

THE TRAIL MARKER

April-May Issue 2021

Published by the *New York Chapter, Inc. of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc.*
Peter Stuyvesant Post Office Station P. O. Box 327, New York, NY 10009-9998
Camp Nawakwa on Lake Sebago, 845-351-4135 www.adkny.org

Opening of Camp Nawakwa - 2021

Camp will open Saturday, April 17, 2021

In accessing camp, all restrictions due to COVID-19 will remain in place until further notice from the Park. The only change to our current procedures (which can be found under the Nawakwans' tab on adkny.org) is that, if you are accessing camp for the day only and not staying overnight, you simply fill out the Camp Access form (found on our website) attesting to your good health. You will not receive confirmation, just ENJOY!! If you are staying overnight, please fill out the Camp Access form, with required accommodations, and wait for a confirmation response before attending camp.

Thank you, and we look forward this year to a less restrictive camp season!

- New York Chapter Board of Directors

Note: The Board of Directors has decided to begin a one-year trial of an Orientation Program, effective immediately, as part of the qualifying process for obtaining Keyholder membership. (We currently have 37 Applicants.) The Orientation Sessions, each approximately three hours in length, will take place at camp beginning the first day of camp, April 17th.

Applicants can sign up for orientation by submitting the same on-line form, under Nawakwans at adkny.org, that we are using to access camp. The full explanation of the program can be found on page 5 of this edition of the *Trail Marker*.

- Ray Kozma

ADKNY Board of Directors and Committees

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Camp Committee:

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Webmaster:

Marty McDonald martymcd@me.com

Problems Receiving the Trail Marker?

Please let our Secretary, Eve Mancuso, know of any problems. Contact Eve at Evemancuso@gmail.com

Change of address: Moving? Please contact the Main Club AND the NY Chapter Membership Chair, 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, by the Hosting Committee or by 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, 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 (June-July) is May 22, 2021. All submissions can be forwarded to Ray Kozma, at raymondkozma@gmail.com

Reminders to All Keyholders

As we approach the opening of Camp Nawakwa, the Board takes this opportunity to remind all keyholders of the following:

- Camp Nawakwa - The camp facilities are leased from Harriman State Park. The lease is contingent on compliance with all Park's rules and regulations. We are required to observe the Park's calendar for the use of our facilities. We are also required to adhere to both Park and New York State regulations related to Covid 19.

Our Policies and Procedures, which are available to keyholders on our website, include a document about **CAMP SEASONS AND USE OF CAMP NAWAKWA**. Contained in this are the following policies in effect during the Off-Season:

1. During the off-season (October 16th to April 30th), when the camping season is officially closed, permission to make use of Camp Nawakwa is needed from the Park Office.
2. Any Key-holder member who wishes to access and use camp during the Off-Season must notify the Chapter Chair who will contact the Park Office to request permission and obtain the necessary Permit. Members should contact the Chapter Chair five days before the requested visit date so that sufficient time can be allowed for the Park Office to be notified and respond.
3. All the normal Park Rules and Regulations, and the Chapter's established Policy and Procedures, will be in effect during the Off-Season.

(It should be noted that the Park allows Camp Nawakwa to have a Spring Cleanup even before April 30th to prepare for the official season.)

- We are classified as a 501(c)(7) organization by the Internal Revenue Service.
 1. That means that our major sources of funds are fees and voluntary contributions (example: Day fees, Overnight fees, our Annual Appeal.)
 2. Except on hosted weekends, there is an honor system for submitting fees. Nawakwa is dependent upon keyholders paying the fees.
 3. The Board is aware that not all keyholders sign-in and pay their fees. This affects everyone – the fee structure is reviewed and adjusted to meet the camp's fiscal responsibilities. Keyholders who abuse the honor system are penalizing other keyholders who are paying for the use of the camp's facilities.
- We are a volunteer organization. The upkeep and maintenance of Camp Nawakwa is done by keyholders who are volunteering their time and work. Hike leaders are volunteers who have met specific requirements. Weekend hosts are volunteers. Board members are volunteers. The Camp Chair is a volunteer. All deserve respect and thanks for their commitment.
- All keyholders have gone through the process of becoming an applicant and then being approved as a member. All deserve respect and thanks for their commitment.

- The New York Chapter-ADK Board of Directors

Work Weekend at Camp Nawakwa

May 1-2, 2021

All Hands On Deck!

Calling all able-bodied members and applicants to join in our Spring work weekend! Operating within the restrictions brought on by the pandemic, we will get camp ready for a new season of enjoyment. Masks and social distancing are required, as are a willing spirit of cooperation and good old-fashion hard work and fun!



Photo by Glen Nison

2021 ANNUAL PASSPORT PROGRAM

As part of the discussion at their January 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors appraised the Annual Passport program that is available for Keyholder members. The Board decided that this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Annual Nawakwa Passport will be available to Keyholders at the reduced cost of \$100.

The Passport, which covers the Day Fees for all visits to camp per calendar year, is for an individual Keyholder and is non-transferable. All others who come to camp with a Passport-holding Keyholder must pay the appropriate Camp Fees as usual.

To obtain the Annual Nawakwa Passport, Keyholders should send their request (with their name address, phone number and check payable to **New York Chapter - ADK**), to:

Raymond Kozma
585 North Railroad Ave-3D
Staten Island, NY 10304

Enhancing the Applicant Process

The Board of Directors (BOD) has discussed ways to streamline the applicant process for our 37 applicants during the pandemic, while retaining the integrity of the applicant process. The BOD has decided to begin a trial for one year, effective immediately, of an Orientation Program.

Applicants are now required to attend an Orientation of camp procedures. The Orientation sessions, each approximately 3 hours in length, will take place at camp beginning the first day of camp April 17th. Applicants can sign up for Orientation by submitting the same online form, under “Nawakwans” at adkny.org that we are using to access camp. They would need to specify which Orientation date and time they will attend. They will then wait for an email confirmation. Meanwhile, Sponsors will still be responsible to applicants for all other information specified in the Handbook, such as the History of Camp Nawakwa, the Hosting process, and perhaps most importantly, imparting the ideas of community and service.

Announcements of Orientations will be listed on adkny.org under, “Calendar/Events.” Fill out a camp access form, attesting to your good health and specify you are attending Orientation for the date and time listed on the website. Unless scheduled differently, Orientations will begin 9:00 a.m., Saturday mornings and last approximately 3 hours. Please consider bringing a lunch to enjoy at camp afterwards. After attending an Orientation, be sure to ask a Keyholder, who conducted the program, to sign your Signature Form.



Photo by Ray Kozma

NY Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club

PROFIT AND LOSS January - December 2020

	TOTAL
Income	
Camp Income	38.00
Camp Fees	3,598.00
Keys	210.00
Lockers	420.00
Passport Members	3,500.00
Total Camp Income	7,766.00
General Income	
Application Fees	475.00
Dividends	3,983.81
Donation 2020 Annual Appeal	3,715.00
Donations	100.00
Interest	857.35
Shared Affiliate Fees	1,708.35
Trail Marker Subs	30.00
Winter Social Income 2020	1,350.00
Total General Income	12,219.51
Total Income	\$19,985.51
GROSS PROFIT	\$19,985.51
Expenses	
Camp Expenses	
Camp Supplies	1,101.41
Commissary Expense	100.00
Fire Inspection	506.50
Propane	848.43
Rent	4,014.75
Repair & Maintenance	1,640.76
Safe Deposit Rent	168.76
Telephone	1,146.54
Toilets	1,611.60
Utilities	905.37
Total Camp Expenses	12,044.12
General Expenses	317.98
Accounting Software-Online	562.00
Communication	
PO Mailbox	134.00
Postage and Envelopes	482.99
Trail Marker	165.94
Website	1,620.00
Total Communication	2,402.93
Insurance Liability	8,823.54
Insurance- D & O	1,156.00
Legal & Professional Fees	2,549.43

Cash Basis Sunday, February 14, 2021 03:20 PM GMT-05:00

1/2

NY Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club

BALANCE SHEET As of December 31, 2020

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Chase checking	97,354.14
TD Bank Checking	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$97,354.14
Other Current Assets	
Apple Bank CD	50,857.35
Vanguard Money Market Account	73,395.58
Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund	88,664.88
Total Other Current Assets	\$212,917.81
Total Current Assets	\$310,271.95
TOTAL ASSETS	\$310,271.95
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Accumulated Adjustment	20,437.73
Opening Balance Equity	56,053.32
Paid-In Capital or Surplus	
Restricted Funds 2	11,570.00
Total Paid-In Capital or Surplus	11,570.00
Retained Earnings	231,585.17
Net Income	-9,374.27
Total Equity	\$310,271.95
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$310,271.95

Treasurer's Report

The NY Chapter's Insurance coverage and rent due to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission continue to be the largest annual expenses.

1. Rent. In 2018 the NY Chapter signed a 10 year lease; our annual rent is \$5,473.00. PIPC requires us to pay 75% of the rent by January 30. The remaining 25% of rent due for 2020 was eliminated by two MCI projects (a. gravel to reinforce parking/driveway area and b. the Main Cabin stairwell project).

2. 2020 Loss of Income. Income versus expenses were largely offset by the loss of typical camp fee revenues due to the pandemic and the suspension of Shared Affiliate fees in 2020 normally received from the Main club; Monthly Share Affiliate fees can range from \$600 - \$1,000 on average. Fortunately, Shared Affiliate fees resumed from the Main Club in October 2020. In an effort to diversify assets, the NY Chapter also transferred \$50,000 from prior year donations to the existing Vanguard Money Market Fund and \$50,000 to open a new Apple Bank 2 year CD.

3. Insurance. Liability coverage: \$8,823, Directors & Officer coverage: \$1,156. The Board looked into alternative insurance providers for camp other than Philadelphia Insurance. We spoke to our Insurance representative to see if we can negotiate better rates; our camp's location and access to the lake and inherent risk issues present at least one of the major factors necessitating the type and/or terms of coverage we require. After a thorough and comprehensive review, the Board assessed that we were getting appropriate, fair and reasonable insurance coverage.

- Suzanne Rocheleau, Treasurer

Activities Committee Notice

Note: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, regrettably there are no in-person activities planned at this time.

- Marty Kellerman

Hikes and Outings

Hikes Chairperson: Glen Nison 718-625-2182 gnisonbike@juno.com

For listings of hikes not led by members of ADKNY, (and not necessarily qualifying) try these links:
<http://www.nynjtc.org/content/scheduled-hikes> <http://www.hudsonhikers.org/schedules.htm>

Hiking Guidelines During the COVID-19 Pandemic

We continue to follow Harriman State Park and New York State guidelines regarding COVID-19 restrictions: Masks are mandatory; avoid large gatherings; limited group size. For purposes of the hikes listed, the group size is limited to six hikers (not counting the leader and possible co-leader). Sign-up will be on a first-come basis, with a waiting list kept allowing for last minute cancellations. Masks are mandatory.

Sunday, April 18, 2021 – Around Cape Horn

Celebrate Spring by joining in an easy hike to the Pine Swamp Mountain area (site of the Pine Swamp Mine) and Times Square. Starting at the parking area at Lake Kanawauke (former Route 106), we take a short road walk and then enter the forest, following a woods road as it gently climbs to meet the Dunning Trail. We hike over to Pine Swamp (and can explore the area to find the mine entrance), take the A-SB to Times Square (so called because it is where the Arden-Surebridge (A-SB) trail, the Long Path (LP), and the Ramapo-Dunderberg trail(R-D) all come together), then 'round Cape Horn on the Long Path and back to the parking area. It will probably be possible to arrange a ride from Sloatsburg for those without a car. Please call leader to check. Bring lunch, rain gear, water, extra layers, and appropriate hiking shoes. **Limited to six hikers plus the leader/co-leader. Masks required. Meet at the Parking area at 9:45AM. Qualifying (5+ miles). Please register by 9PM Thursday, April 15, 2021.**

Leader: Ray Kozma (Raymondkozma@gmail.com) or 917-406-3782.

Saturday, May 15, 2021 – Doodletown Circular The former hamlet of Doodletown (the name is said to derive from the Dutch *Dood Tal*, for "dead valley," with the "town" suffix added later by English-speaking settlers) is part of Bear Mountain-Harriman State Park. Doodletown survived as a small, isolated community for about 200 years. The area was settled in the 1760s by loggers and miners, and at one time included a church, a school, several small businesses and two cemeteries in addition to 70 houses and 300 residents [at its peak in 1945]. The seven square mile hamlet was ultimately abandoned in the mid-1960s after a long period of land acquisition by the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission. Our hike will start at the second Bear Mountain parking area (behind the administrative building and near the carousel). We will take the 1777 trail in, go around the reservoir and see the June Cemetery (still active), and explore some of the old foundations. We will return by way of the Suffern-Bear Mountain trail that drops us off at the skating rink, with a short walk back to the cars. Note: There is a \$10 parking fee at Bear Mountain. **Limited to six hikers plus the leader/co-leader. Masks required. Meet at the Parking area at 9:45AM. Qualifying (5-6 miles). Please register by 9PM Thursday May 13th.**

Leader: Ray Kozma. Contact at: raymondkozma@gmail.com or 917-406-3782.

Saturday, May 22, 2021 – Bald Rocks Shelter from Lake Kanawauke

Starting from the parking area off the former Route 106 at Lake Kanawauke, we take a short road walk and then enter the forest, following a woods road as it gently climbs up to meet the Dunning Trail. The ascent up Black Rock Mountain is steady, but not strenuous. After crossing a stream, we come to the bare, rocky area of Bald Rocks. At 1,382 feet in elevation, Bald Rocks is the highest point in the park. (The boulders that dot the bare rock gave rise to the name “Bowling Rocks.”) We traverse across the open rock surface (known as the Whaleback) and make our way to Bald Rock Shelter for a lunch break. The area around the shelter is interesting for the crossing of other trails nearby and for the many, well-used camp sites scattered around the area. We retrace our steps back down to the parking area. It will probably be possible to arrange a ride from Sloatsburg for those without a car. Please call leader to check. Bring lunch, rain gear, water, extra layers, and appropriate hiking shoes. **Limited to six hikers plus the leader/co-leader. Masks required. Meet at the Parking area at 9:45AM. Qualifying (5-6 miles). Please register by 9PM Thursday May 13th.**

Leader: Ray Kozma. Contact at: raymondkozma@gmail.com or 917-406-3782.

Coming in June. . .

Saturday, June 5, 2021 - Big Hill Shelter Circular

This will be a moderately paced, 8-10 mile hike (depending on our starting point), to Big Hill shelter, passing by Breakneck Pond. There are nice views from the shelter and the hike is long but not strenuous. It will probably be possible to arrange a ride from Sloatsburg for those without a car. Please call leader to check. Bring lunch, rain gear, water, extra layers, and appropriate hiking shoes. **Limited to six hikers plus the leader/co-leader. Masks required. Starting point and time TBD. Qualifying. Please register with the leader by 9PM Thursday June 3rd.**

Leader: Ray Kozma. Contact at: raymondkozma@gmail.com or 917-406-3782.

Saturday, June 19, 2021 – Mountain Laurel Hike

If the timing is right, this hike will take us thru tunnels of blooming Mountain Laurel. This is a moderately paced, 5 to 7 mile hike (depending on our starting point). Following a woods road (also used as a ski trail), we will turn off to follow a cairn-marked trail up the hill and then intersect with the Buck Trail. We will follow the Buck Trail until we come out at a fire road, then turn onto an unmarked trail and finally approach Breakneck Pond where we will have lunch. We can take a look at the AMC Harriman Camp and return by a different trail or two. It will probably be possible to arrange a ride from Sloatsburg for those without a car. Please call leader to check. Bring lunch, rain gear, water, extra clothing and appropriate hiking shoes. **Limited to six hikers plus the leader/co-leader. Masks required. Starting point and time TBD. Qualifying. Please register with the leader by 9PM Thursday June 17th.**

Leader: Ray Kozma. Contact at: raymondkozma@gmail.com or 917-406-3782.

Conservation Committee Report

Subject: Invasive species removal

The origins of this project are that Teri Gabel had been contacted by the ACA concerning an invasive species project, and subsequently devised a solution for an additional Applicant Service Project. Don Gabel then coordinated with the NYNJ Trail Conference.

We are currently involved in two invasive species task forces. One is for land based invasives and the other is concerned with aquatic invasive species.

Our land based task force got off to a flying start on September 26. The leader of the task force was Rich Rockwell from the NY/ NJ Trail Conference. The coordinator for the New York Chapter was Don Gabel. We had 10 volunteers, both members and applicants, working along the road to Nawakwa. This effort will be continued in the spring. Watch for announcements of the upcoming work dates. It was a fun and productive activity for anyone who enjoys working outdoors. Below are the totals of the species we treated that day.

Species	Pulled	Cut Stump	Total
Multiflora rose	16	23	39
Barberry	92	80	172
Tree of Heaven	152	9	161
Wineberry	18	22	40
Privet	1		1
Oriental bittersweet	15	3	18
Grand Total			431

As far as the aquatic invasive species effort for Sebago Lake is concerned, we were not able to get the project off the ground last spring because of covid 19. We have a zoom conference scheduled with Loren of the ACA camp involving local experts in the field, scheduled for April 12, 2021. Once the effort gets started, this will be a great opportunity for Nawakwa boaters to get involved in helping keep Sebago Lake healthy.

If you are interested in joining the April 12th conference, please let me know. I will keep everyone informed as we develop strategies and the work that needs to be done.

- Submitted by Ira Stahl (lrastahl@yahoo.com) Conservation Committee Chair

Welcome New Applicants

“Since the New York Chapter Bylaws give the care, responsibility, and privilege of running and maintaining Camp Nawakwa exclusively to the Keyholders of the Chapter (who are also called Nawakwans), it is desirable and necessary that new Keyholder 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 Keyholder status. After completing the required qualifying activities, such new Keyholders, 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 new Applicants:

Nusret Ceman	Thomas Pearl
John Langley	Frank Radics
Oliver Lunt	Kevin Radics
Jason Olshan	Raja Salloum
Amanda Paret	Susan Shockett

The Creed

“I believe in the Out-of-Doors, the woods, streams and hills,
the wildlife that lives therein.

I believe that man’s care for them
in a state of nature consistent with conservation
is his best investment for the future.”

- New York Chapter, 1923

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. So, in 2023, we will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary!

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 the figure of Ruby Jolliffe (see page 15)** who spearheaded the development of the group camps in Harriman, including Camp Nawakwa.
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 Arden-Surebridge Trail on page 14.**
3. A Committee has formed to plan a grand 100th 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) or Ray Kozma (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 Arden-Surebridge Trail (Excerpts from *Harriman Trails: A Guide and History* by William J. Myles and Daniel Chazin, Third Edition, 2020)

“The Arden-Surbridge Trail was first blazed in the summer of 1921 by J. Ashton Allis. He was a leader of the Fresh Air Club and the AMC and was a founder of the new Palisades Park Trail Conference. In preparation for his AMC hike the following weekend, he marked the route as a short-cut from the Arden station to the R-D Trail on Hogencamp Mountain. It is shown as the “Allis Short Trial” on a map in the *N.Y. Post* (10/14/21). By December 1922, it had been extended by members of the Green Mountain Club from the R-D to Camp Thendara on Lake Tiorati and was marked with white wooden arrow and red metal triangles inscribed “A-SB.”

“From the Erie Station at Arden...the trail crossed Arden Brook at the Harriman Dairy bottling house and went up the wooden steps beyond the old Greenwood Furnace. From the upper terrace, it followed the Echo Lake Road, which proceeded east on the south side of Arden Brook. At a fork, the trail turned right and went up through the chicken farm and pastures. Then...it turned left onto an old grass-grown road...crossed the outlet brook from Island pond and climbed to the top of Island Pond Mountain (then known as Echo Mountain). It was there, on Echo Mountain, that the new Appalachian Trail, built in 1922, met the A-SB which J. Ashton Allis had built in 1921. Both trails followed the same route through the Lemon Squeezer, which had been discovered and named by Allis. From the Lemon Squeezer to “Times Square,” the A-SB followed the same route that it still does today.”

“In 1924, because of a hunting incident, Roland Harriman closed the Echo Lake Road to hikers.”

“In June 1978, A-SB was rerouted south over Pine Swamp Mountain. This change was made in order to divert the trail away from the entrance to Camp Thendara...where there had been parking problems and complaints of vandalism.”

* * * * *

The A-SB Trail today starts at the Elk Pen parking area and ends at Lake Skannatati, 6.25 miles later. After leaving Island Pond Road, it uses some charmingly named paths like the “Crooked Road,” meets up with the “Bottle Cap Trail,” and uses “Surebridge Mine Road,” all before reaching “Times Square.” There are no elk at the Elk Pen today, but there were some elk from Yellowstone Park present from 1919 to 1935. There are also no ‘chicken farm and pastures’ to negotiate today. But the A-SB makes for a great day hike (probably needing a car at each end).

- Ray Kozma

Ruby Jolliffe

A search of our archives (courtesy of Ellen King, our Archivist) reveals that Ruby Jolliffe was listed as a member of the New York Chapter in the first Roster, 1924. She is also listed in the 1926 Year Book, but not in the 1927 one. She is listed as a Director serving on the New York Chapter Board in 1924 and 1925.

These sparse facts, however, do not capture how significant a person she was in fostering and making successful all the group camps in Harriman State Park, including our own Camp Nawakwa. What follows should help fill in the picture a bit.

- Ray Kozma

For the 50th Anniversary of the New York Chapter (1978), Ira Ayres (who is listed as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1924) put together a history of the Chapter for the occasion. As he looked back to the early beginnings, he says this:

“Upon entering the Blue Bird era [1924], the Chapter was as poor as Job’s turkey...There were no kitchen utensils, nor did we have spoons with which to eat our cereal. Our group was young and for the most part unable to provide any financial backing. We were strictly on our own...Our guardian angel was Miss Ruby Jolliffe, the Superintendent of Camps for the Park. She sold us, on time, some kitchen utensils and tableware at a very nominal price with which to start the Camp.” -Ira Ayres

“During the summer of 1925...Miss Jolliffe, the Superintendent of Camps, asked me if the New York Chapter would like to have a camp on the new Lake Sebago.” – Ira Ayres

The Trail Marker of Feb 11, 1926 records the following:

“The idea of a permanent camp has been the dream of the past year, and the decision to start the present building was made by the Council shortly after Miss Jolliffe, Superintendent of Camps, Palisade Interstate Park, announced that funds were available for this purpose.”

Camp Nawakwa officially opened on April 17, 1926.

The far reaching influence of Ruby Jolliffe in developing the group camps in Harriman State Park should be more widely known and appreciated. In recognition of our debt of gratitude to her, we present this short biography of Ruby Jolliffe, the first female executive on the Palisades Interstate Park Commissions staff and the second Superintendent of Camps for the Park.

Ruby Jolliffe,

“was born in Montreal. She had earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto and a Masters degree in Modern Languages from Bryn Mawr College. After studying, she took over responsibility for the New York City YWCA camping program in 1912. When the PIPC took over the old rifle range at Blauvelt Park on South Mountain, Jolliffe was there to establish the YWCA camp, marking the beginning of group camping in the PIPC’s park system. When war caused the U.S. Army to reclaim the rifle range for the duration, W. Averell Harriman welcomed Jolliffe and the YWCA campers to property he owned at Summit Lake on his family’s Arden estate. She was already well known to Welch and the commissioners when Brown [the prior Group Camp Director] stepped

down from his camp manager post, and the decision to hire her was prompt. Before she retired almost three decades later, Jolliffe would “meet the sons, daughters, and grandchildren of her first campers,” according to a report in the *New York Times*.

“The Jolliffe presence, imposing enough to create a beehive of activity simply in anticipation of her arrival as a dinner guest, seemed made up of equal parts disciplinarian, confidant, health officer, storyteller, naturalist, role model, sports advocate, moralist, commander, loyalist, educator, inspector, and stern administrator. The *New York Times* referred to Jolliffe as “the hand that struck the match for more campfires than any other in the country.” The scores of camps, all directed by different personalities, each pursuing its own purposes, had one common bond: they had to be “ship-shape” at all times because the director never knew when Jolliffe might appear unexpectedly. She patrolled constantly. Like Welch, Jolliffe won allegiance for being fair and quietly charming, listening carefully and, when necessary, acting tough-as-nails. She made clear that her duty was to ensure the well-being of the camps and campers. Her domain reached the incredible number of 102 camps, then eventually settled in at 71 with a combined population of 6,400, a scale not even remotely approached anywhere else in the nation. Among her ardent fans were the Roosevelts, who regularly visited and participated in activities with young campers. Children, awed by Jolliffe, would carry vivid memories of her far into their adulthood. Welch would discover that he had a formidable colleague who saw no limitations to the good that could be accomplished in the park.”

- Excerpts taken from: *Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years* by Robert O. Binnewies



Photo by Glen Nison