

Ranger School Alumni Association

Fall-Winter 2023

RSAA Alumni President's Report

I am honored to be serving as the President of the Ranger School Alumni Association, your President of your Association. As you may know our former President, Chris Tcimpidis had a major career change and took a job in Alaska. He found trying to handle the duties of President from Alaska just was not working. I offered to step up and the Board of Directors, in August, appointed me to fill out Chris's unexpired term.

For those of you who don't know me, a little background. I graduated from the RS in 1976 and I have been a member of the RSAA since then. I had a 40 year career with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation retiring in 2019. I have served as a member of the RSAA Board and in

a number of officer positions over the years. My goal over the next two years for my term is simply "To do no harm". The last two or three years have been difficult for everyone as well as the RSAA. There are a number of people who deserve our thanks for keeping the Association solvent and going in the proper direction. The Officers: Chris Westbrook, Chris Tcimpidis, Jerry Butler, Bob Diehl, and Dan Wentworth. The members of the Board: Lee Berry, Chuck Carline, Montana Cassava, Greg De LaFleur, Caren Donovan, Michael Rozeski, John Scanlon, Gregory Vaverchak, Steven Whalen, Bruce Williams, Ellen Wright, Scott Wilkinson, Frank Morehouse, Edwin White, Rob Snyder, Bob Brower, and Noah Hern. Lastly but by far not the

least our Office Manager Beth Daut, who has retired from the position effective 8/4. Beth thank you for all you did to keep "the train on the tracks". I intend to continue the good work that all these folks have done.

My challenge to you all: If you have ideas let us know; If you want to help get involved; Join a committee; Become a Board member or Officer; Attend the Reunion; Encourage a student to attend the RS; and Make a donation to the RS or the RSAA or both.

As we approach the Holiday Season I wish you and your loved ones a hale, happy, healthy, and prosperous year to come
-Tom Martin, 1976-

The Cultural Arts Committee of the Clifton Fine Economic Development Corporation

Greetings fellow Alumni!

Since 2017 (excluding the summer of 2020) it has been a priority to organize a Summer Series concert at Z-Park in "downtown" Wanakena held in-conjunction with Friday night of Ranger School Alumni Weekend.

The rain-or-shine event draws a robust crowd of Ranger School alumni and locals alike. Previous Alumni Weekend Friday night performances are as follows: Delaney Brothers Bluegrass in 2017, Great South Woods String Band (R. Kovacs RS '76) in 2018, Planet Zydeco in 2019, Jocomo (D. Macks RS '76) in 2021,

Misty Blues in 2022 and Slambovian Circus of Dreams in 2023. Sometimes the bands are local, sometimes not - either way, the quality of performance is top notch.



The planning process for the 2024 Concert Series has begun. Wanakena Summer Concerts are

entirely donation and volunteer driven. Your kind donations keep this music series alive and the shows free and open to all. If so inclined: Mail checks to :

PO Box 115,
Wanakena, NY 13695.

Write Cultural Arts in the memo. For more information visit the website:
<https://cliftonfinearts.blogspot.com>.

Hope to see you at the Alumni Weekend concert 7pm Friday, August 3rd 2024.
-Dave Ziembra, 1989 -

Director's Report

Greetings from the Director's Office at the Ranger School! The first snow has fallen in Wanakena, and while it isn't sticking around too much yet, the chill is in the air. Students are bundling up as they finish up the Ecology Stand Type Mapping project, which now encompasses the approximately 140 acre area known as 'The Big Fish' – encompassed by Toboggan Hill Road, Reservoir Road, and Cathedral Rock Road. This area mostly contains Eskar Pond (and associated balsam fir and black spruce swamps) and softwood plantations established by various classes over the years, but there is a swath in the upper northwestern corner of the unit that consists of hardwood regeneration following the 1995 microburst. So a nice assortment of fire cherry, gray birch, red maple, and other assorted species. Students are also working on their first timber cruise in Jeff Dubis' Measurements class, and working on identifying species based on twigs and bark along for Jamie Savage's Dendrology course.

We've had a very nice Fall semester, both weather-wise and with a return to some of our "normal" pre-pandemic activities. We held our first Etiquette Dinner since 2019, with thirteen invited guests who hosted tables of 3-4

Ranger School students each. Served in the cafeteria, faculty are table servers for this seated, three-course meal. This event gives us an opportunity to start talking about networking and interactions in settings such as at professional meetings or during job interviews.

We also hosted a very successful professional development series during the first 6 weeks of the Fall semester, which included invited guests from different career fields every Friday. This allowed us to introduce a variety of career pathways and options to students, particularly to help those who aren't sure of their degree program with some considerations to help in that decision. We had some great visits from representatives in tree care, forest consulting, soil and water conservation, wildlife technicians, GIS specialists, land surveying (including some nice drone demos!), utility forestry, and more. By the October 1 'decision day,' we had the following numbers enrolled in our three programs: Forest Technology 16, Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation 18, and Land Surveying Technology 15 – our biggest enrollment yet in the LST program! And 49 students in total.

One of our biggest challenges is continuing to stay abreast of current technologies. This fall, we made a significant investment in 10 brand new total stations – plus data collectors and batteries - from Carlson. We were able to negotiate a great deal on these units, which puts us in great shape for both the general Intro to Land Surveying course, and most notably with the Spring semester program-specific courses, which is critical given the big increase in LST numbers. Every year we do try to invest in new equipment for academic programs. Recent examples include new GPS units, audio recorders to monitor and identify bats and amphibians, trail cameras, chainsaw-related equipment, and the like. Your donations to the Ranger School Endowment fund is a tremendous value here, as this account builds interest that provides revenue every year to help purchase this academic equipment, in addition to supporting student scholarships. So as we move into the Thanksgiving season, I sincerely thank all of you for your continued support of the Ranger School programs, and especially your support of the Ranger School Endowment. I wish you the very best in the upcoming holiday season!

-Mariann Johnston, Director-

Save the Date– Alumni Hockey Game

The annual alumni game has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 2nd from 4 to 6 pm** at the Tennity Ice Pavilion in Syracuse. The pressure is on for the class of 2024 following last year's class victory. Come and play or show your support at the culminating event of another successful Ranger School hockey season. Questions can be directed to the RSHL commissioner, Greg Vaverchak at gmvaverc@esf.edu



Amelia McKenna gets warmed up.



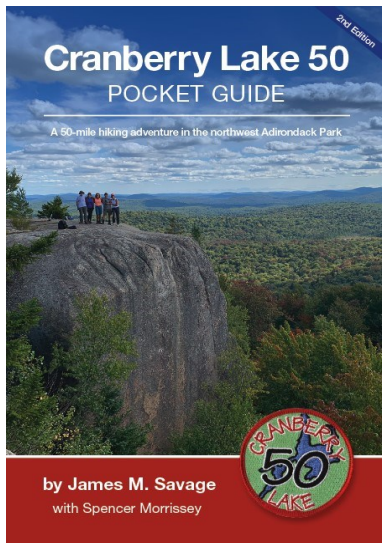
Aiden Siford in the crease.



Blue team crashing the net.

Recreation Update: New Guidebook, New Blinds, and Lean-to Improvements

Thanks to the continuing efforts of faculty, staff, students, and alumni, the forest/nature recreation resources on the James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest continue to expand and improve. In last year's recreation update, I described the current recreation resources on the James F. Dubuar Memorial Forest. For this update, I'd like to highlight three recent and ongoing projects.



In September of this year, the second edition of the *Cranberry Lake 50 Pocket Guide* was released. This comprehensive guidebook to the Cranberry Lake 50 hiking trail was first released in 2020. The book has been well received, with over 1,000 copies sold to date. It is available through several vendors, including the ESF Bookstore, Otto's Abode in Wanakena, Hoss's Country Corner in Long Lake, and The Mountaineer in Keene Valley, NY. Although I authored the book, Spencer Morrissey (RS Class of 2010) helped significantly with the

field work and by providing content ideas and photos (Spencer is the author of *The Other 54* and a regular contributor to Adirondack magazines and newspapers. "The Other 54" combined with the 46 High Peaks make up the Adirondack's highest 100 mountains). The new edition of the pocket guide includes updated trail and campsite information, new photos, and an updated listing of local businesses and their services.

The new wildlife blinds mentioned in the last Recreation Update have become a reality! The blinds were constructed by students from the Class of 2023 under the guidance of Associate Professor Jeff Dubis and Facilities Supervisor Eric Wixon. Finishing touches were just recently made to the blinds by visiting members of the ESF Forestry Club, all of whom graduated from the Ranger School in 2023 (btw, The current President of the club is Allyson Henson, RS Class of 2022). One blind sits on the northern shore of The Setback, just off the Setback Trail (RS Trail #16). The other one sits on the northern shore of the Oswegatchie River, just off the Peavine Swamp Trail (RS Trail #1). Both offer exceptional wildlife viewing and photography opportunities.

The third project, started this fall, involves the Hayes Brook lean-to. The Adirondack-style, log lean-to is perched above scenic Hayes Brook in a grove of red pine trees. It was built by the classes of 1997, 1998, and 1999 as part of my 'forest



recreation' class (which has gone by various names in the ensuing years). The wood-shingle roof that we installed about 25 years ago now needs to be replaced. This month, as part of an ESF/RS Forestry Club volunteer workday, we began acquiring and staging materials for the anticipated roof replacement in the spring of 2024. While we were at it, we relocated and rebuilt the stone fireplace, cleared and leveled the site in front of the lean-to, re-chinked the logs with oakum, and made improvements to the trail (RS Trail #21) that leads to the lean-to. I must say, it was very uplifting to see current students and recent alums working together for the benefit of future students.

Once again, a huge THANK YOU to those who have assisted with these projects and, in turn, with the efforts to improve campus and community life for current and future students, staff, faculty, alumni, and local residents. Ranger School students are the best!

- Jaimie Savage— Professor

Interested In Seeing Your Fellow Alumni?



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! 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!

Properties and Projects Update

Greetings Alumni,

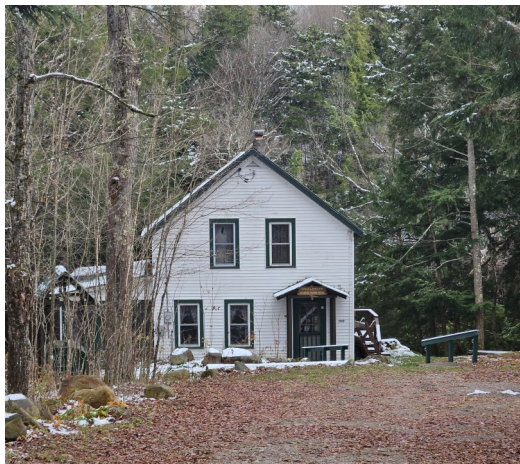
Another summer season has come and passed. The alumni house and campgrounds saw record usage this year. The alumni house was rented beginning on 30 May until 24 October and the campgrounds had regular visitors.

The alumni house was closed up for the year on 27 October. Several weeks later than usual due to requested rentals. I would like to thank the following people that volunteered to help me with this: Bruce Williams '76, Tim Dinse '76, Steve Whalen '71, Bob Brower '78

This process takes some time and I would welcome anyone that would like to participate. I especially would like to invite any alumni that are currently not on Medicare or collecting Social Security! If you currently have your original knee and/or hip joints, that is a plus. We had a great crew, a lot of laughs and enjoyed a delicious lunch of grilled cheese and tomato soup prepared by Bob Brower!

Some changes you will notice next year is the increased signage entering the property. These signs will be a reminder for alumni using the campgrounds to deposit the user fee in the slot on the garage or to utilize Venmo, or similar app to pay. In the past some users have not paid the fee of \$15 per night.

The campground taxes were \$2,457.21, porta-potty services are \$640 and the user fees collected were \$704. We had a loss of \$2,393.20 for the year on the campground. The signs will be a reminder to pay the fee and hopefully make it more convenient to do so.



The alumni house had a net profit of \$4,209.65 as of 1 November 2023. Rental Income \$12,500.00 Taxes/cleaning/repairs/insurance/utilities etc. \$8,290.35

If you have any suggestions for updates or repairs, please let me or the board be aware.

The process for renting the alumni house remains the same. Also, you must have paid your yearly alumni dues if you plan on using the house or campgrounds.

A reminder for alumni using the house and camping:

-Please take your recyclables with you. There are two recycle centers in Star Lake for your convenience. If you don't, someone else will have to.

-Please do not leave behind anything you might think someone else will enjoy. Those items are usually thrown out in the fall. i.e. water toys, one of the 8 brooms, and used lawn chairs.

-Please take your trash with you or put it in the dumpster by the maintenance building on campus.

-Do not plug in EV vehicles. There is an EV station by the General Store in Wanakena.

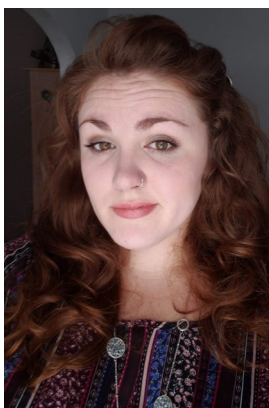
The alumni house is professionally cleaned after each renter. But I am told the house is usually left in great shape. Thank you.

As we look forward, the opening of the alumni house and campgrounds will be in late April 2024. We welcome any alumni to help with this process. There's always a campfire going and lots to do.

Enjoy the winter!

- Jerry Butler, 2005-

Meet the New Office Manager



Hello! My name is Samantha MacDonald. And I am happy to announce that I am the new RSAA Office Manager.!

I live in Newton Falls with my husband Lorne and 2 year old son Wesley along with our menagerie of misfit pets. We purchased our home there in 2018 but I have lived in the area since 2006.

When I am not here in the office, I am working at the Newton Falls Post Office as the Post Master Relief. I have worked for the USPS for the past 7 years, working in many offices such as Carthage, Tupper Lake, Lake Placid, and everywhere in between as a traveling clerk.

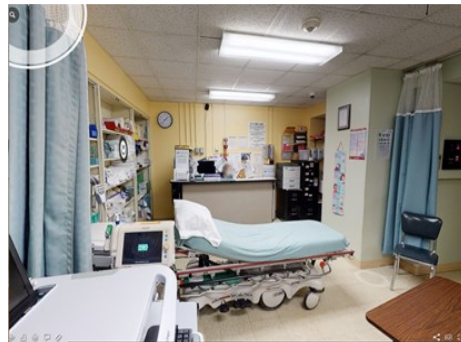
I look forward to working with and along side all of you.

Clifton-Fine Hospital- Emergency Room

Clifton-Fine Hospital is well on its way to building a new state-of-the-art Emergency Department to better serve our community. The Emergency Room upgrade will truly be transformational.



Present:



The whole project will run around \$23,000,000 and we are pleased and grateful to report that NYS has recognized this project is transformational and will provide \$21,640,000 in two grants. The St. Lawrence County IDA will provide \$300,000 and we thank Larry Denesha

and Mark Hall for their efforts on our behalf. Additionally, a big thank you to the Town of Fine for providing a generous donation of \$75,000.

This newly constructed Emergency Department (ED) will feature construction of 3 Patient Exam Rooms, 1 Trauma Room, Secure Main Entrance, Separate Ambulance Entrance, Separate Decontamination Entrance, Private Registration Entry, Private Waiting Areas, Laboratory Draw Chair, Airborne Infection Isolation, On Demand Negative Pressure (needed for respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19), Infant Resuscitation Area, Updated Imaging Services, Telemedicine Room.



Future:



What this means is you will have private patient spaces - no more curtain dividers - and safe space to breath without fear of contamination from other patients. All the equipment will be upgraded. Your experience of Emergency Services will be modern, private and safe

Beginning in spring 2024, the approximate eighteen-month construction project timeline will support the construction of a new Emergency Department, and renovation of existing space to relocate laboratory, pharmacy, and out-patient physical/occupational therapy service lines.

We have enough funding to construct the new Emergency Services wing and pay for some equipment. The funding in hand will not cover the entire cost of essential life saving equipment. We must raise \$1,000,000 from our community to purchase imaging and unsupported outdated radiology equipment.

This effort will be successful if our entire community understands, endorses and supports this critical transformation. We will continue to share our good news and we encourage community groups to invite us to share the details of this project

The Ranger School Etiquette Dinner is Back!



On Thursday, November 2nd, the Ranger School class of 2024 participated in an etiquette dinner designed to simulate a meal with a prospective employer. This event started over a decade ago but was postponed during covid, so it was very nice to get it going again. 14 professionals, from representative career fields, joined the students for a "fine" dining experience, serving as "heads-of-tables". Earlier in the week, students were taught what the expectation is, in this type of setting. The meal is time for them to practice. It is a three course, prime rib dinner served by the faculty. Although this is not a real job interview, it has always been well received by both the students and the professionals. It is another opportunity to build the skills and confidence of the class along with introducing them to industry representatives.

-Greg Vaverchak, 2002

From the Archives:

Trappers and Guides—Two 1916 Classmates

As tourism in the Adirondacks grew in the early 1900s, so did the demand for hunting and fishing guides. Many guides were also skilled trappers. With the



Lansing's NYS Guide Badge



Lansing's Camp

loss of jobs after the Rich Lumber Company moved out of Wanakena in 1912, and during the Great Depression (1929 - 1941), trapping wildlife was an important source of fur trade income and food for residents.

Early Adirondack guides earned a living by taking wealthy gentlemen (called "sports") from the big cities on hunting or fishing trips for a fee of \$3.00 per day. They were respected by their clients as skilled woodsmen and were often expert trappers, fishermen, and hunters. They knew the local trails and the best fishing holes and hunting grounds. After a hunt, a guide would dress the deer carcass in the woods and carry it back to camp. They were often known as good cooks and entertaining storytellers too.

Some guides were employed by hotels or private clubs, while others worked for themselves at camps they built in the woods or from their homes in town where they rented out rooms. Early Clifton-Fine area guides included Stephen Ward, George Nunn, Webster Partlow, Wilfred Morrison, Philo Scott, Bert Dobson, and Herbert Keith.

Starting in the 1920s, Robert Lansing and Ward Stoltz, both from the Ranger School Class of 1916, worked as independent trappers and guides in Wanakena.



Robert "Skip" Lansing

Robert Lansing's diary describes moving back to Wanakena in 1922 to raise silver foxes for pelts and building up the number on his "ranch" to eighty foxes. He noted that, at the time, furbearers including raccoon, mink, red fox, beaver, muskrat, weasel, and otter were plentiful in the woods for trapping and the conditions in the Cranberry Lake watershed were ideal for catching large trout. To earn extra income, he and his wife, Margaret, rented out rooms in their Wanakena home on Front Street to vacationers, fishermen, and hunters. Lansing was a trapper, hunter, and licensed guide. In the fall, he guided sports into the woods to go deer hunting. He set up a camp that consisted of four canvas Army tents – one where he, another guide, and the cook slept, two tents that could accommodate a total of twelve sports, and a



Class of 1916

large tent for cooking and dining. The sleeping tents had stoves, blankets, and comfortable mattresses made of chicken netting with a layer of balsam fir boughs. Lansing had to leave Wanakena during the Great Depression to find other work. He moved to other states and worked a variety of jobs to support his family, but Wanakena was always home to him, and he returned in 1944.

Lansing's classmate, Ward Stoltz, worked construction along with hunting, fishing, and guiding in Wanakena as reported in the Ranger School Alumni News in the 1930s and 1940s. These two 1916 graduates put the woodsmen skills they learned at the Ranger School to beneficial use as they independently worked as trappers and guides in Wanakena to help support their families.

-Kathy Greenwald, 1979-

Student Wildlife Blinds

Each year, the graduating class at the Ranger School purchases a class gift to leave to the Ranger School as part of their legacy to the school. Through the years, gifts have included such things as fire rings, benches, swings, artwork, and solar lighting for the flagpole in front of the school. The class of 2023 continued this tradition but with a bit of a twist. Rather than purchasing a gift, the class built their gift which consisted of two wildlife viewing blinds.



Lindsay, Caleb and Haley testing out the unfinished blinds

Jeff Dubis, who serves as the faculty advisor for Student Government provided oversight for the construction and placement of the two blinds. Lumber, roofing materials, and paint were purchased using funds from Student Government.

During labs associated with Mr. Savage's Recreation and Leadership courses, several

students assisted in the construction of the blinds. Eric Wixon who is the Maintenance Supervisor at the school provided his personal power tools and took time out of his busy day to provide instruction to the students on how to frame the 4'x6' structures. Without his instruction, it is doubtful the structures would survive their first Adirondack winter.



Caleb Hoernig, Hailey Hickok, and Lindsay Feather work on framing one of the two wildlife blinds.

Each blind was partially constructed on campus. With the help of some Ranger School Alumni during a weekend work session shortly before graduation, students moved the blinds into place and completed most of the assembly.

Final construction, which consisted of adding the floors and benches, was completed by now alumni of the class of 2023 who returned to participate in a combined Ranger

School/ESF Forestry Club workday held in early November.



Class of 2023 members Lindsay Feather and Haley Hickok working on assembly of the two blinds during Forest Recreation lab during this past spring semester.

The blinds, one located just a short distance from the Ranger School along the Peavine Swamp trail, and the second along the back side of the Setback, are now available for both current students and alumni for wildlife viewing.

The blind next to the campus will be accessible to all. It is a very short, easy walk from campus, and it was designed to accommodate a wheelchair once the trail leading to it receives improvements next spring.

-Jeff Dubis, Professor-

Class of 2024—On Their Way!



Davey Tree Experts Visits the Ranger School

On September 27th and 28th, the Davey Tree Expert Company visited the Ranger School to participate in communications and safety lab. They brought with them a Vermeer BC1500 chipper and chip truck to discuss chipper use and safety. In addition, they demonstrated hazard tree removal and large tree punning. All the



Brett Powenski *right*, Tree Care Foreman- Buffalo (RS '00) explains bucket controls to students.

technical climbing was performed by tree care foreman, Nate Robson (RS 2017). Following, the students got the opportunity to try their hand at climbing with all the gear to safely get up a tree without the use of spikes (which damage the tree).

The lab was such a success, Davey brought back a bucket truck and plant health care spray truck on October 24th to get the students exposed to that equipment as well.

John Davey, deemed *the father of tree care*, started his company under the premise that “you do it right, or not at all”. It is no wonder that, over the years, there have been many graduates that go on to work for Davey and have successful careers in arboriculture.



RS alumni from left to right: Nate Robson, Tree Care Foreman- Rochester (RS 2017), Cristina Krouse, Plant Health Care Technician - Rochester (RS 2020), Josh Rung, Tree Trimmer- Buffalo (RS 2021), Shane Mensing, Sales Arborist- Albany (RS 2021), Brian Bushey, Tree Trimmer- Albany (RS 2022), and Professor Greg Vaverchak (RS '02)

Greg Vaverchak, 2002-

What's Happening in 2024?



January 1— Happy New Year!
Beginning of 2024 RSAA Dues

January 20th—RSAA Board Meeting

March 2nd—Student vs Alumni Hockey Tournament

March 29th—Alumni House Reservation Sheets MUST Be In

April 1st—RSAA Award Nominations Must Be In

April 2nd—5th— Alumni House Reservation Notifications Go Out

After April 15th—Contact RSAA Office About Alumni House Availability.

April 27th and 28th—Spring Clean Up At The Alumni House

May 1st—Alumni Information Sheets Due

May 18th— Ranger School Graduation

August 2nd and 3rd—Alumni Reunion Weekend!

Are you current on your dues?

If you haven't paid your dues, you can do so on our website at www.nysrsaa.org or by filling out the enclosed Information Sheet.

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

Dues paying members receive the annual Alumni News, can make reservations for the Spaulding Memorial Alumni House, and pay lower Alumni Reunion registration fees!

AND REMEMBER— IF YOU WANT YOUR NEWS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2024 ALUMNI NEWS BOOK IT MUST BE RECEIVED IN TO THE ALUMNI OFFICE BY MAY 1.

Report from Alumni Engagement Committee

Over the last several years the Ranger School Alumni Association (RSAA) has faced many challenges. During that time, it was observed that alumni involvement in the RSAA declined significantly. The number of dues paying alumni decreased, the Alumni News has shrunk in size due to a low number of submissions and participation at our annual reunions has seen the lowest numbers in several decades. Also of concern is that we seem to have very few alumni from more recent classes staying in touch with the RSAA.

At the April 2023 RSAA Board of Director's meeting these concerns were discussed, and it was decided to form the Alumni Engagement Committee to address this important topic. Since that time, the committee has been actively addressing these issues and is developing a variety of strategies to improve the current situation.

In an attempt to reach out to our alumni, we have begun to plan receptions to be held around the state. Our first RSAA and Ranger School reception was held at the Parting Glass in Saratoga Springs on November 15th. Over 65 people including alumni from a wide range of class years, Ranger School faculty and staff, and family and friends gathered for an evening of conversation, renewing of

friendships, and updates on activities at the Ranger School and the RSAA. It was particularly impressive to see how many different classes between the class years of 1961 to 2023 were represented. Informative presentations were made by Tom Martin '76, RSAA President, Dr. Mariann Johnston, Ranger School Director, and David Ciesielski from the ESF Development Office.



Tim Bliss '73 and Chris Westbrook '73 at the reception in Saratoga Springs

This event was sponsored by the RSAA, the Ranger School and a very generous financial gift from MJ Engineering and Land Surveying. We thank these sponsors for their support of this event.

Given the success of the Saratoga Springs reception, we will move forward with events in other parts of the state and hopefully select areas of neighboring states. Plans are just beginning for a reception in Syracuse

in conjunction with the annual Ranger School Student/Alumni Hockey Game on March 2, 2024.

Please let us know if you or your firm would be interested in providing financial support for future Alumni events. Support for these events will help us hold events in more communities.

The Alumni Engagement Committee is also looking at a number of other initiatives to help keep alumni involved with and supportive of the RSAA and the Ranger School. If you have any ideas as to how we, as an association, can better serve our alumni and increase participation in our activities, please share these ideas with us.

Finally, the Alumni Engagement Committee would like to encourage you to fill out your information sheet and pay your 2024 dues. Your support helps to keep the RSAA a viable organization to serve its members and the Ranger School!

- Chris Westbrook, 1973, Chair-

Looking for Alumni Merchandise?



You can get everything from t-shirts, hats, hoodies, even water tumblers and coffee mugs. At our online [Spreadshirt](https://www.spreadshirt.com/shop/user/ranger+school+alumni+association/) store:

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

Or find the link on our Alumni webpage.

Belt buckles, stickers, lapel pins are available through the RSAA office.

Email rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com for more information.

Have an Idea for RSAA merchandise? Let us know!

Surveying at the Ranger School:

Looking to the Future, Traversing Forward With High Precision!

Over the past several years, the Land Surveying Technology (LST) degree program at the Ranger School has undergone some significant and exciting changes. Following the retirement of the legendary, long time surveying instructor, Michael Webb, PLS (RS '74) in 2019, The Ranger School hired me, Jeremy Thompson, PLS (RS '97) to take the helm for the LST program. Attempting to fill such large shoes has been challenging to say the least, but in true surveying fashion I am trying to "follow in the footsteps" of my predecessors.



Teaching at the Ranger School is both an honor and a truly humble experience. To understand where we are now, it is helpful to have perspective and history. To say that the Ranger School has changed since I left it as a student on May 23, 1997, would be an understatement. The Ranger School now offers three degrees, including the original Forest Technology (FT) degree, which is accredited by the SAF, the Land Surveying Technology degree, which is accredited by ABET, and the newest program, Environmental Natural Resources Conservation (ENRC). Since its creation, the ENRC program has been popular and has seen success with high enrollment, while the FT program has been somewhat steady, and

prior to the Fall of 2023 (a little foreshadowing) the LST program had been somewhat lagging with students. Along with the additional degree programs, there are many new faces, since 1997, at school for Faculty and Staff, so many in fact, that it is easier to name the two old guards that are still around, Jamie Savage and Robert Fleming (RS '96).



So now back to the purpose of this article; the current state of the LST program at the Ranger School. The Class of 2024 came in with a BANG with an astonishing fifteen students enrolled in the LST program. When the realization of this record enrollment set in, we started thinking about potential limitations we may have. It is no secret that surveying equipment is expensive, and to be honest, when I started teaching in 2019, we were still using some of the same equipment that had been around since I was a student. Now, while this is a testament of the hard work and diligence that Rob Fleming puts into teaching the students about the importance of cleaning and maintaining the equipment, it was still abundantly clear that we would need some upgrades. So, with the support of the administration I sent out an RFP for some new equipment. The result of this request was the purchase of ten new Geomax Zoom 10 Manual

Total Stations with two batteries each, and ten new Carlson RT4 Field Data Collectors loaded with Carlson SurvPC software, and related accessories. The purchase of this equipment came with industry-leading support from Carlson Software Inc. Carlson has been, and continues to be, a supporter of the Ranger School by providing industry-leading software for our computer lab. This ensures that our students are adequately prepared for the future by exposing them to the latest and greatest manual total stations, data collectors, and innovative surveying software.



Since stepping into the teaching role at the Ranger School I have learned a lot about myself, including that I still have much to learn. Surveying is not teaching, and teaching is not surveying, yet somewhere in the middle I must meet. I am confident that with the support of my colleagues and our amazing alumni, that I, and the LST program (and all the programs) at the Ranger School will have success for the foreseeable future.

Yours truly,

Jeremy Thompson, PLS (RS '97)

RSAA Awards

Please take a minute to fill in your nominations and reasons for choices for both these awards on page 3 of the 2024 information sheet.

Philip J. Haddock Award for Excellence– 2023

“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 long-term commitment to the School and/or the RSAA or for alumni in general.”



creating a space for me on campus when I wasn't sure I had one, and encouraging me to never shy away from who I was because I deserved to be there as much as anyone else and was worthy of becoming a Ranger School alumni who would take pride in that accomplishment.” - Heidy Davis '94

“I think that Sue exemplifies the spirit of the Philip J. Haddock award. As an alumni she has consistently fostered connections between members, helped students navigate life in a small town, and has volunteered in countless ways over the years at alumni weekend, alumni cleanups, etc. She has been an integral part of the alumni community and in fostering relationships between members and their families .” - Claire Radford '12

Congratulations Sue on being the 2023 recipient of the RSAA Haddock Award!

Past Recipients

2022—Dr. David Newman

2021—Ariane Tanski '09

2020—Debbie Caviness

2019—Michael Webb '74

2018– Arnie Lanckton '53

It is with great pleasure that we announce Sue Westbrook '82 as the recipient of the 2023 Haddock Award. Here are some of the remarks made in the nominations:

“I believe all who know Sue, know she gave her all to make sure the school was a great place for a student to get an excellent education and that Alumni were always welcome back to the campus.” -Chris Westbrook '73

“...there is no way I could ever thank her enough for

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. 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 who have combined efforts have gone beyond the norm to have a positive lasting influence on the Ranger School.

This years award went to the Ranger School Class of 1982. The members of '82 have provided support and leadership to both the Ranger School and the Ranger School Alumni Association in many significant ways. They have served in leadership and support capacities with the RSAA, provided financial support to both the Ranger School and the Alumni Association.

Past Recipients

2022—Ranger School Food Service

2020—The Clifton Fine Arena

2019—The NYS Forest Rangers

2018—The Wanakena Historical Society

Keep in touch with your fellow Alumni!

NYS Ranger School Alumni Association, Inc.

nysrsaa.org

RSAA website through SUNY ESF:

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

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Ranger School:

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

Main Campus SUNY ESF Alumni:

<https://www.esf.edu/alumni/>

Ranger School Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rangerschool/collections>



2024 Alumni News Book

This is the beginning of the 2024 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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