



Friends of Mount Arab 2019 Newsletter

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Transitions

The FOMA board remained unchanged in 2019.

And 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.

On the Web

We are on the internet and our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMtArab> has been very popular this past year. And of course do not forget 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. 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 the following three mountains, each of which is within a short drive of Tupper Lake:

The 3 mountains are Coney, Goodman, and of course, Mount Arab. The TRIAD has been taken over by ROOST. For registration, go to:

<https://www.tupperlake.com/f/blog/1819files/tl%20triad%20pdf%20.pdf>

For a real challenge, do all 3 in one day.

Acknowledgements

Friends of Mount Arab would like to sincerely thank our major donors in 2019:

\$250 - Jonathan Magruder
\$200 - Peter Galloway
\$100 - Rhoda Curtiss
\$100 - Antonene and Loron Silliman
\$100 - Sarah and Walter Smith
\$100 - Joe Fazio
\$100 - Phyllis Wendt Pierce
\$100 - Phillip Reynolds
\$100 - BAOBAB Fund
\$100 - Herman and Adele Vandenburgh

\$50 - Betty and Ed Allison
\$50 - Barbara and James Gaffney
\$50 - Jennifer Moss
\$50 - Pamela Fiaccone
\$50 - Carol Thiel and Peter Collinge
\$50 - Joan Dumas
\$50 - Janet and Terry Silvester
\$50 - June Fait and Herbert Coles
\$50 - Laura Lewis Brown
\$50 - Lenora Doane
\$50 - Vera and Howard Ennis
\$50 - June Dewhirst
\$50 - Barbara and James Tucker
\$50 - David Sargent
\$50 - Lori and Bret Larson
\$50 - Beth and Bill Kingston
\$50 - Gail and Jim Alcott
\$50 - Linda and Rick Rockefeller
\$50 - M.E. Cox and Phillip Paschall
\$50 - Marianne and Warren Lubenow
\$50 - Donna and Peter Miasek
\$40 - Janne Debes
\$40 - William Rockefeller
\$35 - Gary Koch
\$30 - Kaaren Reeder
\$30 - Peg and Grant Cornwell
\$25 - Charles Bergener
\$25 - Lauren Eschmann
\$25 - JoAnn and Toby Zenger
\$25 - Wendy and Richard Greguski
\$25 - Paul Overby
\$25 - Joan and Thomas Dalton
\$25 - Katherine O'Brien
\$25 - Helen Kiklevich
\$25 - Peg and Don Mauer
\$25 - Kristin and Danny Scott
\$25 - Mary and Randall Dexter
\$25 - Anne and Edwin Gordon
\$25 - Jocelyn and Rhys Prall
\$25 - Christopher Wiles
\$25 - Emily Howell
\$25 - Anne Csete and David Katz
\$25 - Grace and Harry Risetto
\$25 - M.E. Keller
\$25 - Deborah and Charles Yartz
\$20 - Diane and Robert Freer
\$10 - Phyllis Thompson
\$10 - Maegan and Samuel Hess
\$10 - Jackie Beattie

Everyone who climbs Mount Arab thanks you!



NEWS FROM THE TOP

By Thomas P. Cullen,
Summit Steward



Once again, I have the pleasure of reporting on my activities as Summit Steward on Arab Mountain for five months commencing

on Mother's Day May 2019 and ending on Columbus Day, 2019. The slightly earlier opening of my season encompassing Mother's Day seems to be a success as many moms and their children enjoy this festive day by getting outdoors and climbing a mountain.

As usual, the Friends of Mt. Arab continued making improvements to the trail, tower, and museum. Our new museum floor garnered hundreds of compliments, graffiti was promptly removed from the tower and museum, and touch up painting was occasionally done. It is a beautiful place to visit.

Many school groups ranging from elementary age to college graduate school hike our mountain. Youngsters always receive prizes including tattoos, stickers, postcards, and DEC magazines. Our giant spider poster in the "Spider Meditation Room" within the museum was a magnet for kids, who like myself are fascinated with our 8-legged friends.

Our hummingbird sanctuary continues to be a great success. I also distribute Nyjer and black oil sunflower seeds for other wild avifauna.

Accolades continue to be communicated to me on the cleanliness of our outhouse. Three years old and not a trace of vandalism or graffiti. Our newly constructed vista view bench sponsored by the Sap and Quinn families was very popular for observation, snacks, and lunches. Strategically placed hummingbird feeders provided plentiful "bird brained" entertainment.

Finally, this was my first year of service without my two welcoming Newfoundland dog buddies. Apollo passed away at 11 years old and Toby, 13 years old, found the climb too grueling so he stayed home to "guard the house". Hundreds of people every month asked about them.

I look forward to returning for my 10th year of service in 2020.

See you at the top.



One of Tom's several hummingbird feeders.

Notable Activities in 2019

On May 4th the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) conducted trail steward training on Mount Arab. Sheila Young, a FOMA director, attended for the third time. The crew cleared every drainage from trailhead to summit. Sheila has declared that as long as they will have her, she will continue to participate. She says she is always learning something new!

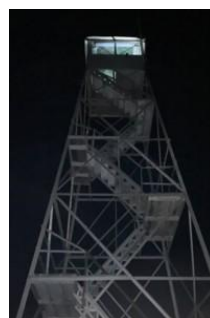
In May Sheila Young conducted a refreshment of the DEC designated primitive campsite east of the tower, side-cutting brush in the paths and cleaning out the fire ring. In the past this area has been extensively used by the Boy Scouts from the Massawepie Boy Scout Camp.

On June 15 the ADK and the Tahawus Trail crews cleared and improved many of the trail drainages and relocated the outhouse which involved digging a new outhouse pit, moving the outhouse over it, and filling in the old pit.

The Summer Solstice arrived June 22. The photo below is the Summer Solstice sunrise view from the Mount Arab Fire Tower.



August 31 FOMA participated in a 'Light the Tower' event at 9 PM. Five of us, equipped with headlamps, hiked up the mountain in the evening. Sheila Young, our point person for this event, came equipped with several LED lamps that she hung in the tower cab.





Earlier in the year the Quinn family as a memorial to Carolyn Quinn's deceased husband Michael, in cooperation with the Sapp family that built the original bench as a memorial to Ingeborg Sapp's deceased husband Robert, together had a new bench constructed. The original Sapp bench had fallen into decay over its many years on the summit and by DEC edict additional benches on the summit would not be allowed. So the new bench was built cooperatively with the original plaque for the Sapp family, and a new separate plaque for the Quinn family.

Tupper Lake TRIAD Challenge

The Tupper Lake 'TRIAD Challenge' took place this past year on October 12th. Management of the TRIAD has been taken on by ROOST (the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism), and the TRIAD Challenge is now managed by the Rotary Club. The 12th of October was during the Columbus Day weekend. This past year was the first time for the Rotary Club and when they took on the job they had little time to prepare. There was little advertisement. In 2020, with things more settled, there will be early and frequent publicity. But once again the TRIAD Challenge will be limited to 50 competitors so anyone wishing to participate should sign up early.

Plans for 2020

The DEC plans to do a trail reroute in areas of severe erosion.

Tower Windows – A Continuing Saga

FOMA has encountered another snag in the new tower windows installation project. The person who made the aluminum windows had an accident (not on our job) and has been out of action. We hope to complete the job in the coming year.

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**

Winter Hike

This photo was taken, I believe, in January 2019 about one quarter of the way down from the summit.



Another Winter Hike

It seems that winter hiking up Mount Arab has become ever more popular.



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