

# NYS Ranger School Alumni Association, Inc.

## Winter 2020

### **Greetings from the Alumni President— Christi Barber '10**

Greetings fellow Alumni and HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all of you and your families!! To say that this has been “a year,” is a tad bit of an understatement, but I would like to thank all of you who stepped up to go the extra mile to help out the Alumni Association in these unprecedented times. It means the world and it just goes to show what a very special bond that the Ranger School has given us. We may not have been able to gather over the summer as in years past, but the class of 1953 took Ariane up on the offer to do a virtual meeting via Zoom and it was a swimming success. If there are any other classes or regional groups that would like to get together in one way or another and need assistance organizing things, please reach out to us, we'd be happy to help.

I would like to extend a big welcome to Isaiah Rivera to the RSAA family as our new, “Office Manager.” This is a bit of an odd title given that we no longer have a daily physical presence at the school as we once did but as Isaiah is the husband of Samantha and they live on campus, we do still have a bit of a presence that we wouldn't otherwise have without Isaiah's connection. We all know that Isaiah has some humongous shoes to fill but I am confident that he is up to the task.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the hard work and efforts of Ariane Tanski and Chris Tcimpidis in taking charge this last year on an assortment of items that we had to get done. I was sort of thrown into this role without much Board experience and I could not have survived this year without the two of them. Although many of the things that we (the Board) have managed to get across the goal line were a team effort, without them, we wouldn't have been able to pull it all off. So, kudos to Chris and Ariane, and thank you!



Happy Holidays!  
Christi Barber  
President, 2010

# Director's Report — Dr. Mariann Johnston

RSAA October 2020 Meeting

November 24, 2020

Greetings from the Director's Office. I wanted to share some news and information with you about the current class and events at the Ranger School.

In mid-August, we moved 54 students into their rooms on campus. This was a structured move-in, with each student assigned to a specific door and time, to minimize contact between different families. All students had to present a negative COVID test and have their temperature checked upon arrival. Everyone met both of these criteria, and no one had to be quarantined. Personnel from the Clifton-Fine Hospital provided us with COVID tests for all students, faculty and staff during the first day of Orientation, and all tests came back negative. This was a huge relief to all of us – we got everyone on campus safely, an auspicious start to a successful Fall semester.

Students have had to contend with a variety of challenges during this pandemic, including wearing masks at all times when indoors (except in their dorm room and when eating), wearing masks during outdoor labs if they are within 6 feet of others, and reduced density in the dining hall, classrooms, and van travel. We hold all the car keys, and students are only permitted to check out keys for local travel, and may request special permission to go for overnight travel or to visit family outside the permitted local area. They are really doing very well considering all of these strange constraints – I really do think they have it harder than past Ranger School class, in many respects. Though the old-timers will recall that prior to the early 1980's, students weren't allowed cars on campus at all, so that particular restriction isn't really new.

We have tried to give the students opportunities for fun in the midst of all this. Tim O'Mara regularly takes groups hiking to various Adirondack peaks. Vanessa Rojas started the Bird Nerds Club and they've been out on several successful birding trips. We held a very successful Oktoberfest, where we rented a big tent, grilled food outside, had field games, canoe relays, pumpkin-carving contest, dinner, and then evening entertainment by Jamie Savage and several talented students. We've wrapped up the on-campus experience with a pizza party jam session on their final Friday night on campus for the fall term, and had a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. As of this writing, students are packing their vehicles and heading home for Thanksgiving. We will resume online classes on Monday, and complete the fall semester virtually on December 11.

Academics continue to be our primary focus, of course. Students had until the end of September to finalize their program choice. We now have the following breakdown, by program and gender:

<b><i>Ranger School Class of 2021 Demographics</i></b>			
	Men	Women	<b><i>Combined</i></b>
Forest Technology	19	4	<b>23</b>
ENRC	20	7	<b>27</b>
Land Surveying	4	0	<b>4</b>
TOTAL	43	11	<b>54</b>

## Director's report Continued —

Our newest faculty member Mr. Sam Gildiner is tackling the Natural Resources Measurements class like a champ, and is also working to develop next semester's coursework in Silviculture, Fire, and Soils. Jamie Savage took on Dendrology this fall, and will be continuing with Timber Cruise but also taking on the Leadership class next spring, along with his other usual spring courses. Greg Vaverchak will be taking on the Forest Insects and Disease class, as Mariann Johnston focuses on Natural Resources Management and being Director.

Spring semester is tentatively planned to start on January 25 and end with graduation on May 15. There will be no spring break, and students will follow the same move-in procedures when they return. They will again surrender their keys, and travel only within a permitted area during specified periods. We do not anticipate attending any in-person professional meetings this year, which is a loss for our students' professional development, especially networking and learning to socialize with other professionals. We'll try to keep abreast of any opportunities that do present themselves along these lines, however.

Thank you all for all that you do. Have a blessed and warm holiday season.

*Respectfully submitted by Mariann Johnston, Director*

## RSAA Properties Manager's report — Mike Bushey Ranger School Class of 1994 — Ranger School Board Member

Dear fellow alumni,

On October 17th, right after our Fall board meeting, we closed down the Alumni House and shut off the water to the campground. That doesn't mean you still can't use the campground. It is still available on a first come, first serve basis for anyone wanting to do a little Fall or Winter camping. There is a donation slot on the side of the alumni garage. We ask that you please donate \$15 per night per site used.

Speaking of donations, thank you all who left/sent donations for your use of the alumni campground. It helps us keep it up and running. For anyone wanting to donate a bit extra, we are looking to redo the alumni kitchen. It needs new cabinets and counter tops. If you are willing and able to donate for this, please mark on your check that you want the money to go to the special projects fund. Once we get enough, we will have the new cabinets/counter installed and hopefully a new paint job in there to boot.

Next, we will have the Alumni House available for stays again. Please be advised that there is now a cleaning cost added in addition to the amount we ask for each stay. Make sure when you fill out your Alumni House request forms, that you get them in on time for our lottery drawing due to high demand.

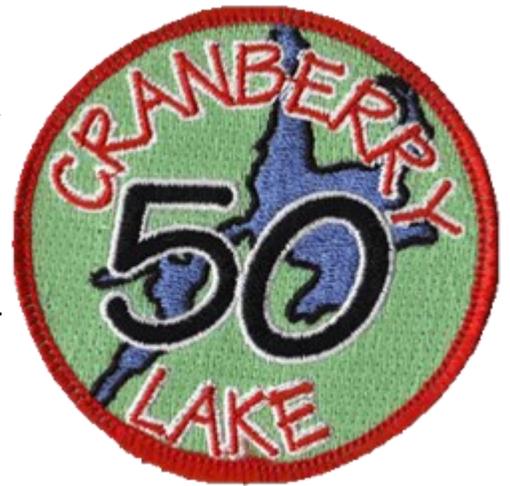
Finally we are scheduling an Alumni Work Weekend for weekend of April 23-25, 2021. We cannot have anyone stay in the Alumni House but campsites are available at a first come, first serve basis. Lunch and Dinner will be provided on Saturday April 24. Watch our Alumni Facebook page for more details as the date approaches. Any questions, feel free to email me at [mrbushey@yahoo.com](mailto:mrbushey@yahoo.com). I look forward to seeing all of you. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Mike Bushey

## Faculty-Alumnus Partnership Results in New Guidebook

By James Savage

Professor James Savage (faculty member since 1991) and Spencer Morrissey (RS Class of 2010) recently published a new guidebook for the Cranberry Lake 50. The Cranberry Lake 50 is a beautiful 50-mile hiking trail that circumnavigates Cranberry Lake, the third largest lake in the Adirondack Park. Along the way, hikers pass in front of the historic Ranger School and skirt around ESF's Cranberry Lake Biological Station. Established in 2009 through the leadership of a local volunteer group known as The Five Ponds Partners (FPP), the trail has seen an average of about 150 completions per year. Hikers are guided by a full-color, water-proof map that was designed and published by the FPP with assistance from RS faculty and students. Since a redesign and update in 2017, over 2,000 copies of the popular map have been sold.



In 2015, Savage approached Spencer Morrissey with the idea of producing a pocket guidebook that could be used in conjunction with the map. It was hoped that the map/guidebook combination would address an increasing number of questions from an increasing number of trail users. Morrissey, an avid outdoorsman with a penchant for bushwhacking, had self-published a few guidebooks already, including *The Other 54: A Hiker's Guide to the Lower 54 Peaks of the Adirondack 100 Highest*. He was eager to help. Following a few years of field work and data collection, and a couple more years of writing and design work, Savage self-published the guidebook in July of 2020. *The Cranberry Lake 50 Pocket Guide*, by James M. Savage with Spencer Morrissey, is available through the ESF Bookstore and through several other Adirondack/North Country vendors. Over 325 copies of the full-color, 124-page book have been sold to date.

## Another word from Mike Bushey, Class of 1994

Don't forget to get your  
Ranger School Alumni Association Merchandise.

You can get everything from t-shirts, hats, hoodies, even water tumblers and coffee mugs. All proceeds go to help the Alumni Association and support our mission of helping Ranger School Students.



Visit <https://www.spreadshirt.com/shop/user/ranger+school+alumni+association/>

Thank you! Mike Bushey - Alumni sales and merchandise committee.

## Interested in Seeing your fellow Alumni?

In late October members of the Class of 1953 got together for a meet-up over Zoom. A good time was had by all! Stories and photos were shared and there were a few classmates who hadn't seen each other since graduation!

If anyone's interested in getting together virtually, we'd be happy to put together a Zoom Meeting for you. Whether it is by class year or a group of alumni friends, this could be a great way to keep in touch until we can be together in Wanakena again! Please let us know if you are interested, and we can work together to set something up! Contact the RSAA at [rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com](mailto:rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com).



## Class of 1953



## Thank you for your contributions!



## Thank you for your contributions!

We are pleased to see that during this tough time, Ranger School Alumni continue to step up and send us donations and we thank you! These donations help us to offset the costs of running the organization as well as assist in the upkeep and maintenance of the Alumni House and Campground. As you all know, the Board was forced to keep the House and Campground closed due to the Covid. While the property is now open, we faced additional costs for a thorough professional cleaning of the entire house before we allowed the first user.

We would like to encourage all Alumni to continue to support the organization in anyway you can. Donations, small and large are all greatly appreciated.

Some people have been asking about how to directly donate to the RSAA. Please use the link below:

<https://bit.ly/36w2CxH>

## News from the Interim Treasurer—Scott Wilkinson '02

Hello, I'm Scott Wilkinson, Class of 2002, your new "Interim Treasurer". So this is my first time doing the Treasurer report for this newsletter. It's not quite like you're used to, but here it goes:

I officially took the position as "Interim Treasurer" in October. It has been quite the learning experience to say the least. I'm still learning the ins and outs of the job, and know it will take time to grasp everything that is entailed in this position. A Special Thank you goes out to Bruce Williams, our past treasurer who did an amazing job with the record keeping and handed me over a very well organized system.

I apologize that I don't have a bunch of financial numbers to share with you in this report, but I can say this. Do we have money? Yes! Do we need more money? Always!!! Even though Covid kept our Alumni house closed for some time this past year, we were able to open it in the summer and that did bring in some income. Not having the reunion definitely was a large blow to our budget this year. But money from dues, donations, and sales of T-shirts, belt buckles, etc. definitely helped the bottom line. In the very near future the RSAA website will officially launch. On this website, alumni will now be able to pay their annual dues, and donate with the just the click of a button. I see this as a great way to bring in even more income as younger alumni tend not to have check books anymore and don't pay their dues because in the past, there was no other option than paying by check. Now there's no excuse for not paying your dues! I too can't wait to pay my annual dues online and no longer have to hunt around the house for my checkbook that I use only a few times a year!!! And yes, you can still pay your dues via check and snail mail if you prefer!!

There have been big changes made currently to the way the treasurer duties are done. First off, as rules and regulations change rapidly on the way organizations like ours do business, Duties generally done by the treasurer and other members of the board have become too much, and too technical for a board to handle, so we had to hire an Accountant to take care of duties that take more detail than a treasurer can handle. Our accountant Maureen Kenyan has been a great ally to our organization and has been awesome to work with. Another person who we have been seeking help from with technical issues is Debbie Caviness at the ESF main campus. She has been an absolute rock star to say the least.

We are going to an all digital format for doing record keeping, via the use of QuickBooks. This is a wonderful tool that cuts time in more than half when it comes to the recordkeeping, and it also eliminates the old school way of hand-writing in check books, HOORAYYYYYY!!!!

We are working to reduce paper clutter by scanning and saving bills and other important paperwork in a digital folder. I have also started to take some of the bills we get and set them up for automated billing, which means no more hand writing checks and snail mailing them. I am also setting up bills and statements to come in as E-statements which will also reduce paper clutter and be more organized in the digital folder.

As stated at the beginning of this report I am the "Interim treasurer" "Interim" is not permanent, I'm only doing this on a "Temporary basis" as I also own a business that is open all hours of the day and night, busier on weekends and takes every square ounce of energy I have. I recently hired my own Office manager at my business to ease my burden. I also had to sneak down to my hunting camp where there's no cell reception just to get this article written with no distractions!!

With that said, The RSAA is still looking for a permanent treasurer. Here's the upside of the job. Right now, I, myself am taking on all the growing pains of going all digital as far as the record keep-

## Interim Treasurer Report Continued —

ing and learning how it all works and keeping everything in check. Also setting up automated bill pay for many of our bills, and e-statements will also make life easier in the long run. Another nice perk is that our new office manager Isaiah Riviera is also doing some of the record keeping on his end as far as income coming through the office and he too will be putting those numbers in the QuickBooks program. Isaiah has only been in the position for a short time and he has really taken the ball and ran with it as far as his duties as our Office Manager. I am excited to see what else he can do for our organization in the future.

I plan to work at making the treasurer position as easy and painless as I can. I want to make sure that whoever takes on the role as permanent treasurer has a “Well oiled machine” to work with. So when all said and done, the duties entailed in being RSAA treasurer will be very cut and dry and take up little to no time in your life. If anyone is interested in helping out this prestigious board and taking on the duties of treasurer, feel free to contact myself (scottyshubcaps@gmail.com), any board member, or Isiah at the Alumni office.

Be well, Be safe, stay socially distant, wear your mask, and I sure hope to see all your smiling faces at the 2021 Alumni Reunion, in a Post Covid world I hope!!

Scott Wilkinson '02 RSAA “Interim Treasurer”

## New RSAA Office Manager: Husband, Father, Student, and Office Manager

### A Quick Introduction

Hello everyone! I am Isaiah Rivera, the new Office Manager here at the RSAA. I am not an alumni myself, but I am sure you all know my wife Samantha Oliveras-Rivera. She is the instructional support associate at the Ranger School and a member of class of 2015. We currently live here with our dog Mesa, cat Archer and the newest member of our family Azula, our four month old daughter.

I am new to this office manager role but I am a quick study. As the title says, I am balancing being a husband, father, student and now the office manager position. I study mathematics at Potsdam University with hopes to get both my BA and MA degrees at the same time. I look forward to working with and along side all of you.

*- Isaiah G Rivera*



# Introducing the New RSAA website!!

www.nysrsaa.org

*The RSAA has finally moved into the digital age!!*

We are now offering the option to fill out your info sheet, pay dues, make donations, purchase merchandise, reserve the Alumni House, view newsletters, and *keep in touch* through our new website at nysrsaa.org!

To fill out your 2021 Info Sheet and pay your dues, click this button:



## RSAA Mailings:

NEW THIS YEAR ALL newsletters and the Alumni News book are now being sent in digital form. If you would like a printed copy, you must check yes below.

Would you like a printed copy of the newsletters?  YES  NO

Would you like a printed copy of the Alumni News?  YES  NO



## Current Info:

\* NAME

\* CLASS YEAR

\* ADDRESS

SEASONAL ADDRESS

If you have a seasonal address what dates are you there?

FROM (MM/DD) TO (MM/DD)

Would you like your address listed in the Alumni News?  YES  NO

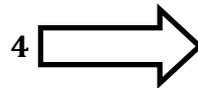
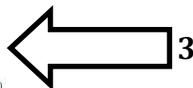
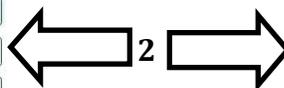
\* PHONE

Would you like your phone listed in the Alumni News?  YES  NO

\* EMAIL

Would you like your email listed in the Alumni News? (NOTE: You must submit a current email address to receive RSAA correspondence unless you have chosen printed copies above.)

YES  NO



## News:

## Dues:

To receive the annual "ALUMNI NEWS", to make reservations for the Spaulding Memorial Alumni House and get lower Reunion registration fee, you must be current with your dues. We are no longer printing out membership cards. **You don't have to pay back dues. WE WANT YOU BACK!!**

Annual Dues: (for 2021)

Class of 2020: First year after graduation: FREE

Classes of 2019, 2018, 2017: Pay half price: \$25

Classes 1972 - 2016: Pay \$50

Life Members: Class of 1971 and earlier: FREE

## Donations:

Would you like to make a donation to the General Operating Fund of the RSAA?

YES  NO

AMOUNT

The online dues form/info sheet is set up the same way as the paper form. A few things to note:

1. You **MUST** select whether you want you want to receive paper copies of the Newsletters and/or the Alumni News.
2. Be sure you have the correct class year! This is what your dues payment is based on.
3. Please select whether or not you want your address, phone number, and/or email listed in the Alumni News.
4. If you would like to make an additional donation, please check "YES" here and input the amount in the box.

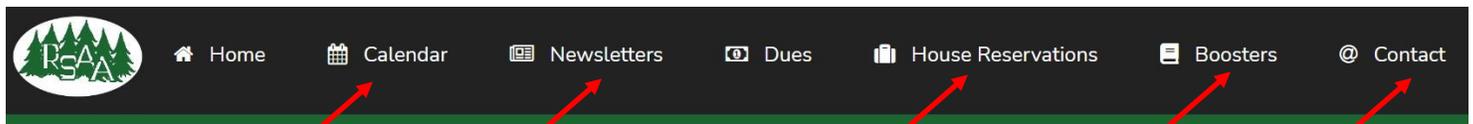
Once you are finished filling out all the information on the form, Check the box to let it know you are, in fact, a real person, and Click "SUBMIT"

Your total amount due will be calculated using your class year for your dues amount plus any additional donation amount you specified.

You will then be sent to PayPal to finish making your payment. If you have an account, login, and pay using your preferred method.

If you do not have a PayPal account, that's OK! You do not have to have a PayPal account to make a payment! Click on "Pay with Debit or Credit Card". You will be directed to check out as a guest. Fill in your card and billing info and click "Pay Now".

The website offers more than just paying your dues! You can also.....



Check out the most recent Calendar of Events

Read past Newsletters

Put your name in for the Alumni House lottery

Submit a Booster Ad

Contact the RSAA

 Make a Donation

Make a donation to the RSAA at any time!

 AmazonSmile

Use AmazonSmile when making purchases to help support the RSAA!

 Our Latest Newsletter

Read the most recent newsletter!

 RSAA at ESF

See the RSAA's webpage at Main Campus!

 RSAA Merchandise

Purchase RSAA shirts, hats, sweatshirts, mugs, etc!

 Find Us on Facebook!

Check out what's going on and keep in touch at the RSAA's Facebook page!

 Ranger School Flickr

View photos from The Ranger's School's Archive!

We hope to continue to expand the content available on the RSAA website. If you have any suggestions for additional content, please let us know!! This is your association, please let us know how we can best serve you!

## Ranger School Alumni Association

Since 1928, the NYS Ranger School Alumni Association has represented alumni of the SUNY ESF Ranger School.

We welcome all members of the Ranger School family – alumni, current students, parents, friends, and prospective students - to connect with the RSAA community.

Whether through the Annual Reunion, newsletters, social media, or the Alumni News publication, the RSAA is a great way ***"To Keep In Touch"*** with The Ranger School, Wanakena Community, and your Fellow Alumni!

## Beyond the Classroom — Jamie Savage

### October 2020



Within the last few years, fifty percent of the Ranger School's (RS) full-time faculty have retired or moved on to other positions. In turn, the roles and responsibilities the faculty have changed, especially in regard to 'extra-curricular' activities. Of course, RS faculty are still focused on teaching and on providing a high-quality learning experience for their students. In fact, most of their time is devoted to this important mission. But faculty are also expected to engage in service and scholarship activities outside of the classroom. The latter efforts are beneficial to the individuals themselves, to the Ranger School and ESF as a whole, and often to the local and/or regional communities to which the school belongs. Some faculty efforts even benefit the forestry, natural resources, and land surveying professions at a national level!

So what are *some* (space precludes listing all) of these 'extra-curricular' activities that faculty pursue, and how have these roles and responsibilities changed in recent years? Veteran faculty member Greg Vaverchak (who graduated from the RS in 2002 and teaches courses in communications and safety, timber harvesting, and construction surveying, among others) serves as advisor to the Sportsmen's Club and Commissioner for the RS Hockey Club. He also works to maintain and improve the forest road system on the Dubuar Forest by skillfully coordinating the efforts of Facilities staff, Forest Properties staff, and RS students and faculty. As the College's only certified arborist, Professor Vaverchak is the go-to guy for advice and guidance on dealing with hazardous or unwanted trees on campus. In addition, Professor Vaverchak serves as a Member-at-Large on the RS Alumni Board of Directors and as Treasurer for the Council of Eastern Forest Technician Schools.

Professor James Savage (who teaches courses in dendrology, forest recreation, and environmental interpretation, among others) now spearheads the effort to maintain and improve the RS Arboretum. He seeks to build on the efforts of former caretaker, Dr. Michael Bridgen, by improving and expanding the Arboretum's trail system, increasing the number of species in the collection, and enhancing interpretive signs and information. Professor Savage has long-served as the 'trail coordinator' for the entire James F. Dubuar Forest, and he represents the RS on the ESF Forest Properties Advisory Committee. The latter committee addresses issues, challenges, and opportunities common to all of ESF's forest properties. Savage is a founding member and currently Chair of a local economic development group called the Five Ponds Partners, and he also serves on the board of directors for Adirondack Hamlets to Huts. At the national level, Professor Savage is just beginning his second three-year term as a member of the Society of American Forester's (SAF) Forest Technology School Accreditation Committee.

In addition to her very busy job of supervising personnel and directing day-to-day activities at the RS, Professor Mariann Johnston (who teaches courses in ecology and natural resources management) serves as the Region 6 Representative on the SAF Board of Directors. She also continues to conduct research in New York and New Hampshire related to beech bark disease and forest nutrition, and she currently advises a graduate student who is working on the Newton Falls mine-tailings restoration project. Outside of the RS, Dr. Johnston enjoys running scoreboard and music for youth hockey games and serving as 'pit crew' for her children's High School marching band.

## Beyond the Classroom Continued:

In her third year as an RS faculty member, Professor Vanessa Rojas (who teaches courses in remote sensing, GIS, wildlife, and hydrology) is increasingly busy outside of the classroom. Dr. Rojas serves as point person for computer and networking issues at the Ranger School (a very busy job!). She often assists with the RS Outing Club, and she acts as advisor for a brand new RS birding club, "The Bird Nerds!" The club was formed to help students experience and learn more about the amazing birds of the Adirondacks. Dr. Rojas also serves on various bat research and conservation committees, and she is working to get students involved with the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat). In addition to all this, Professor Rojas was recently appointed to be Director of the Cranberry Lake Biological Station, a summer program for forest biology students from the Syracuse Campus.

Now in his second year as a faculty member, Professor Jeremy Thompson (who graduated from RS in 1997 and teaches courses in land surveying and computer aided drafting and design) remains active in the local community as President of Board of Education for Clifton-Fine Central School District and as a member of the Town of Fine Council. He further donates his time and energy to the local community as a Cub Master and a Level 3 Hockey Coach. Professor Thompson serves his profession as Treasurer for the New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors (NYSAPLS) and also as a member of their Education Committee. And as the lead surveying instructor at the RS, Professor Thompson looks forward to coordinating the efforts of the Survey Friends Committee, a committee that provides valuable advice and guidance to the Land Surveying Technology program.

The Ranger School's newest faculty member, Professor Sam Gildiner, has enthusiastically taken over the role of Student Government Advisor. He also has taken over as the 'Library Steward.' In the latter capacity, he works with ESF Library staff to coordinate the acquisition of new books and periodicals, and he supervises Work-Study students in their efforts to maintain, clean, and improve the Ranger School library and its holdings. Professor Gildiner (who teaches courses in natural resources measurements, silviculture, and soils, among others) is keen on making new connections, forging new partnerships, and taking on new roles that will benefit the Ranger School and ESF as a whole. For starters, he has begun to establish connections with local professionals, the Adirondack Chapter of NYSAF, and the Northern Adirondack Chapter of the New York Forest Owners Association. He will also be sharing his knowledge and experience as a member of the Dubuar Forest Management Committee, an active committee devoted to implementing and regularly updating the management plan for the Ranger School's Dubuar Forest. As a brand new faculty member during one of the toughest years the RS has seen (due to Covid-19), Professor Gildiner humorously notes that his down-time is spent "drinking tea and preparing for lectures."

In summary, the Ranger School is a busy place, and Ranger School faculty are busy people! Taken together, the activities conducted both in and outside of the classroom make the Ranger School what it is...a unique school that serves professionals and locals alike while providing exceptional, technical education programs in forestry, environmental and natural resources conservation, and land surveying.



## RSAA Awards

*Please take a minute to fill in your nominations and reasons for choices for both these awards on page 3 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.”

#### Past recipients:

2020—Debbie Caviness	2013—Jerald Holbrook '56	2006—Lawrence Hill '50
2019—Michael H. Webb '74	2012—Robert Simmons	2005—Ken Myers '52
2018—Arnie Lanckton '53	2011—Wayne Allen '79	2004—Dick Thomas '54
2017—Dr. Michael Bridgen	2010—Jerry Kniskern '50	2003—Stephen Coulthart '53
2016—Lawrence R. Hawkins '55	2009—Bruce Williams '76	2002—Christopher Westbrook '73
2015—Peter Zubal '59	2008—Lee Berry '68	2001—Thomas Martin '76
2014—Thomas Hodges '53	2007—Charles Hartnett '51	2000—Gail Simmons

### Kermit E. Remele Award of Meritorious Service

The award is presented by the RSAA in honor of Kermit E Remele. Professor Remele, a 1943 graduate of the Ranger School, served on the Ranger School faculty for over 30 years. As an active member of the RSAA he served as editor of the Alumni News and held the office of Secretary for many years. 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. The intent of this award is therefore to recognize groups of people whose combined efforts have gone above and beyond the norm to have a positive lasting influence on the Ranger School.

#### Past recipients:

2020—The Clifton Fine Arena	2011—St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division
2019—The NYS Forest Rangers	2009—Village of Wanakena Residents
2018—The Wanakena Historical Society	2008—Class of 1968
2017—Star Lake Fire Department	2005—Class of 1955
2016—Clifton Fine Hospital	2003—Surveying Friends Committee
2013—Ranger School Centennial Committee	2000—Class of 1950
2012—Administration of SUNY ESF	

## Campus Closure

The Ranger School's James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest will remain closed to the public for an indefinite amount of time. The Cranberry Lake 50 trail, which passes in front of the school, will remain open. This action is necessary to protect students and staff as they continue the academic year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but it is a critical precaution as we work to ensure the health and success of the Class of 2021. Thank you for your cooperation.



*Photo by Kristin V. Rehder May 26, 2020*



When making purchases from Amazon, don't forget about the RSAA!

If you don't already, please consider supporting the RSAA through the AmazonSmile Charity Program. Every time you make a qualifying purchase from AmazonSmile, they will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the RSAA. In the past 5 years the RSAA has received a total of \$841.19 in donations through this program.

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](https://smile.amazon.com) and sign in using your Amazon account username and password. Search for New York State Ranger School Alumni Assn Inc. and select it in the results window. (or use the direct link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7307093>) You can then shop the site as usual. In order for the Association to receive your donation you must sign in, and make your purchases from, [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

Thank you all for thinking of the RSAA when you make purchases from Amazon!



## Search for new Treasurer and additional Board of Director Members

The Alumni Association needs more volunteers!! Currently we have a vacancy for the Treasurer position. The perfect person would not only be a dedicated volunteer but should possess some basic accounting knowledge and be at least familiar with QuickBooks accounting software. However, if you are willing to learn...we are willing to train!! Please contact us for details of the job description.

We are also in need of additional "members at large" on the RSAA Board of Directors.

If you would consider volunteering for any of these positions, please let us know! We desperately need more help!!

Thank you for your consideration of these positions.

### RSAA Calendar of Events and Important Dates 2021

<b>Jan 25th</b> Spring Semester Begins	<b>April 23rd</b> RSAA Board of Directors Spring Meeting <b>April 23rd - 25th</b> Spring Cleanup Weekend at Alumni House	<b>May 15th</b> Ranger School Class of 2021 Graduation
<b>Aug 6th</b> RSAA Board of Directors Reunion Meeting <b>Aug 6th - 7th</b> 85th Annual Alumni Reunion	<b>Aug 7th</b> RSAA Annual Membership Meeting	<b>Aug 15th</b> Class of 2022 Arrival/Move-in
<b>Aug 18th</b> Fall Semester Starts	<b>Oct 15th</b> RSAA Board of Directors Annual Meeting	<b>Oct 15th - 17th</b> Fall Closing Weekend at the Alumni House

*\*\*All events are subject to change\*\**

## News from the Finance Committee Chair

Chris Tcimpidis—'93



*Mendenhall Glacier—Juneau, AK*

**Yak'úi yagiyee** (Tlingit for “Good day”) my Ranger School brothers and sisters. I felt a greeting from the language of the local Tlingit people was appropriate, as I happily work and live on land that is traditionally theirs. And I think it is a good day, we have made it through 2020, and my family and I have made it through the shortest day of the “Dark Days”. I must admit that we are waiting for those long summer days to get back on our hiking schedule.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter we completed our first, annual financial audit in 2020. This was a somewhat

trying process, complicated by COVID-19. But we learned much from it and feel we are well prepared for our next audit in 2021. As such, the letter to engage our auditor has been signed and will be delivered prior to the publication of this new letter. I look forward to a simplified experience moving through the 2021 audit.

As an association, we are in a much different place in the beginning of 2020 than we are today. RSAA had a year of substantial growth in technology and outside service to put our association in a place where our diversely located board members could meet their responsibilities to the association, ensure we can communicate and have an open accounting system where all people who need to see or input data can do so. What does that mean? Well, our treasurer lives in Western New York, our office manager lives in Wanakena, I live in Alaska, our financial consultant and our auditor both live in the Syracuse area. All parties have obligations to see, review and understand our financials and assist as needed. With our old accounting system we were having difficulties sharing data and it took a long time to obtain data. With our new system our data is hosted remotely, with 5 user accounts. We all have access to it and when we develop questions our consultant can review our accounting, advise on it and make corrections. While I understand some people have concerns over our data being hosted remotely, our needs to administer the finances, on a platform that is widely accepted became a necessity. And I believe we are positioned for success moving forward.

With our technology and accounting moved in to the twenty-first century I hope the management of our finances will be easier as we move into and through 2021. I further hope that we can focus on what is more important to many of us, many more fire-ring chats and laughter, for years ahead, with our dear alumni-friends.

## Where is my Alumni News?!?

I want to extend my sincerest apologies for the extreme delay in the 2020 Alumni News. This year has been particularly difficult in many ways and unfortunately this has affected the amount of time I have been able to spend putting the News together. I am still working on it and it will go out. But at this time, I do not have an anticipated publication date. In light of the confusion with ordering deadlines, the 2020 Alumni News will be sent to all 2020 active members.

We are always looking for submissions for the Alumni News. If you have any articles, memories, photos, artwork, maps, ANYTHING, please send it in! If it doesn't make it in for this year's news it will be included in the next. Please forward submissions to the RSAA at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com.

## IMPORTANT!!! PLEASE READ!!! NEW FOR 2021

In order to cut down on printing costs, moving forward, ***all newsletters and the Alumni News book will automatically be sent in digital form.*** In order to stay current on our mailing list, when you fill out your 2021 dues form, please be sure you give us your most up to date email address. We are more than happy to send you printed copies of these materials in the mail if you would prefer. If you would also like a printed copy of either the newsletters or the Alumni News, you ***must*** check yes to the questions on the dues forms.

This is the beginning of the **2021 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.

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 email rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com with your ad. Or print and mail to RSAA, PO Box 48, Wanakena, NY 13695

Donations can be made via check payable to "RSAA" or via PayPal at <https://bit.ly/36w2CxH> If paying with PayPal please write "BOOSTERS" in the comment box.

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