



Friends of Mount Arab 2022 Newsletter

Directors

Chairman
Richard Bentley

Secretary
Colin Tuggle

Treasurer
Lawrence Lee

Letty Bartoszek
Peter Bartoszek
Thomas Cullen
Jeffrey Debes
Cynthia Erickson
Sheila Young
Herman
Vandenburgh

Liaisons

DEC Region 6
NYS Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Aaron Graves

Town of
Piercefield
Linda Pickering

ADK
Adirondack Mountain
Club Trail Crew

FFLA
Forest Fire Lookout
Association

CONTACT:

FOMA
PO Box 185
Piercefield, NY 12973

518-359-9300

bentley@northnet.org

Transitions

The FOMA board added a new member in 2022, and we welcome Cynthia Erickson to FOMA.

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 to October, or be regular summer residents who can also meet the obligation to attend most 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://friendsofmountarab.org>. Jeff 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 2022 donors:

\$ 500 Janet & Terry Silvester (in memory: Carrie Syne, Inge Sapp and Bill Rockefeller)
\$ 500 Christine Stults (in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 420 P-2's Irish Pub (benefit concert in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 400 Jonathan Magruder
\$ 300 Catherine & David Fant (in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 300 Susan Hearn & Gregory Dickson
\$ 250 Peter C. Galloway
\$ 200 Phillip Reynolds
\$ 150 Terry Timberlake-Kinter & Lewis Kinter
\$ 150 Linda & John Sheeran
\$ 100 Carol Mott
\$ 100 June Dewhirst
\$ 100 Tom Curley
\$ 100 Beth & William Kingston
\$ 100 Barbara & James Tucker
\$ 100 Lori & Brett Larson
\$ 100 Mike & Sue Kopek
\$ 100 Marie & Bernie Patten
\$ 100 Wendy Pierce
\$ 100 Fred Jubitz
\$ 100 Adele & Herman Vandenburgh

\$ 100 Thomas Tinney
\$ 100 BAOBAB Fund
\$ 100 Peg & Don Mauer (in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 100 Fletcher & Bell Giving Fund
\$ 100 Lynn Valenti
\$ 100 Theodore & Rhonda Starzyk (in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 100 Darwin & Cheryl Gensel
\$ 100 Ted Braude & Sharon Pink (in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 100 Keith Merrill (in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 100 Bruce Lewis (in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 100 John & Linda Sheeran (in memory: Louise & Toni Silliman)
\$ 80 Carol Theil & Peter Collinge
\$ 75 Brenda Kinnear
\$ 75 Phillip Paschall & Betty Cox
\$ 75 Phyllis Thompson
\$ 50 Ariel Burns
\$ 50 Lisa & James Mullane
\$ 50 Deolinda & Gregory Jessie
\$ 50 Fran Yardley
\$ 50 Christopher Cohan & Rita Wong
\$ 50 John LaGuttuta (in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 50 Mary & Randy Dexter
(in memory: Arleen Peets & Doc LaVassaur)
\$ 50 Janet & Loren Bailey
\$ 50 Nora Doane
\$ 50 Deborah & Charles Yartz
\$ 50 JoAnn & Toby Zenger
\$ 50 June Fait & Herb Coles
\$ 50 Elizabeth & Larry Shipton
\$ 50 Linda & John Greenwood
\$ 50 Peter O'Shea
\$ 50 Pam & Hank Fiaccone
\$ 50 Betty & Ed Allison
\$ 50 Monica Bartoszek
\$ 50 Leon & Denise Fortune (in memory: Carrie Syne & Inge Sapp)
\$ 40 Gary Koch
\$ 31 Dan Nielson
\$ 30 Alix Heuston (in memory: Inge Sapp)
\$ 25 Jackie Beattie
\$ 25 Ann Gordon
\$ 25 Joan and Thomas Dalton
\$ 25 Jon Cutler
\$ 25 Jocelyn & Rhys Prall
\$ 25 Anne Csete & David Katz
\$ 25 Christopher Wiles
\$ 25 Michelle Blair
\$ 25 Nancy & George McBride
\$ 25 Kristin & Danny Scott
\$ 25 Tod Campani
\$ 25 Diane & Robert Freer
\$ 25 Nancy & Brian Cornell
\$ 25 Sharon & Edward Lindo
\$ 25 Katherine O'Brien
\$ 25 Kevin Buckley (in memory: Carrie Syne)
\$ 25 Bencze Family (in memory: Inge Sapp)
\$ 25 Leonard Kerr
\$ 20 Zach Hoyt
\$ 10 Patricia & Roland Laffert
\$ 10 Darlene & Patrick Donnelly
\$ 10 Patsy Bove

And, everyone who climbs Mount Arab thanks you!



NEWS FROM THE TOP

By Thomas P. Cullen
Summit Steward



It was my pleasure to return once again as the Primary Summit Steward on the summit of Mount Arab.

As usual I commenced on Mother's Day and finished the season on Columbus Day, working three to four days a week and hosting large crowds of hikers.

At the summit museum I displayed extensive educational materials including maps, posters and paintings of local wildlife as well as merchandise that may be found on sale in a large display case at Fortunes True Value Hardware Store in Tupper Lake, NY.

Our climbers experienced a relatively wet Adirondack summer escaping the drier conditions in Upstate New York. My extensive knowledge of local Natural History, Human History, and Geology was useful as many climbers had a great many thoughtful questions.

Our new observation benches honoring family members, and wildlife paintings by our "artist at large: Roger Hall (www.inkart.net) were constantly complimented.

Our trail continues to be litter free and in great condition with minimal human impact. A small rerouting of the upper trail is planned for 2023 to avoid a steep bedrock slope that can be slippery when wet.

My tried and true Hummingbird Ecology Program continued with great success and increased to include other avian species enjoying both black oil sunflower seeds and the less well known, but highly nutritious, nyjer seeds from my bird feeders.

I hope to return again for a thirteenth year to staff the summit for the Friends of Mount Arab at this most rewarding of jobs. I hope to see many of you at the top.



Colin Tuggle, Alternate Summit Steward

I had the privilege of returning as a summit steward this season to help care for one of our region's greatest resources. Since my family has owned property on one of the lakes within the Mount Arab community for 55 years, I've 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. FOMA's work to 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 of 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, and 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. Our work on Mount Arab is well worth it, and I look forward to many years of helping to preserve this amazing resource.



Summit USGS Survey Markers

There are three USGS Survey Markers embedded atop Arab mountain. The one on the left with a triangle in the center is the true summit. The 2nd with an arrow pointing to the first is one of the secondary Markers.



Sheila Young, Alternate Summit Steward

It was my great pleasure to be a 2022 backup Mount Arab Steward. I met many, many hikers. Some were Tupper Triad challengers, some were first-time visitors, and some were the local residents who shared many interesting bits of history with me. I am also a certified ADK trail steward, so it was a personal goal to brush-in sections alongside the trail that were eroding due to hikers skirting the actual trail. I hope to be a backup steward for the 2023 season.



Rock along trail transported and deposited by ancient Glacier.

Summit Museum

Our summit museum is an important repository for the history of our fire tower. We are seeking components of an authentic Fire Observer uniform, hoping to create a new museum display. Anyone who has such items and would like to donate is encouraged to contact FOMA.

Tower Work

The Horizon Displays above the windows in the tower have been falling into disrepair, helped along by vandals who used spray paint to damage part of them. Further damage has resulted from seasonal expansion and contraction that has cracked the protective plexi covering.

The Displays have been temporarily removed and stored away. While doing this, a patch has been affixed over a cracked portion of the tower roof and some new bolts installed.

We have a tentative plan for remounting the Horizon Displays using aluminum, and a plan for installing protective plexi coverings that will not subject these coverings to stresses that would crack them.

Plans for 2023

We plan to remount the tower Horizon Displays in the coming year and replace the badly cracked plexi on one of the tower windows.

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 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

Work on the Tower Roof



Despite the smile on her face, Sudjai is NOT too happy with her husband being halfway out the tower window. That rope is tied off, but she is trying to take up the slack.



Four of the more than 15000 visitors in 2022



We do not know their names, but they are a lovely couple who rescue and adopt blind and visually impaired dogs. They take them hiking and mountain climbing with them in special doggy packs in order to stimulate and enrich their other canine senses.

Tom Cullen, Summit Steward, calls them true heroes.



Friends of Mount Arab
PO Box 185
Piercefield, NY 12973