

# COLD RIVER CURRENTS

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April 2024 The Newsletter of the Cold River Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

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## Acting Chair's Report

by Susan Atwell

It is my great pleasure to announce that Bob Singley volunteered for the vacant position of Co-Chair. The Executive Council voted unanimously to appoint Bob to serve as Interim Co-Chair until the annual meeting in December. At that time, he will be on the slate of officers to be voted on by CRC members. We welcome Bob. He brings a wealth of professional experience and management skills to our leadership team.

A listing of individuals by chapter that are certified to lead outings can be found in the spring edition of Adirondack Magazine. I am proud to say that the Cold River Chapter has an impressive number of people on that list. Thank you to all the dedicated leaders for the time that you devote to obtain the needed certifications. It shows that you care that outings are safe and enjoyable. And thank you to the Outings Committee for continuing to offer so many fun options to participate in beautiful Adirondack adventures.

ADK is in the process of transitioning to an Association Management Software System called iMIS. Executive Council members will be trained to use this system with the end goal of having a website and an improved access to information and communication. This will give Chapters the ability to manage activities, events, committees, memberships and more.

Save the dates: The catered Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 10 at Minerva Lake. The Christmas Party and Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, December 12. More details will follow in future newsletters.

Cold River is your Chapter. The success of the Chapter is the result of your continued support. Our outstanding Outings Co-Chairs welcome new volunteers to lead outings.

Prior to Covid potlucks were almost monthly and very well attended. The social gathering at potlucks is an activity that almost all members can participate in. We meet new members, greet friends, and catch up on CRC business and events. We hope to increase the number of potlucks but we need volunteers to host. Please contact Rose Cooper or Maria Rinella if you would like to host a potluck. They can provide you with names of venues and a list of tips for potluck hosts.

I hope to see you at our next potluck on April 18 at the Minerva Community Center.

## **TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

**by Rosemary Cooper**

As a member of the Cold River Chapter, you should have received an email from ADK/HQ introducing you to the new “iMIS” system, integrated management information software.

This new system will allow each member to create their own profile and manage their membership by logging into their “portal” and receive up to date information on outings, certifications, chapter emails, newsletters, etc.

The next phase of the rollout will be our own chapter’s website. We will be able to post newsletters, outings, etc. We are very fortunate to have Mary Redfield, Tom Riley and Tom Metering volunteer to be our “web masters.”

iMIS will integrate information to and from ADK/HQ, local chapters, and individual members, creating a seamless flow of information within the Adirondack Mountain Club.

If you have not received an email regarding the new iMIS system, please contact ADK/HQ at: [support@adk.org](mailto:support@adk.org)



# Chapter News

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## **An exciting opportunity is available!**

Would you like to help organize much of the fun that happens in our chapter? We are looking for someone to become the next co-chair of the outings committee. After serving as the co-chair for five years, Lynn Butterworth will be stepping aside. It is time to let someone else help organize the fun!

The outings committee co-chair position is a two-year commitment, but, as this is a shared activity, the large part of the job only happens every six months. We are looking for someone to begin his or her tenure in January. You would be working with Tom Riley, a long-time co-chair who is a valuable and helpful volunteer. Outings are the basis for an active chapter. Your participation as the outings co-chair will help maintain the vibrancy of the Cold River Chapter.

Lynn Butterworth  
518. 240. 6162.



# Where in the World?

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## A Little Quiz

- Where can you find 95 kilometers (60 miles) of excellent cross-country skiing on groomed woodland trails when there is no snow in the Adirondacks?



- Where can you enjoy great hospitality at a Bed and Breakfast only five minutes from the Nordic ski center?
- Where can you go dog sledding if you tire of cross-country?
- Where can you XC ski to a downhill ski center that covers three sides of a mountain?



- Where can you practice your French, but can get by with English?
- Where can you visit a walled French city and the site of the turning point of the French and Indian War less than an hour from great skiing?
- Where can you find all this only five hours from Lake Placid?

## Where in the World?

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The answer is the Mount Sainte-Anne Cross Country Ski Centre in Saint-Ferréol-les-Neiges, Quebec, Canada.

Over the Presidents Week holiday, four CRC members enjoyed a great week in this winter wonderland.

For more information visit online:

- Ski Center: <https://mont-sainte-anne.com/>
- Auberge and Campagne (Bed and Breakfast): <https://aubergeetcampagne.com/>
- Quebec City Tourism: <https://visitquebec.com/>

# Outings Reports

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*A special thanks to those who led each activity, as well as Lynn Butterworth, Tom Riley, and the CRC Outings Committee.*

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING THE OUTINGS EMAILS AND WANT TO, OR IF YOU WANT TO STOP THEM, PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND REQUEST TO OUR CHAPTER AT [ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org](mailto:ColdRiverADKChapter@adk.org)

## **January 4: Stony Pond X – C Ski, Minerva Leader: Lynn Butterworth and John Rendinaro**

We almost did not recognize it; the sun was out and there was a blue sky! Eight of us hiked what was planned to be a xc ski into Stony Pond. Mostly booted, a few of us in spikes, we enjoyed the roughly five-mile hike. As we walked, we moved limbs, climbed over fallen trees and wondered if it would be skiable this season while hoping the snow would eventually come. A nice afternoon with great conversation, laughs and much needed Vitamin D! ~Kathy Herold



*Stony Pond*

## **January 9: Cascade Lake Cross Country Ski, Eagle Bay Leader: Jeanne Tommell**

The weather left us in limbo, and after watching the forecast, the date was changed to avoid potential rain, wind, and lack of snow. But the snow came, officially making it a ski. There was good snow, though a few rocks popped out!! Various animal tracks were enjoyed along the way. We skied the 6-mile loop with a lovely lunch by the falls. The snow started coming down as we started back, nice, and quiet in the woods! Thanks to Gail, Ellen, Frances, and Kathryn for helping to break trail. ~Jeanne Tommell



*Cascade Lake*

# Outings Reports

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## **January 11: Moose Mountain Pond Trail, North Hudson Leader: Tracey Donaldson**

Eight intrepid explorers embarked on a snowshoe trip of discovery confronting “opportunities” that would have caused less hardy souls to turn around. The first of these was basic, where to go. The parking lot at the planned objective, Moose Mountain Pond Trail, was not plowed after the recent heavy snowfall. Plan B was to start at the Sharp Bridge Campground and hike toward Round Pond in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest.

The explorers found a winter wonderland, great for snowshoeing with adequate snow depth and comfortable temperatures. The crew had a great picnic overlooking the East Mill Flow after which they returned to their cars. Several spirited discussions ensued including one about the source of the Schroon River. For the record, it is at the junction of Crowfoot Brook and New Pond Brook about 10 miles north of Sharp Bridge.

A large bright object was seen in the south western sky that was tentatively identified as the sun peeking through clouds. It was a great ending to a great 6.66 mile “snowshoe trip of discovery.” ~Tom Meyering



*Figure 1 Moose Mountain Pond Trail*

## **January 18: Snowshoe to Round Pond from South Garnet Lake Road, Thurman Leaders: Judy and Steve Thomson**

We were supposed to snowshoe to one of the many Round Ponds (one which is not so round as some of the others), where our leader reported she and two others had broken trail. However, it snowed between the trail-breaking and the outing, rendering the parking area at the trailhead inaccessible. Hence, the venue was changed to Cod Pond, where the parking lot had not been plowed but was more negotiable.

Indeed, all 3 of the vehicles carrying the participants were able to get in and out of that lot with the use of a snow shovel or pushing. Our group snowshoed the unbroken trail to Cod Pond. With the fresh snow, the trail was especially attractive as we enjoyed a nice, gradual 1.0 climb to the pond, covered in ice plus the snow. It was tempting to extend the hike onto the pond surface, but we deferred to caution and enjoyed the pleasant snowshoe conditions. ~Meredith Todd



*Round Pond*

# Outings Reports

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## **January 18: Cross Country Ski – Polaris Bridge, Newcomb Leader: Gail Gabriels**

Polaris bridge is an old iron bridge over the Hudson River built in the early 1900's. We followed an old logging road for 3.5 miles which made for easy skiing. We had about 6 inches of fresh light snow, so we had a dream ski day with peeks of sun all day. The view from the bridge looking up and down the Hudson was stunning. There were 9 of us coming from North River, Blue Mt. Lake, Eagle Bay, Loon Lake, and Bolton! Our chapter encompasses such a wonderful group of folks!~Marti Townley



*Polaris Bridge*

## **January 25: Crown Point State Historic Site Snowshoe, Crown Point Leader: Tom Meyering**

Our Magical History Tour to see the Crown Point ruins of Fort St. Frederick, built by the French in 1734, later occupied by the British in 1759 as one of the largest forts they would build in North America, took place on a misty, cloudy day, and was led by Cold River Chapter's own pre-Revolutionary history expert Tom Meyering. Although planned as a snowshoe, recent rains enabled a 5-mile hike on wet snow, slush, and pavement through the woods, the Fort's grounds and ruins of the limestone barracks, the Champlain Memorial Lighthouse, and the shores of Lake Champlain and Bulwagga Bay. While those who use the Crown Point Bridge see a hint of the ruins of the Fort, only by visiting the site do you experience the impressive walls of the barracks. We enjoyed stunning views of the Crown Point Bridge and the beautiful Memorial Lighthouse with its sculpture of Samuel de Champlain and a plaque by Auguste Rodin. Interestingly, we stopped at one of the triangulation sites laid out by Verplanck Colvin as he was mapping the Adirondacks. Tom's knowledge of the French and Indian War, British occupation and the Revolutionary War is extensive and those visiting this site during its season might see him working there and have the benefit of his expertise. Thanks to Tom for making this possible and for coordinating our visit with the DEC and NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. ~Peggy Carrol



# Outings Reports

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*Crown Point*

## **January 28: Split Rock Mountain, Westport Leaders: Gail & Chuck Helfer**

Due to bad weather conditions, we rescheduled the hike. Four of us met a few days later under very cloudy skies with pleasantly mild temperatures. We hiked the North Rim trail, a 6.5 mile out and back on mostly old woods roads over undulating terrain to several good view points along the ridge. The cloud cover made any far mountain views nonexistent, but there were good views of Lake Champlain and the valleys to the west and east. While snow depth was moderate, snowshoes made hiking easier and more enjoyable, especially on parts of the trail where others had booted! ~Gail and Chuck Helfer



*Ruins of Fort St. Frederick*



*Split Rock Mt*

# Outings Reports

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## February 1: Stony Pond Vanderwhaker Mountain Wild Forest

**Leader: Ger Cox**

Two days before the hike to the Blue Ledges, Ger found the road was plowed, but within 10 yards of the parking area, the bridge over a wide creek was washed out. After considering alternatives, Stony Pond in the Vanderwhaker Mountain Wild Forest became the best option. It was cloudy but pleasant. Ten members assembled at the Minerva Town Hall and car pooled to the trailhead. The snow depth was 18 inches. Luckily, previous snowshoers and a skier had broken trail, promising an easy hike. However, the trail had also been used by "Mr. Post Holer" who added a little challenge to hike. The hike was to the lean-to on Stony Pond, about a 4-mile round trip. Along the way we enjoyed the wild forest and signs of various animals, including an "otterslide" down the backside of a beaver dam. Stony Pond was gorgeous. Other than the lean to and a stashed rowboat at the lake, there was little sign of recent human activity. Several hikers expressed an interest to come back in the summer. One hiker thought, "If they can get a rowboat in here, I can get my Hornbeck here." ~Tom Meyering



*Stony Pond*

## February 1: Fern Park Cross Country Ski, Inlet

**Leader: Jeanne Tommell**

Well, the forecast was good, and ski conditions were very good!! But!!... a freezing drizzle started east of Inlet and several people had to cancel (after checking out crummy driving conditions). Janette and Clem made the trek from Saratoga and as did a neighbor from Eagle Bay! We toured around hilly Fern and climbed up to the summit, Hidden Peak ... a 5 star lunch overlooking lakes 4, 6 & 7 in the fog! A Fun adventure sharing Fern!!

Jeanne

PS .... a sled ride to top it off!~Jeanne Tommell



*Fern Park*

# Outings Reports

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## **February 8: Adirondack Interpretive Center Snowshoe Leader: Shannon Andersen**

A friendly group of 6 joined our leader Shannon on a beautiful and serene snowshoe hike on some of the trails at the AIC on the ESF campus in Newcomb. It was a perfect way to start the day prior to the climate change lecture and the CRC potluck later in the afternoon. We started off at the gazebo after making our choice to don snowshoes or micro spikes and headed off on well packed trails toward the picnic area and along the blue connector trail which offered some peaceful views of Rich Lake. After passing by student housing and down a gravel road, we made our way to the Rich Lake boat launch area which brought back memories to many in the group of a paddle we had taken from there on a steamy day last summer. We almost did not recognize it under a blanket of pure white snow. We enjoyed some time at the lakeside, savoring the beauty of the views, the warmth of the sun and the mysterious rumbling and groaning sounds resonating from the lake ice. From there we headed along the Rich Lake Peninsula trail relishing the views from the scenic overlooks. We stopped at the last overlook to take a lunch break while basking in the warmth and the beauty of the day before returning to the AIC for the afternoon activities. ~Anne Waring



*AIC Snowshoe*

## **Feb. 8: Goodnow Mtn Snowshoe, Newcomb Leader: Ger Cox**

We parked at the trailhead of the Goodnow Mountain Fire Tower Trail, nearly opposite the ESF VIC. With our potluck contributions securely in the car, we quickly agreed on spikes and off we went into the much-awaited sunshine. There were marked trees with details explaining the forestry research and recent logging, about which we heard more about in an informative session by Michael Federice who discussed the effects on climate change in the Adirondacks and attempts to stay ahead of the pending changes to our forests. The day was beautiful and we were treated to great conversation as well as amazing views from the top of the Fire Tower. We arrived at AIC just in time for the presentation. ~Kathy Herold



*Good Flow Mt.*

# Outings Reports

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## **February 15: Big Pond Trail, Schroon Lake Leader: Tracey Donaldson**

Eight hikers were led on the trail to Big Pond. The snowshoe track was well packed so only micro-spikes were worn. On the return trek we detoured to North Pond. This trail was less traveled but still only micro-spikes were worn. Alex shared his 'famous' Sante Fe Biscochitos as a trail snack at the pond. It was a pleasant, mild day with fair to partly cloudy skies. With the detour the group traveled 4.25 miles. ~ Alex Paul



*Big Pond Trail*

## **February 22: Snowshoe/Microspike at Orlin Duell Road, Brant Lake Leaders: Steve and Sara Mullins**

Eight enthusiastic CRC hikers joined Sara and Steve on a mild and sunny snowshoe ramble along the trails of their beautiful 74-acre Brant Lake homestead. After departing from their driveway, we headed into the woods and within minutes were rewarded with a view of Gore Mountain through an opening in the trees. Admiring the variety of trees, and enjoying each other's company, we continued along serene trails. After cresting a hill, we appreciated some spectacular views of Brant Lake, Hoffman Mountain, and some of the high peaks in the distance. Steve and Sara offered up interesting stories of the history of their land, once a dairy farm dating back to the late 1800's, as we moved along their network of trails. We took the opportunity to snowshoe through an area of their property with some impressive 300 + year old sugar maple trees that had been spared from past logging in the area and to see firsthand the maple tap lines and buckets, established for their syrup production. We all enjoyed the trails with tales, the views of the lake and mountains, the towering sugar maples, and the companionship of our CRC group! ~Ann Waring



*Orlin Duell Road*

# Outings Reports



*Orlin Duell Road*

## **February 22: Record Hill/Anthony's Nose Snowshoe, Town of Putnam**

**Leader: Brendan Hanley**

The weather cooperated for our hike overlooking Lake George. Record Hill, located in The Anthony's Nose Preserve of the Lake George Conservancy. Less than a mile to the top, but about 900 feet in elevation, it offered nice views along the way. A perfect season to hike, as the leaves obscure the view during the summer months. Easily followed, the trail initially passes through a wooded section before a steeper climb. Great views from the top, with different perspectives from different vantage points. Looking south offered views of Lake George with Black Mountain central in the distance, as well as views to the west on the other side of Lake George. Hiking further into the woods offers a view of Roger's Rock Slide. Deciding to use micro spikes at this point we walked down the slope a bit in the woods, heading towards the lake, but given the steep descent, we turned around to head back the way we came. The total hike was a little over 2 miles, but felt like enough with the climb and descent. It was tricky with the slippery leaves and careful steps taken along the rocky trail. The snow was minimal, as the trail gets southern exposure. It was a great day and the rain started as soon as we got back into the car. ~Tracey Donaldson



*Record Hill/Anthony's Nose*

# Outings Reports

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## March 14: Cheney Mountain Trail

**Leader: Ger Cox**

Due to recent rain, melting snow, and warmer temperatures, our original snowshoe plans to snowshoe Split Rock were scrapped. Ger contacted the Champlain Area Trails (CATS) for a less muddy alternative, and Cheney Mountain was suggested. Our group of 8 started off through an old landfill site, crossing over the open area into the woods to start the ascent. Wearing micro spikes, the climb was initially in the shade, hence snow was on the ground in the woods. We hiked a total of 2.2 miles and climbed a little less than 700 feet total. The views from the top were nice with no leaves obscuring Lake Champlain. We had two stops overlooking the lake and could see the bridge at Crown Point in the distance. Hiking over to a western overlook, we had a spectacular view of the high peaks and the remnants of the #7 Mill, built in 1943 and used to obtain iron ore from Mineville, Witherbee, and hamlets of Moriah. It was a beautiful day to sit in the sun, enjoy the view, have a snack, and enjoy each other's company. Also, welcome to Ralph and Lillian Ratto from Schroon Lake who joined us today on their first ADK hike. The trail is well marked, easy to follow, and is worth a return visit. ~ Tracey Donaldson



*Cheney Mountain Overlook*

## March 14: Ski to Gulf Brook Road

**Leader: Gail Gabriels**

In search of snow, Gail found the Gulf Brook Road with lots of it! This 6.8-mile road leads to the breath-taking views behind the Boreas Ponds. Six of us could not get enough of the sunshine, warm weather and spring-like conditions. Marti Townley



*Gulf Pond Road*



# Outings Reports

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## **March 21: Lily Pond Snowshoe/hike, Brant Lake**

**Leader: Meredith Todd**

Spring had officially arrived two days before, and nine CRC members gathered at the Horicon Town Hall under a bluebird sky, trying to ignore the obvious: with temperatures in the low 30s and a brisk wind, it was not going to seem like spring. Everyone dressed in their warmest, most wind-proof layers and mentally prepared for a chilly time, as we set off. After reaching Lily Pond we unanimously decided to keep going and visit Round Pond. We enjoyed lunch under the hemlocks. Many small things caught our attention as we hiked, including a mini-stream of water running under the ice in the trail. We found an old pair of boots and later a baseball cap. This led to the most perplexing mystery of the hike, "What piece of clothing will we find next?" Six miles after starting the hike we were back at the trailhead and in our warm cars heading home. ~Tom Meyering



*Lily Pond*

## **March 28: Amy's Park Snowshoe or Hike**

**Leaders: Lynn Butterworth & John Rendinaro**

Amy's Park, part of the Lake George Land Conservancy, was well worth the trip. The day called for clouds with a chance of rain, but we lucked out, completing 2.0 miles without precipitation. Snow lingered on shady parts of the trail, and it was a bit muddy in spots, but we were prepared. Most hiked with micro spikes. The beaver lodges in the pond were easy to see with no snow or ice. There are some informational signs and the trails are well marked. We took the yellow trail across Trout Falls Road up to the red trail, which started our half mile ascent. Total climb was about 500 feet. We had views of Lake George and some islands through the clouds, and easily identified Pole Hill and Hi Nopit, the two peaks right in front of us. It was a little tricky coming down with wet leaves and slippery snow, so our poles and micro spikes were handy. It was a nice morning in the woods! Welcome to Matt and Judy from Syracuse and Lake Pleasant, who just joined our chapter and came on their first outing. ~Tracey Donaldson



*Amy's Park*

# CRC Membership and Connections

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## More Events to look forward to:

**Spring Pot Luck**  
**April 18th**  
**Minerva Community Center**  
**Hosts: Ann Hornbeck and Kate McCormick**

We will provide the main dishes of Corn Beef 🍀 and Spiral Ham and Veggies. Requesting members to think spring dishes 🌺 and breads as well as desserts.

The community center has plenty of space for crock pots or warming dishes. The doors will be open for drop off by noon.

Ann Hornbeck 518-251- 0856 [acrowequilts@frontiernet.net](mailto:acrowequilts@frontiernet.net)

Kate McCormick 347-225-4602 [kag35@icloud.com](mailto:kag35@icloud.com)



*Minerva Community Center*

**And.....**

# CRC Membership and Connections

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## A Traditional Pot Luck



**June 13, 2023**

**25 Bonnie Bell Farm Rd. Loon Lake, Chestertown**

**Hosts: Ken Shea/ Marti Townley**

Please bring a dish, appetizer, or dessert to share. We will have a grill if you would like to grill something for yourself. We hope to hold the potluck on our beach so there will be no electricity. (You will have access to our house if needed) Please bring your own utensils, plates, and beverages. Also bring a chair and bathing suit. There is a port-a-potty.

Time: 4-5 pm social hour

5-5:30 pm meeting

5:30 pm dinner

Contact: Marti Townley by June 8 to let me know what you will bring  
[mdksshea@sol.com](mailto:mdksshea@sol.com) 518-301-3712

Directions: Bonnie Bell Farm Rd. is off of Rt. 9 on the west side of Loon Lake. From exit 25 drive west on Rt 8/ rt 9, turn right onto Rt. 9 at OP Fredericks and go about a mile and turn right at a gate for our beach. You can drive down. We will have a sign. From exit 26 drive south on rt. 9. Bonnie Bell Farm Rd. will be about a mile on the right and the beach will be on the left. From North Creek drive East on Rt. 8, then left on to Rt. 9 at OP's. If the weather is not cooperative, we will have the potluck at our house. To get to our house drive up Bonnie Bell Farm Rd. and take the second side road on the left after the barn. You will see the sign for 25. The first house you see is ours.

## CRC Membership and Connections

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### Looking Ahead.....

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**August 10<sup>th</sup>** picnic is at Minerva Beach. Details in the works...

September - available

October - available

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Meeting/Holiday Dinner

If anyone is interested in hosting our wildly popular pot lucks, please contact Rose Cooper -[rosecooper2@gmail.com](mailto:rosecooper2@gmail.com) or Maria Rinella - [rinellium@frontiernet.net](mailto:rinellium@frontiernet.net)



## Membership News

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON OUTINGS.

Membership Chair, Susan Schuler

**As of February, 2024**

Total Households: 323

Total Members: 523

Total Affiliates: 21



### **New Members:**

Theresa Ronning

Saratoga Springs, NY

Kathryn Godley

Forestport, NY

Lynn Bradley

Stillwater, NY

### **New Affiliate:**

Steven and Judi Sprague

Albany, NY

Alexander and Kathleen Paul

Shelburne, VT



## **Buck Mountain Trailhead Stewards** ***Join Us!***



Glens Falls-Saratoga ADK volunteers steward the Buck Mt. Pilot Knob Trailhead in the summer to **promote safety, resource protection, and good hiker habits and practices**. We'd love to have you join us. It's good work.

For more information – Scan here:



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Email: **trails@adk-gfs.org**