



# Adirondack Trail Improvement Society

## NEWSLETTER

[www.atistrail.org](http://www.atistrail.org)

**FALL 2022**

### \* FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings to this treasured ATIS community of current and former campers, trail crew, counselors, parents and family members, and countless friends and supporters!

As a community, we span many backgrounds and many decades of involvement with ATIS. Indeed, can you believe that this is ATIS' 125th year as an organization? The Adirondack Trail Improvement Society was founded in 1897, and over the past 125 years the organization has evolved and grown while staying true to its core mission to inspire and educate all of us who share a love of our beloved High Peaks. I participated in the centennial celebrations of ATIS in 1997, and in Tony Goodwin's retirement celebration this past summer, and the passion that our community feels for the ATIS mission seems timeless and continues as strong as ever!

And what an important community we are, united around an important mission: to inspire responsible stewardship of the High Peaks region and all wild spaces, and to support all individuals to develop the skills and qualities necessary to thrive in the natural world and beyond.

I am humbled and honored to be the new President of the ATIS Board of Directors and am grateful to stand on the shoulders of giants – committed leaders (past and present), a shared sense of purpose, a strong community and collective wisdom. For those who don't know me, I was an ATIS counselor for six summers in the 1990s, including 2 summers as Head Counselor; my husband and I now have 2 girls who are avid participants in the ATIS Junior Program. To onboard as President, I have been on a "listening and learning tour" for the past few months across our community, so that I can hear various perspectives. As I reflect on what I am hearing, there is a shared appreciation across our community for the transformative power of nature and our trails/lakes, and the impact that ATIS has on people of all ages, especially our youth who are our future generation of leaders. I also have heard ideas and feedback about opportunities to improve and strengthen how we uphold the ATIS mission. I see a future for ATIS where we continue to stand on the shoulders of giants, while also pursuing an increased standard of excellence, rigor and inclusivity moving forward.

I am eager to connect, listen, and learn, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have a perspective to share. Thank you for being part of this important community and for all you do to advocate for the ATIS mission.

Lyla Kuriyan  
Board President  
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## \* TRAIL CREW:

The 2022 ATIS Trail Crew had a great summer with the completion of several significant projects and a good start to establishing a new  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile reroute to the start of the Mossy Cascade Trail. Once our annual three-week-long blowdown patrol was over, the crew began work on replacing two ladders located at high elevation. One ladder is located just below the summit of Pinnacle and the other ladder is near the col that separates Colvin and Blake. In both cases, the ladders were completely replaced with treated material to ensure greater longevity and less future maintenance. The ladder projects were no small effort as it required the crew to pack in many loads of lumber to make the work even possible. The ladder on Colvin is nearly 30' tall and required 100lbs. of lumber to be ferried up the "Elevator Shaft."

Sophie's Bridge on the West River Trail failed over the winter and collapsed. This bridge spanned the comparatively small Cascade Brook which drains the south face of Lower Wolfjaw. Due to the diminutive scale of the brook, it was determined that some strategically placed stepping stones would provide adequate passage over the brook and eliminate the effort and cost and maintenance that a new bridge would require. After the bridge was dismantled and removed, the crew placed 3 large step stones and improved the trail adjacent to the brook in both directions.



*Left: Reroute on the Mossy Cascade trail up Hopkins*

*Right: New ladder on Colvin*



*Members of Trail Crew 2022*



The next project on our list was a continuation of work that began in 2021 with the quarrying and staging and splitting of approximately 6 tons of stone on the Gill Brook Cutoff Trail. This year, the crew used those rocks to establish a long 31 step staircase in an area that was heavily eroding and very slippery due to a wet seep that kept the trail perpetually muddy. The new staircase, which is located just off the Lake Road, avoids the wet area, and hardens the tread as the trail traverses up the hillside.

Finally, the last weeks of the 2022 season were spent reworking and rerouting a section of trail on the West River Trail just above the Canyon Bridge and beginning the initial build out of a major reroute to the start of Mossy Cascade Trail. This reroute on Hopkins is long and will likely not be completed until late next summer. It requires significant infrastructure to make it durable and sustainable into the future. The new section travels through a beautiful forest with huge pine trees and will avoid the private residences that the current trail passes close to. This year the crew was able to establish a significant portion of the tread and quarried many tons of stone for future work. The continuation of this project will be a primary focus of work next year.

A huge thank you to Dan Hausner, the crew boss, and the capable crew of Joe Wilson, Milana Baldizzi, Erik Fatzinger, Harris Billeci, Ed Donnelly, Lars Ellwanger, Pat Taylor, and Richard Hayes Phillips for all their hard work this summer. In addition to the work described above, the crew made innumerable smaller scale efforts throughout the trail system that ATIS maintains repairing signs, cleaning drainages and the like. They have some great new trail infrastructure to show for their efforts.

Erik Jacobson  
Trails Director  
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## \* JUNIOR PROGRAM:

The Junior Program was extremely lucky this summer to have an experienced and dedicated counselor staff, which was led by our head counselor, Talia Mirel, and a senior counselor staff consisting of Jack Ticknor, Will Tansey, Harvey Runyon, Will Langmann, Ross Cornelissen and Anna Cornelissen, with Caitlin Quinn, Sophie Nardelli, and Avery Tait all returning for brief guest appearances. We were also very excited about the promise of our younger counselor staff: junior counselors Eleanor Winterer, Benji Theunissen, Riley Raker, Megan Quinn, Finn Peartree, Ilana Mirel, Jojo Crow, and Aurelia Bolton; and CITs Audrey Schedler, Nashua Poreda, Dixon McClintock, Soren Jacobson, Olivia Hall, Ari Ginsberg, Julia Cooper, and Andrew Buchanan.

The counselor staff this summer really bought into the organization's goals to do more than just take kids out hiking (or camping, rock climbing, or canoeing). While members of the staff undoubtedly reveled in the opportunities to share the outdoors with younger campers, they also really dedicated themselves to helping the children in their care to become more confident, independent, and curious. I was impressed time and again with their understanding that our work in the Junior Program is really about role modeling and creating opportunities to allow the development and growth of those in the next generation.



*Junior Program campers near Canyon Bridge during the August "Junior Trail Crew" trip*

As is usually the case — after all, what could be better than spending the summer days of your youth in the glory of these mountains! — it was overall a tremendous summer. We had more than 200 different individuals join ATIS trips this summer, a full return to pre-Covid numbers, and were really excited to welcome several new campers to the program this summer. It was especially exciting to see a strong, enthusiastic group of four- to six-year-olds on our Discovery and Nature Activities trips this year, indicating that the future is strong for the program! Though we were beset on occasion by foul or unpredictable weather, most of our trips went off without a hitch and the smiles on the faces of kids as they returned from trips or as they assembled for their trips the next day demonstrated their enjoyment

of these woods and mountains. We were also very pleased to have High Peaks Camp and Leadership Camp return to their normal, tried and true formats again this year. It is hard to believe that next summer's edition will already be the 10th for Leadership Camp, while High Peaks, now in its 56th year, continues to chug along in much the same fashion it has for the previous 55.

It was a pleasure to work again with the Keene Youth Commission and Girls, Inc., an organization based out of Albany, again this year. Once again, we partnered with the Youth Commission to help lead their campers on a series of hikes around the Keene area; though we were not able to have too many ATIS campers join those hikes, we hope that next year we will be able to increase the amount of interaction between the participants of our two organizations. Our second annual trip with Girls, Inc. was one of the trips hampered by the significant threat of thunderstorms, but thanks to Rocksport climbing gym in Queensbury we were able to pivot and provide over 50 girls an awesome opportunity to explore the kinds of activities we love up in Keene Valley. We hope that next year will bring better weather and a chance to show the girls some of the wonders that are even closer to our home base.

Finally, we owe a big thank you to all the parents who drove trips, dropped off and picked up their kids at odd hours of the day, and otherwise supported us in countless ways. We are grateful that you share your children with us and for all the time and effort you put into making sure that our trips run smoothly.



*Cake on the Porch on the last day of the 2022 Jr Program*

Sam Hoar  
Junior Program Director  
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On July 30<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Tony Goodwin's retirement and 35 years of service to ATIS with a festive gathering at Marcy Field!



*Board members & friends gathered to celebrate Tony*



*ATIS President Lyla Kuriyan with Tony*



*Tony at his retirement party*



*2022 Counselors at the party*

## \* FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

As I complete my first year on the job I, I am happy to be associated with such a fine organization. Erik, Sam and all the membership have been very patient as I have learned about the day-to-day operations of ATIS.

I enjoyed spending two weeks at the Upper Lake during High Peaks Camp and my fondest memories of the summer were the days that I was able to help on trips and get to know some of the junior program participants. I also enjoyed witnessing firsthand some of the highline work involved in moving rocks for the Mossy Cascade trail reroute.

I was impressed by the character and work ethic shown by the employees that both Sam and Erik hired for their respective staffs. ATIS attracts staff members that do not shy away from challenging work.

This offseason will be spent focusing on upgrading some of our camping supplies and paddling accessories. Too much of my time last summer was spent trying to repair tired canoes. Please consider donating a bit extra to the end of the year appeal to help fund these efforts.

Best wishes for a glorious fall!

Ben Runyon  
Executive Director  
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### ATIS Board of Directors & Advisory Council

ATIS extends deep gratitude to Janet Hentschel and Emily Koch who stepped down from the Advisory Council in August, and to Simon Cornelissen who stepped down from a distinguished term as Board President. Thank You, All!

At the August 2022 Board meeting the Nominating Committee offered the following slate of nominees for 2022-2023; the slate was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board:

**Board, Term Ending 2023:** Jenny Hennessey, Suzanne Siner, Nia Spongberg (Secretary), David Landers, Doug Tansey, Sam Ticknor, Ed Hoffman.

**Board, Term Ending 2024:** Betsy Denny, James Morley, Heather Raker (Vice President), John Hutchins (Treasurer), Helena Grant, Eliza Harris (Vice President).

**Board, Term Ending 2025:** Brendan Buschman, Mary Beth Kelly, Reid Jewett Smith, Heidi Kerk, Lyla Kuriyan (President), Cyr Ryan.

**Advisory Council:** Ana Bickford, Anna Boardman, Jessa Boutte, Terry Buchanan, Laura Caputo, Sarah Carnevale, Karen Doman, Barbara Dwyer, Tyler Eaton, Nancy Emrich Freeman, John Fritzinger, Timo Fritzinger, Tony Goodwin – *Director Emeritus*, Mary Janeway, Maya Judd, Bobbie Landers, Tamra Mooney, Roly Morris – *Ex-Officio*, Summer Reed, Joanna Smith, Lise Strickler, Stephanie Tansey, Ben Ticknor, Margie Ticknor, Tinny Weintraub, Bob Witpen, Margie Ticknor Wolf.



*Adult Program participants in August on Lower Wolf Jaws*