

NATURE NOOK

We have a snapping turtle lay eggs on the beach at Antlers this summer. Our neighbors and guests watched closely for the big hatch. It never happened. Snapping turtle eggs can winter-over and hatch the following spring.

Snapping turtles are reptiles, which means that they breathe through their lungs, have feet with claws and scaly skin. Turtles have a shell, also known as a carapace, that can range in color from black to brown to olive. The tail is longer than the carapace, and the turtles have strong legs and webbed claws. Snapping turtles cannot fit their bodies inside of their carapace which is why they were given the adaptation of a horn beak (no teeth), long neck, large head and strong "snapping" jaws.

The mostly nocturnal creatures use their keen sense of smell and fast jaws to capture their prey. Snapping turtles are good swimmers; however, they usually camouflage themselves and wait for their meal. As they age, their diet continually changes, consisting of one third aquatic plants and crayfish, fish, frogs, insects, newts, snails, tadpoles, worms and young birds. Snappers like shallow lakes and streams with lots of vegetation and muddy bottoms. The turtles usually hibernate in mud for winter.

Snapping turtles mate from April through November. The female lays 20-40 eggs per clutch in a sandy nest approximately seven inches deep. The nest may or may not be near water. The hard-shelled eggs are round and the size of a ping pong ball. Incubation lasts around 90 days.



After two years, a hatchling is between five and six inches in diameter and grows to a maximum of 19 inches. Snapping turtles are the largest freshwater, turtle weighing as much as 85 pounds and living up to 30 years in the wild. Predators include crows, herons, hawks, humans, raccoons and snakes. Remember, snapping turtles only bite if they are taunted; generally they will swim away unnoticed.

BOB AND DIANE COLLINS JOIN CAMP



Bob & Diane Collins

HUNTINGTON STAFF

Robert Collins was hired in September as the new caretaker for Camp Huntington. He is joined by his wife, Diane, affectionately known as Skeeter. They have three children, Casey, Christa and Corey. Casey is the youngest of the three and is currently enrolled at the University of New England located at Biddeford, Maine.

For more than a decade Bob was the owner and CEO of Fulton Building Supply Company. Since then, he served as the caretaker for Mexico Point State Park. and has also worked in the areas of facilities management, electrical and plumbing maintenance. Both Bob and Skeeter are very easy going and personable. Skeeter likes to be busy. She has already worked in the kitchen, providing some relief for Kelli and has also worked around camp assisting Bob in preparing the camp for winter. Please take a minute to introduce yourself and welcome them when you are up at Camp Huntington.

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THE KESSLER COLLECTION

On Sept. 8, 2006, Doug Kessler, along with his family and friends traveled to Camp Huntington to



The Kessler Family

view the library collection established in the memory of Sandra Kessler '59. Sandra began her professional education as a physical education major at SUNY Cortland. While teaching and rearing three sons with her husband Doug, she went on to complete her master's degree in education at Nazareth College and her doctorate degree from Syracuse University.

Sandra's love for Camp Huntington began as a sophomore while completing her outdoor education practicum. She strongly supported the mission of the Outdoor Education Center and wished gifts in her memory be given to benefit the library. The books, the memories and her indomitable spirit all reside at Camp Huntington as a fitting memorial.

If you would like to make a donation in Sandra's memory, you may do so through the Cortland College Foundation, Inc. Please note your gift to be directed to the Kessler Collection at Raquette Lake.

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY



Back Row: Joseph Moore, Wayne Ouderkirk,
Front Row: Chris Evans, Dora Ingolfsdottir

Camp Huntington hosted Empire State College's largest Environmental Residency Program in its 10-year history. The program was organized and administered through the efforts of Chris Evans, Dora Ingolfsdottir and Wayne Ouderkirk. Each year the number of participants and the academic diversity available to students has increased. Empire State College students from all over New York State travel to Raquette Lake to participate in this intense residential educational opportunity. To help celebrate their 10th anniversary, Empire State College President Joseph Moore attended and participated in the 2006 session. The students signed up to participate in a variety of sessions. The following are some of the courses that were offered: The Adirondacks - A Park in Conflict, Consumption and Ethics, Ecological Living, Ecopsychology, Environmental Field Observation and The Power of Nature, Forest Ecology, The History of the Adirondacks, Nature: Writing About Life, Plants and Society, Property Rights and Responsibilities, Readings in Environmental History, Sustainability, Traditions and Storytelling, and Wilderness and Philosophy.

In addition to the academic opportunities available to the students by the Empire State College faculty, they were treated to an evening with Bill Smith. Bill is a famous Adirondack storyteller who has performed for all age groups throughout the Adirondack Mountains. His music, stories and tales were highly regarded by all those in attendance.

With such a variety of offerings, many of the students elect to come to Raquette Lake more than once during their program with Empire State College. Since the Environmental Residencies inception in 1996, a total of 334 students have enrolled in this course. Success brings success. Forty-four students attended in 2006, making it the largest class in the program's history.



Physical Education students

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers contribute countless hours to maintain both the Antlers and Camp Huntington properties.

The projects range from what seems rather insignificant to major undertakings. The volunteers who participate in these annual projects are students in required courses such as physical education and recreation and leisure studies, as well as members of the Arethusa and Theta Phi Sororities. The Class of 1959 also schedules a work day at Antlers each year during their stay. Groups frequently volunteer time while visiting our facilities.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of hours have been donated by volunteers over the years to help maintain both Antlers and Camp Huntington. The projects include: cleaning, painting and scraping, planting, putting away equipment, raking, splitting firewood, taking down the ropes course, washing windows and working on trails. Volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated. Without this help, the outdoor facilities at Raquette Lake would not look as nice as they do.



Arethusa sisters replanting Carlson Classroom garden

HUNTINGTON HEIRS TOUR CAMP PINE KNOT

On Oct. 8, 2006, I had the pleasure of conducting a historical tour of Camp Pine Knot for members of the Huntington family and board members of the Huntington Library in Los Angeles, Calif. The group stayed with Tom Hudnut from Beverly Hills, Calif., and North Creek, N.Y. Tom's family has owned a camp in North Creek since the late 1800's.

As you would imagine, they were truly interested in Camp Huntington, especially the projects initiated by Collis Huntington. The group was fascinated by the bronze bust of Archer Huntington, Collis' son. The bust was sculpted by Archer's wife, Anna Hyatt Huntington, and is currently located in the Fuge Dining Room.

METCALF RETREAT

In September a group of alumni and students joined together in honor of Harland "Gold" Metcalf, founder of the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department and an instrumental player in the acquisition of Camp Huntington. As the years and faces change, the common threads that Metcalf instilled remain the same: affirmation in abilities as professionals, living in harmony with the land and each other, responsibility for future generations and, of course, a blend of aspiration, humility, perspective and self-confidence that provide a solid foundation.

The retreat was fun and inspiring to participate in. The students gained an immense amount of knowledge of both the history and lore of SUNY Cortland as well as tales of the working world. The alumni gained an understanding of the curriculum changes and student life nowadays. There was a continual comparison to the classes that each person had to take with an occasional burst into song. A tour of Camp Huntington, an evening of Pass the Pigs and card games were among the highlights of the trip.

If you are interested in joining us for the Metcalf Retreat in September 2007 or would like to sponsor a student, please contact Rhonda.



2006 Annual Metcalf Retreat

NEW WINDOWS FOR THE HEMLOCK DORM

Steve Abramson '75, a SUNY Cortland recreation and leisure studies graduate, has donated 11 new windows for the Hemlock Dorm. Steve is the owner and president of Pace Window and Door located in Victor, N. Y. The donation will save Raquette Lake thousands of dollars that can now be used to support other initiatives and renovations at the center.

The new double-hung windows will replace the existing 30-year old casement windows found in the Hemlock Dorm. The new windows will assure safer egress/exiting in the event of a fire and will provide better air flow on those hot muggy days in July and August. Once the windows are in place, additional exterior renovations can then take place.

Thank you very much, Steve, for your gift to Camp Huntington! In the years to come, there will be thousands of Camp Huntington users that will benefit from your generosity.

CHITTENANGO CROSS-COUNTRY TRACK TEAM



Chittenango Men's Cross Country Team

A group of 12 high school boys and three adults from Chittenango Central School visited Antlers this past August. Harold Muller, head coach and SUNY Cortland alumnus, set up the running camp to help condition the runners for their upcoming season. The group was inspired to work hard by being slated to be last among their interscholastic conference. In early October, I spoke with Coach Muller and he informed me that the camp had paid dividends as the team was still undefeated.

While at Antlers the team mostly ate, ran and slept. A few of the young men took time to fish and kayak. Overall, the team members each ran 55 miles in four days and enjoyed themselves. It was a wonderful group of young men that we look forward to hosting again next August. Good Luck with the rest of your season Chittenango!

CAMP HUNTINGTON'S ALUMNI SESSION

Since the beginning of my tenure as director of the Outdoor Education Center in 2000, I have seen Camp Huntington's summer alumni session attendance grow each year. Participants have come from as far away as Arizona, California, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Vermont and beyond. Some of the participants were recreation majors in the 1970's while I taught on campus. One really starts to feel old when former students begin talking about their children in college.

The ages of the SUNY Cortland alumni taking advantage of the alumni programs range from recent graduates to recently retired. Yet, that common thread of Raquette Lake continues to bring unity to the diversity. We have seen the children grow beyond physical measurements and become young men and women. We have seen young professionals grow as new teachers. One alumnus even sold a car on e-Bay during the session. Who knows what adventure we will undertake in 2007.

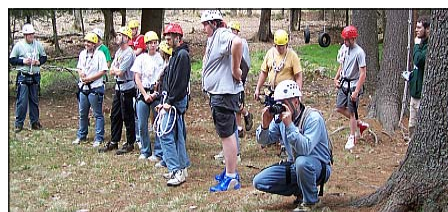
Why not plan to be a part of it? It really doesn't matter if it is Antlers or Camp Huntington; plan to come back and rekindle that Raquette Lake magical experience you look back on so fondly.

CINCINNATUS SCHOOLS: A MODEL PROGRAM

Kurt Schmidt, science teacher at Cincinnatus Central School, and his staff consisting of Kristin Forsman, Cheryl Knickerbocker and Howard Snyder, provided an educational opportunity for their students at Camp Huntington this past May. Not only was the group's program content impressive, but the involvement of the faculty with their students was nothing less than outstanding!

The Cincinnatus environmental science trip was a three-day outing that utilized SUNY Cortland's Outdoor Education Center at Raquette Lake in addition to mountains nearby. The group climbed Bald Mountain on their way to Raquette Lake and Castle Rock on their way home.

The group enjoyed all Camp Huntington had to offer. They toured historical buildings and learned about the camp's history as well as canoed, utilized the challenge course, hiked trails, kayaked, used the sauna and had a camp fire in the evening. The



Students on high ropes course

students, excellent ambassadors for their school, were very respectful and well mannered individuals.

I am eagerly looking forward to their return in 2007.



Kurt Schmidt

THE BIG ISLAND CANOE RACE

It doesn't matter if you finished first or last in this epic adventure, you were a participant.



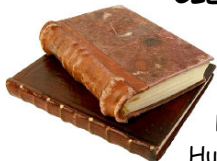
Start of canoe race

This 24- to 45-minute adventure is one you will always remember. From start to finish, one has never seen so many canoes go in so many directions so quickly. Each year the rules are tweaked a bit to keep everyone on task. The canoes are timed and placed in their appropriate division. Canoe partners are comprised from several types of teams: staff, co-ed staff, student and staff, students and co-ed students. One of the many quotes from students after the race was, "Now I understand why it's called Big Island."

Each session of PED 308 passes the torch to the next group. The physical education's outdoor education practicum, like the Big Island Canoe Race, is alive and well. Under the direction of Steve Patrick the physical education majors participate in activities common to all sessions. The outdoor activities include camping skills, canoeing, challenge course, map reading and orienteering, team building and problem solving, and are all on the extended trip. Students have an opportunity to select which trip they would like to go on. Options include backpacking in the High Peaks Region, backpacking and technical climbing, canoeing, or a canoeing and backpacking combination. Students usually get their first request for their trip.

Having led trips in the past, I am always interested in how the student's trip went. Did they encounter any bears? If they did, where were they? Did it get your food bag? The High Peaks Region groups now have to keep all of their food in bear proof canisters. The canisters are very large plastic jars with screw-on lids. The bears can't break them, but they can surely move them around.

HUNTINGTON MEMOIRS DONATED TO CLEMENS LIBRARY



Randall Huntington Bright of Rome, N.Y., recently donated three volumes of *Huntington Genealogy* to the Clemens Biological Sciences Library at Camp

Huntington. The genealogical memoirs are of the known descendants of Simon Huntington. Simon was born in England, perhaps Hempstead, on Aug. 7, 1583, and is the ancestor from which the American Huntington legacy came.

The Clemens Library is very fortunate to have these holdings as they are not available to the general public. Approximately two years ago, I conducted a tour for Randall, his wife and his friends. It was during the tour that Randall mentioned the books. He asked if we would be interested in a set of these memoirs for our library. I thought they would be a tremendous addition. It has taken two years, but they have finally arrived.

I know I speak for SUNY Cortland, and all its alumni, when I say thank you for this wonderful gift. I am sure there will be a great amount of interest expressed in these works.

MYSTIC RETURNS!

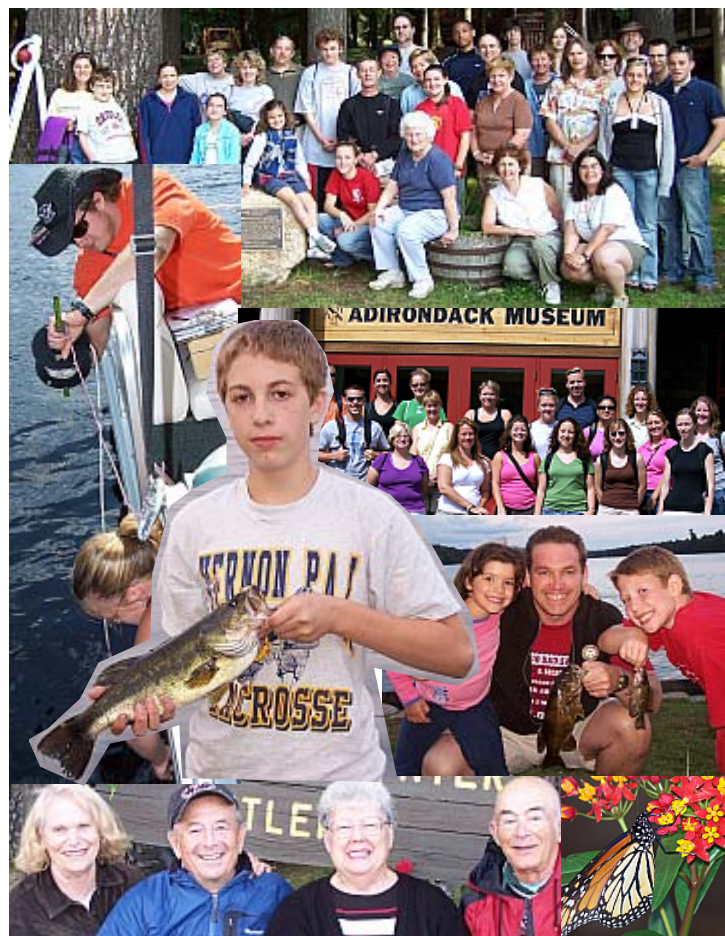
For more than two years, Kathy Baker, recreational therapist for the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation, has been working as an advocate for her clients' return to Camp Huntington. This group had been coming for more than 15 years! Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, out-of-state travel was eliminated from the department's budget in 2004. Kathy notified me shortly after this action took place. On behalf of SUNY Cortland and the people in the group, I wrote a letter of appeal to the Commissioner of Connecticut. For many of the individuals, Raquette Lake is the highlight of their year.



Mystic swimmers

It is very difficult for me to understand how we can substitute dollars for smiles when it comes to a group with special needs. I am so pleased they are back!

Through Kathy's persistence and the use of her dedicated volunteers, especially Nancy, this group returned to Camp Huntington in August 2006. Their days were filled with arts and crafts, evening programs, walks to the church, water activities and, yes, KP! They loved helping Dan and Kelli in the kitchen. The group had a wonderful five-day experience and have already rescheduled their trip for 2007.



SUMMER 2006 ALUMNI & CLASSES

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Scott Moranda, assistant professor of history, and his Environmental History class braved the first significant snowstorm to come to Raquette Lake in October. Scott's students were able



Henry Steck doing dishes

to experience the historical significance of Camp Huntington first hand. In addition to touring the buildings here at camp, the group also visited the Adirondack Museum. Scott is thinking about other ways he can utilize SUNY Cortland's Raquette Lake campus with his classes.

The Political Science Club, accompanied by Thomas Pasquarello, professor and chair of the Political Science Department and Henry Steck, distinguished service professor of political science, visited Raquette Lake at the same time as the Environmental History class did. The group took advantage of the crisp weather to get out and hike Camp Huntington's trail system and made use of the sauna. Tom made a presentation to both groups on the history of the Adirondack Park and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). Henry demonstrated the finer points of KP duty for the group.

NOTHING IS EASY

As most of you know, everything that comes to Camp Huntington is transported by barge or comes across the ice road during the winter months. Consequently, it is very costly to have certain items transported to Long Point. One costly item is a truck load of stone. During each of my group orientations, I stress this point. The stone issue on the main dock is a "guy thing." They love to throw the stones into the water. The students like to see how far the stones can go or how many times the stone will skip?



Barge delivering stone

just like the stones in Cortland do and ask them to refrain from throwing the precious little bits into the water. Two loads of stone cost the center more than \$1,000. I also tell the groups if they bring their own stones, they can throw all of them. Some students remember and bring their own stones to throw on their next visit.

At group orientation I explain how everything is barged over and the expense involved. I then assure them that the Camp Huntington stones splash



CROSS-CULTURAL WEEKEND

One of the many introductory experiences planned for SUNY Cortland's International Programs' students in September is to come to Raquette Lake. A large number of students took advantage of International Student Advisor Lara Atkins' outdoor program. Colleen Buchanan, physical education lecturer, led the group in a variety of activities, including ice breakers, team building, problem solving, the climbing wall and tower. For the majority of these students, the climbing wall was a first. They made the most of Camp Huntington, capitalizing on the canoes, hiking trails, kayaks and Dan's famous food. Certainly, a unique experience for those students!

The group of 35 comprised the largest number of representatives from various countries in Raquette Lake history. Countries represented were: Australia, China, France, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Turkey and the U.S.A. It is a testament to the hard work of Lara Atkins, Liz McCartney, assistant director for international programs, Marley Barduhn, former interim director for international programs, and all of the office staff. I am definitely looking forward to this group's visit next fall.



Students on climbing wall

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

From May 18 to 20, Antlers will be hosting a spring cleanup weekend. Volunteers may arrive Friday night for a 6 p.m. dinner. Work will begin on Saturday after breakfast. Rooms and meals will be provided. The last meal will be Sunday lunch.

Projects will include constructing a stone walkway to Cedars, furniture repair, interior and exterior painting, raking the lawn, re-seeding the lawn, screen door repair, washing windows and more. If you are interested in a particular project, please note that on your registration form.

In lieu of payment volunteers will be asked to bring various donations to help improve Antlers. Donations might include a can of paint, a new set of curtains or paint brushes.

To find out more about the volunteer weekend visit our Web page, www.cortland.edu/outdoor, or give us a call.





RAQUETTE LAKE NEWS

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SPANISH VOGUE COMES TO CAMP PINE KNOT

Thanks to a tip provided by SUNY Cortland alumna, Diane Bonenfant '75, Camp Huntington hosted a unique group. In early July, I had a telephone call regarding the use of Camp Huntington for a *Spanish Vogue* photo shoot. Fortunately, the president and provost were on site for their annual administrative retreats. We discussed the request and granted approval for the project.

With that I moved ahead, first with a visit from the photo manager to check it out. She was delighted with the facility and took numerous digital photographs to share with the project photographer. The project photographer was also very pleased with Camp Huntington's opportunities. From then



Metcalf Hall transformation to wardrobe

on, things happened very quickly. The president's retreat ended on Thursday and the *Spanish Vogue* group arrived on Friday afternoon staying throughout the weekend. It was my first exposure to such an event. Models, photographers and support staff came from all over the world for this occasion. Candace Murdock is the studio manager for Anne Menke Photography and the person I worked closely with. Anne Menke, one of the top ten photographers in the world, was the lead photographer. Anne V., the featured female model, appeared in the 2006 *Sports Illustrated Swim Suit Issue*. John Zimmerman, a pairs skater for the U.S. in the 2002 Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City, Utah, was the male model.

I was on the go for two entire days. The place was a bit crazy with their time schedule, lighting options and meals. Metcalf Hall was transformed into wardrobe for the weekend. In addition to the endless shooting here at Camp Huntington, the group was escorted around Raquette Lake for a variety of pictures. They took photographs of the lean-tos in Lonesome Bay, the windswept trees on the islands in the north end of the lake and the rope swing at the mouth of the Marion River.

Spanish Vogue, in stores and online, will feature the Raquette Lake layout in the January or February 2007 issue. It was a very interesting and unique opportunity.



Anne V.

All of the people associated with the shoot were very pleasant and easy to work with. They enjoyed the facility and the solitude immensely and would like to come back for a winter photo shoot.



Preparing scene

Cortland

State University of New York College at Cortland