

Ranger School Alumni Association

Spring– Summer 2024

RSAA Alumni President's Message

Since the last newsletter a lot has been going on with the Alumni Association. We have held two Board of Directors meetings to conduct the business of the Association. I am happy to report that we have an active Board with many active committees.

Our Properties and Projects committee has done a stellar job maintaining our Alumni Campground and House. They have made sure that the users of the property cover the costs of maintenance, repairs and property taxes. A successful clean up weekend was held on April 27 and 28. For your information the Alumni House is almost entirely reserved for the summer.

The social Media committee has

recommended and the Board has approved contracting with a new web master to handle our web site. We have been having a number of issues with the current web master and we expect the new web master will resolve those issues.

The Engagement committee held two receptions for Alumni, the first was held in Saratoga Springs and the second in the Syracuse area. Over 100 alumni attended the two events. These were a great opportunity to network and to update folks on Ranger School and Alumni Association news. We have seen an increase in dues collections and donations as a result. One person even got a job through attendance at the Syracuse event.

The By-Laws committee has

updated our Internal Controls Document and the revisions have been approved by the Board. The Committee is currently looking at our Constitution and By-Laws to see if they need to be revised.

Finally the Reunion Committee has been busy planning an outstanding schedule of events for our annual reunion. The reunion will be held on August 2 and 3. I encourage you all to plan to attend. It is always a great opportunity to see old friends and to make new friends.

I wish you all good health and prosperity.

Keep in touch,

Tom Martin ,1976

24th Annual Clifton– Fine Summer Series



2024 CLIFTON-FINE SUMMER SERIES

GALACTIC COWBOY ORCHESTRA
7PM SATURDAY JULY 6TH - PROGRESSIVE JAZZ-ROCK

FRITZ'S POLKA BAND
4PM SATURDAY JULY 20TH - POLKA PARTY FOR ALL

THE MAKERS
7PM FRIDAY AUG 2ND - GLOBAL ROOTS FOLK DUO

BELLA'S BARTOK
7PM SATURDAY AUG 17TH - JOYFUL CIRCUS PUNK

THE ATKINSON FAMILY BAND
7PM SAT AUGUST 31ST - ADIRONDACK BLUEGRASS

FREE & OPEN TO ALL - RAIN OR SHINE - 6 HAMELE ST WANAKENA, NY
CLIFTON-FINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MORE INFO: CLIFTONFINEARTS.BLOGSPOT.COM

Introducing The 24th Annual Clifton-Fine Summer Series! Concerts are held in the gazebo at ZPark along the Oswegatchie River, in the heart of Wanakena, across the street from the Post Office and store.

The line-up begins with The Galactic Cowboy Orchestra from Minnesota (John Wright RS '84) performing jazz-rock fusion the Saturday after Fourth of July. Up next from central NY is Fritz's Polka Band - this event is the "after-party" of the Cranberry Lake Boat Club Poker Paddle.

Live Friday night of Ranger School Alumni Weekend from Ithaca, NY the Makers deliver globally inspired folk originals.

Later in August the return of Bella's Bartok from Western Massachusetts performs upbeat circus punk for the whole family.

Last but not least: Hailing from Harrisville NY, the legendary The Atkinson Family Band - back after ten years - will sweep you away in Adirondack bluegrass Labor Day weekend.

All shows are free and open to the public, rain or shine. This AMAZING series of music is 100% funded by the generous donations of neighbors, friends, family, strangers and rangers. Learn more at cliftonfinearts.blogspot.com

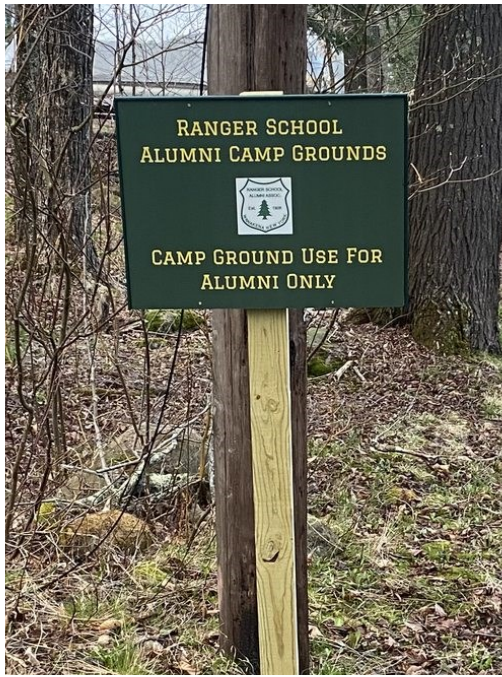
Dave Ziemba class of 1989

Properties and Projects Update

Greetings Alumni,

As the summer season approaches, a couple of items concerning the Ranger School Alumni House and campground for the 2024 summer.

The house and campgrounds were opened the last weekend in April. We had great attendance to help with all the projects. Thanks to all that helped!



You will notice signage at the entrances that remind people that the use is only for Ranger School alumni. There is also a sign on the garage to remind users to deposit the camp ground use fee.

There is now a ladder on the dock to make it

convenient to exit the water. All

campsites have firewood along with the house fire ring.

Reminders for the alumni:

- -Please take care of our garbage. There are dumpsters near the RS maintenance building.
- -Extinguish outdoor fires before you leave.
- -Please do not plug EV vehicles. The store in Wanakena has the appropriate station.
- -Please have your dues paid prior to use.

Thank you for your consideration and have a great summer!.

Jerry Butler, 2005

Report from Alumni Engagement Committee

The Ranger School Alumni Engagement Committee has been continuing our efforts to reengage alumni in the activities of the RSAA and the Ranger School after a number of tumultuous years for the association. Over the last year we have seen an increase in alumni paying dues, attending the annual reunion and receptions, and providing overall support to the RSAA and the Ranger School. The RSAA is grateful for the support!

A very successful Ranger School Reception was held at Heritage Hill Brewhouse in Pompey on March 18th. A very special thanks to our sponsors Bardoun Land Surveying, Ianuzzi and Romans Land Surveying, B & B Lumber, and Murphy Forest Management.

The financial support from the above businesses helped to make



Group photo at Heritage Hill Brewhouse

this a special and enjoyable event for all who were in attendance!

Our next Alumni Reception will be held on Monday, June 24th from 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Genesee Room at the Batavia Downs Casino and Hotel. Given the overall success of these events, more will be planned for the fall of 2024.

We would like to encourage members of all 5-year reunion classes (those classes ending in 4 and 9) to make plans to attend this year's reunion scheduled for August

2nd and 3rd . The Reunion Committee has been working diligently throughout the year to plan the 2024 reunion. This is a great opportunity for you to connect with your classmates and other alumni on campus for a weekend of fellowship and celebration. Please make every effort to attend!

The members of the Ranger School Alumni Engagement Committee include: Chuck Carline, Mariann Johnston, RS Director, Samantha MacDonald, RSAA Office Manager., Tim O'Mara, Arianne Tanski '09 , Greg Vaverchak '02, Chris Westbrook '73, Sue Westbrook '82, and Bruce Williams '76.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the RSAA Reunion in August!

Chris Westbrook, 1973, Chair

News from the Wanakena Historical Association

-Footbridge Painting

In 2023, a concerted effort by volunteers, led by Beth Daut, succeeded in scraping (and retrieving) paint chips from the length of the foot bridge, top and bottom. A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who turned out for an hour, a day, on multiple days to work on the scraping. The plan for 2024 includes a 'spot scrape/sand' as needed and power wash the entire bridge. We plan to measure moisture content of the wood to ensure the bridge is dry before applying two coats of stain. Volunteers will again be recruited when weather conditions appear appropriate.



Wanakena History Center

Opening Weekend: On June 15 & 16, 2024, WHA is planning a concert in the Wanakena Church and a reception at the History Center to kick-off the 2024 season. On June 15, Rik Palieri will sing and perform original and traditional songs on a variety of folk instruments, including the banjo, 6 & 12 string guitars, mouth bow, Native American flute and a collection of rare Polish bagpipes. Rick Kovacs & Angie Oliver will play back-up instruments.

Regular Hours: The History Center at 21 Second Street will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am

to 4 pm beginning on June 15 through October 6, 2024. Requests to visit at other times can be made by contacting one of the WHA Trustees or emailing Wanakenaha@aol.com.

Seasonal Highlights:

- The History Center will feature a new rotating exhibit, "If Walls Could Talk!," about the history of

the original Rich Lumber Company worker houses with a focus on Second Street.

- WHA's committee, Common Thread Quilts (CTQ), will host "Singer Sundays" from 1 to 4 pm beginning on Sunday, June 23rd through Sunday, August 18th. Each Sunday will feature different antique Singer sewing machines from the 1860s through the 1960s. Stop by and try sewing on one of these beautiful machines while learning about the history of the Singer Corporation in the context of world, U.S., and local history.
- CTQ will present the 3rd annual Quilt Fest in Wanakena on Friday and Saturday, August 30 -31, 2024.

For information about WHA events, visit our Facebook page or webpage at www.wanakena.com/history-center. For information about CTQ's Singer Sundays and Quilt Fest 2024, visit <https://www.birdhavenquilting.com/commonthreadquilts>.

Prescribed Burn 2024



From the Archives: A Visionary - On and Off Campus

From his arrival on campus in 1919, James F. Dubuar's knowledge of forestry, military background, strong work ethic, dedication, and long tenure as Director is legendary and has indelibly shaped every Ranger School graduate through today. In addition, Dubuar's influence extended well beyond the boundary of the forest that bears his name.

James F. Dubuar devoted his career



James F. Dubuar

to vocational forestry training, and prioritized teaching over pursuing the limelight and personal advancement in the forestry profession. Over time, Dubuar taught every course at the Ranger School. His lectures included life lessons about

morality, integrity, ethics, psychology, sociology, and professionalism. Dubuar had a reputation for being strict and demanding, but fair. He gave his best every day and expected the same from his students. He believed that, whether in the classroom or on the job, you should be on time and continue to work until it was time to quit – “put in a full day's work for a full day's pay.”

James F. Dubuar also had a soft side and was adaptable. He personally answered the many letters and cards he received from

alumni, giving “his boys” both professional and fatherly advice. In these exchanges, Dubuar was never critical of his former students who ended up in other careers; instead he stressed the importance of finding meaningful work that produced satisfying results.

Dubuar recognized the need for change. He made changes to the Ranger School curriculum, such as dropping (“grazing”) and adding (“photogrammetry”) courses based on relevance and, in 1930, extending the length of the academic year. When told about the first woman enrolling in the Ranger School in 1973, Dubuar was supportive and said the college should provide dormitory space for women.

James F. Dubuar valued spending time with his family, helping his neighbors, and serving the greater

community. He helped a young widow with three children in Wanakena by getting her a job in the kitchen at the Ranger School and driving her to work. He was a volunteer in a variety of community building organizations. Dubuar was a Director of the Wanakena Light and Power Company, a member of the Wanakena Presbyterian Church, and a member of the Wanakena Civic Improvement League. The Improvement League hosted local sporting events, cultural activities, maintained the



Dining Hall & Main Building 1916

town beach and channel markers, planted flowers, and installed new road signs. The Clifton-Fine Lions Club was founded in 1948 and James F. Dubuar served as its first President. For over 75 years, the Lions Club has completed countless charitable projects and services for the community.



New building 1928

While juggling Director and teaching duties, James F. Dubuar helped plan and manage the construction of the new Ranger School building, completed in 1928. No doubt he tapped into that experience when, 10 years later, he participated in meetings with community leaders such as Dr. Robert Persson, J. Otto Hamele, Ronald Hynes (Newton Falls Paper Mill), and William Webb (J&L Ore Company) to begin planning for a much-needed community hospital.

From the Archives: Continued

The original Clifton-Fine Hospital Board members were elected at a meeting held at the Star Lake Fire Hall on December 7, 1945. Wanakena was well represented with J. Otto Hamele elected as President and James Dubuar elected as Secretary-Treasurer. In 1948, Dubuar became



Clifton-Fine Hospital opened in 1951

President of the Board, and construction of the Hospital began in 1949. On August 19, 1950, he led the "Laying of the Cornerstone" ceremony, and the new Hospital opened for use on August 5, 1951. In tribute, the Ranger School donated a blue spruce tree that became the "Hospital Memory Tree." Dubuar's participation in this essential community project laid the

foundation for the Clifton-Fine Hospital's ongoing collaborative relationship with the Ranger School - a relationship that enabled Ranger School students to complete their degree and graduate in-person during the COVID crisis.

Several inspiring articles about James F. Dubuar have been written by former students and colleagues,

a sampling of which is included in SUNY-ESF Ranger School's 2012 book, The Ranger School, a Century in the Forest. It is especially moving to read Dubuar's own words in his article, "Looking Back" written for the 1956 Alumni News on the eve of his retirement, where he is humble, reflective, and filled with gratitude for

his time at the Ranger School "for taking part in something really worthwhile."

James F. Dubuar was a visionary and his strength of character, work ethic, loyalty, and empathy led to his completion of countless good works -- both on campus and in the greater Clifton-Fine community.

Kathy Greenwald, 1979-

Social Media Report

Hello, fellow Ranger School grads!

I want to start off by apologizing to anyone who has had problems paying their dues or other communication through the website. We are working to address those issues and will be making changes in the near future. Be on the lookout for a new and improved website design!

Our awesome Office Manager,

Samantha MacDonald, has created an Instagram account and linked it up with Facebook using magic that I didn't have the skill nor patience to accomplish! Sam also has access to a mass emailing system whereby you may be receiving this newsletter.

Here are links to our online presence:

Ranger School Alumni Association -

<https://www.nysrsaa.org/>

RSAA Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/RSAAinc>

RSAA Flickr - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rangerschool/collections>

Please visit these often as we regularly post updates to try and keep all of us connected!

Chuck Carline, 2019

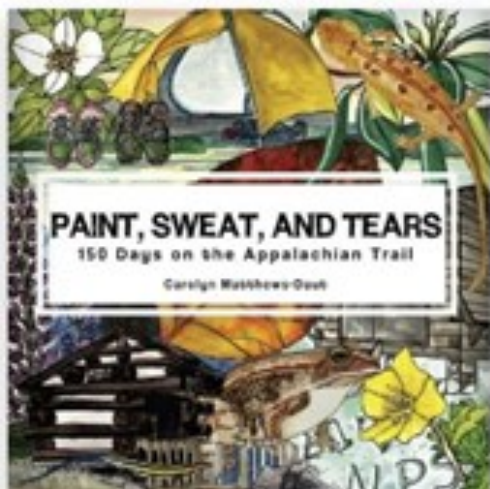
Are you current on your dues?

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.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Appalachian Trail Thru Hiker and Author to Present at the Alumni Reunion August 3rd!



this book describes the full range of experiences that epitomize long-distance hiking. Through rainy shelters, sweeping views, food, flowers, and towns along the way this book captures both the extraordinary and mundane aspects of the Appalachian Trail. More than just a travelogue, this intimate portrait of Carolyn Matthews-Daut's journey tells a story of self-discovery and perseverance through the physical and mental challenges of a five-month backpacking adventure.



Author, Carolyn Matthews-Daut will be sharing her experience thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail during a book signing presentation at the RSAA Reunion this summer. Read below about the book and the author! It is going to be an exciting presentation, but get ready.... you will want to pack your backpack and hit the trail!

Book Blurb: Hike, sketch, repeat. This illustrated journal chronicles the incredible journey of one woman as she hikes every single step of the 2,193-mile Appalachian Trail.

With a combination of vivid sketches and engaging storytelling,

Through it all, the author's artistic talents shine in her beautifully rendered sketches, which bring to life the stunning landscapes and unique characters that she encounters along the way. This is a must-read for anyone who loves hiking, the outdoors, and the transformative power of travel.

Author Bio: Carolyn Matthews-Daut is an accomplished interior designer who discovered her passion for watercolor painting while studying at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. Since then, she has taken her sketchbook

and watercolor set with her everywhere she goes. Carolyn's love of travel and adventure has taken her around the world, from the rolling farmlands of Wisconsin to the rugged mountains of New Zealand, the picturesque islands of Bar Harbor, the bustling streets of London, and the majestic canyons of Utah. Today, she resides in Lebanon, New Hampshire with her husband and a beloved rescue puppy.

**Fun fact: Carolyn is the daughter-in-law of Beth (Bitsy) '82 and Dave Daut*

Looking for Alumni Merchandise?

You can 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.

Belt buckles, stickers, lapel pins are available through the RSAA office.

Email rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com for more information.

Have an Idea for RSAA merchandise? Let us know!



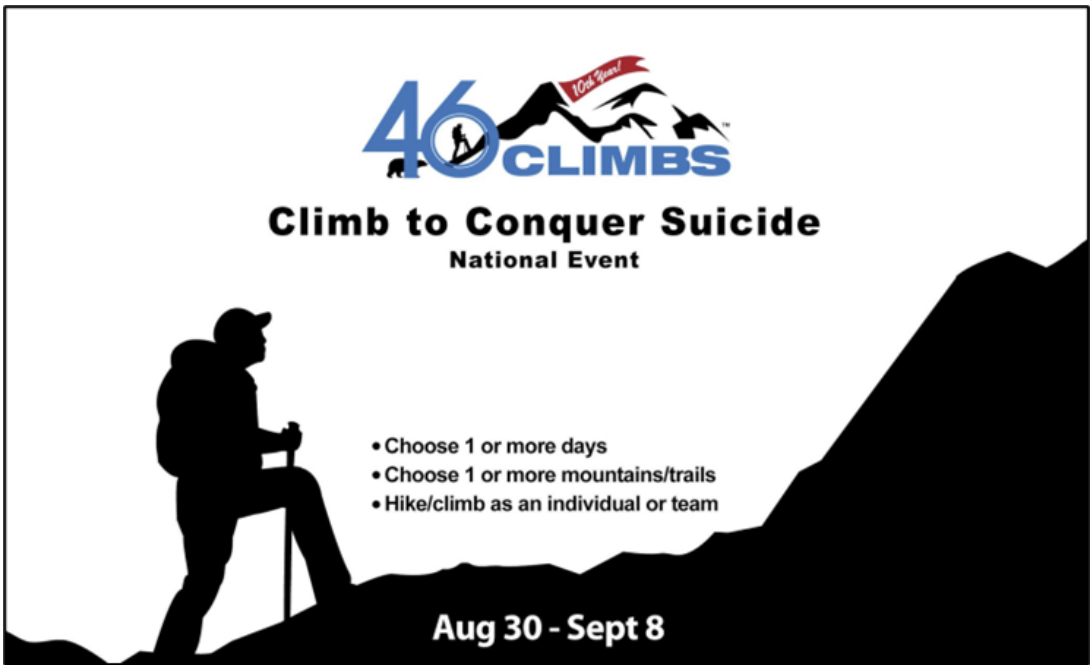
46 Climbs: Join Us If You Can!

The students of the Class of 2025 along with Alumni are invited to join team 'THE RANGER SCHOOL' as we participate in the 46CLIMBS event taking place between August 30th – September 8th, 2024.

Ten years ago, a couple of young college students from Clarkson set out to hike the ADK 46 high peaks during the 7-day National Suicide Prevention Week. They partnered with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) with a mission of raising awareness

and \$10,000. The idea of 46Climbs was built on their love of the outdoors and the healing benefits one can receive from getting outside and climbing, hiking, and running. Though they were not successful in climbing all 46 peaks in that one week, they exceeded their fundraising goals. 46Climbs is now an annual event that encourages individuals across the US/World to take on the challenge of conquering suicide through the physical challenge of climbing and hiking.

To learn more about this event, visit their website at:



www.46climbs.com

How to join our Team?

- Sign up at the 46Climbs website. Our team name is 'THE RANGER SCHOOL'
- You will receive a 46Climbs dry-fit t-shirt and other swag
- Hike any mountain/trail between August 30th – September 8th
- Take a picture at the summit or trail end wearing your t-shirt and post it to social media with the hashtags #46Climbs and #rangerschoolalumni
- If you are unable to hike and

would like to contribute, please consider SPONSORING a Class of 2025 student. Sponsors will be mailed a Ranger School pennant. For more information contact the RSAA Office Manager, Sam MacDonald at: rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com

This is a great opportunity for the Ranger School Alumni to join forces with the Class of 2025 as they kick off the start of their school year by getting outside and hiking to raise awareness for Suicide Prevention and Mental Illness. Let's hit the trails together!!!

The Directors Report: History of the SUNY ESF Ranger School 1912-2020

A chronological description of the School, as reported by former Ranger School Directors. First Edition. 246 p.

We still have 8 copies left!. Send order to: rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com Cost: \$50 plus \$10 shipping.

All proceeds will be donated to the Ranger School Endowment.



RS Alums Donate Time and Expertise to Spring 2024 Semester

Matt Losey (Class of 2012) and **Steve Ovitt** (Class of 1981) are busy people. They are dedicated to their families and their jobs, and they have many responsibilities related to each. They are leaders in their respective fields, always in demand for their knowledge, skills, expertise, and passion for educating others. But that didn't stop them from donating some of their valuable time during the spring 2024 semester in support of the school and the Class of 2024. They were happy to help and were thankful for the opportunity to work alongside of, and hopefully inspire, the next generation of forest/natural resource technicians.



Matt Losey, Class of 2012

Matt is currently the Senior Manager of Equipment for Bartlett Tree Experts. He has participated in our Leadership and Organizational Performance course as a guest speaker for several years

now. Matt is eager to share his knowledge, experience, and 'tips on leadership,' and he does an excellent job interacting with the students. So, when Assistant Professor Greg Vaverchak needed to take a brief leave from teaching the Insects and Disease course this semester, Matt was a logical choice to fill in. He generously agreed to travel from his home in North Carolina to Wanakena to teach several lectures and labs about 'tree risk assessment.' His employer enthusiastically supported the effort as a "professional development opportunity" and allowed Matt to continue his work remotely while he spent a week in the Adirondacks as a Visiting Professor.

I asked Matt about what has changed since he graduated in 2012 from the Forest Technology program (fun fact: Matt's wife Meg also graduated in 2012, from the Land Surveying Technology program!). He noted the many new faces among staff and faculty and the big changes in technology, including the now-common use of tablets, laptops, and Blackboard, an online learning management system used by all faculty and students at the Ranger School (No, grades aren't posted on bulletin boards by name anymore, and more and more quizzes and exams are taken 'online' without the need for pen or paper). I then asked about the most rewarding and most challenging aspects of being a college professor. To this Matt responded without hesitation: "I enjoy talking about the industry and inspiring the next generation of tree care professionals. I also enjoyed assisting the students with the purchase of new gear. The most challenging? Keeping the students

engaged during lectures, he chuckled."



Steve Ovitt, Class of 1981, teaches students Cordell Reynolds and Mary Morris to use his Canycom rubber tracked carrier

Steve Ovitt is a retired NYS Forest Ranger and an adjunct professor of 'Outdoor Education' at SUNY Adirondack in Queensbury, NY. For the last 12 years, he and his wife Sylvia have owned and operated a very successful professional trail building company called Wilderness Property Management, Inc., based in Weavertown, NY. Steve is a go-to expert on trails and trail bridges, and he has employed numerous people over the years, including ESF/RS grads. Steve has guest lectured in our Forest Recreation course before, and his nephew, Nathan Frazier, graduated from the Ranger School in 2021 (The Covid Class).

It was therefore an honor to have Steve join us for our annual "Ranger School Trails Day" this May, a traditional all-day lab that has been a fun part of the Forest Recreation class for decades. Steve shared 'a few' words of wisdom with the

RS Alums Donate Time and Expertise to Spring 2024 Semester: Continued

whole class before we divided up into three smaller groups, handed out equipment, and headed off to the woods to our respective projects. Steve guided and worked alongside students working on 'The MUTT' that day, a mountain bike trail up on Cathedral Rock that can also be used by hikers, joggers, and snowshoers. The trail has been under construction for a few years now (since we only get a couple of days a year to work on it), and Steve liked what he saw. He affirmed the work done to date, and then he offered tips on how to make certain sections of the trail even better.

Over 50% of the trails that Steve's company builds are bike trails. He also offered to let students use several of his personal tools, including the specialized Travis tool, and his easy-to-use, walk-behind rubber track carrier made by Canycom USA (an \$8K piece of machinery!).

Please join us in thanking Matt and Steve for their incredible generosity and support of the Ranger School. The Ranger School offers an excellent educational experience to its students in part because of the support it gets from people like

Matt, Steve, and so many other alumni friends. Your valuable support is always welcome... financial support to fund scholarships, new equipment, and student activities...donations of time and/or experience via advisory committees, guest lectures, and shadow days...and assistance with student recruitment. With continued support from people like Matt and Steve, the future of the Ranger School looks very bright.

- Jamie Savage, Professor

Interested In Seeing Your Fellow Alumni?

With Alumni scattered all over the country, and the world, there's bound to be someone in your area! Do you know the fellow graduate that lives just down the road? Would you be interested in meeting them?

The RSAA would be more than happy to facilitate that! If you are interested in meeting up with fellow Alum in your area please let us know at rangerschoolalumni@gmail.com. We'll see who else is in your area and get something set up for you!



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/collections>



Timber Sales on Dubuar Forest- 2025

For the first time in over a decade two commercial timber sales will occur on the Dubuar Forest in the winter of 2025. This endeavor will serve as demonstration areas for silviculture, wildlife management, and other topics covered at the Ranger School. Mike Federice, and Allison Brusa (RS class of 2021) from ESF Forest Properties, Associate Professor Dr. Vanessa Rojas, Instructional Support Associate, Julie Fogden, (RS class of 2018), and I have been collaborating to develop this multipurpose project with an eye toward providing exemplar demonstration areas to benefit future Ranger School students as well as the general public.

much younger forest and will undergo various intermediate treatments including a crown thinning and a crop tree thinning. This area is also one of the few areas on the Dubuar Forest with a stand that includes a high percentage of aspen, a tree species vital for wildlife. A series of patch clearcuts will be established with the overall objective of maintaining an early successional forest. Though these conditions will be favorable for various fauna, management prioritizes habitat elements essential for ruffed grouse.

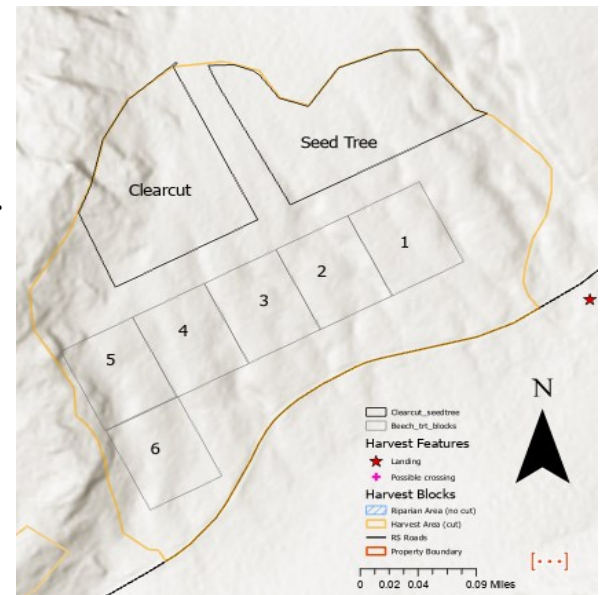


Figure 2. Beech Treatment area along Sugarbush Road.

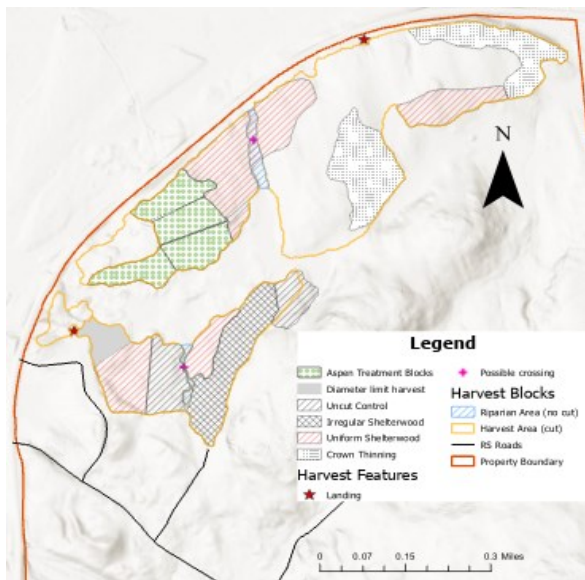


Figure 1. Compartment 12 Silviculture Demonstration Area

The first timber sale will be located in the northernmost portion of the property along Route 3 (Figure 1). This area is split in two by a series of rather large beaver ponds. Portions to the south of the ponds will be regenerated by establishing various shelterwood treatments. In contrast, a diameter limit harvest will be conducted on an adjacent few acres as an example of poor management practices. The portion north of the ponds consists of a

The second timber sale areas will occur in multiple stands to the north of Route 3 on the Sugarbush Road. Some alumni may recall the silvicultural thinning plots established by Dr. Ralph Nyland in the 1970's to study the effects of different thinning intensities (Figure 2). Today, this area consists of a mature and declining overstory with a dense understory of American beech. A clearcut, seed tree, and uniform shelterwood will be implemented here and the understory beech will be treated with the intent of establishing desirable hardwood regeneration. A series of 1.5 acre beech treatment blocks will be established in the shelterwood area as shown below. Understory beech will be treated by cutting, herbicide, or combinations of both in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of each in controlling the beech.

Abutting and across the road from this area, additional harvesting will occur in several white pine and Norway spruce stands, as well as an older, degraded hardwood stand

(Figure 3). The conifer plantations will be regenerated using different shelterwood variants with the intent to convert them back to native hardwoods. The hardwood stand will undergo a rehabilitation harvest with the intent to convert it from the degraded stand that it is today to a quality Northern hardwood stand over the coming years.

Although wildlife management is targeted primarily at one stand, practices such as leaving snags, wildlife trees, and protecting vernal pools will be implemented across all treated stands. Additionally, the variety of treatments will offer students opportunities to observe how wildlife, including songbirds, utilize the different treatment areas. Small, fenced deer exclosures will be established throughout the harvest areas so that students can obtain a better understanding of how deer impact the establishment of desirable regeneration. In addition to silviculture and wildlife management, the harvest will also serve as an area to demonstrate Best Management Practices (BMP'S). The Sugarbush Road will be upgraded to fully comply with

Timber Sales: Continued

modern BMP and road construction standards. BMP's will also be used

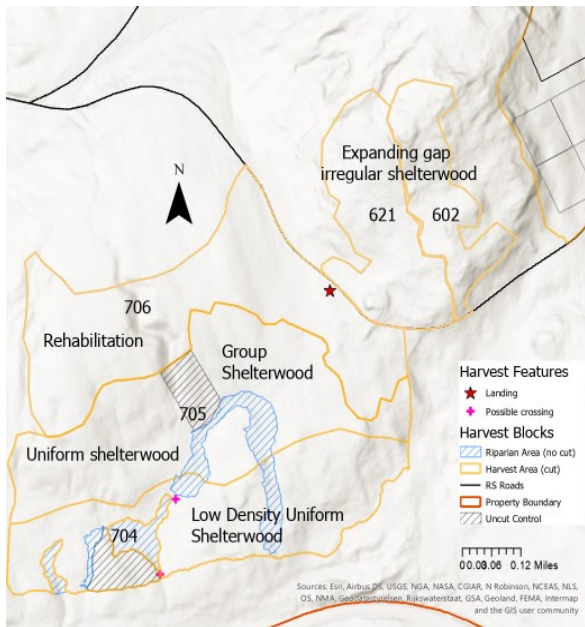


Figure 3. Treatment areas along the Sugarbush Road.

throughout the harvest area and will be maintained long-term as another important teaching tool. Native plant communities, not readily found on the Dubuar Forest, that are of significance to Indigenous people in the St. Lawrence region may also be

established in certain areas. The plantings will support biodiversity for pollinators as well as create a sustainable harvest area for materials used in traditional and contemporary art.

Having multiple silvicultural treatment areas in relatively close proximity to each other will provide an effective and convenient instructional tool. I have been teaching silviculture for well over two decades and I know firsthand the difficulty students have in grasping many silvicultural treatments. No matter how many images and videos of treated stands I include in a lecture, it's not as impactful as direct instruction in the field. Until now, there has been limited opportunity

on the Dubuar Forest to address treatment diversity. In my three years at the Ranger School, I have found this to be a teaching liability and the students obviously agree. As recent Ranger School graduate Madison Siegmann said to me on a van ride back to campus this spring,

“Trying to learn silviculture without physically seeing the different treatments is like trying to learn Dendrology without physically seeing the trees.” By establishing these demonstration areas, we are hopefully creating a better student experience. Students will not only be able to see the different treatments, but uncut areas will also be maintained in each stand for observable comparison of the stand conditions before harvest. These areas can also be used for marking exercises where students can duplicate what they see in the surrounding treated areas. Already the timber sales have added experiential value as members of the class of 2024 toured the sale areas this spring with forest property staff and faculty learning about every aspect of the project from initial planning to final job closeout.

Jeff Dubis, 1989– Associate Professor

Director's Report

Greetings from the Director's Office at the Ranger School! Much has been happening over the last few weeks, and since my last report in November of 2023. Perhaps the most exciting news is that on May 18, 2024, we successfully graduated 47 new Ranger School alumni. This included 18 graduates with the Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation degree, 15 with the Forest Technology degree, and a record 14



Graduating Class of 2024

in Land Surveying Technology. At least 44 of them have firm job commitments, and about half will be continuing their bachelor's degrees at ESF within the next year. This year's group was

especially close-knit, and they shared some very moving words and music as part of the graduation ceremony. I am hopeful that many of them will remain engaged with the RSAA, and perhaps even attend the upcoming reunion. And golfers, I fully expect you are going to have at least one newly-minted alumni team presenting some heavy competition in the annual reunion tournament!

And golfers, I fully expect you are going to have at least one newly-minted alumni team presenting some heavy competition in the annual reunion tournament!

Director's Report: Continued

Spring semester in general went quite smoothly, here on campus. In December of 2023, the east wing dormitory bathroom renovation was officially completed, and the students moved from the west wing (1960 wing) to the newly completed east wing (1928 wing). They were the first group to use the new bathrooms, which turned out beautifully. We also took advantage of the winter break to complete renovation of the Joel R. Howard Computer Lab, which now boasts new flooring and walls, a teaching display system, and 30 computer stations that are Windows 11-ready and with upgraded monitors. This has made a big difference in our computer mapping projects and teaching capacity. With the increasingly important role that computers play in our field technologies, this was a crucial and timely upgrade.

We still sent the students outside, of course! We had a remarkably light winter in terms of snow, but there were still opportunities to use snowshoes for timber cruise, soil surveys, insect and disease labs, and more. Faculty members Jeff Dubis and Dr. Vanessa Rojas have been working closely with Forest Properties staff to set up a timber sale that is going out to bid this summer. The project will mostly take place in Compartment XII, which is the easternmost compartment on the forest, and adjacent to Route 3 on the Cranberry Lake side of the forest. This project will establish a number of silvicultural demonstration areas, along with untreated controls for comparison. Jamie Savage has conducted the Forest Inventory Practicum there for the last two years to gather preliminary data, Vanessa has set up wildlife surveys and camera traps so we can document impacts on wildlife, and

Jeff has worked with both properties and main campus faculty to ensure we are getting a nice variety of appropriate treatments established. In addition to Compartment XII, we'll be doing harvests along Sugar Bush Road in Compartments VI and VII. This portion of the project will include significant and much-needed improvements to Sugar Bush Road.

We continued to manage construction through the Spring semester, as the west wing bathroom renovation was ongoing for most of that time. That work was completed in early May, just in time for our current users – the 24th Basic School for NYS Forest Rangers. The recruits moved in on May 19, and this marks the second academy we have hosted. We look forward to supporting this group of recruits and training staff in their quest to grow the ranks of Forest Rangers.

For next year, our program numbers are looking reasonable, with a total of 41 committed paid students. We often see a few more students join us through June, so I am hopeful those numbers will increase.

We presently have 22 students registered for ENRC, 15 for Forest Tech, and 4 for LST. These numbers will shift once the students arrive, as we will spend around six weeks talking to them about the programs. Jeremy Thompson, in particular, is very persuasive advocate for the LST program – and he's right, with the LST program graduates having higher wages and greater likelihood of permanent job offers (with opportunity for advancement) right out the door at graduation. By October 1, we'll have a more accurate program count. We are also constantly thinking about what we can do to encourage more

students to attend the Ranger School. One initiative we are considering at present is to add a tree care concentration to the Forest Technology program, because of the significant interest and job opportunities in this industry. Our own Greg Vaverchak, an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, will be investing some of his time this summer to develop a proposed curriculum for further consideration.

I'll close with some updates on personnel that have occurred over the past year. Mrs. Dianne Chappell has replaced June McWharf as Program Aide. We have April Ward helping with purchasing, and Rachel Graham serving in a combination IT and instructional support role. Rob Fleming and Julie Fogden continue to provide instructional support, and Tim O'Mara is now in a new title, Assistant Director of College Housing, with a partial appointment to Admissions. So he's our in-house recruiter! Dr. Vanessa Rojas was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor with tenure, effective in September 2023. Due to the significant experience that faculty member Jeff Dubis brought with him from Maine, he will become Professor with tenure effective September 2024. Jamie Savage was named a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters in Fall 2023, also a nice honor and recognition. And Jeremy Thompson is serving as President of NYSAPLS, a significant honor and commitment to profession. So, please thank all of our faculty and staff for their time, dedication, and service to profession, the college, and the Ranger School!

- Mariann Johnston, Director