Friends of Camp Santanoni Newsletter

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

Spring 2018

Celebrating 125 Years of Santanoni Summers

Another summer season is upon us, and we have big news. This summer, we're **celebrating the 125th anniversary of the completion of Camp Santanoni.** Thanks to the dedication and support of the Santanoni Partners and our friends, Santanoni's buildings have been stabilized and the site has become recognized as an Adirondack treasure.

On May 22, 1892, 125 years ago this spring, the Pruyns and their guests arrived at the still-unfinished Camp Santanoni, relishing in the adventure. Photo courtesy of Susan Pruyn King

From May 22 to June 2, 1892, the Pruyns and their friends enjoyed the first spring party at Santanoni. Even though the building was still an active construction site, as workers busied themselves in finishing the railings, palisades and other details, Camp Santanoni was an impressive sight to the group.

After days of travel, it was a wonder and an oasis of comfort in the wilderness. Huybertie Pruyn, Robert's niece, later recalled "I can never forget the first impression of it and how we rushed about admiring and wondering at everything… When we discovered real bath tubs and then a piano, we were lost in amazement." Even 125 years later, current visitors often echo Huybertie's sentiments.

There's still something special about traveling from home to Newcomb, making your way down the Santanoni Road, and arriving to the welcoming and mysterious log villa waiting on the edge of Newcomb Lake. The Camp's rooms and outbuildings, as well as the surrounding natural landscape into which they blend, invite exploration, curiosity, and contemplation.

Special Anniversary Events — *Join us!*

To celebrate the Camp's 125th anniversary, we'll be holding special events and tours in July, August, and September. We're still sorting out the final details for some of the events—watch for an email or check the Camp Santanoni and Santanoni Preserve Facebook page for more information.

Not sure if you're on our email list, or if we have your most recent information? Please fill out and mail the form included in this newsletter, or send a note to santanoni@aarch.org. You won't want to miss this landmark year!

Right: Visitors once kept in touch via the Santanoni guest book. Today we use email. Be sure to update us with all your contact info.

2018 Summer Staff

Left to right: Jennifer Betsworth leads a group at Santanoni; Theresa Moriarty, Mackenzie Machuga, Ethan Adams, Sarah Heffern.

This summer, we're excited to welcome three new staff members to Santanoni: **Mackenzie Machuga, Ethan Adams,** and **Theresa Moriarty**. All three have nearly completed their Bachelor's degrees in History, Historic Preservation, and Architecture—Mackenzie and Ethan from Southeast Missouri State University and Theresa from Virginia Tech—and bring varied experience in archives, museums, interpretation, and architecture. All three will be arriving in early June, and we look forward to introducing them to the Adirondacks. Look for their smiling faces when you visit! We will also welcome **Sarah Heffern** in July. Sarah is taking a sabbatical from her work as the Director of Social Media for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Sarah is looking forward to spending time in the Adirondacks and doing some hands-on preservation work at our National Historic Landmark.

We're also excited to announce that **Jennifer Betsworth** has been hired as Santanoni's first part-time seasonal Interpretive Coordinator. Jennifer, a former Santanoni staff member, has been an active volunteer for the *Friends* in recent years. You may have met her on a tour or during one of the popular Santanoni Winter Weekends. This summer, she'll be lending her experience to guide new staff, train volunteer docents, manage the Facebook page, develop and carry out new tours and programming to celebrate Santanoni's 125th anniversary, and help make your experience at the site a little better. Feel free to reach out to Jennifer at Santanoni@aarch.org or the Santanoni Facebook page with any questions about this year's events.

Mark Your Calendars

June 26: *AARCH Day-Long Tour.* Register by contacting Virginia Siskavich, virginia@aarch.org or by calling AARCH at 518-834-9328.

July 4-September 2: *Daily tours at Main Camp at 11, 1, and 3.* The Santanoni staff will be waiting for you!

July 14-15: *Special Farm Tours.* Have you ever been curious about the farm or the staff that made it run? Join us for special tours at 11, 12, 1, 2, and 3 to explore the farm's buildings and landscapes. No registration required. Tours are free, though donations to the *Friends* are always welcome.

August 4-5: *Canoe Tours at Main Camp.* Deliah Spring provided gravity-fed running water to Camp Santanoni. The Pruyns loved the water so much that they bottled it and had it sent home to Albany. Try it for yourself, and learn more about the early history of Newcomb Lake and the construction of the camp on this very special tour. Tours will be offered at 10:30, 12:30, and 2:30 each day. Canoes and guide service provided by Cloudsplitter Outfitters in Newcomb. Register in advance by contacting AARCH. Spaces in the canoes and on the wagon are limited.

About AARCH's day-long Camp Santanoni tours:

Journey back in time on an in-depth tour of this National Historic Landmark. Enjoy a leisurely draft-horse wagon-ride or hike along the 9.8 mile roundtrip excursion. Stop at the Gate Lodge and farm before arriving at the camp perched masterfully on Newcomb Lake. Eat your picnic lunch under the same eaves that sheltered Theodore Roosevelt. On a private tour, walk into buildings to appreciate the workmanship, hear about the families and celebrity guests who summered here, and see first-hand efforts to conserve this Park jewel.

The tour begins at 10:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm. **There is a suggested donation of $25. A limited number of seats are available on a horse-drawn wagon for an additional $30 fee.** *Fee includes a "Visitor's Guide to Camp Santanoni". Pre-registration is required.*

August 21: *AARCH Day-Long Tour.*

August 31-September 2: *125th Anniversary festivities at Santanoni during Newcomb's Labor Day Weekend celebration.* Stay tuned for more information on special exhibits, tours, and a birthday celebration!

September 14-16: *Teddy Roosevelt Weekend.* Check out discovernewcomb.com for more information about this year's events.

September 28: *AARCH Day-Long Tour.*

Volunteers and Docents Wanted

While we've come a long way, the Santanoni Historic Area still has no full-time staff and relies on the work of summer staff, AARCH staff, and—most importantly–volunteers. **On June 15, we'll be holding our annual Opening Camp volunteer day to spruce up the buildings at the Farm and Camp.** From 10am to 3pm, we'll spend the day opening buildings, sweeping, mopping, straightening, and getting camp set up. Relish the breeze off of Newcomb Lake, share your time and skills, enjoy a tasty treat or two, and meet this summer's new staff and other *Friends of Camp Santanoni*.

Are you a whiz with a weed whacker? We'll also be holding farm landscape work days: Wednesday July 18, Wednesday August 22, and Wednesday, September 12.

NEW! Want to share your love for Santanoni? **This year, for the first time ever, we're offering volunteer docent training on Sunday, July 1 and Friday, August 3.** We welcome docents of a variety of interests and abilities to help greet the public during the summer and fall at the Gate Lodge, Farm, and Camp. Docents will be expected to act as hosts, but not to give formal tours—unless you want to do so! Interested in winter weekends instead? Let us know—we're looking for volunteers with a sense of adventure, a good work ethic (or a fondness for splitting wood and hauling water), and an interest in Santanoni's history.

If you're interested in volunteering at a work day or training as an occasional docent, please reach out to us at Santanoni@aarch.org or send us a message on the Camp Santanoni and Santanoni Preserve Facebook page for more information. Find us on Facebook: **@GreatCampSantanoni**

Your Feedback Matters

Join the *Friends*, renew your support, or reach out to us on Facebook or at Santanoni@aarch.org. Let us know what you'd like to see from the *Friends,* offer your suggestions for how to celebrate this special year, or share a favorite story about time you've spent at Santanoni.
Happy Adventuring!

RENEW your Membership or BECOME a *FRIEND of CAMP SANTANONI*

YES! I want to support the important work of the *Friends of Camp Santanoni*

_____ 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 _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Please mail checks to: AARCH, 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944
Join Online! Visit: https://www.aarch.org/product/friend/

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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, reach out to us at Santanoni@aarch.org, the Camp Santanoni and Santanoni Preserve Facebook page 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.