Friends of Camp Santanoni Newsletter

Camp Santanoni Gate Lodge
P.O. Box 113
Newcomb, NY 12852
(518) 582-5472 or (518) 834-9328

Spring 2014

More than a Decade of Great Progress

Since the last time we published a *Friends of Camp Santanoni* newsletter, we've reached several important milestones and there has been some pretty amazing progress at the camp. Despite the devastating loss of the main farm barn to fire in 2004, the Camp Santanoni partners have continued their important work, with even greater commitment and intensity than before, and have a lot to show for it.

This group photo on the front steps at the main lodge at Camp Santanoni shows a particularly animated Anna Williams Pruyn (AWP) flanked by her husband Robert Clarence Pruyn (RCP), their son Edward Lansing Pruyn and others. Photo courtesy of the Adirondack Museum..

Since 2000, when Santanoni was designated as an Historic area in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and was dedicated as a National Historic Landmark, Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the Town of Newcomb, and the *Friends of Camp Santanoni* have undertaken more than $2 million in conservation and restoration work at Santanoni.

Our main focus has been to put new roofs on all the buildings, restore their exteriors, correct structural and safety issues, and make them increasingly accessible to the visiting public. This has involved work on almost all of Santanoni's buildings, including: the gate lodge, west cottage, garage, and boathouse on Harris Lake; the herdsman's cottage, gardener's cottage, creamery, and barn at the Santanoni farm; and the main lodge, artist's studio, gazebo, bath house, ash house, generator building, pump house, and boathouse on Newcomb Lake.

Two of the stone culverts and both bridges that carry the Newcomb Lake Road have also been rebuilt, new interpretive materials are now available to visitors, and public enjoyment of the site seems to increase every year.

What follows are some highlights of the progress we've made at Santanoni since our last newsletter.

Conservation and Restoration at the Main Camp

Conservation and restoration at the main camp has happened on several fronts—a large project to stabilize and restore the kitchen wing was done by a general contractor, our builder-in-residence Michael Frenette completed an assortment of projects, we had another general contractor complete the more difficult staining at the lodge, and each year the summer staff continue window repair, staining, and other smaller conservation projects.

Restoration and Stabilization of the Kitchen Wing. Many of you may have noticed over the years that the kitchen wing of the main lodge was twisting or rotating on its axis. This was because its substructure, a series of vertical logs resting on a stone foundation, was inadequately rigid to support the two-story building. A few years ago, concerns about the stability of this wing prompted AARCH and NYSDEC to install timber cribbing under the structure as a stop-gap measure.

This photo shows how the stainless steel trusses were inserted into the log palisades under the kitchen wing. Photo courtesy of Crawford & Stearns, Architects.

To more permanently solve the problem, Carl Stearns of Crawford & Stearns, Architects designed a project to insert a new foundation under the kitchen wing without changing the appearance of the substructure. This was done by jacking the building, installing a new stone and concrete foundation, and finally by inserting stainless steel trusses sandwiched within the log palisades that surround the underside of the building.

The project was done by Jameson General Contractors of Salem, New York between 2009 and 2010. Funding for the $325,000 project came from a grant to AARCH from the federal *Save America's Treasures* program, NYSDEC, the Town of Newcomb, and donations from the *Friends of Camp Santanoni.*

Michael Frenette's Work. Michael started working at Camp Santanoni in 1998 and, since then, he has spent the better part of every summer there. During this time, he has restored porches, missing roof features, and steps; brought the boathouse back from the brink of complete loss; and restored or overseen the restoration of the ash house, pump house, gazebo, and generator building.

Since the last time we reported on Michael's ongoing work at the main camp, he's continued to take on a number of the more fussy and complex restoration projects there. These included: leveling the kitchen wing, replacing deteriorated kitchen windows, doing extensive structural repairs to the porte cochere, restoring the bath house, and installing spruce bark on the pump house.

Michael is also responsible for supervising the work of the summer staff and, over the last six years, they have nearly completed the restoration and painting of the main lodge's ninety-nine multi-paned windows, have stained most of lodge's logwork, and have removed overlying layers of homosote from many interior spaces.

Birch Bark Conservation/Replacement

Almost all of the major restoration and conservation projects that have taken place at Santanoni have dealt with structural stabilization and building envelope work. But in the summer of 2013, we undertook the first interior conservation project, which focused on the repair and replacement of the 120-year-old birch bark wall and ceiling coverings in the living room of the main lodge.

Daniel Leckie at work

To plan this, we convened a meeting of interested and knowledgeable people—Steve Gothard of Arden Creek Designs, a local birch bark expert and friend of AARCH; Steven Engelhart, AARCH Executive Director; craftsman Michael Frenette; Charles Vandrei, the NYSDEC Historic Preservation Officer; and the Santanoni staff. The group discussed the best strategies for restoring the birch bark, how to find new materials to match the existing materials, and our overarching preservation philosophy. The decisions to make repairs to and replace missing sections of birch bark were guided by an interpretation plan embedded with a preservation philosophy to display interior furnishings as they originally appeared.

Summer staff member Daniel Leckie, an historic preservation graduate student at the University of Vermont who had experience in historic interior finishes, undertook all the hands-on conservation work with assistance from Meghan Weber. Prior to August, visitors would have seen large sections of birch bark hanging from the ceiling and walls. Daniel carefully re-tacked all the birch bark panels that were falling off the ceiling and walls, and filled all missing sections with strips of new birch bark obtained from Arden Creek Designs.

We hope this will be the first of several interior restorations projects that will gradually bring the interiors of the camp back to the way they looked during the Pruyn era.

Conservation and Restoration of the Farm Manager's Cottage

The very last building at Santanoni to be stabilized is the farm manager's cottage. Beginning in 2013, Michael Frenette began the difficult work of saving this very deteriorated building. Years of water infiltration had badly damaged the roof system and partially collapsed part of the first floor.

After stripping the roof and removing the deteriorated materials, Michael made extensive structural repairs to the rafters and sheathing and installed a new cedar shingle roof surface on the main part of the building. In 2014, he will continue with similar work on the rear wing of the building and begin to make interior structural repairs to the first floor through the building.

Harris Home No. M-1022

The Size
26 ft. x 24 ft.

4 Rooms and Bath

THE HOME shown here was designed to fill the ever-increasing demand for a cottage with two good sized bedrooms, bath, pantry, kitchen and combination dining and living room.

Probably you are not accustomed to a hall such as here designed. Really, this is a feature in the plan. Note how very handy you can reach every room. This room arrangement can be wonderfully improved with the grade door and cellar stairway addition as suggested in the plan. It is known and can be ordered extra as addition No. 2. By purchasing this home with addition (see Price List) you have an inside stairway to cellar, constructed the same as the house, well lighted and with glassed outside door.

Remember, we furnish the same high grade material on all our houses, all dimension stock spaced 16 inches on centers throughout (no exceptions) double floors and walls with building paper between. We also furnish, without extra charge, the cellar windows and door with complete frames and hardware, solid 6x6 girder posts, gutters, downspouts and accessories, also guaranteed painting and varnishing materials for a three-coat job.

Do not overlook our free blue print plan offer. Write for them today.

FLOOR PLAN

Mystery Solved!

For years we have surmised that the farm manager's cottage was a "catalog or kit house" - the likes of which were especially popular between 1908 and 1940 and were manufactured by Sears & Roebuck, Alladin Homes, Bennett Homes, Sterling Homes, and Montgomery Ward. These kits provided homebuyers with a wide selection of small to modest sized, well-designed, and affordable home choices, delivered right to one's building site. The kits included nearly everything required to build the home except the foundation and other masonry materials.

The lore at Santanoni about the farm manager's cottage was that it was a Sears house, built about 1919. Farm manager Lew Kinne, his wife Minnie, and a niece lived there from 1919 until the farm closed in 1931. It was later used by caretaker Art Tummins and his wife Helen until the 1940s when the family moved to the West cottage near the gate lodge.

In anticipation of beginning work on the cottage in 2013, AARCH Executive Director Steven Engelhart did an Internet search to see if he could find out which company had provided the kit for this house and by some small miracle he came upon the image to the left, a description of Harris Home No. M-1022.

There are small differences between the kit, as shown, and the cottage, as built, but there's no doubt that this is the kit house that the Pruyns ordered for the farm. Instead of brick piers for the porch, cobblestone was used, and needing space for a pantry and storage, including for firewood, a large wing was added to the rear of the house.

Other Projects

Along the Newcomb Lake Road, the road that carries visitors from the gate lodge to the main camp on Newcomb Lake, are three stone arch culverts. Two of these were in particularly poor condition and on the verge of collapse so, over the last five years, NYSDEC has contracted with Galusha Construction to rehabilitate and rebuild these.

This involved keeping much of the existing stonework in place, inserting a new precast concrete culvert within the structure, rebuilding the deteriorated stone walls, and replacing the road materials.

Using DEC personnel, inmates from the Moriah Shock Incarceration Facility, and funding from AARCH/*Friends,* the bridge over the Newcomb Lake outlet was also substantially rebuilt and reinforced in 2009.

Lemon Healy of A1 Brushstrokes doing the high staining at the main camp in 2013

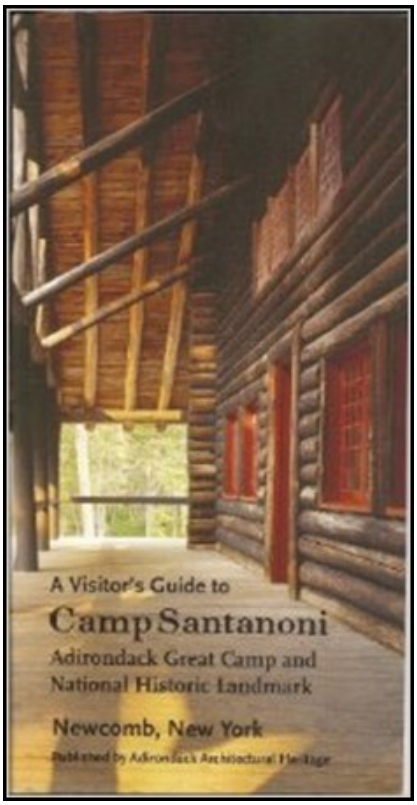
New Educational and Interpretive Materials

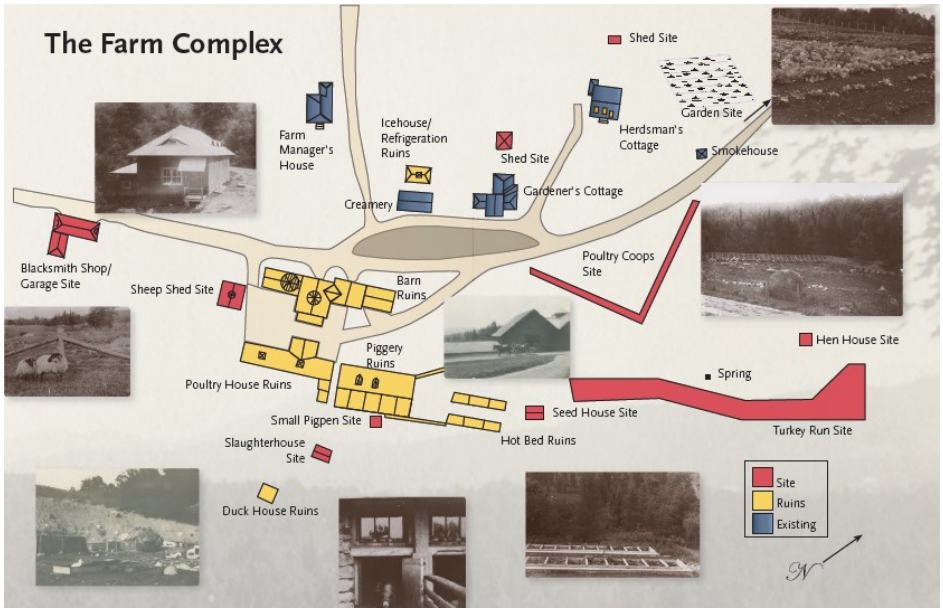
A Visitor's Guide to Camp Santanoni

Charlotte Barrett was a 2012 summer staff person who worked on writing and developing a new full-color, 52-page interpretive guide to Camp Santanoni. In creating this new publication, Charlotte drew on the wealth of material in *Santanoni: from Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp,* on new discoveries at the Adirondack Museum and Albany Institute of History and Art, and on her own observations at the site.

A Visitor's Guide to Camp Santanoni is illustrated with historic photographs, courtesy of Susan Pruyn King, with contemporary photographs by Bill Killon and Jane Riley, and with new maps by graphic designer Barbara Jones.

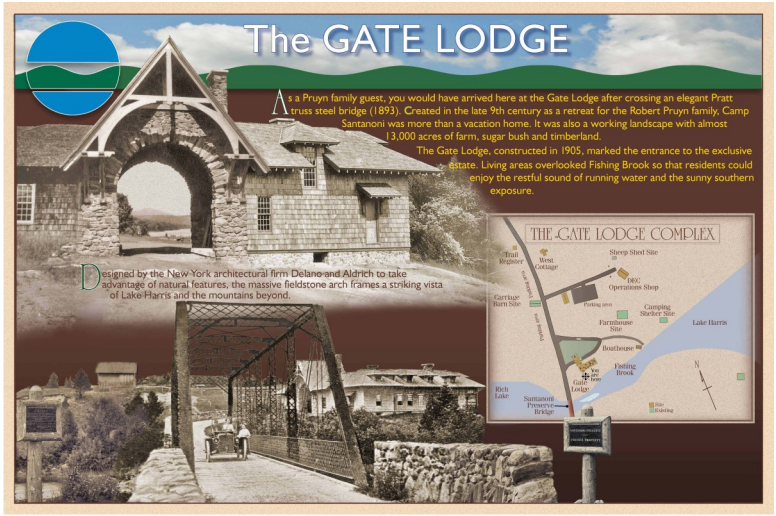
The guide was published in 2013 with financial support through a grant from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership Program. It is available for $4.25 through AARCH and at select retail outlets around the region.





Outdoor Interpretive Signage

Working with Department of Environmental Conservation staff, Charlotte also developed thirteen outdoor interpretive panels that will be installed at the gate lodge, farm, old service complex, and main camp in 2014. These are another way for visitors to learn about Santanoni's rich history, extraordinary architecture, and the unique partnership that manages this historic site.



Volunteer Work Days at Santanoni—2013 and 2014

Friends of Camp Santanoni held three volunteer work days at the Santanoni farm in 2013—one in July, one in August and one in September. Ten volunteers spent one, two or all three days working together with DEC staff members on restoring the farm landscape which had seriously grown in over the past 15-20 years. Volunteers and DEC staff mowed tall grass, cut brush, limbed branches, cut saplings, cut up fallen trees, and dragged an enormous amount of material out of sight into the surrounding woods where it will decompose naturally.

While a good deal more work is needed, it was amazing how much progress was made in a relatively short time toward re-creating the open space feel of the original farm landscape. Even by the end of the first day of work, we noticed how visitors to Santanoni, who had previously been too intimidated by the tall grass and brush around the barn foundations to venture off the road, were now walking down to the newly-mowed area to explore the foundations and artifacts associated with the barn and other nearby farm buildings.

Thanks go to volunteers Nina Caruso, Steve Engelhart, Eric Heinsler, Chuck Higgerson, Meg Higgerson, Howie Kirschenbaum, Dick Malsbary, Pat Peebles, Andy Prescott, Tom Riley, and DEC staff Jim Brundage, Rob Ripp and Chuck Vandrei for all their good work.

JOIN THE "SANTANONI VOLUNTEERS"

What do the following people have in common?

Sally Berk	**Paula Dennis**	**Chuck Higgerson**
Meg Higgerson	**Howie Kirschenbaum**	**Dick Malsbary**
Dorothea Malsbary	**Wester Miga**	**Pat Peebles**
Tom Riley	**Diane Sauter**	**Tim Sauter**

They have all officially joined the "Santanoni Volunteers".

Our three work days last year demonstrated how a few enthusiastic volunteers can make a tremendous difference in improving the Camp Santanoni Historic Area in a short period of time. Similarly, Chuck Higgerson's work restoring masonry on the creamery demonstrated how one volunteer adopting a single project can make an enormous contribution to the overall restoration effort. We want to build on this momentum in 2014 by organizing four other work days involving a still larger group of volunteers.

2014 Volunteer Work Days—Sign Up Now!

June 19
July 23
August 26
September 24

To do this and more, *Friends of Camp Santanoni* is institutionalizing the concept of volunteering at Santanoni by creating a "Santanoni Volunteers" corps and inviting AARCH members and *Friends of Santanoni* to join the Santanoni Volunteers. To join the Santanoni Volunteers is to say,

"*I intend to spend at least one day a year volunteering on physical restoration and maintenance activities at Santanoni or on other activities that further preservation, public education, fundraising, and/or other support for Camp Santanoni*."

Joining the Santanoni Volunteers is as easy as sending Howie Kirschenbaum an email at HKirschenb@aol.com and saying "Count me in!"

Santanoni Winter Weekends a Great Success

Over the past three winters, the Camp Santanoni partners have hosted an open house weekend in January, February, and March as a way of giving visitors an even richer winter experience there. Within the warmth of the heated Artist's Studio, cross country skiers and snowshoers can eat their lunches, talk with volunteers about the history and architecture of the camp, and then venture out to take a guided tour of the main camp complex. In 2014, nearly 700 people came to Santanoni over the eight open house days.

Thank you to volunteers Michael Frenette, Jennifer Betsworth, Nina Caruso, Steven Engelhart, and Matthew Shepherd for their time and effort to make these such memorable outings.

Left: NYSDEC Commissioner Joe Martens and AARCH Executive Director Steven Engelhart share their enthusiasm for Santanoni. Right: Winter visitors enjoy the warmth and hospitality of the Artist's Studio (photo courtesy Nancie Battaglia)

Petoff Reunion at the Santanoni Farm

Nearly thirty members of the Petoff family gathered in front of the gardener's cottage in 2013 for a group photograph

Charles Petoff was the gardener at the Santanoni farm from 1915 to 1931 and he lived in the gardener's cottage with his wife, Pena, and three children—George, Roger, and Marina. The grown children have been invaluable, through their stories and reminiscences, in helping us to understand life at the farm during its heyday.

Over the last several decades, there have been occasional, multi-generational reunions of the descendants of Charles and Pena Petoff, including a big one in 2013.

Friends of Camp Santanoni: Chuck Higgerson

Top to bottom: Chuck Higgerson setting stone, recasting the porch deck, repairing a masonry arch, and making the perfect mortar.

For years, the front of the creamery at the farm has been slowly deteriorating due to age and weathering and this led to missing sections of stone and mortar and big fractures in the concrete porch slabs. This, however, is no longer the case, thanks to Chuck Higgerson.

Chuck is a registered architect who was part of two volunteer work days during the summer of 2013. Over the summer he also spent twenty-four days of his free time fixing the creamery's stonework, repointing mortar, and recasting sections of the porch deck.

He also removed steel rebar from a previous inappropriate repair of the building's two stone arches and reparged the undersides of these arches. All of this he did with incredible attention to detail and great workmanship. For instance, in order to perfectly match the mortar's color and texture, he found a local source of sand and used Type-O mortar, the softest of lime mortars.

True to his professional training, Chuck also worked closely with the staff at Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to plan these projects and to get them just right.

Thank you, Chuck, for the time you have invested at the Santanoni Farm. We hope you'll find other such projects to take on in the future.

"Camp Santanoni resonates with visitors for many reasons. Some are intrigued by the Japanese-inspired architecture of its great log villa. Others are fascinated by the lifestyle at an Adirondack Great Camp or by a farm operation that produced an abundance and variety of food. Still others return, year after year, to admire each new accomplishment in our restoration work. But what almost everyone recalls is something less tangible, born of Santanoni's wild and magical setting on Newcomb Lake, surrounded by deep woods and mountains. It is a reminder that, yes, there is a way for humans and nature to be in balance."

~ Steven Engelhart

Clive Friend

"You will always have a friend in Newcomb," is what Clive Friend will tell you when you first meet him. Clive went to work for the DEC in 1981 and was based at Santanoni until his retirement in 2013. Clive's work at Santanoni included: being part of the herdsman's cottage restoration over several years, reshingling many of the farm buildings' roofs, re-glazing windows, doing exterior staining, clearing trails and roads of downed trees, rebuilding the bridge over the Newcomb Lake outlet, and general grounds upkeep.

In addition to caring for the buildings and grounds, Clive took great care of the summer staff as well as the Student Conservation Association crews that would pass through the gate lodge. Clive welcomed you in a way that made you feel at home and he was always a phone call away if you ever needed anything.

Doug McCabe, Clive's supervisor, said about Clive, "He is a great person and was a hard worker who took a lot of pride in his work. You would see Clive on many weekends throughout the year checking on Santanoni even when he was not working. Clive will surely be missed by all who worked with him and those who have visited Santanoni. But I am sure we will all still see him in his Adirondack chair on the back porch of the gate lodge from time to time."

Granville Eighth Grade Students Visit Santanoni

A group of 8th grade students from Granville, New York visited Camp Santanoni in the fall of 2013. Allison Turcotte VanGuilder, teacher of social studies and former resident of Newcomb and student of Newcomb Central School, came up with the idea to take sixty-three eighth grade students and nine adults into Santanoni.

Allison's idea was to have her students see and use Camp Santanoni in unique and innovative ways. For social studies, they focused on the differences in lifestyles between local children and wealthier children, such as the Pruyns, in the late 19th century. For English, they wrote poems based on their observations of nature and the buildings and landscapes at Santanoni. For math, they tracked their time and steps in and out of camp and graphed it. And for science, they looked at how the environment gets impacted by people, especially in the woods and mountains.

We hope there will be many similar school outings like this in the future.

I was engulfed. It was an enjoyable feeling, a free, open sense. The rich scent of pine filled the air. Nothing but nature for miles. It gives you an opportunity . . . . . .

~Audra Quirk

The Return of Huybertie Pruyn to Camp Santanoni

Huybertie "Bertie" Pruyn was Robert Pruyn's cousin and she came to Camp Santanoni for the very first spring outing in 1893. She returned to camp many times thereafter, including for her honeymoon in 1897. She wrote extensively about camp life - hiking, boating, swimming, camp fires, music, even pranks amongst friends - all with great humor and enthusiasm.

During the summer of 2013, visitors to Camp Santanoni experienced life there through the eyes and words of Bertie, as portrayed by summer staff member Meghan Weber. Through first person interpretation, Meghan told stories, shared experiences, and brought a new and wonderful energy and dynamism back to camp. Said Meghan: “It was amazing to embody Huybertie Pruyn, to see Santanoni through her eyes and bring her stories and enthusiasm about the camp to present day visitors.

Huybertie Pruyn (left) and Meaghan Weber as Huybertie (right), both on the porch at Santanoni

Pendragon Theatre in Saranac Lake loaned Meghan a period costume that made her incredibly realistic interpretation possible. Meghan was photographed and videotaped in her role and a digital version of her performance as Huybertie will be available sometime in the future.

The all-day trips to Moose Pond were an annual excursion to which we looked forward, and we rowed and fished from a boat kept there in a locked boathouse where also were stored kettles and other necessities for a most galumptious repast cooked by the guides over a campfire. Forked sticks held the trout if any had been caught in time.

We came home in time for five o’clock tea and I feel peaceful and at home with the world after a bath and clean clothes.

~ Huybertie Pruyn Hamlin

from “Four Spring Parties”

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES
OFFICIAL PROJECT

Santanoni is 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.

State of the Arts NYSCA

AARCH programs are made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Preserving Camp Santanoni

Four AARCH-sponsored day-long tours will be offered:
June 28, July 25, August 16 & September 5

Santanoni was built for Robert and Anna Pruyn of Albany beginning in 1892. The estate eventually included 12,900 acres and nearly four-dozen buildings. This tour will be led by AARCH director Steven Engelhart or former summer staff member Nina Caruso. The day will include stops at the Gate Lodge, the 200-acre farm, and the Main Camp on Newcomb Lake where we'll see ongoing restoration and learn about the conservation planning and restoration work.

The Santanoni Preserve is owned by New York State, on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a National Historic Landmark. AARCH has long been associated with the protection, interpretation and restoration of this regional treasure.

The round-trip walk is 9.8 miles on a gently sloping carriage road. The tours begins at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. There is a suggested donation of $20. A limited number of seats are available on a horse-drawn wagon for a $25 fee. If you are handicapped, please let us know when you register so that we can have the proper wagon ready.

To make reservations, call AARCH at (518) 834-9328

BECOME a *FRIEND of CAMP SANTANONI*

YES! I want to support the important work of the *Friends of Camp Santanoni* by making a tax deductible contribution.

_____ Student $15 (with current ID) _____ Individual $35 _____ Family $50

_____ Organization or Business $50 _____ Sponsor $100 _____ Patron $250 _____ Other

_____ My company has a matching gift program. I will send the form along with my payment.

_____ My check is enclosed, payable to "Friends of Camp Santanoni" or "AARCH."

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please mail checks to: AARCH, 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944

Friends of Camp Santanoni

The *Friends of Camp Santanoni* is a partnership between Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Town of Newcomb, 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.

The *Friends* is a project of Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), the private nonprofit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park. AARCH has a broad educational mission to promote better public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the region's architecture and communities and it fulfills this mission by sponsoring tours and workshops, giving public slide presentations, offering technical assistance, and supporting local governments, organizations, and individuals in their preservation efforts. AARCH is a membership organization with 1200 members.

For more information about AARCH, visit www.aarch.org or call (518) 834-9328.

Friends of Camp Santanoni
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