

RANGER SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

257 Ranger School Rd/ PO Box 48
Wanakena, NY 13695 Phone (315) 848-2566, X112
Email: rsaagail@esf.edu



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016

From the President:

Greetings Fellow Alumni!

First of all, I would like to welcome the Class of 2016 to the greatest Alumni Association in existence. You are now a part of our family! We are forever connected by our hard work and extraordinary experiences at the Ranger School.

Special thanks to Gail and all of the Ranger School Alumni board members; your unprecedented efforts do not go unnoticed.

The Alumni House and campgrounds continue to improve under the leadership of Bob Brower. He, along with many volunteers, have done a fantastic job and have definitely earned their cold beer and a bonfire at the end of the day!

Big thanks to Bruce Williams; head of the finance committee and to his mini-me; John Adams for all of the time and effort that they put in for the good of the RSAA.

I am excited to announce a new way to get involved for those of you who want to give back but can't make it to the board meetings! We are looking for people to bring new ideas to reach the full potential of the RSAA by joining committees. The choices include Finance, Alumni Properties and Projects, Reunion, Recruitment and Constitution. Sign-ups for a committee of your choice will be at the general meeting. Please consider helping a committee!

Don't forget to check out RSAA on Facebook and Twitter! It's a fun way to keep connected, to see pictures of the reunion and various events and post your own, and to stay up to date on the happenings of the Ranger School and the Alumni Association.

Thank you for your support of the Alumni Association as we continue supporting the Ranger School with recruitment, scholarships, and rewards. Let's work together to reach the full potential of the RSAA!

I wish you all health and happiness.

Let's keep in touch!

Joan Macholl '83 President

From the Director:

This past year, 2015-16, was a great year at the Ranger School. Following a decade-long trend of increasing enrollment, our graduating class of sixty-three students was the largest in over thirty years. It was amazing to see the student parking lot so full of vehicles! All students who started in August successfully completed their programs and walked the stage in May. Most of the students had summer jobs waiting for them, and have a good start on their future careers.

The Ranger School staff (academics, food service, physical plant) are an amazing group of people. They are all overworked, having much more to do than time allows, but they are dedicated to their jobs and their roles in the School's mission, that of providing an effective learning environment for the students. Students from '2016 recognized these efforts and presented gifts to staff members as a way of saying thanks.

Karen Allen, spouse of retired emeritus faculty member Wayne Allen, herself retired this year, following a 35-year career with the Ranger School food service. We certainly wish Wayne and Karen happiness with their future plans.

Congratulations also go to faculty member Greg Vaverchak, who completed his M.S. degree in education from SUNY Potsdam in May this year. He and his family also moved back to campus this year, and they are expecting another child this summer.

By this time next year, you should be noticing some changes to the campus. A SUNY construction fund project is scheduled to start next spring, and will continue throughout the summer. This project will improve our entrances, increase student safety, and address some storm run-off concerns. SUNY and the College continue to invest into the Ranger School's second century.

Finally, may I thank each of you who has referred, or recommended, a student for the Ranger School. Most of our students tell of a personal connection, or referral, which started them thinking about the School. You have a vital role in recruiting new students and keeping the School growing.

Dr. Michael R. Bridgen, Professor and Director

From the Treasurer:

Another year and another great class graduating. Next year still looks pretty good too. Hopefully they all will join the RSAA.

As for the financial accounts, things have been better. Last year we were over budget by a small amount. This year is looking better, but still tight. Hopefully the finance committee will find areas to reduce spending and options for increased income.

On a higher note, an agreement has been made with the Pinecone Grill which has set up a Trading Post. They will take over selling RSAA merchandise (now that the Wanakena General Store is no more).

So enjoy the rest of your summer. Keep up the amazing and generous giving. Thank you ever so much. See most of you at the Reunion.

Bruce E. Williams '76, Treasurer

"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." — Vince Lombardi

From the 1st VP:

Hello Everyone!

I'd like to say Congratulations to the Class of 2016 and Welcome to the Ranger School Alumni Association!!! It was wonderful meeting you all over graduation weekend, and I look forward to seeing everyone at Reunions in the coming years!

Since the closing of the Wanakena General Store, the Board has been looking into other options for supplying RSAA merchandise. We are pleased to announce that RSAA clothing and other items will be available for sale at the newly opened Trading Post at the Pine Cone Grill. Board member Mike Bushey has come through with a great connection for a printer to supply the merchandise. I look forward to working with both of these new contacts and believe they will be of great benefit to the RSAA.

Please remember to make your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile! Every time you make a qualifying purchase from Amazon, they will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the RSAA. 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** 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. In order for the RSAA to receive your donation you must sign in and make your purchases from: **smile.amazon.com**.

As always, we are still looking for interesting articles and photos for the Alumni News. If you have anything you'd like to submit, please send them to me asap! (tanskia@yahoo.com) I'll try my best to include them in this year's News.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy summer and looking forward to seeing everyone this August!

Ariane Tanski, '2009 1st VP

Recruitment:

As a member of the Ranger School Alumni Association I want to extend my congratulations to the graduating class of 2016. Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to interact with many of you and have been impressed with each one; best of luck on your future career pursuits.

Over the past 2-3 years I have had an idea which I would like to present to all Ranger School Alumni whom are working in or recently retired from a profession associated with their field of study (related but not limited to forestry, surveying and related, environmental, law enforcement, logging, etc). The idea is to have alumni to be points of contact for prospective students. The RS alumnus would make themselves available to discuss the Ranger School and how it led to their current/former career. In some cases where work permits, the prospective students could shadow that professional and see first-hand how the Ranger School led to a successful career.

As well, in a more formal setting I would encourage alumni to visit their high schools and distribute information to the guidance offices, attend college fairs and any other opportunity where a captive audience may exist.

SUNY ESF also has an alumni ambassador program which is more formal in nature and includes the main campus as well.

<http://www.esf.edu/alumni/involve.htm>

My ultimate goal is to have the Ranger School website and Ranger School Alumni web site have alumni profiles where prospective students can simply search via the internet and locate alumni willing to discuss the Ranger School and careers over the phone, in person or on the job.

<http://www.esf.edu/rangerschool/>

<http://www.esf.edu/rangerschool/alumni/>

Best regards; John J. O'Donnell RS '97 RSAA-Recruitment Committee 518-538-3373 Jforest29@hotmail.com

Alumni Properties Update:

It has been a busy spring for all involved in the Alumni House and campground. We had 4 large trees along the Ranger School Road that were becoming hazardous and Gail called National Grid and they sent a crew that dropped them on the ground for us. That was in March and on April 29, 30 and 31, a group of dedicated Ranger School Alumni and families descended upon the property for Spring Clean-up. We ended up with about 20 plus volunteer, some long-time supporters and some first-time volunteers who tackled an impressive amount of work. I delegated the responsibility for running the painting crew to Mike Bushey and with the help of first-timer, John Potter, Class of '65, they painted the entire ceiling on the porch and supervised painting and staining of the new rails down to the dock, to Legacy Rock and to the house, staining of the deck on the side of the porch, some picnic tables, painting the entire garage and Bruce Williams, our treasurer (and treasure) stained the inside of the outhouse white! Other things completed included refurbishing the shower downstairs with new sheetrock and paneling, fixing some broken outlets and lights and a bunch of firewood cutting, splitting and stacking. The trees by the road yielded a few maple saw logs that will get drawn away and sawn up for future projects. Our resident Arborist, Greg Vaverchak also cut down a large birch and another maple that we deemed hazardous in the campground. The interesting thing about cutting up the firewood is that the bunch of guys that did the majority of the bucking up had to have an average age of 65 (Greg dropped the average being a kid!). For dinner, we had a great meal of slow-cooked chicken, salt potatoes and the like. Everyone had their fill and I am pretty sure everyone slept well.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the generosity of Bernie Siskavich and his wife Blanch for their donation of all new curtains for the downstairs of the Alumni House. After we purchased a new futon last year to replace the outdated couch, they donated a cover for the futon mattress and now the curtains match. I am told that Blanch did all the hemming to make them fit but Bernie was taking the credit.

I want to thank all who showed up, donated funds for food, brought food or helped out. It is not only a pleasure to work with all these folks but an honor and a privilege. The RSAA thanks you for your hard work and dedication. See you at the reunion and the alumni reception on Friday afternoon.

Bob Brower, '78, 2nd VP

RS Student—Alumni Annual Hockey Tournament:

On March fifth the Alumni team did their best to take on the Class of 2016 team at Tenuity Ice Pavilion in Syracuse. The teams fought hard for the famed Bridgen Cup and bragging rights for the year. The team followed in other class’s footsteps and again donned the green and orange jerseys. Even with the return of the intimidating banana (Nick Pitrelli ‘15) and an impressive six goals, the alumni couldn’t overcome the Students and take the cup. The Students won the cup after a clear victory in the second and third game winning by three points in each game. With the first current student victory in nine years the postgame party will be one to remember. The Class would like to thank their coach Mr. Vaverchak, as well as the very fair referees Mr. O’Mara, and Dr. Bridgen. The Class would also like to say thank you to all who participated.

Game #	RS Alumni Goals	Class of 2016 Goals		Overall points:
1	3	3	Tie	
2	1	4	2016 wins	Alumni: 4
3	0	3	2016 wins	
4	1	0	Alumni win	Class of 2016 6
5	1	1	Tie	

Ranger School Sugaring 2016 :

Mariann Johnston (RS Faculty) and Rob Fleming (Instructional Support Assistant, RS’96)

Despite the somewhat strange winter and spring weather, the Ranger School Class of 2016 successfully made 5.25 gallons of maple syrup as a class project. This year’s operation was part of the Natural Resources Management class, taken by students in the Forest Technology and ENRC programs. Maple sugaring was introduced during our class discussion of non-timber forest products, and included a one-hour indoor session on species and size of trees suitable for tapping, ideal site and tree characteristics, and an overview of the tapping and production process. The season then began with the hanging of buckets on March 2 and 3 in the Marshall Lot (vicinity of the Picnic Pavilion). Each of our 53 students selected a tree, identified a suitable spile location, tapped the tree and hung a bucket. With two buckets that were hung during the demonstration at the start of each lab session, this gave us 55 buckets in total. Once buckets were up, we were on Mother Nature’s schedule. Students were responsible for collecting their sap until the end of the season on April 14, minus the week they were on Spring break. A typical collection included notification that it would be a collection day – this determination was made by Rob Fleming. Students then had from 5:00 to 6:00 pm to bring their sap to the collection truck in the field. The collection was greatly facilitated by use of an innovative stainless steel pump, built and donated by (Seth Wesson, Class of 1964). Once sap was collected, it was transported to the sugar house for processing. We are currently using a 2x6 wood-fired Leader WSE (Welded Stainless Evaporator) that was donated for student use by Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Linda Todd of MKS Supplies. Each student was required to participate in at least one boiling session or to help with setup, wood splitting, cleanup, or other necessary parts of the operation.



Ranger School Class of 2016 students prepare to tap trees on the Marshall Lot. Photo courtesy of Michael R. Bridgen.

In addition to these duties, students were required to monitor the quantity and quality of their tree’s sap from the time of tapping until spring break. This meant using measuring containers while transferred sap to the collection truck, and taking periodic samples for sugar concentration testing on a Brix refractometer. Each student then produced a lab report, which included an analysis of their tree’s sap flow as a function of high and low temperatures. Finally, the reward! Just over half of the syrup (3.25 G) was bottled for use as gifts to Ranger School guest speakers, field trip hosts, and others who assist with the task of training our students to become the excellent field technicians we expect. The remainder went to the kitchen, and the students greatly enjoyed eating pancakes and waffles topped with their own syrup! This year’s production was the first year that we made it an entirely student-run operation, as part of the academic program and under the management of Rob Fleming. Thanks in part to the efforts of Wayne Allen, who worked as a Forest Properties volunteer and helped build and organize the operation over the last few years, we were able to transition smoothly to a student-training operation as part of Dr. Johnston’s Natural Resources Management class. We expect to modify and improve this training over the next few years, as we continue to work with future classes on the art and science of maple syrup production.



Barry Nehr, RS'60, passed away on September 25, 2015. Barry had drawn the cover art for many Alumni News publications. Also, as a Centennial gift to the School, Barry painted the mural on the back wall of the main classroom, turning it into the most beautiful classroom in the College.

To recognize his artistic contributions and support of the Ranger School and the Ranger School Alumni Association, the main classroom was formally named the "Barry Nehr Classroom" in 2016. A handrail was also placed along the wall in order to better protect the mural.

[We are hoping to have a small ceremony at reunion to dedicate this beautiful classroom to Barry.]



From the Wanakena Historical Association:

As we start another summer season in Wanakena, we are very grateful for the wonderful support from local and summer residents, Ranger School alumni and friends of Wanakena in raising funds to rebuild the Wanakena footbridge. We hope to have a ground breaking ceremony before the end of June!

We have raised nearly \$130,000 and received grants for \$185,000. The Town has accepted a contract from Northeast Concrete Coring and Cutting, Inc in Potsdam to do the rebuild. This contract does not include money to rebuild the walkways on either end and additional costs may be incurred if the abutments need extensive work. At the WHA Spring meeting we

learned that \$25,000 is needed to complete the construction of the footbridge.

Susan and Chris Westbrook have started a challenge to help raise the \$25,000 we know that we need. The Westbrook family is donating the first \$250 and challenge 99 others to do the same. That would make the \$25,000 needed for now!!! We have already received three promises/payments since Sat, June 11.

If you would like to join the challenge, you may mail a check to Wanakena Historical Association PO Box 73 Wanakena, NY 13695. Any size donations are welcome and appreciated.

There will be other fundraising events through the summer and a Wanakena Day in mid-August. Two lovely quilts have been donated to raffle. One is a king-size star quilt made by Mennonites and donated by Karen and Wayne Allen. The other is a double-size quilt called Lady of the Lake which was made and hand quilted by Lee Ann Ottoway in honor of her father, grandfather and uncle who all attended the Ranger School.

We thank you all for your very generous support in the past and will appreciate anything you can do to help us get the swinging bridge back across the Oswegatchie River, hopefully this summer.

— Marsha Smith, WHA President

82st Annual Ranger School Alumni Association Reunion Friday, August 5th and Saturday, August 6, 2016

We have many new features to our reunion this year, and possibly will be adding more in the meantime.

A few new additions are:

- Terry McKendree, chainsaw carver/wood sculptor will be demonstrating his craft and have items for sale.
- In addition to our loyal slideshow presenter, Gary Lee '63, presenting "Bird Banding",
- a new slide show Ms. Linda Rice, from the Adirondack Museum, will to do a presentation on the history of Mining in The Adirondacks, particularly the Star Lake area.
- There will be crafts and activities for children of all ages, trivia quizzes and a photo scavenger hunt.
- Key Log Rolling "Birling" is a new exciting event. (*Birl – to cause a floating log to spin rapidly by rotating with the feet.*) Key Log Rolling teamed up with innovative engineers to create a lightweight, synthetic log that allows people everywhere to discover what lumberjacks learned more than a century ago. Log rolling is fun and a safe activity for waterfronts. The act of spinning on a log in the water captures the imagination and attention of kids and adults alike.

There will be time to reconnect with old friends, make new friends, tour the school and forest, eat good food and relax.

Don't forget our exciting raffle, silent and live auctions. All are welcome to donate to this.