

# THE TRAIL MARKER

January-February-March Issue 2021

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## **Re-Cap of 2020 at Camp Nawakwa**

March 2020 saw the COVID-19 lockdown blanket the country, putting a halt to most activities. In Harriman State Park, the Group Camp Office announced that camps in the park would not be opening for the season. The parking lots at Anthony Wayne were closed to hikers and taken over as COVID-19 testing areas. Exits off the Palisades Parkway were closed, as were some park roads.

Thanks to efforts led by Don Gabel, Camp Committee Chair, and Teri Gabel, Board Vice-Chair, a plan was developed that would follow COVID-19 protocols and possibly allow Camp Nawakwa to be used for the season. The Board approved the plan, presented it to the Park, and the Park accepted it. Nawakwa could be used on a limited basis for maintenance work and small group attendance.

Don and Teri and the Board, adhering to the protocols of the Park-approved plan, carefully monitored and shepherded the use of Camp Nawakwa from April to November. This allowed needed maintenance and repair work to be done, including three Work Weekends (see related article on page 4 of this issue of the Trail Marker). A few well-regulated hikes were successfully held. In conjunction with the NYNJTC, two days were spent removing invasives along the camp road. All these activities provided opportunities for applicants to do some qualifying events.

The social isolation and the restrictions on normal everyday activities brought on by the pandemic caused an explosion of people taking to the outdoors. The innate needs to be outdoors and connected with nature easily brought out two to three-times the number of visitors to Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks. The two large parking areas at the Bear Mountain Inn were filled to capacity each weekend by 10AM. The hundred cars that regularly parked at Reeves Meadow swelled to two-hundred and more. Every parking area, even the one as remote as the one at Turkey Hill Lake, were filled to over-flowing by 10AM. To the park police's credit, they tolerated the overflow of people and cars and manage to control the crowds well. At Nawakwa, the number of applicants increased significantly (see the list on page 8). A number of keyholders made day-trips to camp throughout the season to get away from the stresses caused by the forced isolation.

I might be wrong, but bear activity seemed to increase this season, perhaps because so many camps were closed. Twice, on solitary hikes I took in the Doodletown area, I encountered bears. On one hike, I had just left the parking area (off Route 6) when I heard (but could not see) something near me that did not sound like a deer. Backing out, I saw a bear walking away from me. The other was a time I had stopped to eat. Looking up, I saw a bear coming over a hill directly toward me. He had not noticed me, but when I called out, he spun around and took off. The Harriman Center at Breakneck Pond was also open for limited use. A bear one day walked up to the window of the dining hall and looked in at the diners.

Stay safe everyone. We look forward to a successful vaccination program and a better 2021!

Ray Kozma, Editor

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## **Problems Receiving the Trail Marker?**

Please let our Secretary, Eve Mancuso, know about any problems.

**Change of address:** Moving? Please contact the Main Club AND the NY Chapter Membership Chair, [Jerry@adkny.org](mailto:Jerry@adkny.org), to notify us of your address change.

**Notice:** ADKNY Members occasionally receive email notifications about hosted weekends, hikes and related Camp events. These notifications are only to be sent by the Secretary, the Hosting Committee or the Newsletter Editor.

**Mass-emailing the membership for any other reason is bad etiquette and is prohibited.**

Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-York-Chapter-of-the-Adirondack-Mountain-Club/167423969980047>

Follow ADK-NY on Twitter!

Get updates on Nawakwa happenings on Twitter! Go to [https://twitter.com/ADK\\_NY](https://twitter.com/ADK_NY), click on follow, then receive news, reminders, and special notices effortlessly! Account managed by Ingrid Strauch.

**Deadline for submissions to the next edition of the Trail Marker (April-May) is March 22, 2021. All submissions can be forwarded to Ray Kozma, at [raymondkozma@gmail.com](mailto:raymondkozma@gmail.com)**

# 2020 Election Results for the New York Chapter Board of Directors

The 2020 Annual Meeting and elections for the Board of Directors of the New York Chapter took place October 17, 2020. The results of the election are as follow:

Chapter Chair:	Lisa North (two-year term)
Treasurer:	Suzanne Rocheleau (two-year term)
Directors:	Susanne Flower (two-year term)
	Mark Fedow (two-year term)
	Alex Wilkie (two-year term)

The Green Amendment Proposition passed (131 Yes votes and 15 No votes). This proposition gives the green light for our Committee on the Environment to work with other groups on behalf of the New York Chapter to help pass a New York State Green Amendment.

We thank all the candidates and congratulate the new Officers and Directors!

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

*There will be no Winter Social in early 2021.*

After investigating possible ways of having an online Winter Social, the Board, at their December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, decided the various alternatives presented did not provide an adequate opportunity for socializing and catching up with other Nawakwans.

The Board encourages everyone to organize get-togethers on Face Time, Zoom or other platforms to socialize with Nawakwa friends throughout the winter. For anyone who has not used Zoom, it is easy to use and a free subscription allows you to schedule unlimited 40 minute meetings.

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Please see the special White Birch Award on page 7 presented to fellow Chapter Member John Lipsett who, after an extraordinary thirty-three years, is stepping down from being a Trail Maintainer with the New York -New Jersey Trail Conference. John represented the New York Chapter faithfully and well. He has upheld a tradition of trail work that goes back to our Chapter's founding.

**Congratulations, John!**

## ANNUAL PASSPORT PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

As part of the discussion at their January 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors will be appraising the Annual Passport program that is available for Keyholder members. The next issue of the Trail Marker (April-May) will carry the report from the Board.

# Work Weekend at Camp Nawakwa

## November 7-8, 2020

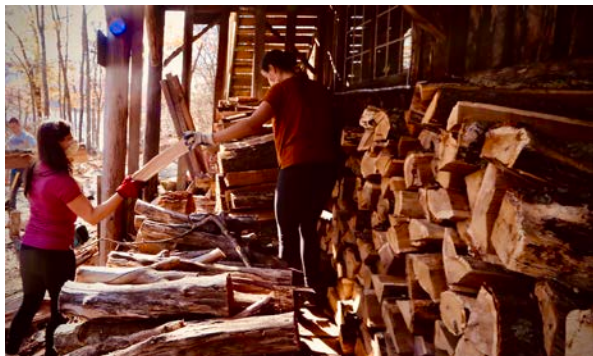
Three work weekends were able to be held this year. Below are pictures from the weekend of November 7-8 when keyholders and applicants came out to do needed maintenance work and restocking of our wood supply. A new replacement log for one of the benches at the turnaround was also cut and moved into place. The day was organized and directed by Camp Chair, Don Gabel. (All photos are by Skip Delano, new keyholder member.)



Moving cut-logs to be split.



Raking leaves to keep the paths clear.



Stacking the new wood.



Splitting the wood.



Removing the old log bench.



Don cutting the replacement log.



Moving the new log



The new log bench in place.



Workday Lunch, COVID-style.

Cooperation and teamwork made for a  
productive and satisfying day.

Thank you to all who were able to participate!

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**"During this very challenging year at Camp Nawakwa, the BOD is grateful for the keyholders, guests, and applicants, who with goodwill and respect toward their fellow Nawakwans, followed the new Covid-19 guidelines for safety in camp, volunteered to maintain and repair camp, contributed to Hosted Work Weekends, conducted hikes, and participated in invasive removal with Don and the NYNJTC."**

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WHITE

BIRCH

AWARD

Presented to

***John Lipsett***

This award is presented to John G. Lipsett who, since January 1, 1987, has been maintaining trails for the New York Chapter-ADK, faithfully serving as a vital trail maintainer in Harriman State Park.

In recognition of, and in appreciation for the extraordinary and dedicated service you have provided to the New York Chapter-ADK this award is gratefully presented  
December, 2020



Thomas Andrews  
ADK President

Michael Barrett  
ADK Executive Director

# *Welcome New Keyholders*

That first generation of members, working together, created what we know as the Nawakwa Experience: A tradition of volunteerism, cooperative effort, good will and harmony. Each new Nawakwan carries on this heritage now entrusted to us. We welcome and congratulate our newest Keyholders!

Mary James	Sponsors: Lisa North and Gladys Sotomayor
Skip Delano	Sponsors: Eve Mancuso and Don Gabel
Elizabeth Wiesen	Sponsors: Eve Mancuso and Don Gabel
David Hayes	Sponsors: Mary Hilley and Tatiana Helms
Jessica Scirbona	Sponsors: Mary Hilley, Tatiana Helms

# *Welcome New Applicants*

“Since the New York Chapter Bylaws give the care, responsibility, and privilege of running and maintaining Camp Nawakwa exclusively to the Key-holders of the Chapter (who are also called Nawakwans), it is desirable and necessary that new Key-holder members be recruited on a regular basis. We recruit potential Nawakwans by attracting and inviting like-minded, outdoor oriented, adult individuals (18 years and older) to become Applicants for Key-holder status. After completing the required qualifying activities, such new Key-holders, will take their place in the long-line of custodians of Camp Nawakwa and its traditions. It is the role of the Sponsor to help the Applicant successfully complete the process of qualifying”. [Policy on Sponsor-Applicants]

Accordingly, we welcome the following Applicants:

Alexandra Aguilar	Peter Cohn
Kirk Barrett	Dominique Debroux
Anthony Broderick	Fallon Flaherty
Phuong Sara Ho	Robert Prier
Harris Kelly	Issa Saloum
Curt Meissner	Rebecca Todd



# The New York Chapter - ADK

## Centennial Anniversary Events

*(Keep watching this space!)*

At the October 1922 meeting of the newly formed Adirondack Mountain Club, Raymond Torrey was asked to form a New York Chapter. By early 1923, formal approval was given by the Main Club for the establishment of the New York Chapter, with Raymond Torrey as our first Chapter Chair. Thus, we will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023.

1. As a way to count down to the anniversary, the Trail Marker will carry articles about the history, significant events, and people connected to the development of the Main Club and the New York Chapter. **In this issue, we highlight background information on the construction of one of the lakes of Harriman, our own Lake Sebago (see page 11). See also the article on page 12 about Claudius Smith, whose 'den' (off the Tuxedo-Mt. Ivy Trail) is a popular destination. Ellen King, our Archivist, came across this article while looking at [www.history.com/thisday](http://www.history.com/thisday).**
2. We will be conducting a series of 'historic hikes and outings' in which we try to recreate early hikes and visit places treasured by that first generation of chapter members. **Please see description of another historic hike, the Timp-Torne, on page 10.**
3. A Committee has formed to plan a grand 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2023. The date and venue are not set yet. If there are New York Chapter members who might be interested in working on the planning committee, please email your desire to be of help to Susanne Flower ([susanneflower@gmail.com](mailto:susanneflower@gmail.com)) or Ray Kozma ([raymondkozma@gmail.com](mailto:raymondkozma@gmail.com)).



# Historic Hikes

As part of our anticipating the New York Chapter's 100th Anniversary, we are outlining a series of 'historic hikes' in which we try to recreate early hikes and visit places treasured by that first generation of chapter members.

## The Timp-Torne Trail (1921)

*"After the R-D trail in Harriman, came the Timp-Torne Trail, which Torrey thought was the most scenic of all the park paths; it was a north-south route with views from The Timp, West Mountain, Bear Mountain, and Popolopen Torne." (from Vista and Visions-A History of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference by Glenn D. Scherer, page 7.)*

In his newspaper column, The Long Brown Path (May 2, 1926) Raymond Torrey described the Timp-Torne trail as follows:

*"The next trail undertaken by the volunteer workers was the Timp-Torne, the most concentratedly scenic of all. It starts in the Timp Pass, climbs to the norther crown of West Mountain and follows its narrow summit ridge with views east over the Hudson and west over the hundred hills of the park. It descends to the old Doodletown Road which echoed to the tread of American, Tory and British feet in 1777, crosses the Seven Lakes Drive and climbs up a chimney in the smooth cliffs on the southwest face of Bear Mountain. It drops off the west side of Bear, through some curious boulders fallen together to make a tunnel, crosses Popolopen Creek in the gorge known as Hellhole, and climbs the bare granite knob of Popolopen Torne, the west side of which is scarred by the shells of the mimic battles of the West Point cadets. Its symbol is a square with the initials T-T."*

The book, *Harriman Trails: A Guide and History* (third edition, 2010) by William J. Myles and Daniel Chazin, lists the blue-blazed trail as having a length of 11.2 miles. The first edition of this book (1992) lists the trail as 10.9 miles in length. The new book describes the many changes and relocations of portions of the trail over the years, often due to new road constructions in the park (notably, the Palisades Interstate Parkway).

The book has this description:

*"The Timp-Torne Trail was the second trail built by the new Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference [renamed, in 1922, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference] in the winter of 1921. It was considered to be a branch of the R-D trail which had been built in 1920. Most of the scouting for the new skyline trail was done by William W. Bell of the AMC. At the beginning, the markers were 3x3-inch galvanized iron squares, with a red square and a "TT."*

*"The Trail started at Timp Pass and went up West Mountain. A western leg came up from Beechy Bottom; this later became the route of the AT. The Trail descended to Doodletown Road (following the route of the present-day AT). It climbed Bear Mountain on the route adopted by the AT in 1922, then descended the north face on the route presently used by the Major Welch Trail, down to Perkins Drive. There was no Perkins Drive there then, and the trail continued down to Popolopen Creek. It crossed the creek on a foot-bridge that was built by Major Welch in April 1922. T-T then climbed to the Torne where it ended."*

Except for the hardest of hikers, doing the Timp-Torne trail as a day-hike would entail leaving cars at both ends. – Ray Kozma

# Lake Sebago

*[Excerpts from a report on Lake Sebago by the Commissioners of the Palisades Interstate Park, circa July 6, 1926]*

*“Several new developments are now under way in Harriman State Park...the most spectacular will be the completion of the new Lake Sebago, in the Ramapo section three miles east of Tuxedo, four miles by road from Sloatsburg on the main line of the Erie Railroad and sixteen miles from the Park headquarters at Bear Mountain. In the construction of this lake, by damming upper tributaries of the Ramapo River, Nature will actually be improved upon, for in place of a swamp there will appear a lake of 500 acres surface area, with seven miles of shoreline, at an altitude of 774 feet above sea, set in forested hills rising 200 to 500 feet above it.*

*“The new lake will have very attractive outlines as the water will fill up two valleys, in an irregular Y-shaped form, the longer arm being nearly two miles from the outlet to the head, and the other arm about a mile and a half. The longer arm has a narrow outlet into the main body of the lake, and makes almost a separate lake in itself. A picturesque feature will be Brundage Mountain which stands on a point between the arms. On the east face of this mountain is a remarkable cave, the floor of which will be a few feet about the high level of the new lake. On the east side of the lake rises the front of the Ramapo Plateau one of the wildest portions of the Park, and the views of the water from the nearer summits, Halfway and Conklin Mountains, will be superb. On the west side of the lake rise Blauvelt Mountain and the mass of hills lying between the new water body and the main line of the Erie and the Ramapo River at Tuxedo.*

*“But for the dam, the new lake when raised to its full height, will appear as if it had always been there, for its construction will restore in practically the same outlines an old glacial lake which existed in this valley not many thousand years ago, since the last retreat of the continental glaciers of the Ice Age. In selecting the place for the dam, the general manager and chief engineer of the Palisades Interstate Park, Major William A. Welch, chose the point where a moraine was laid down by a tongue of ice, a sort of local glacier, which probably persisted in this valley of the Ramapos, when the continental ice sheet had retreated to this region. The spot had earlier been the site of a small water power, as is indicated by the local name Burnt Saw Mill Bridge. The hills on either side narrow together here, and the valley was originally blocked by a morainal dam of gravel and clay, which in the course of centuries was worn down by the outlet of the old lake, so that it was finally drained, leaving a wet swamp. The main dam, at the outlet and a long core wall, closing in a low point on the border of the new lake, replace the old glacial moraine, and the rising water will simply assume position and take outlines among the hills which existed not so very long ago, in a geological sense, and which will appear perfectly natural.*

*“Lake Sebago will have a copious supply of water to maintain its level. Its principal inlet stream, Stillwater Brook, entering the western arm, is the outlet of the three Kanawauke Lakes, the headquarters of the Boy Scouts of the Greater New York Council, which it turn are fed by several brooks from the mountains northward. Whitney Brook enters the eastern arm, and there are other streams that come down off the hills on either side.*

*“The seven miles of shore line will add immensely to the camping opportunities of the Park, and before long the many attractive points will be occupied by various groups. Three organizations have already taken up quarters, in commodious camps built by the Commissioners of the Palisades Interstate Park, on the plan of payment by annual maintenance charges, the New York Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Rogers, Peet & Co. clothing firm, and the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.*

*“Service roads are to be built around the borders of the new lake. A water supply distributed by gravity, from a tank on top of Brundage Mountain, will be put into use this month.”*

## THIS DAY IN **HISTORY** | JANUARY 22

1779

January 22

### Claudius Smith, “Cowboy of the Ramapos,” hangs

Famed Tory outlaw Claudius Smith meets his end on the gallows on January 22, 1779 in Goshen, New York. In the wake of his death, Patriot civilians hope for relief from guerilla warfare in upstate New York.

Born in Brookhaven, New York, in 1736, Smith moved with his family to Orange County, New York, in 1741. Thought to have fought with Mohawk leader Joseph Brand as a Tory defender of the crown during the New York campaign of 1777, Smith earned the label “Cowboy of the Ramapos” for his use of guerilla tactics against Patriot civilians. Smith and his cohorts stole livestock and ambushed travelers on the Orange turnpike between Canada and New York from the cave now memorialized as “Claudius Smith’s Den” in Orange County’s Harriman State Park.

Smith managed to escape justice until his gang murdered Patriot Major Nathaniel Strong in the course of a robbery. Patriot Governor George Clinton then issued a warrant for his arrest, offering a \$1,200 reward for the capture of Smith, who was described as “7 feet tall” in his wanted poster. Captured on British-controlled Long Island by vigilantes in October he and other members of his gang, including one of his sons, were returned to Patriot territory and hung [sic] near their home turf in Goshen.

Despite his less than savory exploits, Smith earned a reputation as a “robin hood” because he targeted the wealthy but was said to be generous with the poor. Because his mother reputedly warned him that, unless he reformed, he would “die with his boot on,” Smith removed his footwear before he was hanged. Two of Smith’s three sons belonged to his gang – one was hanged with his father; another took over the gang upon his death.

Legend has it that Claudius Smith’s skull was filled with mortar and included in the edifice of the Goshen Court House.

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