

The Trail Marker

June – July Issue 2026

Published by the *Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc.*

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

From the Chair...

*“Sort me O tongue and lips for nature’s sake, souvenirs of earliest summer,
Gather the welcome signs—
The summer approaching with richness, the early summer grass so rich,
With that early-summer perfume, a show of the summer softness.
-Walt Whitman-*



Welcome All!! The camp season is officially here! The first work weekend to open camp was a success, and hearty thanks go out to those who participated. There remains work to do. The waterfront set-up of both the swimming area and

boat dock remain to be completed. These tasks require many hands, and strong backs. Please look for the announcement of the next workday on the website.

As we look forward to the many special activities, hikes, and historical presentations to commemorate our 100-year Anniversary in camp, we are reminded that some of the infrastructure is also 100 years old. We all must be cognizant of our commitment to act as stewards for our beloved camp Nawakwa. In addition to the seasonal tasks, there are maintenance and long-term infrastructure projects that require attention. We call out to all members

to offer their time and skills to assist the Camp Committee.

I look forward to our 100-year Anniversary festivities, and a season filled with hiking, kayaking, swimming, activities, Saturday feasts, and of course the most important ingredient – the members. As has been said on many occasions: we are not a group of transient club members, but a cohesive unit of like-minded individuals who share a love of nature and the outdoors, and who form long-lasting friendships. I look forward to the next chapter in the life of Camp Nawakwa.

At the Group Camps meeting, we were informed:

- that the Sebago Beach restoration project is underway, and work will proceed in phases over the course of the next years.
- Lake Welch beach will be undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation.

In addition to the on-going routine maintenance projects, there are a few projects planned for this

season, including handrails, new tent platforms, and restoration of the lodge siding. Your continued participation is critical, not only to keep the camp safe and operational, but also to improve the infrastructure. Remember, Teamwork makes the Dream Work. Join a committee to further your involvement and commitment to camp; we need you!

It is with much appreciation that I thank you in advance for your continued efforts as we sail into summer. See you in camp!

Regards, Eve Mancuso, Chair

Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc.

Board of Directors and Committees

Chair: Eve Mancuso eve@noany.org
Vice-Chair: Marty McDonald info@noany.org
Secretary: Kate Walker kate@noany.org
Treasurer: Suzanne Rocheleau treasurer@noany.org
Director: Andy Frank andy@noany.org
Director: Janet Perlberg janetp@noany.org
Director: Edie Green edie@noany.org
Director: Carol Burns carol@noany.org
Director: Alex Wilkie alex@noany.org
Director: Susanne Flower susanne@noany.org
Director: Dave Hayes camp@noany.org

Activities Committee:

Chair: Edie Green edie@noany.org

Camp Committee:

Chair: Dave Hayes camp@noany.org

Hikes and Outings Committee:

Co-Chair: Oliver Lunt oliver@noany.org

Co-Chair: Ingrid Strauch
ingrid-hiking@noany.org

Trails Committee:

Chair: Andy Frank andy@noany.org

Membership Committee:

Co-Chair: Jerry Flower membership@noany.org

Co-Chair: Janet Sibarium janet@noany.org

Hosting Committee:

Chair - Maryann Poris maryann@noany.org

Co-chair- Rosanna Romagnano

rosanna@noany.org

Co-chair- Doris Blasi doris@noany.org

Conservation Committee:

Chair: Kate Walker kate@noany.org

Environmental Education Committee

Chair: Marty Kellerman martyk@noany.org

Archives Committee:

Chair: Raymond Kozma archives@noany.org

Webmaster: Marty McDonald info@noany.org

Commissary: Cathy Grady cathy@noany.org

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Dargis trailmarker@noany.org

Park Liaison: Eve Mancuso eve@noany.org

Problems Receiving the Trail Marker? Please let our Secretary know of any problems.

Change of address: Please contact Jerry Flower, our Membership Co-Chair, at membership@noany.org to notify us of any address changes.

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 Webmaster.

Follow us on [Instagram!](#) nawakwa_outdoor_association_ny Account managed by Jess Scirbona
(jess@noany.org)

**“Be aware of scammers- NOANY and its members
will never contact you via email for money or gift cards”**

**Deadline for submissions to the next edition of the Trail Marker (August– September 2026) is July 24, 2026.
Please send submissions to Nancy Dargis trailmarker@noany.org**

NAWAKWA OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

Elections – 2026

Nominating Committee Request for Nominations

Elections for five (5) positions on the Board of Directors of the Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York (NOANY) are scheduled to be held on October 17, 2026, at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee takes this opportunity to reach out for any recommendations that you may have for someone to serve as a Board Director or Officer. Needed for these positions are keyholder members of NOANY with a love of Camp Nawakwa and a willingness to assist in navigating through, weighing in, and voting on the issues that will come up during his or her term on the Board.

Voting

1. **Anyone who is a member of the Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York may vote in elections.**
2. **All Directors and Officers must be keyholder members of NOANY.**
3. **All names must be received by July 15, 2026. The slate of candidates will be posted in the August/September 2026 Trail Marker.**

Candidates for the Board: Two-year term - January 2027 through December 2028

Chair (Two- year term) _____

Treasurer (Two - year term) _____

Director (Two-year term) _____

Director (Two-year term) _____

Director (Two-year term) _____

Please Note: The following officers whose terms are expiring have agreed to run for reelection. Eve Mancuso, Chair; Suzanne Rocheleau, Treasurer; Carol Burns, Director.

Please email the Nominating Committee (whose members are listed below) the names and positions of any candidates you wish to nominate for the Board:

Yajing Li (yajinglee@yahoo.com)

Emily Crowell (ETourinCrowell@gmail.com)

Jerry Flower (Jerry.Flower@verizon.net)

Thank you.

The Nominating Committee

Applicant Orientation Workshop

Saturday June 20, 2026 - 12 Noon

Attention Applicants:

An Orientation Workshop will be held at camp on Saturday June 20th at 12 noon. Keyholder members are also welcome to join in the workshop to get a refresher course on camp operation.

The Orientation Workshop is designed to help applicants on their way to becoming Nawakwans. The orientation provides an overview of the history of Camp Nawakwa, of the Policies and Procedures as they relate to camp, and of the operational information needed for being at and safely using Camp Nawakwa. Walking the property, getting familiar with the camp environs and boundaries, the buildings, and especially the waterfront area, will be part of the program.

To register for the Orientation workshop, please contact Ray Kozma at 917-406-3782 or raymondkozma@gmail.com before 10PM on Thursday June 18th.

[Since this is a hosted weekend, please consider signing up for the weekend! There will be a Centennial Presentation on the development of the trails in Harriman State Park after dinner. See the Hosting Calendar for registration information.]

Annual Nawakwa Passport

We are happy to announce that the Annual Nawakwa Passport for 2026 is now available for all Keyholders. This year, the Passports are being handled by Roseann Mancuso.

The Annual Passport covers the Day and Overnight Fees for all visits to camp for the calendar year. Reminder: If a Passport holder brings spouse, children, other family members or guests to camp, these others must pay the appropriate Camp Fees, as usual.

The cost for the 2026 individual Keyholder Passport, which is non-transferable, is \$160.

The Annual Nawakwa Passport may be obtained two ways:

1. Payments can be sent electronically via Zelle® to rocheleau3@gmail.com noting "Passport 2026"
2. To pay by check, please make check payable to "NOANY" and add "Passport 2026" in the memo line. Please send your check to:

Treasurer, NOANY
Peter Stuyvesant Post Office
PO Box 327
New York, N.Y. 10009-9998

The Centennial Committee Wants to Hear from You!

The Nawakwa Centennial Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes planning for an exciting year. We would like member input so we can plan the best event possible later this year. Please take our five-question survey so we can get your input!

[Centennial Party Survey](#)

Warmly, The Nawakwa Centennial Committee



ANNUAL APPEAL 2026

The Camp Improvement and Sustainability Fund

Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc.
Peter Stuyvesant Post Office
P.O. Box 327
New York, NY 10009-9998

Dear Fellow Nawakwans,

We are happy to report that the 2025 Camp Nawakwa season was a resounding success! In addition to the hundreds of visits, the enjoyable hosted weekends, the hikes and special activities that were held, there were on-going projects that helped to keep our camp in good shape. Among the camp projects this year were:

1. There were successful workdays, that in addition to providing opportunities to improve camp, allow seasoned members, new members, and applicants to work side by side and build up the spirit of teamwork and camaraderie.
2. More repairs were made to the Swim Dock as well as upgrades to the path leading to the swim dock, and boat dock.

As with any "mature" facility, the regular operation and maintenance of camp is itself an ongoing work. Improvements to all the pathways and steps, and continued renovation and replacement of the handrails from the waterfront up to the turn-around area and up to the cabins, are works in progress. We are hoping to acquire approval from PIPC to construct additional tent platforms.

We are grateful for and appreciate all that keyholders have done over the years in support of camp. It is to that generosity of keyholder members that we once again make this appeal for funds to help us move forward. Working together, and as we look forward to our centennial in 2026, we can continue the legacy that has been entrusted to us and help Camp Nawakwa continue for new generations of members for the next one-hundred years. We ask you please to be as generous as possible.

With appreciation and for the Board,

Eve Mancuso, Board Chair

To make a donation please send a check payable to: Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc. Please indicate if you wish your contribution to be acknowledged in the Trail Marker. Alternately, contributions may also be sent to our Treasurer by Zelle (rocheleau3@gmail.com), noting in the subject line "2026 Annual Appeal." Please note: As the Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York is a 501(c)7 corporation, gifts are not tax deductible. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

2026 Meeting Schedule of NOANY Board of Directors

All regular Board meetings are held by Zoom, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, starting at 7PM, unless otherwise noted. Meetings will be held 1/21, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29, 5/27, 6/24, 7/22, 8/26 (Open Board Meeting), 9/23, 10/28 (Annual meeting), November and December TBD

WhatsApp Messaging for Nawakwans

WhatsApp, a popular and free messaging app, is now available to Nawakwa Members and we have a dedicated group chat with moderators. This group will act as an online meeting place and allow folks (both applicants & members) to connect in regard to transportation and camp visits. Sometimes you just need a buddy, a ride, or a little more info about an upcoming event. This app is completely optional to join and/or participate in but will serve as a great connection and source of information if enough people opt into using the app.

Step 1: On your iPhone or Android device, head to your official App Store and search “WhatsApp”, download the application and then open it.

Step 2: Once the app is installed on your phone you can click the link below to join the NOANY group. We do ask that you use your real name so that people know with whom they are chatting.

WhatsApp Group Link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JPCmPSXyyjWGqr8OMPORIW>

If anyone is having trouble or would like additional help setting up the app or joining the group, Dave Hayes & Jess Scirbona will be offering quick tutorials as needed.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Camp!

Best Wishes,

Dave Hayes, Camp Chair

Leave A Legacy

Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc. is the correct designation for any special bequests anyone might wish to include in estate planning. Please note that our club is a 501(c)7 non-profit membership club. As such, we are not able to arrange for tax-deductible gifts.

For more information, please contact:
Suzanne Rocheleau, Treasurer at
treasurer@noany.org



Is It Poison Ivy, Poison Oak or Sarsaparilla?



Touch It

Don't Touch It ✓

That's poison ivy. Poison ivy and oak leaves almost always grow in threes, shaped like a lowercase "t" with two leaves (technically called leaflets) on the sides and one at the end with a slightly longer stem.

Fun fact: The allergenic oil is on only the inside of the plant, not the outside, according to John Jelesko, a botanist at Virginia Tech. But



Touch It

Don't Touch It ✓

That's poison oak. Like poison ivy, it has three leaves, one with a longer top stem: Are you getting the hang of it? This is a pretty classic leaf for poison oak: small, lobed and a little waxy. But just note that these are not always reliable identifiers. Poison oak leaves that grow in the shade, for example, can be almost the size



Touch It ✓

Don't Touch It

That's wild sarsaparilla. Though it's sometimes confused with poison ivy, it's totally safe to touch and actually makes a tasty drink similar to root beer.

Hosting Committee

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:

Chair: Maryann Poris maryann@noany.org

Co-chair: Rosanna Romagnano rosanna@noany.org

Co-chair: Doris Blasi doris@noany.org

Commissary Concerns? Email Cathy Grady
cathy@noany.org

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

Welcome to the '26 Nawakwa Season—Our Centennial! The **hosting schedule** is open for volunteers.

Each keyholder may choose to host a weekend or weekends. There are still weekends open for hosting. Kindly email your hosting selection as soon as possible to the Hosting Committee at hosting@noany.org. There are also opportunities for midweek hosts as well. Just let us know.

Please review the current Hosting and Guest Policies on our Nawakwa website (noany.org/hosting-forms). All forms can be downloaded from the website. It's important that the hosts observe these policies and report any difficulties. *We're here to support you and your hosting experience.*

We encourage you to communicate via the hosting email address at hosting@noany.org. If you want to speak directly, contact Maryann Poris at 973-769-4246.

Looking forward to a great season and to hearing from you,

The Hosting Committee, Maryann, Rosanna, Doris, and Cathy (commissary)

Upcoming Hosted Weekends:

May 31ST- June 5th Midweek Hosted By Jason:

Nawakwans can join our midweek host, Jason McGinnis: May 31st - June 5th. Enjoy the hiking, camping, boating & swimming at Nawakwa!

June 20th -June 21st Hosted Weekend with Eve & Centennial

Presentation with Ray

June 20th @ 1:00 pm - June 21st @ 1:00 pm

Join Eve Mancuso for a hosted weekend with presentation Saturday by Ray Kozma: Development of the Trails on Harriman State Park. Please see the website calendar (<https://noany.org>) for more details.

July 4th – July 5th Hosted weekend with Ruby & Joe

July 4th @ 2:00 pm - July 5th @ 1:00 pm

Join Ruby & Joe for a July 4th hosted weekend: Potluck Saturday dinner!

Enjoy a laid-back 4th at Nawakwa with Ruby Kornfeld and Joe Rinaldi. This will be a potluck weekend so everyone should bring a dish to share. We are attaching a list of options (see below) so you can select one that works for you. If you will be staying for breakfast, also bring a breakfast item to share. We will be bringing hamburgers and hot dogs for barbecue. BYOB if you're interested.

Let us know if you are vegetarian and we will buy some soy burgers. Happy hour, dinner and breakfast. NO TRAIL LUNCH. Contact Ruby by Wed., July 1, 9pm at: rubyk@nyc.rr.com or text Ruby at 917-548-2873.

FOURTH OF JULY NAWAKWA POT LUCK LIST

HAPPY HOUR	Name	Items You Will Bring	Comments
Food			
Beverages			
Wine			
DINNER			
Salads			
Side Dishes			
Dessert			
BREAKFAST			
Fruit			
Coffee			
Milk			
Yogurt			
Other			

Upcoming Hosted Weekends: (cont.)

July 11th – July 12th Bastille Day Hosted Weekend with Lewis & Susanne

July 11th @ 1:00 pm - July 12th @ 1:00 pm

Join Lewis Ports & Susanne Flower for Bastille Day Hosted Weekend. Please see the website calendar (<https://noany.org>) for more details.

July 18th -July 19st Hosted weekend with Janet & Ray & Centennial Presentation with Ray

July 18th @ 1:00 pm - July 19th @ 1:00 pm

Join Janet Sibarium & Ray Kozma for the Raymond Torrey Memorial Hosted Weekend. Saturday hike to Torrey Memorial and Saturday night presentation by Ray Kozma. Please see the website calendar (<https://noany.org>) for more details.

Please check the NOANY website calendar for the most updated information on hosted weekends deadlines and registration info!



Hikes and Outings Committee

Co-Chair: Oliver Lunt oliver@noany.org

Co-Chair: Ingrid Strauch ingrid-hiking@noany.org

For listings of hikes not led by members of NOANY, (and not necessarily qualifying) try the following link:

<http://www.nynjtc.org/content/member-clubs>

Interested in becoming a hike leader? Please send your name, email, and phone number to Oliver or Ingrid expressing your interest in becoming a hike leader for NOANY.

Note: If you can offer a ride to participants coming from New York City, please let the hike/outing leader know.

UPCOMING HIKES & OUTINGS

Saturday - June 6, 2026 - Centennial Hike to Camp Blue Bird

Hike To Camp Bluebird [Note: This hike was re-scheduled from May 2, 2026]

5 - 6 miles, with a moderately strenuous climb up and over Stockbridge Mountain.
Elevation gain about 500 feet

In the Fall of 1924, the Chapter subleased Camp Blue Bird (on the east side of Upper Twin Lake) from a group that used the property as a girl's camp in summer. In May, the Chapter vacated the camp but was back in October. The Chapter used the camp until April 4, 1926 "*when all our possessions...were carried down to Lake Sebago and ferried across to Nawakwa.*" [Ira Ayres]

It was at Camp Blue Bird that the members developed the model of the Saturday night communal meal. As stated by Ira Ayres in his write-up for the 50th anniversary of the Chapter: "*Our very successful system of community meals began on our second weekend in October 1924.*"

Hike will start at the Silvermine parking area (park in the areas just past the toll booth). Meeting time is 10AM. Hike is qualifying. Participants should wear sturdy footwear and bring lunch, snacks, raingear, and water.

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

Please register with leader by 10PM Thursday, June 4th.

UPCOMING HIKES & OUTINGS (Cont.)

Saturday- June 13th - 30 mile bike ride on the Empire State Trail 9:00 am

Hosted by: Janet Perlberg

Ride fifteen miles of the Empire State Trail and back starting in Van Cortland Park in the Bronx.

Accessible by Subway. Metered street parking or other paid parking options should be available.

Expected pace is 10 to 12 miles per hour. Please be sure to bring your bicycle, a helmet, water, a snack and spare tube. Most of the trail is paved with concrete. This segment of the trail has low elevation changes but is not entirely flat. Expected time; 3 to 3.5 hours.

Please sign up with Janet perl.janet@gmail.com by June 10th.

Saturday, June 20, 10:24 AM- One-Way Hike From Tuxedo Train Station to Camp

This one-way, qualifying hike from Tuxedo train station to Camp Nawakwa is geared toward keyholders and applicants spending the June 20-21 weekend at camp. The hike starts when the NJTransit train arrives in Tuxedo at approximately 10:24 AM. We'll cover about 5 miles over hilly terrain as we take the Ramapo-Dunderberg, Tuxedo-Mount Ivy, White Cross, Victory, and Yellow Triangle trails to camp. You will need to carry all of your gear for the weekend, as well as water and snacks for the hike. No car shuttle for gear. No return to the train station. Hiking boots recommended.

Leader: Ingrid Strauch, Ingrid-hiking@noany.org

Please register with leader by Thursday, June 19, at 9 PM.

UPCOMING HIKES & OUTINGS (Cont.)

Sunday, June 21, 10 AM- Tuxedo-Mount Ivy Circular

This circular, qualifying hike will leave from camp at 10 AM and cover approximately 6.5 miles on the Tuxedo-Mount Ivy, Buck, and Seven Hills trails. Please bring water, your lunch and snacks, and bug and sun protection. We will hike at a moderate pace over somewhat hilly terrain. Hike ends at camp. Hiking boots recommended.

Leader: Ingrid Strauch, Ingrid-hiking@noany.org

Please register with leader by Thursday, June 19, at 9 PM.

Saturday – July 18, 2026 - Hike to the Torrey Memorial on Long Mountain

Distance: About 2 miles (Not-Qualifying); Elevation gain: About 300+ feet

We will meet at camp about 10AM and car-pool over to the hike's starting point (the parking area off Long Mountain Parkway), leaving camp about 10:30AM. Shortly after leaving the parking area, we will follow a woods road to where it intersects with the Long Path and then climb to the Memorial at the top of Long Mountain. After viewing the memorial and taking pictures, we will continue down the mountain back to the parking area, making for a loop of about 2 miles.

Meeting time is 10AM at Camp Nawakwa. Participants should wear good hiking shoes, bring water, a snack, and rain gear. Hiking poles recommended due to some moderately steep uphill and downhill.

[Note: Leader can possibly meet any participants coming up to Sloatsburg by public transportation for a ride in to camp. Please call to arrange for this.]

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

Please register with the leader by 10PM Thursday, July 16th.

[Note: This hike is part of the Raymond Torrey Memorial hosted weekend celebration. Coming for the hike? Why not plan on taking part in the weekend. There will be a presentation on Raymond Torrey in the evening after dinner. Please see the Hosting Page for information on registering for the weekend.]

Trails Committee

Chair: Andy Frank andy@noany.org

Join us for a Trail Work Day

June 7, 2026 @ 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Contribute a few hours toward maintaining our shared hiking trails. We'll start with an introduction to trail maintenance for those who haven't done it before. Then we'll hike to our work location and work for around three hours not counting our lunch break. This is a qualifying event.

Meeting place: Camp Nawakwa (pick-up at train/bus station possible)

When: 10:00 a.m.

What to bring: Work clothes, long pants and long-sleeved shirt, jacket/warm layers for changing weather circumstances, sturdy hiking shoes/boots, gloves, hat, plenty of water and a packed lunch. Bring hedge trimmers/loppers/pocket saws if you have them.

We provide: tools, safety glasses, work gloves, plus some dessert treats for our break times.

To register for the trail work day, e-mail Andy at agfrank1@aol.com not later than Thursday, June 4, 2026. Please indicate whether you will need to be picked up at the train station or bus stop in Sloatsburg and at what time (the bus and train from NYC usually arrive shortly after 10:00 am).

Activities Committee

edie@noany.org

Please join us for these upcoming events:

July 25th -Harriman State Park-led Wildlife Safety Training and

Discussion: (With Kyle Strassburg and team)

Location: Camp Nawakwa Lodge after dinner

August 1st -Bear Mountain Zookeepers presents Live Animals of the Park:

(With Ryan Gerbehy and team)

Location: Camp Nawakwa Lodge after dinner

NOTICE

The Activities Committee announces the purchase of a digital projector for showing media directly from a phone, iPad, or computer onto a large screen.

Any member may use it to organize a movie night or show a slideshow of photos from your latest hike or worldwide vacation. The possibilities are endless.

Simply decide your activity, pick a date, and let the Activities Committee know via phone-call/text at (917-881-9931) or email: edie@noany.org

- Edie Green, Chair

Membership Committee

Co-Chair: Jerry Flower membership@noany.org

Co-Chair: Janet Sibarium janet@noany.org

Welcome to Our Applicants

Angela Dallner

David Forgacs

Kristen Flood

Olof Dallner

Rachele Tardi

Virginia Sequeiros



In Memoriam

Helga Abel

We recently received word that long-time member Helga Abel passed away. In her late eighties, Helga had moved to a retirement community in Maryland and passed away there recently in her late nineties.

Helga became a Keyholder member in 1973 and from the beginning was a very active and dedicated member of the club who generously assumed many responsibilities.

Among her many activities were the following: Served on the Board as a Director (2002); In charge of the Commissary (1998-2009); Editor of our Newsletter (1976-1977); Chair of the Activities Committee (1978). In addition, Helga hosted many weekends at Camp Nawakwa and coordinated and hosted many AMC Invitationals Weekends at camp.

The extraordinary service Helga had given to the club was gratefully recognized in 2014 when the club presented her with the Trailblazer Award. The award in part stated: *Through your enthusiasm and dedication to the New York Chapter and Camp Nawakwa, through your concerns and interests thoughtfully considered and expressed, through all your efforts and good works, your wisdom and counsel generously and gently shared with others over all these years, you have been a teacher and friend to many, and have truly blazed a trail for others to follow.*

Archives Committee

Chair: Ray Kozma
archives@noany.org

In Celebration of 100 Years At Camp Nawakwa 1926 -2026

Saturday Night Centennial Presentations at Camp Nawakwa

(see the Hosting Committee page for details and registration information)

- ~~1. May 16-17: Start of Harriman State Park~~
- 2. June 20-21:** Development of the Trails in Hariman State Park
- 3. July 18-19:** Raymond Torrey Memorial Weekend (hike on Saturday to Torrey Memorial).
- 4. August 15-16:** Development of the Camps
- 5. September 19-20:** Early Days at Camp Nawakwa

The following Centennial Hikes are being planned.

(See the Hikes and Outings Committee page for dates and details)

- ~~1. Hike to first camp: Camp Quannicut~~
- Hike to second camp: Blue Bird
- Hike to the Raymond Torrey Memorial
- Hike on first section of the AT: From Elk Pen to Lake Tiorati
- Hike of the first trail: The R-D
- Hike on the Nurian Trail

From the Archives Committee

- Ray Kozma, Chair

In Celebration of 100 Years At Camp Nawakwa 1926 -2026

First Work Weekend and Grand Opening of Camp Nawakwa

On the weekend of April 9-10, 1926, since there was no road into camp at the time, a work party rowed the furnishings from Camp Blue Bird across Lake Sebago and hauled them from the shoreline to camp. This weekend became in effect the first work weekend. It included sawing and chopping wood for the new fireplace, everything to get camp equipped and cleaned up for the first camp season. The following weekend, April 17-18, saw the grand opening of Camp Nawakwa! Ira Ayres' only comment in looking back fifty years was that *"Every one of the sixty beds were full. A grand and glorious time was had by all!"*

First (and only) Assessment: A couple of months before the opening of camp, the Board realized that the club did not have enough money on hand to purchase, beds, pillows, blankets, and a sundry other needed items to supply and set up camp. On March 6, 1926, a letter was sent out to all members stating: *On Thursday, February 25, 1926, the Council decided to assess each member of the Chapter the sum of \$10. At a general meeting of the Chapter, which followed, those present unanimously voted to sustain the Council in this decision. [Note: \$10 in 1926 is worth \$186.56 today]*

Water: As recounted by Ira Ayres in his 1973 history of the club: When Nawakwa first opened " *...water was the big problem. The pump at the lake with the pipeline to the auxiliary tank provided ample service water. Drinking water was another matter. For this we tapped a spring down the road where it dips almost to the lake beyond the parking area. Of course there was no road then. The distance is about 500 yards. All the drinking water was carried up to the house in pails. Light drinkers were the order of the day. Naturally, when the Park water was on it served adequate for drinking. As traffic in the area increased, this spring was abandoned. Then, our only source of drinking water was a spring at the N.Y.U. camp - now the family camp. The water squad went over in boats and brought back pails full. A Chinese yolk was devised for bringing pails up from the dock.*"

Fire! Again as per Ira Ayres: *"On the weekend shortly before Memorial Day, a fire broke out near the drinking-water spring. A Chapter member with a group had lunch and a campfire at the spot where the forest fire began. The entire camp turned out with pails and other items to help fight the fire and save the camp. Our efforts were successful, but an extensive area to the north and west were badly burned over.*

First Invitational: On April 22, 1926, Frank J. Oliver, Jr., Chair and Ira H. Ayres, Camp Chair sent out the following invitation:

April 22, 1926.

The New York Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc. has recently moved into its new permanent, year-round camp on Lake Sebago in the Harriman Section of the Palisade Interstate Park. We think that the Park Commissioners have built us a wonderful establishment, well constructed in a pleasing style in keeping with the rustic surroundings and attractively placed upon a point of land jutting out into the lake. This body of water, although artificial, is in a natural location and is thoroughly charming. It is the largest in the Park.

We are proud of this camp and we want you to see it. Hence you are cordially invited to be present on the week end of May 8th and 9th, when it will be our pleasure to entertain you.

This invitation is being sent to the officers and directors of similar clubs, to the officers and board of governors of the Adirondack Mountain Club at large, to outstanding outdoor people, whose friendship we appreciate, to the past-chairmen of the Chapter, and to our present officers, councillors and committeemen. We trust that they can all find it convenient to be with us on this occasion.

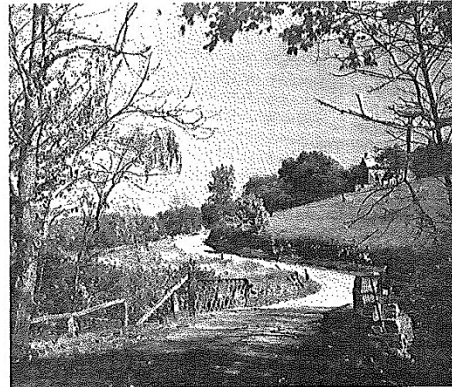
A copy of our current Spring Schedule is inclosed. In it are given complete instructions of how to reach the camp. If any doubt remains as to the approach, please let us know and we will straighten you out. Also please let Miss Antonia H. Froendt, Vice-Chairman of the Camp Committee for the Spring Term, know whether you are coming or not so that plans can be made accordingly. She may be addressed at Room 67, 105 East 22nd St., New York City.

Yours very truly,

Frank J. Oliver, Jr., Chairman

Ira H. Ayres, Camp Chairman.

Photos from 1926-1927



THE FIRST YEARS 1926 - 1927

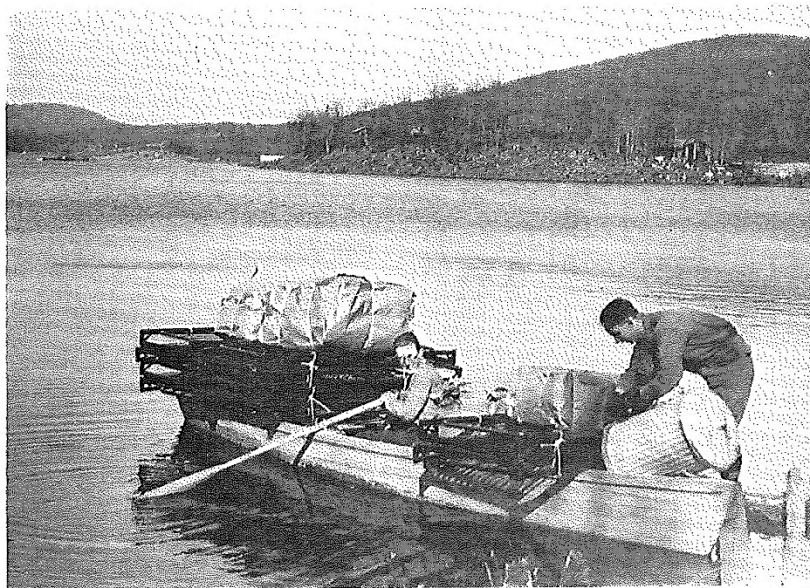
(Above) Getting in wood the easy way

(Upper right) The road from Sloatsburg to Lake Sebago - A country lane

(Right) Lockers being slid across the ice

(Below) Cots and mattresses coming across by boat. The camp road ended at present A.C.A. camp (then Rogers-Feet)

Photos by Frank Oliver



50th Anniversary of the New York Chapter (1973)

- Ira Ayres

[Note: In 1973, the New York Chapter celebrated its 50th Anniversary with an outdoor cookout at Camp Nawakwa followed by a meeting and program. About a hundred members and guests, including the Executive Director of the Club, Grant Cole, and other guest from the Main Club, were present. The following article, written by Ira H. Ayres, was published in the February 1974 issue of ADIRONDAC magazine.]

The New York Chapter celebrated its 50th Anniversary at its Camp NAWAKWA on Lake Sebago in the Palisades Park on August 4th, 1973. The program was preceded by a cookout under the able direction of Fred Gyger with about a 100 members and guests present. Broiled steak was advertised but with the black-out on steak, chicken was substituted.

The group collected in the main building for the program of the evening. John Blenniger, Chairman of the Camp Program Committee, called the meeting to order with words of welcome. Then, the first portion was turned over to Ira Ayres who recounted some of the notable activities of the chapter and its members.

“The honor role of current charter members consists of:

Ira H. Ayres
Herbert C. Hauptman
Florence M. Seine
Robert A. Sove
Frank J. Oliver
Daniel V. Raymond
Howard L. Tiger
Walter M. Weaver

“During November and early December 1935 Frank Cary and Donald Terry climbed the highest peak in the West Indies, La Rucilla (La Palada) located in the Dominican Republic with an elevation of 9981 feet. St the 5807-foot level, the mule trin was sent back. The remainder was very rough bushwacking, cutting their way through the dense growth with machetes. At 9185 feet, the packs were cached and made light.

“J. Howard Carlson (ex-chapter chairman) was the leader, with other ski enthusiasts, in the organization of the first ski train from New York on January 27, 1935, to Norfolk, Conn. With 525 aboard. The train was sold out weeks in advance. The railroads were very reluctant to run snow trains but after this success they overworked the idea. These trains provided an outlet for the local skiers for many years b- until automobiles were more plentiful. The New York Chapter scheduled many ski outings, at times three or four per month. In addition to the above, Howard organized the Central Ski Committee of New York City. This was done at the insistence of Henry W. Hicks who was Chairman of the New York State Committee on skiing.

“In July 1938, J. Howard Carlson and William R. Hainsworth climber Mt Robson (12,972), the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies. Lady luck was with them, and no adverse weather was encountered. The peak had been climbed several times previously, but many attempts were unsuccessful. Only July 22, 1938, the *New York Times* carried a notice of this successful event.

“During the summer of 1949, Bud Anspach organized and led a party down the Colorado River. During the years, the Chapter has scheduled many skiing, hiking, and camping trips in the Adirondacks and elsewhere. A canoe trip down the Delaware River has been a yearly event.”

Grant Cole, the Executive Director of the Club, was introduced. Grant brought down the main Club’s 50th anniversary documentary and gave the showing complete. To most of the gathering the program was new and greatly enjoyed by all.

At the close of the program, the New York Chapter presented Grant with a check for \$50.00 for the Adirondack Foundation Fund, Inc. [Note: \$50 dollars in 1973 is about \$381 dollars in 2026.]

