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## Adirondack Trail Improvement Society

### *NEWSLETTER*

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Spring 2009

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Dear friends:

This will be my last letter as President of ATIS since I will be succeeded by Bobbie Landers later in the summer.

I wanted to thank you for your support over the eight years that I have been president. It has been an easy and welcome job – aided by an able group of fellow believers (the boards) and a very good staff of young people who have made my job easy by performing their job well. John Butterworth handed me an organization that was in good shape to start with and Tony Goodwin could not have been an easier or more capable person to work with. And Barbara McClelland, who is also retiring after many, many years as treasurer, has made our financial workings comprehensible, transparent and current. A special thanks to her.

This organization can almost carry on by itself as long as it has a good executive director and now a new director of our junior program, Megan Wellford. It is one that may need tweaking occasionally but its *raison d'être* makes such good sense that it can't help but succeed. Who can say that teaching young people respect and love for the woods, our streams and mountains is not a good thing? Step forward please and identify yourself if you disagree because I think you may need help. Who can find fault when young people – hiking together – form friendships that in many cases will last a life time. Or that our adults now have a chance to participate in hikes and trips with the same results? For it is this sense of community that makes the mountains a special place to maintain the bonds of family and friends...what is our life without such bounty? We are indeed fortunate.

So it is with a whiff of sadness that I say goodbye. Not that I will be leaving ATIS. I will always hang around especially as I have grandchildren who are in the wings waiting to sign up. I have appreciated the opportunity of writing these letters twice a year and occasionally sending out an added plea for funds. Yes, funds which you so kindly have donated and hopefully will do so in the future. It has been a bully pulpit for me of a sort – hinting at, if not advocating values that I treasure. And without your support and feedback, which I have received in good measure, it would not have been as much fun as it has been.

In closing, I am very grateful to all of you and offer my sincere thanks once again –

*Sam*

Sam Fisk

## **JUNIOR PROGRAM UPDATES 2009 - Megan Wellford, Program Director**

We are looking forward to a fun-filled summer of hiking and canoe trips! We are fortunate to have an **enthusiastic and experienced group of counselors** returning to lead a packed trip schedule. Annie Boucher will be returning as Head Counselor. Cousins Sam and Katie Hoar will be joining Kate Burchenal as Senior Counselors this summer. Returning Junior Counselors will include Kathryn Landers and Summer Reed. Counselors in Training will be Schuyler Nardelli, Sarah Balaguer, Hannah Hoar, Ben Ticknor, and Jack Rauch. This group of counselors has experience, the ability to work well with children, and a love of the Adirondacks. They are sure to help create lasting memories for ATIS participants!

On Mondays and Tuesdays in July, and throughout the month of August, **Jessica Cannarella** will be joining the ranks of ATIS for the first time. Jessie is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Teaching Program for Childhood Education at SUNY Plattsburgh. She will bring her teaching expertise, creativity, and patience to ATIS activities. She is looking forward to getting to know the ATIS community!

In terms of paperwork, sign up procedures will remain the same this summer. We will continue to ask that families fill out a health waiver for all children participating in ATIS activities. Each child's completed form will be on file in the ATIS building, so you should only have to fill it out once. It can be downloaded from the ATIS website ([www.atis-web.com](http://www.atis-web.com)) before the season starts and will be available at the ATIS Headquarters during the season.

### **New This Year:**

This summer, ATIS will be offering an introductory **Discovery Program**. These trips are printed in red ink on the calendar, and will go out once each week. Designed for 4-7 year olds, Discovery hikes will offer an introductory trip that is less focused on reaching a summit and more interested in exploring the trail along the way. We will read stories, play games, sing songs, or create projects during our exploration, rather than just march to the summit. The Discovery Program promises to be a great way to ease children into longer hiking trips!

**Nature Activities** will continue to explore the natural world along the West River Trail this summer. The only change is that age ranges from two years ago will be re-implemented. Two hour sessions will be offered for 4-6 year olds and three hour sessions will continue for 7-10 year olds.

### **Schedule Highlights:**

Please mark your calendars for this summer's **Picnics**. They will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup>, and are sure to offer a great time for everyone!

The **Fairy Ladder Falls** trip on July 7<sup>th</sup> and the **Indian Pass traverse** on July 9<sup>th</sup> are more "off the beaten path" than some of our typical peak bagging adventures and are sure to offer great exploration potential! On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will once again attempt to hike the **Santanonis** in a day. Hopefully this will be the year that we get to all three peaks *and* return on time! A few of the typical Alderdice overnights have been switched to **introductory backpacking trips** to Lost Pond on July 28<sup>th</sup> and the ADK lean-to on Johns Brook on August 10<sup>th</sup>. These trips will provide a small taste of backpacking (1-1.5 miles) without being overly strenuous.

Otherwise, the schedule is brimming with the classic adventures that make ATIS exciting! We are looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

## TRAIL CREW – Tony Goodwin

By the time you read this newsletter, the trail crew will already have been at work for two or so weeks. Blowdown has so far been generally light, although a “high wind warning” (forecast for today as I write this) may change that in a hurry. Assuming we don’t have to start all over again, the crew should be able to spend most of their time this summer on significant improvements.

The crew chief this summer will be my son, Robbie Goodwin. Robbie worked last summer on a Student Conservation Association trail crew in Idaho, having worked surveying in Alaska and the Adirondacks during the two previous summers. Robbie brings four fellow University of Maine students, Zach Bell, Cameron Gould, Ari Horovitz, and Duncan Lennon to the crew as well. These friends all have good outdoor experience and should make this a most productive crew. Joining the crew for the early part of the season will be Zach Bell who worked for ATIS briefly last year before working the rest of the summer for the Adirondack Mt. Club at Johns Brook Lodge. Cameron Gould has most recently worked for an outfitter, but also cleared remote rights of way for a Maine contractor. Ari Horovitz has rock climbed here and elsewhere while Duncan Lennon will join the crew in June after completing a year’s studies in London, England. He worked as an ADK Summit Steward in 2007 and then on the Randolph Mountain Club trail crew last summer. Returning to the crew will be Logan Quinn and Nick Nardelli. Additionally, Jack Rauch will work two weeks in July when he is not working as a CIT.

Beyond clearing blowdown, while at the Upper Lake the crew will continue work on replacing bog bridges on the Elk Lake-Marcy Trail between Marcy Swamp and Panther Gorge. Following their stay at the Upper Lake, the crew will turn its attention to the Nubble and Washbowl connector trails so that we bring those trails up to the same standard as the Roaring Brook and Ridge trails. We have also applied for permission to construct a new piece of trail near the top of the Roaring Brook Trail to bypass one or hopefully both of the sidehill “disaster areas” that have plagued hikers for years. The new trail would cut to the right and ultimately join the Ridge Trail a few hundred yards below the current junction of the two trails.

If we do not secure permission for this project, other possibilities include a “ten year tune up” of the Rooster Comb trail. This would include adding steps where ten years of heavy use has shown excessive wear plus enlarging and adding ditches where experience has shown water still manages to run down the trail.

*Partially funded by an ATIS member, this program has educated many children about the natural world. Seasonal residents are welcome to join.*

### Wonders of the Woods

Two week-long outdoor programs for children ages 4, 5 and 6 - Sponsored by Little Peaks Preschool. Cost: \$ 50. maximum 15 children

July 27-31, and August 3-7 Children may choose to attend one, or both weeks.

The woods and pond behind Keene Central School will be our classroom. Sunshine or rain, we will spend each morning almost entirely outside, exploring nature in all its moods. Our goal is to give children uninterrupted time to observe, interact with and play in the Adirondack environment. For more information, or to register please call or email Nan Amstutz 946-2662 [nanamstutz@frontiernet.net](mailto:nanamstutz@frontiernet.net)

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2009 annual meeting of the Adirondack Trail Improvement Society will be held on Saturday, July 18 at 9:30 AM in the ATIS Headquarters Building. Business to be transacted includes a review of the Society’s accomplishments during the past year, a report on the financial condition of the organization, a privilege of the floor, and the election of Directors for the 2009-10 fiscal year. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting.

**ADULT PROGRAM**

The Adult Program schedule for this summer will as usual be mailed in June. While “as usual” describes the mailing, each schedule is a unique creation by Sarah Marble and Karen Doman. Whether you want easy paddles, peak-bagging treks, or anything in between, be sure to check it out when it arrives.

**NEW WEB SITE PHOTOS**

Thanks to our webmaster, Ray Nardelli, and submissions from a number of counselors and families, the ATIS web site has some new and much more current photos. If you haven’t checked in on atis-web.com recently, you might be surprised to recognize yourself or someone you know participating in ATIS activities – just what you might need to get psyched for the coming summer.

**OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND ADVISORS 2008-09**

**President**

Sam Fisk, P.O. Box 453, Keene Valley, NY 12943

**Vice-President**

Bobbie Burchenal Landers, 17 Juniper Rd., Darien, CT 06820

**Secretary**

Margie Garland Whitman, 1510 Boyce Ave., Baltimore, MD 21204

**Treasurer**

Barbara McClelland, P.O. Box 791, Keene Valley, NY 12943

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Sam Fisk  
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Terms Ending in 2010

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Zandy Barrett  
Erik Jacobson  
Bobbie Burchenal Landers  
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Stephen McCarthy  
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Terms Ending in 2009

Karen Doman  
Timothy Fritzingler  
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Ray Nardelli  
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