



ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB

celebrates 65th year

Denning's Point is one of many places the Adirondack Mountain Club hosts hikes. COURTESY PHOTO

By Skip Doyle

This month, the Adirondack Mountain Club celebrates the 65th anniversary of the Mid-Hudson Chapter. In those years, the mid-Hudson chapter has done much to promote outdoor recreation and nature conservation in the mid-Hudson Valley true to the CARES mission of the ADK: conservation, advocacy, recreation, education and stewardship.

In special celebration on Dec. 2, the chapter held a commemorative dinner at Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie, a museum, nature center, and the residence of Samuel B. Morse. One hundred of the chapter's 750 members enjoyed live music performed by the Lost in the Woods ensemble of Poughkeepsie and a slideshow of recent hikes and paddles the chapter sponsored.

Jane Geisler was among the longtime members honored.

"I joined the Adirondack Mountain Club in 1949," she said. "I heard that there were weekend hikes offered by this group over at Yassar College. I've been active with the club ever since."

When asked why a person might join the mid-Hudson chapter today, she said, "Well, you get to see every notable place on both sides of the Hudson River! You meet the most interesting people from all professions, and all walks of life!"

A special honoree was



Club members take a winter hike at Harriman State Park. COURTESY PHOTO

eight-year chapter chairman, Lalita Malik. In accepting the White Birch award from Neil Woodworth, the Executive Director of Adirondack Mountain Club, Malik underscored the secret to her success were the many chapter members who volunteer in the service projects and recreational activities the chapter offers.

In presenting the award, Woodworth said, "Not only is Lalita an organizer par excellence, she is active in all areas of ADK service: Educating through the Joys of Hiking program, leading mid-week hikes, and maintaining trails which makes the outdoors so accessible. The Adirondack Mountain Club provides 20,000 hours of trail maintenance to our New York parks and pre-

serves each year."

"The roots of outdoor clubs were in the colleges at the turn of the last century," he added. "While we have many young members, we have begun partnerships with colleges to reinstate that youthful camaraderie of partaking in the challenges and wonders of nature together."

The mid-Hudson chapter maintains a section of the Appalachian Trail through Dutchess County, Finger Lake Trail in the Balsam Forest Wilderness, Long Path in Minnivaska State Park and trails around Locust Grove.

If you are interested in trying one of the Adirondack Mountain Club walks or hikes, or in participating in any of its multitude of activities — hik-



Club members hike at Kaaterskill Falls. COURTESY PHOTO

ing, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, kayaking, canoeing, camping, trail maintenance — check out the list of upcoming activities on the chapter's website MidHudson-ADK.org.

Something is available for all levels: From hiking the rolling preserves of Dutchess County, to the Catskill Mountains, to the Adirondack high peaks; from paddling on the local lakes and creeks, to excursions on the Hudson River and Erie Canalway.

"It keeps you young!" 60-year member Adrienne Wese said.

Skip Doyle is publicity chairman for the mid-Hudson chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.