

Sault Naturalists Annual Report

Message from the President

What Inspires YOU?

What inspires you? Does the sight of a red-tailed hawk, soaring against the cerulean blue of a spring-fresh sky leave you wondering and astonished? Are you inspired by a dead tree, lying on the forest floor, providing a nursery for mushrooms? Can the realization that you know why a Canada Goldenrod is different from Large-leaved Goldenrod make your day more enjoyable?

I'm inspired by the wonder of each day's revelations, living in a vibrant ecosystem, breathing its essence, thinking about its existence, wondering how I fit into that collection of living and dead elements. A tree, once living and sending oxygen into its environment, now dead, silently returning its nutrients to the earth is a satisfying thought. When I realize that a chick-a-dee can endure a minus 40 degree night, and then appear next day at my feeder, as though the night was nothing, I am inspired. Each spring, my first yellow-rumped warbler, is a marvelous sight. Knowledge of the life force that compelled that bird to fly from here to summer and back again to sing from the white pine outside my window keeps me happy.

In 2009, the Sault Naturalists had inspirational moments, and inspirational people, and here are some of my Sault Naturalist memories and inspirations from 2009.

Our last meeting of 2009 inspired me to be a better photographer. Dr Kirk Zufelt showed us that photography can be art, and that good pictures leave viewers with a sense that beauty is everywhere; it just has to be unraveled. With over 400 photographs submitted to our photo contest, organized by John Lehman, all of us were surprised and pleased that so many talented people entered our contest.



Our sometimes fearless leader Dave Euler

In this Issue

	Page
• Presidents Message	1
• Financial Statement	4
• Programs Report	5
• Fisheries Mgmt. Report	7
• Forest Mgmt. Report	9
Membership Report	10
Outings Report	11
• Thanks	12



With Sadness

With sadness we note that the club has lost two long-time members, Marion Edgar and Betty Nassoiy. They will certainly be missed.

(Continued from page 1)

In January 2009 Deane Greenwood and Rhonda Bateman told us how The Sault Ste. Marie and Region Conservation Authority was protecting water sources and supporting recreation in the greater Sault Ontario area. Mike Flannigan, a Research Scientist with the Canadian Forest Service at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre was able to discuss The Future of our Boreal Forests: and I left our 2009 annual meeting in February with hope that Canadian boreal forests have been around for thousands of years, and will be around for much longer, even though our climate has been warming due to increases of carbon dioxide and methane.

In March, Ian Ludgate, Manager of Denison Environmental Services told us about The Elliot Lake Uranium Mines and their Environmental Impact. After listening to Dr Ludgate, it seemed clear that the environmental issues associated with the mine at Elliot Lake were under intense management and there is hope for a future uncontaminated by mining waste. Speaking of caring for the earth, our April speaker was clearly in love with wolves and we were treated to her expression of that love with pictures and a first hand discussion of the wolves she kept in her home area near Paradise, Michigan. After many centuries of persecution by people it was inspiring to see Cheanne Chellis give back to this endangered species.

We don't have to get lost in the woods again, ever, because David Szlag, Associate Professor of chemistry at Lake Superior State University gave a presentation, How Not to Get Lost in the Woods. He provided an introduction to the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and instructions on how to use them. That should keep anyone inspired.

In May we traveled with Harvey Robbins to South Aftrica and in September with Graham Mackintosh to Baja California. Both presentations made me want to go there and have the same kind of experiences.

At our October meeting Karen Brays told us about agates. How they are formed and about the beauty that is around us when we look for it. With her own collection of "wowser" rocks, she inspired us all once again with the respect for the timelessness of the earth's rocks. The next month, November, I was inspired, once again, by Damon McCormick, a wildlife biologist with the Common Coast Research Institute. who introduced us to not only the oldest loon in the world, who was also the best father to loon chicks on the marvelous Seney National Wildlife Refuge, but also the other loons researched at Seney over the years.

What a great series of programs we had, thanks to John Lehman and his Program Committee (Ron Prickett and Leslie Askwith) Thank you for making these programs possible.

(Continued from page 2)

If you could not come to any of these programs, but you came to our outings you were also inspired.

Skiing at McNearney in the Hiawatha National Forest, birding in the early spring at Fort Creek, White Fish Island and Whitefish Point, looking for those early skunk cabbages, finding early spring flowering plants, going to Point Pelee, listening to early spring amphibians sing their response to spring, and then hiking all those trails in Sault Michigan and Sault Ontario, all could make you feel alive and that you can be inspired with the beauty and character of our home in space.

Thanks to Val Walker's hard work and to all the leaders and many outings that she organized, we had a fine series of outings last year. She already has put together outstanding outings for the first months of 2010. Thank you Val.

If you missed any of these inspiring events in 2009, we are now ready to go forward with 2010, the Year of Inspiration for the Sault Naturalists. Come to our programs, come to our outings, and volunteer to be a part of the club, listen, learn, love and be inspired.

Thank you to the Sault Naturalist Executive for 2009. You are inspiring, every one of you.

Dave Euler President

There are two ways to live your life.
One is as though nothing is a miracle,
The other is as though
Everything is a miracle!

Albert Einstein

Adapted from an earlier annual report...

Tony and the Owls

Each evening Tony the bird lover stood in his backyard hooting like an owl - and one night an owl finally called back to him. For a year the man and his feathered friend hooted back and forth. He even kept a log of the conversation. Just as he thought he was on the verge of a breakthrough in inter-species communication. his wife had a chat with her next-door neighbor. "My husband spends his nights calling out to owls" she said. "That's odd", the neighbor replied. "So does my husband."





Betty Nassoiy

Memories of Betty Nassoiy

Our earliest memory of Betty is from a camping trip to Wilderness State Park in January, 1979. The nights were very cold, perhaps -35°. Betty warmed our hearts with a little lullaby for our 4-month old daughter...

"See-saw, Marjorie Daw..."

In sharp contrast to the soothing nursery rhyme, we wondered if the old cabin would hold together as Betty's husband Duke sawed logs all night long.

Betty embodied happiness, vitality and *joie de vivre* like no one else we've known. She was, and still is, a wonderful role model for our family. She will be missed.

Don and Vivian

Sault Naturalists

Annual Financial Statement for 2009

Operating Expenses:

(Account at CIBC in Canadian Dollars)

Balance Jan.1/09 \$4340.25 Balance Dec.31/09 \$3842.40

Receipts: \$1135.93

Memberships: \$1055.00 US Exchange: \$30.93 Donations: \$50.00

Disbursements: \$1633.78

Postage: \$141.16 Insurance: \$642.60 Capital Projects: \$79.10 Misc.: \$770.92

Receipts over (under) Disbursements: (\$497.85)

GIC # 1 \$2221.83 GIC #2 \$3834.02

The Club gratefully acknowledges the following donation:

June Koropecki \$50.00

Gail Andrew Treasurer Jan.2/10 Operating Expenses:

(Account at Huntington Bank in US Dollars)

Balance Jan 1/09 \$1343.28 Balance Dec.31/09 \$363.25

Receipts: \$255.00

Memberships: \$255.00

Disbursements: \$1235.03

Donations: \$100.00 Misc. \$1135.03

Receipts over (under) Disbursements: (\$980.03)



Program Committee Report

The Program Committee scheduled and coordinated the following programs for 2009.

January 13, 2009. Deane Greenwood, Trails Coordinator for the Sault Ste. Marie and Region Conservation Authority, and Rhonda Bateman, Source Water Protection Coordinator for the Conservation Authority, presented an illustrated program on The Sault Ste. Marie and Region Conservation Authority and its Activities.

February 10, 2009 Annual Dinner Meeting. Mike Flannigan, senior Research Scientist with the Canadian Forest Service at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, presented an illustrated talk on **The Future of our Boreal Forests.**

March 10, 2009. Ian Ludgate, Manager of Denison Environmental Services, gave an illustrated talk on **The Elliot Lake Uranium Mines and their Environmental Impact.**

April 14, 2009. Cheanne Chellis of Paradise, Michigan, gave an illustrated presentation **Wolves in My Back Yard**.

May 5, 2009. Harvey Robbins, retired Professor and Department Head from Sault College, gave an illustrated presentation about his **Travels in Southern Africa**.

June 9, 2009. David Szlag, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Lake Superior State University, gave a presentation/workshop on the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS), How Not To Get Lost in The Woods.

September 8, 2009. Graham Mackintosh gave an illustrated presentation on his **Baja Island Adventures** on the remote Isla Angel de la Guarda in the Sea of Cortez.

October 13, 2009. Karen Brzys, owner and curator of the Gitche Gumee Agate and History Museum in grand Marais, MI, gave an illustrated presentation on Understanding and Finding Agates.



November speaker Damon McCormick releasing a banded juvenile "Uncommon Loon"



September speaker Graham MacIntosh on Isla Angel de la Guarda

November 10, 2009. Damon Lange McCormick, wildlife biologist with the Common Coast Research and Conservation organization, gave an illustrated presentation on **The Uncommon Loon**.

December 8, 2009. Our Annual Holiday Meeting featured a Nature Photo Contest and an illustrated presentation by pediatrician and photographer Kirk Zufelt on The Artistic and Technical Aspects of Nature Photography.

Thanks to Leslie Askwith and Ron Prickett for their contributions as committee members.

Submitted by:
John Lehman
Program Committee Chair

Point Pelee Birding A Sault Naturalists' Tradition

For over two decades, Sault Naturalists have made an annual pilgrimage to Point Pelee National Park to take in the spring migration of songbirds, shorebirds and other avian travelers. Birders camp on the point, surrounded by birds 24 hours a day. "Bird immersion" is a wonderful way for novice birders to learn a great deal in a short time.

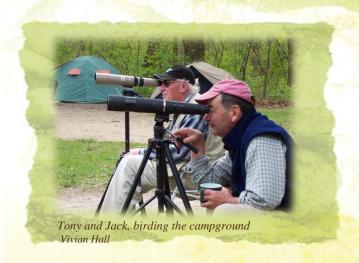
Robert and Joy Cohen led the outings for the first 7 or 8 years. Some of the birders from the early years are no longer with us, for others the Pelee trip has become a rite of spring.

Fond memories include Black-crowned Night-Herons, Avocets, Cerulean Warblers and the sign at Doug's famous fresh-fish restaurant...

"Never trust a thin cook!"

Gary Rahn demonstrated an ingenious way to safely watch a solar eclipse, using binoculars to project an image on the wall of a tent. The last evening meal is traditionally at Wong's; sightings are tallied up, and highlights reviewed. 2004 was a banner year, with an astounding group total of 167 species observed.

If you would like to be part of "The Pelee Experience" call Don or Vivian Hall in November of the year before the trip. Reservations must be made far in advance!





"Some people cannot look at a waterfall without calculating its height, how many gallons per second flow over the lip, and how many waterfalls are larger or smaller. Some people no sooner sit down by a pondside then they begin to wonder why they are there, and what the worth of it is. The comparisons, the analysis, the reasons - all are walls that fence us off from a deeper reality. Experience nature without analyzing. See it without labels. Only then will you begin to experience the beauty that is beyond words."

Tom Brown's Field Guide to Nature Observation and Tracking

Fisheries Management Planning Report Valerie Walker

In 2004, the Ministry of Natural Resources introduced the Ecological Framework for Fisheries Management to enhance fisheries management in Ontario. This new approach included public input into decision making from Advisory Councils for all 20 planned Fisheries Management Zones (FMZ) in Ontario. Each Advisory Council consists of 15 to 20 volunteers representing a variety of stakeholders and interest groups.

In 2008, the 20 new Fisheries Management Zones (FMZs) were created under this framework. The Algoma District is included in FMZ 10 and the FMZ 10 Advisory Council was one of the original three pilot councils established. The focus of this council was on lake trout sustainability based on the findings of the Northeast Lake Project (2000-2005). Data from this project determined that lake trout populations in FMZ 10 generally are in poor health with only 17% of these lakes being fished at a sustainable level.

The Ministry of Natural Resources with the support of the FMZ 10 Advisory Council has developed a strategy to manage lake trout in Zone 10. Several regulatory options were presented to the public for comment in the spring of 2009. Based on comments received, recommendations of the Fisheries Advisory Council and the best available science, new fishing regulations have been developed for lake trout in Zone 10, yellow perch on Manitoulin Island and walleye in the French River.

Changes to Zone 10 Lake Trout Fishing Regulations in 2010

Catch & Possession Limit:

Sports fish Licence: Limit of 2 Lake Trout (down from 3) Conservation Licence: Limit of 1 Lake Trout (down from 2)

Sizes Limit:

Sports fish Licence: 1 Lake Trout any size, 1 Lake Trout under 40 cm

Conservation Licence: 1 Lake Trout any size

(Note: Previously there was no size limit on lake trout)

Open Season:

January 1 to Labour Day (reduced from Jan 1 -Sept 30).

The rational for these changes in the FMZ 10 fishing regulations is based on the fact that approximately half of the female lake trout mature by age 7 and generally at 40 cm in length. In addition mature female are more vulnerable to angling from mid summer to late summer given energy requirements associated with egg production. Limiting the harvest of lake trout over 40 cm to one fish, and closing the season on Labour Day will reduce the number of mature females harvested. Protecting mature females will ensure the sustainability of lake trout populations.





I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech-tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines.

Henry David Thoreau



In 2010, 18 new lakes in Zone 10 are now designated for additional fishing opportunities. These lakes are stocked with hatchery lake trout and there is no size restriction on angled fish. These 'put-grow-take' lakes deflect fishing effort from vulnerable naturally reproducing lake trout lakes.

Manitoulin Island is considered unique in FMZ 10. It has a warmer climate and a different geology (limestone vs shield) and as a result has a higher aquatic productivity. As a result, the lake trout lakes warrant special consideration. The regulation changes on Manitoulin Island include a reduction from three to two lake trout for a sport fishing licence, with no size restriction. The open season will remain January 1 to September 30 in 2010.

For other changes in FMZ 10 Fisheries Regulations for French River Walleye and Manitoulin Perch see http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/278898.pdf

Submitted by Valerie Walker, FMZ 10 Council Representative

REMEMBERING BETTY NASSOIY: born Elizabeth Finlayson, June 20th 1922

The Sault Naturalists' lost a good friend, outings leader and, advocate for mother nature with Betty's death on September 2nd 2009. Betty's "joie de vivre", spontaneity, and sense of humour endeared her to everyone she met.

Her generous nature was evident in every aspect of her life, in her listening skills, in her non-judgmental communications and, in her willingness to share. When asked the secret of her positive nature and, skillful aging process, Betty replied that she never associated with "old" people meaning, those having a negative outlook on life.

At the beach celebration of Betty's life family, friends, and neighbors shared their memories of her. Those who spoke, remarked on Betty's skill in relating to all ages, being open to new ideas and, exploring alternatives instead of offering opinions.

We remember (and miss) Betty's favorite expressions especially on any Sault Naturalists' outings. Her "rats' ass" was very expletive and, although I had never used this before meeting Betty in 1986, her "oh sh—"! was an eye opener. I figured if someone my mother's age could use this, so could I. Chuck stated that he would call at short notice and, Betty would be willing and able to explore or share in any adventure.

We miss you Betty!

Chuck & Evelyn

Sault Naturalists A Page 8

Forest Management Planning Report Donna Ryckman-Rooney

The Algoma Forest Local Citizen Committee of Sault Ste. Marie (LCC) formed in 1990. Since that time a Sault Naturalist member had participated to represent naturalist viewpoints regarding forest uses and benefits.

This year the team for Algoma has been finalizing the Forest Management Plan for the years 2010 to 2020. Information centres were held for the public to comment on proposed initiatives, review of public responses received at the information centres were made, a summary report was submitted for the draft plan, and a further open house was held in July 2009. The draft plan was finalized and sent to the Regional Director in November of 2009.

Issues:

- A variety of members have changed on the committee this year. Ongoing training for new members will be necessary.
- 2. LCC members have voiced concerns that social and economic benefits be discussed in more detail.
- 3. Tourism and recreational values as well as fibre and other non-timber resources of the forest must be enhanced.
- 4. an adjustment to the shelterwood system of forest extraction was proposed.
- 5. The LCC unanimously approved a forest planning objective to address climate change. Many other plans have not incorporated this however our committee felt it was necessary to get the MNR and industry thinking about climate change in a formal way. The recommendation, included in the 210-2020 FMP states:

"This plan commits to the adoption of all relevant and practical aspects of any climate change policy developed for forest management planning purposes by the MNR, as soon as any such policy is approved for implementation even though the policy may only be required for future FMP's, approved after the policy becomes effective. This commitment only applies to those aspects of any policy that will not require a plan amendment to be implemented."



East Lake outing with the Hiawatha Shore-to-shore Club



Algoma Highlands outing

The committee has a good working relationship with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Clergue Forest Management Planning office however the planning process is complex and arduous. The Forest Management Planning Manual states that the local citizen committee be "integral" to the planning process as well as "monitor" the plan itself. This should continue to be the central focus of the LCC as it develops through time.

I am pleased to sit on the committee on behalf of the naturalists.



2009 Membership Report Harvey Robbins, Membership Coordinator

Membership as of January 2010

The second second second		
	January 2009	January 2010
Total Number of Memberships	129	120
Total Number US	33	29
Total Number Canada	96	91
Categories		
Life (paid),	10	10
Individual	62	59
Family	38	40
Student	2	1
Complimentary individual	9	5
Complimentary family	3	1
Life, Group	5	4
Years Paid To:		
Life	14	14
2010-2 (2011-12)	2	1
2010	0	42
2009	66	63
2008	44	0
2006 - 2007	3	0
Total	129*	120**
	*(8 new paid memberships)	**(11 new paid memberships)

Outings Report

The Sault Naturalists' outings are a means by which we explore and experience the natural world around us. Always there is an element of learning, be it deciphering a key to identify a plant species, or examining tracks & signs of some elusive animal or testing our own physical limitations. Outings are also a way to envelop oneself in all things that should be a priority in life... camaraderie, health and an appreciation for our beautiful world.

In 2009, we had many ventures into our beautiful world: woodland hikes including ones to Naomikong, Round Island Point and Wilderness State Park; waterway paddles to Munuscong Bay, Robertson Lake and Les Cheneaux Islands; snowshoe tramps to King Mountain, Heyden and Sugar Island; bushwhack skies to Pancake Bay, McNearney and Red Rock; cave crawls to the Desbarats bat cave and the Hendrie water caves; fungal forays near Detour, and of course, many bird outings on both sides of the border including our 4 day camp out at Point Pelee National Park.

This fall, for the first time, we ventured into a 2600 acre property newly purchased by the Algoma Highlands Conservancy. The land was acquired to ensure the long term protection of this scenic wilderness area. What a gem!

All outings are led by club volunteers for the benefit of the Club. We thank you for the generous donation of your time.

So come on out and join us on an outing. Maybe you too will be inspired!

Submitted by Valerie Walker, Outings Coordinator

"Invention is the mother of necessity."

Marshall McLuhan









On King Mountain - Don Hall



Chuck, Evelyn and Betty -Valerie Walker

Diplomacy -Thinking twice before saying nothing.

Thanks for Making the Club Work

A volunteer organization like the Sault Naturalists of Ontario and Michigan only works when members are willing to be part of the club. We have some dedicated people who care about the club and have worked to make it successful in 2009.

Val Walker organized our outings and every month has prepared a list of interesting and fun outings and we are thankful for you, Val. Good job and well done. Val also helps take minutes at our Executive Meetings. Val is our club representative on the Ministry of Natural Resources Committee for Lake Trout Management, and we are glad she brings her expertise to that work. Thanks Val, for doing an important job.

John Lehman works quietly and carefully with the program committee to develop programs for the Club. Leslie Askwith and Ron Prickett helped John this year. Thanks, John, Ron and Leslie for your work.

John Lehman also created the club website, affectionately called the Wiki, which conveys up-to-date information and announcements of club activity. This is an effective tool of communication in the internet age, and John's contribution is very helpful.

Jeannie Mannesto has been vice president for over two years, and has now resigned from that position. Thanks Jeannie for your work on behalf of the club and for leading outings.

Evelyn Simon was our publicity person for several years and has now resigned from that position. Thanks for your work over many years, Ev.

Our new publicity person is **Leslie Askwith**, who many club members know from her presentations at the club and her songs and poetry she creates based on her experience living in nature. We look forward to having another good year with your help, Leslie.

Robert Cohen takes minutes at both Executive Meetings and General Meetings when needed, during spring, summer and fall when he is not spending the winter in Texas, and we appreciate his work.

We are fortunate that **Harvey Robbins** continues to be membership coordinator. This is a crucial job in the club, and we are happy that Harvey has taken on this task.

Gail Andrew has been Treasurer of the Club for many years now, and is much appreciated. She always has an up-to-date report for our meetings, is prompt about paying bills and she radiates confidence in her ability to manage our money. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you Gail.

(Continued from page 12)

Chuck Bosley is our club representative to the Audubon Society and **Tony Walker** is representative to Ontario Nature, the equivalent nature organization in Ontario. Thanks to both for their work on behalf of the club.

Gladys Wallwork is club archivist and keeps the historical records that maintain the club's history.

Helen Hutchinson coordinates our clean up day at Wishart Park, once in the spring, once in the fall.

Donna Ryckman-Rooney is the club representative to the Local Citizen Committee of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Thanks Donna for attending to this committee.

Don and Vivian Hall organize an annual trip to Point Pelee, starting January 2 each year to organize a phone call network to insure that a spot is saved for club members. Great job and thanks.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Annual Meeting and Dinner...

Leslie Askwith and Tony Walker for working on publicity, Erica Ropke for acting as MC, Carl Linhart for introducing the speaker, Judy Falkins for providing the decorations, Don and Vivian Hall for providing the display board, Gail Andrew and Maureen Delaney-Lehman for taking tickets, Donna Ryckman-Rooney for giving the invocation and helping with the decorations, and John Lehman for making arrangements for the meeting & dinner.

Don Hall has agreed to prepare this year's Annual Report, not an easy job, and thank you for your work.

Outings Leaders- Over the last year, most of our hikes have been led by club members. We always have fun and learn something. Thanks to our leaders.

Gail Andrew, David Bell, Chuck Bosley, Mark Crofts, Aubrey Golden, Derek Goertz, Dean Greenwood, Helen Hutchinson, Don & Vivian Hall, Garry Koteles, Carl Linhart, John Lehman, Carol Meyers, Bonni Mackintosh, Ken McIlwrick, Ron Prickett, Harvey Robbins, Dieter Ropke, Cynthia Suhay, Evelyn Simon, Dave Szlag, Tony Walker, Val Walker and Greg Zimmerman.

Dave Euler President



Les Cheneaux Islands - Valerie Walker

Thank You, Dave!

Club president Dave Euler is quick to thank others, but characteristically modest about his own contributions. Dave works tirelessly to keep all club activities moving smoothly. He leads outings, participates in outings, and acts as chairperson/MC at general meetings. When the Christmas Bird Count was in need of a coordinator, he capably stepped up to the plate. Perhaps his most challenging task is keeping the sometimes-unruly Executive Committee in line. Dave's contributions are too numerous to list here, but they are all very much appreciated!

The Executive Committee

Many thanks to Valerie Walker for submitting many of the photos in this report

Sault Naturalists Membership Form			
Mail to: Harvey Robbins, Membership Chairman, Sault Naturalists P.O. Box 21035, 306 Northern Ave. E., Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6B 6H3, Canada			
Categories and Fees: You may submit payment in either US or Canadian funds Renewal Student \$10.00 Individual \$20.00			
New Member Family \$25.00 Life \$225.00			
Name:			
Address:Prov/State:			
Postal/Zip Code: Country: Telephone:			
E-mail address:			
Would you like to receive the meetings/outings correspondence by email? (This saves on the cost of stamps and envelopes and facilitates sending last minute updates)			
The activities of the Sault Naturalists are adapted to the physical capabilities of its members and should involve little risk of injury; in fact there has never been a serious accident during the 55-plus years the club has been in existence. Nevertheless accidents can happen, and in light of today's litigious climate the club needs to protect itself through liability insurance. This requires that we ask you to sign the following statement in order to participate in club activities.			
Please read and sign the following as a condition of membership. For family memberships, all adult members of the family should sign.			
During any event sponsored by the Sault Naturalists, I agree to assume total responsibility for my own safety and well-being and for that of any minor children under my care, and for protection of my and their personal property. To the extent allowed by law, I agree to waive, discharge claims, and release from liability the Sault Naturalists Club, its officers, members, and outing leaders from any and all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from injuries and damages as a result of my participation in any outing or other club activity. I understand and intend that this assumption of risk and release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and includes any minors accompanying me in a club activity.			
Signature(s):			