



# ***Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine***

## ***Spring-Summer 2015 Newsletter***

*c/o AARCH 1745 Main Street,*

*Keeseville, NY 12944 (518) 834-9328*

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

## **SAVING THE RANGER TRAIL OVER HALF-WAY TO GOAL**

“Sum(m)it up for Poke-O”, the campaign to save the Ranger Trail is going better than we ever imagined possible! Community, hiking club, and foundation support has been strong. In 2011 the Department of Environmental Conservation proposed the possible closure of the trail, because the current steep and very eroded sections of the trail are “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. We are committed to keep the trail open, as a challenging and fascinating pathway to the summit.

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. Because DEC does not have the funds to cover the project, we decided to undertake the fundraising to rehab the trail. The Adirondack Mountain Club Trails Program and Tahawus Trails LLC have prepared work plans for the project, to rebuild the eroded trail sections and relocate others that are severely degraded. 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 2017, the centennial of the fire tower. In less than two years, we have received \$67,211 in individual and organizational donations and pledges, and we are ready to fund the trail work in annual increments. Work will begin late this summer. ADK and Tahawus Trails will spend three weeks each building rock staircases and drainage ditches, as the first phase of the multi-year project. Stay tuned - there may be opportunities for volunteers to assist.

The fire tower will be 100 years old in 2017. 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. Come on up the mountain any time, come visit the fire tower when it's regularly open from late June to late August, and please

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## **NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGN FOR CABIN SITE**

Our 2012 Tower Steward, Zeb Edwards, as part of his SUNY Potsdam course work, created a small interpretive poster detailing the history of the Observer cabins on the mountain. It is installed on the trail sign post in the cabin's foundation.

At one time, there were two cabins side-by-side, with the first smaller one built in 1922, and the second in 1936.

The Observer, sometimes with his or her family, would live on the mountain from May through October, which was considered the fire season.

The large cabin burned down in 1993; the disposition of the smaller one is not known.

**For more details, come to the cabin site.**

1936 Observer Cabin, left, and 1922 Cabin on right. Photo by Rob Eckler, 1973



**Lauren Stafford**

## FRIENDS WELCOME 19th FIRE TOWER STEWARD!

Lauren Stafford, a Senior Environmental Studies major at SUNY Potsdam, will begin work as our 19th Fire Tower Steward on June 18. She hails from faraway New York City, where she specifically chose SUNY Potsdam for its proximity to the Adirondacks and for its contrasts with the city.

Lauren comes to Poke-O very well prepared. She is an avid hiker, educator, and backpacker, and is one of the student managers of the indoor climbing wall at SUNY Potsdam, where she has instructed climbers of all ages and skill levels in its use. Lauren has taken courses in Outdoor Education, Adirondack Ecology, and Environmental Conservation, and is a Wilderness First Responder. She loves working with children and engaging in the teaching process.

Lauren will be on the trails and summit Thursday-Monday, from June 18 until August 26. Come meet her in her office-with-a-view in the fire tower. **WELCOME LAUREN!!**

## NEW PARKING LOT, TRAIL CONNECTOR, AND NEW POKE-O STICKER

Last Fall, a D.E.C. Operations crew cleared and built a new parking lot along Route 9, to make a new start of the Observers Trail. With safer vehicle access off the highway, the new trail connector crosses the stream on a bridge and gently winds uphill to the existing trail about one-third of a mile above the old trailhead.

Jack Swan of Camp Pok-O-MacCready generously created a new “**Sum(m)it Up For Poke-O**” bumper sticker. This and the “**Loco 4 Poke-O**” sticker each sell for \$4. Your bumper itches for both! See Page 3.

## RECENT DONORS

The following individuals, organizations, and companies have made generous donations to the *Friends* since October 2014. 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 over \$41,000 of our five-year \$125,000 goal.; overall, we have over \$67,000 in gifts and pledges. We can keep on educating hikers and restoring the Ranger Trail only with your help. **THANK YOU!**

### Trailheaders—up to \$49

Gretchen Goller

Alix Heuston Martin Dillenback

Ellsworth & Judy King

Kevin Owens & Dana Stockbridge

Lisa & Dave Godfrey

Glen & Malinda Chapman

Lori Jarvis Bob Morgan Jr.

Tammis Dowling Kevin Owens

Kathy Kelley

Evan Smith Bob Morgan Jr.

### Cliff Climbers— \$50-\$99

Lawson Albright Edwin Truman

Shawn Turner & The Seton Catholic  
Outing Club

Jorunn Gran-Henriksen

Walter Morse - in memory of  
Roberta Ball -

Leanna & Richard DeNeale - in mem-  
ory of Adam Stewart -

Chelsea & Dan Coolidge  
Audrey & Chris Hyson Nancy Olsen  
Douglas Smith David Carroll

Casrol Henderson Betsy Byrne  
Bill & Margaret Gruetzmacher

Saratoga - Glens Falls ADK

### Overlookers— \$100-\$499

Sharp Swan

David & Margie Reuther

Keene Valley Chapter, ADK

Thelma Douglas

Alexandra Emslie & Holly Hillyer, -  
in honor of Pete Gucker -

Nancy Gucker Birdsall

Chad Kilbourne

David Thomas-Train

### Rangers—\$500-\$999

John Lansing

Stewarts Holiday Match

### Summit Stewards—\$1000 and up

Lynn Valenti -in memory of Clara “Dot” French



# 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 over \$67,000 on hand and we have set a goal of raising \$58,000 more before 2017. 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

\_\_\_\_\_ Sum(m)it Up stickers; \_\_\_\_\_ Loco 4 Poke-O stickers (11" and 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 \_\_\_\_\_



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



*Poke-o-Moonshine*  
PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II



### SPRING and SUMMER ACTIVITIES

**SATURDAY, MAY 2:** Spring Summit Clean-Up and Installation of Tower Interpretive Panels. Meet at 9 AM at the campground .

**SATURDAY, MAY 9:** Spring Wildflower Walk Led by Michael Burgess of High Peaks Audubon and SUNY Plattsburgh. 11 AM - 2PM. Meet at the Ranger Trail register at the campground. Bring water, lunch, and gear appropriate for 4 hours. In the woods. **Sign-up required. See below.**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25:** 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, JULY 11:** Trail Work Day on the Ranger Trail. Clean water bars, brush-in herd paths. Meet at 9AM at the campground.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5:** 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..

**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 FLOWER WALK at [michael.b.burgess@plattsburgh.edu](mailto: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!**