Yesterday and Today
by Ed Moran

November 6, 2016 marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our Chapter for very much the same reasons that we are members today. In 1966 a small group that founded the Long Island Chapter as they wanted to raise concern about threats to the New York State forest. At the time, major threats to the wilderness included the mass introduction of snowmobiles and additional planned ski resorts in the NYS Forest Preserve.

Due to the advocacy and support of the Long Island Chapter, inappropriate ski resort development proposals were defeated and legislation was passed in Albany restricting where snowmobiles were allowed in the state forest.

Today some of the issues facing the forest are the same; where and how much development should be allowed on state land and the use of motorized vehicles in the backcountry. There is an established snowmobile trail system now in place, but the illegal use of ATV’s is an issue that still plagues our trails and wild areas. Ski area development remains an issue as well, with most of the attention being given to what constitutes suitable expansion of existing sites. ADK continues to take a leading role in in advocating for the state forest and reasonable compromises where appropriate. A new threat in modern time that wasn’t on the radar back in the 60s is the threat posed to land and water resources by the disruptive process of recovering petroleum from shale deposits using the process known as hydraulic fracturing. Thus far, ADK has been an effective force in helping to keep this practice from spoiling public lands as it has done in other states.

Another tenet of the Chapter was actively caring for the trail we use. The Long Island Chapter adopted the Brothers Trail in 1967 and we have been maintaining it ever since. For most of the time Herb Coles has been involved and he continues to do a great job of coordinating our annual work outing every Memorial Day weekend. This year he and June after performing maintenance tasks on their section of the trail, hiked nearly to the summit of Big Slide Mountain to check up on the condition of a particularly wet section of trail and on the lumber drop for upcoming bog bridge construction.

We also continue to maintain a section of the Long Path in the Catskills as we have for most of our 50 year history and trails on Schunemunk Mountain. Pat Wachter as chair of our Trail Maintenance committee regularly gets her hands dirty and has done a fantastic job of organizing volunteers and coordinating work outings though the current decade. It has been nearly 10 years since Pat took over as Trail Maintenance Chair from Herb, who as noted above is still very active in Chapter trail maintenance. The Chapter has much to be proud of through the efforts coordinated by Pat and Herb.

Also still going strong is our Chapter newsletter, the Mountaineer, published since 1967. Much of the core content (Chairman / President’s message, meeting notices, outings schedule and trip reports) are still present, but the logistics of producing and delivering the newsletter have changed drastically over the past half century. From the Mountaineer’s beginnings on a typewriter, and assembled using scissors and paste before being printed and mailed, the newsletter is now created using publishing software and formatted with full color photos and downloaded or emailed as a PDF file to the majority of our members. We still do print and mail paper copies for those who want it, but the production of those copies is now done digitally.

*** Ed Moran joined ADK-LI in 2009 and is currently the President. He has also served as Vice President, Director, and Program Chair. His widely varied outdoor interests include hiking on trails and off-trail navigation, backpacking, camping, biking, etc, open space preservation and conservation, invasive species control, and pretending to be an amateur naturalist. Ed has hiked all of the Catskill peaks over 3500 feet multiple times (winter and summer) as well as all of the 4000 footers in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. In his spare time, Ed is an IT Infrastructure project manager, a Boy Scout leader and a New York State Licensed Guide.
Word had gotten out about a threat to the “forever wild” concept of the New York State Forest Preserve in 1966. A small band of people living on western Long Island wanted to inform and arouse the people of the area so their numbers and political influence could be effective at a forthcoming NYS Constitutional Convention.

Their task was monumental. Very few on Long Island knew of the Adirondacks or the Forest Preserve. The outdoor recreation movement had not yet taken off. “Vibram Sole” could have been some kind of fish. All boots, packs, stoves and climbing equipment were imported from Europe.

Someone knew about ADK and hit upon the idea of a Long Island Chapter. So, in April 1966, application was made to the Main Club by fourteen ADKers who wanted to transfer from Keene Valley and New York Chapters and member-at-large to form a new Long Island Chapter.

Right away the proposed chapter name “Long Island” became an issue. Most existing chapters took their name from a city in the locality. There already was a New York City Chapter, and Long Island was thought to be too large an area. So it was not without dissention the Long Island Chapter was approved on November 6, 1966. The locality of the new Long Island Chapter was listed in ADK’s promotion literature as “Nassau County”.

All early efforts to the group were directed towards increasing membership, telling everyone who would listen about the Adirondacks and the Forest Preserve. The “Wilderness Heritage” program made the point of keeping NYS’s wilderness “forever wild” for the benefit of the generations to come. In spite of being 350 miles from the Adirondacks, interest of local people was captured and the Long Island Chapter started sending resolutions and statements of concern in support of the Forest Preserve to all cognizant state officials and politicians.

In 1967 the Chapter was co-sponsor of an event held in Salisbury (later renamed Eisenhower) Park called “Conservation of Our State Environment”. Eugene Nickerson, County Executive, presided. Twenty five Long Island conservation groups banded together for the first time to produce the event. There has not been anything like it since.

How about those hot toddies in the cold lean-tos at Heart Lake? No liquor was allowed in the Loj those days.

LI-ADK went elsewhere as well. We spent Washington’s Birthday weekend at Denning Lean-to. We stayed at the AMC huts in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. We tried out that new thing, cross country skiing, in Vermont. We went canoeing and camping on the Delaware River.

As we mingled with other ADKers on the trails and at Spring and Fall Outings, some identity was needed. A crescent shaped patch to be sewn under the round ADK patch was distributed to let others know that Long Islanders were in the mountains.
In June 1967, the first Long Island Mountaineer came off the presses. Lee Behrer edited and produced this newsletter without any regular release schedule for the next nine years. It served the purpose of letting prospective members know that there was a group of Adirondackers on Long Island.

Early meetings were at banks and churches in the Port Washington-Manhasset area. One bank became infamous for forgetting to open up, thus leaving the group waiting outside.

Meeting programs depended on the talents of the members. One program had us exchanging backpacking meal recipes. Another had members bring in and compare backpacking cook stoves. We brought in and compared the contents of our emergency kit (bonnie box). There were also films, slide shows and display of cross-country ski equipment by one of the early outdoor supply stores.

At Holiday time the meetings turned more social than business. We enjoyed hot grog at Per Moberg’s house, useless but funny gifts at the Blue Spruce Inn in Roslyn, and the famous “Beach Frostbite Fondue Festivals” at the Behrer's’s beach house (especially opened in midwinter for the occasion) which even got full page coverage in Newsday.

It wasn’t all fun. We worked on trail maintenance too. Within the first year, November 1967, the Brothers Trail, one of the most beautiful in the High Peaks, was assigned to the Chapter. In spite of the bugs and sometimes lingering snow into late May, we have maintained the Brothers Trail continuously since then. It is our longest running annual event. In the Catskills a section of the Long Path near Vernoy Falls was maintained for many years and is once again.

In 1971, the visit by Main Club officers took place. President Rudy Strobel and Secretary Grant Cole came down to Long Island.

At the end of the first five years the Chapter was firmly established on Long Island. Newer members were dovetailing into the cadre of original officers. Most important, the forever wild status of the Forest Preserve gained a new voice of support from the downstate metropolitan area.

*** George Elias joined LI-ADK in its first month. He served as Chapter Chairman 2 years, doubling as Governor the second year, Vice Chairman 2 years, Director 4 years, and chaired several committees in addition to Trail Maintenance which he chaired for 15 years. He is an ADK 46er and Catskill 3500er who lives with his wife, Helen, in a cabin he built in the Catskills.

1971-1976 Growing Pains
by Herb Coles
(reprinted from the 1991 LI Mountaineer Anniversary Edition: The First 25 Years)

Long Island Chapter had started, and was moving right along in 1971, primarily as a conservation oriented group that was very seriously involved with the Adirondacks. 1971 to 1976 was marked by growth. But more pronounced were the great changes that took place within the Chapter.

At the beginning of this period the people involved on the Board of Directors, such as Al Milik, Lee Behrer, George Elias, Terry Morgan and Walter Carstens, had joined in the first year of the Chapter’s existence. Five years later Board Members Walter Chaskel, Stan Fox, Herbert Coles, Laurent Eversley, Bill Vasiloff and Sara Steinhaker all joined since 1970 and were in the majority.

The operation of the Chapter, as dictated by the bylaws and reflected in the outing schedules were for only three-quarters of the year. The summer season was ignored – no outings or meetings. This changed in 1974 when the first Summer Outing Schedule appeared with five events.

Meetings were held at the Congregational Church in Manhasset until the spring of 1973 when they were switched to the Syosset Library and remained there through the spring of 1977. The Board would pick what it thought were the optimum dates for the coming year and send them out with a list of officers to each of the members. As the programs became a more important part of the meetings and dates were changed by the church or library, monthly notices became a steady and costly item. More than one meeting at the Syosset Library was held in
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the basement book storage room. Despite care in selecting the “best” meeting dates, some meetings only attracted the requisite quorum (10).

The energy crunch and the first gas shortage in 1973 made carpooling a part of Chapter outings. Previously, the outings schedule listed the time and place to meet for the start of a hike, a reflection of the small group involved. The first part of map reading was for finding the trailhead, not for finding your way along the trail.

The system of shared rides from the carpooling location at Little Neck Parkway and the L.I.E. began in January 1974. Suggested minimum cost for carpooling was instituted two months later. It had taken several Board meetings to arrive at a suggested minimum cost for the ride. The debate was between those with the new smaller cars and others who still had the gas guzzlers of the sixties.

A summary of early schedules shows that there were long trips for one day outings or weekends in the Adirondacks and Catskills. The outings used ADK camps and members’ vacation homes. George Elias, then a bachelor, hosted a weekend at his Catskill retreat with two families and six juveniles. Ray Rice invited the Chapter to his Inn in Vermont at reduced prices. It’s hard to forget his “short” guided hike which turned into an endurance test.

Officers and Board Members served and worked for the enjoyment and dedication to the Adirondacks in the early years. This changed in January 1975. The higher cost of gas and travel provide the push. For the first time the Chapter Governor and Conservation Chairman were helped in a limited way financially. Deposits for trip reservations such as Terry Morgan’s annual Delaware canoe trip also had been laid out by the leader. That also made a Chapter obligation.

Meeting programs were one area that remained consistent. The ideas usually came from the Program Committee Chair or a Board Member and were a reflection of that person’s interest. It was always hoped and expected that the program would interest everyone. Sometimes the idea sounded wonderful but never really got going. One such program was a sale of used equipment. This meeting got publicized in Newsday and had buyers far outnumbering the two sellers. The list of things the buyers wanted was about what could be found in a well stocked backpacking store.

Conservation was the theme (and almost the only subject) with early Chairman such as Per Moberg and Terry Morgan. Moberg later became a full time employee of NYS DEC. This was the time of the Adirondack Study Commission and the beginning of the Adirondack Park Agency. There were many debates regarding wording of resolutions and telegrams to be sent to legislators and commissions. Early officers were steeped in the conservation movement whereas the later tone of the members may have tempered the conservation idea.

The Chapter’s finances weren’t always predictable. At one time it looked as if the Chapter wouldn’t be solvent. In fact, bills were rolled over to the next year when dues would come in to cover them.

Membership also went up and down. For several years the Chapter had some good publicity in local papers with a Christmas time beach party and a September get together at the beach. Neither would have been possible without the use of Bob and Lee Behrer’s private beach in Glen Cove.

The course of the Chapter during these second five years took unexpected directions. Long Island Chapter’s future was sometime in doubt. However, the Chapter came back from a low point in finances and membership with a resolve to proceed with a direct approach in a strong manner.

*** Herb Coles served as President for 1 year, Vice President for 4 years, Secretary (and concurrently edited the Mountaineer) 2 years, Director 2 years, and is just finishing his term as Governor. Herb has chaired and served on numerous committees. He is both a regular winter Catskill 3500er and ADK 46er. As an update to the 1991 bio, Herb since then has completed the AT as a section hiker, the Long Trail, Cranberry 50, Saranac 6, the Northeast 111 and El Camino Santiago.

1976-1981 Structuring
by Larry Braun
(reprinted from the 1991 LI Mountaineer Anniversary Edition: The First 25 Years)

Since its inception the Chapter had done an admirable job of funding Main Club projects with a steady stream of Chapter funds. At one point in 1975 the Chapter’s treasury balance dipped down to $34, promoting yet another “fund raising project” concocted to keep the Chapter solvent.

Seditious whispers suggested LI-ADK might consider its own financial health and welfare more important than that of the Main Club. The remedy was thought to include a moratorium on donations, putting the Chapter on a budget, and increasing membership.

It was under these conditions that LI-ADK entered into 1976. The next five years were marked by unrelenting change of virtually every aspect of the Chapter. It was also a time of great creative innovation and membership involvement. All this took place in a climate of extraordinary growth in financial security and membership.

Financial health was restored when the new treasurer, who also insisted on chairing the Membership Committee, took possession of the checkbook in May 1976 and avoided making donations to the Main Club and other none-the-less worthy organizations while devoting himself to membership recruitment for the next 12 months. The treasury swelled from $200 to $800 and membership grew from 100 to 150. By October 1978, after some 26
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months of this tough medicine, the treasury balance showed $1,300 and there were 198 voting LI-ADKers. The Chapter began operating under its very first budget in January 1979.

Plans had been laid in the spring of 1976 to convert the Long Island Mountaineer to a regularly scheduled quarterly that would announce meeting dates and programs, include an outing schedule and hike reports, and become the direct link between leadership and members. Herb Coles ably took those rough ideas sketched out on a Harriman hike and transformed them into a fine, and effective eight page newsletter. His first issue appeared in September 1976. Arlene Scholer took over as editor for the Nov/Dec issue, which was the second bimonthly. The Jan/Feb issue was the first ten page Long Island Mountaineer.

When Larry Braun assumed the Chapter Chairmanship in June 1977 he became the first not prepared for the job by serving previously as vice chairman. This was but one of the many changes that would act to reshape the Chapter over the next five years.

Through the efforts of Rheinhold Martin, LI-ADK found a new home for its meetings at Tackapausha Museum in Seaford. This location helped develop new membership. More important, LI-ADK finally held Chapter meetings on a specific day and week, the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Summer meetings began in 1978. Taken together with the summer outings schedule, revived with eight outings in 1977 after a two-year hiatus, and the bimonthly Long Island Mountaineer, Long Island Chapter became a year-round club. The August meeting, however, became a combined outing and meeting for 1980 and 1981. It has further evolved to a thinly disguised outing since August 1982 when the Chapter hosted ADK President Jim Dawson and Executive Director Bob Quinn for the weekend.

Prior to the move to Tackapausha, the Chapter Chair- man conducted the entire meeting alone. He or she stood behind a lectern before other seated members. From the very first meeting in the new hall, in September 1977, all four officers sat at a table and faced the other members. While the chairman (changed to president in 1978) still moderated the meeting, the other officers assumed active roles in the proceedings.

A sweeping revision of the bylaws was adopted in June 1978. The Chapter’s annual meeting was moved from June to October to put it more in line with the Club year and remove the terrible lull the previously inactive summers created. It also mandated at least five Board of Directors (BOD) meetings a year and one to take place within four weeks of the annual meeting to guarantee Chapter business be conducted regularly in a timely fashion by the BOD. Since then, however, as a matter of practice, the BOD meets about seven times a year.

The assembling of a Policy and Procedures Manual was also begun in 1978. Along with past BOD meeting minutes, budgets, BOD and membership actions, etc., the manual reduced to print the duties and procedures of each committee and BOD position. No longer would this information be passed along by memory. It has eliminated the need to “reinvent the Chapter each year”.

Change and improvement were not limited to the Chapter’s organizational aspect. Starting in mid 1977, Chapter meetings were capped off by a preplanned program. Vi and Bal Hoeffner took us, via slides, hiking in Austria; Steve Braun told us about his summer cycling 3,000 miles in Europe; we saw the film “American on Everest”; Jeremy Burr showed slides of his climb of Kilimanjaro; we saw Dick Furman’s slides hiking hut to hut in Austria and Switzerland; and the “man of the North Woods”, Rheinhold Martin, showed his images of James Bay, Canada.

Bill Sonkin showed slides of his Outward Bound trip; Ray Welch had great slides and commentary of “Huts and Heights in the Whites”; Winnie Clark, on a visit to LI-ADK with spouse ADK President Franklin Clark, shared her beautiful Catskill images with us which with later stimulated interest in the Catskill 3500 peaks program; Larry Braun showed us the beauty of backpacking the entire Northville-Lake Placid Trail at the height of fall color; rafting on the Colorado was shown by Dick and Vera Allen; Gerry Barsky showed us the Long Trail in Vermont; the Fire Island Wilderness Area was the subject of a Larry Braun slide show; and Ray Welch captivated the audience with his “Nature Slide Show and No Narration” accompanied by classical music.

We learned about maps from Herb Coles, cross-country skiing from George Froelich, and George Elias’ methods of trail maintenance. Basic backpacking was demonstrated in a Backpacking Magazine slide show; and fitness was discussed by a panel including Yetta Sokol, Larry Braun, Arlene Scholer and Gerry Barsky.

Programs also informed us of the NYS DEC Wild Rivers and Wetlands Program and the 208 Waste Water Study of Nassau County. A slide show explained Long Island Ecology – Suburban Wilderness. Joe Zysman told us about a federal Fire Island Wilderness Area. We also saw slides of the Long Island Pine Barrens.

We had parties, picnics and demonstrations. But whatever the topic or medium, quality programs became a permanent part of monthly Chapter meetings.

After being on a plateau of about 40 per year for three years (1974-1976), outings more than doubled from 37 in 1976 to 89 in 1979 and then almost tripled to 96 in 1981. Even as LI-ADKers went more frequently to the Adirondacks, they simply went out more often finding plenty to do closer to home. Day hikes went from 23% (5 of 22 outings) in 1973 to 53% in 1974 and then to a high of 73% (49 of 67 outings) in 1978.

Day hikes remained at about 60% and formed the base for the huge increase in outings. Backpacking, which was preferred as much on the January 1979 survey as day hikes, rose from 6 in 1977 to 13 in 1979, and then
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remained at 9 for both 1980 and 1981.

The introduction of new activities and areas was significant. The Indian Lake cross-country ski weekend was first introduced by Rheinhold Martin in January 1978. Vi and Bal Hoeffner began handling the trip in 1980. Larry Braun ran the first of his six Columbus Weekend bus trips to ADK Loj that same year. These 2 trips brought some 100 LI-ADKers to the Adirondacks each year.

The bus trip was an immediate success despite Braun’s aborted May 1978 bus trip. It was to have left Long Island at 1am Saturday morning. After breakfast at the Loj, hiking would commence at 9am. The bus was scheduled to leave the Loj at 3pm Sunday to arrive on Long Island at 10pm. Braun promised 2 full days of hiking the High Peaks of the Adirondacks. Unknowingly, it was scheduled for Mothers’ Day weekend. Even so, 26 signed up, only 12 short of the number needed to pay for the bus.


Semiannual discount sales at EMS of 20% began in June 1977 and later also at Herman’s. They were developed and perpetuated by Larry Braun for several years. These discount opportunities, the simplified carpool rates introduced in 1977, and the Outings and Program Survey of January 1979 all helped to promote outings and acquaint LI-ADKers with the outdoors.

Bill Crump’s enthusiastic handling of the Outing Committee Chairmanship in 1979-1981 developed new outings leaders. From 18 leading 48 outings in 1977, the leader corps grew to 43 conducting 93 events in 1981. Bill also staged a party each year for the growing corps of leaders.

The protection of an 8-mile stretch of Fire Island was Long Island Chapter’s major conservation effort during the 1976-1981 period. Larry Braun introduced this issue to the Chapter at its December 1975 meeting. He worked hard to help create the Fire Island Wilderness Area, designated New York State’s first federal wilderness area in December 1980.

As Conservation Chair from October 1979, Paul Lan- zilotta’s feature column in the Long Island Mountaineer kept the Chapter informed and promoted action by LI-ADKers on the Fire Island project, the bottle bill, acid rain, solid waste management, and several other conservation issues important to Long Islanders.

These changes, except the expansion of local day hiking, had one common factor. They all addressed problems and difficulties which had been annually left unresolved. It had become more and more difficult to operate the Chapter. Each year the organization was reorganized. By the end of this 5 year period LI-ADK leadership found itself able to devote its attention to other more im-

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portant issues and the membership was having more fun.

*** Larry Braun was President 3 years, Treasurer 2 years, Governor 2 years and has served on the Board. He chaired and served on several committees. Larry is a regular and winter ADK 46er and Catskill 3500er. His latest passion is technical rock climbing.

1981-1986 Prospering
by Arlene Scholer
(reprinted from the 1991 LI Mountaineer Anniversary Edition: The First 25 Years)

The most visible lifeline in the last five years is the expansion and continuation of a diverse outings schedule. Those activities which have become annual events start with the Columbus Day weekend in the Adirondacks. It has remained at the top of the popularity list as it changed from a bus trip to a “drive yourself” adventure with backpackers and lean-to/tent site residents complementing those who stayed at the Loj.

In 1978 Larry Braun gave birth to this successful outing and arranged all six bus trips. The fall of 1991 marks the 14th annual Columbus Day Weekend Adirondack outing.

Another vastly popular weekend is the winter whirlwind of cross-country skiing every January. Started by former member Rheinhold Martin in January 1978 and continued by Vi and Bal Hoeffner, this exhilarating event fills Gean-dreau’s cabins in Indian Lake. We are such a tradition we no longer haul out crockpots and gear but satisfy our appetites at a dinner prepared by the town fire department’s ladies auxiliary.

Closer to home are the Catskills. There was a discus-sion during a water break on a Harriman hike in early 1980. Jim Peizer, Bill Crump and others supported the idea of organizing a program to climb the Catskill peaks over 3500 feet in elevation. Originally set for one Sunday each month for two years, it continues with Helen Braun, Lief Savery, Bill and Mary Crump, Jim Loeffler, Allen
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Scholl, June Fait, Pete Lazio, Ray Reardon, JoEllen Else-ner, George Elias, Rich Moore, Thomas Wall, Linda and Dave Edwards, and George Form having gained mem-
bership in the Catskill 3500 Club in this period.

Gene Burg's canoe trips, John Graefe's and Mark Marti-nez' rock climbing lessons, Mary and Bill Crump's Appa-
lachian Trail Program, Ed Slaughter's summer barbeques and whitewater rafting trips, Bernie Tanenbaum's ability to lead you through Harriman blindfolded, the Chapter's dedication to maintaining the Brothers Trail, Joan Goss-
ner's bike trips, and Dave Edwards' turkey trot backpacks round out the annual outings you can enjoy, with Walter Carstens' Mohonk rock scramble an up-and-coming an-
nual plus.

Never overlook the individual outdoor opportunities which tie together the annual events scattered throughout the schedule of choices which take you from Long Is-
land's shores to New York's highest peak, Mt. Marcy.

The Catskill quest still has members searching for the bronze plaque re-hidden each year so that the finder may claim the prize of a membership renewal or a gift certifi-
cate. Lillian Reyer and George Form were the first two finders of the 3500 plaque.

Non-outing events stimulate the Chapter in a variety of ways. The “Give a gift…get a gift” program promoted gift memberships, with the most active sponsors receiving renewal credit or map sets.

By 1983 we had become the 4th largest chapter. From October 1981 to October 1985 membership went from 239 to 346.

Just for the fun of it, Arlene Scholer had opened her house for fall barbeques which bring all levels of hikers together in one small backyard.

Education in backpacking has been offered since 1978 by Dick Furman to help members not only survive but revel in this unique form of escaping the hectic pace of the work-a-day world. Education through Larry Braun's “Getting Out” column, first seen in the March-April 1983 issue, continues to offer insights and information to readers of the newsletter.

While the year 1986 marked the 20th year of the Chap-
ter’s existence, it was also the 10th anniversary of the Long Island Mountaineer as a periodical. The newsletter formerly communicated with the membership on an un-
scheduled basis. The first editor of the current periodic publication was Herb Coles who served from September 1976 to September 1978 and initiated the basic format of the current style. The newsletter has had the style of three more editors. Arlene Scholer finished six years in September 1984 and was followed by Joan Gossner until January 1986. As the period drew to a close, the editor was Allen Scholl. Ray Welch improved the appearance of the newsletter when he designed the mountain-to-shore banner so appropriate for our publication. It first ap-
ppeared on the March/April 1981 issue. Printed issues of the Mountaineer went from 125 to just over 400 by the end of 1986.

Club promotion materials changed from “Nassau County” to “Long Island”. Articles reported on the designation of the Fire Island Natural Area as a Federal Wilder-
ness Area (the first in New York State), the Chapter’s 15th anniversary celebration, passage of the bottle bill as well as the regular columns by the president, governors and conservation chair, and outings reports have kept our scattered membership informed.

In 1981 readers were informed of the Chapter's fourth bylaws revision to bring technical points into line with the Main Club. A Governor’s report stated LI-ADK finally managed to get our listing on Main.

If informed hikers can be healthier hikers, the LI-ADK should fare well. Judy Portmore and long time Conserva-
tion Chair Paul Lanzillotta wrote of the microscopic proto-
zoan giardia lamblia and the necessary measures to pro-
tect against it. Warren Black’s article on Lyme Disease covered a topic that was still new to most hikers.

Financial savings were announced in the newsletter when President Bill Crump used his accounting skills to outline tax deductions for the hours of volunteer work completed by so many LI-ADKers. Long Island members enjoyed financial savings when discounts of 10-20% were made available at EMS and Herman’s through the efforts of Larry Braun. The newsletter gave members a chance to barter and mutually benefit from published ads and the used equipment sale at the annual December Holiday
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Gerry Barsky was our leading equipment supplier. Jim Pelzer carried the Chapter patch contest to its fruition so that you are able to display a six-color patch to announce your membership in the LI Chapter.

On a lighter note, the newsletter report on Larry Braun’s “Governor of the Year” t-shirt presentation to recognize his success in getting the Main Club to extend the open season at JBL to Columbus Day, formerly open only in July and August. Another project by Larry, ’63 in ’83 applauded the 63 LI-ADKers who assumed the responsibility of officers, leaders, committee members, trail and litter day crews, and assorted volunteers who kept our Chapter alive and well.

Herb Coles was honored with a $250 donation to the Better Trails Fund. LI-ADK did this in “recognition of 10 years of outstanding service to the Chapter as President, Vice President, Secretary, Director and Chair of numerous committees.” The money was earmarked for the conservation and improvement of trails maintained by ADK.

Mary Crump was actively involved in Adirondac with her own full page feature, “Metro-NY”, which coordinated hikes from the chapters closest to the metropolitan area and had a lot to do with saving the Knickerbocker Chapter from extinction.

In the fall of 1984 beginners were encouraged to participate in the “stroller-to-hiker” program created by Arlene Scholer, which tried to expand the lungs of novice hikers and allow them vistas beyond Long Island’s woods and shores.

Over those five years the Chapter mourned the loss of Kal Pomeranz, Gerhard Schrempt and Bill Carney. We also celebrated the weddings of Helen and George Elias, Linda and Dave Edwards, and Elaine and Richard Moore who were joined (“this June”) in June 1986 (87?) by baby Christopher Robert. Mary and Bill Crump also ushered in a new hiker (“this September”), James Jeffrey England Crump.

We are conservation oriented. Those of us who have opted for multiple memberships in other local conservation groups have joined the Long Island Greenbelt Conference, the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, Nature Conservancy, and the NY/NJ Trail Conference. In this period LI-ADK supported passage of the Returnable Container Act, or bottle bill, the success of which has been especially evident in the cleanup of the Popolopen Gorge Trail in Harriman Park. On previous Litter Day outings we hauled out better than 20 bags of debris. But once the bottle bill became effective, the number was cut in half. Paul Lanzillotta’s meticulous reports on conservation efforts also informed the membership of acid rain and clean air effort and decisions. In January 1983 a large contingent of LI-ADKers attended the Adirondack Council’s local public meeting for discussion of publicly and privately held land management issues, included in the construction of a visitors center.

Trail maintenance under the supervision of George Elias, Walter Scally, and Bob Rebolini resulted in a responsible program to maintain certain trails. By 1982 we were trading our years of maintaining the section of the Long Path south of Peekamoose Mt. – the original construction of which our own Dick Allen participated in – for another section of the Long Path over Schunnemunk Mt. as well as LI-ADK’s beautiful Brothers Trail in the Adirondacks since November 1967. For the first 15 of those 19 years George Elias led this, our longest running annual event.

Monthly meetings were successfully promoted in the calendar of events column in Newsday. Main Club guests included Presidents Almy Coggeshall, Jim Dawson and Franklin Clark as well as Executive Directors Bob Quinn and Walter Medwid. The presentations on winter camping by a respected authority, our own John Danielson, were distinguished by John’s dry wit. George Elias managed to hold the audience’s attention for 90 minutes discussing tools and techniques involved in trail maintenance. Bill and Mary Crump organized a comprehensive program for beginners that introduced the novice to every aspect of day hiking.

The individual travel and hiking slides shared over these years continued to be popular topics. Austria through the eyes of Vi and Bal Hoeffner and Dick Furman was a visual treat; the warmth of Cinnamon Bay, Virgin Islands, with John Danielson took us to the Caribbean. Talented photographer Jack Pangburn shared his techniques and results of shooting wildflowers. Helen and Larry Braun’s backpack of the 130 mile Northville-Lake Place trail was seen in 1981. Orienteer George LoCascio shared his map skills with the membership and took some of the mystery out of compass work. Alex McKay, a skilled photographer, shared his love for the Adirondacks which he called home even though he lived on Long Island. Yosemite Valley was presented by Harold Silverstein; Mike Zaletel brought us east to the Great Smokey National Park, the most widely used of all the national parks. From the “Vertical Truth of Rock Climbing” by John Graefe to the “Underground Wilderness of Caving” with Allen Scholl, we learned of challenges beyond ground-level hiking trails.

Judy and Mike Grange took us half-way around the world to Nepal during their brief membership before returning to their home “down under”. Will Ortiz spoke of the heat in Mexico, while Larry Braun’s adventure over Swiss glaciers and into a crevasse gave viewers chills just listening to this unique trip.

Instructional meetings for hiking, backpacking and cross-country skiing as well as award-winning films and guest speakers from a wide assortment of other environmental groups rounded out the value of topics offered on a monthly basis. The variety of topics was the result of Sue Lowenbraun’s continuous efforts.

It was not only the leaders and workers recognized herein who made Long Island a significant chapter in
1981-1986 continued

ADK. Increases in membership provided the Chapter with a continuous influx of people who brought their own talents, interest and energy to make Long Island so vital.

*** Arlene Scholer joined the Chapter in 1977, edited the Long Island Mountaineer from 1978-1984, wrote the People and Perspectives column for about 35 years and led hikes for about 33 years. She served 8 years as a Board Member and served as Hospitality Chair for almost 37 years. Arlene has climbed all the Catskill 3500 Peaks in both the “green” and winter seasons and qualified as an ADK 46er in August of 1993. She organized the Empowerment Series with hikes of graduated difficulty to take even beginners to Catskill summits in all seasons with snowshoeing in the winter. “Now that I’m too slow to lead or join hikes, I cherish the enjoyable memories from decades of hiking with countless LI ADKers.”

1986-1991 Still Going Strong
by David Edwards
(reprinted from the 1991 LI Mountaineer Anniversary Edition: The First 25 Years)

It’s been 25 years since the LI Chapter was formed by 14 concerned individuals to inform and arouse people about the threat to the “forever wild” concept in New York State’s Forest Preserve. And till this day it is still a continuing strong interest amongst our members. No matter what activity one pursues within the Chapter we are all aware of the fight to preserve the wilderness for our and future generation’s enjoyment.

Our conservation efforts have been strong. Recently, Carol Kazdan spoke at the Adirondack Commission hearings on the future of the Adirondack Park. Tom and Dale Wall, Yetta and Harry Sokol, June Fait, Herb Coles and Lanny Wexler also attended to show their support.

Not only has the Chapter attended meetings, but letter writing campaigns have been instrumental in voicing the Chapter’s position. We were asked to write to Governor Cuomo regarding the preservation of Sterling Forest. We were asked to write to our legislators to open up more Adirondack waterways to canoe access. At one of our monthly meetings a letter writing campaign helped to limit the amount of Air Force planes flying over the Adirondacks from Plattsburgh Air Force Base. We also wrote in favor of the Bond Act. The Chapter also donated $263 received from 21 members as a result of a coupon in the Long Island Mountaineer enabling us to contribute a total of $536 to the Wild Lands campaign. Our members are diverse in support of the Pine Barrens, Fire Island and are involved in other local conservation groups.

Trail Maintenance has been a program of responsibility to maintain certain trails in different areas. Under Bob Rebolini until 1990 and now Herbert Coles, this valuable program has been maintaining the Brothers Trail in the Adirondacks since 1967. The sign at the entrance to the trail has been there since 1967 and was recently repainted. Neil Burdick, editor of the Adirondac said in one of his editorials that the Brothers Trail “was meticulously maintained by the LI Chapter.”

The Chapter also donated $550 towards the Adirondack professional trail crew in order for them to rehab bog bridges, water bars, stone work, etc… We also maintain two sections of the Long Path. We are doing the section over Schunemunk Mountain and a section in the Catskills near Vernoy Falls that we maintained prior to 1982. This section is being monitored by Mary Crump and Arlene Scholer.

Gerry Barsky and Ed Slaughter started Litter Day to go to various locations depending on need of litter pick up. The Outings Schedule has expanded and continued on its rise to being a very diverse schedule of activities for all to enjoy. Due to the hard work needed of putting it together, the Chapter Chair headed by Larry Braun until January 1989, then Lanny Wexler until September 1991 (Ernie Kiese has volunteered to takeover for Lanny) have done an excellent job at putting out a very fine schedule. Lanny instituted awarding patches for hiking and leadership. Ray Reardon and George Form received the first two, 100 miler award patches. He also promoted hikes going to other locations in and round the metro-area. One of the reasons was an influx of new hike leaders with new ideas. This caused the amount of hike leaders to grow to a total of 49 in 1990. Lenny sent out an Outing Survey which 1,890 of voting membership responded to. It showed we are a diverse group who enjoyed a variety of activities (hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, photography, birding, snowshoeing, etc….) only time constraints prevented us from getting out more often. In 1988 Larry Braun had a party for all the Outing Leaders with a raffle at his home.

The backbone of the Outings Schedule has been the traditional outing. Some of these outings have stayed the same while others have changed.

The Columbus Day Adirondack weekend which started in 1978 by Larry Braun is in its 14th year. It’s an adventure trip up north to enjoy the outdoors in its fall splendor. The Indian Lake cross-country ski trip held in January was retired by Vi and Bal Hoeffner in 1988 after 11 years. It was revived in 1990 as the Lapland Lake cross-country ski trip by June Fait and Herbert Coles. There has been an enthusiastic response going on now for three years. Started in 1990, Arlene Scholer’s Winter Weekend in the Catskills promotes a diverse challenge of winter activities. Jim Pelzer continues his Adirondack canoe trips. Joan Gossner’s bike rides to Briermere Farms for pies; Yetta and Harry Sokol’s Hook Mountain berry picking trips. Since 1988 we have had a picnic/barbeque at Ed and Michelle Slaughter’s house in August. Education on backpacking and winter camping have been offered by Dick Furman and Arlene Scholer since 1978.
1986-1991 continued

Will Gerry Barsky revive his successful Project Explore program that started in 1988 and found participants hiking, caving or dangling from ropes at the ACC gym in Cooperstown?

The Catskill Quest continues, as members search for a hidden bronze plaque. If found you will receive free membership renewal of a gift certificate. Lanny Wexler and Rich Moore were the third and fourth finders of the plaque. It’s been hidden since November 1990 and no one has found it yet.

Besides the traditional outings, the outings schedule offers a diverse menu of outdoor opportunities. These span the time frame of day trips to weekend and longer.

The Long Path in New York runs from the George Washington Bridge to the Mohawk Valley. Some of our members are working on hiking its entire length. Lanny Wexler and George Form completed the Long Path by hiking it in sections. Marilyn Varley has completed most of the Long Path with all but two sections to go.

Bill Crump’s Appalachian Trail Program introduced seven years ago is still going strong. With a core group of hikers; Jack and Joan Weisenbloom, Dan Nielson, Jeff Ritter, Robin Kraut, June Fait, Herbert Coles, George Form and Ray Reardon until his death, they continue completing sections on a monthly basis.

Back in 1980, Jim Pelzer, Bill Crump and others got together and supported an idea organizing a Catskill hiking program. It entailed climbing all Catskill peaks above 3500 feet. That program continues today with members climbing both in regular and winter seasons. Newest members to have gained 3500 status are: Roger Chung, Marion Dickey, Rich Ehli, Alan Grunthal, Dan Nielson, Rob Rosenthal and Lanny Wexler. Newest members to the gained 3500 winter status are: Bill Crump, Linda and Dave Edwards, JoEllen Elsener, Ray Reardon and Lanny Wexler.

Going farther north, the Adirondack Mountains are being climbed by a few to gain 46er status. Even though it wasn’t setup as a program, most members felt it was the next step if you are a peak bagger. Newest members to have gained 46er status are: Herb Coles, Linda and Dave Edwards, June Fait, Dan Nielson, Yetta and Harry Sokol and Lanny Wexler. Newest member to have gained 46er winter status: Larry Braun.

But there are also lots of individual outdoor opportunities that you can participate in that the club supports. Hiking on Long Island, Minnewaska, Mohonk, Hudson Highlands, Rockefeller Preserve, Taconics, Harriman, Black Rock Forest and Schunemunk Mt. to name a few. There is also Peconic River paddling, tubing, caving, walks in Old Westbury Gardens, cross-country skiing, museums, sea turtle rescues, whale watching and concerts. The list of activities has been increasing and becoming more diversified. This is due to all the hard work of the outing coordinators who have made the last five years very successful.

1986-1991 continued

With our Chapter now solvent we were able to help with Main Club projects. This was done by matching funds from our members. Larry Braun started a fund raising campaign for Camp Peggy O’Brien which raised $4,454.24 from 101 members. $2,000 of this money came from the Chapter treasury. In 1991 we gave $1,000 for the new Trails Cabin. We also helped the Main Club during its financial crisis (cash flow problem) with a loan and deferment of dues. The Chapter Policy and Procedure Manual were updated in 1990 by Herb Coles, Jim Pelzer and Paul Lanzillotta.

Another letter writing campaign instituted by Larry Braun was in regard to Pete Fish (DEC Ranger) being given an unsatisfactory performance evaluation by the DEC. There was an editorial written in the Long Island Mountaineer by editor Rich Ehli expressing support for Pete Fish. After the campaign the charges were dropped. In response to our support, Pete wrote his thanks to us as well as to other chapters too.

While it’s the 25th year of the Chapter’s existence, it is the 15th anniversary for the Long Island Mountaineer as a periodical. The Mountaineer has had four editors in the last 5 years, starting with Al Scholl until January 1988, followed by Linda Edwards to January 1989, then Rich Ehli to September 1991. Our newest editor is Ron Engasser. The success of the Mountaineer is based on the people who write for it. Featured writers’ columns like “Getting Out” by Larry Braun; “Suggestions to Save the Earth” by Carole Kazden; “President’s Pen” by June Fait and “Peoples and Perspectives” by Arlene Scholer all have been successful.

On a more personal note, Ray Reardon died January 1990. His love of hiking, good spirits and energy will be missed by all he touched.

We celebrated the weddings of Stan Weiss and bride, Herb Coles and June Fait, Larry Braun and Robin Geller. We saw the retirement of Janet Pomeranz, Walter Carstens, June Fait and Les Wahrenburg. We saw the relocation of Alan Scholl to Pennsylvania, Warren Black and Bob Levine to Washington, DC and Rich Moore to upstate New York.

In 1990 we lost our meeting place at the Tackapausha Museum due to Nassau County’s budget crunch. The private security guards were cut out of the budget. We now meet at Oakwood Elementary School in Huntington Station. The Chapter has had patches on sale since 1989. T-shirts and hats were added in 1991 and are available thru Carole Kazdan. Carpool rates were increased in both 1987 and 1990 due to inflation.

At the December 1986 meeting, the Chapter held its 20th birthday party. Almost 100 members celebrated the festive occasion with an 8 foot hero and a Chinese food buffet. Paul Lanzillotta created a cake to replicate our Chapter patch. A good time was had by all, mixing and mingling and others showing slides of eventful occasions. Many thanks to Larry Braun, Helen Braun, Arlene
1986-1991 continued

Scholer, Paul Lanzillotta, Herb Coles, Joan Gossner, George Elias, Warren Black, Richard Furman, Julie Angel, Pearl Danielson, Vera Allen, Yetta Sokol, Joanne Del Prete, and Linda and Dave Edwards for their assistance and input to make this event happen.

Our monthly meetings are not only for taking care of Chapter business at hand but the programs and presentations that follow. Our monthly meetings are faithfully promoted in Newsday by Robert Moire. The monthly programs have had us visiting Nepal with Herb Coles and June Fait, Fire Island thru the eyes of Larry Braun and the Grand Canyon via raft by Alan Scholl.

We’ve had presentations of hiking opportunities in the Long Island Pine Barrens and the Catskills by Lee McAllister. We saw a slide presentation on Adirondack canoeing by the knowledgeable Jim Pelzer. Jim also did a presentation on Adirondack landscape painting. We learned about the land below our feet with a caving program by Alan Scholl and Gerry Barsky. Alan and Gerry teamed up with Dave Edwards to show a slide program on the John Muir Trail. Who can forget Alan Scholl’s kayaking program in his kayaking “skirt”.

We also had instructional programs on how to cross-country ski, snow shoe and keep warm in winter.

We saw the magnificent slides of Australia by Betty and Peter Van Der Water. Willie Janeway has visited us twice to keep us posted on Main Club doings. Wildman Steve Brill kept us posted on edible plants. We saw the alpine journey on the 93 mile Wonderland Trail around Mt. Rainier by Carol Neidich-Ryder. Dan Nielson had us climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro and travel through Tanzania and Kenya. We also saw the majestic slides of Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks in Alaska by Jeff Ritter.

*** David Edwards has worked on circulation of the Mountaineer and led Chapter hikes. He has been a member since 1982. He is an ADK 46er and both a regular and winter Catskill 35er. With his wife Linda, they have hiked and backpacked extensively throughout the northeast.

1991-1996 continued

Club had an Annual Meeting and this was the year we hosted it. We flatlanders were ready to show the over 100 people who came the beauties of our island. The dinner at that meeting was also the start of our Annual Dinners. Things moved on. Arlene Scholer was writing People & Perspectives for the Mountaineer, Larry Braun was writing Getting Out and there was a Governor’s Report and a Conservation Column in each Mountaineer. Mention must be made of the almost professional slide shows given by Walter Carstens with Edith Mitchell. Joan Gossner had an Annual Pie Ride (bicycle) with a stop a Briermere Farms. We were active in the Catskills, going to Lapland Lake for cross-country skiing, and also hiking on Long Island. During this period we always did a hike on Fire Island. Arlene Scholer was doing Empowerment hikes. Yetta and Harry Sokol always led a Hook Mt blueberry picking hike. There were winter weekends at Camp Peggy O’Brien led by Dave Edwards, Arlene Scholer, June Fait and Herb Coles. Ed Slaughter had hosted a Summer Barbeque for many years until 1992 when the clam knife passed to Jack Gebel. Of course during this period hike leaders used phone numbers and not email addresses.

The following are some of the people who worked hard to keep the Chapter running during these years:

Presidents: June Fait, Linda Edwards, Jack Gebel, Rich Ehli
Conservation: Carole Kazdan, June Fait
Governors: Jenny Kohn, Pat Treacy, Joanne Malecki, June Fait, Herb Coles
Hospitality: Arlene Scholer
Mountaineer: Ron Engasser, Andrew Heiz
Also: Larry Braun, Les Wahrenburg, Jill Werfel, Don Mantell, Jeanne Grey, Nancy Hodson

The following are some of the milestones during these years:


The year 1991 was the year of our 25th Anniversary and there was much to celebrate. Back then the Main
1991-1996 continued

Marriages: Herb Coles & June Thompson, Dave Edwards & Linda Gilner, Paul Lanzillotta & Kathleen Ayers.

Deaths: Frank Montgomery & Ray Reardon

*** June Fait served as President, Conservation Chair, Governor and hike leader. June is both a regular and winter Catskill 3500er and ADK 46er. She has also completed the AT, the Long Path, England Coast to Coast, El Camino Santiago, Northville Lake Placid Trail, Tour de Mont Blanc, Long Trail, Inca Trail, Cranberry Lake 50, ADK Fire Tower Challenge, and Saranac 6.

1996-2001 Dedication and Comradery by Nancy Hodson, Paul Lanzillotta and Joanne Malecki

Rich Ehli served as President from 1996 to 1997, Jerry Licht in 1998, and Peter Cowan from 1999 to 2000. Bud Kazdan was Treasurer, and Nancy Hodson was Secretary. Chapter meetings were at St. Elizabeth’s Church in Melville. The annual dinner was held at Bertucci’s restaurant in Melville from 1996 to 1998, and the Maine Maid Inn from 1999 to 2000. A beach barbeque was organized by Jack Gebel in Westhampton.

Herb Coles and June Fait were the Governors to the Main Club most of the time, and reported faithfully the proceedings until 1999 when they “retired”. Martha McDermott and Carol McHugh picked it up after that. The Main Club struggled with financial problems, and offered members and chapters a chance to purchase notes at 6-7% interest. In 1996, Rich Ehli wrote an article about the Main Club starting a website, but a Chapter website was still a dream.

The September 1997 issue memorialized the sudden passing of former president Jack Gebel, who died during outpatient surgery at Stony Brook Hospital. A memorial hike was held in his memory at Minnewaska State Park.

In the spring of 1998, the Chapter initiated a project to assist the DEC in restoring the Terrace Mountain lean-to near Woodland Valley. This lean-to had fallen into severe disrepair from years of neglect. Inspiration for this project came from the board’s desire to support stewardship of the New York State Forest Preserve and to memorialize member Jack Gebel who served as Chapter President in 1994 and 1995 and had passed away in 1997. The Chapter contributed $500 to the DEC for the purchase of roof shingles and coordinated the project execution with the regional forest rangers. The DEC coordinated delivery of all the needed materials to the site prior to the scheduled work weekend. On June 5-7, 1998 twelve volunteer workers each day, supervised and assisted by DEC personnel, reset the walls of the lean-to, repaired exterior sheathing, re-shingled the roof, replaced the floor and cleaned up the entire site. On Sunday after the work was completed, a bronze plaque bearing Jack’s name and a short testimonial to him was affixed to the lean-to while the volunteers and members of Jack’s family looked on.

During this time period, the Chapter continued to grow in terms of the diversity of outdoor activities offered. This was driven by more recent and very capable members who had more than just a casual interest in the outdoors. The schedules were filled with hikes and bike rides. Outings were scheduled by Martha McDermott, and later Sheila Lipsie. More trips were being scheduled off Long Island, some of longer duration than just a day trip or weekend. While biking had been a warm weather staple for years, we now had bike trips going off Long Island up to the Hudson Valley, upper New York State and New England. Out of state hiking, biking and nature study excursions of 1 to 2 weeks conducted by Chapter members were becoming more common. States visited included Maryland, Virginia and Arizona. Trips were even arranged to the Caribbean Islands and Europe.

Andy Heiz edited the Long Island Mountaineer, and often penned a column, “Editor’s Overlook”. Ellen Kelly took over as editor in 2000. Membership was strong, with over 600-700 families, thanks to membership chairs Ellen Kelly and Joanne Malecki.

Arlene Scholer led empowerment hikes in Harriman and the Catskills. Carol Mantell, and Rich Niegocki also led Catskill hikes. Long hikes were led by Stu Levy, Don Mantell, George Form, Jeff Ritter and Bob McDermott. Ambitious 1-day outings included 40 miles across Maryland in one day, and the 20 mile Nassau-Suffolk Greenbelt. Snowshoeing in the Catskills and other sites when conditions permitted were common events. The Snowshoe Goddess weekend became a regular event with Kathy Mario the enthusiastic organizer. Easier bikes and paddles were led by Yetta Sokol, Laura Terwilliger, and Nancy Hodson. Jack Gebel led bike trips with Ada Busso and Don Mantell. and Dick Furman led birding outings and backpacking classes, later taken over by Jerry Licht. Other outings included a Moonlight Beachwalk and a Manhattan Walk. New hike leaders included Tom Farre and Micheline Kagan.

1996-2001 continued
1996-2001 continued

Arlene Scholar continued to report news in her People and Perspectives column in the Mountaineer, even after she fell off a ladder and was in the hospital a few days in 1996. June Fait reported Conservation News. Jerry Licht organized a successful campaign to stop a proposed 6th golf course at Bethpage State Park on 200 acres of woodlands. In 1999, the new paved multi-use bike path from Bethpage State Park to Syosset was in the planning stages, with concern for the wide swaths of land to be cleared.

New members of the Catskill 3500 club included Phil Bifulco, Chuck Brock, Dick Maemone, Ann McMahon Pauline Lavery and Mike Vetrano. The LI ADK plaque was discovered by Lanny Wexler in 1998 in the Catskills, after being hidden for 8 years.

*** Nancy Hodson has been a LI Chapter member since 1977. She has served as Board Member from 1993-1994, Secretary from 1995-2004 and Treasuerer from 2005 to the present. She specializes in leading Long Island hikes and paddling trips, and enjoys traveling all over the world.

*** Paul Lanzillotta joined ADK in 1979 after being introduced to hiking, camping and the outdoors during his college years. He has served on the LI Chapter's Board of Directors (4 years), as Conservation Chairman, Membership Chairman and was Chapter President from 1985-1987. Paul enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, cycling, canoe/kayak paddling and exploring places of interest.

*** Joanne Malecki has been a member of the LI Chapter since 1991. She is also an affiliate of the Albany Chapter, where she now resides. She has served as a Governor, Membership Chair and hike leader for an assortment of outings. She is currently waiting for a hip replacement, so that she can resume hiking.

2001-2006 continued

Another standout event was Snowshoe Goddess Weekend, hosted in early winter at the Alpine Inn by Kathy Mario and supported by the Mohican and other ADK chapters. The theme was female empowerment, with some friendly joking between the goddesses and the ADK Warlords led by Rich Neigocki and John White. Winter peak bagging, good food and goofy hat contest contributed to a fun experience.

Rich Neigocki gave a course on hiking, camping and backpacking for beginners, as did Jerry Licht, education chair, and he and Gerry Barsky gave a map and compass workshop. Stu Levy had a large following for his frequent Harriman hikes and Ron Engasser led the Delaware Canoe Classic. In 2005 we began recognizing prolific outing leaders: winners that year were Carol McHugh, Joan Gossner, Jerry Licht and Dave Koehler. Sheila Lipshie served as outings chair with laid-back style that kept the schedule full.

June Fait was conservation chair, her column often on the front page of the Mountaineer, and she hosted winter weekends at rustic Camp Peggy O'Brien and the Wiezel Cabin in the Adirondacks. She and Herb Coles offered a summer trip hiking the High Peaks from Johns Brook Lodge. As he does now, Herb ran the annual Brothers Trail maintenance on Memorial Day weekend from Keene Valley. On a personal note, this was my first experience with our chapter but not the last. June and Herb contributed to ADK in so many ways that in 2002 they received...
2001-2006 continued

ADK’s Distinguished Volunteer Award.

As it is today, the Columbus Day weekend in the Adirondacks was popular. Early on Joy Salberg ably managed it, at times entertaining us by playing the fiddle. Starting in 2004 Kathy Daly, Betty Horstmann and Pat Sanders took over and helped make it the efficient operation it is today. Vicki Wojcik ran a popular Cross-Country Ski Weekend on the Martin Luther King Holiday, and Diane and Allen Grunthal hosted outings in ski country over Labor Day Weekend. They also offered weekends from Hilltop Acres in Jewett, N.Y., a friendly and charming place that became a staple in later years.

Silvana Falco conceived a photography contest and she and Chuck Brock led a troop of Brownies through the hills of Cold Spring Harbor. Ellen Kelly edited the Mountaineer using the old cut-and-paste method, but we entered the digital age when Micheline Kagan took over and when Sue Kenyon started the Yahoo Group list serve.

In 2005 Marge Tierney tragically passed away during a fire. Many ADK Long Islanders gave to memorial funds that awarded scholarships and contributed to a Universal Access Trail on the Heart Lake property, to be used by all, including those who didn’t or could not hike vertically, such as families with strollers, along with the disabled and wheelchair bound.

In June 2005 we hosted ADK’s annual Spring Outing. Many members pitched in on this weekend of hikes, paddles, cycling and lectures. It was all worth it when some 250 visitors came to experience “The Undiscovered Island.” The highlight for many was the Saturday banquet with a talk on back-country survival by Ken Kamler, “the Everest Doctor”. Nancy Hodson, our treasurer, prepared an accounting of the event, which cleared several thousand dollars, in a spreadsheet so detailed that a manager at ADK headquarters said, “I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Searching for, rather than finding, the ADK Long Island plaque was a popular pastime. Rich Moore hid it in the Catskills with clues so devious that took three years for the next person – me – to find it. I hid it at North Point, Dave Koehler found it and hid it again with a twist -- he used only digital clues, images of the hiding place. Like comedians searching for the big “W,” Jeff Ritter, Eric Markowitz and I found it along the Escarpment Trail.

Faced with an aging membership, ADK encouraged us to attract younger members. Thus the Young Members Group (YMG) was born, led by an energetic Lori Maynard with help from Janine Schwartz. The group’s hikes, trips to movies and other social events attracted a considerable number of 20-, 30- and 40-somethings. It also led to grumblings among traditionalists who disliked outings aimed at a particular age group. We resolved this by ensuring that every outing was open to everyone. The YMG prospered at first, but when Lori and Janine backed off membership declined and only a few younger folks stayed with the club, notably Eunsil Recksiek and Paula Mordini.

Club Officers from 2001-2006
President: Joy Salberg, John DiGiacomo, Dick Maemone, Tom Farre
Vice President: Anne McMahon, Dick Maemone, Tom Farre, Sue Kenyon
Treasurer: Bud Kazden, Nancy Hodson
Secretary: Nancy Hodson
Director: Martha McDermot, Carol McHugh

*** Tom Farre is a writer who enjoys the outdoors and the camaraderie of ADK. He joined ADK-LI in 1998 and was Chapter Chair from 2004 to 2007. He is a summer and winter member of the 3500 Club and has hiked most of the high peaks in the Adirondacks. He had three articles published in the book Catskill Peak Experiences, including one about searching for the ADK-LI plaque. Today he is an avid road cyclist who rides on Long Island, upstate New York and overseas in places like France, Ireland, Costa Rica and Vietnam.

2006-2011 Old and New Traditions by Micheline Kagan

The enthusiasm in the Chapter continued during these years with new and old traditions. Each weekend offered 3-4 activities ranging from Long Island, the Hudson Valley as well as the Catskills and the Adirondacks. Many leaders provided a variety of activities which included indoor rock climbing by Paula Mordini, Silvana Falco offering urban walks exploring architecture, Stu Levy challenging hikers to complete trails in Harriman end to end in a day. Sue Kenyon and later John Lewandowski led mid-week summer evening hikes on the Green Belt in L.I. In the winter, there was birding with Arlene Scholer to spot eagles and owls as well as seal walks on eastern L.I. To encourage continuing interest in an activity, leaders such as Tom Farre offered a series of biking empowerment rides and Ross Moore offered a series of kayaking out-
Spring Outing 2005 had been so successful that we decided to do it again in - The Undiscovered Island Revisited - 2007. It was a success with 150 participants from all over the state. We featured outings that included biking, paddling, hiking, sailing, winery tours, and beach walks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We had speakers such as Nancy Solomon, the Director of Long Island Traditions described the local maritime culture. Tom Stock gave an entertaining overview of the natural history of Long Island - with costume changes. And Lee McAllister, author of Hiking Long Island, talked about the Island’s variety of trails and places of interest.

With an renewed interest in hiking Long Island, in 2007 Lanny Wexler led a series of fourteen well attended hikes that covered most of the entire length of the 120 mile long Paumanok Path between Rocky Point and Montauk Point. In addition he organized a multi-day bike trip to Philadelphia and Washington DC in time for the cherry trees in bloom and another in and around Boston and New England. Lanny’s interest in biking is not just recreational, as the New York State Department of Transportation, Long Island Region’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator Lanny was instrumental in signing an 87 mile bike route through the North Shore of Suffolk County between Cold Spring Harbor and Orient Point. Lanny led a series of seven bicycle touring trips of this new biking route on Long Island which included the Three Villages, Port Jefferson, the pumpkin farms around Riverhead and the wineries along the North Fork. In the fall of 2008, Lanny Wexler distributed the Long Island Bikeway & Trailways map that he was responsible for producing for the New York State Department of Transportation.

The tradition of that Catskill plaque continued. Eric Markowitz, Tom Farre and Jeff Ritter found it on the Es-
2006-2011 continued

able was Arlene Scholer’s People and Perspective column giving tidbits of advice about health and safety on the trails and member news - who’s gotten married, moved, what interesting trips they took or who became a 35er or 46er. She even included poems once in a while. Orrie provided Gear Reports. We learned about Kahtala Microspikes - traction devices for easier walking on icy trails, the Buff - a very versatile head gear and of course the ever famous Banana Bunker (a carrier to prevent bruising of a banana). All in a follow up report, this proved to not be all that sturdy after all.

One of ADK’s mission is education and to that end we sponsored a group of 10-11 year old Earth Rangers from Wyandanch for an overnight at Peconic Dunes County Park. Joan Hitz was instrumental in facilitating that and Sue Stricker and I went out to spend the day with the youngsters who were excited about their overnight at camp. Following that, Pat Watcher worked with the Earth Rangers on a cleanup of Berkeley Jackson County Park in Huntington. Good training for future conservationists.

During this time period, we recognized so many enthusiastic outing leaders such as, Stu Levy, Jeff Ritter, Elli Bijou, Paula Mordini, Bill Schneider, Dave Kohler, Ross Moore, Joan Gossner, Rich Neigoki, Diane and Allen Grunthal and Lanny Wexler just to name a few. In addition there were dedicated volunteers for all kinds of activities: Nancy Hodson, Yoshiko Takeshita, Arlene Scholer, Sue and Denis Stricker, Christine Gillen, Sue Kenyon, Eunsil Recksiek - too many to name but we appreciated all their efforts in maintaining old traditions and creating new ones for ADK-LI and making it a vibrant chapter.

*** Micheline Kagan joined ADK-LI in January 1987 and discovered the joys of hiking in the winter. She fell in love with Harriman immediately and then discovered the Catskills through Arlene’s Empowerment hikes. She was recruited to join the Chapter Board of Directors shortly thereafter. When she retired from teaching in 2001, she had more time and took on the job of editing the Mountaineer newsletter as well as its distribution, initiating electronic distribution and working on the newsletter digitally. She was Vice president when Tom Farre was President and later in 2006 became President for two terms. More recently she was a Director to the Main Club. Meanwhile she was also on the Outings Committee of the ADK and is now its Chairperson.

2011-2016 continued

and explore. In a time of declining participation in organizations like ours, we maintained a strong membership and active slate of outings each month. Almost every monthly meeting had several visitors who had discovered us online and were anxious to learn about the opportunities offered by the ADK.

During this time there was a good bit of evolution in our interests. We kept our Adirondack and Catskill affection alive but discovered many opportunities closer to home. Many members became interested in kayaking and biking right here on Long Island. Especially in Suffolk County, trails such as the Paumanok Path offered plenty of opportunities for long days and distances in beautiful places.

If there is any one theme that defines these years, it is the impact of technology. In the past, members depended on monthly mailings to learn what was going on. Now participation in Facebook and Yahoo groups, as well as our own website, became primary ways for members to connect. Social media became the place where members could share pictures, memories, and commentaries on their trips.

2011-2016 The Impact of Technology

by Mike Vetrano

As ADK-LI entered the second decade of the new millennia, membership and leadership were high priorities. More than half the letters written by our presidents were encouragements to recruit more leaders and offer more opportunities for ADK-LI members to get outside

Technology also offered us the opportunity to go green and depend less on paper schedules and mailings. In
addition to the environmental impact, our board observed that going green would free much revenue to invest in programs and activities. Through the efforts of Micheline Kagan, a growing body of members now receive their copies of the Mountaineer by email. Lanny Wexler and a group of assistants were able to archive all past issues of the Mountaineer for online viewing.

In September of 2011, Hurricane Irene changed the face of the Adirondacks and challenged hikers, environmentalists, and government with the task of recovery. Many trails across that region and the state were damaged beyond use and ADK-LI joined the recovery efforts. Efforts continued for several years. Trails were damaged again in October 2012, this time by Superstorm Sandy. ADK-LI joined the NY/NJ Trail Conference for emergency trail maintenance to help open trails quickly.

In 2013 our Chapter helped support the renovations to the JBL. In that same year the new Adirondack Saranac 6er hiking program captured the imagination of many hikers and a number of our members rose to that challenge.

Hiking participation was encouraged as Operation Bandana was formed by Sue Kenyon, Bill Schneider and Jeff Ritter in 2014 as a creative way to reward active participants in outings.

In these years we also mourned the passing of several very active members. George Form died in 2013 and will be remembered for his trail maintenance leadership and support of every ADK activity. 2014 saw the passing of Carol Mantell and Larry Braun who were both active leaders and guides.

***Mike Vetrano became a member of ADK Long Island after discovering the High Peaks on an ADK Fall Traverse in 1994. After joining, he began to complete the Catskill 3500 with a good bit of help from Don Mantel, Arlene Scholer, and Peter Cowan. Over the years he offered many programs for our meetings, mostly in the area of digital photography. Mike’s first leadership position came in 2003 when he founded and designed our first website. He finished the 46 in 2006 during the Columbus day outing. He became Vice President in 2010 and Chapter Chair in 2011. Mike is currently a director to the main club and continues to consider climbing and canoeing in the Adirondacks the perfect way to spend a vacation.

History of the “Catskill Quest” for the ADK-LI Plaque
By Eunsil Recksiek

For 32 years, since 1984 the search for the ADK Plaque has become part of the Long Island Chapter’s history, known as the “Catskill Quest”. Since then the plaque has been repeatedly hidden and found. Clever clues are created to describe the location from the plaque’s point of view and are published in the Long Island Mountaineer. Whoever finds the plaque wins free ADK dues for the next year.

• April 8, 1984 - Richard Furman designed the first plaque, a palm-size brass plaque with the engraving “LI ADK 1984” initiating a challenge to our members. Richard Furman and Arlene Sholer hid the
History of the “Catskill Quest” continued

- May 1985 - Lillian Reyer found the plaque on Peekamose during a backpacking trip led by Richard and Arlene, and re-hid it.
- Fall 1985 - George Form found it on Slide Mountain near the John Burrough’s Memorial Plaque.
- May 13, 1989 - Lanny Wexler found it on Huckleberry Point, after using some folded maps with directions to the plaque which he found in a glass jar that George buried at the summit of the Kaaterskill High Peak. Lanny re-hid it in July 1989.
- September 1989 - Rich Moore found it on Westkill, three weeks after the clues had been published. Rich hid it March 1990 on Doubletop.
- 1996 - After 6 years of being hidden on Doubletop, with no one being able to find it, Rich Moore and Rich Ehli dug up the plaque and relocated it to Kaaterskill High Peak.
- September 19, 1997 - Lanny Wexler found it on Kaaterskill High Peak and hid it on April 5, 1998.
- June 21, 1998 - Rich Moore and his son found it on North Dome.
- October 2002 - Tom Farre found it on Acra Point, 3.5 years after it was hidden.
- November 2003 - Tom discovered that the plaque he had hidden on Big Indian Mountain was missing. A new one was remade with Bob Piazza’s help. The new plaque which was brushed aluminum and marked “Long Island ADK II 2003” was hidden.
- 2004 - Dave Koehler found it on North Point.
- June 3, 2015 - Linda Kukol, an ADK Member at large from Lake Hopatcong, NJ, found it near the John Robb lean-to on her 3rd try. Linda immediately re-hid it, and it is still waiting to be found.

*** Eunsil Recksiek, joined ADK Long Island in 2006. Her first outing was in July 2006 with the Young Members Group. Since then, Eunsil has bonded with the club thru its beautiful outings and wonderful people. Eunsil completed the Regular and Winter Catskill 3500, Saranac 6, Tupper Lake Triad, Catskill Firetower Challenge, and is currently working on the 46ers. Eunsil served as a Director for 4 years from 2007 - 2011. Since 2011 Eunsil has served as a trail work volunteer for the Chapter’s re-adopted Long Path section over Bangle Hill in the Catskills. The trail was originally adopted and maintained by the club for 15 years beginning in 1967 until 1982. From 1992 to 2010 the trail was maintained by ADK-LI member George Form. The trail was re-adopted by the Chapter in 2011. Eunsil recently rescued a miniature poodle, Winter, a hiking wonder dog, who is almost finished with his Catskill 3500, and will soon be starting on his 46ers.

The Changes in Outdoor Clothing and Gear Over the Past Fifty Years by Lanny S. Wexler

Fifty years ago, hiking was a sport for the hardy. The
The Changes in ... continued

synthetic clothing and gear today that keep us warm and comfortable today were unavailable. Light weight synthetic materials such as Gore-tex jackets, synthetic underwear and lightweight breathable boots had not been invented.

Much of our outdoor gear was purchased at Army Navy Stores, department and discount stores or through mail order catalogs. Choices were limited to bulky packs, baggy trousers, long john underwear, heavy rubber boots, oversized parkas, and A framed tents.

Fifty years ago we wore itchy wool clothing. Today we wear comfortable fleece, silk or “Smart Wool”.

Fifty years ago we carried our water in aluminum or plastic canteens, today we carry our water in Nalgene BPA free water bottles or sip Camel Bak pouches.

Fifty years ago we carried flashlights, today we wear bright LED head lamps.

Fifty years ago external frame backpacks were the only kind of backpack available, today most backpacks are internal frame packs.

Fifty years ago lightweight backpacking stoves had not been invented.

Fifty years ago backpackers used canned food or army K rations, today we use a variety of freeze dried food.

Fifty years ago snowshoes were clumsy wooden tennis racket like shoes with hard to adjust bindings. Today there is a wide choice of lightweight aluminum snowshoes with easy to adjust bindings.

Fifty years ago we wore instep crampons that were hard to secure and often came off. Today we wear versatile microspikes that work under a variety of snow and ice conditions.

Fifty years ago people went canoeing in large clumsy steel Grumman canoes. Today we take to the waters with lightweight fiberglass maneuverable kayaks.

Fifty years ago bicycles had heavy steel frames and were limited to three speeds. Today bicycles come in lightweight aluminum and titanium frames with 27 speed that come standard.

Fifty years ago there were no bicycle helmets. Today most people would not ride without their bicycle helmet.

Fifty years ago hikers only navigated with map and compass. Today, in addition to map and compass hikers use GPS to navigate.

Fifty years ago most hiking maps were in black and white. Today we have detailed color waterproof topographic maps. Hiking maps can even be downloaded to a smart phone that track position, show elevation and estimated time of arrival.

Fifty years ago we bought our clothing and gear through a mail order catalog. Today we go on line, type our item in a search engine and we have literally hundreds of choices to choose from. We can search by price, read on line reviews and view videos of gear to facilitate our choice.

Fifty years has seen significant changes in clothing and gear. Availability, access and choice has vastly improved their availability and how we order them. Clothing and gear is available for on line purchase at the click of a mouse.

What’s a mouse? ☺

*** Lanny Wexler joined the ADK in May 1981 to be with like minded people to explore and enjoy the great outdoors. During the past 35 years Lanny has led many hiking and bicycling outings for the Long Island Chapter. He also served as the Outings Chair between 1989 - 1991. Lanny has written many articles for the Mountaineer and he has presented on a variety of topics at club meetings that include Highpointing the 50 States, Bicycling the Great Allegheny Passage and most notably a trip he took to Antarctica back in 2000. Lanny has a long list of hiking accomplishments, including the Catskill 3500, the Adirondack 46ers, and the Northeast 111. Lanny is also a Highpointer having attained the highest points of 43 out of 50 States. Lanny was the fifth recorded person to hike the entire Long Path. Lanny has also hiked the entire Long Trail in Vermont and Paumanok Path on Long Island, as well as nearly half of the Appalachian Trail.

ADK Long Island Chapter Presidents *

(compiled by Lanny S. Wexler)

2. Per Moberg - 1967-69
3. Terry Morgan - 1969-70
5. Lee Behrer - 1974-75
6. Terry Morgan - 1975-76
7. Walter Chaskel - 1976-77
8. Larry Braun - 1977-80
9. Herb Coles - 1980-81
10. Bill Crump - 1981-84
11. Paul Lanzillotta - 1984-87
15. Jack Gebel - 1994-95
17. Jerry Licht - 1998
20. John DiGiacomo - 2001-03
22. Tom Farre - 2004-07
24. Jeanne Milspaugh 2010-11
25. Mike Vetrano - 2011-14
26. Ed Moran - 2015-

* Changed from Chairman to President in 1978
Chapter Founders - November 6, 1966

Dick Allen
John Catalato
Les Cox
Albert Fisher
Henry Gorman
Martha Guastella
Dorothy Mestey
Per Moberg
Bruce Smith
Robert Jessen
Charles Serven
Frank Snow
Robert Entwistle
Robert Jessen
Dick Furman

Chapter Meeting Places
(compiled by Lanny S. Wexler)

• 1967-1968 - Meadow Brook National Bank in Manhasset, 4th Monday of each month at 8:15 pm
• October 1976 – June 1977 - Syosset Public Library on various days at 8:00 pm
• September 1977 - February 1991 - Tackapausha Museum, Seaford, 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm
• March 1991 - June 1992 - Oakwood Elementary School, Huntington Station – 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm
• September 1992 - June 1993 - Birchwood Elementary School, South Huntington – 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm
• September 1993 - June 2010 - St Elizabeth’s Church, South Huntington – 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm
• September 2010 - Present - St. Luke Lutheran Church, Dix Hills – 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:00 pm

* Note: There was no listing of meeting places in the *Mountaineer* between Fall 1968 and October 1976.

ADK Long Island History - Fun Facts by Lanny S. Wexler

- The first *Mountaineer* was published in June 1967.
- Columbus Day Weekend to the Adirondacks began in October 1978 with bus trips organized by then President Larry Braun. There were six Columbus Day bus trips to the Loj between 1977 and 1983.
- First outing March 4-5, 1967 was a backpack overnight to Table & Peekamoose.
- Mar/Apr 1980 the Long Island masthead with the Montauk lighthouse logo first appears on the *Mountaineer*.
- $15 got you a bunk and breakfast at the Loj in the mid 1980s.
- The nearest Eastern Mountain Sports was in Ardsley in Westchester County. Prior to EMS people bought their Outings clothing and gear at the Army Navy Store.
- Arlene Scholer wrote her People & Perspectives column for over thirty years! Nov/Dec 1984 - Jan/Mar 2015.
- Larry Braun wrote the Getting Out column in the 1980s and 1990s.
- The ADK Plaque tradition was started by Dick Furman who hid the first plaque on Peekamoose Mountain which I personally witnessed being found on a Catskill Memorial Day weekend backpack in 1985.
- The Snow Goddess Weekend was held every winter in the Catskills was an annual rite of passage between 1996 and 2007.
- ADK Long Island goes on the web January 19, 2003 - Mike Vetrano the Chapter’s first webmaster.
- 253 issues of the Mountaineer have been published between June 1967 and November 2016.
- Arlene Scholer served as Hospitality Chair for almost 37 years!
- Digital photos begin appearing on a regular basis in the *Mountaineer* starting in 2004.
- The entire set of *Mountaineer* was archived to the ADK website by Lanny Wexler and team by the spring of 2012.
- Young Members Group founded 2005 by Lori Maynard and Janine Schwartz and continued by Paula Mordini until the beginning of 2011.
- Yahoo Groups was founded January 19, 2003 and has 126 Members.
- 2017 will be the 50th Anniversary of the LI Chapter maintaining the Brothers Trail in in Adirondacks.
- The Adirondack Northway opened in 1967. Prior to that there was no interstate highway north of Albany. Think how much longer it took to drive to Lake Placid prior to 1967.
- It cost 25 cents to cross the Throgs Neck Bridge and 50 cents to cross the George Washington Bridge in 1966.