Spring 2022 Newsletter

Fellow Friends of Camp Santanoni –

When the first spring party arrived at Santanoni, the group scattered “like birds let loose.” Today, 130 years after the Santanoni Preserve was created, visitors arriving by wagon, bike, horseback, or foot still feel drawn to explore the landscape and buildings of this remarkable place. Whether you choose to join in volunteer work, on a special tour, or have a peaceful walk to the edge of Newcomb Lake, Santanoni has something to offer everyone. Thank you for your support – we look forward to seeing you at Santanoni!

New Roofs at Santanoni

After years of planning, the Main Camp at Santanoni now has a new roof! The old roof, which had been installed over a series of years in the early 1990s, was in desperate need of replacement. The project was overseen by Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) and supported by a Save America’s Treasures grant to AARCH with matching funds from the Town of

Newcomb and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The project also included some critical log and masonry work. The contractor, Titan Roofing Inc out of Albany, NY did an excellent job. For more information, check out the **case study** that CertainTeed, the shingle manufacturer, did on the project.

During the past few years, it had also become apparent that the roof on the Gate Lodge was failing due to an error by the contractor who installed its cedar shingle roof in 2007. Impressed with the work Titan was doing at the Main Camp, the Santanoni Partners worked together to fund the reroofing of the Gate Lodge in late fall. The Friends of Camp Santanoni are grateful to the Town of Newcomb and the NYS Environmental Protection Fund for supporting this critical project.

Santanoni EPF Funding

Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) reached out to our state legislators for financial support of Camp Santanoni during the state budget negotiations and in April, the Friends of Camp Santanoni was delighted that our NYS Legislature and Governor Hochul included funds for AARCH in the Environmental Protection Fund for fire prevention work at Camp Santanoni. Fire is an existential threat to the buildings at Santanoni and their remoteness makes the creative adaptation of more traditional fire prevention strategies essential. This funding is an important step toward solving this problem and provided needed funds for site management.

Appreciation for Steven and Welcoming Erin to Santanoni

Steven Engelhart, AARCH's founding Executive Director, played a central role in the effort to save Santanoni during the organization's early years and to stabilize its buildings in the decades afterward. Whether you met him at a tour, a winter weekend, or at other AARCH events, Steven's dedication to Santanoni was evident. The Friends of Camp Santanoni are grateful for all of Steven's efforts over the past thirty-one years and wish him a retirement full of new adventures.

Erin Tobin, AARCH's new Executive Director, joins the organization from the Preservation League of New York State. She has extensive experience in historic preservation and has great enthusiasm for AARCH's potential and for Santanoni. The Friends of Camp Santanoni look forward to working with her!

NEW Santanoni Facebook Page

Last August, the Friends of Camp Santanoni lost administrative access to its Facebook page, Camp Santanoni and Santanoni Preserve. Despite no lack of effort, the Friends has to start fresh with a new page. For information about this summer's events and moments of Santanoni beauty, please follow our new page: **Great Camp Santanoni**. You can also follow us at Great Camp Santanoni on **Instagram** or find more information at our **website**. Thank you!

2022 Summer Staff

This summer, we're happy to welcome two new staff members to Santanoni: Kevin Jensen and Leigh Robertson. Kevin studied History at Hartwick College and most recently worked at the Hanford Mills Museum in interpretation and research. Leigh is studying History at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. They'll be arriving in mid-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 programs this year. Thank you to the Town of Newcomb for financial support of these positions.

Service Complex Model

If you've visited the Santanoni Farm and peeked inside the Gardener's Cottage in recent years, you got to see a real treat. Volunteer Tim Sauter's model of the Santanoni Barn and huge diorama of the farm landscape offer insights into the historic farm's working landscape and are simply delightful. Last summer, he finished a new model focused on the historic service complex near the camp (now Campsite 2). Be sure to stop by Santanoni's Kitchen Wing to see it when you visit! Tim and his wife Dianne, a Pruyn descendant, are both passionate about Santanoni. We're very grateful for their creativity and contributions.

Volunteer Work Days

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

June 17: Opening Camp Volunteer Day, 9:30 am to 3 pm
The Friends of Camp Santanoni hold this annual workday to spruce up the buildings at the Farm and Camp. We'll spend the day opening buildings, sweeping, mopping, 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.

June 21: Gate Lodge Cleaning Volunteer Day, 10 am to 3 pm
This year, we're holding a new workday to help the staff clean up the Gate Lodge. We'll sweep, mop, dust, and tidy to help the building shine for summer tours and events. Coffee and treats will be provided.If you're interested in participating, please RSVP or reach out for more information at **Santanoni@aarch.org**.

Farm Landscape Work Days
Howie Kirschenbaum will be holding farm landscape work days on **Wednesday, July 13, Wednesday, August 10, and Wednesday, September 14**. 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**.

2022 Special Events

This listing includes abbreviated descriptions. See **our website** for complete information.

July 2 and September 3: Gate Lodge Tour
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 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.

July 23, August 20, and September 24: **Santanoni Bike Excursions**
The Santanoni Road has always been a popular mountain bike ride – and now you can hear stories about Santanoni's history on the way! Excursions meet at the Santanoni parking lot at 9 am and will end at the Main Camp around midday. Plan to bring your own bike and lunch and return at your leisure. $20 donation requested per person. Eight-person tour maximum; advance reservations required by contacting **Santanoni@aarch.org**

August 6: Women of Santanoni (short program)
We're excited to offer our first programs focused on the stories of Santanoni's women.
Tours meet at the main camp at 12, 1, and 2. Free, no reservations required.

August 8: Women of Camp Santanoni (Day-long tour)
While women have always played a central role at Santanoni, their stories have not always been told. This day-long excursion will weave their stories into the familiar Santanoni narrative and offer insights about the changing experiences of

women in the Adirondacks since 1892. For Anna Pruyn and her female guests, Santanoni was a place to relax and explore. Huybertie Pruyn especially enjoyed the opportunity to break free of expectations away from the eye of her mother, the head of the Albany Anti-Suffrage Association. For the female staff, being a woman in the woods was more work than play. Enjoy a leisurely draft horse wagon ride, bike or hike along the 9.8 mile round-trip excursion. Eat your picnic lunch under the same eaves where Anna Pruyn took photographs and Huybertie made mischief.
The tour begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Suggested Donation: $35; A limited number of seats are available on a horse-drawn wagon for an additional $30 fee. Contact info@aarch.org or 518-834-9328 for reservations.

August 22: Architects and Architecture of Camp Santanoni, Past and Present
Join architect and guide Chuck Higgerson on a day-long adventure focused on Santanoni's construction and last 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. From starchitects to stabilization, this tour has a little bit of everything for anyone interested in historic architecture. $65 per person, includes $30 fee for wagon ride and $35 donation. The tour begins at 10 am and ends at 4 pm. Meet in the parking lot at the horse-drawn wagon. Contact info@aarch.org or 518-834-9328 for reservations.

September 13: AARCH 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 9:30 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Contact info@aarch.org or 518-834-9328 for reservations.

September 24: Drawn to Nature at Camp Santanoni with Jean Mackay
Grab your sketchbook and explore the beauty of the Santanoni Preserve with pencil, pen, and paint. This workshop will focus on multiple approaches to capturing nature-related subjects with an eye toward deepening attendees' understanding, appreciation, and connection to the places you live and visit. We will work primarily in ink and watercolor, the most portable and versatile mediums for field sketching as we explore the preserve. All skill levels welcome, though some experience with sketching and watercolor will be helpful. Artist and educator Jean Mackay has been exploring and sketching nature for more than 25 years. The workshop begins at 10 am and ends at 3:30 pm. $65 per person, includes $30 fee for wagon ride and $35
donation. Contact info@aarch.org or 518-834-9328 for reservations.

Your Feedback Matters
Please join the Friends or renew your support. We also invite you to check out our website, follow us on Facebook or Instagram, or email us at Santanoni@aarch.org. Let us know what you'd like to see from the Friends offer your suggestions, or share a favorite story about time you've spent at Santanoni.

Happy Adventuring!

Jennifer Betsworth
Santanoni Interpretive Coordinator

Erin Tobin, Executive Director
Adirondack Architectural Heritage

Please consider joining us to support our important work at Santanoni

Sign up to Volunteer

Donate to the Friends

Friends of Santanoni is a project of Adirondack Architectural Heritage with support from the Town of Newcomb and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

About Adirondack Architectural Heritage

Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) is the historic preservation non-profit organization for the Adirondack region. Since the early 1990s, Adirondack Architectural Heritage, along with NYSDEC and the Town of Newcomb, have worked to stabilize some of the major buildings at Camp Santanoni and provide interpretive services. In 1998, this partnership, along with the hundreds of others who love this special place, launched the Friends of Camp Santanoni to provide long-term financial and volunteer support for the camp.

Each summer, AARCH leads a robust series of tours across the Adirondack park of both private, public, and rarely-seen resources including great camps, prisons, islands, and hamlets. AARCH also advocates for the preservation of historic resources across the park, provides technical assistance, and helps connect owners of historic buildings to the information and resources they need, such as tax credits, grants, and local contractors. Visit AARCH.org for more information and to join us!

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Adirondack Architectural Heritage | 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944

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