

NYS Ranger School Alumni Association, Inc

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

Greetings from the Alumni President— Christopher Tcimpidis '93

Greetings from Palmer, Alaska and welcome to the spring 2023 newsletter! As many of us find the daylight growing longer and the temperatures steadily increasing, we look forward to the productive days of spring and summer. Winter has been good to us in Alaska; it wasn't too cold and we received snow and many wonderful displays of the Aurora Borealis. But it is time to prepare for planting, fishing and this fall's hunts and the various tasks that are required to run our association.

The RSAA board has been rolling through seasonal changes and preparing for the next few seasons; soon we will be preparing the campground and alumni house for the 2023 season, the reunion committee has been busy preparing for the 2023 reunion, we are

preparing for a new office manager as Beth prepares for the next phase of her life, and we continue the search of board members to serve as officers. As with most organizations that survived Covid, our ability to adapt and accept change has become one of our strengths and we will continue to adapt to serve our members well into the future.



I think I can summarize the goals of the board for 2023 as follows: provide our members with continued connectivity to fellow alumni and the school community; provide a wonderful reunion experience; address our administrative needs in a challenging employment environment and fill our empty officer positions on the board. Our list of objectives is probably longer and perhaps more changing as we respond to the needs of the association.

The world has been full of challenges for all of us. This is no less true for the members of the board of directors of the RSAA. In the last year we have lost a president and vice president, and our past president, Chris Westbrook, has stepped up to assist me with the administration of our association (Thank you Chris W!). The issue of retention of officers has been a topic on our minds lately as we struggle to understand how to retain board officers through their term. We have many qualified members on the board and in our membership, but being qualified may not be enough to weather an officer's seat. The unfortunate truth may be that no volunteer job is free to the volunteer; it takes time, energy, and even money to conduct the business of running any non-for-profit. Often the needs of our organization conflict with the work and family needs of our board members and officers, sometimes resulting in people leaving their position on our board of directors. I am not certain of how to address this issue, but I believe the answer is to maintain a board with individuals that represent a mixture of skills and to ensure that board members and officers have the time needed and support needed to conduct the association business.

The Ranger School Alumni Association continues to support the school, support students, and assist in recruiting students, along with being dedicated to our members. We have secured our Legacy Fund for family members of alumni who attend Ranger School. We continue our efforts to remain connected to our alumni and are searching for ways to interact with new alumni as they graduate. (continued)

RSAA President's Message (continued)

Much as the rest of the world perpetually changes and evolves, our need to understand new alumni and learn how to interact with them needs to adapt and change as well, to address how we interact with recent graduates. At the same time, we need to maintain a connection to our current alumni, using more traditional approaches to interact with them.

The need to maintain a digital front for the association along with the need to conduct commerce in the digital environment is essential now. You can expect continued efforts and change as we address these challenges. We also continue to offer more traditional interfaces, such as a printed newsletter for those of us who prefer paper.

There seems to be no option but to head into 2023 full force, or perhaps there just is no backing out of it. Either way, 2023 will prove to be a year filled with new challenges, new opportunities, and a great alumni reunion. As always please feel free to reach out to RSAA members with you questions or to volunteer your talents and skills. Have a wonderful spring and I look forward to seeing you in August.

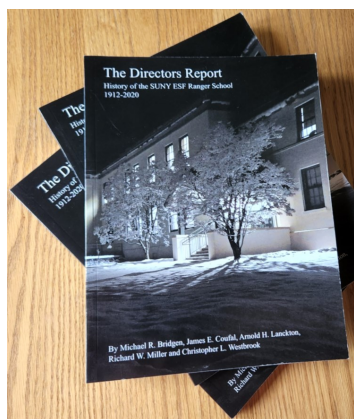
Chris Tcimpidis '93
RSAA President

Are You Current on your Dues?

If you haven't paid your dues, you can still do so on our new website at www.nysrsaa.org If you would prefer a paper copy, please let us know at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com or by leaving a message at 315-848-2566 ext 2112.

Even if you are a life member, we appreciate you taking the time to fill out the 2023 information sheet. This lets us be sure we have the most current contact information for you.

We look forward to hearing from you!



The Directors Report: History of the SUNY ESF Ranger School 1912-2020

A chronological description of the School,
as reported by former Ranger School Directors.

First Edition. 246 p.

Available by mail-order only.

Send order to: bridgenmichael@gmail.com or text/call

315-262-7494.

Cost: \$50 plus \$10 shipping.

Reunion Update — Mike Rozeski '90

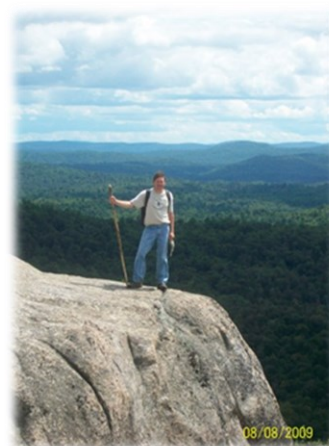
Good day Alumni,

I hope all is going well. The winter weather is winding down and the signs of spring are starting to emerge. Also, the reunion committee has been meeting & planning this year's reunion. As we return to a more normal routine in life, here is a reminder to set aside the first weekend in August for some well deserved time off from work and normal day-to-day actions and spend some time up in beautiful Wanakena with your Ranger School family. Take a canoe/kayak ride up and down the Oswegatchie; take a familiar hike up to the fire tower, or a new trek and explore miles of old growth along the Peavine Trail; teach your children/grandchildren how to fish; feel free to interact with the younger classes and describe just how much easier they have it here now than when you went here. There are many, many opportunities to enjoy time together with family, friends and alumni. Make a reservation to stay at a nice hotel in Watertown or bring your tents and camp out under the stars on the ballfield or alumni campground. We will have dinners prepared on Friday and Saturday evening so leave the major cooking to us. Bring some snacks, your favorite beverage of choice, and settle in for a nice weekend.

The alumni reunion is a chance for us to reminisce, meet new friends, & maintain past relationships. To keep this event a successful one, your involvement is needed. Please help out where and when you can, bid on another 'one-of-a-kind' auction item, and engage the alumni you meet. Also, please fill out the comment section in the paperwork. Let us know what you would like to see at future reunions. All positive comments and constructive criticisms are welcome.

Until August 4th...Enjoy the day & Keep in touch!

Michael D. Rozeski '90
Reunion Chair



Class of 2023 at Work and Play



Ranger School Forestry Club — Professor Jeff Dubis '89

On November 5th, 42 members of the Ranger School and ESF Forestry Clubs joined forces to conduct various service projects on the Dubuar Forest. Nineteen students from the ESF Forestry Club, most of which were Ranger School graduates, made the trip northward on Friday evening. When they arrived, they were greeted by their counterparts in the Ranger School Forestry Club as well as Open Mic Night at The Landing (cafeteria). Student musicians from both campuses, and Professor Savage, shared their talents with a crowd of students, faculty, and staff.



Saturday morning, students chose projects from trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and crop- tree thinning. The invasive species removal was led by Ms. Julie Fogden '18. Emphasis was placed on removal of invasive Japanese barberry, burning bush, and mugwort adjacent to the administrative site. Although not considered an invasive, black locust saplings were cut as they are regenerating prolifically and encroaching on the area surrounding the Ranger School Arboretum. Work was completed rather quickly due to high interest and participation. To date, there are few areas on the Dubuar Forest where a preponderance of invasive species can be found, other than the administrative site. Controlling their presence is vitally important to preventing the spread to remote areas of campus.

A second group of students, led by Mr. Savage continued improvements to the Latham Trail, the most popular hiking trail on campus. This trail is used by students, hikers, and local citizens to access the Cathedral Rock Fire Tower, which is part of the Adirondack Fire Tower Challenge. As a result, the Latham trail receives substantial public use. Students spread gravel, cleared brush and other debris, and rebuilt sections of bridging across wet areas.



A third group, led by Mr. Dubis, focused on conducting a crop-tree thinning in a young white pine stand along the North Road near Route 3. During the previous spring semester, students in the silviculture lab selected, marked, and pruned approximately 20-30 crop trees per acre. Forestry Club participants with chainsaws and axes, cut trees that were directly competing with selected crop trees. Trees were given a full crown release in order to maximize growth rates. Ideally, these trees will be periodically released in the same manner to keep them growing rapidly until they are harvested in approximately another 60 years. It will take a few more forestry club workdays to complete the work in this stand.



This was not the first Forestry Club workday of the year. This past spring, approximately 25 members of both campus clubs (Class of 2022) collaborated to plant 500 seedlings at the local public school in Star Lake. They also initiated the white pine crop-tree thinning project referenced previously. As these service-oriented efforts serve a variety of positive impacts including; recreation, public health, property sustainability, environmental conservation, cooperation, and networking, similar projects will likely continue at future forestry club workdays.



Looking for Ranger School Alumni Merchandise?

There are lots of shirts, hoodies, backpacks, pins, stickers, tumblers, and more at our online Spreadshirt store. You can access the store by typing in the following link:

<https://www.spreadshirt.com/shop/user/ranger+school+alumni+association/>

or by accessing the link through our Alumni website at:

<http://www.nysrsaa.org/>



Belt buckles, stickers, lapel pins and RS statues are available through the RSAA office.

Email rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com for information.

Have an idea for some RSAA bling? Let us know.

RSAA Properties and Projects Committee—Jerry Butler '05, Chair

Greetings RS Alumni,

Spent the first weekend of April in Wanakena; Snowmobiled on Friday, 35 and rain Saturday morning with sun and 60 in the afternoon and then 12 degrees Sunday morning! You gotta love spring in the ADK!

The Alumni house/campground cleanup weekend is slated for 28-30 of April. Among the projects are opening the house, turning on the utilities, clearing up winter tree damage, firewood processing, putting the dock in (hopefully the ice will be out), setting up campsites, repairing the steps to the legacy rock and surely there are a couple of projects we haven't seen yet.

Remember to contact the Office Manager for additional openings at the Alumni house for the upcoming season. Available days will also be posted on our webpage calendar (<https://www.nysrsaa.org/>) and facebook page. As of now the rates will remain the same. Also a reminder that the Alumni house is not available between August 2 and August 6.

There have been some conversations concerning the use of several large donations that are intended strictly for the Alumni house. One conversation centers around creating a year round use house by either building a new structure or refitting the current house. The board is interested in the opinion of the alumni on this. Please contact me or any board member with your thoughts.

Jerry Butler '05
RS Alumni Association
Properties Manager

Hut to Hut Hiking Comes to Cranberry Lake! - Professor Jamie Savage

The Cranberry Lake 50, a 50-mile hike around the Adirondack Park's third-largest lake, was officially opened in 2009. Alongside the Northville-Placid Trail and the Adirondack Forty Sixers, the Cranberry Lake 50 (CL50) is one of the grandest and most rewarding Adirondack challenges. As of early 2023, about 2,000 hikers have completed the spectacular hiking loop, and many more have completed portions of it. The trail passes through the hamlets of Wanakena and Cranberry Lake. In between those two communities, it crosses through ESF's Wanakena Campus, running right past the front of the historic Ranger School. The majority of the trail traverses forever-wild state land, where the only overnight accommodations for weary backpackers are primitive tent sites or hard-floored lean-tos. Most CL50 hikers spend two to three nights out on the trail, completing the loop in three to four days.

Beginning in the summer of 2023, CL50 hikers have a new option! The CL50 will now be one of several "hut-to-hut" routes administered by Adirondack Hamlets to Huts, a not-for-profit organization based in Saranac Lake, NY. I have been on the Board of Directors for this organization for the last few years, and have been President of the BOD for the last year. One of my main focuses as a board member has been to get the CL50 up and running as a hut-to-hut route. This new option opens the multi-day adventure up to folks who aren't interested in or capable of backpacking the route. Equally important, it should generate additional and significant economic activity for local businesses.

Well-defined, well-organized hut-to-hut systems—for hiking, biking, skiing, and/or paddling—exist in other parts of the country and the world, to be sure. And they are popular. But no such system has ever existed in the Adirondack Park. A couple of professors with extensive outdoor experience and altruistic ambitions, Joe Dadey and Jack Drury, turned the dream of an Adirondack hut-to-hut system into reality back in 2016. Inspired by the motto "Adventure by Day, Comfort by Night," the organization and its supporters have developed a growing menu of multi-day, hut-to-hut trips throughout the Adirondack Park. New to the menu for 2023 will be the CL50.

With Joe and I as the guides and seven clients in tow, the first CL50 hut-to-hut trip was tested out in the fall of 2021. The trip was a fun-filled success, thanks to great weather and the excellent lodging, food and shuttles provided by local businesses. We hiked about ten to twelve miles per day, ate delicious food, took hot showers, rested on comfortable beds, and enjoyed scenic boat rides to and from Cranberry Lake's remote trailheads.

Four trips will be offered in 2023, two guided, and two self-guided. Yours truly will be guiding a trip in late July and co-guiding a trip in September! Each trip can accommodate about eight people, not including guides. A trip consists of five nights and five days, and generally includes lodging, food, boat shuttles, and baggage handling (so you don't have to carry a heavy backpack!). We will hike about ten miles each day, with one day including a hike up scenic Cat Mountain. The route also takes us to places like Sliding Rock Falls, High Falls, Janack's Landing, and through nascent beaver meadows and majestic old growth forests. Simultaneously, each and every trip will inject thousands of dollars into the local economy.

For more information or to book a trip, visit www.adkh2h.org
For more information about the Cranberry Lake 50, visit www.cranberrylake50.org



2023 Hockey Update—Greg Vaverchak '02

On Sunday March 5th the spirited Ranger School class of 2023 faced off against the seasoned alumni for the annual championship game which awards the famed Bridgen cup. The clash that ensued was one for the ages. The format of the tournament is to play 5, 20-minute games (running clock). At the end of the mini-games, 2 points are awarded for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. Whichever team has the most points at the end wins the glory, fame and bragging rights for the year. For hours, heated attacks bulldozed down the ice, end to end, and goalies were pelted with blistering shots relentlessly.

The pace of the game was fast and the energy was electric, enabling both teams to best the other in small battles but ultimately it was the class of 2023 that won the war! The table below lists score details. In the end, the Bridgen cup was awarded by it's namesake, Doc.

		Class of 2023	Alumni
Score	Game 1	1	3
	Game 2	2	1
	Game 3	1	2
	Game 4	2	1
	Game 5	2	1
Point Total		6	4

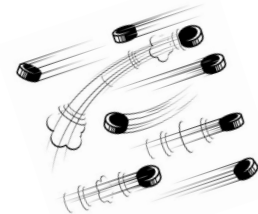


Scorers for the students were captain Jimmy Donovan with a double hat-trick (6), Justin Barnes (1) and captain Jack Beattie (1). Assists were provided by Dan Dedon (1) and Jimmy Donovan (1). The MVP award was bestowed to Dom Begier for his cat-like performance in the net. Dom stopped close to 70 shots on net.

The alumni goal scorers were Jake Avery 2022 with 2 and Joey D'Angelo 2022, Luke Van Der Veur 2016, Mike Bridgen, Aiden Ahrens 2022, Conor Henrie 2016 and Mike Rozeski '90 all with 1 each. Assists came from Rozeski (2), D'Angelo (1) and Avery (1). (continued on page 8)



2023 Alumni Team



2023 Student Team



2023 Hockey Update—Greg Vaverchak '02 (continued)

I would like to give a special thank you to Kaleb Briles (Landscape Architecture ESF 2026) for playing goalie for the alumni and to Dr. Eddie Bevilacqua (Professor, SRM), Tim O'Mara (Resident Hall Director) and Jacob Nickols (student) for refereeing the game.

The last time the alumni game was won by the students was in 2018, so this was a welcome and perhaps overdue victory. Following the game, the students returned to Wanakena in anticipation of their tickertape parade. This year was the 25th year of our hockey program and we all look forward to many more with our existing Ranger School friends and family, and those yet to come.

Greg Vaverchak '02, RSHL Commissioner

Accommodations Near Wanakena

Hope to see you at the 87th Mostly Annual RSAA Reunion August 4th and 5th!

WANAKENA:

Packbasket Adventures B & B (315) 848-3488
Cove Cranberry Lake (Next to Black Waters Cafe (Check on Airbnb)
Legacy Homestays (via AirBNB)

STAR LAKE: (6 miles W of RS)

C&C Mountain Chalet (315)-767-2121
The Haven at Star Lake; (315)-848-4089
Dodge Pond; Fine, NY (315)-848-2336

CRANBERRY LAKE: (8 miles E of RS)

Coyote's Den Motel (315) 261-0352
The Birches Campground—
Lakesideoncranberry@gmail.com
Cranberry Lake Campground-
1-800-456-CAMP or (315) 848-2315

CHILDWOLD: (20 miles E of RS)

Thirsty Moose (formerly Dumas')
(518) 359-2540

RUSSELL: (25 miles northwest of RS)

The Guest House Bed and Breakfast
(315) 562-3742



Class of '63

TUPPER LAKE: (35 miles E of RS)

Lakeview Motel (518) 359-2778
Park Motel and Cabins (805) 770-0202
Pine Terrace Motel (518) 359-9258
Red Top Inn (518) 359-9209
Shaheen's Motel (518) 359-3384
Sunset Park Motel (518) 359-3995
Tupper Lake Motel (518) 359-3381

CANTON AREA

Waterman Hill Guest House – (38 miles) 5295 County Road 27
Ostrand's B&B – (40 miles) 1675 NY Rte 68 (315)386-2126
White Pillars B&B (40 miles) – 395 Old State Rd (315) 386-2353

WATERTOWN: (70 miles West of Ranger School)

Ramada Inn (315) 788-0700
Hampton Inn (315) 782-2222
Hilton Garden Inn (315) 788-1234
Holiday Inn Express (315) 779-1234
Comfort Inn & Suites (315) 782-2700