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Erik Jacobson

Junior Program:

Sam Hoar

President's Letter

There is a rhythm to the seasons that never fails to amaze. The warm temperatures, rich foliage and abundant wildlife in the Adirondacks tell us summer is here, and it is hard to believe that just a few short months ago bare trees were hidden under ice and snow. Although the Adirondack Mountains are relatively “new” (the dome that forms the mountains began rising about 20 million years ago, and is still rising), they are made of some of the oldest rock found on earth, about a billion years old.

Recognizing the cycles and rhythms of these ancient mountains is good for us. Surrounded as we are by the tumult of the ever-present news cycle, and the uncertainty of our human world, there is serenity and peace in the mountains and woods. They can anchor us and give perspective to our place in the world. Anyone who has enjoyed one of the region's jaw-dropping vistas has likely felt the awe of being small in a vast open natural space.

For over 100 years, there has been a similar reassuring rhythm at ATIS that also follows the seasons. Each spring, Trail Crew starts to assess the winter blown down and erosion to the trails. Leadership camp planning begins, and a whole new generation of young people have new experiences ahead of them: summiting a first peak under their own power, a first overnight, a red eft on the trail, a defining leadership experience as a counselor, and of course, Capture the Flag!

ATIS seeks to bring these experiences to people of all backgrounds. Each year it is inspiring to see new campers joining us. It is inspiring to see old campers and counselors returning with increased maturity and experience, coming back because they love it. It is inspiring to see people of all ages valuing the woods and mountains. As we continue our DEI efforts, we will enhance the ability of ATIS to broaden access to these experiences. Please join us this summer for a series of ATIS organized and sponsored lectures on diversity and equity in the wilderness. They will be interesting, inspiring, and will challenge us.

This summer we will celebrate the enduring legacy of Tony Goodwin who is retiring from his role as Executive Director. I hope everyone will join us for his retirement celebration July 30 on Marcy Field! This event promises to be a wonderful evening. Like the glaciers that carved these mountains, Tony has made an indelible mark on ATIS that will endure forever. ATIS will continue in its mission under the able leadership of Ben Runyon, stronger and better as a direct result of Tony's years of dedication.

Simon Cornelissen

Junior Program

After a few summers of turbulence, the summer of 2022 looks like it will be a normal summer for us in the Junior Program. We will be back to the “normal” formats for High Peaks Camp and Leadership Camp and are operating with fewer of the restrictions in place on the regular season calendar than were the case last summer.

Though the calendar will likely look familiar to many readers of this newsletter, a few highlights:

- For our youngest campers in the 4- to 6-year-old age range, we have tried to have at least three and sometimes even four offerings per week so that even our little ones can get out, make friends, and begin to cultivate a love for the outdoors.
- With the increasing popularity of hiking in the High Peaks, we’ve tried to include a number of trips “off the beaten path” this summer, including trips to Clements Pond, King Wall, Iron Mountain, and Moose and McKenzie, among others.
- We’ve added two new “test piece” AA hikes to challenge those hikers looking to find new adventures and see how far they can push themselves: a one-day expedition to conquer all four peaks in the Seward range, and an attempt to summit all four of the highest peaks in the state (Marcy, Algonquin, Haystack, and Skylight) in a single through hike.
- In addition to our standard hiking trips, we’ve left plenty of space for the other programs that have been so popular in recent years, with one Lower Lake Activities trip, one Survivor trip, two Nature Activities trips, and two Rock Climbing trips in every typical week.
- Finally, Capture the Flag will return to its weekly schedule this summer, with games on each of eight Monday nights during July and August.

In addition to our regularly scheduled programming, we’re excited to work yet again with the Keene Youth Commission to help take some of their local participants on hikes in the Keene Valley area and to introduce them to some of the regular ATIS participants. We hope this partnership helps to build lasting relationships not only between our two organizations but also between many of the kids who might not otherwise get the chance to know each other as well.

After a successful trip last summer in the Lake George area, we are also looking forward to partnering with Girls Inc., an organization based out of the Albany area, to take some of their girls on a two-day adventure at the beginning of August. Though we know that the hikers of these mountains can often be demographically homogenous, we hope that through ventures like this one we can do our small part to make the mountains more available to those who traditionally have not had access to these incredible spaces.

We are fortunate to have a very experienced and passionate counselor staff returning to lead those trips this summer. Talia Mirel, who is in her fifth summer with ATIS, will serve as head counselor, alongside senior counselors Anna Cornelissen, Ross Cornelissen, Will Langmann, Harvey Runyon, Will Tansey, Jack Ticknor, and Eleanor Winterer. Aurelia Bolton, Jojo Crow, Ilana Mirel, Finn Peartree, Megan Quinn, Riley Raker, and Benji Theunissen make up a strong group of junior counselors, while Andrew Buchanan and Dixon McClintock will return as second-year counselors-in-training. New to the staff are Julia Cooper, Ari Ginsberg, Soren Jacobson, Olivia McCaffery, and Audrey Schedler, all of whom will be counselors-in-training. This really is an all-star crew, with a nice balance of experience, youth, and promise. I have no doubt that they will help this summer to be a special one for many ATIS participants.

Finally, after another successful season with an online signup system in 2021, we will continue with that same system in 2022. Please read the “Unique Trip Sign Up Procedure” page attached to the calendar carefully for more information about how that signup system works; you can always call us at the ATIS Building (518 576-9157) with any questions.

We look forward to seeing many of you soon out on the trails!

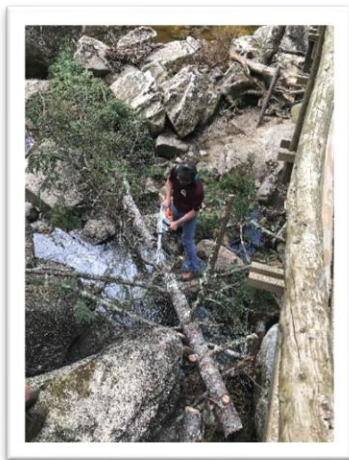
Sam Haar

Trail Crew

The 2022 trail work season is underway. A recent bout of sun and heat has melted most of the snow off the mountains and has quickly induced the leaves (and the bugs) to reemerge after another long Adirondack winter.

This year the crew will again be led by Dan Hausner, who returns for his 5th season on the crew and 3rd as Crew Boss. Three other veterans returning from last season are Joe Wilson, a Keene resident and student at Middlebury College, Ben Koblesky, who attends SUNY Plattsburgh as part of the Expeditionary Studies Program, and Patrick Taylor, who works for Mountain Lake Academy in Lake Placid. The newcomers to the crew are Milana Baldizzi, a student at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Harris Billeci, who attends Ithaca College, Lars Ellwanger, a student at SUNY New Paltz, and Erik Fatzinger, who is also enrolled in the SUNY Expeditionary Studies Program in Plattsburgh.

After many consecutive seasons with a primary focus on rebuilding bridges, this season we hope to spend most of our time doing more traditional trail work. We are planning to put away the circular saws, metal fasteners, and tape measures and get back into the dirt with rock bars, mattocks and stone hammers, the typical tools of the trail worker. *Erik Jacobson*



Erik J. works to cut up a tree that fell across the railing on the Carry River Bridge. (Photos by Erik Fatzinger)

Adult Program

Terry Buchanan and Joanna Smith have offered to coordinate the adult program this year. Trips will be posted on the website as the schedule is created. Please reach out to Terry or Joanna if you would like to lead a trip. Terry can be reached via email at terrybear2106@msn.com. Joanna can be reached via email at jsmithlpc@gmail.com.

Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the July picnic at the Lower Ausable Lake. The meeting will consist of brief reports from the Junior Program, the Trails Program, and the Treasurer. The Nominating Committee will also report on those who will be serving on the ATIS Board and Advisory Council for the coming year.

Party to honor Tony Goodwin

Just a reminder that we will celebrate Tony's contributions to ATIS with a party at Marcy Field on July 30th from 6-9 PM. All are welcome to attend and please RSVP to tonycelebration@atistrail.org if you have not already done so.