



Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine
Fall-Winter Newsletter 2016-2017
c/o AARCH 1745 Main Street,
Keeseville, NY 12944 (518) 834-9328
friendsofpoko@gmail.com www.pokeomoonshine.org



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, FIRE TOWER!

Poke-O- Moonshine Fire Tower Centennial Celebration

The weekend of July 28-30, 2017 will see the celebration of the Centennial (1917-2017) of the restored Poke-O- Moonshine fire tower as well as the 20th Anniversary (1997-2017) of The Friends of Poke-O- Moonshine, which, as you know, has worked to restore the fire tower and trails, and to educate the hiking public about the human and natural history of the mountain and the Adirondack region. **Come join us at any and all of the following Centennial events :**

- Friday July 28

5PM: Opening, Juried Poke-O- Moonshine Art Exhibit, 1719 Block Gallery, 1719 Front Street, Keeseville. For details on submitting artwork, please visit their website at: <http://www.1719blockgallery.com/artists/>

7:30 PM : Slide Show on Adirondack and Poke-O Fire Tower History, Adirondack Architectural Heritage, 1745 Main St. Keeseville

- Sunday July 30

Late morning: Hike to Poke-O- Moonshine summit and fire tower; meet at the summit at 1pm to tour the tower, eat lunch, and enjoy singing by the Essex-based singers, The Wannabees.

3:00 - 4:00 PM: Gathering at the Campground at the base of Poke-O-Moonshine for cake and speeches by key individuals who have been involved in the history and restoration of the fire tower at Poke-O, and those on other mountains.

4:30-7:30 PM: Party at Ausable Brewing Company, Keeseville, (<http://ausablebrewing.tumblr.com/>) with food by Mace Chasm

Farm (<http://www.macechasmfarm.com/>) , music by local bands Ploughman’s Lunch, Alice’s Fault, and The Wannabees.

All Aficionados of Poke-O are invited!



Earl Conger, Observer 1919-1925; 3 hikers below. Photo: Charlie Wright



The tower before restoration, 2000. Photo: AARCH



The tower in restoration; Rangers painting the tower, 2003. Photo: NYSDEC



20th Fire Tower Steward!

Miranda Bell, a Junior-year Environmental Studies Major at SUNY Potsdam, and native of Cadyville, will be our 20th Fire Tower Steward.

Miranda has done coursework in Adirondack natural history, ecology, environmental policy and management, recreation, and backcountry survival skills. She has had outdoor leadership roles at a Scout camp, on extended backpacking trips, and in trail work. She is extremely well qualified for greeting, assisting, and educating Poke-O hikers about the human and natural history of the mountain and to carry on the environmental stewardship here, which was begun by the Fire Observers 100 years ago. Come up the mountain this summer to meet her. **Welcome, Miranda!**

MANY THANKS!

RJ Mattimore got to know Poke-O in the summer of 2008 when he was Summit Steward for ten weeks. Since then he's been a great supporter, and he is currently our webmaster, running and updating the website, dealing cheerfully with continual pressure from David. Thank you, RJ!

Clark Davidson, owner of the 1719 Block gallery in Keeseville, is organizing and hosting the Centennial Celebration Juried Art Exhibit (see page 1) for July 28. His creative energy is wonderful. Big thanks to you Clark!

Nancie Battaglia, Lars Hinksten, Mark Meschinelli and Kimberly Smith have all donated climbing and hiking photographs, for publicity and for the website. Thanks to all four of you!

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, we have raised over \$195,000 in gifts and pledges toward our five-year, \$250,000 goal.

Trailheaders—up to \$49

Mrs. John Applebergh
 Allison Bruce Troy Tetreault
 Ron Wilson Phil Corell
 Alix Heuston Tori Penn
 Colleen Prescott
 Nancie Battaglia
 Keith Johnson Kathy Kelley
 Lynn & Robin Bezio
 Matt Evans Alex Lord

Cliff Climbers— \$50-\$99

Sunita Halasz
 The Sokers in memory of
 Phil Scheibal
 Kristin Dearborn Bill Dodd
 Aaron Graves John Cordes
 Shatagee Woods of ADK
 David Carroll John Ryan
 Bill Dodd Tracy Orkin
 Michael Bush Ted Truman
 Jenny Sausville
 Glens Falls-Saratoga ADK

Overlookers— \$100-\$499

Margie & David Reuther
 Judy & Pete Gucker
 Tony Goodwin Ken Adams
 Anne & Jim Bailey
 Holly & Jerry Ross
 Katherine Preston
 Sherry Dobbs Larry Hinkey
 Jorunn Gran-Henriksen
 Jamie & Bob Craft
 Adrian Carr Chad Kilbourne
 Nancy Gucker Birdsall
 Sarah Disney

Rangers—\$500-\$999

Stewarts Holiday Match
 Nancy & Tom Hayhurst

Summit Stewards—\$1000 and up

Lynn Valenti
 Keith and Nancy Johnson
 Patagonia

WE NEED YOUR HELP 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 \$205,000 on hand and we have set a goal of raising \$45,000 more through 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 _____ ADDRESS _____



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



PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II

Poke-o-Moonshine
 PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II

PHOTOGRAPH BY CARL HEILMAN II



SPRING and SUMMER ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, MAY 6: Spring Wildflower Walk Led by Michael Burgess of New York Flora Association and SUNY Plattsburgh. From 9 AM - 1PM; meet at the Ranger Trail in the campground.. Bring water, lunch, and gear appropriate for 4 hours in the woods.

SATURDAY, JULY 8: Trail Work Day on the Observers' Trail. Clean water bars, brush-in herd paths. Meet at 9:30 AM at the lower trailhead parking area.

FRIDAY July 28 : Poke-O Art Exhibit and Adirondack Fire Tower Slide Show - see page 1 for details.

SUNDAY JULY 30: Fire Tower Centennial Celebrations - see page 1 for details.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2: Trail Work Day on the Observers' Trail Clean water bars, brush-in herd paths, and minor rock work. Meet at 9:30AM at the lower trailhead parking area (one mile south of the campground)..

FOR WORK PROJECTS: Bring a pack with your usual clothing and work gloves, liquids, lunch, raingear, etc. Call David Thomas-Train, 518-576-

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
Doug Furman
Pete Gucker
Nancy Hayhurst
Tom Hayhurst
Lori Jarvis
Chad Kilbourne
Sharp Swan
David Thomas-Train
Lynn Valenti

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

FUNDS PASS \$205,000, GOAL IN SIGHT: LET'S MAKE IT TO THE TOP THIS YEAR!

“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 and working 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 so many botanical, geological, and historic features which we plan to protect and have detailed for hikers in our interpretive flyer. Last year, under our and DEC's guidance, the ADK Trails Program and Tahawus Trails LLC completed their second year of work on the project; they rebuilt the badly eroded trail section below the cliff face and relocated the start of the trail. Their work continues this year, with two re-routes past eroded trail sections on the upper and lower mountain. So far, ADK and Tahawus have built 190 solid and beautiful rock steps, 8 large rock water drainage structures, and a wooden bridge over a seasonal stream.

In just under four years, we have received over **\$205,000** in individual and organizational donations and pledges, and are funding the trail work in annual increments. **We can now happily estimate an upper cost of \$250,000, a savings of \$100,000 from the original estimate, and we have set a goal of raising the remaining \$45,000 by the end of 2017, the centennial of the fire tower.** 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 trail repair fund trail. The project's finish line is in sight! See the DEC map below for the approved route's details.

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

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