



RANGER SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Wanakena, NY 13695 email: rsaagail@esf.edu

WINTER 2016 – 2017 NEWSLETTER

RSAA Board of Directors:

President: Joan Macholl '1983

1st VP: Ariane Tanski '2009

2nd VP: Bob Brower '1978

Secretary: Jeff Speich '1990

Treasurer: Bruce Williams '1976

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RS Director: Michael Bridgen

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Lee Berry '1968

Michael Bushey '1994

Robert Davis '1983

Christina Macholl '2012

John O'Donnell '1997

Michael Rozeski '1990

Charles Sherman '2002

Bernard Siskavich '1971

Greg Vaverchak '2002

Michael Webb '1974

Steven Whalen '1971

Edwin White '1959

Scott Wilkinson '2002

Office Manager:

Gail Simmons

Director's Report:

As I write this letter in early December, the sky is gray and a light snow is falling. We've already had a major snow-storm November 20-21, but winter has not quite settled-in yet.

Ranger School has been a busy place this past summer. Immediately after graduation, the Student Conservation Society and the NYS DEC offered a one-week training program for assistant forest rangers and backcountry stewards. As they were walking out the doors, students from ESF's FNRM summer program moved in for their 4-week training session. Shortly afterwards, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts held a Leadership Training program at the Ranger School, promoted by alumnus Bob Brower. We also held a 4-week long summer bridge program, and hosted two weeks of EFB's summer programs, due to an excess number of students at the Cranberry Lake Biology Station. All-in-all, it was a busy summer.

The full class of Ranger School students arrived on August 14, with a total of forty nine students. New students gathered along the shore of the Oswegatchie River, and received their new hardhats from the faculty, who welcomed them to the School. This year's class has demonstrated the same type of dedication, resourcefulness, and "uniqueness" as previous classes.

(Continued on page 2)



Ranger School Faculty with the Class of 2017 at hardhat ceremony.

(continued from page 1)

In September, we were fortunate to be visited by a group of Indian Forest Ranger educators, originating from a number of Schools across India, who were eager to learn about our teaching methods and styles. They were glad of the visit, but especially of participating in the Ranger School's first-ever, international cricket competition. They pretty much defeated us decisively, but everyone had a good time. — Dr. Michael Bridgen



Front row (l-r): Sandeep Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests; Jitesh Kumar, Technical Officer/Forest Policy; Ngehanshang Luikham, Lecturer; Hitender Sharma, Jt. Director; Shailendrakumar Balkrishna Jadhav, Additional Director. Back row (l-r): Ashok Kumar Tambarshi Subbarayappa, Principal; Gregory Vaverchak, Instructor, The Ranger School; Narayana Murthy Kopparla, Senior Forest Officer; Dr. Kapil Joshi, Chief Conservator of Forest Director; Rajpal Singh, Directorate; Dr. Michael Bridgen, Professor and Director, The Ranger School; Anil Kumar, Additional Director, General of Forest; Meera Iyer, Principal; Brian Houseal, Director of Adirondack Ecological Center; Ponangi Raghuv eer, Director; Ashok Kumar Bhojar, Assistant Conservator of Forests/Assistant

From President Macholl:

Hello Fellow Alumni!

I hope and pray that you and your love ones are healthy and happy. My winter and I know some of yours, started early this year. Auburn was In the midst of the lake effect snow band during the Pre-Thanksgiving storm. It was a dream-come true. Three feet of snow! I know, I know ...I should live at the Tug Hill Plateau.

The Ranger School Alumni Board members continue to work hard on your behalf. The college is also thriving as we continue to award our scholarships to deserving students.

It was brought to the Board's attention that our meetings no longer started with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Ranger School Alumni Association has a large amount of Veterans and proud patriots so we are glad to stand and say the pledge prior to all of our meetings.

We continue to brainstorm ideas for the reunion weekend. The scavenger hunt was a huge success. If you have an idea or would like to help out please contact Gail or any board member.

Once again I can't thank Gail enough, the officers and members at large for continuing of giving yourself for the benefit of the RSAA.

Thank you to all the Alumni for your support. I know you are rewarded as am I with the wonderful relationships with Alumni their family and friends. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Cheers! Joanie

From the 1st VP :

Greetings Fellow Alumni:

When you're doing your holiday shopping, don't forget about the Ranger School Alumni Association! Every time you make a qualifying purchase from Amazon, they will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the RSAA. There are a few steps you need to take for this to happen.

When making purchases from Amazon, access the site by going to **smile.amazon.com** and sign in using your Amazon account username and password. Search for New York State Ranger School Alumni Association Inc. and select it in the results window. In order for the Association to receive your donation you must sign in and make your purchases from **smile.amazon.com**.

I'm wishing you all a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!

Ariane Tanski '09

Alumni Property Update from the 2nd VP:

Winter greetings to all Ranger School Alumni. The Alumni Board again met in October at the Alumni House and enjoyed an outdoor Board meeting with the help of a nice fire to keep us warm. Board members stayed the weekend and performed the usual close down of the house. The water is turned off, the pipes are drained, the campground is cleaned up and we even had some snow. The House was used extensively this summer and we hope that all the Alumni and families had a great time utilizing this valuable asset of the Association. Thanks to anyone who sent back the survey we conducted last year about the future of the house and any improvements we can make. We got some great responses that ranged from “don’t change a thing” to asking that we don’t ever get rid of the wicker furniture on the porch. So at this point, we have no major changes to the house but will continue a program of aggressive maintenance.

One thing that has come up is the property is being utilized more and more by ‘outside’ groups due to the increased utilization of the Ranger School during the summer months and the newly enforced prohibition of alcohol on the campus. For instance, we were able to bring a group of County, State and Federal Soil and Water Conservation professionals to the school for a weeklong Leadership Training. At night, the group utilized a campsite to enjoy the outdoors, mingle and have some camaraderie (sound familiar to us?). There are plans for the Council of Eastern Forest Technology School (CEFTS) annual meeting to be held right before Alumni Weekend this August and Dr. Bridgen has requested use of the Alumni house and grounds for their utilization. My point in all this is that the Board is contemplating taking an area above the campsites to level off and build a more weather proof shelter. Plans are in the preliminary stages but we may be moving forward with this idea.

This past year, a couple of alumni (Scott & Beth Carpenter ‘81) offered to build us a new dining table for the house. We expect to have it by Alumni Weekend. I was able to secure a set of eight oak chairs to be used around the new table. I also have upgraded a couple of the end tables at the suggestion of several of the survey respondents. The big trees along the road were dropped by a crew from National Grid and were cut up during the spring work weekend. Our next challenge is that the septic system needs to be uncovered, evaluated and pumped before the summer season. We also will be looking at the outhouse – we believe we are getting rainwater into the tank and causing our odor issue.

All in all, we had a great year, the house is in decent shape and we look forward to any input all Alumni have on improvements to ‘our house’ and campgrounds. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me via email at bobbrower@verizon.net. We are also looking forward to the Annual Work Weekend, April 29-30, where we will get plenty of work done and some great food and Ranger camaraderie! Hope to see lots of you there. —Bob Brower ‘78

Construction Project Planned at the Ranger School:

Over the next two summers some very exciting and necessary work is going to be happening at The Ranger School. Contractors have until January 3rd 2017 to have their bids in place for the State University Construction Fund Project. The project is titled, Wanakena Ranger School – Various Building and Site Improvements. Work is slated to begin around the 3rd week of May 2017.

The project can be broken down into these three areas: Main Building, Site Work, and the Maintenance Shop. Considerable effort has been given in order to not disrupt any of the programs during the two summers of construction.

The main entrance to the School will be replaced with an impressive two-story-tall “sally port”. The Main Building is going to receive new entry canopies, along with exterior door replacement. Certain doors will be fitted with Card Access Control readers as well. The project will also deal with some foundation drain issues associated with the 60’s wing of the Main Building.

The portion of the project that deals with Site Work is very extensive. In this portion we will be seeing the replacement of roadways, walks and stairs. Replacement of the ageing Storm and Sanitary systems will also be taking place. This will include both piping and structures.

The Maintenance Shop will also be receiving some attention. A new roof along with entry canopies are to be installed. Drainage issues will also be dealt with at the Maintenance Shop.

-- Craig J. Perrault, Physical Plant Supervisor



Save the Date:

Saturday March 11th 2017

1-3pm.

Ranger School Alumni Hockey Game

Tennity Ice Pavilion, Syracuse NY

Come and play or cheer on your favorite team. The date has been set. Now it is up to you to regain your status as champions. The student win by the class of 2016, has only fueled the fire of the class of 2017. They will show up with all they have, determined to keep the Bridgen Cup in Wanakena. At the time of print the class team is scheduled to play in the first annual Tyler Shaylor Memorial Hockey Game, a highly competitive student versus faculty and staff game so they will have already tested their mettle as a competitor. If you are an alumnus and would like to play in the game, all you need to do is show up with your own equipment. The alumni will be wearing white jerseys. Email me with questions at gmvaverc@esf.edu.

- Greg Vaverchak ‘02, RSHL Commissioner

HAROLD L. SPAULDING MEMORIAL ALUMNI HOUSE

It was another successful year at the alumni house. The house was booked almost all season, especially busy from the time school is out in June through September. We thank all who help make the house so comfortable and well-maintained.

Some of the furniture has seen better days, and were castoffs. A fund has been started to buy new furniture for the downstairs. Feel free to send donations to help defray costs. Don't forget the Spring cleanup April 29 & 30th. We have a good time and get a lot done! If you are interested in the lottery for the 2017 season, you will find the form below.

Reservations for the Spaulding Alumni House **2017** season can be made beginning

Wednesday February 1 through Monday February 27 **in writing.**

Donation Schedule: \$60.00/person/night \$80.00/family*/night

**Family is defined as immediate family only.*

**Extended families qualify as a group- groups of 4 or more get group rate*

\$250/Group rate*/night

Guidelines for Reservations

Maximum 1 Weekend per stay Additional days may be added to any weekend for a maximum of 7 night stay

Arrival time is after noon on first night of stay Departure time is 11:00 AM following last night stay

- 1) Reservations for the lottery shall be made in writing using the bottom of this page. When making reservation requests please include a self- addressed stamped envelope for notification of lottery results. No E-mail or Phone Calls for Alumni House Lottery Reservations.
- 2) Return reservation forms between February 1, 2017 and February 27, 2017. Lottery Drawing will be held on March 13, 2017. Reservation notifications will be mailed out between March 20 and March 24, 2017. You may contact the Alumni Office after March 27, 2017 for any remaining dates available.

Reservation Types:

(WK) Week Stay: check in on Friday at noon through checkout the following Friday at 11:00am

(WD) Weekend Stay: check in on Friday at noon through check out on Sunday at 11:00am

(AD) Additional day (s), if available

(HD) Holiday Weekend Stay: Check in at noon Friday through check out Tuesday at 11:00am

During the week of the Sunday noon July 30 - Sunday noon Aug. 6, 2017, the Alumni House is unavailable, and the campground will not be available from Sunday, July 30-Thurs. August 3rd.

Name: _____ Class: _____ Are your 2017 dues paid? _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ EMAIL: _____

Number of people staying? _____ Which rate? Individual _____ Family _____ Group _____

1st. Choice

Reservation type: WK () WD () HD () AD ()

Dates Requested: Arrive after noon: _____ Depart 11:00am _____

2nd. Choice

Reservation type: WK () WD () HD () AD ()

Dates Requested: Arrive after noon: _____ Depart 11:00am _____

3rd. Choice

Reservation type: WK () WD () HD () AD ()

Dates Requested: Arrive after noon: _____ Depart 11:00am _____

Mail completed form before February 28, 2017 to: RSAA, PO Box 48, Wanakena, NY 13695

Blue Ox News:



This year started off much like last year with practices beginning on 13 September 2016 in preparation for the first meet in Canandaigua, New York on 1 October 2016. Two teams (one Men's and one Jack & Jill) traveled to the Finger Lakes campus for the 5th Logging Sports Competition. The group stayed at a KOA campground in nearby Farmington, New York the night before the event. Our only other event for the fall semester was SUNY-ESF's East Coast Roundup in Tully, New York in which two teams competed (a Men's 1 & a Men's 2). This was an extremely well run meet. All of the timers had previous Timber sports experience, the weather cooperated and the chicken was awesome!

We have always received support from the administration in the form of registration and transportation fees, as well as the purchasing and maintenance of equipment. This year we were able to purchase a composite birling log (Key Log), that some of you may have seen or used during Alumni Reunion.

One thing that really stood out this fall was another form of support that came from Ranger School Alumni Association. The students were very moved by their gestures (*in the form of coffee and sweets*) as well their presence at both of the competitions.

Special thanks goes out to Joan Macholl '83, Travis Zainchowski '03, Bruce Williams '76 and Ariane Tanski '09.

Looking ahead to next semester the group has three competitions.

1. March 11, 2017 at Cobleskill, New York.
2. April 1, 2017 in Alfred, New York.
3. April 21 –22, 2017 in Paul Smiths, NY. (The 71st Annual Woodsmen Conclave hosted by Paul Smiths College.)

— Robert T. Fleming '96

From the Archives: The Ranger School Class of 1916 Kathy Smith Greenwald '79

A picture of the Class of 1916 on snowshoes on the Oswegatchie River appeared in the January, 1929, "Bulletin of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University." In the background, the dining hall (now the Director's residence) is on the left and the classroom and living quarters are in the long building on the right.



A century ago, the Class of 1916 had 27 graduates and was the largest Ranger School class prior to 1921. Their last names were Allen, Andrews, Church, Currie, Fletcher, Hulette, Johnson, another Johnson, Keller, Korsgard, Lansing, MacPherson, Marshall, McCaffery, Meilinger, O'Brien, Piper, Powell, Rogers, Schrader, Scott, Shew, Stolz, Taft, Tempest, Wheeler, and Wolff. The excellent reputation of the Ranger School was well known as indicated by the fact that one third of the students came from places outside of New York State, including Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Colorado, and even Mexico. The Class of 1916 included two residents of Wanakena, Robert ("Skip") Lansing and Ward Stoltz. Skip Lansing's grandson currently resides in Wanakena and his granddaughter is now Wanakena's postmistress.

Stop by the Centennial Room at the Ranger School to explore the archive collection and step back in time a hundred years...

Please take a minute to fill in your nominations and reasons for choices for both these awards on the back of the information sheet.

Philip J. Haddock Award for Excellence

“The person selected does not have to be (or have been) an officer of the RSAA or a member of the Executive Committee, but neither should such persons be excluded. The person selected should be one who has made an outstanding contribution of some kind (not monetary). This contribution may be in the nature of a single, noteworthy act or a lower-keyed, but long-term commitment to the School and/or the RSAA or for alumni in general.

Previous P. J. HADDOCK AWARD WINNERS:

1980 Clyde Powell '16	1993 James E. Coufal '57	2006 Lawrence Hill '50
1981 Lucian Plumley '31	1994 Kermit E. Remele '43	2007 Charles Hartnett '51
1982 C. Eugene Farnsworth	1995 Gordon T. Hughes '56	2008 Lee Berry '68
1983 J. Wayne Morrow '33	1996 Richard W. Miller '53	2009 Bruce Williams '76
1984 F.B. "Dinty" Moore '32	1997 Hal Bush '27	2010 Gerald L. Kniskern '50
1985 Orrin L. Latham	1998 John Peck '43	2011 Wayne G. Allen '79
1986 Barry D. Nehr '60	1999 Lawrence Rathman '72	2012 Bob Simmons
1987 Arthur E. Kopp '31	2000 Gail Simmons	2013 Jerry Holbrook '56
1988 Michael Salato '29	2001 Thomas D. Martin '76	2014 Tom Hodges '53
1989 Daniel Castagnozzi '50	2002 Chris Westbrook '73	2015 Pete Zubal '59
1990 Mary Ann Remele '53	2003 Stephen Coulthart '53	2016 Lawrence R. Hawkins '55
1991 David G. Anderson '50	2004 Dick Thomas '54	
1992 Francis M. LaDuc '47	2005 Ken Myers '52	

KERMIT E. REMELE AWARD OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

This award is presented by the Ranger School Alumni Association in honor of Kermit E. Remele '43. One of his greatest strengths was his ability to mobilize and motivate people to work for the betterment of the Ranger School.

The intent of this award is therefore to recognize groups of people whose combined efforts have gone beyond the norm to have a positive lasting influence on the Ranger School.

2017 ALUMNI NEWS BOOK

This is the beginning of the 2017 ALUMNI NEWS. **Please feel free to contribute articles, stories, artwork, photos, poetry, news etc.** that are informative, entertaining and interesting to other alumni. These articles may not necessarily be the views or opinions of the RSAA Board of Directors, or the editor, but this is YOUR book.

The cost of publishing the book is over \$6000. Boosters are again available. This helps defray the costs of publishing and it is a good place to advertise. Wouldn't you or your company like to be included?

If interested fill out the order form below and send it back with your donation. Attach how you would like your ad listed and enclose the check payable to: "RSAA"

The rates are:

_____ Whole page @ \$75 _____ 1/2 page @\$40 _____ 1/4 page @ \$25 _____ one line listing @ \$15

Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____



WANAKENA FOOTBRIDGE UPDATE

&

THANK-YOU

The Wanakena Historical Association (WHA) is extremely grateful and thanks the RSAA for their awesome support in getting the Wanakena footbridge rebuilt. The bridge construction is now 98% complete and was opened to pedestrian traffic on November 9, 2016, a joyous day in the annals of Wanakena history. Everyone who comes into town has a big HAPPY SMILE. The current plans for a dedication ceremony is being planned for July 4th or that holiday weekend. As plans develop, we will post updates on the Wanakena Historical Association Facebook page.

The Westbrook challenge in July, brought in 102 donations which totaled \$30,031!!! that was still needed to cover the predicted cost. Additional donations & memorials received in July/August totaled over \$15,000. A total of over \$180,000 has been raised by the WHA, an amazing feat for a small hamlet nestled on the edge of the Adirondack wilderness.

Then, in late August there was the bad news!! Removing the old and installing new anchors (humongous buried blocks of cement) to which the steel cables are connected was not part of the reconstruction proposal. It was assumed, after an inspection of one of the old anchors, that they did not have to be replaced. But, during construction, it was determined that the 114-year-old anchors did have to be replaced. This increased the cost by more than \$70,000!! The WHA was disappointed, disillusioned and depressed to think of having to raise more money.

A possible source of another grant has been identified and Sue Westbrook, Town of Fine Supervisor, is currently working on the paperwork to secure a matching grant that we are very hopeful will cover the additional costs. With the additional money raised since July, we have our fingers & toes crossed that it will be sufficient to match the money needed for the anchors.

Again, Thank-You, Thank-You to everyone who has donated money, time and support to rebuild the iconic Wanakena footbridge. Special thanks to Sue Westbrook and the Town of Fine who approved construction to commence before all the funds were raised.

I hope to see you at the celebration and dedication ceremony in July, or sometime soon to see your big HAPPY SMILE as you can once again meander across the swinging bridge suspended over the Oswegatchie and know that you helped to make it happen.

Allen Ditch
President, Wanakena Historical Association
&
Co-chair of the Fund-Raising Committee

The Legacy Scholarship:
(Alumni Memorial Scholarship)

When the RSAA Board of Directors was faced with a decision about how to handle unrestricted gifts left to the Association in a person's will or in memory of an Alumnus who has passed, they thought to set up a scholarship. While the RS and the RSAA have a number of named scholarships in honor of individual Alumnus, Professors and Directors, there had not been a RS Alumni Scholarship to honor all Alumni.

In 2012-2013, the Board created a scholarship (Legacy) using funds left to us in Gordon Hughes' will, and funds donated in memory of Klint Wigren '62, Mrs. Decoteau, Thomas Dailey '57, Bill Ehlers '62 and others. Our goal was to have this fund grow to a minimum of \$25,000, the necessary level to endow a scholarship with the College Foundation. With these donations, along with other donations since, we have now reached the amount to have the fund endowed, and possibly by next year the first Legacy Scholarship may be awarded to a Ranger School student.

The award criteria for this scholarship, as decided by the Board are as follows:

- 1) This scholarship is for a relative of a Ranger School graduate.
- 2) The scholarship is to be based on financial need.
- 3) The scholarship is to be awarded as an upfront tuition payment.

Please consider donating to this fund, to help financially support a worthwhile student. Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.

Please help us save \$\$\$



Please keep us notified of your current address, and if you have a different seasonal address.

We pay to have your mail returned, if not deliverable, or is not current.

2017 CALENDAR

January 17
Class of 2017 –2nd semester begins

February 25
RSAA winter meeting

April 29
Spring Open House at the Ranger School

January 18 – 20
NYSAPLS Surveying Conference at Turning Stone, Oneida, NY

March 11
Woodsmen’s meet at Cobleskill

April 29—30
Alumni house and campground cleanup

January 19
7pm Reception at Turning Stone Resort Casino, Willow Room
5218 Patrick Rd, Verona, NY

March 11
Ranger School vs. Alumni Hockey Game
Tennity Ice Pavilion, Syracuse

May 20
Class Of 2017 Graduation

January 26-27
NY SAF conference in Syracuse.

April 1
Woodsmen’s meet at Alfred

July 30 - August 3
CEFTS visit to the Ranger School
(Council of Eastern Forest Tech Schools)

February 18 & 19
WOW (Whiteout Weekend.)

April 21-22
Woodsmen’s meet at Paul Smiths

August 4 & 5
RSAA Reunion

April 28
RSAA spring meeting

August 20
Class of 2018 arrives