



Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine

Spring-Summer 2014 Newsletter

c/o AARCH 1745 Main Street,

Keeseville, NY 12944 (518) 834-9328

friendsofpoko@gmail.com

www.pokeomoonshine.org

SUM(M)IT UP FOR POKE-O!!!!!!

SAVING THE RANGER TRAIL WELL ON ITS WAY TO GOAL

In 2011, the Department of Environmental Conservation prepared a Unit Management Plan for the Taylor Pond Wild Forest, of which Poke-O-Moonshine is a part. One of its proposals considers closing the original Ranger Trail from the campground. The DEC's rationale is that the steep and very eroded sections of the trail may be "unsustainable", or un-maintainable. This closing would occur, if at the end of the current Unit Management Plan - a minimum of five years - trail conditions have not been significantly improved.

DEC does not have the funds to cover the project. Because this is the original route up the mountain, with an abundance of botanical, geological, and historic features which we have detailed for hikers in our interpretive flyer. We decided a year ago to undertake the fundraising to rehabilitate the trail. The Adirondack Mountain Club Trails program has prepared a work plan for the project. The plan will rebuild some eroded trail sections and relocate others that are severely degraded. If necessary, we will re-write the interpretive flyer to incorporate any new and interesting natural features which the new route passes. Based on this, we estimate a cost for the project of at least \$100,000 and have set a goal of raising \$125,000 by 2018, the centennial of the fire tower. In less than a year, we have received \$27,872 in donations and pledges, and we are ready to fund the trail rehab in annual increments. Work will begin this summer. We're now also pursuing grants and publicity in regional blogs and publications, to broaden and deepen the campaign.

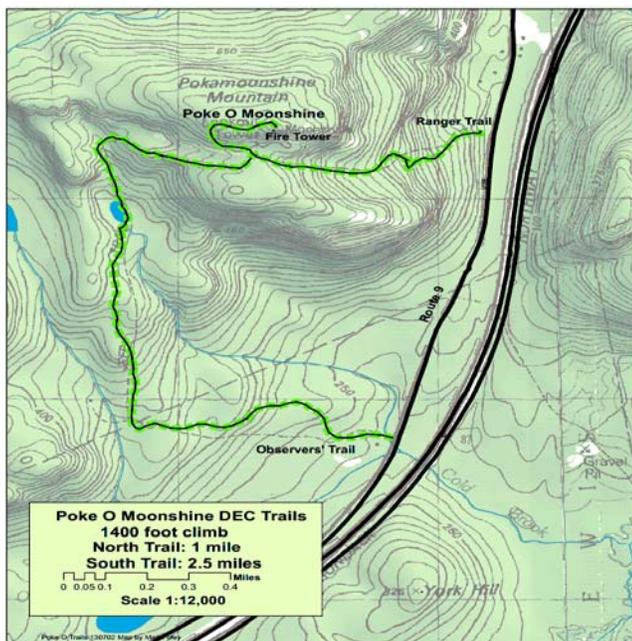
The fire tower will be 100 years old in 2018. What better time to complete this project, to honor the Observers and Rangers who loved Poke-O-Moonshine and its tower, as sites for protecting the Adirondack landscape and educating the public? We are working hard to carry on this tradition, and the Ranger Trail is the gateway to our entire mission.

TRAIL ADOPTERS CRITICALLY NEEDED FOR ONGOING MAINTENANCE

One of the crucial pieces of the Ranger Trail renovation will be its ongoing maintenance, along with the same for the Observers' Trail. We routinely carry out such summer projects on both trails, with the help of campers and counselors from North Country

Camps and Camp Pok-O-MacCready. During those work days, we clean out the water bars, dig new ones, and "brush-in" or cover and conceal the inevitable side herd paths that develop off of the designated routes.

We need to carry out these projects two more times during the year. They don't make for overwhelming work, but they are beyond the scope of our small core of regular volunteers. These tasks ideally need to be done also in the fall and spring, so we are asking you to help out on this front. Perhaps you could organize a team from your family, hiking club, or from your workplace or neighborhood, to carry out some part of the maintenance. It could be on all or part of one of the trails, based on what work you have time for. The DEC rightly has pointed out that ongoing maintenance is a key part of this overall project. It will do us little good to support the Ranger Trail repair if we cannot keep it and the Observers' Trail in good shape. We have also proposed a third trail to connect the bases of the two current trails so that a full woods loop is possible; this will increase our ongoing commitments. **Please seriously consider making a commitment to Poke-O's trail maintenance. Let us know on page 3.**



SUM(M)IT UP FOR POKE-O!!!



Kelly Glascott starting out for the Seward

FRIENDS WELCOME 18th FIRE TOWER STEWARD!

Kelly Glascott, a Junior Environmental Studies major at SUNY Potsdam, will begin as our 18th Fire Tower Steward on June 20. He hails from Angola, NY, just south of Buffalo.

He comes to Poke-O very well-prepared. He is an avid climber and has visited the cliffs here many times. Kelly is one of the Student Managers of the indoor climbing wall at SUNY Potsdam, and he has instructed climbers of all ages and skill levels in its use. Kelly has led hiking and backpacking groups for the Laurentian Chapter of ADK and for the Wilderness Education Department at SUNY Potsdam. He is a certified Wilderness First Responder.

His interest in Poke-O-Moonshine is such that he has written a short pamphlet on the natural history of the mountain, for one of his classes.

Kelly will work Thursday—Monday, from June 20 until August 29. Come welcome him to his corner penthouse office!

NEW PARKING LOT AND NEW POKE-O STICKER

Last Fall, a D.E.C. Operations crew cleared and built a new parking lot along Route 9, above the start of the Observers Trail. This allows safer vehicle access beyond the highway shoulder. It will be connected to the existing trail this summer.

Nancy and Tom Hayhurst of our Steering Committee, created a new “**Loco 4 Poke-O**” sticker, as a fundraiser. The sticker is oval, 5 inches long, white and black, and sells for \$4. Your bumper itches for one! See

RECENT DONORS

The following individuals, organizations, and companies have made generous donations to the *Friends* since October 2013. Thanks to all of you!! If you have not recently made a donation, please do so now. In less than a year, we have raised almost \$28,000 of our five-year \$125,000 goal. We can keep on educating hikers and restoring the Ranger Trail only with your help. **THANK YOU!**

Trailheaders—up to \$49

Kathy Kelly & Paul Mudie
 Carol Van Dyke
 Steve Frauenthal
 Phil Corell Leonard Seyfarth
 Gail Gardner
 Ann & Ted Meskunas
 George & Rite Banks
 Bob & Lynn Livingston
 Tammis Dowling
 Angela & Nicholas Tyrell
 Christine Chjammers
 Brad Knapp Tom Weiskotten
 Laura Gratz Elizabeth Lee
 Kristin Dearborn Marcy Neville
 Dan Snyder Peter Prescott
 Lori Jarvis Nancie Battaglia
 Marie Tobiasen Lyn Hamil
 Jack Swan Alta Longware
 Don Abramson Douglas Smith

Cliff Climbers— \$50-\$99

Pok-O-MacCready Patch Sprint
 Christine & Dwight Lansing
 Peter & Robin Gucker
 Peter Biesemeyer
 Betty & Bob McGee
 Lee Clark
 Angie & Michael Bush
 Charlene & Don Asay
 Audrey & Chris Hyson
 Carol Van Dyke
 Melvin Longware
 James Van Dyk
 Bob & Lee Brewer
 Abby Fountain
 Jodi Vella
 Betsey Byrne
 Kathleen McCleary
 The Mountaineer
 Jeremy Schneider

Overlookers— \$100-\$499

Joel Mandelbaum James Dawson
 Link Kilbourne Stewarts Shops
 Keith & Nancy Johnson
 Nancy & Tom Hayhurst
 Keene Valley Chapter, ADK
 George & Susan Davis
 Tony Goodwin Joe Rector
 Willie Janeway Ian Brock
 Peter Paine
 Pat & Tom Willis
 Thelma Douglas
 Carol & Peter Henderson
 Sharp Swan
 Terri Morse
 Stacey Bousquet
 Jack Freeman
 Chad Kilbourne
 Jamison Craft
 Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter, ADK

Rangers—\$500-\$999

Sarah Disney Virginia Jackson Ken Adams
 David Thomas-Train Anne & Jim Bailey

Summit Stewards—\$1000 and up

Lyn Valenti Camp Pok-O-MacCready
 North Country Camps Judy & Pete Gucker

YOUR HELP IS VERY MUCH NEEDED!

MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE RANGER TRAIL PROJECT

You have read about our various year-'round efforts . We need your help on our Steering Committee (see meeting details below), with a work day on the mountain, a donation, purchase of a patch, sticker, and/or a signed Carl Heilman poster. The *Friends* currently has almost \$28,000 on hand and we have set a goal of raising \$97,000 more before 2018. Only with your help, can we continue our efforts to restore more of this wonderful mountain trail and to educate its hikers about Poke-O's natural and cultural history. See the giving levels below. Please make, as generously as you can, a tax-deductible donation to **The Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine**, and mail to us, c/o AARCH 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944. **MANY THANKS!!**



Please choose as generous a donation level as possible!

Trailheaders—up to \$49 Cliff Climbers— \$50-\$99
Overlookers— \$100-\$499 Rangers—\$500-\$999
Summit Stewards—\$1000 and up

Please send _____ patches (3", \$6 each) and _____ Carl Heilman Poke-O-Moonshine posters(14" x 39", \$20 each) and _____ Loco 4 Poke-O stickers (5", \$4 each)

Enclosed is a one-time gift of \$_____

Enclosed is my first payment of an annual pledge to be made for five years between 2013 and 2017 \$_____

I am able to help with trail maintenance. Please contact me _____

Name _____

Address _____



**NEW
STICKER!!!**



SPRING and SUMMER ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, MAY 3: Spring Bird Walk, Led by Michael Burgess of High Peaks Audubon and SUNY Plattsburgh. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Ranger Trail at the south end of the campground. Bring appropriate footwear for uneven ground, snack, water, binoculars. **Sign-up required. See below.**

TUESDAY, MAY 6: Friends of Poke-O Steering Committee Meeting . 6:30 PM at AARCH Offices, 1745 Main Street Keeseville, 834-9328. Come join the group and lend your energy and imagination to the decision-making regarding renovating the Ranger Trail.

SATURDAY, MAY 10: Spring Wildflower Walk Led by Michael Burgess of High Peaks Audubon and SUNY Plattsburgh. 11 AM - 2PM. Meet at the Observers Trail parking lot 1 mile south of the campground. Bring water, lunch, and gear appropriate for 4 hours. In the woods. **Sign-up required. See below.**

SATURDAY, JULY 12: Trail Work Day on the Ranger Trail. Clean water bars, brush-in herd paths. Meet at 9AM at the campground.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6: Trail Work Day on the Observers Trail Clean water bars, brush-in herd paths, do minor rock work. Meet at 9AM at the parking lot one mile south of the campground.. Bring work gloves, a shovel or hoe, liquids, lunch, rain gear.

FOR WORK PROJECTS: Bring a pack with your usual gear and work gloves, liquids, lunch, raingear, etc. Call David Thomas-Train at 518-576-4592, or Tom Hayhurst at 518-562-9989 for details. **SIGN UP FOR BIRD & FLOWER WALKS** at michael.b.burgess@plattsburgh.edu with your contact information.

The *Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine* is dedicated to the preservation of Poke-O-Moonshine Mountain and its fire tower, improving and maintaining its trails, and to interpreting the natural and cultural history of the mountain. The *Friends* is a partnership between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Adirondack Architectural Heritage, the Town of Chesterfield, several Adirondack Mountain Club chapters, and hundreds of people who enjoy this special place. The *Friends* operates under the auspices of the Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), the non-profit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park. For more information about the *Friends* contact us at 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944 or at (518) 834-9328. Send tax-deductible donations to *The Friends* at the same address. **Please recycle this newsletter.**

Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine
c/o AARCH
1745 Main Street,
Keeseville, NY 12944

Steering Committee

Anne Bailey
Jim Bailey
Sarah Disney
Mark Dubrey
Doug Furman
Pete Gucker
Nancy Hayhurst
Tom Hayhurst
Lori Jarvis
Chad Kilbourne
Sharp Swan
David Thomas-Train
Lynn Valenti

Please contact us with any questions about the Campaign to Save the Ranger Trail!