



PADDLE SPLASHES

JANUARY 2016

**Canoe & Kayak Committee
Appalachian Mountain Club
NY-NoJ Chapter**

**Adirondack Foliage:
The Leaves That Never Leave You**



contents



10

Reel Fun

AMC's 3rd Annual Reel Paddling Film Festival

14

Stuff to Do

Don't be a sofa spud

7

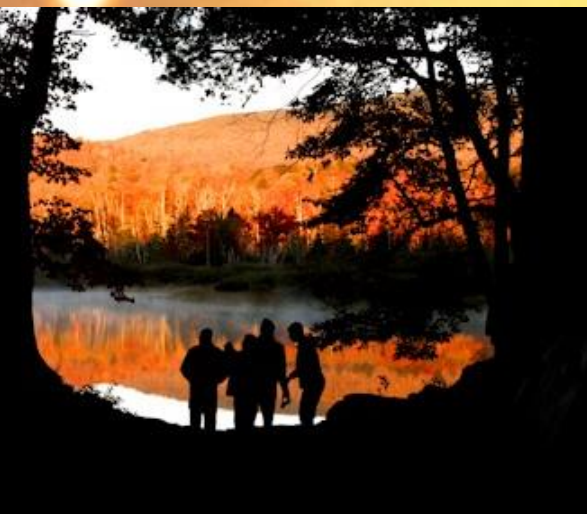
Meet the Boss

Suzanne Villegas – our new Committee Chair

12

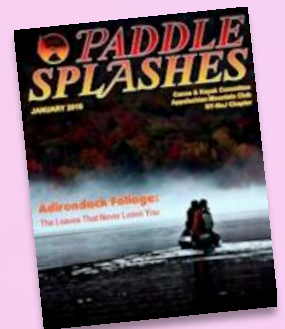
Arlene Kaplan

Kitchen maestro of the Adirondack foliage trips



PADDLE SPLASHES

Loretta Brady, Editor
Marty Plante, Printer's Devil



PaddleSplashes is published by the Canoe and Kayak Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club, New York - North Jersey Chapter. Current and prior issues are available on the Chapter's website at

<http://www.amc-ny.org/paddle-splashes/>

Send all submissions to canoekayak.newsletter [at] amc-ny.org

13

Thanks!

Thanks to our 2015 volunteers

8

Paddlers' Party

The tradition continues

Cover Photo: Eileen Yin and Loretta Brady on Lewey Lake at Sunrise.
Photo by Marty Plante.



the
LEAVES
that never leave you

*AMC
Celebrates
the 20th
Annual
Fall
Foliage
Expedition*

Why would anyone trek to a pristine wilderness with a busload of people? Car loads, actually, stuffed with gear and carpooled paddlers. They backed in among the pine groves that guard Lewey Lake—a spot named for “French Louie” Seymour, trapper, lumberman, and master storyteller—in the park’s southwestern region.

the LEAVES

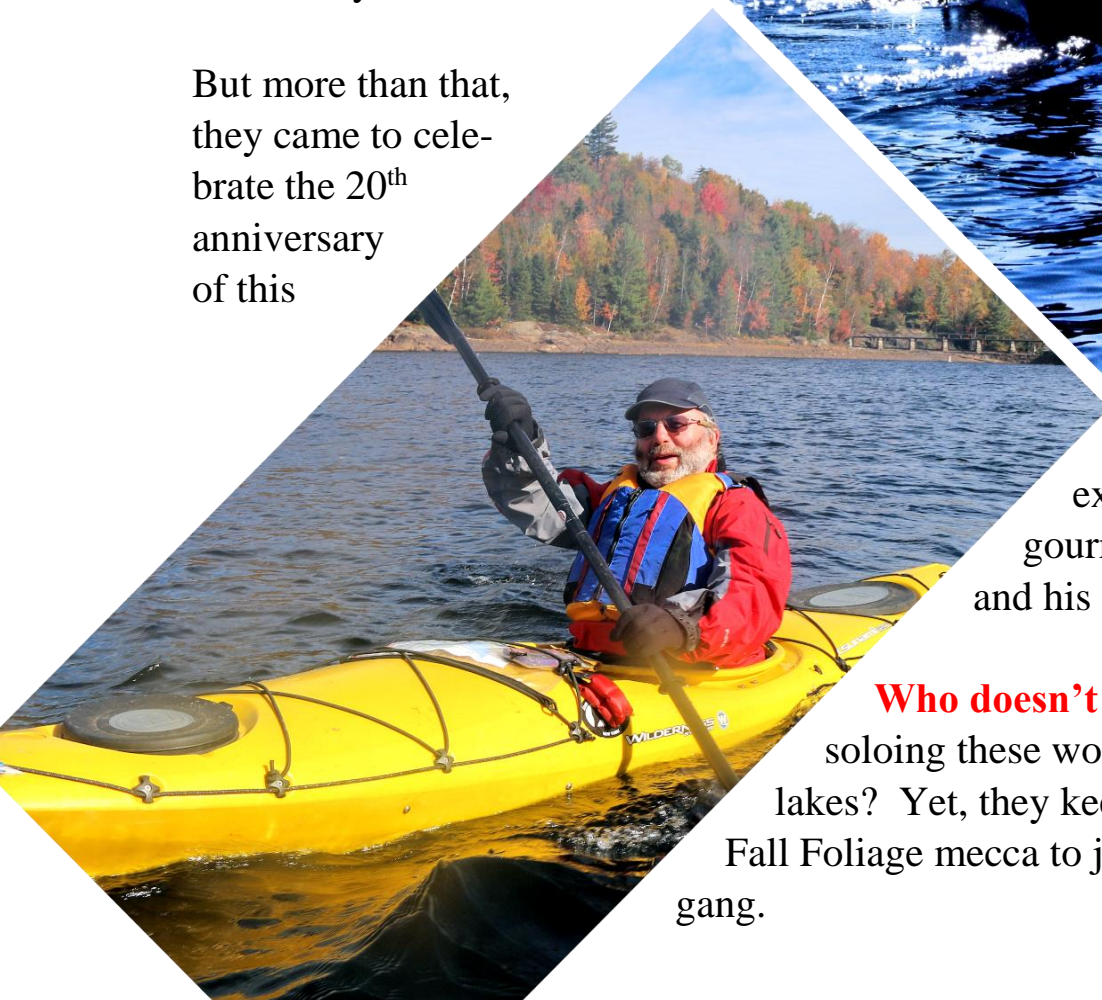
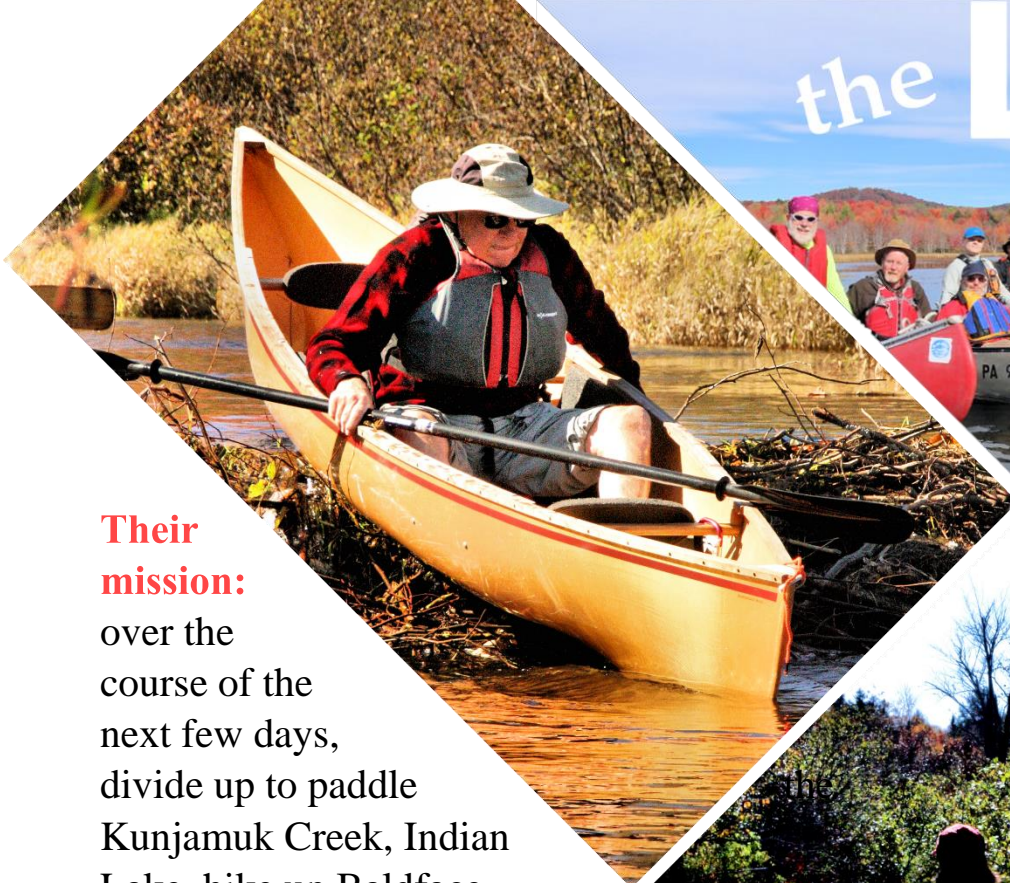
Their mission:

over the course of the next few days, divide up to paddle Kunjamuk Creek, Indian Lake, hike up Baldface Mountain for a panoramic foliage vista, and finish with a cruise down a quiet section of the Hudson River on the way home.

But more than that, they came to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this

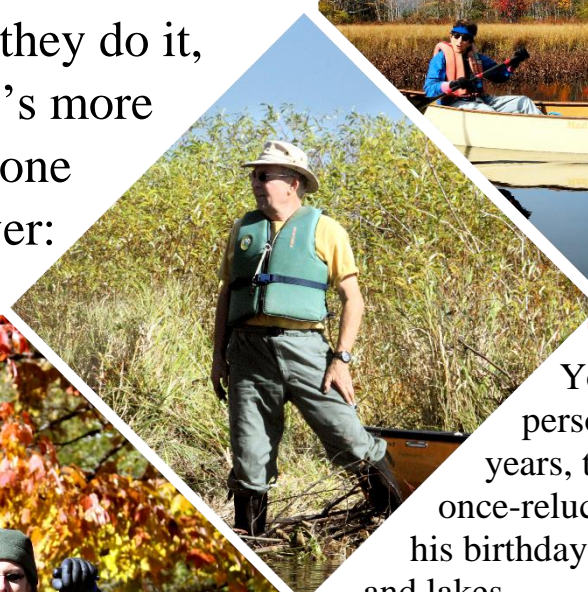
gem of an AMC tradition, the precious gift of expert leader and gourmet, Rich Bretton, and his loyal minions.

Who doesn't fantasize about soloing these wooded rivers and lakes? Yet, they keep returning to this Fall Foliage mecca to join Rich and the gang.



They haul three tarp roof-sets, four standing stoves, fixin's for two 5-course meals, and the kitchen sink. Six of those. Plastic dishpans.

If you ask around why they do it, there's more than one answer:



Photos by Rich Breton, Tom Gilmore and Marty Plante.

• INTRODUCE SIGNIFICANT OTHERS TO YOUR WILDERNESS PASSION

You may not be able to lure an indoorsy person onto a rustic trip, but over the past 20 years, this well-hosted Octoberfest has brought once-reluctant spouses, and even a 10-year-old-boy on his birthday, to a state of shock and awe for wild rivers and lakes.

• IT'S A WILDERNESS SYMPOSIUM

Think of it this way: when people aren't sharing tips on gear, they're swapping stories, recommending guidebooks (like Phil Brown's [Adirondack Paddling](#)), giving pointers to avoid capsizing while running beaver dams (which happened — brrrrr), or recruiting paddlers for future trips. (Anyone up for exploring Lake Superior?)

• RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES NEED COMMUNITY

More than one paddler called the flaming leaf displays a miraculous experience. One steadfast participant has trained his family that this one sacred event is trumped by no other familial duty— except that one year when it *did* conflict with an *actual* holy day of obligation.

• YOU CAN STILL SNEAK OFF ALONE

This year, five stealth campers got up before sunrise and dipped their bows silently into Lake Lewey. They paddled amid the mystical fog. Loon cries echoed off glowing mountainsides. Eagles circled above, readying to fish for breakfast. The paddlers knowingly eyed each other, nodding, "*It doesn't get better than this,*" then headed off to share the moment with their coffee-sipping comrades.



There's something else, too.

Snuggle into your sleeping bag as the October nights bring a hint of winter's chill. Your mind replays Bob Linquist's harrowing tales of British Columbian ventures. You keep picturing the glacial rocks on the trail up Baldface Mountain. You dream you *are* "French Louie," planning where to trap the next meal.

Then it hits you. The trip's community tradition itself is what hooks you. Soaking up the accumulated years of a club's collective experiences, you start to feel you're a native Adirondacker. Somehow you're a part of all this majesty and its long history. You belong. And this beauty belongs to you.



meet the new **BOSS**

Then I began hearing the voices:

- Butch: "One's a victim. Two's a witness. Three's a chance."
- Carin: "Paddle! You got this!"
- Olly: "WORMS! Break down the river!"
- Chris V.: "Hold onto your paddle and boat!"

And these voices kept calling me to a commitment as the Canoe/Kayak Committee Chair.

Having sat on many non-profit boards, I know what the commitment entails. Accepting "the crown" has to do with wanting to contribute, to give back a bit of the incredible gifts CKC has given me.

It's an honor to introduce the incredibly talented members of the 2016 CKC Committee serving with me (aka Knights of the Round Paddle):

- Treasurer/Ratings/Records – Marty Plante
- Trip Scheduler – Meredith Fabian
- Quartermaster/First Aid/Equipment Coordinator
– Andrew Ludke
- Leadership Development/PaddleSplashes Editor
– Loretta Brady

Our goal is to have an open door policy to hear all thoughts and suggestions. We've received many ideas already, so keep 'em coming.

Henceforth and hitherto, as queen, all give ear to my one and only edict as Chair:

Let us use the language of WE, as in WE,
THE CKC FAMILY OF PADDLERS.

Join me now in saying the CKC PLEDGE:

WE will continue to build the family of CKC paddlers (seasoned or new).

WE will continue to have river talks, belly laughs, happy hours, camp fires, swims, reeking gear smells, shared shuttles and commutes to/from the rivers we love.

SYOTR, See You on the River,
HRH, Her Majesty, the humble
Suzanne Villegas, CKC Chair

By day, I am faster than a speeding email, more powerful than a deluxe copy machine, and able to leap tall file cabinets in a single bound as HUMAN RESOURCES GURU. Spouting irrefutable policy and procedure rhetoric to the proletariat, I get the job done.

Now, in my late 40s, starting an extreme sport like whitewater kayaking seemed beyond even the insanity that is me, but that's how I roll.

Paddlers' Party

Dec 12, 2015





Reel Paddling

Film Festival

The third annual AMC Reel Festival once again transported shivering city paddlers to tropical destinations, like paddling in Tahiti, or hucking in Mexico. Rob Holbrook masterfully hosted the evening, initiating hikers and non-members to the magic of exotic watersheds.

There were tales of daunting expeditioners, too, like the inspiring six-month canoe trek across

Canada: 29 days of portage by bike, cart wheels, and foot. We'll never complain about remote put-ins again after witnessing a paraplegic boater brave steep climbs by piggy-back or the Jackson family top-rope sheer cliffs to do laps off a stunningly beautiful waterfall.

If you'd like to be a juror to help select next year's film winners, just let us know!



Master of Ceremony Rob Holbrook introducing a film.
Photo by Suzanne Villegas

NEW YEARS PADDLING



The adventure started in Brooklyn with car trouble, but with a quick jump Simon and Suzanne were on their way. We put in at Milford Beach Access, which was a new section for me. Temps hovered around freezing day and night, which was part of the fun. New Year's Day was especially glorious with sunny skies. Simon mentioned that the Delaware is the most scenic river he's paddled so far in America. He really needs to get out more. At the end of the day we camped downstream of Dingman's Ferry. The only hiccup was trying to start a fire in the evening. What an embarrassment ... we failed! But, we were immediately warmed by Suzanne's gourmet dinner of tacos with rice and beans.

Saturday started with coffee in bed -- or rather, sleeping bags -- and the most unbelievably enormous, fluffy, and crispy cranberry pancakes ever. Unfortunately, Suzanne woke up ill and decided not to paddle, so she hitchhiked to the car while Simon and I packed up camp. With Suzanne heading to a pharmacy, Simon and I headed downriver, paddling into frigid headwinds most of the day. Although we didn't spot much wildlife, a bald eagle did buzz us low and slow. We pulled out at Bushwick and were just getting chilled when Suzanne roared up in the Brucas-mobile with a hot everything-but-the-kitchen-sink pizza.... and a car battery charger for Simon. Is there any better way to wrap up a wonderful weekend?

Eileen



Arlene Kaplan

1934-2016

I am very sorry to report that Arlene Kaplan, a lifetime member of our AMC family, passed away on Friday, January 8, 2016. After succeeding against cancer for four years, she suffered a stroke while at home, and went painlessly, when her husband Dave and her two daughters were with her at their lakeside home in Rhinebeck, NY. Arlene and Dave were married for sixty years and were a remarkable example of love and dedication to all who knew them.

Many of you know Arlene for her cheerful smile and mastery of our camp kitchen. She and her husband Dave participated in every Adirondack Fall Foliage Trip for seventeen years, from 1996 to 2013. Arlene quickly became our kitchen maestro, and our reputation for enjoying fabulous meals in the wilderness was due to her talent. She was always there early in the morning to start coffee and breakfast, and after a full day of paddling, to prepare wonderful meals for 25 to 35 people on finicky Coleman stoves. It was always fun to cook with Arlene, so the

kitchen became the heart of our campsite, and everyone enjoyed participating. Many times the menu was challenging, but Arlene always triumphed with another memorable outdoor feast.

Arlene and Dave were excellent paddling instructors and taught many AMC beginners how to canoe enjoyably and skillfully during weekends at Mohican Center and on the Delaware. Arlene provided a capable woman's wisdom and example to guide our students, and shared their enthusiasm when they succeeded.

Many AMC members will remember Arlene very fondly, and are thankful to her for many happy memories of times and places that she shared with enthusiasm and joy.

Rich Breton



thanks a **MINIONS**

Thanks to all of our
instructors, trip leaders
and committee members
who volunteered their time
in 2015. Without your
hard work, our paddling
program would have been

DESPICABLE



Jill Arbuckle
Glen Barnes
Loretta Brady
Richard Breton
Kayla Burlew
Richard Dabal
Meredith Fabian
Steve Ferder
Elana Fine
Butch Futrell
Don Getzin
Olly Gotel
Lenny Grefig
Bill Handworth
Rob Holbrook
Brian Horowitz
Ara Jingirian
Jake Lewis
Andrew Ludke
Dave Michael
Charles Michener
Marty Plante
Henry Schreiber
Fran Schultz
Vlad Shkapenyuk
Sozanne Solmaz
Herb Stermer
Carin Tinney
Chris Viani
Suzanne Villegas
Tim Watters
Eileen Yin

Stuff to do This Winter

1. Become a trip leader
2. Paddle the Ramapo
3. Go to the pool sessions

Canoe & Kayak
Leadership Workshop
Jan 23, 2016
@ AMC Office



Click or tap here to register!

2016 NJIT Pool Sessions

Feb 2
Feb 9
Feb 16
Feb 23
Mar 1
Mar 8
Mar 15
Mar 22
Mar 29



Mar 12, build a snowman on
2016: the ramapo trip

Parting Shot



Early season AMC trip in 2009.

Photo by Connie Farley.