



# Friends of Mount Arab 2017 Newsletter

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## **Transitions**

An entire year has gone by and there have been no changes to the FOMA board. We are, of course, still open to anyone wishing to joining our board and contributing to the FOMA effort. Keep in mind, such 'volunteers' should either live close enough to be able and willing to attend monthly meetings May – October, or regular summer visitors who can also meet the obligation to attend most meetings.

## **2018 Marks the tower Centennial**

The Mount Arab fire tower was built in 1918. This coming year is its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and FOMA has plans. I cannot yet tell you of those plans because they are still 'in the works'. But, visit and hike Mount Arab and celebrate with us.

## **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.

## **Future Projects**

The tower roof STILL needs that bit of repair and paint we spoke about in the last newsletter. The same goes for new windows in the tower. A local man believes he can start on both of these jobs in the spring. Let's hope.

## **Acknowledgements**

Friends of Mount Arab would like to sincerely thank our major donors since our 2016 newsletter:

★

Last year we received a \$500 donation from Robert & Carolyn Buhts. It should have been listed 'In memory of Raymond (Buzz) Dumas and Cindie Wilkins Cohen'.

★

\$200 - Robert & Carolyn Buhts in memory of Raymond (Buzz) Dumas & Cindie Wilkins Cohen

\$200 - Peter Galloway

\$200 - Wendy Pierce

\$200 - Linda and John Sheeran

\$125 - David and Catherine Fant

\$100 - Parker and Judy Blatchford

\$100 - Vasily and Mary Ann Cateforis

\$100 - Rhoda Curtiss

\$100 - Jeff Debes

\$100 - Carol Haddad

\$100 - Greg Dickson and Susan Hearn

\$100 - Helene and Chris Hoople

\$100 - Frederick Jubitz

\$100 - Terry and Lewis Kinter

\$100 - Alison and David Mandelbaum

\$100 - Dan Nielson

\$100 - Philip Reynolds

\$100 - Howard Schnettler

\$100 - Loron and Antone Silliman

\$100 - Walter and Sarah Smith

\$100 - Herman and Adele Vandenburg

\$100 - D. Walders and P. LaDouceur

\$100 - Keith and Donna Waltz

\$75 - Todd and Maura DuMoulin

\$50 - Gail and James Alcott

\$50 - Ed and Betty Allison

\$50 - Loren and Janet Bailey

\$50 - Lenora Doane

\$50 - Laurie Eschmann

\$50 - Joe Fazio

\$50 - Louis and Claire Flanagan

\$50 - James and Barbara Gaffney

\$50 - Michele LaForest Halloran

\$50 - Lianne and John Kaul

\$50 - Linda and Rick Rockefeller

\$50 - Terry and Janet Silvester

\$50 - Carol Thiel and Peter Collinge

\$50 - J.L. and E.A. Tucker

\$25 - Kathryn Alleman

\$25 - Ann and John Call

\$25 - Anne Csete and David Katz

\$25 - Thomas and Joan Dalton

\$25 - Mary and Randy Dexter

\$25 - Lawrence Doriguzzi

\$25 - Lisa Drake

\$25 - Joan and Kris Dumas

\$25 - Diane and Robert Freer

\$25 - Edwin and Anne Gordon

\$25 - Helen Kiklevich

\$25 - Gary Koch

\$25 - Edward & Sharon Lindo

\$25 - Linda Marshall

\$25 - George McBride

\$25 - William Morrison

\$25 - Brian and Jennifer Moss

\$25 - Jeanne and Brian Nichols

\$25 - Katherine O'Brien

\$25 - William Rockefeller

\$25 - Fleurette Rolley

\$25 - Danny and Kristin Scott

\$25 - Elizabeth and Larry Shipton

\$25 - Elaine Winslow

\$25 - JoAnn and Toby Zenger

\$20 - Vera and Howard Ennis

\$15 - Gordon Batson



## NEWS FROM THE TOP

By Thomas P. Cullen,  
Summit Steward



Once again, five months flew by so fast from my perch on top of the world atop Mount Arab and its iconic fire tower.

My two Newfoundland Dogs, Toby and Apollo,

were once again the superstars, and I played a supporting role! They have become celebrities of a sort, with many climbers stating they came up "to see the dogs"!!

Once again this past year I attempted to highlight both human and natural history on Adirondack mountaintops by attempting to personally interact with as many of the climbers as possible with a museum tour and natural history interpretation. I respected the wishes of other climbers who preferred a solitary interlude on a beautiful mountain top.

Our summit museum, enriched with donated wildlife art by Roger Hall, my interpretation of the natural and human history of the surrounding areas, and the abundant insect, bird, and plant life of the area kept me busy, more so due to the new influx of climbers attempting the Tupper Lake Triad. I am the only human stationed atop any of the triad destinations, so I am queried constantly as to locations, directions, patches, etc. Our large Museum map displays and historical photographs and my familiarity with many areas of the Adirondack Park enables me to advise and guide visitors to many other locales with views, solitude, or wildlife encounters. I especially like recommending little known hikes to remote destinations, where folks can get away from the hustle and bustle of the high peak crush of hikers.

Once again I represented the Adirondack Mountain Club Fire Tower Challenge program atop Mt Arab, fielding myriads of questions, distributing information pamphlets, writing certificates and dispensing advice to folks interested in this endeavor. This Program has great potential, and I am ready to help from on top of Mt Arab. We need more application forms, updated volumes of Views from On High, and other incentives to encourage hikers to complete this hugely popular challenge.

As usual my work with school groups is a highlight I'm very proud of. My canine companions especially welcomed the thousands of young people who climb this mountain. We are proud of our trail which makes it possible for youngsters as young as three years of age to climb on their own with minimal assistance from parents. This gives them a great sense of accomplishment.

My dogs and I look forward to returning to summit duty on top of Mt Arab again next year, my eighth year of involvement. We hope to see you!

## Current Projects

The map table in the tower cab has been repaired. FOMA now has, thanks to DEC, a digital version of the tower map covering the traditional 30 mile diameter that with FOMA donations has enabled us to have the image printed on vinyl and again covered with plexy.

We are now waiting to have the tower roof repaired and painted, and to have new aluminum windows fabricated and installed in the tower cab before reinstalling the map table. Hopefully, we will not see the sort of vandalism to this historic feature we have experienced in the past.



Geology Class

## The Tupper Lake Triad

The Tupper Lake Triad presents a fun challenge that can be achieved by nearly any individual who is in reasonably good health, and who enjoys hiking in the Adirondacks. Most do this as an individual effort, but it also can be great fun for entire young and energetic families.

The challenge consists of climbing to the summit of three mountains local to the Tupper Lake area - Goodman Mountain, Coney Mountain, and Mount Arab. As you will see on the Triad website <http://www.tupperlaketriad.com/>, and as I can attest from personal experience, these three peaks offer outstanding views for a minimal amount of effort. All the mountains are summited via DEC State maintained trails. And since one of these mountains is Mount Arab, you may climb the fire tower. When our summit steward is on duty you will also be able to view our mini-museum inside the observer's cabin.

Upon successful completion of the 3 climbs an individual may submit a completed form (you will find on the website above) plus \$5 and be registered with a climbing number. You will receive a Triad Decal & Patch. There is also a Canine section with a distinctive Patch/Decal.

There are 2 climbing seasons; Winter, and Spring thru Fall, with a patch/decal for each season. Check the website above for the Winter, and Spring thru Fall climbing season dates.

## Hiking Mount Arab during Hunting Season

Nearly every year we get a question about whether or not the Mount Arab trail is closed to hiking during hunting season. There is confusion because the trail crosses private land at the beginning, and a number of references you may see state that the trail is closed at that time.

The trail is NOT closed. This story began in 1990 when NY State purchased a Conservation Easement (CE) from Yorkshire Timber. This CE is a legal document that runs with the land and defines the rights the public has on this private land on which the Mount Arab trail begins. This CE included a 'phase-in period' during which the general public was prohibited from hunting on the private land during big game season to accommodate a private hunting club who leased the land for this purpose. This 'prohibition' lasted during the 'phase-in period', ending in 2004.

According to Aaron Graves, our DEC liaison, while DEC put up signs during that period prohibiting the public from 'hunting' during big game season, they never actually prohibited the public from using the trail to access the summit of Mount Arab.

Adding to the confusion, the fire towers on Spruce Mountain and Stillwater ARE closed during big game season because the private landowners these trails cross do not allow ANY public access during big game season. You can hike the Mount Arab trail at any time, for any reason.

### 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





Kids love hiking Mount Arab

**Friends of Mount Arab**  
**PO Box 185**  
**Piercefield, NY 12973**