

# Raquette Lake News

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## Inside This Issue

- 2 From the Director's Desk
- 2 Art and Crafts Come Together
- 3 Hoxie Gorge Arboretum Dedicated
- 3 Alumni Adventure Camp
- 4 Vegetation Monitoring Sites Established in Raquette Lake
- 4 Allyn International Builds Teamwork at Raquette Lake
- 5 New Education Class Offers Hands-on First Aid Skills
- 5 New Twist on EST 100
- 5 Big Island Canoe Race
- 6 Nature Nook

## For Newsletter Extras

[cortland.edu/outdoor](http://cortland.edu/outdoor)  
under newsletter

## Upcoming Events

For a list of our Upcoming Events  
[cortland.edu/rl-events](http://cortland.edu/rl-events)

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## Recent Graduate Brings Young Pupils To Camp



When he graduated with his master's degree in literacy last spring and was hired to teach at the Town of Webb Union Free School (TOWS) this fall, Jeremiah Best '11, M '15, knew he wanted his students to experience some of what he did as a SUNY Cortland student at Camp Huntington. Fortunately his principal, John Swick, was open to the idea, and on Tuesday, Sept. 22, the third, fourth and fifth grades from TOWS boarded the boat at Antlers and came to Camp Huntington for a day of learning and adventure.

The day was a dream that School of Education Dean Andrea LaChance and Beth Klein, professor in childhood/early childhood education, had shared for years, ever since they began bringing childhood and early childhood education students here in 2000. In 2005 it became a requirement for the major. Giving our pre-service teachers an opportunity to work with elementary students in the field is the best way to encourage them to continue to do so in their future classrooms. The arrangement came together when Jeremiah approached his former block instructor, Chris Widdall, '00, M '03, assistant professor in childhood/early childhood education, about the idea and they gained the support of Beth, who coordinates the session at Raquette Lake. With the support of a grant from our program and access fund to provide a bus from Old Forge, everything came together.



Photos courtesy of Chris Widdall

Students in EDU 374, Teaching Elementary Science, planned three separate activities to deliver to the youngsters: history of Camp Huntington, animal survival and nature observation. Each class rotated through all three activities and joined up for a bag lunch in the meadow on a beautiful, sunny day. Many of the students rated the history activity their favorite, as Cortland students wore mustaches to impersonate Collis Huntington and William and Thomas Durant. It ended with a game of Great Camp Jeopardy, where the children competed to answer questions about the history they had just experienced.

Throughout the day, the children were issued iPads to take pictures, and upon their return to school, they used these to create short film strips to document their experience. There are already plans underway for a winter field trip, and the entire faculty of TOWS is discussing a professional development day here in the spring. This seems to be a natural match, and we look forward to developing a variety of programs that benefit both Cortland and the local school.



## From The Director's Desk

Another extended summer season is behind us, and as usual when I sit down to write this column, we have already seen snow and freezing temperatures. The excitement of the winter season to come washes over me as we stack wood, put up the storm windows, and say goodbye to our seasonal friends once again.

2015 marked an important anniversary for two of our facilities within the William H. Parks Family Center for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Both Hoxie Gorge and Antlers turned 50. The ceremonies, held on July 11 and Aug. 22 respectively, were held on glorious summer days and attended by enthusiastic supporters. In addition to the anniversaries, both included dedications to people who are important to our history and future. Hoxie Gorge's anniversary included the dedication of an arboretum to its founders, and the Antlers gathering honored Lynne Parks Hoffman '68 for her \$1 million naming gift to the center in honor of her family.

In our continuing attempt to improve program quality and manage the risk in our outdoor activities, a new boating policy went into effect this summer that requires all student groups to be supervised by qualified instructional staff. A clinic was held in early June for anyone with sufficient personal experience on how to conduct effective lessons and handle on-water emergencies. Groups that could not provide their own instruction were directed to an approved list of instructors. The feedback from leaders was mainly positive, recognizing the importance of making sure our students are safe and leave with good basic boating skills.

Many improvements were made to the Raquette Lake campuses, but the two foremost ones were the completion of the self-serve kitchen in the Main Lodge at Antlers and replacement of the roof on the Birch Dorm, Library, office building and Bathhouse at Camp Huntington. The kitchen was christened this fall by four groups who used the Main Lodge as a base camp for their Adirondack adventures.

We said goodbye to two of our food service staff, Josh and Victoria Stanton this summer and welcomed experienced ASC employee Robb Tinker. That makes three Robs and one Bob out of five staff at Camp Huntington this winter. I hope we aren't in trouble with human resources for lack of name diversity. All of us look forward to our first visitors across the ice road in January.



Outdoor Pursuits trip leaders cooking breakfast at Antlers. Photo courtesy of Mary McNally



President Bitterbaum emceeding the Antlers 50th Anniversary Celebration

## Art and Crafts Come Together In Workshop

When the Huntingtons left Camp Pine Knot in 1900, they left behind much of the artwork that they and the Durants before them had collected and put on display. Some of it had never been properly framed and had fallen into poor condition. A multi-part service project conducted by Arethusa Sorority alumni in July helped restore and preserve many valuable historic pieces.



Arethusa Sorority sisters hard at work making birch bark frames.

The first step was to take the pieces to be preserved to Jaroslava Prihodova, assistant to the gallery director, in the Dowd Gallery. There she meticulously cleaned the prints and matted them professionally. Once they were matted, the dimensions were sent to local birch bark frame artisan, Bruce Wight, who custom cut the wooden frames. Then, on day one of the workshop at Camp Huntington, Arethusa volunteers learned how to apply birch bark, twigs, and hemlock cones to the frames in the Adirondack style. That night, Jaroslava completed the frames by inserting the matted art work and sealing the backs to prevent any further atmospheric deterioration.

On the second day of the workshop, Jaroslava demonstrated the complete matting and framing process, so that the participants could do their own in the future. Everyone in the class was able to mat and frame a small piece of art they had brought with them. Many of them are enthusiastic water color artists or have works at home that they can now professionally display.

The Camp Huntington artworks that are displayed in the Chalet and Durant Cabin will help tell the story of the Durant and Huntington families at Camp Pine Knot for years to come. In addition, the participants in the workshop were able to learn both the art of birch bark framing and professional matting. This was truly a win-win for all concerned, and we'd like to thank both Bruce and Jaroslava for sharing their time and talents.



Displaying finished frames at the historic Forsythe '58, M '65 Carpenter's Shop.

## Hoxie Gorge Arboretum Dedicated

When emeritus professors John Gustafson, George McDermott and Eugene Waldbauer found and acquired for SUNY Cortland the 169 acres of farm, forest and fields in Cortlandville back in 1965, they had a vision that thousands of students would eventually pursue their field studies, research opportunities and knowledge of the natural environment on the property. Fifty years later, that dream has been more than realized, and in an anniversary ceremony on July 11, all three were on hand to be honored with the establishment of a Founders' Arboretum.

President Bitterbaum and many Cortland alumni, faculty, and staff were in attendance to hear the story of Hoxie Gorge, including an exciting last minute race to find a property owner on his deathbed to acquire his signature on the purchase and sales agreement. At the celebration, the dedication sign was on display, as well as the first four trees that were planted this fall. They include native species that no longer exist on the property – bur oak, fringe tree, chestnut oak and white oak.

The bur oak was singled out to honor retiring Distinguished Service Professor Larry Klotz, Biological Sciences. Larry began teaching at Cortland in 1979 and was the Hoxie Gorge property manager for over 25 years. During his tenure, he led the development of the McDermott Nature Trail and guide, nurtured the fallow farmland back to its natural state, and removed the remaining derelict buildings. There have also been over 40 publications and \$1 million dollars in grant money raised focusing on Hoxie Gorge.

Larry's influence on outdoor/environmental education extended well beyond Hoxie Gorge, as he taught a two-week field biology course with colleagues from his department for many years at Raquette Lake. His students amassed years of water quality data from the lake that form a foundation for future research that will continue under Angela Pagano associate professor, biological sciences. For the past four years, he also served on the center's advisory board and chaired its stewardship committee. All of us that work in the environmental field owe a debt of gratitude to Larry, and we hope the Klotz Oak will spread its branches, provide shade and inspire future generations.



Hoxie Gorge Founders from left to right: Eugene Waldbauer, John Gustafson, and George McDermott



## Alumni Adventure Camp

An adventurous group of alumni joined us in July for our first Adventure Camp. The active group of adults learned kayaking and paddleboard skills on the first day with our summer program assistant Ian White.

Each participant learned how to do a wet exit out of a kayak and how to balance on the paddleboards.

A warm sunny day called for a whitewater rafting adventure. Jeff Dickinson '85, M '96, fully dressed in SUNY Cortland

red, was one of our rafting guides. The 15-mile trip goes through the beautiful Hudson River Gorge ending in North River, guarantees some laughs and getting wet.

Alumni often ask us to open up the high ropes course for them. We typically do not have the staff to do so; however, we made sure we were ready for this high octane experience. Each participant had the option to choose if and how much they wanted to challenge themselves. All participants ended up trying and completing the high course, including a thrilling ride down the zip line.

If this kind of adventure speaks to you, then clear your calendar for July 21-24, 2016. It will be offered again and consist of whitewater rafting, ropes course and more!



Photo courtesy of Lew Cowan '73

## Vegetation Monitoring Sites Established in Raquette Lake

Written by Angela Pagano, Ph.D



Research took center stage this summer for a group of scientists and students interested in long-term monitoring of plant communities in Raquette Lake. Biology undergraduates Quintin Casella (SUNY Cortland) and Haley Wagner (Lebanon Valley College) accompanied by Angela Pagano, associate professor in biological sciences at SUNY Cortland and Rebecca Urban, associate professor in biology at Lebanon Valley College in An-nville, Pa., spent part of June and August establishing research locations within the lake. Their focus on plants stems from the central role the plants play in lake ecosystems. In addition to forming the base of the food web, aquatic plants provide habitat for a variety of animals, stabilize sediments, influence oxygen levels, and can change the trophic structure within a lake. Therefore, any changes in plant communities have the potential to influence key lake processes. Plant surveys like this are useful to study community succession as well as to determine the impact that disturbances and global change have on lake ecosystems.

Using Antlers as a home base, the research team set up a total of 13 vegetation monitoring sites distributed among the areas of Beaver Bay, Eldon Lake, Pug Bay and next to Camp Huntington. With the help of Ken Hawks, president of the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation, the team conducted baseline sampling of the sites -- surveying by SCUBA to record plant distribution and to collect sediment and water chemistry data. The researchers plan to return each year to resample these sites.

Pagano and Urban are not newcomers to Raquette Lake. Both conducted part of their doctoral research here and have remained interested in how environmental change is impacting the lake ecosystem. The new data they are collecting will give a more comprehensive understanding of the health of Raquette Lake over time.

Pagano and Casella were supported by a Cortland Faculty Research Program grant and a grant from the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation. Urban and Wagner were supported by an Arnold Grant and a Faculty Research Grant from Lebanon Valley College.



Ken Hawks and Haley Wagner  
Photos courtesy of Angela Pagano

## Allyn International Builds Teamwork at Raquette Lake

For the past eight years Allyn International, based in Fort Meyers, Fla., has brought its employees to Raquette Lake from offices in China, Czech Republic, Germany, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and Mexico. Their core business functions include logistics solutions, tax and trade compliance services. The annual trips to Camp Huntington are designed to bring the team closer together, build organizational values and provide leadership development for the global group.

Each retreat includes intensive classroom work interspersed with some sort of outdoor challenge experience. This year featured a canoe trip through the Eckford Chain of Lakes from Raquette to Blue Mountain Lake or vice versa. The two groups met for lunch in the middle at the historic canoe carry along the Marion River and exchanged canoes to complete their journey. The employees also spent an afternoon on the high and low ropes course as part of the outdoor team building activities. Previous years' schedules have included climbing West Mountain, a Survivor simulation, and a marketing exercise that required preparing a dessert using a Dutch oven over an open fire.

A bit of serendipity was the reason that Allyn found Camp Huntington in 2008. One of our alumni, Jeff Dickinson '85, M '96 was hired

to lead a canoe trip while the group was staying at Great Camp Sagamore nearby. As the group paddled by Camp Huntington, Jeff mentioned to the CEO, Allen Trevett, that he was an instructor for our physical education courses. Allen contacted then director Jack Sheltmire and decided to move the program here. The relationship between the Parks Family Outdoor Center and Allyn International has blossomed over the years, and there is a great deal of planning to coordinate the logistics of travel, program design, the outside consultants, and the meals for as many as 150 employees over three to four sessions between June and September. Camp Huntington provides the perfect combination of isolation, comfortable accommodations and outdoor venues to meet the needs of this dynamic company, and we hope it will continue for many years to come.



## Wilderness First Aid Course

Jan. 16-17, 2016

For more information [cortland.edu/rl-events](http://cortland.edu/rl-events)

This course is a perfect match for anyone who spends considerable time in the outdoors. Excellent for educators, outdoor professionals or the occasional hiker. The course can also be used to re-certify your Wilderness First Responder.

## New Education Class Offers Hands-on First Aid Skills

Two faculty members active in delivering programs at Raquette Lake have collaborated to provide a unique, one-credit



Photos courtesy of Chris Widdall

course that combines a certification in Responding to Emergencies (RTE) and methods for teaching outdoors. The course is the brainchild of Corey Ryon '99, M '03, lecturer in health and physical education, and Chris Widdall '00, M '03, assistant professor in childhood/early childhood educa-

tion. It is offered in the Childhood/Early Childhood Education department, but is open to any student who wants the first aid certification delivered in an outdoor setting.

Currently offered the first weekend of the fall semester, students read chapters from the American Red Cross text online and complete a quiz after each section prior to coming to Raquette Lake. While in camp, they combine the practical phase of first aid, CPR and AED training with hiking, ropes course and smallcraft activities that put them into realistic situations where their new first aid skills and prevention awareness might be called upon. This adds an element of reality to what ordinarily is a purely theoretical class and builds confidence in teaching outside the classroom.



The course has grown in popularity over the past three years and saw sixteen students enrolled this past September. It is a fast-paced, fun and exciting way to earn a certification that is required by many employers. Chris and Corey are exceptional instructors, who not only teach the necessary skills, but model outstanding teaching methods in the outdoors.

## New Twist on EST 100

Environmental Studies 100 is a general elective course offered by different faculty with varying themes. Beth Klein, professor in early childhood/childhood education, offered a hybrid section of this course focusing on sustainability and Antlers; the section filled in two days.

The course started in the third quarter of the spring semester, meeting face-to-face three times. Throughout the remainder of the semester, the students had class online, with a full week spent at Antlers after the semester had ended.

During the first part of the course, students broke into

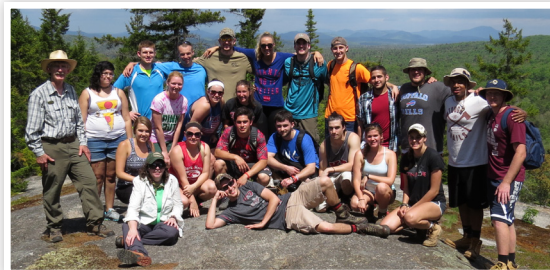


research teams. Each team had a particular area to research such as con-

struction and renovation, energy and fuel efficiency, food and food waste and the like. Once at Antlers, they would utilize the preliminary research they had done and apply it to Antlers. Upon arrival, the group unpacked, took their mid-term and began learning about Antlers. Students enjoyed a day with Ed Kanze, professional naturalist and guide, at Ferd's Bog and hiking Black Bear Mountain. Throughout the day, Ed would have the students stop to call in birds or talk about the characteristics of the environment they were in.

A highlight was a behind the scenes green tour of the Wild Center in Tupper Lake. The students viewed composting toilets, a green roof, food waste program, pellet heating system among others. Newly armed with knowledge, the teams began to formulate their ideas and suggestions into a presentation.

On the final day, students presented their sustainable recommendations for Antlers to faculty and center staff for Antlers. A few of the ideas included using a person-powered push or bike mower, replacing windows and doors, composting and using local wood pellets for heating. We look forward to trying to implement some suggestions in the coming year.



## Big Island Canoe Race



Students line up in preparation for the Big Island Canoe Race (BICR). The race is held at the end of Week 1 during PED 308, Outdoor Adventure Education for Teachers at Camp Huntington. Photos courtesy of Helena Baert



Students battle for position rounding Pine Knot Point in the BICR. Winners in various categories – student/student, staff/student, male/female teams – are recorded for posterity at Camp Huntington.

## Nature Nook

Red-winged Blackbirds can be seen in nearly every state across the U.S. They can be spotted along roadsides, edges of wetlands and fields. Their song, conk-la-ree!, is a sure sign of spring in many northern states.



The bright red and yellow coloration on the wings of the male pop against their black bodies, make them easy to spot. Males are stout with broad shoulders and a thin narrow beak. Female Red-winged Blackbirds are subtly colored white with many brown streaks. They are both relatively close in size with a height of 9 inches and a wingspan of nearly 16 inches, weighing in at 1 to 3 ounces.

Male Red-winged Blackbirds are constantly trying to get noticed by singing most of the day, especially during breeding season. They aggressively defend their territories against other male birds even attacking other nests or animals.

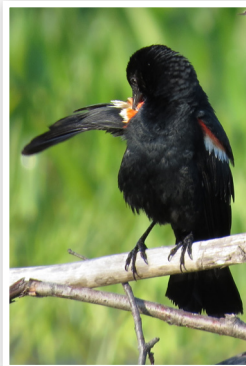
Red-winged Blackbirds are polygamous with one male having up to 15 females. The female will build her nest low in vegetation, winding plants together around upright shrub stems and stiff vegetation. The nest is then packed with wet leaves and decayed wood. The interior is clad in mud and lined with dry grass. The finished nest is approximately 5-7 inches across and 4-7 inches deep.

Each female can lay two to four eggs once or twice a year. The pale blue-green or gray eggs also boast black or brown markings and measure 1 inch long and half to three-quarters inch wide. Incubation lasts around 12 days, hatching small uncoordinated, mostly naked birds. Hatchlings will have some down feathers at hatching. Chicks will fledge in 10-14 days and are independent in three weeks. It takes a few years for the birds to reach adulthood.

The bird's buffet consists mostly of insects, including aquatic, during the warmer months. Their winter diet comprises flower and weed seeds, corn, and grains.

During the summer months, small numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds roost in wetlands where the birds breed. In the winter, flocks can contain up to several million birds, including other blackbird species. The roosts spread out each day and return each night, traveling as far as 50 miles for food.

The oldest recorded Red-winged Blackbird was 15 years 9 months old.



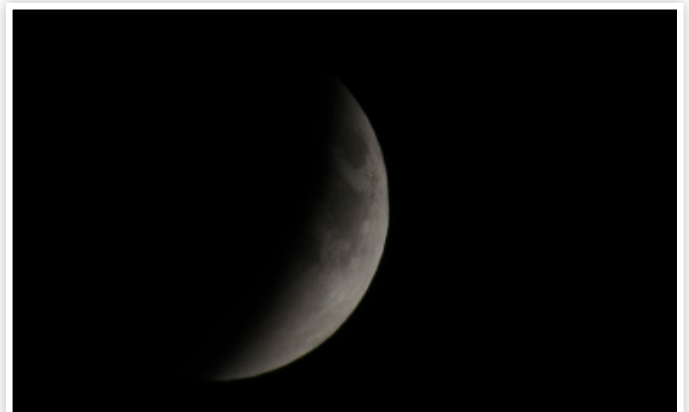
William West Durant, also known as our neighbor, Ken Hawks, can often be seen at the Chalet on tour days.



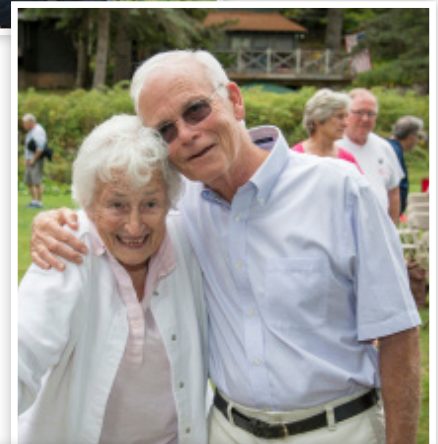
Pine Bush High School's Summer Science Academy run by Mike Sturm '95



The lunar eclipse from September.



# Antlers 50th Anniversary Celebration



Thank you for celebrating with us.

## Alumni Adventure Camp



New roofs on the Birch Complex and His and Hers Bathrooms



Small Craft Workshop



EST 100 Fall Course hike up the Craggs