

NYS Ranger School Alumni Association, Inc.

Winter 2021

RSAA Alumni President's Report – *Chris Westbrook '73*

Greetings Alumni!

Over the past several years the Ranger School Alumni Association (RSAA) has been impacted by a number of significant challenges that we have had to overcome including the pandemic, the retirement of long time Office Manager Gail Simmons and the resignation of several key RSAA officers. The past six months have been a revitalization time for the RSAA as we try to get things back on track on running smoothly and efficiently. The Board of Directors has been working diligently, meeting on a regular basis both in person and via zoom. We have been able to get back into the RSAA office in the Ranger School and have brought in some new members to the RSAA staff, leadership and Board of Directors.

We do understand that there have been some Alumni who have not been able to connect with the Alumni Office and that your messages were not responded to in a timely manner. We have been working to correct this situation as best as possible and hope these efforts will be apparent to all alumni.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Beth Daut, '82 as our new Office Manager. Beth replaces Isaiah Rivera who held the position for approximately 8 months. Beth will be a part-time employee for the RSAA.

In May of 2020 Scott Wilkinson '02 agreed to serve as Treasure of the Association for the remainder of the year. Scott replaced Bruce Williams '76 who has served our Association in many capacities over several decades. Although Scott held this position a little longer than he would have liked to, a replacement was found this summer. We all thank Scott for his service to the Association! Dan Wentworth '82 answered our call for a Treasurer. We welcome Dan to the RSAA Board of Directors and thank him for volunteering to fill this important role.

Several key tasks have been completed although a bit later than planned. We have signed our contract with SUNY which is in effect for 5 years. As part of the SUNY Contract, we must be audited on a yearly basis. The audit for 2020 was completed in late October.

I would respectfully request that every alumni please take a few moments to send in your 2022 dues along with submitting your annual alumni news information sheet. Your dues contributions and donations help the RSAA remain a strong and viable institution. I thank you in advance for getting your dues and information sheets sent in as early as possible.

Under the direction of Mike Rozeski '90, the RSAA Reunion Committee, is focused on bringing back the Alumni Reunion in August 2022. The difficult decision was made to cancel the reunion in both 2020 and 2021. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan on attending the RSSA Reunion on August 5th and 6th, 2022. We look forward to recognizing the Classes of 1970, 71 and 72 at the 2022 reunion. The members of the Class of 1970 have already received their 50-year plaques and we look forward to presenting plaques to the members of the Classes of 1971 and 72 at the Reunion in 2022.

RSAA President's report Continued —

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the member of the RSAA Board of Directors for their efforts to help keep our association a viable organization supporting our alumni and the Ranger School!

Given the challenges that we have faced, the BOD has worked diligently to keep things moving forward in a positive direction and it is my belief that the Association is getting stronger each day.

As always, know that your Alumni Association is here to serve you and the Ranger School. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at westbrook@esf.edu.

Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season and a great 2022!



Mark your calendars! The Ranger School Alumni Reunion is BACK.

Dates: August 5 and 6, 2022

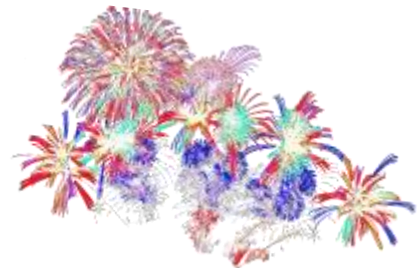
The RSAA board is working hard to make this a celebration not to be forgotten. After 2 years of social distancing, zoom meetings and spending more time with your dog than your people, let's make this reunion an opportunity to reconnect with friends and classmates in person.

Accommodations: A limited number of dorm rooms will be available. Preference will be given to alumni from Classes 1982 and before. If you are from these classes and interested in reserving a room please reach out to the alumni office. Any surplus availability can be reserved with the submission of the reunion sign-up form next spring.

Camping on the ball field and surrounding area will be available. There is also a small walk-in town owned campground on South Shore Road which is open to the public.

Here is a list of other accommodations in the area: **Book early**, area rentals have become highly desirable during the summer months.

- Pack Basket Adventures; Wanakena NY 315 848-3488
- The Haven at Star Lake; 315-848-4089
- C&C Mountain Chalet; Star Lake NY 315-767-2121
- Shaheens Motel; Tupper Lake NY
- Faust Motel; Tupper Lake, NY 518 -359-0005
- Cranberry Lake Campground; 315-848-2315
- Dodge Pond; Fine, NY 315-848-2336
- <https://www.hometogo.com/star-lake/>
- <http://www.airbnb.com>
- <https://www.vrbo.com/vacation-rentals/usa/new-york/>
- <https://www.adkbyowner.com/>
- Campers Village Campsite; Cranberry Lake, NY 315-848-2501
- Lawrence Manor B&B and motel, Gouverneur, NY (315) 287-1640



Activities: We are putting together a schedule and plan to have some of the customary activities as well as adding some new ones. If you have any ideas please reach out to Beth and let her know! We welcome your suggestions!

RSAA Properties Manager's report — Mike Bushey



Greetings fellow alumni,

As I write this, I think back to the weekend I just spent at the campground (October 22-24). Even though it got down to 24 degrees Saturday night, it was worth it to be at our wonderful alumni property. The views of the river, the camaraderie around the bonfire, and the wonderful memories shared of our time at the Ranger School. If you haven't been up to camp at our campground or stayed at our Alumni House lately, I highly recommend it. Speaking of our Alumni House, we have some changes that you should all be aware of. Starting for the 2022 season, there will be a change in the price for staying at the Alumni House. We will no longer have a family rate and a group rate. Instead we will be going to a flat rate for all stays. The new rate is \$125 per night. Along with this new rate, we will no longer be charging a separate Covid cleaning fee for each stay. The new rate hike will cover this cost. As always, if you want to stay at the Alumni house, please fill out your Alumni House reservation request form. We'll try our best to get you the dates you want to stay there. If we have any open dates after we fill the requests, we'll post them on social media so keep watch. We would also like to thank all that stayed at the house and the campground. Your donations help cover the costs of upkeep, bills and taxes. If you stay at the campground, we ask that you please donate \$15 per night per site. There is a slot on the side of the garage where you can place your donations. Some basic rules for the use of the campground:

- The campground is a first come first serve facility. We don't make reservations for campsites.
- Quiet hours are from 10 pm to 7 am. Please be courteous of other campground users.
- The campground is a carry in, carry out facility. Please leave your campsite cleaner than you left it.
- The campground is for alumni use only. Guests must be accompanied by an alumni.
- Please return the canoes, paddles and life jackets back to the alumni garage after use.

Thank you for your support of our alumni association. We hope that you continue to enjoy the Alumni House and campground. If you have any questions or suggestions about our alumni property, feel free to email me at mrbushey@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,
Mike Bushey '94

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.

Ranger School Hockey!

The alumni game in March of 2020 was the last “normal” thing we did before our lives changed drastically for years to come. The following week, the Ranger School went into lockdown for the pandemic and you know the rest. With that being the culminating game, the class of 2020 played an entire season unaffected by Covid-19.

That certainly was not the case for the class of 2021. With the lack of a vaccination and all of the precautions that the different facilities were taking, we were having a hard time finding a rink to rent us ice. Finally, mid-semester, we secured some time at Cerow Recreation Park Arena in Clayton, NY.



Though, there were some challenges, we were happy to be skating. With all of the equipment signed out, participation was high. This was, of course, one of the few opportunities to get in a vehicle and leave campus, albeit, they were college vans. We drove to Clayton three times on Saturday nights during October and November.

Spring semester was looking more promising with a vaccine in sight and town support, however, when the Clifton-Fine figure skating program cancelled their 2021 season, the town folded and ceased ice making operations. The rest of the season never happened including the alumni game. The extent of the class of 2020’s hockey season was 3 skates in Clayton and one good day on the flow in early March (conditions prevented skating on the flow for most of the year).

Despite their struggles, the class was as pro-hockey as any other. They organized a jersey order for some particularly high-end jerseys as well. They will no doubt look good for this coming alumni game in March. Yes, you read that correctly. The alumni game is back! We will once again be playing at Tenny Ice Pavilion on Syracuse’s south campus from 1 to 3 pm on Saturday March 5th following Syracuse’s Covid-19 policy which can be found at www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/

This year’s class started playing in October at our usual location in Canton. We will see what the spring semester brings for local ice, but they will be ready for the pursuit of the famed **Bridgen Cup**.

Greg Vaverchak '02, RSHL Commissioner

Alumni Campground and James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest

Hiking the 50 Miler or visiting the area? The Alumni Campground is open! Sites are available on a first come first served basis. There's a slot on the side of the garage to leave donations for campsite use (we recommend \$15/night). Each campsite has a picnic table and potable water spigot. All trash/recycle is carry in carry out. There is an outhouse and porta potty available for campers use. There are canoes, paddles, and a limited number of life vests available for Alumni use on the right side of the Alumni Garage.

Although The Ranger School's campus buildings remain closed to the public, James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest is now open for visitors! Parking is available in the student parking area by the ballfield. Please don't block gates when parking. Also, no motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails or forest roads. The fire tower is open, 4



If you are doing the Cranberry 50 be sure to stop at Destination 50 in Wanakena!

News from the Finance Committee (Co-Chair Bruce E. Williams)

The finances of our RSAA appear to be in good. Thanks to the out going Interim Treasurer Scott Wilkinson and the NEW Treasurer Dan Wentworth.

The audit for '20 has been completed and the books are in good shape.

Dan did manage to submit a budget for '22 which was reviewed, adjusted, and approved by the BOD. The Quick Books program for tracking our income and expenses is in placed. The line items for this program will need to be adjusted to better show the income and expense breakdowns but Dan and myself will get this worked out prior to the start of the '22 fiscal year. Hopefully this will give our new Office Manager (Beth "Bitsy" Daut) more effective guidance for recording of donations and gifts.

Plans for the '22 Reunion are proceeding. I hope to see you all there. I hope to see you all there. As always, keep up the generous donations and support of the RSAA and our beloved Ranger School.

Archive Committee Report- (Co-Chair Bruce E. Williams)

The committee is striving to set up displays, pictures, and memories of the RSAA in and around the alumni house and grounds. Les Buel '61, has graciously been mounting and hanging pictures at various locations throughout the house. Planning on replacing current wall hangings with more recent Reunion pictures and RSAA historic displays. Attempting to update the collection of past Alumni News books available for browsing on shelves at house. Please don't bring your old books and leave them, we will ask for any years we are missing.

Plans for Legacy Rock name plates are underway. Any suggestions for alumni that should be honored are very much appreciated. They should have been strong supporters of the RSAA both by service and by having given generous financial donations. These don't have to be just from your own class but anyone you remember from other classes. The committee will review these names and take respectful action.



RS Alumni Hockey Game

Saturday, March 5th from 1 to 3 pm

Tennity Ice Pavilion

Keep an eye on Syracuse University's Covid-19 policies at www.syracuse.edu/staysafe/ for further guidance on expectations for participating. As of this writing (early November), they assure me that we can hold our game and invite alumni in to play

and spectate. If you have any questions about this event you can email the RSHL Commissioner at gmvaverc@esf.edu. As a final note, any alumni interested in playing need to supply their own equipment as the team supply has been exhausted by this year's class. See you in March.

A Review of the New RSAA website

www.nysrsaa.org

Greetings alumni,

Don't forget to visit our webpage at <https://www.nysrsaa.org/>. Here you can pay your dues online, write your

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



RSAA Mailing:
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

PERSONAL ADDRESS

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

FROM - TO -

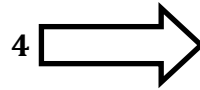
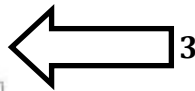
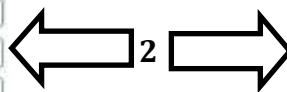
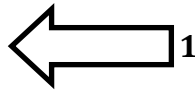
Would you like your address listed in the Alumni News? YES NO

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:

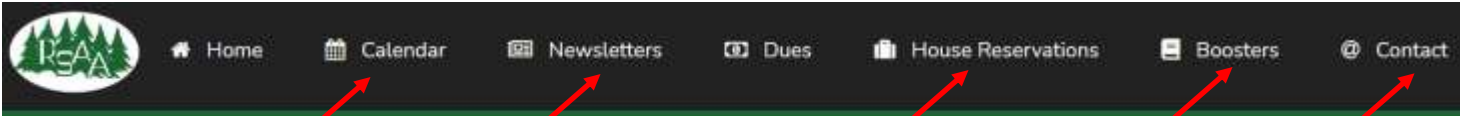
1. You MUST select whether you want you want to receive paper copies of the Newsletters and/or the Alumni News.
2. Be sure you have the correct class year! This is what your dues payment is based on.
3. Please select whether or not you want your address, phone number, and/or email listed in the Alumni 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".



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 to the RSAA at any time!



Use AmazonSmile when making purchases to help support the RSAA!



Read the most recent newsletter!



See the RSAA's webpage at Main Campus!



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



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



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

Interested in seeing your fellow Alumni?

Do you want to Zoom with your classmates and friends?

The cancelation of the 2020 and 201 reunions was a great disappointment for everyone. I know we all look forward to seeing each other every August. Luckily plans for Reunion 2022 are in the works! If you can't wait that long to see your Ranger School friends and classmates, how about a zoom meetup? 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.

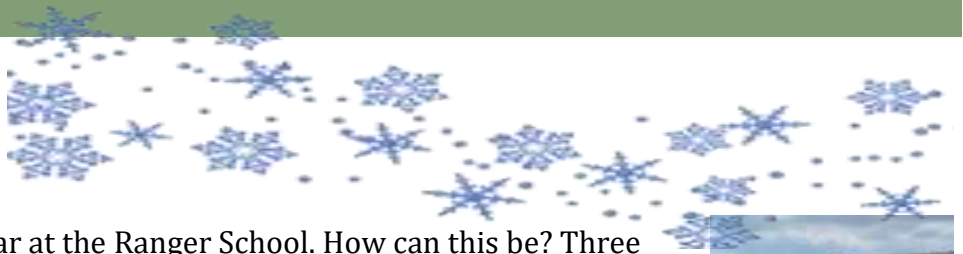
How about meeting up with Alumni in your area?

With Alumni scattered all over the country, and the world, there's bound to be someone in your area! Do you know the fellow graduate that lives just down the road? Would you be interested in meeting them?

The RSAA would be more than happy to facilitate that! Given enough interest we'd like to set up some mini Reunions for everyone to gather, share stories, and get to know their neighbors. This could be in someone's backyard, a favorite restaurant, local park, wherever! If you are interested in meeting up with fellow Alum in your area please let us know at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com. We'll see who else is in your area and get something set up for you!

30 Years and Counting

By James Savage



October 27, 2021 marked my 30th year at the Ranger School. How can this be? Three decades in the same place? Three decades in Wanakena?! It certainly doesn't feel like 30 have gone by. But if it has really been that long, it's probably as good as time as any to reflect a bit. For 30 years, I've been lucky to have one of the best jobs, to live and work in one of the most beautiful places, and to have worked with hundreds of awesome students. To some it may seem that the school has not changed much since its humble beginnings in 1912. But in my experience many things have changed, and many improvements have come to the school, even in just the last three decades.



I arrived in Wanakena in the fall of 1991 following an apparently successful 2-day interview which included a lecture to the students about 'forest stewardship' and forest management plans. The school had been hunting for 2 new faculty members that fall, due to the recent retirements of Kerm Remele and Chuck Martin. Dr. Michael Bridgen had been hired to start at the beginning of the spring semester, in January of 1992, but my initiation would come mid-way through the first semester for the Class of 1992. The class had the upper hand. They had already been in Wanakena for a couple of months, and they weren't planning to make it easy for the incoming rookie professors, neither of which had graduated from the Ranger School. They seemed to challenge everything that Mike and I said, did, and thought. It didn't help that my first assignment was to teach Aerial Photogrammetry, one of my weakest subjects. Things did get better, but not easier, during my second semester when I was able to teach to my strengths in 'structure and growth,' 'forest mensuration,' and 'forest recreation.'

During that first semester, I had the great pleasure of working with people like Wes Suhr and Diane Perry, who were both filling in while the college conducted their faculty search. Diane, a Ranger School grad, was the first woman to serve as a professor at the School and was teaching the first-semester mensuration (forest measurements) course. Wes, a former Ranger School prof, had come out of retirement to teach Dendrology. At the time, Chris Westbrook was a confident and energetic young faculty member who would be promoted to serve as Director just a few years later. The Director at the time, my first boss at the school, was Mr. Richard Miller. That guy had been at the school so long (at the time, 25 years seemed like a long stint), that he had developed his own kooky language, a 'rinky-dink' dialect that few understood but all were entertained by. Rounding out the teaching squad that year was the always congenial Kevin O'Neill. I will always have many fond memories of working with these fine people.

Not all the memories are happy ones. It's been sad to see some of my colleagues move on, or retire, or even pass on...to lose and attend funerals for former students who had their whole careers ahead of them...to see some Ranger School traditions (like axe sharpening, Reinhardt lettering, 2-chain tapes, and sanctioned keg parties) fade and disappear. Sad, indeed, but brighter news is never far away: another class-couple just got married, a former student just had her first baby, one former student just landed their dream job while another just finished graduate school, a promising, young faculty member was just hired, enrollment is up, the 1960s bathrooms WILL be renovated soon, I get to teach dendrology (I'm actually in my second year of teaching dendrology, which has quickly become one of my all-time favorites)!

I'll spare you the blow by blow of the full 30 years, but suffice it to say that each and every year has been challenging, enjoyable, memorable, and rewarding. Since my start in 1991, I've taught 13 different courses in nearly as many subject areas. I've had the honor and pleasure of working with 4 College Presidents, 1 interim President, 5 Department Chairs, and 4 Ranger School Directors, plus numerous faculty, visiting instructors, teaching assistants, and staff (clerical, custodial, kitchen, and facilities).

30 Years and Counting- Continued

And through all the teaching, service, and scholarship activities, I've had to adapt to constant change.

When I first came to the Ranger School, there was no internet (available to and useable by the public), no websites, no email, no GNSS/GPS (available for public use), no user-friendly versions of GIS, no smartphones or 'apps,' no color copiers, no laptop computers or tablets, no flash drives or external hard drives, no drones, no vans (we used 'cattle trucks' to haul the students around!), no fancy classrooms or dining hall, no fiber-optic cables, no distance-learning capabilities, no such thing as Zoom, no PowerPoint, no Blackboard, no social media sites like Facebook, no residence hall director (the faculty monitored the dorms during evenings AND weekends!), no Land Surveying program, no Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation program, no advisory committees, and no pandemics. You get the picture: many changes have occurred since I started teaching. But Ranger School faculty, staff, and students have successfully adapted to these changes and, moreover, have grown and improved as a result of them. In fact, enrollment is the highest it has been since I started, and jobs for our graduates are plentiful. And, thanks to many of you, we have a healthy endowment fund, something else that didn't exist when I first came to the school. The Ranger School could not have adapted, grown, and improved as it has without this important fund.

What will the next 30 years bring to the Ranger School? I don't plan to stay on quite that long to find out, but I do hope that the job is as dynamic, exciting, and rewarding for current and future faculty as it has been for me. To the administrators, faculty, staff, and students that I have worked with, thank you all for your support, for teaching me so much, and for being the most fantastic group of people that I could have ever hoped to work with. To 30 years, and all the years that ensue ~ Cheers!



Logging 2022



Logging 1922

<i>Ranger School Class of 2022 Demographics</i>			
	Men	Women	<i>Combined</i>
Forest Technology	19	4	23
ENRC	20	7	27
Land Surveying	4	0	4
TOTAL	43	11	54

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

2021 Haddock Award Recipient

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Ariane Tanski '09 is this year's Haddock Award recipient. Ariane has served as an active member of the RSAA Board of Directors and was President of the Association. She is currently serving as Past President of the Association but over the last few years she took a leading role to help steer the Association through turbulent times.

During the past two years, Ariane has been the glue that has held the RSAA together. This has been a challenging few years for the RSAA, and Ariane has been a steady and active leader who helped guide the RSSA through some difficult times. She has been the go-to person when questions arose, and decisions needed to be made. Ariane has developed strong and valuable working relationships with both the Ranger School and ESF Administrators.

She has been the leading force behind getting the Alumni Newsletters out and the Alumni News compiled. This has not been an easy task and yet Ariane has worked tirelessly on our behalf, and we are grateful for her sincere and unwavering dedication to our Association. Congratulations Ariane!

Award Criteria:

"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:

2021- Ariane Tanski '09

2020 - Debbie Caviness

2019—Michael H. Webb '74

2018—Arnie Lankton '53

2017—Michael Bridgen

2016—Lawrence Hawkins '55

Did you know that the ESF College Bookstore has Ranger School gear?

You can show off your Ranger School pride with a variety of merch., from hats, to long-sleeved shirts, decals, mugs, and even heavy duty Carhartts.

Come on in, or check out our online store at <https://esfbookstore.com/collections/ranger-school> so you can get your hands on the latest!



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
2019—The NYS Forest Rangers
2018—The Wanakena Historical Society
2017—Star Lake Fire Department



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 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.

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



The Ranger School Outing Club visited several mountain last fall, These well attended hikes included Noonmark, Cat, Hopkins and Ampersand. This picture was taken on Ampersand Mountain.

...gee, we never had time to hike when I went to the Ranger School, things were a lot tougher back then.

News from the Wanakena Historical Association

On August 21, 2021, the WHA sponsored two very special events:

The unveiling and dedication of the two-sided steel sign recognizing the 1912 founding of the Ranger School in Wanakena.

The opening and dedication of the new Wanakena History Center on Second Street.

Both of these events were well attended on a perfect warm sunny day in Wanakena.



Dedication of the Ranger School historic marker. RS Director Mariann Johnston and WHA President, Allen Ditch kneeling in front of sign.

The sign was possible through a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation. The sign is strategically placed on the corner of Second St and Ranger School Rd so that it can be seen by everyone entering Wanakena. The ceremony was led by WHA Trustee Paul Flynn with a presentation by Director Mariann Johnston who gave a memorable historical summary of how the Ranger School came to be, highlighting the significant roles of Wanakenan, J Otto Hamele and Hugh Baker, Dean of the School of Forestry at Syracuse University. Mariann recalled the similarities in the challenges of both the first Wanakena residents (relocated from Granere PA by Rich Lumber Co. in 1903) and the first students at the Ranger School in 1912-1914. As both groups arrived in Wanakena, they had to build their own residences and buildings in the Adirondack wilderness. The opening of the History Center resulted in accolades and surprise by some.



One corner of the Ranger School Room in the HC showing the timeline and student drafting

The varied exhibits on display include timelines of Wanakena and the Ranger School and displays of pictures, descriptions and artifacts of life in early Wanakena. Most visitors stayed to watch the 9 minute slide show of images about early town life in Wanakena. The displays on logging and the Ranger School also received high praise.

The WHA plans to have the History Center open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 4pm. Requests to visit at other times can be made by contacting one of the Trustees or emailing Wanakenaha@aol.com.

Visit the Wanakena Historical Association Facebook page or webpage www.wanakena.com/history-center for general information. Contact Kathy Greenwald (Class of 1979) at greenwald4@verizon.net for information about the Ranger School exhibit. We hope you will come and see the Wanakena History Center the next time you visit the Ranger School!

Allen Ditch, President
Wanakena Historical
Association



News From the Alumni Association Office

I graduated from Ranger School in 1982 The year spent at Ranger School was an important turning point in my world, as it has been for so many of our graduates. I have worked in the forestry profession pretty much since then.

During my professional career I have had the opportunity to assist the Alumni Association and Ranger School in a variety of capacities which have included serving on the RSAA Board for several years, taking a turn as President of the Alumni Association; working as instructional support for the school and most recently as an adjunct professor.

About a year and ½ ago my husband Dave and I moved to Wanakena. The Alumni Association was looking for a new office manager, and I expressed interest in assisting in this role. The Board of Directors determined I could fill the role of Office Manager while continuing to work in the forestry sector.

As many of you are already aware, several things have changed since Gail retired. Most relevant, the Office Manager position is now part time and as such there is often no one in the alumni office to answer your phone call. Please know this is not a lack of interest on my or the Alumni Association's part, rather an evolution of the position. No one will fill Gail's shoes; her strong relationship with so many alumni, her attention to detail. I will however do my best to answer your requests, respond to you comments and provide timely news updates on the goings-on of the association and school.

If you have a request, concern or comment, or if you just want to check in please leave your message on the phone (315-848-2566 ext. 2112), send an email (rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com) or jot down your thoughts and send them to PO Box 48. I will respond and look forward to the opportunity to connect with you.

Sincerely,
Beth (Bitsy) Daut
Class of '82



2022 ALUMNI NEWS BOOK

This is the beginning of the **2022 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.

_____ Whole page \$75 _____ 1/2 page \$40 _____ 1/4 page \$25 _____ one line listing \$15

Name: _____ Class: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Director's Report, November 2021

By Mariann Johnston, Director
November 15, 2022



Greetings from the Director's Office at the Ranger School. As you know, we are now well into the Fall semester. While other colleges have been struggling to maintain enrollment, we are hosting our largest class in several decades. We started with 67 students, and still have 64 enrolled. The last class that approached this size was the Class of 2016, with 63 students graduating. Students in the Class of 2022 are experiencing all of the normal pangs associated with stand typing, total stations, taping and pacing proficiencies, and the various projects bearing down at this time. The anxieties are mostly normal, but we are also reminded that the current group of students (mostly college sophomores) finished their senior year of high school, and in many cases their entire freshman year, remotely. They may have never been away from home before. This brings some new challenges such as having to learn time management skills, and learning how to interact (appropriately) with peers and teachers. As we move into the Spring semester, we look forward to continuing to build specialized field skills and developing career networks, including engaging with alumni when possible.

Moving into the Summer, we anticipate the Sustainable Resources Management Department students from Syracuse coming to the Ranger School for their 4-week summer program, starting on Memorial Day weekend as usual. We will also be hosting the DEC Forest Ranger Basic School (e.g. Ranger Academy) starting in late May. This will be a new experience for us and for the Rangers, but we look forward to hosting many of our alumni amongst both the new recruits and the Instructional staff. The Basic School will be held on campus through the first week in August, when they will head to Oriskany to spend a few weeks on some of the high-risk training (whitewater rescue, fast driving, etc.).

Around the time the Rangers leave, we will be looking forward to hosting the 2022 Alumni Reunion, as long as COVID continues to decline. We are doing everything in our power to ensure a safe in-person event. Your RSAA officers are working hard to organize and prepare for this event, already less than a year away. Food plans are being made, and activities discussed. You are highly encouraged to start considering your lodging arrangements now, as we anticipate a large attendance. The Reunion Committee will be providing more information.

I'll wrap up with the news that we are finally moving forward on our long-awaited auxiliary building. We have contracted an architectural firm to develop renderings the new multi-use space. This will include a gymnasium that can be converted to an auditorium by the use of expanding bleachers, so that we may hold our graduation ceremonies on campus. It will include locker rooms, showers, and storage for our hockey equipment, balls, field games, and other recreational equipment. We hope to also incorporate a small residential center with suites and additional classrooms, that will allow for visiting groups to hold small meetings, or for married student housing, visitors, and the like. Once we have the renderings in place, I anticipate a capital campaign will likely be launched, to help fund this new building and allow us to grow what we do so well. As always, I think all of you for your continued support of the Ranger School and our students. Please don't hesitate to reach out with your thoughts and ideas.



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!

If you have time and interest in assisting the Alumni Association please reach out to any of the active board members, or Beth at the Alumni office. We are only as good as our volunteers, and boy are we good!..and by the way, here are the folks that currently represent you. A great group spanning several years ~

Officers		Class of	
Chris	Westbrook	1973	President
Chris	Tcimpidis	1993	Vice President
Michael	Bushey	1994	Properties Manager
Bob	Diehl	1997	Secretary
Dan	Wentworth	1982	Treasurer
Ariane	Tanski	2009	Past President

Members At Large					
Lee	Berry	1968	Gregory	Vaverchak	2002
Robert	Cole	2004	Steven	Whalen	1971
Dylan	Haines	2013	Edwin	White	1959
Frank	Morehouse	2004	Bruce	Williams	1976
Michael	Rozeski	1990	Ellen	Wright	2010
Rob	Snyder	1997	Scott	Wilkinson	2002

Are you current on your dues?

Haven't paid your dues? You can still do so on our new website at www.nysrsaa.org If you would prefer a paper copy, please let us know at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com or by leaving a message at 315-848-2566 ext 2112.

Even if you are a life member, we appreciate you taking the time to fill out the 2022 information sheet. This lets us be sure we have the most current contact information for you.

Meet the Ranger School's newest Staff

Ranger School's new Assistant Professor, Jeff Dubis (Class of 1989) with the Student Outing club on Cat Mountain.



Instructional Support Assistant
Emily Reichert (Class of 2021)



Instructional Support Assistant
Abby Cordes (Class of 2018)

In Closing....A view of the Set Back



Where do you measure dbh on that one!

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN 2022