

Friends of Camp Santanoni Newsletter

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

Spring 2021

Grateful for a Busy Year Ahead

Last year, visitors flocked to the outdoors in record numbers and we were happy to see so many enjoying the Santanoni Historic Area and the trails, woods, and waters of the Santanoni Preserve. We expect this summer will be busier than ever! In addition to an excellent slate of tours and new initiatives, our Save America's Treasures project to install a new roof at the main camp will be underway. Big and small, these projects require the hard work and support of the Santanoni Partners, volunteers, advocates, and lovers of the Santanoni Preserve. We're grateful for all the Santanoni Friends that have dreamed, worked, and donated to bring us to the start of yet another busy and successful year.

Save America's Treasures Project

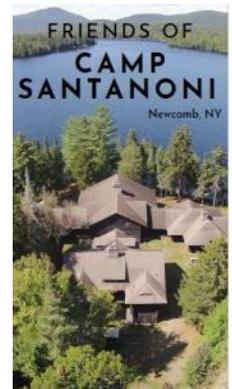


The Main Camp is getting a new roof this summer! This project, which also includes log and masonry work, is supported by a Save America's Treasures grant with matching funds provided by the Town of Newcomb and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Visitors will be able to safely access the camp interiors even while work is underway. Active construction will be Monday through Thursday, starting in June through late Fall. Some exterior areas may be closed as work progresses around the building. We're excited to see this critical project get underway. The construction contract will be awarded to Titan Roofing Inc., Albany, NY.

NEW! Santanoni Website and Rack Card

At long last, we're happy to announce the new Santanoni website! Sarah Heffern, who spent her sabbatical from the National Trust for Historic Preservation at Santanoni in 2018, built the website as her special project. The website integrates information about visiting the historic site and aims to improve the visitor experience. Check it out at www.greatcampsantanoni.com. If you have comments, please pass them along! We hope this will become a good resource for first-time and familiar visitors to Santanoni.

We've also developed a new rack card about the Friends for visitors to the site. It offers information about the Friends, links to the Facebook page and website, and has a new text-to-donate option. Look for it on site starting in June.



In Appreciation



Earlier this year, the Friends of Camp Santanoni received its single largest donation in the form of a bequest from Harold A. Walter of Dolgeville, NY. Harold loved the Adirondacks and was an avid hiker, cyclist, and cross-country skier. The Friends of Camp Santanoni is so grateful to Harold and his family for their generosity.

You can join Harold in donating to the Friends of Camp Santanoni online at aarch.org/product/friend. If you're interested in including Santanoni as part of your planned giving, please reach out to Steven Englehart, Adirondack Architectural Heritage's Executive Director, at Steven@aarch.org.

2021 Summer Staff

This summer, we're happy to welcome three new staff members to Santanoni: **Sofia Biegeleisen, Anna Forsman, and Steven Malenowski**. Sofia graduated from the College of Wooster and Anna and Steven are currently pursuing their degrees at Rutgers and Ithaca College, respectively. All three bring varied experience in history, museums, oral history, digital history, and environmental studies.

They'll be arriving in early June – look for them when you visit! **Jennifer Betsworth** is continuing to serve as the Santanoni Interpretive Coordinator and is excited to work with the staff and offer new tours again this year.



Left to right: Anna Forsman, Steven Malenowski, and Sofia Biegeleisen; Jennifer Betsworth leads a group at Santanoni

Special Events

June 29: Preserving Camp Santanoni. Register by calling AARCH at 518-834-9328. 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 round-trip excursion. Stop at the Gate Lodge and farm before arriving at the main camp perched masterfully on Newcomb Lake. Eat your picnic lunch under the same eaves that sheltered Theodore Roosevelt. On this private tour, led by AARCH staff and Santanoni summer staff, walk into buildings to appreciate the workmanship, hear about families and celebrity guests who summered here, and see first-hand efforts to conserve this Park jewel. Suggested donation: \$25. A limited number of seats are available on a horse-drawn wagon for an additional \$30 fee. The tour begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Fee includes "A Visitor's Guide to Camp Santanoni"

June 26-Sept. 1: Free daily tours at Main Camp at 11, 1, and 3. The Santanoni staff will be waiting for you!

July 10 and August 7: AARCH and the Preservation of Camp Santanoni. To celebrate AARCH's 30th anniversary, we're diving into the organization's three decades of work to preserve Santanoni. Held at the Santanoni Farm on **July 10 and August 7**, this presentation will discuss AARCH's early efforts to save the camp, successes and losses, and major projects, including this summer's Save America's Treasures grant project. We'll also explore the buildings at the farm, spotlighting major efforts to save this critical part of Santanoni's history. Tours meet at Creamery at the Santanoni Farm at 11 am and 1 pm. Free, no advance registration required.

July 24 and September 4: Gate Lodge Tour. On **July 24 and September 4**, join us for special tours of the Santanoni Gate Lodge. Since 1905, the Gate Lodge has welcomed visitors to Santanoni Preserve and has housed staff from that time until the present. We'll explore its landscape and architecture, hear about the people who called it home, and take a peek inside the building, all while enjoying a serenade from Fishing Brook. Tours meet at Gate Lodge's stone arch at 9, 11, 1 and 3. \$10 donation requested. Six-person tour maximum, so advance reservations are recommended but not required. Contact Santanoni@aarch.org to reserve a spot in advance.

August 22: Architects and Architecture of Camp Santanoni, Past and Present. Join architect and guide Chuck Higerson on a day-long adventure focused on Santanoni's construction and this year's Save America's Treasures restoration project. Journey on a horse-drawn wagon and hear about the history of the camp and farm and the architects, builders, and catalogs behind their designs. Once you arrive, you'll learn how the camp was built and see the current project in action. From architects to stabilization, this tour has a little bit of everything for anyone interested in historic architecture. \$55 per person, includes \$30 fee for wagon ride and \$25 donation. Advance registration required. The tour begins at 10 am and ends at 4 pm. Meet in the parking lot at the horse-drawn wagon.

September 11-12: Teddy Roosevelt Weekend. Check out www.DiscoverNewcomb.com for more event information.

October 4: 30 Years of Advocacy and Preservation at Camp Santanoni. In celebration of AARCH's 30th Anniversary, Howie Kirschenbaum and Steven Engelhart, the two advocates most responsible for Santanoni's preservation and success, will lead this day-long outing. Howie and Steven will interpret the colorful history of the camp, in particular the story of AARCH's 30-year role as its champion. Howie was AARCH's founding board president and crafted the legal solution to the camp's preservation, co-authored *Santanoni: from Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp*, and has been an active volunteer there ever since. Steven has been largely responsible for staffing Santanoni each year, managing the extensive planning work that has guided the restoration of the camp, and raising more than \$3 million for preservation work there. Suggested donation of \$35. A limited number of seats are available on a horse-drawn wagon for an additional \$30 fee. The tour begins at 10 am and ends at 4 pm.

Volunteers Needed!



While we've come a long way, the Santanoni Historic Area still has no full-time staff. The work of summer staff, Adirondack Architectural Heritage staff, and – most importantly – volunteers is critical to the successful operation of the site.

On **Friday, June 18**, we'll be holding our annual **Opening Camp Volunteer Day** to spruce up the buildings at the Farm and Camp. From 9:30 am to 3 pm, we'll spend the day opening buildings, sweeping, mopping, straightening, and getting camp set up for the season. 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. If you're interested in participating, please RSVP or reach out for more information at Santanoni@aarch.org.

Howie Kirschenbaum will be holding **Farm Landscape Work Days** on **Friday, July 16, Friday, August 13, and Friday, September 17**. From 9:30 am into the afternoon, the group will work on various landscape tasks at the farm to help maintain the open, farm landscape. Be sure to bring hand tools, work clothes, and a lunch. If you're interested in volunteering at one of these events, please RSVP or reach out to Howie directly at hkirschenb@aol.com.

Santanoni Furniture

There's one question we're expecting to hear a lot this year: What happened to the furniture? A few years ago, the original Santanoni sideboards, table, and chairs returned to the Main Camp after years at the Adirondack Museum, who cared for them on behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Last year, Susan Pruyn King, a Pruyn descendant, sent documents proving that the furniture was hers. King donated the furniture to the Newcomb Historical Museum, which now has the pieces in its collection. The Santanoni Friends are pleased that the furniture is in a more secure location and is in good hands.



Santanoni Furniture, ca. 1895

COVID Updates

Camp Santanoni continues to be open for public access, and summer staff will be on site from June through Labor Day. Here's what to expect when you visit:

- Daily tours, trails, and campsites are all open as usual.
- **Please bring a mask.** We ask that visitors wear masks inside buildings and when on tours. While Santanoni allows plenty of space for social distancing, we ask visitors to please be courteous and allow others plenty of space while on the road and exploring buildings within the historic area.
- Spaces may be limited to public access due to covid and ongoing construction.
- Remember to sign in at the trailhead! This summer more than ever, it is important for us to be able to track usage of the camp & preserve.

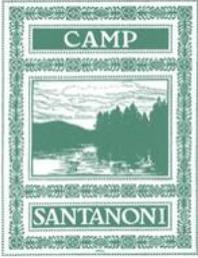
Your Feedback Matters

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!

Want to renew your Membership or join the Friends of Camp Santanoni?

All donations to the Friends of Camp Santanoni go directly to supporting preservation efforts at this National Historic Landmark. Individual memberships start at \$35.

Join Online! Visit: <https://www.aarch.org/product/friend/>



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c/o AARCH
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Keeseville, NY 12944

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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.