



Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine Spring-Summer 2016 Newsletter

c/o AARCH 1745 Main Street,
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SUM(M)IT UP FOR POKE-O!!!!!!

TRAIL PROJECT EXPANDS, WORK GOES ON, FUNDS GROW

“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 astoundingly strong. Because DEC does not have the funds to cover the project, we have been fundraising to rehab the trail. We are committed to keeping the trail open, as a challenging, well-designed, sustainable, 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 plan to protect and have detailed for hikers in our interpretive flyer. Last August, under our and DEC’s guidance, the ADK Trails Program and Tahawus Trails LLC began work on the project to rebuild the eroded trail sections and relocate others that are severely degraded. They built 40 beautiful rock steps and 7 large rock water drainage bars on the section above the cliff band. They will continue the work this summer (come up to see what your support has accomplished). An Autumn 2015 review of the first trail plan by all parties determined that a significant re-route of the trail on the upper mountain is very desirable, feasible, and quite likely economical; we hope to submit the plan to the Adirondack Park Agency this summer. Meanwhile, work on the rest of the trail will continue. We estimate an upper cost of \$350,000 and have set a goal of raising the remaining \$168,000 by 2017, the centennial of the fire tower. In just under three years, we have received \$182,516 in individual and organizational donations and pledges, and have begun to fund the trail work in annual increments. In addition to you, our solid supporters, we are approaching businesses and foundations. Any funds received over and above the final project cost will go into a Poke-O-Moonshine Trails Endowment Fund. The project is well underway!

We celebrate the fire tower’s 100th anniversary in 2017. Successful completion of this honors 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, see the trail work, come visit the fire tower when it’s open from late June to late August, and please

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STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAIL PLANS



Aerial Views Of The Conceptual Ranger Trail Plans

Original Plan and Second Plan showing locations of 2015 and 2016 work (apologies for the poor resolution!)



Kyle Pendell

17th Tower Steward Starts In June

Kyle Pendell, a Junior Environmental Studies Major at SUNY Potsdam, will begin work his ten weeks of on the mountain on June 18th. He greets us:

“I grew up visiting the Adirondack Park often, spending my summers camping and hiking with my family, so the Park holds a special place in my heart. My parents instilled the importance of getting out into nature and enjoying the natural world, ever since I was young , and I believe this has helped me to form my path towards an environmental career.

“In my free time, I enjoy whatever gets me outside exploring unfamiliar places: hiking, camping and kayaking. I am excited to spend my summer on top of Poke-O-Moonshine as a summit steward ,and I hope to see all of you up there!”

Kyle will be staying in Keeseville, courtesy of Cindy Kuhn and Brian Yourdon. The Town of Chesterfield will “front” his payroll costs, to be reimbursed by DEC. Many thanks to Brian and Cindy, DEC, the Town, and a warm welcome to Kyle!

SAVE THE DATE!

The fire tower turns 100 next year. We are planning hikes and celebrations for the weekend of July 28-30, 2017. Details will follow in the next two newsletters.

RECENT DONORS

The following individuals, organizations, and companies have made generous donations to the *Friends* since May, 2015. Thanks to all of you!! If you have not recently made a donation, please do so now. In slightly more than two years, of our five-year \$350,000 goal, we have raised over \$182,000 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

Alix Heuston Lori Jarvis
Bettyann Dixson
Ron Wilson
Nancie Battaglia
Diane Lewis Ron Ofner
Malinda Chapman
Janet & Jerome Davis
Chrissy Mabee

Cliff Climbers— \$50-\$99

Peter Biesemeyer
Jeffrey Spokes Lee Clark
Jenny Sausville
Virginia Jackson
Adrian Carr Music Designs
Michael Caccio
Joel Mandelbaum
Michael Bush Betsy Byrne
The Sokero Family - in
memory of Virginia Ellsworth
Tom Duca and
Catherine Seidenberg
David Carroll
Glens Falls-Saratoga ADK
Jodi Vella

Overlookers— \$100-\$499

Judy and Pete Gucker
Ken Adams Peter Paine Jr.
David & Margie Reuther
Leanna & Richard DeNeale
Shatagee Woods ADK
Tony Goodwin Jack Swan
Barbara Davidson
Holly and Jerry Ross
Robert Craft, Jr.
Adirondack Hardware
Cloudsplitter Construction
Charles, Lincoln Kilbourne
Ascent Wellness
Michael Farrell
North Country Camps

Rangers—\$500-\$999

Stewart’s Holiday Match

Summit Stewards—\$1000 and up

Algonquin Chapter, ADK
Lynn Valenti

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 \$182,000 on hand and we have set a goal of raising \$168,000 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)

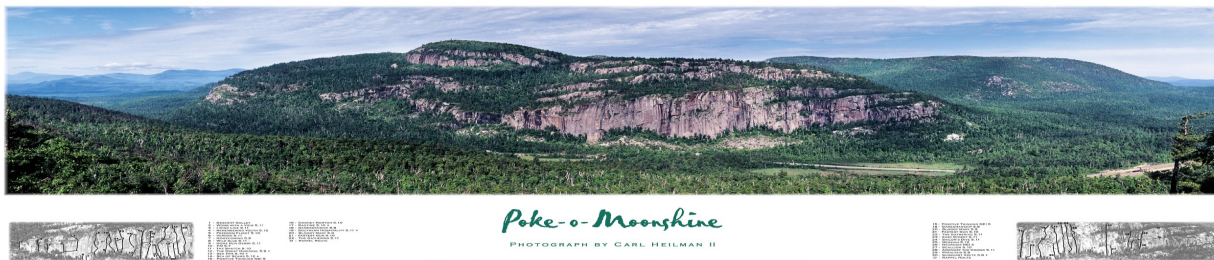
_____ Sum(m)it Up stickers; _____ Loco 4 Poke-O stickers (11" and 5", \$4 each)

Enclosed is a one-time gift of \$ _____

Enclosed is my first payment of an annual pledge to be made between now and 2017 \$ _____

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

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____



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SPRING and SUMMER ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, MAY 7: Spring Summit Clean-Up and Installation of Tower Interpretive Panels. Meet at 11:30AM at the campground.

SATURDAY, MAY 7: Spring Wildflower Walk Led by Michael Burgess of New York Flora Association and SUNY Plattsburgh. 9 AM - 12PM. Meet at the Observer Trail parking lot a mile south of the campground.. Bring water, lunch, and gear appropriate for 4 hours. In the woods. **Sign-up required. See below.**

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3: 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 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.**

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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!