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THE COOLIDGE CABIN DEDICATION

On July 26, more than 30 alumni and friends met at SUNY Cortland's National Historical Landmark, Camp Pine Knot, to honor the late Distinguished Alumnus Franklin E. Coolidge '35 and his wife, Miriam Burroughs Coolidge. Coolidge was a member of the Cortland Campus School faculty and administration from 1946 until he retired in 1968.

One of the three original buildings at Camp Pine Knot, formerly known as the "Old Maid's Cabin" since the 1890's has been named in honor of the Coolidge's. The Huntington family employed several maids. One of the maids had been in their service much longer than the others and was given the cabin as her own residence; hence the name, "Old Maid's Cabin."



D. Ames, President Bitterbaum, M. Wirth, D. DeRancy, J. Sheltmire

The name was still in use when the structures were inventoried in April of 1948.

In mid-winter 1949, Franklin Coolidge, Van Hoesen Campus School principal, took his faculty and staff to visit SUNY Cortland's Outdoor Education Center at Raquette Lake. The group was busy preparing for the Campus School's first seventh and eighth grade field trip to the center.

During Coolidge's tenure, the Outdoor Education Center became an important part of the school's curriculum. The Campus School camps blended of his passions as a woodsman and a teacher. The impact of such an experience on the students is very difficult to define. Over the years, Coolidge and Camp Huntington touched the lives of hundreds if not thousands of Campus School children. Two rustic plaques hanging in Metcalf Hall identify nearly 90 students and staff who attended the inaugural 1949 sessions.

A former student, Donald "Bud" Ames, spoke about the impact Coolidge left on him. Ames spoke of his respect for Coolidge and his love for Raquette Lake. Jack read a tribute to Coolidge written by one of his former students, Donald White '53. Don described the tremendous respect he had for Coolidge and spoke highly of Franklin's mentoring ability. It was Coolidge, Don said, that gave him his first opportunity as a teacher. Don went on to be a very successful teacher and school superintendent on Long Island.



Photo courtesy of Dawn VanHall

On Nov. 6, a team from our Facilities Planning, Design and Construction Office came to Camp Huntington to assess the Coolidge Cabin and began to gather the necessary information to develop a restoration bid package. Once the cabin renovation has taken place, the building will house the director's office, which is currently located in a converted bedroom in the Director's Cabin. The central location will help to better monitor the camp's daily operations and use. The cabin will also be used to accommodate visitors when we are at our maximum capacity.

Naming of the cabin by Marjrie Wirth, the Coolidge's daughter, and her husband, Colonel William R. Wirth provided the initial financial assistance to renovate the cabin. The total funding for the renovation of the cabin is not yet realized. We can still use your help; the cabin is the last historical building in need of restoration at Camp Huntington. If you would like to help with the funding of this project, please send your donations to the Cortland College Foundation, SUNY Cortland, PO Box 2000, Cortland NY 13045. Be sure to note Coolidge Cabin on the memo line of your check. Your financial assistance is greatly appreciated.



ENERGY SMART STUDENTS

Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department assistant professors Susan Stratton and Gail Tooker took advantage of a program offered by the New York State Energy Resource and Development Authority (NYSERDA), for their students at Raquette Lake. John Pinto, Energy Smart Students Program educator, conducted a series of classes on teaching energy conservation to students.



Pinto training future teachers

NYSERDA sponsors the statewide Energy Smart Students Program, energy efficiency education for K-12 classrooms. The program is a partnership with the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED). The SUNY Cortland students were provided with all of the curriculum materials necessary to deliver the program at no cost. It does not matter if you are a childhood/early childhood education, language arts, science, social studies or technology teacher; the material can be added to your curriculum.

If you are interested in offering this program, contact Todd Rogers by phone (800) 658-5753 or by e-mail at trogers@need.org. What a great educational resource; the time is right and the cost is too—ZERO! Let's work together to become greener and more energy efficient.

DAREN: EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT

Daren Carroll came to work at Camp Huntington in May after completing his four-year English degree in three years, in English at SUNY Cortland. Daren is a very bright, highly motivated, hard-working young man who contributed a great deal to the positive appearance and maintenance of Camp Huntington.

During his time off on evenings and weekends, Daren took advantage of the kayaks and developed his skills. He would compete against himself for speed and endurance with the kayak. His favorite place was Silver Beach. He would paddle down and just hang out for the day. When Daren would have guests visit, he took them to his special place.

As you would expect, we got to learn much more about Daren and his goals for the future. During his junior and senior year, he met a number of international students from Turkey. He really enjoyed them and their culture. Last spring, Daren joined a group from SUNY Cortland on a trip to Turkey. His goal for the future is to return to Turkey and teach the English language to the Turks. We all wish him the very best!



A VERY SAD NOTE

Kris Cummings passed away peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 1 at Glens Falls Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. Kris was Jay's wife. He was the assistant director of Raquette Lake for thirty-three years.

Kris is survived by Jay, her husband of forty-one years, their daughter, Holly, and her husband, Patrick DeMarsh, and granddaughters, Nicole and Brittney DeMarsh. She is also survived by her sister, LaVerne Neuharth and her husband, Alfred, of Eureka, S.D., her brothers, Herman Ottenbacher and his wife, Denise, of Watertown, S.D., and Arnie Ottenbacher and his wife, Donna, of

Aberdeen, S.D. and several nephews and nieces.

Contributions in memory of Kris Cummings may be made to Eyes for the Blind, 611 Granite Springs Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598; or the C.R. Wood Cancer Center, 102 Park Street, Glens Falls, N.Y. 12801.

SISTERS, SISTERS, SISTERS!

It seems each year that Camp Huntington hosts more and more sorority groups. For decades the sisters of Theta Phi have visited Raquette Lake and Camp Huntington over Columbus Day weekend and again in February. This past October, we had 44 sisters returning for their fall reunion. The annual visit includes everything from a silent auction to board meetings and saunas. Sisters traveled from as far away as Arizona, South Carolina and Washington, D.C.



Watercolor taught by Barb Schooley '72

The sisters of Sig Rho, coordinated by Eileen Pens '68, came to Camp Huntington for the first time this past July. Several sisters and husbands traveled long distances for their 40th Reunion on campus that followed the Raquette Lake get-together. It all worked out very well. They



Sig Rho Sisters

have already scheduled their dates for 2009.

The sisters of Arethusa returned for their 6th annual summer visit. Each year their enrollment increases. While here, the group participates in a variety of activities, taking full advantage of Raquette Lake's many offerings.

Each of the sorority groups help with volunteer projects around the camp. In fact, this year a number of Arethusa sisters came up during the Theta Phi weekend to help get camp ready for winter. The volunteers picked up branches and leaves, raked and helped with the construction of a new log-cribbed bridge on the Kirby Camp trail. We would like to extend our appreciation to each of the sororities for what you have given to camp over the years. Many hands make short work of most projects.

GIFT TO CAMP PINE KNOT

For the past several years, Camp Huntington hosted a faculty development workshop for the Cincinnatus Teacher Center. Teachers and staff from their district as well as educators from other schools in the area have participated in the event. Beth Klein and Andrea Lachance from SUNY Cortland's Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department have facilitated the group each year.

The Cincinnatus Teacher Center and faculty presented a very special gift to Camp Huntington. It is a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Reconnaissance Map of Township 40, also known as the Totten and Crossfield purchase. The map was completed in 1900 by the USGS. The initial assessment and survey of the area



Continued from page 2



was conducted by Gifford Pinchot, a professional consulting foresters in the United States at that time. Pinchot later went on to become the First Chief Forester of the U.S. Forest Service.

Looking at maps is one of my favorite pastimes and this map was no exception. It displays the Raquette Lake area and illustrates routes long since forgotten. For example, it identifies all of the steamboat routes on Raquette Lake, shows the areas suitable for holding logs cut in the winter, Camp Pine Knot property lines, Durant's other properties plus a variety of tote and haul roads.

The only other map that I have seen like this is in the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake. Township 40 and segments of the surrounding areas "true" owners are still a controversy today. We are fortunate that Thomas and William Durant had clear title to the property on Long Point.

Thank you very much, Cincinnatus, for this wonderful gift. It is truly unique and very meaningful for us. The map is now on display for everyone to see in Fuge Dining Hall.



POLAR BEARS...

The polar bear swim is an important part of any camp setting. During the outdoor education practicum (OEP) students are given the opportunity to swim at 7 a.m. The recreation, parks and leisure studies students took advantage of the cool foggy mornings to get their daily bath. On the last morning of the first session all of the students and staff plunged into the Raquette Lake waters one last time before they departed.

The camp usually starts out with one or two people convincing others to get up and give the lifeguards something to do. As the week progresses, the numbers tend to grow. People often stand on the beach debating; they are now standing in the cool May temperatures in their swimsuits, knowing that the water is colder. Hum — what to do?

Sounds of splashing, whooping and hollering soon ensue. The debate is over and the people are usually out of the water as quickly as they went in. Next, they dance on the beach, dripping wet, quickly wrap in a towel and smile from ear to ear. The exhilarating feeling lasts through breakfast when announcements are made, "Polar bear swim tomorrow morning, 7 a.m. Who's with me?"

SAFETY FIRST FOR FACILITATORS

To facilitate a group on any part of the Camp Huntington

challenge course, the leader must complete a safety orientation once every two years. The workshop is conducted by Jim Clarke, Kevin Corcoran and Renee Gosselin. Jim and Renee are the only Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) Certified Instructor Trainers in Central New York.

Participants spend two days reviewing and demonstrating specific safety techniques detailed to the Camp Huntington course. Without the orientation, one is not permitted to facilitate a group on any part of the course.

Individuals who have successfully completed the workshop and are approved as facilitators by the instructors may lead groups on the course. In addition to the facilitator's workshop, each element and piece of equipment used on the course is inspected by an independent challenge course inspector, to make sure it adheres to the Challenge Course Standards designed by ACCT.



Discussing equipment

A GEORGE FUGE UPDATE

On Oct. 26, George Fuge '49, Raquette Lake director emeritus, took a tumble off the roof of his home at Raquette Lake. George fractured a vertebra. He was taken to Utica by ambulance, transferred to SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse and eventually moved to the Masonic Home in Utica, where he currently resides for continued rehabilitation.

George was operated on, removing his fractured disk and bone fragments. He is now in the recovery phase. Each day he participates in both occupational and physical therapy, returning to his room after each session. The timeline for George to return to Raquette Lake is a bit of a question. Thanks to the generosity of the Sisters of Theta Phi Sorority, George's wife, Mugsy, was provided with a room at a hotel in Syracuse and meals free of charge. She was able to spend more time with George by not having to travel from Raquette Lake to Syracuse each day.

George's spirits are high as he continues to recover one step at a time. If you would like to drop George and Mugsy a note or send a card, I would suggest you send it to P.O. Box 27 in Raquette Lake, NY 13436.

WINTER COMES EARLY

Every once in a while Mother Nature serves up a curve ball for us to adjust to. On October 27, she provided an unexpected snowfall that measured more than 14 inches. Camp Huntington and the surrounding area became a winter wonderland. The storm was very similar to the one we experienced two years ago, Oct. 28, 2006.



Chancellor's first snow!

In 2006, we had more than 50 faculty, staff and students from the College at Raquette Lake. This year, nearly the same number of people left the previous day. In either case, it was a real mess. The heavy, wet snow brought down tree limbs and power lines.

The storm introduced Camp Huntington's newest resident, Chancellor, to snow. Chancellor is a yellow Labrador puppy that belongs to Caretaker Richard Fey. Chancellor had a fantastic time with the fresh white stuff. I hope he enjoyed it because he has about six more months of the snow and cold.

CANOE REPLACEMENT

The generosity of faculty, staff and friends of Raquette Lake have made it possible to replace 21 old canoes with bright, new, shiny 17' Grumman canoes. The canoes were manufactured in Marathon, NY. John Jackson '68, president and CEO of the Marathon Boat Group, Inc., was very supportive and gave us an excellent price on the canoes. He and his wife, Robin, purchased one canoe and donated one of Grumman's new 12' solo canoes and decals. Marcia Carlson and the Class of 1959 were the first to respond to the request. The canoes have been divided between Antlers and Camp Huntington. Name plaques, as well as SUNY Cortland's new logo, have been placed on the new acquisitions. New paddles and life jackets will be purchased for the canoes.

Many of the canoes being replaced were more than forty years old. Needless to say, they have seen their share of SUNY Cortland alumni, faculty, staff and students over this period.

The following have contributed to this initiative: Arethusa Sisters, Betty Ann Biermann '60 (in honor of Jo Pina LoCascio) Marcia Carlson, John and Ruth Catalano, Class of 1959, Len Cohen and Linda Frank '61, Lew '73 and Connie Cowan, Carol Davis '66, (in memory of Dorothy Arnsdorff), Doug '75 and Deb DeRancy, William '69 and Maura '71 Dickerson, Friends of Gordon Mengel, Ann Graziadei '71 and Katherine Pawelko '74 (in honor of Jack Sheltmire), Joe '52 and Arline '57 Halper, John '68 and Robin Jackson, Michael Katz and Ellen Cohen-Rosenthal, Sandra Morley '77 (in honor of Eric and Zeldia Morley), Rose Naetzker '49, Eleanor King Strode '59, Theta Phi Sisters, Toni Tiburzi (in honor of Louise Moseley), and Don and Donna Traver '59.



Bob transferring the decals



Class of 1959 christening their canoe

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL RESIDENCY

The faculty, staff and students of Empire State College's Environmental Residency Program returned for its annual visit to Camp Huntington. It was the 12th year students and faculty gathered at Raquette Lake. Wayne Ouderkirk and Elaine Handley were responsible for coordinating and scheduling the offerings for the students.

Each year, there are one or two unique opportunities for the students enrolled in the program. Marlene "Chris" Evans, professor emerita and founding mentor of the Environmental Residency Program, delivered a new offering this year. The course focused on the water quality of Raquette Lake and its watershed. The students completed a series of rigorous preparatory readings prior to their arrival at camp. One feature of this particular class was a watershed observation segment

conducted by float plane. The students were picked up at the main dock by Tom Payne, of Payne's Seaplane and Air Service in Inlet. Tom took them up for an aerial view of Raquette Lake and its expansive watershed. What better way for the students to observe the actual watershed with its inlets and the outlet.

Numerous other courses also were delivered during the residency. Over the years, courses have been taught in areas of: Ecopsychology, Environmental Field Observation and Root, Environmental History of the 21st Century, Environmental Science, Microeconomics and Environmental Policy, Plants and Society, Word and Ritual: The Power of Nature, Traditions and Storytelling to name a few.

The group of non-traditional learners and their faculty are a pleasure to host at camp. They are enthusiastic about their education and being here. Some of the students have taken a number of different courses offered through the Environmental Residency Program, which allows them to return to Camp Huntington every year.



Payne's airborne classroom

RAQUETTE LAKE VOLUNTEERS

Each year a variety of individuals and groups volunteer to help with various projects at Antlers and Camp Huntington. Physical education and recreation majors have a designated time during their stay to perform service projects. It is a tremendous help each year.

On occasion, we have volunteers with specific skills, such as Steve Shufelt, campus locksmith, and Jeff Dovi, finish carpenter, from campus come and dedicate a day or two to specific projects. This year was no exception. Steve and Jeff spent two days at Camp Huntington replacing and repairing lock sets and adjusting doors so that they close properly. Thank you for the help and expertise you shared!

Camp Huntington will be hosting a volunteer weekend May 1 - 3, 2009. The tasks will focus primarily on camp cleanup and some trail work. Branches and leaves are all picked up in the fall before the snow arrives, but you will be amazed by what appears when the snow melts. Volunteer space will be somewhat limited because of a required workshop. Approximately 20 bunks will be assigned to the volunteers. If you would like to help get camp in shape for the summer, send an e-mail to Jack at jack.sheltmire@cortland.edu. The dates for the Antlers volunteer work weekend are May 15-17, 2009. If you are interested in helping at Antlers, please contact Rhonda at rhonda.jacobs@cortland.edu.



Shufelt and Dovi



Volunteers staining

SURVIVOR COMES TO CAMP HUNTINGTON

More than 100 participants from Allyn International Services based in Fort Meyers, FL, came to Camp Huntington for their annual staff development workshop. Three different sessions were held; two in June and one in September. The participants came from around the world, including Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Spain and the United States. I am sure I missed a few others.

In part, their staff development took advantage of the Adirondack and Raquette Lake location. Much of their formal training and presentations were located in the Carlson Classroom. The theme was based on the hit television show, "Survivor." The groups were divided into tribes and competed with one another to see who the best of the best was. Tribes rather than individuals were voted out of the competition. By winning different events, points were accumulated and, in some cases, immunity was granted.

Allen Trevett, president and CEO of Allyn International Services, his administrative staff and all of the participants were very delighted with the accommodations. In fact, they were so pleased that the group has already booked for a return visit in 2009. We are certainly looking forward to seeing them again.

*Pictures courtesy of Allyn International



A GREAT EXPERIENCE

Over the years, both Antlers and Camp Huntington have hosted a variety of groups of adults with special needs. Groups like the Mystic Education Center, On Your Mark, Rome Developmental Center and Wildwood have come for years. Kathy Baker, recreational therapist for the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation, has brought clients to Camp Huntington for 22 years and Jim Allocco, associate executive director of On Your Mark, has come for 36 years.



Mystic roasting hot dogs

Raquette Lake provides an opportunity for these groups to experience activities not available at home. For some, being next to a beautiful lake, making s'mores, riding horses, seeing a loon, singing around the campfire or hiking trails through the woods is a whole new experience. There really is no objective assessment tool to measure the benefits derived by such an experience for the participants other than the hugs, laughter and smiles.

Nick Stagliano '79, from the Rome Developmental Center, planned a camping trip to Camp Marion for his group. Their mission: to camp and fish. The group stayed in tents and cooked their meals over an open fire. Needless to say everyone had a fantastic time and they even caught some fish.

I also would like to extend my best wishes and sincere admiration to all those who come and work with these groups each year. Preparing for and staffing the trips requires a lot of hard work. So thank you Jim, Kathy, Melinda and Nick for all you do. Without your willingness and dedication to bring people to Raquette Lake it would not happen. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2009.

SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY: CASINO

The Casino was designed by renowned Saratoga Springs architect, R. Newton Brezee, for Charles Bennett proprietor of The Antlers hotel. Brezee was a friend of William West Durant, who introduced him to Bennett.

Construction of the property began in 1886. The Casino was the hub of waterfront activities and the place where guests

arrived. Access to Antlers at the time was by water; later the railroad was added followed by roads.

Looking at the postcard below, the lower left portion of the building was used to house 27 canoes and guide boats. There were three doors vertically stacked with sets of rollers in each compartment to easily slide the boats in and out. A guide could be found in the storefront area ready to take you on your fishing, hunting or sightseeing tour.

The lower right section of the building, currently Cummings Dining Room, was a small store and post office annex. The dining room at that time was located on the hill, near the Main Lodge. While there is no confirmation on what exactly the store sold, we know there were postcards. The store was a busy spot with steamships coming and going throughout the day.

The building gets its namesake, the Casino, from the upper part of the building. It was an open room containing billiards, card tables, a fireplace, a ping pong table and a soda fountain. While there was likely some money lost and won in the Casino, the definition reflects a building or room used for meetings or recreation.

On the dock area in front of the Casino there was a roll-out wooden dance floor. The band or orchestra would sit and play their music from the upper porch. Can't you just imagine a star-filled sky with music playing while you float around the dance floor!

Nowadays, the exterior looks much like it did in the 1880's, however, the interior has gone through some changes. The boat storage area now houses the kitchen, maintenance shop and office. The store is our dining room. The upper part of the building has been broken down into smaller rooms that house staff with a large classroom on the right side. It is and was quite a place.



Casino of The Antlers, Raquette Lake in the Adirondacks.



Photo courtesy of Giordan Meyer

NATURE NOOK

While paddling Browns Tract Pond, the Marion River or South Inlet you may have noticed a Great Blue Heron standing in the waters or flying overhead. The birds are the largest and most common heron across North America.

Both male and female Great Blue Herons are long-legged, around 50 inches tall, with a wingspan between 70-80 inches wide. On average, they weigh five pounds and sport a

prominent long thick yellow beak. A crown of white feathers tops the bird, while black feathers extend from its yellow eyes to the back of its head into long plumes. A long “s” shaped neck has reddish or gray feathers followed by grayish-blue feathers that cover most of the body. Shaggy feathers flow from its neck and body.

Great Blue Herons are typically found in calm fresh water or along seacoasts. Nests are constructed into large platforms made of twigs and sticks lined with pine needles, moss and dry grasses. The nests can be observed in trees and occasionally in shrubs or on the ground. The birds are found in colonies and sometimes as a lone pair.

Great Blue Heron eat mostly amphibians, small fish and reptiles, however, can eat small mice and voles. Hunting consists of standing still or wading slowly until food is spotted. The bird’s bill is then used as a spear to stab the fish. Herons can choke to

death if they attempt to eat a fish that is too large to swallow.

The birds are monogamous and breed in the spring. The female will lay between two and seven eggs per clutch that range in color from blue-green to dull gray. The incubation period lasts 28 days, then a pale gray down-covered chick hatches. Shortly after hatching, the chicks can open their eyes and hold up their heads. Parents take turns feeding the young, first with regurgitated food and then whole items to get them accustomed to their habitat. Chicks will take their first flight in 60 days. Mortality rates are high for chicks and yearlings. If a Great Blue Heron makes it through the first year, it will likely live a long life of up to 20 years.



Photo courtesy of Giordan Meyer

E-NEWS

As an outdoor and environmental education center, we are trying to cut back on our paper use. You have an opportunity to help us. If you would prefer to view the *Raquette Lake News* in an online format, contact us. We fully understand if you prefer to have the newsletter with its amazing pictures in-hand. We thank you for your continued interest and support.



“Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.” -Stanley Horowitz

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