



Friends of Mount Arab 2016 Newsletter

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Transitions

Richard Maid and Felicia Neahr have resigned from the board. We thank them for their service.

We welcome Sheila Young from Tupper Lake to the FOMA board. She and her husband are both Adirondack guides, and we expect that she will be a real asset to our board.

On the Web

A reminder, visit us on the internet on our facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMtArab>, and also our website, <http://www.friendsofmountarab.org>. Jeff Debes, who maintains and monitors these sites, tells us they have been quite active. For those of you who find it convenient to make a donation via the web, you will find a PayPal donation button on our website.

Current Projects

The map table in the tower cab is being replaced. Visitors have been a bit hard on the protective plastic cover and there are many impact cracks. Finally, this past summer someone managed to tear loose a piece of the Plexiglas and ripped the laminated paper map beneath.

Currently, the map table has been removed and disassembled. The iron bezel around the outside has been removed and prepped for painting when the weather gets warmer in the spring. The biggest part of the job has been the map. The previous map had been pieced together from adjoining paper topo maps that were inconsistent in color, and at the wrong scale. We wanted a digital version at the proper scale that could be used now and in the future. With the considerable assistance of DEC staff, especially our liaison, Aaron Graves, we now have this digital version and have already had it printed on vinyl for use in our future map table. We hope to have it back in place this coming spring.



Future Projects

There are a number of jobs we are going to address in the summer of 2017. The tower roof needs a bit of repair and painting. We also need new windows in the tower. We already have the Plexiglas so most of the job will be to construct and fit new frames, then attach the plastic. The plastic covering the horizon displays in the tower cab also need a bit of work. Some of the bolts in the tower frame need replacing, and the entire tower frame could also do with a coat of paint. And finally, the observer's cabin has some warped shutters that need repair and painting.

Acknowledgements

Friends of Mount Arab would like to sincerely thank our major donors since our 2015 newsletter:

\$500 - Robert E. & Carole Buhts
\$250 - Peter C. Galloway
\$200 - John P. Freeman
\$150 - Terry & Janet Silvester
\$125 - Joan & Kris Dumas
\$100 - Vasily & Mary Ann Cateforis
\$100 - Thomas Curley & Marsha Ann Stanley
\$100 - Janne Debes & Kenneth Autrey
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\$100 - Donna & Keith Waltz
\$75 - Peter & Letty Bartoszek
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\$50 - Bernard & Marie Patten
\$50 - David Sargent
\$50 - Howard C. Schnettler, Jr.
\$50 - Dr. Danny & Kristin Scott
\$50 - Martha Stauffer
\$50 - Paul & Martha Stringer
\$50 - James Lanny & Elizabeth Tucker
\$50 - Erika and Ryan Zaffer



NEWS FROM THE TOP

By Thomas P. Cullen,
Summit Steward



Once again I was proud and elated to serve as the Friends of Mt Arab Summit Steward for 2016 right alongside my faithful and friendly Newfoundland beasts,

Toby and Apollo. Together we met and greeted thousands of happy climbers this year.

We commenced and ended our open season on two Canadian Holidays, Victoria Day in mid May and Canadian Thanksgiving Day, which coincided with our own Columbus Day Holiday. We value and welcome our many Canadian friends to the summit each year, and even my dogs are a Canadian breed! Fire Tower explorations are continuing to explode in popularity with winter and summer Adirondack Mountain Club sponsored challenges as well as the new Tupper Lake Triad, which includes Arab, Goodman and Coney Mountains. Along with our own clothing and merchandise, beautiful certificates and patches are available for these other endeavors. The Tupper Triad even issues a K9 patch for our best friends!

Our Northern New York Audubon chapter sponsored Ruby Throated Hummingbird Sanctuary was once again a summit highlight and huge success as climbers were treated to the

antics of these pugnacious avian mites from the onset of male territory establishment in early May to southward wandering Canadian migrants stopping in for a drink in Late September. I set out ten widely spaced sugar water feeders in May and feed throughout the season. This encourages large numbers of summit dwelling hummingbirds.

It was once again a great year for Dragonfly observations as many different species were observed engaged in "hill topping" a ubiquitous annual event on sunny Adirondack peaks where adult dragons fatten up on mosquitoes and other flying insects prior to a vertical downhill migration to bodies of water for mating and reproduction.

Our bat house was once again unpopulated this year mirroring the decline in Big Brown and Little Brown Bat Adirondack area populations. It will remain permanently mounted on our summit cabin in hope of attracting bats year after year.

The beautiful art work of Roger Hall and Megan Gnekow once again graced the walls of our Nature Center/Museum providing beautiful up close images of Adirondack wildlife. I was able and privileged to answer many natural history questions about plants and animals using these prints mounted on the walls. Our beautiful mounted Adirondack maps and summit Peak Finder helped many people locate nearby points of interest.

This year we added some new minimum signage reminding our visitors to not start campfires on the mountain and reminding climbers of responsible pet ownership by keeping dogs leashed while on the trail and summit.



Summit Scenes

Winter Climbs

It appears that winter hikes are becoming more popular. There has been a lot of activity on Mount Arab this winter.



HISTORY of the FRIENDS of MOUNT ARAB (FOMA)

On Earth Day 1997 a small group of citizens and DEC officials gathered at the summit of Mount Arab. With the common desire to save and to share this historical facility and its magnificent views with future generations, they resolved to restore and maintain the sadly decaying fire tower and fire observer's cabin located there.

Beginning with incorporation as a non-profit in partnership with DEC, FOMA has progressed steadily towards its goal. While there has been continuing outstanding trail work performed by the ADK trail crew, staffing and ongoing restoration of summit facilities proceeds with the essential support of YOU, our donors. Thank you.

Yes! I want to become a friend of Mount Arab, to help save and maintain the tower and ranger cabin, improve the trail, and interpret the natural and cultural history of Mount Arab.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for: _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ Other.

**Caps, T-shirts, denim shirts and patches are available at Fortunes True Value Hardware, Tupper Lake, NY.
You must visit the store directly. Fortunes Hardware does not do mail order.**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

**Please make checks payable to: FRIENDS OF MOUNT ARAB
Mail to: Friends of Mount Arab, PO Box 185, Piercefield, NY 12973**



Parishville Hopkinton field trip hiking Mount Arab

Michael White, former science teacher of Clifton Fine, wasted no time motivating and educating his new Parishville Hopkinton middle School Science students on the geology and natural history of Mt Arab by hiking up in late September 2016. The school plans on making this an annual outing, and looks forward

to many years of climbing our summit. A great group which I was happy to meet, and who demonstrated great respect and understanding of the natural world atop our mountain! We are hoping to partner with them and other north country school groups officially on assistance with some of our future projects.

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