

The Trail Marker

October - November - December 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....

"Fall- the vibrant season, chroma of amber and rust, nature's masterpiece"

Robyn Noble



Our Camp Centennial Year is soon coming to an end. After commemorating this year with numerous historical hikes, and presentations, and wonderful Centennial Year themed hosted weekends, we will now proceed to our Centennial Dinner. Thank-you for all that are able to attend, and

we look forward to sharing an evening of camaraderie. Do not forget to go online to the auction, where you will find beautiful artwork to bid upon. The results of the auction will be announced after the dinner festivities; 100% of the proceeds benefit our club.

Save the date! The Annual Meeting and Board Elections will take place on October 17, 2026. The meeting will be virtual, starting at 10 am. The candidates' bios and photos are again provided in this edition of the Trail Marker, thank-you to those that have already cast their ballot. For those who have yet to do so, there are numerous methods to vote. See the Notice of Election, Notice of Annual Meeting, Ballot, and Proxy Form on pages 10-13.

As mentioned in the Open Board Meeting in August, Harriman State Park is again implementing a Deer Management Program which will take effect this season. Hunting will be allowed on weekdays during limited times in November and December in select areas of the park. The PIPC website is able to provide additional more specific details, and a map indicating affected areas.

The Camp Committee was in the early stages of planning for construction of additional tent platforms to supplement those we have to enhance the availability for those members who prefer to tent. Unfortunately, priorities have refocused on camp maintenance issues, rather than new construction. We are obligated to the insurance company to repair the existing siding on our structures in locations where siding is missing or rotted. Additionally, the swim dock will need substantial repairs with board replacement, and flotation replacement. These projects will be scheduled for early Spring, and yes, many volunteers will be needed!

As a reminder: Should you wish to visit camp or host a weekend in the Off-Season period, which is defined as October 15 through April 30, a permit is needed from PIPC. To receive a permit, kindly submit your request to me one or two weeks in advance of the scheduled event. I will in turn submit it to PIPC. The Park has to approve the permit before anyone may access camp and stay at camp.

Your continued participation is critical, not only to keeping the camp safe and operational, but also to improving our infrastructure. Remember: Teamwork Makes The Dreamwork. Join a committee, host a weekend or mid-week, and further your commitment to camp; we need you!

Thank-you for your continued efforts in making our camp a wonderful, vibrant, and sustainable place!

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:

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.

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

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 (January– February -March 2027) is
December 15, 2026.**

Please send submissions to Nancy Dargis trailmarker@noany.org

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



Camp Committee News

Chair: Dave Hayes (camp@noany.org)

FALL CAMP WORK DAY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10TH 8AM -5PM

Come On Out for our Fall Camp Workday! Qualifying Work Day for applicants!

We've got a few projects to tackle, some cleanup to do, and plenty of ways to lend a hand as we get camp ready for the off-season. Whether you can stay all day or just stop by for a couple of hours, every little bit helps. It's also a great chance to catch up with fellow members and enjoy some time at camp before Winter rolls around. Bring your work gloves and come pitch in! Dress warm! Bonus for anyone with waders that wants to help get the docks in.

Complimentary lunch offered for those working a full day- soup and sandwiches, fruit and a sweet treat!

Please RSVP to cingularsales@gmail.com and include your meal preference, omnivore or vegetarian, no later than Thursday October 8th 10:00pm

Text or call with questions 631-747-0132 or message or what'sapp

Possible potluck dinner and overnight if there's enough interest.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Dave Hayes

THANK YOU to everyone who turned up and got to work Labor Day Weekend. We were able to complete the railings and posts near the women's cabins, finish off the pile of woodchips and reestablish the path to our swim dock, redo the fire road and establish new parking spots along the camp road, and finally clear out the huge pile of gravel! The camp really looks amazing now.

This would not be possible without the teamwork of the following volunteers:

Linda Mittel	Lewis Ports	Angela Panzer
Butch Panzer	Mike Panzer	Brian Panzer
Chris Panzer	Brian Blum	Lily Wiles (guest)
Amanda Havens	Christopher Havens (guest)	Suse Wenzel
Karen McDonald	Ingrid Strauch	Matt Goring
Marissa Vallvé	Eve Mancuso	Denis Jordan
Noel Schulz	Ray Kozma	Oliver Lunt
Steve Barre	Katie Arnold (applicant)	Nancy Dargis
Herman Barrocales	Marty McDonald	

And a special thank you to Laura Sunderlin for her donation of two wheelbarrows which helped save the day!

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

Upcoming Hosted Weekends

October 4th @ 8am Hosted Sunday with Janet

Janet is hosting a breakfast and lunch (will satisfy carnivores and vegetarians).
Registration is now closed for this event.

November 28th @ 12pm – 7pm: Devorah & Evan's Potluck Thanksgiving:

Save the date for Devorah & Evan's Potluck Thanksgiving celebration. Details to be
provided soon on the NOANY website calendar.

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

Hike- Parker Cabin Mountain via Claudius Rock

Saturday, October 3rd 9 am – 2pm

Departing at Camp Nawakwa at 9am, we will take the unmarked camp trail toward the Yellow Triangle Trail. At the intersection with the Triangle Trail we will make a left toward Dutch Doctor. At Dutch onto the Tuxedo-Mount Ivy trail. After 1-2 miles we'll reach Claudius Smith's Den, which offers great views, and is a good stop to take a short break. From Claudius Smith's Den, we'll continue northbound on the White Cross Trail. After 2.15 miles we'll reach the junction with the Ramapo Dunderberg Trail. We will make a right turn and continue .25 miles to reach the summit of Parker Cabin Mountain. This is a good spot to have lunch and enjoy views of Lake Sebago/ Following our lunch break, we will descend Parker Cabin Mountain using the Triangle Trail, pass Lake Skenonto, and after 1.95 miles make a left turn with the unmarked trail that takes us back to camp.

This is an intermediate level hike that features several ascents and descents.

Approx. total ascent 1015 feet

Distance approx. 6 miles (Qualifying)

Participants should wear sturdy footwear and bring sunscreen, lunch, snacks, raingear, and enough water.

Hiking poles recommended but not required.

If you are driving from NYC for this hike, please indicate whether you can provide a ride to other hikers.

Please RSVP by 10/1 to oliver@noany.org

Hike- Diamond Mountain Circular

Saturday October 24th 9am

Departing from camp at 9am, we will make our way along the cthe Tuxedo Mount Ivy Trail. We will only stay for a short distance on the TMI before we turn right onto the Stony Brook Trail and then left onto the orange Hillburn Torne Sebago Trail.

As soon as the ascent starts, we will get a good workout, After 0.6 miles the trail merges with the Seven Hills Trail, and we will be rewarded with a gorgeous view of our very own base: Lake Sebago. After another 0.2 miles we've reached the summit of the Diamond Mountain (1240 ft) At this point we follow the blue blazed Seven Hills Trail for about 0.7 miles, with several great vistas along the way before descending and making a right onto the Kakiat Trail. This is a rather steep descent and requires rock scrambling skills. After 0.6 miles on the Kakiat Trail, we will make a right onto the Stony Brook Trail. After a relatively flat 1.4 miles we'll be back at Seven Lakes Drive and will return to camp.

This hike includes a steep ascent and descent and some rock scrambling. The pace will be a little faster than on some of the other Nawakwa hikes.

Distance: Approx. 5.6 miles (Qualifying)

Approx. total ascent 779 ft.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear and bring sunscreen, lunch, snacks, raingear, and enough water.

Hiking poles recommended but not required.

If you are driving from NYC for this hike, please indicate whether you can provide a ride to other hikers.

Please RSVP by 10/22 to oliver@noany.org

Please reach out with any questions you may have in the meantime.

Official Notice of 2026 Elections

for the Board of Directors of the

NAWAKWA OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

To All Members:

This notice, by USPS or other means, and sent out on or about September 17, 2026, serves as the Official Notice of the 2026 Election for the Board of Directors of the Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York , Inc. and is sent to all members.

Voting will take place in person at Camp Nawakwa on October 17, 2026 between 12 noon and 1 pm or by proxy.

A Proxy Form is included in this notice. Pursuant to the Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc. Bylaws, each Member will receive a Proxy Form. Additional information about how to vote via “proxy” is included on the Proxy Form.

Note: In sending back the Proxy Form, you are designating Kate Walker, Secretary of the Corporation, as the person who will act as your proxy to cast your vote. **Per the by-laws, a signature is required on the Proxy Form.**

All USPS mail in Proxy Forms must be received no later than Friday, October 16, 2026, so they can be picked up from the Post Office, delivered to Camp and available to be counted.

Website and e-mailed Proxy Forms may be submitted until 12 noon on Saturday, October 17, 2026. All proxies received by the deadline, whether sent by USPS, website, or email, will be counted.

Tallying will take place at Camp Nawakwa and commence at 1 pm on Saturday, October 17, 2026. After the accuracy and validity of all in-person votes are certified by the Tallying Committee, the Secretary will vote the proxy votes, and the results of the election will be announced. As per our Bylaws, we will post the election results on our website. The results will also be published in the next Trail Marker.

The Board of Directors

Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc.

NAWAKWA OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

To be Held on October 17, 2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, by the call of the Chair of the Board of Directors, the Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc. (NOANY) will hold its Annual Meeting of Members on October 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., which Annual Meeting will be held virtually.

The agenda for the meeting shall include:

1. Election of officers and the board of directors of the Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc. and
2. such other and further business of NOANY.

This Notice will be distributed by email, posting to the website, posting in the Trail Marker, and USPS mailed to those members without email addresses.

All members of NOANY are invited to attend the virtual meeting. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to all members no later than Thursday evening, October 15, 2026. **Attendance is not required to vote;**

Voting will take place in person at Camp Nawakwa from 12 noon to 1pm or by proxy. Follow the instructions on the proxy form as to how to vote. By submitting a proxy, you are designating Kate Walker, the Secretary, as the one who will act as your proxy to cast your vote. All USPS mail-in proxies must be received no later than Friday October 16, 2026 so they can be picked up at the Post Office, delivered to Camp and available to be counted. Website and e-mail votes may be submitted until 12 noon on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Counting will commence by the Tally Committee on October 17, 2026 at 1 pm at Camp Nawakwa. **Please vote.**

Sincerely,

Kate Walker, Secretary

MEMBER PROXY FORM

NAWAKWA OUTDOOR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC.

There are four ways you can vote:

1. By printing, completing, and mailing this form to the Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc. address noted below (to be received at the PO Box no later than Friday, 10/16/26).

Mailing Address:

Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc.

Peter Stuyvesant Post Office Station

PO Box 327

New York, NY 10009-9998

2. By printing, completing, scanning, and e-mailing this form to: katecwalker@gmail.com (no later than 10/17/26 at Noon)
3. By filling out and submitting the Proxy form on our website
4. By voting in-person at Camp Nawakwa on October 17, 2026. Voting will take place from 12 noon to 1PM.

All USPS mail-in Proxy Forms must be received no later than Friday, October 16, 2026, so they can be picked up from the Post Office, delivered to Camp, and available to be counted.

Website and scan/email proxies may be submitted until 12 noon on Saturday, October 17, 2026. All proxies received by the deadline, whether sent by USPS, website or scan/e-mail, will be counted.

Tallying will take place at Camp Nawakwa and commence at 1 pm on Saturday, October 17, 2026. After the accuracy and validity of all in-person votes are certified by the Tallying Committee, the Secretary will vote the proxy votes, and the results of the election will be announced. As per our Bylaws, we will post the election results on our website. The results will also be published in the next Trail Marker.

By sending back this Proxy Form, the undersigned member of the Nawakwa Outdoor Association of New York, Inc. is hereby authorizing, Kate Walker, the Secretary of the Corporation, to act as his or her proxy to cast your vote for the following slate of officers and directors for the January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2028, term.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Note: Per the Bylaws, a signature is required on this Proxy Form. To preserve voter anonymity, this page will be separated from the next page before the votes are counted.

Ballot

-Please check or circle the name of the person for whom you wish to vote.

Chair – (Two Year Term) (VOTE FOR ONE)

☐ 1. EVE MANCUSO

☐ 2. (Write - In) _____

Treasurer - (Two-Year Term) (VOTE FOR ONE)

☐ 1. SUZANNE ROCHELEAU

☐ 2. (Write - In) _____

Director (Two – Year Term) (VOTE FOR THREE):

☐ 1. CAROL BURNS

☐ 2. LILLIAN NEGRON

☐ 3. SUSAN SHOCKETT

☐ 4. (Write – In) _____

☐ 5. (Write – In) _____

☐ 6. (Write – In) _____

Camp Board positions for Chair, Treasurer, Director(s)



Eve Mancuso: Current Chair

For Chair: Eve Mancuso

Hello Nawakwans! It never ceases to amaze me how time flies by so quickly, and another election is upon us. It has been 11 years since I first became a member. The peaceful enjoyment of camp, and camaraderie amongst the members continues to be the primary attraction in solidifying my commitment to camp Nawakwa. As we celebrate our Centennial, yes, there is declining infrastructure, and much work to do, but on the flip side- Camp Nawakwa is 100 years old! That is quite amazing to me. The fact that camp has endured 100 years has strengthened my appreciation and dedication to Camp Nawakwa. I embrace the opportunity to be a steward of camp and the NOANY organization. I look forward to guiding the club towards another successful 100 years for the enjoyment of future generations. As your Chairperson I will continue to strive to represent the club by addressing Board matters with sound thinking and an organized, reasonable, and fair approach. Open dialog and communication are of primary importance in maintaining and growing this wonderful club. This year I hope to encourage all members to take a more active role in joining a committee of your choice, one that fits your current skill set or one you may wish to learn to broaden your knowledge base. Opportunities are waiting. Thank you all for your continued support. See you in camp.

-Eve Mancuso



Suzanne Rocheleau: Current Treasurer

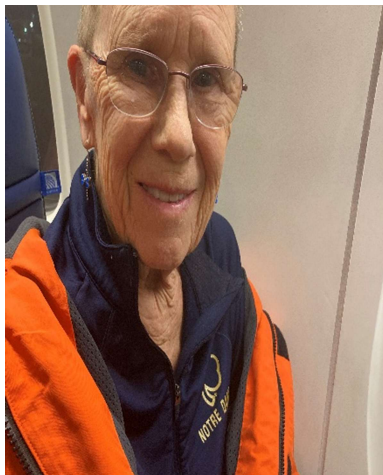
For Treasurer: Suzanne E. Rocheleau

Suzanne has been an active member of Nawakwa Outdoor Association (NOA) since 2011. She is currently one of the officers of the NOA Board of Directors and has been serving as Treasurer since January 2015. Additionally, Suzanne has been active in hosting weekends and in joining in on Work Weekend efforts each season.

She has been employed in Financial Services for the duration of her career. Specifically, her professional life has involved a range of roles initially with Mutual Fund Management in Boston, followed by Fixed Income Trading and Investment Banking in NYC. Currently she works for UBS in their Wealth Management Division as a licensed Securities Registered Representative.

Suzanne is an active hiker, cyclist, and tennis player. She is also an active member of Toastmasters, Inc. and participates within her Northeastern University and Pace University Alumni organizations.

- Suzanne Rochleau



For Director: Carol Burns

I have been an NOANY member for over 20 years. We enjoy canoeing, swimming and hiking. We also maintain a section of the Appalachian Trail for the New York / New Jersey trail conference.

I have worked for Morgan Guaranty trust Company on Wall and Broad Street, and later for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

Please consider voting for me as a Board member of NOANY.

Thank-you for your consideration.

– Carol Burns

Carol Burns: Current Director



For Director: Lillian Negron

I fell in love with Nawakwa, its history, and the spirit and warmth of members during my orientation visit as an applicant. I became a keyholder in 2023. I've been an outdoors enthusiast since childhood. I grew up in Manhattan, where my mom shared her passion for camping, kayaking and hiking, and first introduced me to Nawakwa. In the winter I continue these activities in PR where my family lives, including hiking in the el Yunque rain forest.

Lillian Negron

My background includes studying agriculture, forestry, small animal care, and horse husbandry. I have worked on farms. I was an Urban Park Ranger in NYC, giving tours to the public. I also ran a junior ranger program for children.

Professionally, I am an occupational therapist at Hackensack Medical Center. Most recently I was certified as a fall prevention specialist, evaluating dangerous situations and recommending measures to enhance client safety and quality of life.

I am grateful for the leadership at Nawakwa. I believe that I can contribute to enhancing and sustaining Nawakwa as an inclusive safe place, and to promoting activities where others find peace and joy.

– Lillian Negron



Susan Shockett and daughter

For Director: Susan Shockett

I have been a proud member of Nawakwa since 2022. As an avid hiker and environmental activist, Nawakwa membership is meaningful to me, and I was honored to be asked to serve on the Board. In the past, I was a volunteer leader with Sierra Club 'Inner City Outings', and co-led the youth program at Inwood Canoe Club. I am also commodore of Sheepshead Canoe Club at ACA. As a member of the Board, I would like to help support and grow Camp membership. I hope that some day my daughter Kathryn will become a Nawakwa member too.

– Susan Shockett

Membership Committee

Co-Chair: Jerry Flower membership@noany.org

Co-Chair: Janet Sibarium janet@noany.org

Welcome to Our New Applicants

Katie Arnold

Svitlana Bila

Charles MacMath

Daria Meyer

Olen Milholland

Elena Sorokina



Archives Committee

Chair: Ray Kozma
archives@noany.org

Camp Nawakwa Centennial Lecture #3

[A hosted memorial weekend for Raymond Torrey took place on July 25-26, 2026. On Saturday morning, a hike to the Torrey Memorial on Long Mountain took place. In the evening, a presentation about Raymond Torrey and his importance to us and to the hiking community was delivered. The following is a synopsis of the presentation.]

Raymond H. Torrey (1880-1938)

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

“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

“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

“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

“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

[From the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's 75th Anniversary publication: *Vista and Visions - A History of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference*.]

Page 12: "But without question, Raymond Torrey was at his happiest on the trail. He was the driving force behind all metropolitan trail building, clearing and maintaining from 1920 to 1938"

Page 13 - At 6:30PM on July 15, 1938, Raymond Torrey suffered a fatal heart attack. It was his 58th birthday. ...On October 30th, Torrey's ashes were spread amid the fallen autumn leaves atop Long Mountain in Harriman Park. This was the mountain over which Torrey had helped to blaze the Fingerboard-Storm King Trail in 1922, and which he had declared as having "one of the finest views...in the entire highlands... Five hundred mourners hiked to the spot, representing the "big three" hiking clubs (AMC, GMC, and ADK), the Tramp and Trail Club, Westchester Trail Association, Fresh Air Club, Wanderbirds, and others. ...Torrey's widow Elizabeth unveiled a plaque embedded in stone and donated by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. It read:

"In Memory of Raymond H. Torrey, A Great Disciple of the Long Brown Path, 1880-1938."

Camp Nawakwa Centennial Lecture #4

[The following is a synopsis of the presentation given at camp on August 15, 2026, outlining the development of the camps in Harriman State Park and the naming of Lake Te Ata]

Development of the Camps of Harriman State Park

Edward Brown, Ruby Jolliffe, Te Ata, and the Naming of Lake Te Ata

Background

The social work profession celebrated its centennial in 1998. That year, several important artifacts from across the country were donated to the Smithsonian Institution to commemorate 100 years of professional social work in the United States. Some of the goals of the profession at its origins included "Preventing child abuse and neglect." [Social work pioneer **Jane Addams** was one of the first women to receive a Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded in 1931. Known best for establishing settlement houses in Chicago for immigrants in the early 1900s, Addams was a dedicated community organizer and peace activist. **Frances Perkins**, a social worker, was the first woman to be appointed to the cabinet of a U.S. President. As President Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor, Perkins drafted much of the New Deal legislation in the 1940s, including the work of the CCC in Harriman State Park]

"The first organized camp is often credited to the Gunnery Camp, established in 1861 by Frederick W. Gunn in Washington, Connecticut. This camp primarily served as a place for young boys to engage in outdoor activities and develop physical skills. Girls camps in the United States began to appear around 1900; many of the early camps were located in New England. In 1900, there were fewer than 100 camps in the United States, but by 1918 over 1000 were in operation." [Excerpts taken from Wikipedia article on "Summer Camps."]

"Beginning in 1913, the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission built dozens of group camps throughout Harriman State Park to welcome the urban poor and provide them with hot meals and outdoor experiences. The Harriman Group Camps are the model upon which many group camping programs and sites throughout the world are based. The facilities at the camps, which are nestled in the woods next to the many lakes at Harriman State Park, consist of dining halls and recreation buildings, cabins and tent platforms, and waterfront facilities. Nature Centers offer environmental education programs designed to teach campers about the woods and instill in them a lifelong sense of wonder for the natural sciences.

"For generations, the group camps have provided children and families with their first outdoor experiences. The camps are operated by a wide variety of organizations, from outdoor recreation clubs to not-for profits servicing homeless children and the disabled, from the surrounding New York and New Jersey area. The organizations are members of the Palisades Camping Association (PCA)." [excerpts from the website of NYS Office on Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Palisades Region, Harriman State Park]

Origins and Early Growth of Camps [The following excerpts are from the website of [The Historical Society of Rockland County](#)]

1913 Launch: The Palisades Interstate Park Commission established the group camping program to support underprivileged urban youth.

Social Mission: Settlements, churches, and welfare groups built dozens of lakefront camps offering hot meals, swimming, and outdoor education

Major Welch: Major William A. Welch helped design the early camp layouts and trails, which set international standards for park group camping.[see excerpt on Welch's passion for building camps on page 79 of Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Year by Robert O. Binnewies,]

Expansion Eras

The Great Depression: The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) expanded park infrastructure, building new roads, lakes, and permanent camp facilities.

Mid-Century Peak: Over 100 active camp operations thrived simultaneously in the park, serving thousands of children, families, and community organizations each summer.

Modern Operations: Dozens of non-profit groups still lease prime lakefront property from the state via the Palisades Camping Association to run affordable nature and youth programs. The American Camp Association (ACA) reported in 2013 that there are about 7,000 overnight camps and about 5,000 day camps in the U.S., for a total of more than 12,000 camps, attended each year by more than 11 million children and adults. Of the 12,000 camps, about 9,500 are operated by nonprofit groups, and 2,500 by for-profit operators, employing more than 1,500,000 adults.

Development of the Camps in Harriman State Park, the work of Te Ata and the naming of Lake Te Ata

1920: First Camp Manager Edward Brown resigned. *"He had taken the group-camp program from an uncertain, almost accidental beginning to a level of major service to metropolitan residents,. By the time of his departure, the camps were a snapshot of the urban society that surrounded Harriman park, with special emphasis on the keystone program serving underprivileged children"* [Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years by Robert O. Binnewies, page 129]

1921 – After Brown resigned, Ruby Jolliffe was hired as the second Superintendent of Camps for the Park and the first female executive on the PIPC's staff. She was *"was born in Montreal. She had earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto and a master's 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....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."* [Palisades: 100,000 Acres in 100 Years, pp 130-131]

c. 1924 – Ernest Fretwell, a friend from Columbia University, introduced Te Ata to the Bear Mountain region. *“Fretwell and his wife were both active in the Boy Scout Movement, and after he saw Te Ata perform, he introduced her to Ruby Jolliffe... Te Ata and “Jolly” struck up an immediate friendship and Te Ata began spending occasional weekends at Jolly’s rustic cabin at Bear Mountain.”* [Te Ata: Chickasaw Storyteller, American Treasure by Richard Green, p 84]

1929 – *“Te Ata’s first performance at Bear Mountain region of New York. Afterward all of the directors wanted her to perform for their camps, but she hesitated...Te Ata agreed to perform a second time, then for another camp and another. “I was soon hooked”, she recalled....Sometimes camps would join together at a central site at Bear Mountain...A campfire was built, and more than two hundred squirming kids would sit cross-legged in a big semi-circle around Te Ata. She would begin as the sun was setting. Sometimes she recruited Jolly to provide the opening drumbeat.”* [Te Ata: Chickasaw Storyteller, American Treasure by Richard Green, pages 85-86]

Lake Te Ata, July 11, 1932 - *“Te Ata was at Bear Mountain...canoeing across a small lake that the campers called the Triplet...Flanking her canoe were two others paddled by city boys dressed up in Indian costumes. As they rowed, thousands of campers came into view, lining the banks of the lake...The canoes headed for a clearing, where most of the campers were gathered. Te Ata could see her good friend Jolly Jolliffe and several other familiar employees...They were gathered around Eleanor Roosevelt, whose husband, New York Governor Franklin Roosevelt, had captured the Democratic presidential nomination in Chicago only ten days before... Mrs. Roosevelt was holding a beribboned champagne bottle that had been filled with water from all the other lakes in the park. As New York’s First Lady, Mrs. Roosevelt had supported the efforts of state park officials to provide camping opportunities for underprivileged inner-city children. She knew that Te Ata had given her time and talent in these endeavors and had made a positive and lasting impression on the children...Mrs. Roosevelt broke the champagne bottle on a rock, and at that instant, as the waters from the other lakes mixed into this body of water, Lake Te Ata was born...Te Ata accepted the honor in which it was given...and mentioned the honor in her promotional material from that day forward.”* [Te Ata: Chickasaw Storyteller, American Treasure by Richard Green, pages 118-119]

Archives Committee

In Celebration of 100 Years

at Camp Nawakwa

Tidbits from the Early Years (1926 -1935)

March 6, 1926 - Letter from the Chairman, Frank Oliver, notifying members of the need for *“the first assessment that has ever been made upon the membership.”* The sum of \$10 was assessed for each member in order to purchase the necessary equipment and supplies *“to complete the ‘plant’ and make it operative.”*

April 10-11, 1926 - Camp is open; first work weekend: The delivery of beds, mattresses, and pillows (which had to be ferried across the partially flooded lake) took place. All the items needed to be carried up from the lake, carried up the hill, and place in the cabins. Said Ira Ayres: *“It is a marvel that 25 souls did so much in such a short time, completing the job well before night.”* [excerpt from History by Ira Ayres on the 50th anniversary of the club.]

April 17, 1926 - Official opening of Camp Nawakwa. From the Trail Marker of April 30, 1926: *“Over fifty members were on hand to give their approval and voice their enthusiasm.”* [Note: The road to camp ended about a half mile away from Nawakwa, so members had to hike in. The TM of April 30th noted that *“Trails are being marked to and from camp.”* Members need to hike in either from Sloatsburg or Tuxedo. The TM of June 21, 1926, noted: *“Speaking of ‘Trail Markers, they say there should be more between Tuxedo and the new camp - Nawakwa - on Lake Sebago. There will be in the near future”*]

October 7, 1926 - The First Meeting of the Council of the New York Chapter convened at the Livingston Collegiate Club, 306 West 109th Street, on the evening of October 7, 1926. In the minutes is listed the following: *A motion was made, seconded and carried by a unanimous vote, the people whose name follow, and whose assessments have not as yet been paid, be retained on our role and considered as members in good standing. This action was taken in view of the fact that these people are more or less honorary members, none of whom make use of the camp itself, and their service to the cause represented by the Club has been noteworthy and outstanding. Major W. A. Welch, Miss R.M. Joliffe, Mr. Louis Marshall, Dr. John H. Finley, Miss Jane Deeter Rippin”*

1926 to 1932 - *“During the first six years of camp life, there was no road in from the highway. When the lake was clear of ice, the supplies were brought in by boat from a point near the dam. When the ice was good, the large flexible flyers were used to bring in the supplies. One sled had skis attached for use on snow. During all the time between these two periods, everything had to be back-packed along the shoreline.* [excerpt from History by Ira Ayres on the 50th anniversary of the club.]

The First Invitational - In a letter of April 22, 1926, from Chairman Frank Oliver, Jr., an invitation went out *“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, councilors and committeemen.”* The reason for the invitation was that *“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 are proud of this camp and want you to see it. Hence you are cordially invited to be present on the weekend of May 8th and 9th when it will be our pleasure to entertain you."

Trail Marker of January 18, 1927: *"At a recent meeting of the Council [Note: This meeting was held November 22, 1926], it was voted to set a minimum age limit to membership at 18 years."*

Twelve O'clock P.M. Curfew at Nawakwa - *There was some discussion in regard to the late hours which are being kept at Camp Nawakwa, and it was felt that in order to preserve the dignity and reputation of the Club the existing situation should be controlled, if possible. As a result, it was moved and carried that the Secretary inform the Camp Committee of its desire that the regulation regarding the twelve o'clock curfew be adhered to strictly. [From the minutes of the Board meeting of April 25, 1927]*

'Camp Note' from Trail Marker of May 13, 1927: *"Since there are a good many members of the club that attend camp who have not learned to like snakes, the Camp Committee has made the following ruling: No snakes of any kind may be brought on the camp property by any member or guest of a member. Members will be responsible for guests bringing snakes into camp."*

The Float - *"During 1931 the float was added. The Chapter had to pay cash for it."* [excerpt from History by Ira Ayers on the 50th Anniversary of the club]

How Camp Got its Name - *"It did not seem appropriate to continue calling our place "the new camp," so word went out for a better name with the winner having a free weekend at camp. Katherine Williams won the prize. This is an Indian word meaning "in the midst of the wilderness." [Ibid, page.5]*

The Road to Camp - *"The momentous event in 1932 was the road into camp. The Chapter was not consulted. Some members were quite disturbed and raised belated objections. Fire protection was the reason for the park action." [ibid, page 5]*

Winter Sports? - *Quite a commotion occurred in the Chapter in 1933 relative to winter sports at camp. Many people contended that a ski run and toboggan slide would increase the winter activities there and thereby increase the attendance. Even a special membership meeting was held to discuss the pros and cons. In a referendum the proposal was rejected by a vote of 65 to 57. In retrospect it may be noted that the Baker's Camp toboggan slide was used only slightly the first year and is now rotting away. [Ibid, page 5]*

Water at Camp - *"1935 was a banner year. The Chapter authorized the drilling of a well. Here, again, the Camp has to assume the entire cost...Through most of 1937 the water was contaminated. It was thought that seepage down the casing was the source of the trouble. The present concrete platform around the well was laid and no further trouble has developed...the depth is about 96 feet." [Ibid, page 5]*

- Archives Committee
Ray Kozma, Chair



Camp Nawakwa Centennial News

Camp Nawakwa 100th Anniversary T-Shirt and Hoodies Now Available

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Camp Nawakwa with a special T-shirt!

We have short sleeve, long sleeve, and hoodies available in a whole range of colors. Prices start at \$25. The order form is located on our website in the Camp Nawakwa Keyholders Info section (you must be logged in to access that tab).

New Camp Nawakwa Business Card

When you are at camp, be sure to take a few of our new Nawakwa cards (they're on the desk). Keep them with you to hand to anyone who might be interested in joining NOANY!

