Surface-related problems include an increase of impervious surfaces due to drilling operations, leading to run-off which in turn causes erosion and changes watershed hydrology. Also, if topsoil is not reserved and returned to drilling sites at the end of gas removal operations, farmland fertility will be permanently reduced.

“The opportunity for accidents will increase,” he said. If trucks bearing chemicals or waste products from the fracking process accidentally lose their cargo, both soil and water quality may be damaged. Lack of knowledge about the chemicals that comprise the additives used in fracking compounds this threat. Fickbohm stated that sedimentation in creeks and rivers could occur during the construction phase of fracking operations. “In a rainstorm you can lose more dirt from one acre of topsoil than from 30 acres of forest,” he said. Regarding the impact of drilling on local agriculture, Fickbohm said, “SWCD has spent a lot of time with farmers to

maximize good soil conservation practices and minimize soil losses to streams. Some wells may be in ag fields and we want to make sure farmers are getting the same yields after gas extraction ends as before it started. Water quality monitoring is a necessity,” Fickbohm said, adding, “the unanswered questions about it are what protocols will be used, how frequently it will be carried out, and who will monitor water quality and how?”

Mary Jo Long encouraged municipal governments and private citizens to be proactive about controlling impacts resulting from natural gas extraction. She expressed reservations about the DEC’s ability to regulate gas drilling impacts. “Just because there are rules, doesn’t mean they are followed or enforced,” she said. Long stressed that New York State Constitution gives towns and counties “broad authority.” Therefore they can protect themselves from negative financial and environmental impacts related to drilling. Local governments also have a duty to the citizenry to be prepared. “Protections can be put in place, but the populace must be insistent. Citizens may take more control by electing people to office who will be accountable and by directing comments to local governments because they are the intermediary between state agencies and the people. Local governments have the right to make specific regulations for land-use,” Long said. Set-back requirements near schools and hospitals, “off-limit” locations, noise and light abatement, and pipeline excavation going under town roads are some of the areas where towns can exercise their authority. Towns can set road weight and frequency limits. “Zoning allows a voice and a right to participate in fundamental and major decisions.” *Thanks to Teresa Winchester for the preceding edited information.*

Foot-Loose!

Newsletter of the Susquehanna Chapter ADK

www.susqadk.org

c/o Lucille Wiggin

80 Chestnut Street

Oneonta, NY 13820

Subscription to this newsletter is included in membership in the Susquehanna Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. It is available to the public and to non-chapter members for \$5 per year. Contact Barbara Meeks at (607) 783 2924 for more information. Portions of this newsletter are also available online at www.susqadk.org.

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Chapter meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, September through May, at the Elm Park United Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut Street, Oneonta (except where noted). Members and the public are invited to our early evening potluck supper at 6pm (please bring a dish to pass, your own table service and mug or cup); programs begin at 7pm, followed by a short business meeting.

Adirondack Mountain Club annual membership dues are \$50 for individuals and \$60 for families (other membership levels are available, including seniors and students). Benefits of membership include:

- discounts on ADK workshops and programs
- discounts on ADK merchandise
- invitations to member only outings and extended trips
- reduced rates at ADK facilities: lodges, leantos, cabins, and campgrounds
- 20% discount on ADK trail guides, canoe guides, maps, books and calendars
- membership in one of ADK's 27 chapters throughout the Northeast

For more information please go to www.susqadk.org or call 1 800 395 8080