



Friends of Mount Arab 2021 Newsletter

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Forest Fire Lookout
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FOMA

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Transitions

The FOMA board remained unchanged in 2021.

As always, anyone wishing to join our board and contribute to the FOMA effort should live close enough to be able and willing to attend monthly meetings May – October, or be regular summer visitors who can also meet the obligation to attend most meetings. Our board members are all vaccinated so we have gone back to holding normal face-to-face meetings.

On the Web

We are on the internet and our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMtArab> continues to be very popular. You may also like to visit our website, maintained by Jeff Debes, at <http://www.friendsofmountarab.org>. Jeff also monitors both sites, and those visiting our facebook page likely recall facebook exchanges with him. Jeff welcomes photos and comments from our summit visitors. 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.

Tupper Lake TRIAD

Earn an Adirondack hiking challenge patch by climbing three local mountains, Coney, Goodman, and of course, Mount Arab, all within a short drive of Tupper Lake. To apply for a patch, go to: <https://www.tupperlake.com/tupper-lake-hiking-triad>. The TRIAD is managed by ROOST. For a real challenge, do all 3 in one day.

Acknowledgements

FOMA would like to thank our 2021 donors:

- \$ 1500 Carolyn Quinn
- \$ 500 ROOST (TRIAD Challenge Support)
- \$ 300 Jeff Debes
- \$ 250 Peter Galloway
- \$ 200 Phillip Reynolds
- \$ 190 Janne Debes
- \$ 100 June Dewhirst
- \$ 100 Linda & John Sheehan
- \$ 100 Phyllis Wendt Pierce
- \$ 100 Thomas Tinney
- \$ 100 Thomas Curley
- \$ 100 Vasily & Mary Ann Cateforis
- \$ 100 Terry & Lewis Kinter

- \$ 100 Janet Lawson
- \$ 100 Adele & Herman Vandenburgh
- \$ 100 Alison & David Mandelbaum
- \$ 100 Tedd Miller
- \$ 100 Fred Jubitz
- \$ 75 Peter Collinge & Carol Thiel
- \$ 72 Barbara & James Tucker
- \$ 70 P2's Irish Pub: Johnny Blueheart Concert
- \$ 50 Laura Lewis Brown
- \$ 50 Pamela & Hank Fiaccone
- \$ 50 JoAnn & Tony Zenger
- \$ 50 Gail & James Alcott
- \$ 50 Donna & Keith Waltz
- \$ 50 Janet & Loren Bailey
- \$ 50 David Sargent
- \$ 50 Janet & Terry Silvester
- \$ 50 E. Carney & Bill Aames
- \$ 50 Debbie & Chuck Yartz
- \$ 50 Karen & Richard Parsons
- \$ 50 Mary & Randy Dexter
- \$ 50 Betty & Ed Allison
- \$ 50 June Fait & Herb Coles
- \$ 50 Jennifer & Brian Moss
- \$ 50 Louis Flanigan
- \$ 50 Beth & William Kingston
- \$ 50 Richard Mott
- \$ 50 Melinda & Peter Merrigan
- \$ 50 Rhonda Young & Peter Klank
- \$ 50 Mary O'Connor and Curt Foster
- \$ 35 Gary Koch
- \$ 30 Carolyn & Brian Parotte
- \$ 30 Eric Lane
- \$ 25 Diane & Robert Freer
- \$ 25 Chris Wiles
- \$ 25 Anne Csete & David Katz
- \$ 25 Rhys & Jocelyn Prall
- \$ 25 Jackie Beattie
- \$ 25 Joan & Thomas Dalton
- \$ 25 Anne & Edwin Gordon
- \$ 25 Jamie Savage
- \$ 25 Lauren Eschman
- \$ 25 Kathryn Allemen
- \$ 25 Carol Murray
- \$ 25 Nancy & George McBride
- \$ 25 Danny & Kristin Scott
- \$ 25 Grace & Harry Risetto
- \$ 25 Wendy & Richard Greguski
- \$ 25 Sharon & Edward Lindo
- \$ 25 Linda Marshall
- \$ 25 Peter O'Shea
- \$ 25 Stephen Painter
- \$ 25 Mary Beth & Jon Fine
- \$ 25 Katherine O'Brien
- \$ 25 Sandy Day & Bob Curry
- \$ 25 Jean Doell
- \$ 20 Benjamin Mazzotta
- \$ 20 Diane Wiessinger
- \$ 10 Robert Tate & Ann Greene
- \$ 10 Claudia & Justin DiVirgilio
- \$ 10 M. Brian Nichols & Jeanne M. Pillion-Nichols

And, everyone who climbs Mount Arab thanks you!



NEWS FROM THE TOP

By Thomas P. Cullen
Summit Steward



Greetings and Happy Holiday Season. Yet another year has passed in my life as the Summit Steward of

Arab Mountain in Piercefield, NY. This truly was a groundbreaking year, reopening after being closed during 2020, the first year of the COVID Pandemic.

In this second year of a continuing pandemic many practices were implemented to minimize exposure to the continuing virus threat. The Museum was closed to inside traffic while open windows and doors allowed visitors to view exhibits from a distance. I moved many displays outside on a daily basis, my dogs stayed home, social distancing was encouraged, and masks were encouraged on rainy days when people congregated on the porch.

By my estimate numbers of climbers continued to increase this year with many people clinging to the solace of nature to help dispel the COVID blues. I continued to help maintain our summit facility in great shape with an immaculate outhouse, and virtually no graffiti on our structures. I greeted and chatted with visitors on the cabin porch each day and there was plenty of enthusiasm in evidence as I spent countless hours explaining the natural and human history of this section of the world. Despite the ever increasing deterioration of our worldwide biomes our Adirondack niche in northern New York State shows little ill effects and is a bastion of beauty in a world beset by diseases, wildfires, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, blizzards, and other disasters. That is part of the reason I live nearby Arab Mountain year round.

Once more we have two comfortable benches overlooking distant mountain vistas, a freshly painted fire tower, roof repairs, brand new tower cab windows that self latch upon opening. I maintain an immaculate trail and summit with much help from the climbers who collectively demonstrate strong environmental ethics. In addition Dr. P. Erickson continued his meticulous craftsmanship replacing gutters and handrails. Mr. J. Debes also continued assisting us with maintenance such as painting and kiosk repairs.

Again, I had a great Spring, Summer, and Autumn serving as your Summit Steward and look forward to returning in the summer of 2022.

Colin Tuggle, Alternate Summit Steward

I had the privilege of returning as a summit steward this season. This time I brought my children along with me! Caleb and Grace were able to learn the value of taking an active role in caring for one of our region's greatest resources.



My family has owned property for 54 years on one of the lakes overlooked by Mount Arab. I spent summers here and have been hiking the mountain my entire life. Rain or shine, we are blessed with an amazing resource: arguably one of the most family-friendly summit hikes in all the Adirondacks. And FOMA's work to continually care for the tower and observer's cabin really shows.

I began hiking the trail up Mount Arab long before FOMA was formed. So, I know what the trail and summit looked like before FOMA, and I know what it looks like now. There has been a dramatic improvement in the trail, tower, and cabin with far less littering and destruction to the environment. When people see that something is well-cared for, they tend to be more careful and respectful in turn. Good stewardship begets good stewardship. We need FOMA to keep doing this important work. The contributions from our supporters help to make it all possible.

The work we are doing is accomplishing so much more than just helping to maintain one mountain; Mount Arab has become a priceless educational resource and economic catalyst for our region. When we contribute to advancing this important work on our mountain, we are advancing the Adirondacks as a whole. I have no doubt that our work on Mount Arab is worth it, and look forward to many years helping to preserve this amazing resource.

Trail Improvements

Back in May around 10 Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) volunteers under the leadership of Andrew Hamlin spent a day cleaning out waterbars on the Mount Arab trail.

The TRIAD Challenge

The 'Tupper Triad Challenge', which includes a climb to the summit of Mount Arab in addition to climbing Coney and Goodman mountains, was held 9 October.

Cabin Repairs and other Maintenance

Peter Erickson completed a number of repairs on the observer's cabin including replacing the handrails by the steps to the porch, some minor siding repair, and a repair of the rain gutter.

Sheila Young painted the entire interior of the tower cab.

Jeff Debes who tends the FOMA website has also cleaned up and painted over much graffiti on the tower, cabin, and trailhead kiosk. He has also handled some maintenance on the kiosk.

'Lighting the Tower' and a Tsunami

Sheila Young led a 'Lighting the Tower' celebration on September 4th.

According to NCPR more than 1.1 million people camped in the Adirondacks in 2021, a new record for the park.

Tower Windows – Automatic Latches

FOMA discovered a problem with the tower windows that became apparent early in the summer. Windy days caused any opened windows to slam back and forth. Self-engaging latches were designed, constructed, and installed on the windows. This fix solved the problem. Volunteer work was performed by Dick Bentley and Larry Lee

A Disturbing Observation:

It has been otherwise noted that the Adirondack biome shows little of the degradation seen elsewhere throughout the world. While largely true, there were a number of very unnaturally hazy days this past year. That 'haze' was from the wildfires burning out west. Our world seems big, but the climate change insults the world is beginning to see eventually affect everyone. None of us can sit back complacently, point elsewhere, and say "Your end of the boat is sinking."

Plans for 2022

The tower needs a little more work on the roof including a metal patch and then the entire roof needs a paint job. The horizon displays also need renovation before the map table is reinstalled.

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.

Patches may be purchased by sending \$6 for each patch ordered (this includes shipping) to the address below.

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

Bench Replacement

The original Loughran Bench on the rocky outcrop just to the north of the observer's cabin had deteriorated over the many years it has sat in that location. This past year a member of the Loughran family produced a design for a replacement. Joan Weghorst offered to help fund the new

bench in memory of her parents. The two families pooled resources and produced the beautiful bench you see below. Much like the Sapp/Quinn bench renovated a few years back, this new bench has two plaques, one to memorialize the John Loughran family and one the Joan Weghorst family.



Designed and constructed by grandson Richard Loughran

**Friends of Mount Arab
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