

# *The Trail Marker*

June - July Issue 2022

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Peter Stuyvesant Post Office Station P. O. Box 327, New York, NY 10009-9998  
Camp Nawakwa on Lake Sebago (SB-3), 845-351-4135  
[www.noany.org](http://www.noany.org)

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## *View from the Chair*

"We proceeded on" - Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

Thomas Jefferson had an expansive and future-oriented perspective for the young United States, foreseeing a vision of a nation that stretched from coast to coast. When as President in 1803 he negotiated the purchase of the enormous territory drained by the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers [the Louisiana Purchase], he sent Lewis and Clark out the next year on an expedition to explore, map, and basically obtain as much knowledge as they could about the territory and its inhabitants. No matter if it was unexpected hardships, great physical difficulties, or repetitive events of daily drudgery, the constant refrain of the Journal entries they made each day was "*We proceeded on.*"

As a club, we have gone through our own difficulties the past two-plus years. For all of us, I salute the work of the Board of Directors and our Committees who worked diligently and effectively during these difficult years.

At the start of the pandemic in March of 2020, all camps were closed until further notice. Park officials held a virtual meeting and, following Federal and State guideline, outlined how individual camps could open. Basically, each camp was required to submit a plan for opening. Don Gabel, Camp Chair, took part in the meeting, quickly developed a plan, presented it to the Board, and submitted it to Park authorities. The plan was accepted. Camp Nawakwa was approved to open with just a few requests made by the Park, like restrictions on the number of people in camp at any time. Marty McDonald devised an on-line registration, and camp was able to be open.

Amid the pandemic, the Department of Health, which gives us our permit to operate, decided to revise the Bathing Beach Safety Plan for all camps. Don Gabel, our Camp Chair, working long and hard in consultation with the Board, developed and fine-tuned procedures that were acceptable to the NYS DOH. ***Our swim area can remain open so long as we adhere to the new Safety Plan.*** (Please see the excerpt from the BBSP on page 6. Our website has the full explanation and needed forms, which are also at the sign-in desk.)

And of course, there was the totally unexpected dispute with ADK, starting in June of 2021, which ended with a negotiated settlement in March of this year. The agreement resulted in our disassociating from ADK and becoming the *Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc.*

We have a lot of work ahead of us as we revise our Bylaws, update our Policies and Procedures, and devise a suitable vision for future membership and activities of the 'new' club. But we also have a hundred years of experience, traditions, and cooperation with Harriman Park, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and the New York New Jersey Trail Conference to draw upon and help guide us in planning for the next one hundred years. Like Lewis and Clark, with enthusiasm and with dedication to the task ahead, we proceed on.

Ray Kozma  
NOANY Board Chair

# *Nawakwa Outdoor Association*

## Board of Directors and Committees

Chapter Chair: Raymond Kozma  
[raymondkozma@gmail.com](mailto:raymondkozma@gmail.com)  
Vice-Chair: Teri Gabel  
[blaugabels@msn.com](mailto:blaugabels@msn.com)  
Secretary: Eve Mancuso  
[evemancuso@gmail.com](mailto:evemancuso@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Suzanne Rocheleau  
[rocheleau3@gmail.com](mailto:rocheleau3@gmail.com)  
Director: Marty McDonald  
[martymcd@me.com](mailto:martymcd@me.com)  
Director: Ingrid Strauch  
[ingrid-hiking@noany.org](mailto:ingrid-hiking@noany.org)  
Director: Guy Lingley [glingley@vermacorp.com](mailto:glingley@vermacorp.com)  
Director: Carol Burns [carol\\_kb@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_kb@yahoo.com)  
Director: Alex Wilkie [afwilkie204@gmail.com](mailto:afwilkie204@gmail.com)  
Director: Susanne Flower  
[susanneflower@gmail.com](mailto:susanneflower@gmail.com)  
Membership Committee:  
Chair: Jerry Flower [jerry.flower@verizon.net](mailto:jerry.flower@verizon.net)  
Members:  
David Miller [snoop353@aol.com](mailto:snoop353@aol.com)  
Janet Sibarium [janet.sibarium@icloud.com](mailto:janet.sibarium@icloud.com)  
Host Committee:  
Mintari Preston [noamintari@gmail.com](mailto:noamintari@gmail.com)  
Commissary: Maryann Poris [maporis@aol.com](mailto:maporis@aol.com)  
Newsletter Editor:  
Raymond Kozma [TrailMarker@noany.org](mailto:TrailMarker@noany.org)

Activities Committee:  
Edie Blum [ediegreen17@gmail.com](mailto:ediegreen17@gmail.com)  
Camp Committee:  
Chair: Don Gabel [blaugabels@msn.com](mailto:blaugabels@msn.com)  
Co-Chair: Bill Burns [wmjburnsjr@gmail.com](mailto:wmjburnsjr@gmail.com)  
Members:  
Steve Barre [sbarre9723@yahoo.com](mailto:sbarre9723@yahoo.com)  
Eve Mancuso [evemancuso@gmail.com](mailto:evemancuso@gmail.com)  
Teri Gabel [blaugabels@msn.com](mailto:blaugabels@msn.com)  
Dave Hayes [cingularsales@gmail.com](mailto:cingularsales@gmail.com)  
Hikes and Outings Committee:  
Chair: Glen Nison [gnisonbike@juno.com](mailto:gnisonbike@juno.com)  
Members: Ingrid Strauch  
[Ingrid-hiking@noany.org](mailto:Ingrid-hiking@noany.org)  
Ray Kozma [raymondkozma@gmail.com](mailto:raymondkozma@gmail.com)  
Trails Committee:  
Chair: William Burns [wmjburnsjr@gmail.com](mailto:wmjburnsjr@gmail.com)  
Park Liaison: Raymond Kozma  
[raymondkozma@gmail.com](mailto:raymondkozma@gmail.com)  
Conservation/Education:  
Chair: Ira Stahl [irastahl@yahoo.com](mailto:irastahl@yahoo.com)  
Committee on the Environment  
Chair: Marty Kellerman [mmkellerman@gmail.com](mailto:mmkellerman@gmail.com)  
Lisa North [ln1212@aol.com](mailto:ln1212@aol.com)  
Archives Committee:  
Chair: Ellen King [ellen\\_king13@msn.com](mailto:ellen_king13@msn.com)  
Webmaster:  
Marty McDonald [martymcd@me.com](mailto:martymcd@me.com)

Follow us on Instagram! [nawakwa\\_outdoor\\_association\\_ny](https://www.instagram.com/nawakwa_outdoor_association_ny)

Get updates on Nawakwa happenings on Twitter!

Go to <https://twitter.com/NawakwaOutdoor> click on follow,  
then receive news, reminders, and special notices effortlessly!  
Account managed by Ingrid Strauch ([Ingrid-hiking@noany.org](mailto:Ingrid-hiking@noany.org))

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

Please let our Secretary, Eve Mancuso, know of any problems. Contact Eve at [evemancuso@gmail.com](mailto:evemancuso@gmail.com)  
**Change of address:** Please contact Jerry Flower, our Membership Chair, at [jerry@noany.org](mailto:jerry@noany.org), to notify us of any address change.

**Notice:** 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 Website Editor.

**Deadline for submissions to the next edition of the Trail Marker (August-September 2022) is July 23, 2022.**  
All submissions can be forwarded to Ray Kozma, at [TrailMarker@noany.org](mailto:TrailMarker@noany.org)

# *Reports from Camp Nawakwa*

## *Camp Committee Update*

A Mini-Work Day was held April 9. The primary goal was to secure the unsafe ramp from shore to dock. That goal was achieved, although there is still work to do on the ramp. Twenty key-holders and applicants did other camp opening chores, raking the leaves away from the skirting of the lodge and from key pathways, etc. Workers then enjoyed a lunch donated and made by Don and Teri.

A Spring Work Weekend was held April 23, 24 with Janet Sibarium, once again, hosting a delicious lunch. Twenty key-holders and 2 applicants worked at maintenance projects to safely open camp. The swim dock was not able to be installed, and so the Camp Chair put a call out to experienced "dockers" to install it May 22, with lunch provided by Don and Teri. As you cool off in our wonderful lake this season, please remember to "Thank" Rich, Carl, Jason, Glenn, Alex, Don, and applicant Larry, for their work to install the swim platform, ladders, anchors, swim ropes, and make it all safe for swimming. There are still "tweaks" needed which Don will be doing. [Note: *The next work weekend will be June 11-12. See the description under the **Coming Weekends at Camp Nawakwa***]

Key-holders, as you sign in, you will note a list of chores on the desk. Please consider choosing a chore. All camp attendees need to "chip in". There are chores which need completing with use, such as the bathrooms, cabins, and kitchen, and maintenance chores such as clearing pathways, mowing driveway sides and upper field, etc. Choose a chore you are qualified for and check off with a date when completed. Thanks to all key-holders who consistently help to maintain camp, and for others, please consider volunteering. You can email questions and suggestions to [blaugabels@msn.com](mailto:blaugabels@msn.com).

Thank you.  
Don Gabel  
Camp Chair

## *From the Activities Committee*

1. Mary Lynne Malone, Educator from the Palisades Interstate Park Commission - Regional Museums Division, will provide a lecture on Native American Impact on the Harriman Park area, July 23rd at 7 pm.
2. On August 6th, Mary Lynn Malone will lead an Interpretive Nature Walk at camp at 4 pm.
3. Bear Mountain State Park will provide a presentation on Snakes of the Park with live specimens on August 13 after dinner.

Edie Blum  
Activities Committee Chair

# Coming Weekends at Camp Nawakwa

## Notes on Hosting

Updates to this hosting schedule will be provided in the weekly hosting emails sent out by the Hosting Committee

To host a weekend or midweek, contact Hosting Committee: [noamintari@gmail.com](mailto:noamintari@gmail.com) or call Mintari Preston at (201) 655-9813 if you have any questions.

*Commissary Concerns?*

Call or email Maryann Poris (973) 731-7117 [maporis@aol.com](mailto:maporis@aol.com)

There is a limit of one host plus one co-host per weekend or midweek

### A Zen Weekend in Nawakwa - June 4-5, 2022

Join your fellow Nawakwans for a weekend of hiking and boating followed by a happy hour offering guacamole, cheese, chips and crackers and lively conversation...Dinner will include salad, fish, steamed broccoli and mashed potatoes, apple pie and ice cream for dessert. Omelet and yogurt will be offered for breakfast and turkey sandwiches for lunch. Please let me know of your dietary restrictions and I will be more than happy to accommodate you:). Come alone, bring a guest, the more the merrier!

Please, register by 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 2 by emailing Tatiana Helms at [helmst.2000@gmail.com](mailto:helmst.2000@gmail.com) or texting to 516-698-0508

### Second Spring Work Weekend – June 11-12, 2022

Tasks of the Second Spring Work Weekend will include possible replacement of the swim dock deck depending on the Park supplying boards, as well as continued clearing of all pathways and driveway, mowing, weed whipping, and continued renovation of the handrail to the swim area. Lodge and cabin cleaning. Picnic table renovation. Saturday lunch will be provided by the camp. Please RSVP to [blaugabels@msn.com](mailto:blaugabels@msn.com) to attend next weekend's work weekend, and please specify carnivore or herbivore. We will need to assure an adequate ratio of applicants to keyholders, so please register early! FYI, the weekend is not a Hosted overnight.

### Father's Day Weekend – June 18-19, 2022

Join fellow Nawakwans on Father's Day weekend to swim, hike, enjoy the laurels and feast on good, old-fashioned camp food (beef/lamb burgers, vegetarian chili, Italian salad, and a seasonal dessert - perhaps strawberry shortcake.) Co-hosts: Daphne Prior and Ruby Kornfeld. **RSVP: Daphne Prior: 212-535-0306 (landline with voicemail) include your phone number or via email to Ruby Kornfeld at [rubyk@nyc.rr.com](mailto:rubyk@nyc.rr.com).** Please specify food preferences: vegetarian, vegan, omnivore including whether you participate in dinner, breakfast and lunch. Deadline is Thursday, June 16 (Bloomsday).

### Summer's First Weekend – June 25-26, 2022

Come and celebrate the beginning of summer this weekend by hiking, swimming, kayaking, and socializing with good friends at the beautiful camp Nawakwa. Enjoy Southeast Asian cuisine - carnivore as well as vegetarian dishes will be served. Hosts: Bill and Mintari Preston. Please RSVP to Mintari at [noamintari@gmail.com](mailto:noamintari@gmail.com) or text 201-655-9813 by 9 PM June 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Fourth of July Weekend – July 2-3, 2022**

Sitting on the dock for Fourth: Dinner Appetizer: warm, grilled Flatbreads topped with prosciutto, fresh mozzarella, sun-dried tomatoes, drizzle of balsamic. (Without meat for veggie option.) Main: slow-roasted, marinated chicken filet topped with caramelized cherry tomatoes/shallots. (Veggie option: Grilled portobello mushroom and yellow & green zucchini stacks). Savory orzo side dish. Dessert TBD. Breakfast: classic scrambled eggs with shredded Vermont cheddar, organic Maple breakfast sausage and whole grain toast. (Icelandic yogurt/fruit veggie option.)

To RSVP, please email Edie at [ediegreen17@gmail.com](mailto:ediegreen17@gmail.com) by Tuesday night, June 28th. Indicate the number of your dinner party and also if you are staying overnight Saturday and your number of overnights. Pls kindly also indicate if you are staying over at camp the next night, too, Sunday night, July 3rd, and the number in your camping party in case we can handle doing snacks for July 4th. For Saturday dinner, pls specify if you want the Chicken or the Grilled Veggie Stack w/ lemon dill sauce. For Sunday breakfast, pls indicate either Icelandic yogurt OR the scrambled eggs. Call me whenever you like if you have questions, 917-881-9931.

### **Midweek – July 4-8, 2022 – Caretaker Hosts: Angela and Butch Panzer**

### **Mid-Summer Duck dinner and weekend with Yajing Li and Jill Mendelson – July 9-10, 2022**

Mark your calendar for July 9-10. Come enjoy an active or lazy mid-summer weekend of hiking, kayaking, swimming, chatting, or doing nothing on the weekend of July 9-10. Carnivores and Herbivores are equally welcomed and entertained. Light appetizers are followed by Duck dinner for meat eaters and a Tofu mushroom delight for vegetarians. And scrumptious pies! Sunday breakfast is served and lunch bags are prepared for campers. Please register with both hosts: Yajing Li: [yajinglee@yahoo.com](mailto:yajinglee@yahoo.com) Jill Mendelson: [mendelsonjill@gmail.com](mailto:mendelsonjill@gmail.com) by Thursday, July 7, 2022. In

### **Bastille Day Celebration – July 16-17, 2022**

**With Susanne Flower and Lewis Ports.** Details to follow and will be posted on the website

**July 23-24, 2022 – Weekend with Stephanie Lai and Mary James** (details to follow on the website)

### **Celebration of Raymond H. Torrey – July 30-31, 2022**

At the ADK's general meeting in October 1922, Raymond Torrey was charged with setting up a New York Chapter. By 1923, the New York Chapter was formally established, with Raymond Torrey as the first Chapter Chair. He was also the co-founder of the Trail Conference and was appointed its first Secretary, a position he held until his untimely death (on his birthday, July 28th) in 1938 at age 58. New York Chapter members, with efforts spearheaded by Torrey and the Trail Conference, set out to blaze the first trails in Harriman State Park. During all these years, he published his Long Brown Path newspapers articles promoting all the trails being built in Harriman State Park. There will be a short presentation about Raymond Torrey after dinner on Saturday. A hike to the Torrey Memorial on Long Mountain (with a stop at Turkey Hill Lake) is planned for Sunday after breakfast (start time about 10:30). Host: Ray Kozma.

Please register with Ray (917-406-3782) or [raymondkozma@gmail.com](mailto:raymondkozma@gmail.com) by Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, before 10pm. The hike on Sunday will be qualifying.

# *Revised Bathing Beach Safety Plan (2021)*

*Printed below is an excerpt from the DOH approved Safety Plan that must be followed by any member or guest who wishes to swim at camp. The full Bathing Beach Safety Plan (BBSP), with explanation and forms to be signed, is available on our website and at the sign-in desk at camp.*

## **If you want to swim:**

The process begins when signing in to camp at the registration desk in the lodge in accordance with the usual procedures. If you haven't already read the Brochure on Level IV Safety Training Module on the NOANY.ORG website prior to arriving at Camp, read the Brochure and place your signature on the Brochure Recognition signature form confirming you have read the brochure. After signing in as per camp rules, the swim area can be opened.

The person who signs out the swim area emergency cell phone and opens the swim dock is named the Level IV Waterfront Supervisor for that period of time. Sign out the swim area emergency phone and take it down to the swim area, place it in the waterproof pack on the hook located in the safety equipment box.

Open the swim area by checking the area for hazards and put the safety equipment in the designated area on the swim dock. Check to see if the emergency rowboat is ready to perform a rescue.

When swimmers are done swimming for the day or for that time period, and there will no further swimming, return the safety equipment and close the gate to the swim dock, by hooking the chain and sign across the entrance ramp. Return the swim area emergency phone to the charger at the registration desk in the lodge.

**Please see our website for the full directives of the Bathing Beach Safety Plan.** There you will find:

- a pdf of the [Swimming Brochure](#)
- [Swimming Nawakwa](#): a slide presentation narrative on the procedures and safety plan
- the [Beach Safety Plan from the Handbook](#)
- [a Confirmation Form acknowledging that the Keyholder has read the brochure and agrees to follow the rules](#)

**Please check our website ([noany.org](http://noany.org))  
for updates to weekends, previews of upcoming weekends,  
and special announcements.**

## *In Celebration of our New Club - May 7, 2022*

Although rainy weather forced several people to cancel, forty members gathered at camp on May 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our becoming the *Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc.* Susanne Flower and Lewis Ports prepared a sumptuous meal enjoyed by all. The Nawakwan spirit of cooperation and camaraderie was manifestly abundant at this gathering.







# Hikes and Outings

Hikes and Outings Chairperson: Glen Nison 718-625-2182 [gnisonbike@juno.com](mailto:gnisonbike@juno.com)  
For listings of hikes not led by members of NOANY, (and not necessarily qualifying) try these links:  
<http://www.nynjtc.org/content/scheduled-hikes> <http://www.hudsonhikers.org/schedules.htm>

## **To Breakneck Pond and Back Saturday - June 18, 2022**

If the timing is right, we should still be encountering on this hike a good deal of blooming Mountain Laurel. The hike will start from the Boat Launch/Fishermen's Parking Area on Lake Sebago. 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 look at the AMC Harriman Camp and will return by a different trail. Bring lunch, rain gear, and appropriate hiking shoes. Why not plan on signing up for the hosted weekend, too! We can relax after the hike and enjoy a fine, relaxing Saturday dinner.

**Meet at the Lake Sebago Boat Launch parking area by 9:30AM. Qualifying (about 6 miles). Leader: Ray Kozma. Contact at: [raymondkozma@gmail.com](mailto:raymondkozma@gmail.com) or 917-406-3782.**

## **Raymond Torrey Memorial Hike (5-6 miles) - Sunday, July 31, 2022**

Raymond H. Torrey was the first Chair of the New York Chapter. In the fall of 1922, he was asked by the Board of Governors of the Main Club to organize local walks for members in the Metropolitan area. In January 1923, he issued a small two-page outing schedule. Another schedule was issued in the Spring. This hike will visit and pay tribute to Raymond Torrey at the memorial placed on Long Mountain after his sudden death in 1938 (see the accompanying article in this issue of the Trail Marker). The hike to the memorial entails a good climb up Long Mountain. The hike will then continue down to Turkey Hill Lake where we will stop for lunch. There is a good steady climb up from the lake back to the cars. Note: The whole hike is qualifying, but for those who wish just to do the hike to the memorial, it would be easy to return to the cars after we have hiked down Long Mountain - this would be about a 2-mile total- and before we head down to the lake. Bring lunch, rain gear, and appropriate hiking shoes.

**Qualifying. Leader: Ray Kozma. Contact at: [raymondkozma@gmail.com](mailto:raymondkozma@gmail.com) or 917-406-3782.**

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### **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."

Nawakwa, 1923

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# In Memoriam



*James W. Van Blarcom*

October 22, 1930 ~ April 26, 2022 (age 91)

*James W. Van Blarcom, 91, born Oct. 22, 1930, passed away at Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, NJ on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. A resident of Wyckoff, NJ since 1967. Loving husband of Marianne Levenoskie Van Blarcom and on July 1st, 2021, they celebrated 60 years of marriage together in Wyckoff, NJ. Cherished son of the late Cornelia and the late Wesley Van Blarcom. He was raised in Hawthorne, NJ, graduate of Hawthorne High School in 1948. James achieved a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1952. A veteran of the United States Army serving during the Korean War. He was first employed by Bendix Corporation and then worked for Gibbs & Cox Marine Engineering firm as a Contract Administrator until his retirement in 1994. His retirement years were spent traveling, particularly in the American West. They hiked, skied, golfed, and canoed in many places. He was an active member of the Adirondack Mountain Club and the NY/NJ Trail Conference. He and his wife maintained the Yellow-Triangle Trail in Harriman Park for many years. James is survived by his brother John (Jack) Van Blarcom and his wife Susan, niece Judy and nephew Robert Van Blarcom, along with many cousins and friends.*

## From our Archives

- Jim and Marianne joined the NY Chapter in 1973. Next year he would have become a 50-year member. They were living in their present home at that time. He was listed as a Contracts Administrator. His Sponsors were Jeanne & Dick Hopkins.
- The Jan 1974 Trail Marker reflects Jim and Marianne as the Co-Camp Program Committee Chairmen. He also served around this time on the Firewood and Stoves Committee and the Main Cabin Committee.
- They co-hosted the 1975 "New Year's Eve Special at Nawakwa, a festive occasion with dancing, adult games, and a midnight champagne buffet supper."
- The hosted many weekends starting in 1975
- Starting in 1976, they began to lead hikes such as the Southfield Circular, Island Pond Circular,
- He hosted Applicants throughout his years as a member.

- Ellen King

# Memories of Jim

*It was sad to hear the news about Jim.*

*He and Marianne were very active years ago, when I first joined, and they were friendly and welcoming.*

*I remember Jim often sitting at the desk in the main cabin, checking people in, and pretending to be stern. Sometimes he was, but often, he was not!*

*The two of them entered into many camp activities, especially some of the uproarious Halloweens that were held in the Fall, and they had great costumes. (Current members should take a look at the photo album in the main cabin).*

*In recent years, they would come up quietly on a Sunday and canoe for a while. I wish they had hung around a bit more, but perhaps they did not want to intrude.*

*Jim will be missed, but if Marianne can come up, it would be nice to see her again and to reminisce about old times. An artist, she did some very nice artwork for Nawakwa, including one of our very popular T-shirt designs, and I am sure many members will remember her, and Jim.*

- Daphne Prior

*When I join the club back in the early 1980's, Jim and Marianne were among the very first friends I made at camp. They were welcoming and outgoing and easy to be around. We socialized both at camp and outside, with them inviting to their home on several occasions. Conversation flowed easily when with them, with Jim having a great sense of humor. Lots of fun (and lasting memories) were always at hand when Marianne and Jim were present.*

*Our archives document the many activities they both did for the club, always with generosity, friendliness, and competency. Jim and Marianne also maintained the Yellow Triangle Trail for many years and continued to perform maintenance on it periodically even after they passed the responsibility on to subsequent maintainers. Their dedication and their pride in the work done for the club was very apparent.*

*Later, when we were rededicating the Gazebo, Marianne graciously provided the artwork that we incorporated into the plaque that was installed at the Gazebo.*

*Some older members have shared with me how fondly they remember Jim, with his friendly manner, and recounted how active he and Marianne had been with the club.*

*It is a comfort knowing that they were able to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary together last year and that, in the end, Jim did not have a long suffering. Jim will be missed indeed.*

- Ray Kozma

## In Celebration of the Life of Inge Simpson



Friends of Inge Simpson joined co-hosts Eve Mancuso and Nancy Dargis on the weekend of May 14-15 at camp in celebration of Inga's life.

After dinner, all shared their stories, thoughts, and remembrances of Inga. Her very special presence at camp will be missed.

Note: We have learned that long-time keyholder Margot Heuman passed away on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 94. A memorial for Margot and her extraordinary life will be in the next issue of the Trail Marker. - Ray Kozma

## Palm Sunday Hike – Sunday – April 10, 2022

After a lapse of two years due to the pandemic, the people of St. John's Church in the Wilderness hosted a modified hikers' event on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Many hiking groups converged in the afternoon to partake of a luncheon prepared by the parishioners. Twenty-three members and guests participated in our own hiking group that day. The large group of hikers divided into two groups, re-joining on the last leg of the hike just before the church. Below are some of the pictures from the hike.





# Centennial Anniversary Events

*The Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc. (formerly the New York Chapter, Inc. of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc.) will be celebrating its One-Hundredth Anniversary in 2023*

The marking of a hundred years is always a notable occasion whether it be for an individual, an event, or an organization. In this space of the Trail Marker, we are providing information and updates about plans for celebrating our Centennial.

1. To count down to the anniversary, the Trail Marker has been carrying articles about the history, significant events, and people connected to the development of the Main Club and the New York Chapter.
2. In this issue, we highlight again Raymond H. Torrey, our first Chapter Chair (see article below), and note the special achievements he had accomplished until his sudden death in 1938 at age of 58. A weekend in honor of him will be held on July 30-31, 2022, with a hike to the Torrey Memorial planned for Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. See details of the weekend on page 5 and of the hike on page 9.
3. A Committee is being formed to plan a grand celebration in 2023 to celebrate our One-Hundredth Anniversary. The date and venue are not set yet. Right now, we are looking for help from any and all club members who might be interested in working on the planning committee. If interested, please contact Susanne Flower at [susanneflower@gmail.com](mailto:susanneflower@gmail.com) or Ray Kozma at [raymondkozma@gmail.com](mailto:raymondkozma@gmail.com).



# Raymond H. Torrey (1880-1938)

The Kiosk at the start of the trail that leads to the Torrey Memorial on Long Mountain states the following:

*“Raymond H. Torrey’s (1880-1938) curiosity for nature led him into the Hudson Highland’s wilderness to explore as a geologist, geographer, and historian. Considered the founder of the NY-NJ Trail Conference, serving as an officer until his death in 1938, Torrey pioneered hiking and trail building in this region. He was actively involved in the construction of the present trail system, whether it be the design, cutting or blazing of new hiking pathways, maintaining old trails, or scouting potential new routes, including the very first section of the Appalachian Trail.*

*As newsman, amateur botanist and publicist for the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Torrey intensively studied and wrote of his wilderness findings, including a definitive study of area lichens. He popularized “tramping” through his daily newspaper column titled “The Long Brown Path,” named for a line in a Walt Whitman poem, “Song of the Open Road.” The column included a weekly list of hikes, news of the hiking clubs and the trail geography, geology, botany, and history. He described every twist and turn of every trail in the Hudson Highland, and as far afield as the Catskills, the Adirondacks and Katahdin, Maine. With co-authors Frank Place and Dr. Robert L. Dickinson, Torrey wrote in 1923 the New York Walk Book, the classic and comprehensive guide to trails with 100 miles of New York City. Like his newspaper column, the book, in its many revisions, includes regional geological, botanical, and biological information and historical legends and facts. Torrey held high positions in many organizations, including the Appalachian Trail Conference and NY-NJ Trail Conference effectively advancing their conservation causes.*

[The following article on Raymond Torrey is excerpted from an article in Wikipedia]

“Raymond Hezekiah Torrey (July 15, 1880 – July 15, 1938) was the author of weekly [columns](#), Outings and The Long Brown Path in the New York Evening Post in the 1920s and 1930s. The column played a major role in the development of the 2,100-mile (3,400 km) Appalachian Trail, the Long Path and the popularity of hiking generally. He was a founding member of the New York–New Jersey Trail Conference and one of the authors of the first edition of the New York Walk Book. He had extensive scientific knowledge, writing about everything from the short-billed marsh wren to marine fossils and lichens; he could identify over 700 plants. He was secretary of the Association for the Preservation of the Adirondacks, and secretary of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.

## Early life

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“Born in Georgetown, Massachusetts, where his father was a sea captain, he began a career in journalism in newspapers in the Berkshires first, but soon moved to New York City. In 1903 he started at the New York American, then moved to the [Tribune](#) and finally the Evening Post (today the [New York Post](#)) in 1918. He became involved in the New York hiking scene at a time when the forests and mountains of the [Hudson Highlands](#) were relatively unknown but interest in the outdoors was increasing and city hiking clubs were coming into existence.



## **The Long Brown Path**

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“In the early 1920s Torrey developed a weekly outdoor column for the Post, called the Long Brown Path which was named for a line in Walt Whitman's "Song of the Open Road". Major William A. Welch, General Manager of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, was interested in creating hiking trails in Bear Mountain-Harriman State Parks but was lacking funds. Welch suggested that Torrey use his influential column to help organize New York metropolitan area hiking clubs into a volunteer trail-building confederation; this led to the creation of the Palisades Interstate Park Trail Conference, a precursor of the NY/NJTC

“Torrey not only wrote the columns, but he also organized and coordinated the resulting volunteers and did plenty of route-scouting and trail building himself.

“The column was very popular: along with news of the clubs and their trails, it included a listing of hikes, as many as 20 or 30 weekly. He also used the column as a "bully pulpit," railing against litter, championing environmental causes, giving notice of upcoming conservation bills in New York and New Jersey, and organizing letter-writing campaigns in support of [reforestation](#) measures and proposals for the creation of new parks.

## **The Appalachian Trail**

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“In 1922 Torrey publicized a proposal by forester Benton MacKaye to build a 2,100-mile (3,400 km) trail from Maine to Georgia (subsequently named the Appalachian Trail (or AT) with a story under a full-page banner headline reading "A Great Trail from Maine to Georgia!" The idea was quickly adopted by the new Trail Conference as their main project.

“Working with volunteers organized by J. Ashton Allis of the Trail Conference, Torrey helped blaze the first 6 miles (10 km) of the AT running from the Ramapo River to Fingerboard Mountain. By January 4, 1924, the 20-mile (32 km) stretch from the Hudson to the Ramapo River was complete. On November 18 of that year, he worked with the Tramp and Trail Club on what he dubbed a "Speed Special," clearing and blazing a 20-mile (32 km) section through Sterling Forest, New York.

“The effort involved much more than the physical effort of building and blazing trails— complex negotiations with property owners were required as well, particularly east of the Hudson where no established system of hiking trails existed. By 1929, with the help of New Jersey state park officials, a 43-mile (69 km) section from the Delaware River to High Point along the Kittatinny Ridge was completed. Two years later, 160 miles (260 km) of the AT, from the Delaware River to Kent, Connecticut, was in place.

## **Death and legacy**

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“Torrey died of a [heart attack](#) on his 58th birthday, stunning the hiking community. The NYNJTC soon found that it took a committee to do the work he alone had carried out. A [memorial](#) was placed on Long Mountain in Harriman State Park, which had one of his favorite views, reading "In Memory of Raymond H. Torrey, A Great Disciple of the Long Brown Path, 1880-1938." His ashes were scattered to the winds there in a brief ceremony.”

## *New Applicants*

*"Since the Bylaws give the care, responsibility, and privilege of running and maintaining Camp Nawakwa exclusively to the keyholder members (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, adults (18 years and older) to become applicants for keyholder status. After completing the required activities, such new keyholders, will take their place in the long line of custodians of Camp Nawakwa and its traditions."*  
*[Policy on Sponsor-Applicants]*

### **Welcome New Applicants!**

Larry Budner  
Lorraine Hariton  
Marcia Lange  
Jeanne Lapsker  
Alexa Madden  
Ari Wegh  
Marilyn Wegh

