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Storage and pressure tanks installed in the basement of the Antlers Main Lodge.

Antlers Moves to Independent Water System

On May 13, 2013, ownership of Antlers was transferred from the Auxiliary Services Corporation to the Cortland College Foundation. Simultaneously, a long term lease agreement was signed by the foundation and SUNY Cortland, placing the responsibility for the operation of the seasonal camp in the College's hands. Since then, a number of plans have been made to improve the facility and expand programming.

Chief among the immediate needs was the conversion of the water system from Antlers of Raquette Lake, Inc. to an independent ground well. Dean Pohl, owner of the aforementioned corporation and operator of the non-community public water system that served at one time up to 50 customers, received permission to terminate the system last year. Inspection of an existing well that was drilled near the Main Lodge prior to the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid indicated it infringed by a matter of feet on a setback from a neighboring septic system. Consequently, the State of New York Department of Health (DOH) required a new well be drilled thirty feet away last spring.

Over the winter, equipment was installed in the basement of the Main Lodge to store and chlorinate the well water as required by DOH regulations. The system was installed by Richard Lutz Construction of Inlet, N.Y. and consists of a 1,050 gallon storage tank, three smaller pressure tanks, various pumps and control systems that will provide all the fresh-water needs beginning this spring. A new 200-amp electrical service panel was installed as part of the project. The water system constitutes a large investment on the College's part to the Antlers infrastructure and is the first important step towards expanding its operation over the next few years.

A number of projects are being concurrently studied that will add functionality to the Main Lodge and Casino. The first is renovating the Main Lodge kitchen to allow student groups to stay on through the early spring and late fall, providing their own cooking and keeping costs to a minimum. We are seeking permission from the DOH to operate it as a self-service residential kitchen. Another project will renovate the upstairs bathrooms and provide some winterization of plumbing fixtures for limited three-season use. The last project under consideration is the construction of a small shop building behind the Main Lodge that will provide indoor space for routine maintenance and relieve the congestion in the Casino between the kitchen and office areas. We are grateful to the many generous alumni who have contributed to the Antlers fund that will support these and other improvements to follow.

From The Director's Desk

Another winter season is behind us and, as in the past, the weather played a role in how we conducted programs for the groups that joined us at Camp Huntington. Although we had below average temperatures from early December all the way through March, our snowfall was again somewhat disappointing. Most of the January groups saw very little or no cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. On the upside, the ice road formed early and provided consistent access by large vehicles well into March.

Facilities Planning, Design and Construction oversaw a crucial project at Antlers over the winter – connecting the new well to a water treatment and distribution system in the basement of the Main Lodge. This system will provide all the water used at Antlers from this spring forward. It's an important step in expanding the operation there.

While skiing with student groups in the meadow this winter, I came across a small, faded brass plaque on a tree at the top of a hill where the old Durant farm had been. I discovered this years ago when I first came to Camp Huntington, but it now took on a different meaning.

At first, I thought maybe Arthur was a caretaker or other employee of the camp, but later learned he was a biology professor who spent many weeks here teaching in the early science field camps. But for the small brass plate on a tree in an overgrown part of camp, little record of his years of service remains. Clearly, he and his family felt a great attraction to the place in leaving behind his ashes and this artifact.

Last fall we memorialized Marcia Carlson, a beloved professor of recreation, parks and leisure studies with the planting of trees at Antlers and Camp Huntington. There are dormitories, nature trails, libraries, a dining hall and classrooms named for people who have given selflessly of their time over many years of teaching at Cortland. It is ever so appropriate that we honor these individuals for their contributions to outdoor and environmental education. But I also think about the countless others who have and continue to give of themselves as teachers, instructors and facilitators who will become nameless over time. They are people I see here year after year without whom our students would never be able to enjoy the benefit of the outdoor activities here on Raquette Lake.

Each generation of faculty and staff that helps carry on the Raquette Lake experience and adds their own personal flavor to it should be celebrated. It isn't easy to sacrifice family and sometimes free time to bring students to the outdoor center. Our programs involve long



ARTHUR H. COOK
August 19, 1912
January 16, 1978



days of work in challenging weather conditions with students who often come with equally challenging youthful behaviors and needs. There is frequently limited or no remuneration involved. They do it because they believe in the value of outdoor education and want their students to share in it.

As we wrap up another winter season and begin preparing for the long spring, summer, fall one, I want to pause to thank everyone who believes in what transpires here at Raquette Lake that could be provided in no other way. You stand on the shoulders of many talented people who preceded you and asked for nothing in return. Know that you are not taken for granted by your students who will long remember the experiences you provided them, whether your name ever graces a plaque or not.

PED 308 Takes on Winter Environment

For the third winter in a row, students taking the winter section of Adventure Education for Teachers found scant amounts of snow, but plenty of cold weather to learn and practice their camping skills this January. Unlike previous years, the ice road was in solid condition, and nine students arrived in camp Sunday, January 19, with their instructors Kate Hovey and Kaysie Kyler.

PED 308 is offered over a two-week period in either May or August, just after spring or just before fall semester. However, one section splits the weeks up between January and June in the same spring semester. This format allows students to experience Raquette Lake and the Adirondack Park in two different seasons, both of which have their unique challenges and opportunities.

The students this year had a chance to meet and hear from Jim Stine, PE '75, who has vast experience winter camping in the Adirondacks. He brought a full backpack of clothing, equipment and tools acquired over the years and explained the use of all them to the group, while recounting lessons learned on peaks like Seward, Marcy and Haystack. Thanks to Jim for sharing his enthusiasm for camping and helping students see the potential for a future relationship with the outdoors.

With the lack of snow, the class spent time hiking and climbing nearby mountains before heading out to the High Peaks, where they climbed Cascade and camped overnight in tents. With icy conditions on the trail, they rented micro-spikes in Lake Placid, which allowed them to reach the summit of the mountain as a group. For many, this was the highlight of a solid winter experience in the Adirondacks, one they won't soon forget. They'll all be back in June to finish the course and add canoe camping to their list of accomplishments. The goal of the course is to help students become comfortable themselves in the outdoors and ideally share this lifelong passion with others.



PED 308 winter session students pose on the top of Cascade. From left to right: Kevin McDonough, Patrick Tierney, Hank Horton, Andrew Chase, Eric Schisler, Joshua Thomas. Photo: Eric Schisler

Two Adirondack Lean-Tos Planned for Camp Marion

SUNY Cortland groups returning from trips into the Adirondack Park will soon have the benefit of two new cedar lean-tos, if plans underway come to fruition. The 8 feet by 12 feet kits have been commissioned from Charles “Tug” Duffy of Duffy Builders near Saranac Lake, N.Y. The logs will be brought over to Camp Marion by barge in the spring, where they will remain in storage until time to assemble them.

Each lean-to can accommodate up to eight people, the typical group size used by physical education and recreation, parks and leisure studies groups. One will replace a derelict structure near the water’s edge, while the other will occupy a beautiful wooded site about 50 yards up the hill. The camp includes a group fire site and additional tenting space to provide overnight experiences and campcraft instruction for larger groups as well.

In the early part of the 20th century, Camp Marion was a small resort providing lodging, meals and recreation to the general public vaca-



tioning in the Adirondacks. In 1963, the Yeaple family sold the 200-acre property to the Faculty Student Association as a buffer against future development on Long Point. For several years, the existing lodge continued to be used by SUNY Cortland faculty for summer vacations, before it was condemned and razed. Since then, Camp Marion has been used as a primitive campsite, which is still considered its best and highest use.

Anyone interested in helping to assemble the lean-tos should contact the CEOE office. We hope to schedule a time when interested volunteers can join us and help reassemble the kits that were cut, assembled and taken apart off site before transport to Camp Huntington. Funds for the purchase of the kits came from the Raquette Lake Fund of the Cortland College Foundation.

Wilderness First Aid Course a Success

A shorter version of the popular Wilderness First Responder (WFR) course that is offered every other year was held Jan. 10-12 at Camp Huntington. The Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course is designed for outdoor leaders responsible for groups in the backcountry where definitive medical care may be more an hour away but less than a day. This describes a number of the programs offered by our Physical Education and Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies departments.

Fourteen Cortland staff and six others from outside the College gathered Friday evening for an early dinner and the beginning of the 16-hour course. It also included an optional CPR certification Saturday evening. The comprehensive curriculum included diagnosis and treatment of muscular/skeletal injuries, common environmental illnesses, shock and other conditions that are likely to be encountered when working with groups

in the outdoors. The Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO) from Conway, N.H. hired local EMT Doug Downs to teach the program.

The W.F.A. course was partially underwritten by the Center for Environmental and Outdoor Education as professional development for our instructors working courses in the Adirondacks. Going forward, the ten-day W.F.R. and the two-day WFA courses will be offered during January break in alternate years. They are open to anyone who needs to be certified or wants to improve their knowledge of backcountry medicine.



Students debrief a simulation during the course. Photo courtesy of Mary Breunig.

Athletics Focuses on Leadership Qualities

One of the Cortland groups we look forward to hosting each winter is an assortment of coaches and players from our spring sports teams. Although the make-up of the retreat changes from year to year, the goals of the program remain the same. According to coordinator Courtney Wormuth, these are “to develop and enhance the leadership skills of our team captains, improve team communication to manage conflict effectively, discuss the stages of group development, and develop goals/ideas to bring back to their respective teams.”



Corey Ryon with members of the women’s golf and softball teams bundle up.

The winter athletic leadership retreat at Raquette Lake was started in 2010 by Courtney’s predecessor, Michael Discenza. In their role as assistant directors of athletics, both Mike and Courtney have continued to develop the curriculum over the three-day retreat to better meet the needs of our athletic coaches and players. They have been assisted in their efforts since the beginning by Corey Ryon ’99 M’03, who has a great deal of experience facilitating groups at Raquette Lake. In addition to the stated goals, Corey notes that “team leaders from different sports become friends and therefore now go and support the other teams at home competitions, usually bringing many of their own teammates.”

This January, softball head coach Julie Lenhart and her assistants Lucia Meola and Larry Miller brought players Amber Corrigan, Alicia Hibbard, Brianna Barca and Devynn Wilder. Coach Joe Brown and assistant coach Mike Zaccardo came with baseball players Chris Jackson, Brandon McClain, Cody Petre and Max Rosing. And women’s golf coach Joe Tesori brought Carly Peters and Melissa Rath. They all shared memorable outdoor experiences, like climbing Bald Mountain and doing low ropes course activities in addition to their indoor sessions.

A similar retreat has been held each spring since 2011 for

coaches and athletes from the fall sports teams. The focus is on accomplishing the same goals, while the free time activities switch from snow sports to boating and swimming. Courtney also hopes to include a session on sportsmanship and added emphasis on conflict resolution when they arrive in May just before graduation weekend. The center is pleased to be able to support this leadership development program and wishes all the coaches and players well in their respective seasons.

Adirondack Studies Makes a Comeback

One of my goals as director since coming on board in 2010 has been to resurrect a course taught several years ago during Winter Session – Adirondack Studies. We first proposed offering the course in 2012, but a conflict in faculty commitments forced a cancellation. This July, the course will run concurrently with Adirondack Classroom in order to share some of the guest speakers, museum tours and outdoor activities.

Phil Terrie, author of two books on the Adirondack Park, will teach the course as an adjunct professor. Phil is emeritus professor of English and American Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University and has spent almost every summer of his life in Long Lake. He served as associate curator for history at the Adirondack Museum the summers of 1971-73. It would be hard to imagine anyone more qualified to teach in and about the Adirondack Park than Phil.

Students will be expected to read from an assigned text and articles before discussing them online prior to arriving at Camp Huntington Monday, July 7. They'll spend the next five days discussing, writing about and exploring the park to gain a hands-on appreciation for its history, politics and public policy challenges. The three-credit course is open to all undergraduates and fulfills a liberal arts requirement for any major. The Center for Environmental and Outdoor Education is subsidizing the cost of the program through its foundation endowment in order to provide greater access for students with limited financial resources.

If you have family or friends who have students who have asked how they can visit Raquette Lake while attending Cortland, this is the opportunity for them. They can look on the Summer II schedule for INT 201 Adirondack Studies. Education students pursuing a master's degree can enroll in EDU 548 Adirondack Classroom instead. Both courses promise to provide memorable experiences and a solid foundational knowledge of the Adirondacks that will enhance any student's academic portfolio.



Adirondack Trail Blazer Update

By Amy Shellman

It has been a great year for the first cohort of Adirondack Trail Blazers (ATB). Midway through fall semester we all met for a casual dinner at Brix in Cortland. At the end of the semester, focus groups were held to share insights on how the experience with ATB helped facilitate students' transition to SUNY Cortland.

With spring on the horizon, the "original eight" are busy with course work and more. Matthew Spina recently performed on campus in "The Crucible." Emily Ventura made her second visit to Raquette Lake for a winter retreat with the SUNY Cortland Recreation Association in early March. This time instead of paddling across the lake she was skiing on top of it. In addition to training for a half marathon this March, Elisa Knapp climbed her first two high peaks, Porter and Cascade, with her dad over winter break. Elisa also added two minors in management and environmental and outdoor education. She will be back at Raquette Lake this summer, working for Raquette Lake Camps as a counselor and sailing instructor. According to Elisa, "I found out about the job through an email, an email that I would not have opened if I didn't do Adirondack Trail Blazers!"

Emily Ventura joined Habitat for Humanity and is in a pickle ball tournament. Dan Bruce is a member of the College Singers, plays intramural basketball, and is on the track and field team. Susan Serunkuma is an active member in health club and is currently busy developing ideas for health and wellness day. Susan recently took a job with ASC, working at both Friendly's and Subway. She is also secretary of DeGroat Hall council, where the residents plan and organize fun events and games.

Amanda Arroyo has been keeping busy playing intramural sports and regular pickup soccer games in Moffett Center. She is also extensively involved in hall council, the Education Club, and volunteering at the YMCA. It is fair to say we accomplished our goals of building community within these first-year students, inspiring their innate leadership instincts, and helping engage them in positive aspects of the College.

Some of the students have expressed interest in serving as student staff for the 2014 Adirondack Trail Blazers, and others will be serving as ATB ambassadors during the accepted student open house. Plans are underway to expand the program to as many as thirty-five incoming students this fall.





Ecology Class

Students from New Hartford High School ecology class sample water through the ice at Raquette Lake.

Calling All Historians

Much of early Camp Pine Knot was chronicled in photographs by Seneca Ray Stoddard and written up in books by Gilborn and Kaiser. A mystery that remains

for us, however, is what the Durants and Huntingtons used for dining, other than the Glass Dining Room. There are historical descriptions of a kitchen, pantry and staff dining hall, but nothing for guest dining. A sketch below shows the summer kitchen that was likely for staff.

If anyone has pictures or a good memory of what the dining hall used in camp was like prior to its being rebuilt in 1979, please contact Rhonda or Rob or send us what you can for our edification. I know there was a small dining room with a stage at one end and a small kitchen attached. What isn't clear is whether that was the original kitchen and staff dining hall or something else. And was it a log building, bark sided or simple planking? Any light you can shed on the subject would be welcomed.



Alumni Opportunities

Fourth of July at Camp Huntington July 2-6

Bring your family to spend the Fourth of July on Raquette Lake at an incredible, all-inclusive rate. All meals, lodging and activities are provided. Enjoy guided hikes, kayak tours, sailing and a climb on the Camp Huntington climbing wall. Bring a shirt or gym shorts and make your own silk screen creation. Join us on the pontoon boat for the town fireworks, followed by an ice cream social in the 1877 Glass Dining Room. Spend evenings around the campfire with marshmallows and s'mores.



NEW Young Alumni Adventure Week July 23-27 - Adults Only

Join us for an adventurous long weekend at Antlers. Packed with action, each day you'll explore the Adirondacks by trail, kayak and even whitewater rafting. There will be time to share videos and stories around the campfire. Great food, fishing and swimming round out the adventure. Open to alumni 2000-2014 and their guests. Don't delay your reservation, participation is limited. Price includes all guides and fees.



Athletic leaders pose after climbing Bald Mountain.

Antlers June 29-July 5, July 5-11

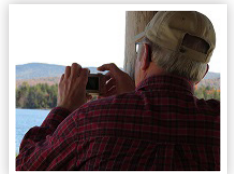
Aug. 22-26, *Sept. 2-5 *Adults Only

Take your family to Raquette Lake to spend quality time together. All meals and lodging are provided at a great all-inclusive fee. Enjoy hiking, kayaking/canoeing, sailing and everything else the Adirondacks have to offer. Each session will include a sunset cruise, campfires, tour of Camp Huntington and much more.



NEW Intro to Digital Photography Sept. 14-18 - Adults Only

Burdette Parks, instructor, will provide help to people new to the digital photography. Become familiar with the operation of your digital camera with guidelines and tips for improving the pictures you take. The fall foliage and exceptional vistas lends themselves perfectly to this course. No prior experience necessary.



Life in the Woods Sept. 21-26 - Adults Only

Step back in time and explore the history of the Adirondacks with Nature Ed-Ventures. The course will include private tours of the Adirondack Museum's exhibition and their behind-the-scenes collections, a luncheon cruise aboard the WW Durant, tours of Great Camps and explorations of our surrounding environment. An adventure not to miss!



For more information cortland.edu/rl-events



Thirty alumni and friends gathered Feb. 16-21 for a week of fun, recreation and memories at Camp Huntington. For the second year in a row, the annual Winter Alumni Camp took place in February during ideal winter conditions. Photo Courtesy of Lew Cowan '73.



Nature Nook Lunch near Kirby Camp. Photo courtesy of Richard Fey

The Bald Eagle is a large powerful raptor that has returned to the Raquette Lake area in recent years. The Adirondacks provide great habitat with tall trees lining lakes and rivers. In the mid-to late-20th century the majestic birds were disappearing from our landscape due to hunting and lethal pesticides. After the Bald Eagle was protected by the Endangered Species Act in 1978, they have slowly rebounded. In July 1995, the birds were removed from the federal endangered list.

Adult eagles have white heads and tail feathers with a brown body and wings. The hefty bird has a big body and head adorned with a yellow hooked bill and legs with incredibly strong talons. Immature birds are mostly mottled with varying amounts of white. Young birds fully mature in about five years.

A Bald Eagle's diet is typically fish; however, they will eat other things depending on availability. Their buffet might include other birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and small mammals. Bald Eagles are not picky, and they will eat

their prey live, freshly killed or as carrion. Eagles will sometimes chase smaller raptors, taking the smaller birds catch. Eagles can fast for many days at a time.

Bald Eagles typically nest in forested areas near large bodies of water away from settled areas. For perching, Bald Eagles prefer lofty, mature trees with a view. Eagles mostly nest in tall sturdy conifer trees, but will also use cliff faces. The nest will average 6 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep and is placed near the trunk. Sticks are woven together and cracks filled with soft material like grass or moss. The nest is then lined with small woody material and greenery. Nests may be used year after year.

Eagles have a spectacular flight display when mating that includes locking talons, cartwheeling, and free falling-separating just before they reach the ground. One to three dull white unmarked eggs are laid in late February or early March. The eggs measure 2-2.5 inches in length and width and are incubated about 35 days before hatching little light gray down covered, pink skinned eaglets. Eaglets will fledge in late June or July.

Current threats to the Bald Eagle include lead poisoning from ammunition in ingested prey, motor vehicle collisions, and habitat loss. The often solitary birds congregate in the winter near open water. Bald Eagles can live to be 28 years in the wild and 36 years in captivity.

In most movies and TV shows, another raptor's call is usually substituted for the Bald Eagle. Do you know which one?