Ranger School Alumni Association

Fall/Winter 2026-2027

RSAA Alumni President's Report

Good day!

I hope this finds you well and you have been enjoying the summer/fall. It has been an enjoyable summer season. This year's reunion had one of the higher attendances and it seemed a good time was had by all! It was nice to see so many alumni and their families enjoying the school grounds.

I would like to mention a couple of items concerning the association. As always, your cooperation/ participation is important in the smooth running of the organization.

First: Starting with the 2027 reunion, we are having a hard cutoff date of April 30/May 1(depending on whether the 30th is a Sunday or not) as the final submission date for any articles for the Alumni News. In the past couple of years, the submissions have been coming in later and later which has resulted in us missing deadlines with the printer.

Think of it as having to turn in your project into the brown box, or nowadays, the electronic brown box. We wouldn't think of asking Mr. Remele or Professor Johnston for an extension; we would have it in by the due date. Moving forward, we will not be using any submissions after this deadline. I would encourage everyone to send in their articles early so our team has the time to process the paperwork and have the Alumni news available at the reunion. Your cooperation with this is very much appreciated!

Second: There were some comments made to me and others on the board about the lack of attendance/ participation of younger graduates at the business meeting, and I wanted to let you know what the association has been doing to address this. This is an important concern since the long-term success of the organization will be dependent on the involvement of these younger members.

When the students arrive in the fall, they are each given a welcome gift on behalf of the association. This gift is meant to introduce them to our association and make them aware of our presence. This year, the RSAA will sponsor an event during the school year and provide the students with food and beverages for an event of their choice.

During the year a class officer will act as a liaison officer with the RSAA. He or she will attend our meetings, organize student participation with RSAA local activities, and see a glimpse of how the organization works. Our Office Manager Samantha has an office in the school and engages with the students by selling merchandise or casual conversations with the students. And at the end of the year, we present them with a nice Nalgene bottle as a graduation gift as a reminder to "Keep in Touch". Much time and money are routinely used for recruitment of the graduating classes. We feel like we are doing a good job of making the students aware of our association. That being said, it is up to them to decide to become involved. As anyone who is involved in other volunteer organizations knows, recruitment of newer members can be a challenge. We are working on it. If you have any good tips or suggestions, please feel free to share. We can all help out by encouraging alumni we know to become involved as board members, or to volunteer at the alumni house opening/closing events. Thank you!

Be well and Keep in Touch!

-Mike Rozeski '90

Properties Report

Greetings Alumni,

Another summer has come and gone. It has been a busy and productive year for the Properties and Projects Committee!

Those that have used the alumni house have seen the improvements. Those who have not, this is what has happened:

- Tongue and groove pine ceiling in living room, with new lighting.
- Steps and deck to the dock. A concrete footer was poured for a solid foundation for the steps to rest on.
- The garage doors were replaced.
- The garage was cleaned and organized.
- The living room floor will be painted after closing.

I would like to thank the following alumni who helped in the improvements:

- Mike Webb
- John Scanlon
- Montana Cassavaw
- Bob Diel
- Bob Brower
- Mike Rozeski
- Dave Daut

And a special thanks to our Office Manager Sam MacDonald for keeping track of the finances and invoices.

If I have failed to mention anyone, my apologies.

Looking ahead, we have discussed a new kitchen at the alumni house. Plans are incomplete at this time, but more information will come as plans are finalized. Any ideas on how we can improve the alumni house/ campground stays are appreciated.

Opening and closing weekends are always a great time to reconnect with alumni and help out. The day always ends with a campfire and RS stories. All are welcome.

Take care and enjoy the fall and winter seasons!

-Jerry Butler '05

RSAA Properties Manager

Matt Coons: Champion Tree Climber



On June 19th and 20th, 2026, Ranger School alumnus, Matt Coons (class of 2023) took third place in the New York State Arborist's Tree Climbing Championship at Stewart Park in Ithaca, NY.

The New York State Tree Climbing Championship is a gathering of the top tree workers in New York State to display their tree climbing skills and abilities in a series of competitive events. Events include a work climb, belayed speed climb, aerial rescue, throwline event and an ascent event. After placing third, Matt then competed in a master's challenge to determine who would represent NY at the national level. Though he did not come out on top, he will serve as an alternate competitor should the need arise.

Matt is currently a production arborist with the Davey Tree Expert Company in Albany (Latham), NY. It was his first year participating in the competition and he is already preparing for next year. Great job, Matt!



Top Finishers of the 2026 NYSA TCC.



Matt Coons, RS 2023, gives instruction to legacy student, Oliver Viglas, RS 2027, on the basics of climbing a tree.

2026 Reunion Report

A beautiful summer weekend was enjoyed at the 90th Annual Alumni Reunion. More than 170 fellow alumni registered and including family and guests there were over 260 people in attendance! This represents the most attendees in quite some time.

Many familiar faces were present as well as quite a few first-timers. Special recognition to the class of '76 with a record setting (30???) members celebrating their 50th

As always, an extra special shout out to the class of '53 with 4 members celebrating 73 years!

Saturday evening kicked off with the annual awards and recognition ceremony. The Philip J. Haddock Award of Excellence was presented to Dr. Mariann Johnston, and the Kermit E. Remele Award was awarded to the Class of 1976 for their dedicated service and tireless contributions over the years to the Ranger School and the Alumni Association. Congratulations!!

We encourage all alumni over the next year to think of someone or a group who would be qualified recipients so we can recognize them for their contributions.

Festivities concluded in spectacular fashion with the ever popular live and silent auctions. Many unique and one-of-a-kind items were sold, raising over $2100 for the Legacy Scholarship fund. Thanks to the alumni who graciously donated items to the auctions. It is only with everyone's continued support that this event is as successful as it is.

The reunion committee is already hard at work preparing for next year's reunion and I would like to personally thank them for all their efforts to provide an enjoyable and fun experience for everyone.

What will next year bring? Come join us for the 91st and find out. Save the date, August 6 &7, 2027.

We look forward to seeing everyone again.

-Greg De La Fleur '94

RSAA Legacy on the Narrows



"Legacy Rock" is a reverent place on the banks of the Oswegatchie Narrows on the Ranger School Alumni Association's (RSAA) Spaulding House and campsite property. "Legacy" means "substantial gift" which describes the values and character of the five Ranger School alumni memorialized there.

Gordon T. Hughes was the first name honored on the Rock, following his death in 2010. A 1956 graduate of the Ranger School, Hughes continued his studies at the University of Montana and fought forest fires in Alaska. He later earned a degree in banking, insurance, and real estate and spent most of his career as the Fiscal Administrator at Little Falls Hospital in Little Falls, NY. Hughes shared his accounting expertise with the RSAA by serving as treasurer for many years. The RSAA Board of Directors awarded him the "P.J. Haddock Award" in 1995.

Philip J. Haddock graduated from the Ranger School in 1926, joined the faculty in 1929, and worked there until he retired in 1970. In addition to being an instructor, Haddock was the registrar, admissions officer, and business officer. He was one of the founders of the RSAA in 1928 and served as its executive secretary from 1929 until his death in 1979. He was the editor of RSAA's annual Alumni News book from 1930 until 1971. In honor of Haddock's life-long commitment to the RSAA, each year, the Board of Directors selects a nominee to receive the "P.J. Haddock Award" for their outstanding contribution (not monetary) to the School and/or the RSAA.

Kermit E. Remele graduated from the Ranger School in 1943 and joined the faculty in 1962. Like Haddock, Remele dedicated his life to the Ranger School and the RSAA. He taught for over 30 years and served as the RSAA's secretary and editor of the Alumni News. He received the RSAA's "P.J. Haddock Award" in 1994. One of Remele's strengths was his ability to organize people for the betterment of the community. For example, he helped found the "Colvin Crew" to retrace surveyor Verplanck Colvin's historic steps and document his survey bolts in the Adirondacks, organized students to save the Tooley Pond Mountain fire tower and relocate it to Cathedral Rock, and he led the Clifton-Fine Lions Club. After his death, the RSAA Board of Directors established the "Kermit E. Remele Award of Meritorious Service" and annually considers community group nominees in Remele's honor.

Two names recently added to Legacy Rock were James E. Coufal and Lee Berry following their deaths in 2025. A 1957 graduate of the Ranger School, Coufal joined the faculty in 1965 and served as Director from 1977 to 1982 before moving to SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry's (ESF) main campus in Syracuse. At ESF, he was the Curriculum Coordinator and, later, the Chairman of the Faculty of Forestry until retiring in 1997. Coufal was an advocate for Ranger School faculty and students throughout his career at ESF and when he served as President of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). He received the RSAA's "P.J. Haddock Award" in 1993.

Lee Berry graduated at the top of his class in 1968. He loved the Ranger School and working in his family's lumber business in Adams, NY. Berry served on the RSAA Board of Directors for over 20 years and he and his wife, Sue, regularly attended reunions and were generous supporters of the School and the RSAA. The RSAA Board of Directors awarded Berry the "P.J. Haddock Award" in 2008.

These five alumni shared a life-long commitment to the Ranger School and the RSAA – their lasting gift is an inspiration to us all.

Kathy Smith Greenwald '79

Keep in touch with your fellow Alumni!

- NYS Ranger School Alumni Association, Inc.
  nysrsaa.org
- RSAA website through SUNY ESF:
  https://www.esf.edu/rangerschool/alumni/
- RSAA Facebook:
  https://www.facebook.com/RSAAinc/
- RSAA Instagram
  https://www.instagram.com/nys_ranger_school_alumni/
- Ranger School:
  https://www.esf.edu/rangerschool/
- Main Campus SUNY ESF Alumni:
  https://www.esf.edu/alumni/
- Ranger School Flickr:
  https://www.flickr.com/photos/rangerschool/

RS Alumni and Students keep hiking for a great cause…

For the third year in a row, RS Alumni teamed up with the current RS students and participated in the 46Climbs event. This is an annual event organized to raise awareness of mental illness and suicide prevention. The premise is to enjoy the therapeutic benefits that movement outdoors provides. For a couple weeks a year, people from all over the states and abroad participate.



Past RSAA President and family in Alaska

In late August and early September, RS Alumni, Class of 2027 students and RS staff represented The Ranger School Team in this event. Tim O'Mara along with Jeff & Sherry Dubois and Allison Brusa led the Outing Club on a hike up Hopkins Mountain. Brian and Caren Donovan led a group of students up the local favorite, Cat Mountain and later tackled Haystack with daughter Ella. Past RSAA president Tom Martin along with his wife, Linda, and brother Rick hiked Mendenhall Glacier and Nugget Falls in Juneau Alaska.



The RSAA was a proud sponsor of the event for the second year!

2026 Stats:

- *$1,375 raised*
- *36 members on team*
- *14th out of 116 teams in terms of fundraising!*
- *Kudos to The Ranger School Team!!*



Haystack Mountain - ADKs

For more information about this national event, visit 46climbs.com. Plan ahead and mark your calendar now to join us in 2027!!

HUGE thank you to Sam MacDonald, Greg Vaverchak, Tom Martin, Dr. Johnston, and Tim O'Mara for their help in networking the RS Alumni and current RS students!!



Hopkins Mountain



Cat Mountain

Class of 2027 Student Participants:

Ryan Ferguson	*Ash Narron*
Griffin Stripto	*Alex Picard*
Marshall LaPierre	*Yona Ehrlich*
Sara Knoblock	*Gavin Miller*
Noah Furminger	*Jami Burgess*
Soren Marques	*Mel Richter*
Garrett Hand	*Jubilee Nuño*
Ava Veneziano	*Owen Hayes*

SUNY ESF Might Oaks Club

Inspired by the incredible hockey experience offered at the Ranger School, SUNY ESF's main campus in Syracuse debuted their ice hockey club last year. Sean Van Riper (Class of '25) was the captain of the Ranger School hockey team during his year at the Ranger School and wanted to build a hockey atmosphere in Syracuse for SUNY ESF students including returning Ranger School students so he founded the club.

Last year the club operated with weekly practices which culminated in a game vs the Ranger School team in Lake Placid. The inaugural year was a success and over the summer the club has now grown into a full fledged AAU sanctioned club hockey program.

This year will be the inaugural season for the newly founded SUNY ESF Mighty Oaks club ice hockey team and will feature a 16 game slate against colleges such as Paul Smith's, Hobart, Hamilton, Cornell, Geneseo, Ithaca, and more. This is an amazing opportunity for the growth of hockey at SUNY ESF and an amazing example of Ranger School values inspiring the growth of an incredible opportunity elsewhere.

Operating as an official club hockey program for the first time is a costly endeavor and as funds are currently tight, the SUNY ESF club ice hockey team is asking any and all for donations of any size.

Those interested in supporting the growth of hockey at SUNY ESF can reach out to Sean Van Riper at srvanrip@syr.edu.

Venmo for donations:

@Sean-VanRiper-1

SUNY ESF Mighty Oaks Club Ice Hockey
Inaugural Season Schedule

November
- Saturday 11/7 6PM vs Rochester
- Sunday 11/8 4PM vs Colgate
- Sunday 11/15 1PM vs Paul Smith's
- Saturday 11/21 3PM vs Ithaca
- Sunday 11/22 3PM @ Hobart

December
- Friday 12/4 7PM @ Paul Smith's
- Saturday 12/5 1PM @ Hamilton
- Sunday 12/6 2PM @ Colgate

January
- Saturday 1/23 3PM vs Hobart
- Sunday 1/24 11AM vs Hamilton
- Saturday 1/30 8PM @ Rochester
- Sunday 1/31 6PM vs Cornell

February
- Saturday 2/6 4PM @ Geneseo
- Friday 2/12 9PM @ Ithaca
- Saturday 2/20 Playoffs @ TBD
- Saturday 2/27 Playoffs @ Niagara

Home Games Played at Onondaga Nation Arena
(326 US-11, Nedrow, NY 13120)

Director's Report

Greetings from the Director's Office!

We are entering our 10 th week of the Fall semester. TheClass of 2027 remains fixed at 48 students. The program numbers have settled, and we haveanother year with a nice equal distribution across programs:

• Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation (ENRC): 17

• Forest Technology (FT): 17

• Land Surveying Technology (ENRC): 14

Our Fall Open House on October 25 is poised to host be one of our largest in recent years, so we have high hopes for a big class in Fall 2027.

Student Activities: Student Government just got underway, with Class President Gus Greene and Class Treasurer Eliot Crane poised to interact with the RSAA Board as liaisons when their schedules allow. Clubs are also active: the Outing Club is hiking (including two 26Climbs hike at the beginning of the semester), Hockey Club is going into their first Saturday night skate of the year, Forestry Club has been hosting remote presentations and has an upcoming work day planned. The Bird Nerds are planning an early November visit to Malone to observe the snow geese migration – always a very impressive show.

Program News: One of our biggest new initiatives is that our LST and ENRC programs are both eligible for SUNY Reconnect, which provides funding for tuition, fees and supplies for eligible enrolled students. The criteria are to be between the ages of 25-55, including those who already have a degree, and entering one of the Reconnect-designated programs. You can find more information here: https://www.suny.edu/reconnect/

Curriculum Updates: The Ranger School's "Best-in-the-Galaxy" faculty continuously consider how to provide the best preparation to our students, balancing foundational field and technical skills with new innovations and industry demand. We are presently considering an introductory tree care course that might be offered as a spring semester elective, and longer-term whether a tree care concentration might be a nice addition to the Forest Technology degree. We are also working with our surveying faculty to enhance our offerings in subdivision surveys and construction surveying. We are presently interviewing candidates for an Instructor position (backfilling Jamie Savage), so we will rely on the new faculty member's input on these and other potential curriculum updates. We look forward to reporting out on our search results soon!

Budget Environment: SUNY ESF does continue to function within financial constraints imposed by SUNY, and with an eye to the state budget. We are still in an austerity environment, and future additional staffing reductions may come into play, particularly if enrollment targets are not met. We continue to do our best here, but are being asked to do more with less. At present, we are being asked to reconsider sending students to professional meetings – and I think we all recognize how important those meetings are to developing networking skills, finding scholarships, and meeting potential employers. So, if you are at all able, please consider participating in this year's Ranger School Annual Appeal (QR Code provided). Funds donated here will go directly to student professional development, allowing us to continue sending students to meetings.

You may donate online using the QR Code shown here, or reach out to Chris Westbrook (westbrook@esf.edu) or me (mjohnston@esf.edu) for more information on how to help.

Important Dates!

- January 1- Happy New Year! - Beginning of the 2027 Dues
- March 7- Alumni Hockey Game from 1pm to 3pm
- March 26- Last day for reservations
- April 1- Nominations are due
- April 15- Contact RSAA about remaining availabilty for Alumni House
- April 27-28 - Spring Clean Up Weekend at the Alumni House
- May 1- Info and class notes are due! Anything received after this date will not be included in the 2027 Alumni News
- May 15- Ranger School Commencement
- August 6-7 - RSAA Reunion

Reunion 2026

For the last few years, I have been providing a summary of the Pop-up Reunions that we have been having around the state. Unfortunately, the Pop-up Reunion planned for Binghamton, NY had to be cancelled due to the low number of Alumni who pre-registered for the event. Because of this cancellation, I thought I would provide you with a summary of the 2026 August reunion held in Wanakena, NY.

After a 3-year (2020, 2021 & 2022) pause of RSAA Reunions due to Covid, there was a significant decrease in reunion attendance for the next several reunions beginning in 2022. The 2026 Reunion saw a fairly large increase in attendance with 170 Alumni who registered this year.

This year, the Class of 1953 was represented by 3 class members – Richard Miller '53, Tom Hodges '53 and Marvin Reid '53. Arnold Lankton '53 was planning on attending, but did not make it to the reunion this year.

The weekend kicked off with 23 golfers participating in the 29th Annual Daniel Castagnozzi Golf Tournament. It was nice to see a group of Ranger School Employees playing in this year's tournament. David Daut and David Newman took first place followed by Chris Nowak '79 and Chris Westbrook '73.

Special Projects Chair and Property Manager, Jerry Butler '05 hosted the Open House at the Spaulding Memorial Alumni House. This meet and greet event offered Alumni a chance to catch up with fellow alumni. Those who attended also had an opportunity to view the improvements made at the Alumni House and Campground.

Friday evening included music at Z-Park in Wanakena by Knotty Paddy, featuring Jamie Savage, Professor Emeritus and Rick Kovacs '76 and other band members. A large number of Alumni joined the Wanakena Community to enjoy an evening of music.

On Saturday, a large group gathered for the RSAA Business meeting. After introductions, attendees heard a wide variety of current updates about the Ranger School and the RSAA.

On Saturday afternoon, a large group met in the Barry Nehr Classroom for a Remembrance of Director and Professor Emeritus James E. Coufal '57. Special guests included Jim's wife Carol Coufal and daughter Laura Coufal Slivinski. After comments and remembrances from those in attendance, a plaque for the JE Coufal Conference Room was unveiled. Thanks to Kathy Greenwald '79, Eric Witsen, Maintenance Supervisor and Director Mariann Johnston, for their efforts to obtain and install the plaque.

The reunion ended on a high note on Saturday evening with a chicken barbecue, the presentation of awards and the annual raffle and auction. A special thanks to all who donated items for the raffle and auction.

The Class of 1976 was well represented with 30+ classmates in attendance. Each member of the class was presented with a 50th year plaque. They also presented a gift of $32,000+ to the Ranger School. They have earmarked the gift to go towards a major equipment purchase for the school. Mike Webb '74 and Walt Savichky '74, Forest Techs for the Class of 1976, entertained the crowd by presenting the 2026 Remele Award to the Class of 1976.

Dr. Chris Nowak '79, Chair of the ESF Sustainable Resources Management Department, presented Dr. Mariann Johnston, RS Director, with the Haddock Award. Some of Dr. Nowak's presentation included the following statements. *"Dr. Mariann Johnston excels in her work as both a professor and Director of The Ranger School. Since 2020, she has made a noteworthy and lasting impact on our College community. As the first female director of The Ranger School, which has been operating continuously since 1912, she has demonstrated a deep commitment to providing one of the best field-based education programs in the country. Just recently, she told me that all of her management and administrative decisions revolve around "what makes The Ranger School better for the students and their learning, experience, and preparation for life after graduation." This philosophy clearly guides her leadership.*

She demands hard work, is deeply committed to hands-on training, and consistently fosters high-quality academic achievement during the School's extended and immersive academic year at the Wanakena Campus. Mariann oversees the complete operation of The Ranger School, from kitchen and food services to academic programs. She has supervisory responsibility for five faculty members, three instructional support personnel, two visiting instructors, and four staff. She and her team work day by day in an operation that emphasizes caring for students in a very personal way—almost like a family. This approach has resulted in student retention and graduation rates that consistently exceed 90 percent each year."

Finally, thanks to the RSAA Reunion Committee, under the leadership of Chair Greg DeLaFluer '94, for their efforts to make this year's reunion a huge success. Thanks also to Samantha MacDonald, RSAA Office Manager, for her efforts to ensure a successful reunion in 2026. It is important to also recognize the faculty and staff at the Ranger School who pitch in each year to make sure that alumni have an excellent reunion experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all alumni, especially those celebrating a 5-year reunion to plan on attending the 2027 reunion which will be held on August 6th and 7th, 2027.

Chris Westbrook '73

Chair, RSAA Engagement Committee

Ranger School 2026-27 Annual Appeal

At the August 2026 RSAA Reunion, Director Mariann Johnston announced the 2026-27 Annual Appeal. This year's annual appeal follows a successful 2025-26 Annual Appeal. Last year's Appeal was supported by over 110 donors and raised $88,000+. Included in this gift total, is a matching gift from the Ranger School Alumni Association in the amount of $40,000. Thank you to all who gave a gift to last year's Annual appeal.

A letter from Director Johnston was mailed to all alumni and friends of the Ranger School outlining the 2026-27 Annual Appeal. At the time of this writing, 61 gifts totaling over $20,000 have been received for the 2nd Annual Ranger School Appeal. On the recommendation of Director Mariann Johnston and the RS Faculty, donors are encouraged to support the Ranger School Professional Development Account this year. Of course, options to support other accounts such as the Ranger School Endowment or the Wanakena Fund are available.

As per Director Johnston, "the Professional Development fund underwrites students attendance at professional conferences and training programs. Students meet, mingle and connect with professionals, who offer mentoring, internship and job opportunities – graduates are job-ready on day one."

To assist you with making a gift, please see the QR code below:

If you would prefer, checks can be sent to: Dr. Mariann Johnston, Ranger School, PO Box 48, Wanakena, NY 13695. No matter how you choose to give, please be sure to be clear on forms and checks that this is for Ranger School Annual Appeal and list the fund you would like to support (Ranger School Professional Development, RS Endowment, Wanakena Fund, or a specific named scholarship fund).

Please consider making a gift. Each gift, no matter the amount, helps improve and strengthen the Ranger School program. Thus far, gifts to the 2026-27 Annual Appeal have ranged from $25.00 – $10,000.00.

If you would like more information or if you have questions regarding gifts to the Ranger School, please contact me at: westbrook@esf.edu. I would be pleased to offer you information about the various funds dedicated to the Ranger School, ways to give, or answer any questions/thoughts you may have.

Thanks to all who have provided financial support to the Ranger School!

Chris Westbrook

Development Associate

Looking For Merchandise?

Belt buckles, stickers, t-shirts,long sleeve t-shirts, hoodies, coffee mugs, and hats are available through the RSAA office now!

You can still get everything from t-shirts, hats, hoodies, even water tumblers and coffee mugs. At our online Spreadshirt store:

https://www.spreadshirt.com/shop/user/ranger+school+alumni+association/

Or find the link on our Alumni webpage.

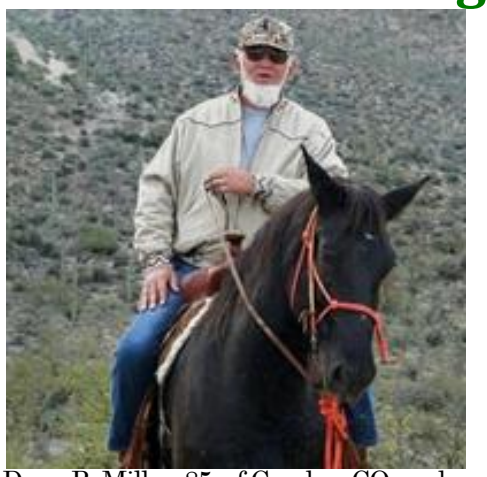
Email rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com for more information.

We now take credit cards!

Have an idea for RSAA merchandise? Let us know



Dana Miller- Ranger School Class of 1960



Dana R. Miller, 85, of Greeley, CO, and formerly of Berthoud and Loveland, passed away peacefully in Greeley on Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

Dana was born in Tioga County, NY, in November 1940 to Dana G. Miller and Tina G. Miller, later Rutan. After graduating from Tioga Central High School in 1958, he went on to graduate from Syracuse University's Ranger School in New York's Adirondacks. Poor job prospects and life events led him away from a career in natural resources, but the "Ranger's Heart" he gained there stayed with him for life.

Dana married Florence Jaeger in Florence, SC, on January 16, 1961. They made their home in Huntington Station, NY, where they began raising their family, and then spent a few years in Howe, TX, before moving to Broomfield, CO, in 1971. They settled in Loveland in 1974 and Berthoud in 1989. Dana and Florence shared 46 years of marriage before her passing on October 20, 2007. Dana passed away 19 years later, on the same date.

Dana held a wide variety of jobs over his life, including technical positions with IBM in New York and Texas Instruments in Texas. After moving to Colorado, he manufactured skis for AMF Head Ski. From the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, he served as a radiological worker and glovebox operator at the Rocky Flats Plant, making him a Cold War veteran. Dana always loved driving, and as he neared retirement he spent many hours and miles behind the wheel as a "Knight of the Highway," a long-haul trucker.

Dana and Florence enjoyed the Colorado Mustang Club together for many years. Once retired, Dana couldn't simply relax. Along with the Mustang club, pinochle get-togethers were a favorite pastime, but volunteering mattered most to him. Several times a week he delivered meals to homebound neighbors for Meals on Whees of Loveland & Berthoud. He found his greatest joy in finally putting his Ranger's Heart to work, sharing his passion for the outdoors and conservation as a volunteer at his beloved Rocky Mountain National Park. There he helped protect bighorn sheep in sensitive areas and served on a team that protects the park's fragile tundra, teaching visitors "tundra etiquette": how to appreciate the beauty and ecological importance of these places while treading gently. He also looked forward to his annual stint at a Forest Service fire tower, where he no doubt made an impression on the many visitors who met him.

Dana and Janet became friends over cards at the senior center, and after years of friendship, they found love and married in 2014. He grew fond of her daughter, Alair, her grandchildren, Cortlin and Brennan, and Brennan's partner, Tegan.

He is survived by his wife, Janet Wells Miller of Loveland; his son, Dana A. Miller and wife Patty of Bryantown, MD; his daughter, Dawn M. Martin-Miller and husband Jeff Marr of Tijeras, NM; his grandson, Ace Martin and wife Amy Juarez of LaSalle, CO; his brothers, Gary Miller and wife Kathy "KB" Brazelton of Estes Park, CO, and Roger Miller and wife Sue Armijo of Nathrop, CO; and nieces and nephews in the Miller and Jaeger families.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Florence; his parents, Dana and Tina; his stepmother, Catherine Miller; and his parents-in-law, Edmund and Frances Jaeger.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For details, please contact RememberingDanaMiller@gmail.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, P.O. Box 3100, Estes Park, CO 80517, rmconservancy.org/donate, or to Meals on Wheels of Loveland & Berthoud, 437 N. Garfield Ave., Loveland, CO 80537, lovelandmealsonwheels.org/donate.

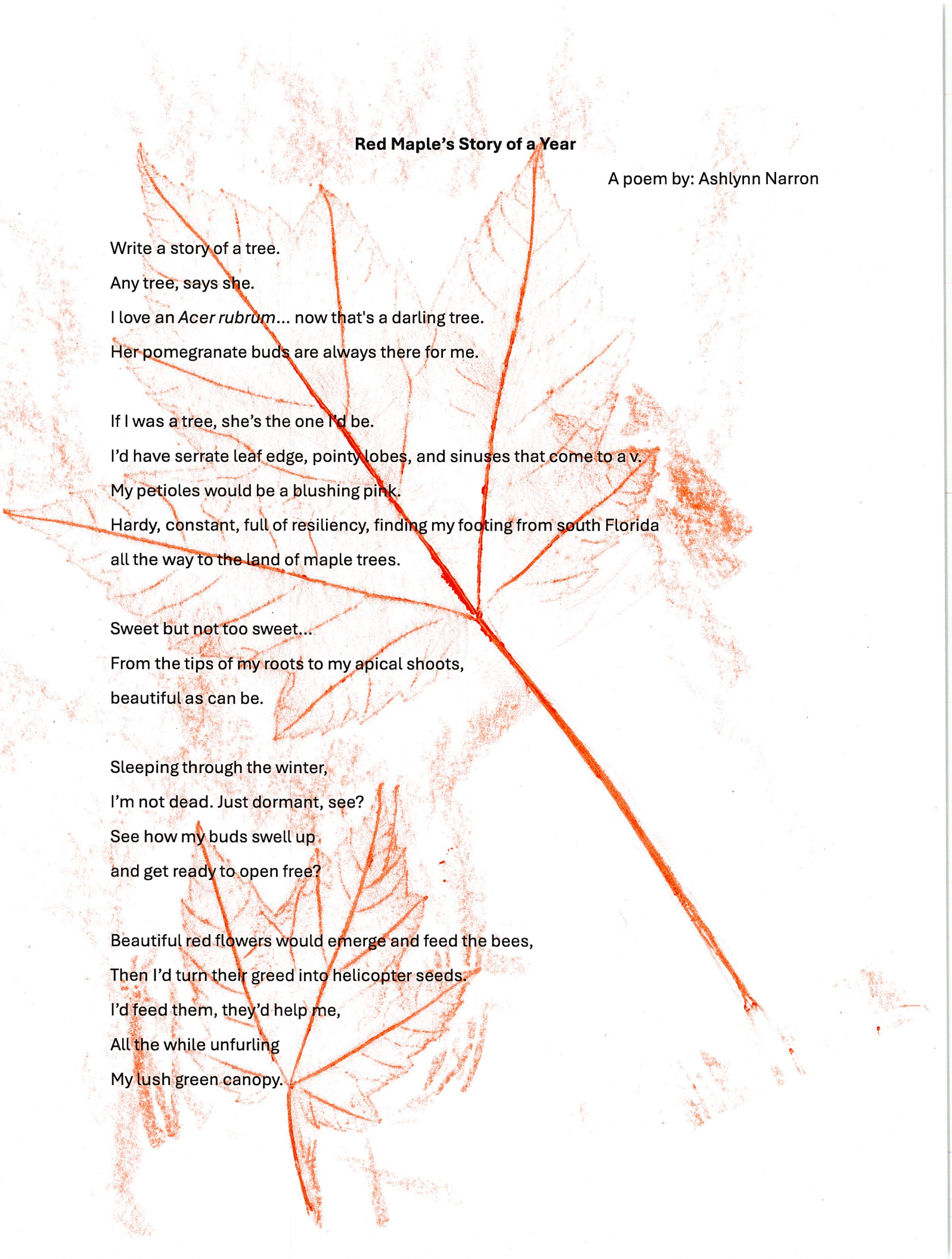
Are you current on your dues?

If you haven't paid your dues, you can do so on our website at www.nysrsaa.org or by filling out the enclosed Information Sheet.

Even if you are a life member, we appreciate you taking the time to fill out the information sheet. This lets us be sure we have the most current contact information for you.

Dues paying members receive the annual Alumni News, can make reservations for the Spaulding Memorial Alumni House, and pay lower Alumni Reunion registration fees!

AND REMEMBER– IF YOU WANT YOUR NEWS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ALUMNI NEWS BOOK IT MUST BE RECEIVED IN TO THE ALUMNI OFFICE BY MAY 1.



Red Maple's Story of a Year

A poem by: Ashlynn Narron

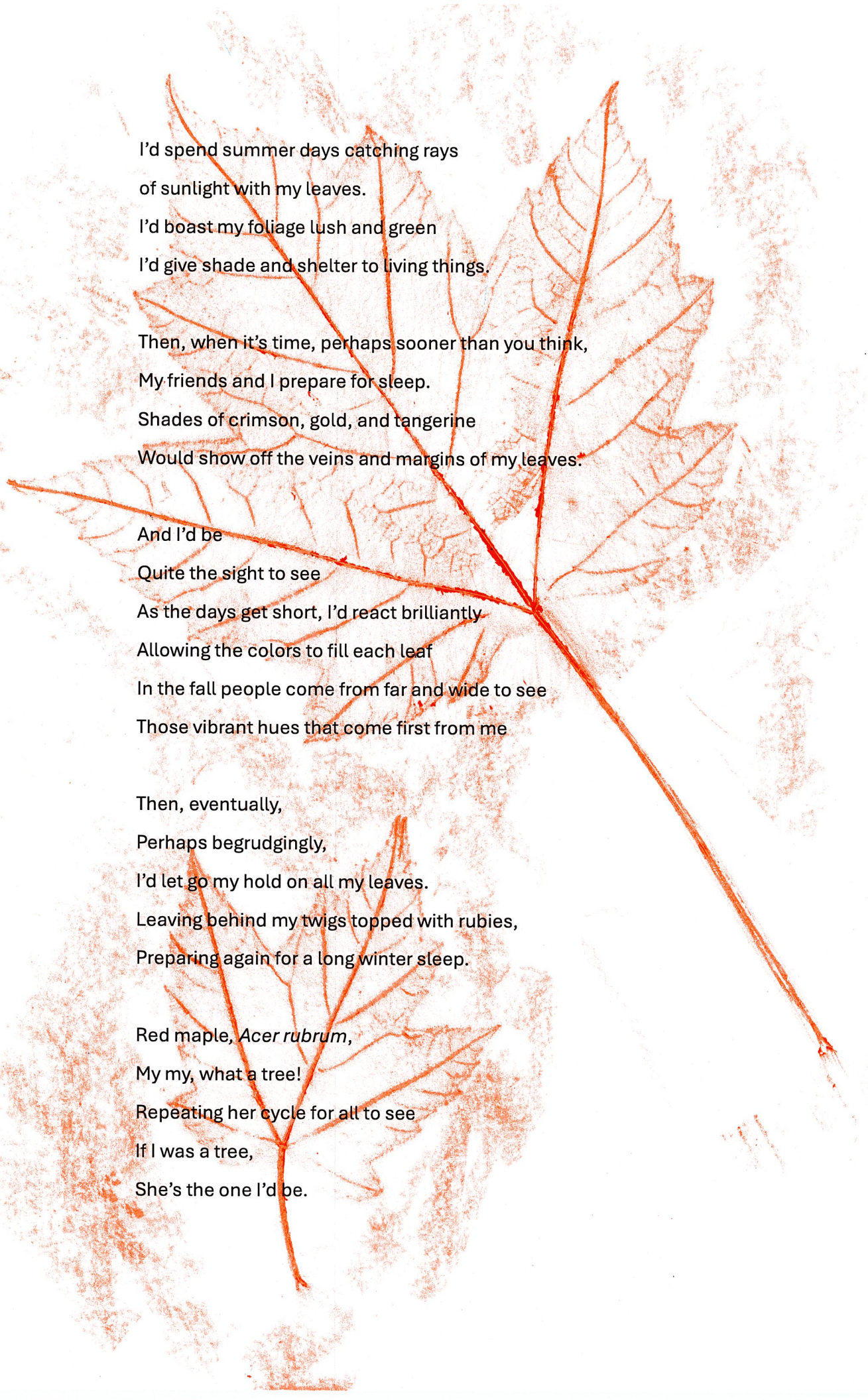
Write a story of a tree.
Any tree, says she.
I love an *Acer rubrum*... now that's a darling tree.
Her pomegranate buds are always there for me.

If I was a tree, she's the one I'd be.
I'd have serrate leaf edge, pointy lobes, and sinuses that come to a v.
My petioles would be a blushing pink.
Hardy, constant, full of resiliency, finding my footing from south Florida
all the way to the land of maple trees.

Sweet but not too sweet...
From the tips of my roots to my apical shoots,
beautiful as can be.

Sleeping through the winter,
I'm not dead. Just dormant, see?
See how my buds swell up
and get ready to open free?

Beautiful red flowers would emerge and feed the bees,
Then I'd turn their greed into helicopter seeds.
I'd feed them, they'd help me,
All the while unfurling
My lush green canopy.



I'd spend summer days catching rays
of sunlight with my leaves.
I'd boast my foliage lush and green
I'd give shade and shelter to living things.

Then, when it's time, perhaps sooner than you think,
My friends and I prepare for sleep.
Shades of crimson, gold, and tangerine
Would show off the veins and margins of my leaves.

And I'd be
Quite the sight to see
As the days get short, I'd react brilliantly
Allowing the colors to fill each leaf
In the fall people come from far and wide to see
Those vibrant hues that come first from me

Then, eventually,
Perhaps begrudgingly,
I'd let go my hold on all my leaves.
Leaving behind my twigs topped with rubies,
Preparing again for a long winter sleep.

Red maple, *Acer rubrum*,
My my, what a tree!
Repeating her cycle for all to see
If I was a tree,
She's the one I'd be.

RSAA Awards

Please take a minute to fill in your nominations and reasons for choices for both these awards on page 3 of the 2027 information sheet.

Philip J. Haddock Award for Excellence

"The person selected does not have to be (or have been) an officer of the RSAA or a member of the Executive Committee, but neither should such persons be excluded. The person selected should be one who has made an outstanding contribution of some kind (not monetary). This contribution may be in the nature of a single, noteworthy act or a lower-keyed, but long-term commitment to the School and/or the RSAA or for alumni in general."!

Past Recipients

2016 Lawrence R. Hawkins '55

2017 Michael R. Bridgen

2018 Arnold Lancton '53

2019 Mike Webb '74

2020 Debbie Caviness

2021- Ariane Tanski '09

2022- Dr. David Newman

2023- Sue Westbrook '82

2024- Greg Vaverchak '02

2026- Mariann Johnston – Ranger School Director

Kermit E. Remele Award of Meritorious Service

The award is presented by the RSAA in honor of Kermit E Remele. Professor Remele, a 1943 graduate of the Ranger School, served on the Ranger School faculty for over 30 years. One of his greatest strengths was his ability to mobilize and motivate people to work for the betterment of the Ranger School. The intent of this award is therefore to recognize groups of people who have combined efforts have gone beyond the norm to have a positive lasting influence on the Ranger School.

Past Recipients

2016- Clifton Fine Hospital

2018—The Wanakena Historical Society

2019—The NYS Forest Rangers

2020—The Clifton Fine Arena

2022—Ranger School Food Service

2023- Ranger School Class of 1982

2026- Ranger School Class of 1976

2027 Alumni News Book

This is the beginning of the 2027 ALUMNI NEWS. Please feel free to contribute articles, stories, artwork, photos, poetry, news etc. that are informative, entertaining and interesting to other alumni. These articles may not necessarily be the views or opinions of the RSAA Board of Directors, or the editor, but this is YOUR book.

Boosters are again available. This helps defray the costs of publishing and it is a good place to advertise. Wouldn't you or your company like to be included?

If interested fill out the order form below and email rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com with your ad. Or print and mail to RSAA, PO Box 48, Wanakena, NY 13695

Donations can be made via check payable to "RSAA", via PayPal, or over the phone. If paying with PayPal please write "BOOSTERS" in the comment box.

_____Whole page $75_____1/2 page $40_____1/4 page $25_____one line listing $15

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