



Friends of Camp Santanoni Newsletter

*Santanoni Gate Lodge
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Winter/Spring 2004

Progress and Accomplishments

In 2003, we made considerable progress on many fronts at Camp Santanoni. A major architectural conservation planning study was completed, conservation work continued at the camp and farm, we hosted two large groups of volunteers, and several thousand people visited the camp under the guidance of our seasonal interpretive staff.

Conservation Planning Completed

In August, the *Camp Santanoni Conservation Plan*, a major architectural conservation planning study for Camp Santanoni, was completed. Adirondack Architectural Heritage commissioned the study with financial support from the Getty Grant Program, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Town of Newcomb, and the *Friends of Camp Santanoni*. Janet Null of Argus Architecture & Preservation (Troy) and Carl Stearns of Crawford & Stearns, Architects (Syracuse) produced the study. Its completion is a major milestone in our collective efforts to fully understand the conservation problems at the camp and to devise strategies for addressing them.

For the first time, all of the historic buildings at Santanoni have been measured and recorded in drawings. Also for the first time, an inventory of all known buildings, structures, ruins, and sites of lost buildings has been made and an identification system has been established. Detailed physical inspections have been undertaken of the camp's buildings and ruins, and an assessment of condition prepared for each. A policy for guiding the preservation of Santanoni for the long term has been formulated, a program for regular maintenance has been defined, and a Protocol for Action has been developed, one that provides an initial framework for implementation of the plan. If there is any bad news, it is that the extent of conservation work needed to restore the camp's buildings is far greater than previously estimated. The architects'



Presenting the Santanoni Conservation Plan to DEC Commissioner Erin Crotty. From left to right: Carl Stearns, Crawford & Stearns, Architects; George Canon, Town of Newcomb Supervisor; Erin Crotty, DEC Commissioner; Steven Engelhart, AARCH Executive Director; Janet Null, Argus Architecture & Preservation; and Chuck Vandrei, DEC Historic Preservation Officer.

preliminary budget for the highest priority work outlined in the conservation plan is about \$3.5 million.

In addition, thanks to support from the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, John Vaughan of Architectural Conservation Services undertook an analysis of the interior finishes of five interior spaces at the camp –the living room, dining room, kitchen, a sleeping cabin, and the Artist’s Studio. We now know with some certainty how these spaces were finished and how to go about conserving and restoring them.



Michael Frenette and Americorps volunteer Shelley Steede at work on the roof of the Pump House at the Main Camp complex. Associated Press photograph by Mary Esch.

Completing this conservation planning brings the preservation of Santanoni to a new plateau — a place of great opportunity. Now our challenges are to garner greater levels of public and private financial support, to dramatically pick up the pace of conservation work, to increase staffing and on-site management, and to make the visitor’s experience even more compelling.

Conservation Work

Michael Frenette from Tupper Lake continued his restoration work at the Main Camp complex. His work focused on the restoration of two of the camp’s *irimoya* roofs and the reroofing of the Pump House. The *irimoya* roofs are derived from traditional Japanese architecture and are a combination of a gable and hip roof that allow light onto the veranda and into the building’s sleeping cabins. A portion of these roofs had been removed early in the life of the camp and this had allowed water and weather to deteriorate the porches underneath. The Pump House provided running water to the camp’s kitchen and six bathrooms.

Michael was assisted by a crew from the Student Conservation Corps (Americorps). They also mowed and cleared brush around some of the farm buildings. The work at the Main Camp was funded by the Town of Newcomb and the *Friends*.



Clive Friend (DEC), Michael Frenette, and Phil Johnstone (DEC) install cribbing under the service wing of the Main Lodge in order to stabilize the structure.

A crew from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), under the supervision of Sherman LaLonde, resumed work at the farm. By the end of the year, they had put a new red cedar shingle roof on the Gardener’s Cottage and the Smokehouse. This work is funded through a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund with matching funds provided by DEC, the Town of Newcomb, and the *Friends*. The DEC expects to complete the farm stabilization work, funded through this grant, in 2004.

Volunteers

We hosted two groups of volunteers at Santanoni in 2003. In July, we had thirteen high school age students from the Landmark Volunteers program. Landmark Volunteers is a national non-profit summer service organization, which places responsible and motivated high school students at historic sites, natural preserves, and other special places to undertake practical and meaningful projects. At Santanoni, they worked on various projects, including clearing brush, replacing broken glass, painting, and general cleaning. They lived at the Gate Lodge and were supervised by our summer staff and by DEC.



Our Landmark Volunteers in front of the Main Camp.

Big Plans for 2004

Building Conservation

Boathouse. In the Fall of 2002, Adirondack Architectural Heritage received a \$92,000 grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund for the restoration of the Boathouse and other outbuildings at the Main Camp.

The boathouse is one of the site's most important structures and it is one of the most threatened and endangered buildings at the camp. After more than twenty years of neglect, a large portion of the boathouse roof collapsed in 1993. Over the next two years, the building was fully documented, building components (doors, windows, and hardware) were removed and placed into storage, and some stabilization work was started. In 2003, as part of the conservation study at the camp, preliminary plans were developed for its restoration.

The project includes: installing a new foundation; replacing approximately fifty percent of the building's logs; installing a roof system that combines new and existing materials; restoring and reinstalling the original doors and windows and, where no originals survive, fabricating and installing replicas; and constructing new docks.

Farm. A DEC crew will continue conservation work at the farm. Still to complete in 2004 are the restoration of the barn wing and a new roof for the Gardener's Cottage.

Other Plans

Summer Staff. This summer we will have two staff people at the camp. In addition to interpreting the site to several thousand visitors, they will develop additional interpretative materials, oversee volunteers, and undertake small restoration projects.

Did you know Santanoni was an official Save America's Treasures site? This program is a project of the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation and is dedicated to the preservation and celebration of America's priceless historic legacy. Go to www.saveameericastreasures.org for more information.



5 North-West Elevation
A-6 Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

*Drawings like this of the Artist's Studio record the conditions of the camp's buildings and provide the basis for future conservation projects.
Crawford & Stearns, Architects.*

New Funding. We will apply for new funding from federal and private sources, including the Save America's Treasures Program and the Getty Grant Program. We will also continue to press New York State to increase its financial and personnel commitments. The \$200,000 committed to Santanoni in 2000, at the time its unit management plan was adopted, has been largely spent or obligated for conservation planning, improvements to the Newcomb Lake Road, and the boathouse restoration.

Interpretive Plan. We expect to make progress in completing an overall interpretive plan for the site. The document will guide us in planning how Santanoni is interpreted to visitors.

We need all of Santanoni's friends to be generous in their support of our work at the camp this year.

Your 2004 donations will go toward:

- Meeting the goal of \$15,000 in matching funds for the Boathouse restoration project.
- Meeting the goal of raising \$50,000 in matching funds for future conservation projects.

Friends of Camp Santanoni Advisory Board

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The *Friends of Camp Santanoni* is a partnership of non-profit organizations, the Town of Newcomb, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the thousands of people who love this special place and believe in its preservation and use for public education, recreation, and inspiration.

For more information about joining the *Friends* or about volunteer opportunities, write to P.O. Box 113, Newcomb, NY 12852 or call either (518) 582-4572 or (518) 834-9328.