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## Nature And Art Come Together At Camp Huntington

There is very little humans can do without leaving some impact on the environment. Environmental philosophers, scientists and wilderness instructors wrestle constantly with the question of limiting this impact. Now, artists have taken up the cause by intentionally creating works composed completely of natural materials that will live only a brief life before returning to their original state.

On a September weekend this past fall, 19 art students led by SUNY Cortland Art and Art History Department faculty Martine Barnaby, Jeremiah Donovan, Lori Ellis, Chuck Heasley and Chad Hovey, discussed the concepts of nature art, then took to the woods in small teams to create their own ephemeral works, using only binder twine to hold the natural materials together. After lunch, each work was critiqued by the group to discover the motivation behind each one. Tagging along, I was overwhelmed with the imagination and talent displayed among the seven projects that are now slowly deteriorating with time.

The art class was generous in providing a second tour of their work to students from Diane Craft's, Adaptive Physical Education Inclusive Outdoor Education class and a group of adults from the Wildwood Program that were also in camp. They were thrilled to have this private showing added to their agenda. The following week, the project sites were used with Orvil White, Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department, and his classes as GPS waypoints for the students to find. Once located using the hand-held devices, they took pictures of the art and discussed how children could be involved in making nature art of their own.

Over the years, the many nature art projects made at Camp Huntington have been well photographed by faculty members. Maybe we can expect an exhibition in the Dowd Gallery soon?



Bed



Alter



Shelter

## From The Director's Desk

It is always sad to put the final touches on the fall newsletter, as the excitement of the past six months on Raquette Lake comes to an abrupt halt. First, Rhonda closes up Antlers and heads back to her winter campus routine. Then the leaves begin to drop and the late October chill foretells of storms and snow not far off. Where did the time go since the Barque II brought the first spring students across a rain-swollen channel, and we were issuing rubber boots to wade across the mote that cut Pine Knot off from the rest of Long Point? Since May, more than 2,000 alumni, faculty, students and other guests have come to Raquette Lake to learn, challenge themselves, relax and explore. Another 200 or so attended tours of Camp Huntington, and a few dozen simply rented canoes at Antlers to launch their own adventures in the Adirondacks. The staff may breathe a sigh of relief that the long days and weeks of summer are over, but we will miss the daily rewards of seeing people's lives touched here.

We welcomed a new cook to the staff this summer. John Rounds comes to us from western New York, where he has experience as a sous chef at Beaver Hollow Conference Center as well as two ski resorts in Ellicottville, N.Y. He has an associate's degree from Johnson and Wales University and worked on the campus of St. Bonaventure University for Aramark, Inc. John started out at Antlers for the end of the summer and then moved over to Camp Huntington to work with Rob Biemer for the fall and winter. He is adjusting well to the unique style of work and living on Raquette Lake, and we hope he will stay with us for many years to come.

Another new staffer this summer was Tom Szevin '11, our recreation, parks and leisure studies intern. Tom completed the Outdoor Education Practicum in 2010 and the Wilderness First Responder course this past January. He also volunteered to help teach one of the childhood/early childhood education classes last fall. Needless to say, he made an ideal candidate for our 14-week internship, during which he lived at Camp Huntington and helped out with all aspects of operating the Outdoor Education Center. His major projects involved planning and supervising a program for a new high school-aged group from the Buffalo area and helping develop Camp Huntington's emergency action plan. Tom was a great help to our operation and had a winning, positive attitude that endeared him to all the groups he worked with. We wish Tom the best in his future professional endeavors, wherever they lead him.

In June, President Bitterbaum announced that the College would keep Antlers and won tentative approval from the Cortland College Foundation to assume ownership of the property from the Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC). The arrangement will include a long term lease from the foundation to the College to operate Antlers as an integral part of the Raquette Lake Outdoor Education Center. The next steps are to develop a business and master plan for renovating the facility, raise at least \$1.5 million from private donors, and craft a lease that both parties can accept. This September, a small advisory group of alumni supporters met with the director and assistant director of the center to discuss possible new uses for the facility and how to promote them. The meeting included a comprehensive

tour to assess what condition the physical plant is currently in and what might make it more attractive to future users. Following the meeting, the director submitted a plan for the future

of Antlers to the provost to begin the process of transforming Antlers into a more integral component of the center.

An essential component of this transformation will be increasing its use by a wider cross-section of students and faculty from campus. To this end, an advisory council is being organized with representation from many departments across the curriculum to promote academic enrichment retreats, outdoor pursuits, and co-curricular student opportunities. With renewed energy on campus for wellness, hands-on learning, and keeping alumni connected, the future of Antlers looks bright.

Several important improvements were made to the Outdoor Education Center this summer. Antlers held a very successful work weekend over Memorial Day that included switching the hot water heater and ice machine locations to improve the separation of shop and food service areas. There was also a new riding lawn mower purchased for the grounds. New cabinets, chairs and tables, as well as an LCD projector and screen were installed in the Casino classroom. At Camp Huntington, a new director's boat was launched, the Ankle Knocker Bridge was replaced, the Coolidge porch was rebuilt, and several improvements were made to the ropes course. The chimney on Spruce was repaired in preparation for replacing the roof, and plans are under way to remodel the interior of Hemlock Dorm. Bunk rails were added to all the top bunks in camp to improve safety, and a chipper was purchased to process downed trees and limbs that can no longer be burned on site. Winter visitors can look forward to new, updated cross-country ski equipment this year, issued from the heated comfort of the Knox classroom.

The support of our alumni friends makes it possible to improve our facilities and envision a new future for Antlers. You are also instrumental in helping out with seasonal chores and donating your time and talent to Raquette Lake. I personally want to take this opportunity to salute your dedication and support for the College and this magical place. It wouldn't be the same without you!

## Pine Bush Science Academy On YouTube

Check out the following video recorded during Pine Bush High School's annual summer Science Academy at Antlers in July. The footage shows all aspects of their stay. Enjoy!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulCSjPWVncs>



Ankle knocker bridge



## Raquette Lake Champion

This year's featured student, Janelle Wingerter, is a six-time returner to Raquette Lake. Her first experience here was as an orientation assistant in summer 2008. Having arrived at SUNY Cortland the year before from her hometown of Deposit, N.Y., Janelle quickly found a talent for sharing the Cortland experience with prospective students. She also embarked on her undergraduate degree program in physical education, with a concentration in adaptive physical education.



Since then, Janelle has returned to Raquette Lake five more times, once again with the orientation assistants, twice as a residence hall director, and twice with classes in her major, including the two-week Outdoor Adventure Education for Teachers. Each trip has been a new opportunity to get to know people in a face-to-face environment without electronic media and create relationships and bonds with other students, faculty and staff. These are some of the things she likes most about Raquette Lake. "It's also just such a peaceful and wonderful place," said Janelle.

"I enjoyed the entire experience of my outdoor adventure trip — the ropes course, where you challenge yourself and build trust in the group, kayaking, the Big Island Canoe Race, canoeing to and climbing West Mountain." Everything about the Raquette Lake experience seems to fit Janelle's gregarious personality and desire to improve her skill set.

After graduating in 2010, Janelle started her graduate program in health education and became a part-time residence hall advisor. She is currently a full-time residence hall director and continues to work on her master's degree as well.

Upon graduation, Janelle hopes to become a physical education and health teacher, as well as coach, if possible. Most of all she says, "I really just want to be able to teach others and enjoy myself doing it." We wish Janelle the best of luck achieving this goal and feel confident her future students will benefit from her SUNY Cortland education and time spent here at the Raquette Lake Outdoor Education Center.

### Alumni Photo Contest Winner

Photo taken by Kevin Przybyla '78



Spring Melt

So much depends

not

upon a red wheel barrow

upturned upended

half submerged in rushing melt

but instead upon the unfathomable roiling of this body of water

rising from earth falling from air a visitation of molecules

how is it that water rises up swells in the middle of a stream

just the way cat or human arches under the hand

j. drake  
2011

## Plans To Revive Adirondack Studies

For a number of years up until 2005, SUNY Cortland students had the option of taking a course called Adirondack Winter Studies during Winter Session. The course combined the human and natural histories of the Adirondacks with outdoor activities like cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and shelter building. It was taught by faculty from both political science and recreation at different times, with additional faculty adding an interdisciplinary flavor.

After a short hiatus, the course will be returning in the summer of 2012, now titled Adirondack Studies so it can be offered either during winter or summer terms in the future. The hope is to draw a variety of students from departments across the College who wouldn't otherwise have a chance for formal study in or about the Adirondacks. With two excellent facilities on Raquette Lake and a number of faculty knowledgeable about all aspects of this fascinating region of New York state, it is a natural to bring back this course that ties together the humanities (art, literature and music), natural sciences (astronomy, biology and geology) and the social sciences (history, political science and social studies). Doing so in an intensive format while living in and exploring the very subject matter of the course adds a dimension of experiential and place-based learning that can be more impactful than purely academic inquiry.

To incorporate the surrounding area in the content, daily field trips will include a local museum, mountain hiking, nature study and paddling on Raquette Lake, following one of the early transportation routes that opened up the region. An overnight camping trip in one of the local lean-tos may provide a backdrop for sharing Adirondack stories and legends.

If you have children at Cortland or know of others asking about opportunities to study at Raquette Lake, please let them know about Adirondack Studies. This course is open to any undergraduate. Graduate students have the option of taking a parallel course offered through the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department called Adirondack Classroom. For more information, contact either Tom Pasquarello, Political Science Department, or Rob Rubendall.

## Dutch Oven Entrepreneurs

For the past several years, Allyn International, a global trade expediting firm based in Fort Meyers, Fla., has come to Camp Huntington for their annual organizational development retreat.



Allyn has regional offices in Fort Meyers, Prague and Shanghai, with branch offices throughout the world that work with clients to help them manage international trade logistics. Getting their entire team here from all these locations was a bit of a logistical feat in itself.

One of the major themes in Allyn International is entrepreneurship, and each program at

Camp Huntington focuses on some aspect of this. In June of 2011, the theme was The Dutch Oven Dessert Dynasty, where each team of four or five employees had to develop the entire business plan for manufacturing and marketing some sort of dessert that could be created in a Dutch oven heated by charcoal. Not only did they have to invent and present this concept to prospective investors (CEO Allen Trevett, two outside consultants, and the Camp Huntington director), they had to create their signature dish and serve it as well. Many came up with novel ideas like delivering the product by bicycle in Holland or helping feed poor neighborhoods in the Czech Republic.

Between other teambuilding activities, seminars, paddling to and hiking West Mountain, and a game of American-style kickball, the small teams made up of cross-functional groups from different international offices worked on their presentations and created their culinary masterpieces. The investors listened attentively to each presentation — many accompanied by PowerPoint and prospectus handouts — then tasted each treat and provided feedback. Finally, awards were given recognizing superior accomplishments in a number of categories.

Through this culinary challenge and learning to convince the judges that they had the most compelling product to underwrite, the employees from Allyn International gained valuable insight into what it takes to be successful entrepreneurs.

## Erie 2 CC Boces Returns

Not one of the largest, but definitely one of the most memorable groups to come to Camp Huntington each spring is Erie-2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, led by veteran staffer, Sue Brazill, known as Braz to her students. Located in the town of Angola on Lake Erie, BOCES offers a wide range of services to students in the two-county area, including alternative,



special and environmental education. Among the dedicated staff that accompany the group each year is Tom Cashmore '78, physical education graduate. Tom has a solid background in adventure education and knows the Adirondacks well.

Four students who came here in May — Brett, Colin, Katie, and Mike — all have various needs and require almost one-to-one adult supervision while away from home and school. The fresh air, cooking Hobo Pies around the campfire, hiking, playing games and waterfront activities are a perfect combination of play and relaxation. A number of them have been coming to Camp Huntington each spring for four or more years and look forward to it eagerly as the time approaches.

There were two exciting achievements this year that added to the memories for the group. First, Mike was able to conquer his fear of canoeing after tipping over in some very cold water last year. He paddled a solo canoe, using a kayak paddle, from the main dock all the way around to Back Bay without assistance. And second, Katie had her own graduation ceremony from the program in Metcalf Hall, including the playing of "Pomp and Circumstance," speeches and graduation gifts from the group and Camp Huntington staff. She couldn't have been more proud as her peers and teachers wished her well in the next chapter of her life. It seems the Metcalf graduation may become a standard component of each trip in the future.

To see additional essays and pictures visit our online newsletter [www.cortland.edu/outdoor under newsletter](http://www.cortland.edu/outdoor_under_newletter)

## One Square Mile Of Hope



One Square Mile of Hope raised over \$70,000 for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Photo © Nancie Battaglia

What happens when a small village in the Adirondacks takes up the challenge to reclaim the *Guinness Book of World Records* title of most paddle craft assembled on one lake? You get 1,925 canoes and kayaks to respond and raise thousands of dollars for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research. Eighteen of those boats were canoes from the Raquette Lake Outdoor Education Center, paddled by students in residence here for the weekend from Utica College.

The idea was hatched over the summer, when Kirstin Impicciatore '91, assistant professor of therapeutic recreation at Utica College, called to ask if we could have the students on Sept. 24 at Camp Huntington join others from Utica College who were participating in the event on Fourth Lake in Inlet. We had the canoes, but knew it would be difficult to transport them on that Saturday, with two groups in camp and a tour group coming as well. The solution emerged in the person of Connie Perry '78, who owns a kayak outfitting and guiding business on Fourth Lake called the Frisky Otter. She generously allowed us to bring the canoes down the day before and store them on her

property, avoiding the traffic and congestion on the day of the event.

The Utica students boarded vans early Saturday morning and joined their classmates and others for the epic challenge. The estimated 1,925 boats far exceeded Pittsburgh's official total of 1,619 last year. Even a power outage that day couldn't dampen the spirits of the volunteers. After the count was made and the aerial photographs were taken, the students returned to camp to resume their team building and organizational work.

With everything else packed into the weekend, including a full session on the ropes course, it's hard to imagine they had time for the real purpose of their trip. As emerging leaders on campus, the Utica students spent hours in small teams preparing a series of proposals for the Utica College administration represented by Judith Kirkpatrick, provost, Stephen Pattarini, vice president for student affairs, and Linda Gifford, trustee. After listening to the formal presentations on Sunday morning, they will approve proposals with sufficient merit to justify organizational funds and energy. Over the years, quite a number of interesting projects have been accepted and funded by the college, showing the young student leaders they can make a difference in their own world.

Sunday afternoon saw some pretty happy, but exhausted students board the Barque II for their trip back across Raquette Lake and head for home. Kirstin and her staff commented later that this may have been the best retreat of the many they have held, and it certainly was one to remember. Hats off to all the students and staff that made it happen!

## Pulaski Middle School Science Club



Kristen Sheehan has been leading her middle school science club to Antlers for the past five years. The group has embarked on many jaunts throughout those years including the

Adirondack Museum, Wild Center and Bald Mountain among others. Kristen offers a number of day trips throughout the school year for the club to local parks, nature preserves and fisheries. The students have a great respect for Kristen, which is reflected in their continual excitement. The group always has a great time.

Below is an overview of this years activities written by the science club participants.

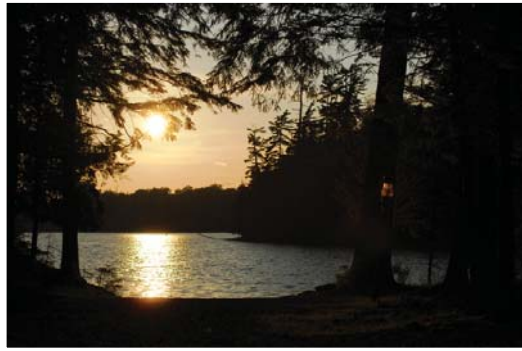
Our trip to Antlers this year will be one we will never forget. Before we arrived, we climbed Blue Mountain in the rain, wind and even hail. We were cold, wet and tired but Antlers still managed to make us feel comfortable. The food there was



so appetizing. There were so many choices and everyone was happy and full. After our early morning paddle on Raquette Lake, we were greeted by Rhonda with a large smile.

### Alumni Photo Contest Winner

Photo taken by Anthony Rocco '02



### Breathtaking Beauty

The following piece was written by Caitlyn Clarke a freshman in the Tech First Learning Community. Along with fellow students and professors her class spent a weekend at Camp Huntington in late October.

The world around us holds an enormous amount of beauty within it. "I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright" (Thoreau). I see nature as a blessing and precious gift from God. I believe that nature holds the secrets which give us the ability to awaken our soul and live life completely and fully. This past weekend I had the opportunity to really see nature in a way I never had. I have never gone camping before, so Raquette Lake has been a breathtaking and stunning experience for me.

Although I had a cold upon arriving at Raquette Lake, my senses were picqued more than ever before. As I stepped out of the bus, I felt a cold wind sweep across my body, which caused me to shiver and my skin to prickle. The cold air felt fresh as I inhaled a breath of it and an aroma trickled up my nose. It was the smell of pine trees, which seemed to embody the entire forest. I took a couple of more breaths in so I could really grasp the smell. There was another smell which was unfamiliar to me and took my nose a couple of seconds to realize what it was. I realized the smell was of fresh water and I loved every breath I took of it.

During my time at Camp Huntington, I could not stop staring at all the beauty that surrounded me. Everything was so simple, but in my eyes, so intricate and detailed. When I looked out into the landscape on the boat ride, the mountains seemed never ending. The mountains were huge and majestic and they seemed as if they touched the sky. My eyes also noticed all of the different and colorful leaves on all of the trees. These colors seemed like they could not be re-created and were simply a secret which only nature itself could hold. The trees looked as if they were dancing in the wind. Seeing the trees sway back and forth in the wind put me in a calm and relaxing mindset.

All of these sights seemed unreal to me, almost like a painting of some sort. But the one thing that stood out to me the most out of all my experiences was the sound. I have never in my life heard silence quite so loud. Even though I heard nothing it was like beautiful music being played that set my soul at ease. I felt like I didn't even have to think or worry. The silence allowed me to forget all my problems and took away life's distractions. It gave me the ability to just live in the moment. Although the silence was indeed beautiful, there were other sounds that I heard in the woods that were scary, riveting, and exciting.

While we were sitting around the campfire, the warmth of the fire felt soothing. This sense of calm was quickly taken away when I heard the howling of the coyote. At first I was alarmed and my body was at unease because it felt a sense of danger. But as I listened more closely I realized that the coyote was harmless and his howling became more interesting to hear. In that moment, I felt like the coyote's howling was its way of calling out to the world like so many of us try to do. The fire burned quickly and the taste of ash began to take over my mouth. I love the smell and the taste a campfire gives off.

At first I was a little hesitant and wary about going to the Adirondacks because it was something new which I had never done before. I'm very glad and fortunate that I did because it ended up being an experience that I'll always remember and want to re-live one day. The beauty of the trails and just nature itself made me realize how precious life is. Life is a gift that I want to live fully and experience completely. I have never felt more alive than I did at Raquette Lake. My senses were at peak and seemed almost super-human. At some point in my life I can see myself re-visiting the Adirondacks once more.

### Nature Nook

We all enjoy the marvelous colors of autumn leaves in the north, but what creates the intense colors? Some are bright and showy, while others are muted and brown. They all slowly, gently tumble to the ground.

As daylight gets shorter, each fall season the trees naturally know it is time to begin shutting down production. By this time, trees have stored all of the food they will need to live throughout the winter, and their beautiful fall colors begin to shine through the leaves.

Bright red and purple colors are created from anthocyanin pigments. The same pigment can be found in apples, cranberries and strawberries. To produce anthocyanin, cool nights and warm sunny days are required. High concentrations of glucose or sugar can be produced during warm sunny days, and as long as the night temperatures do not slip below freezing, vibrant reds will



dot lawns and hillsides. It is important to note that not all trees have the ability to produce anthocyanin.



Carotenoids, another pigment, is in leaves all year long, but is overwhelmed by green chlorophyll. As the chlorophyll fades, the carotenoids surface, producing yellows and oranges. This pigment is found in corn and carrots among other fruits and vegetables. Carotenoid production is not dependent on sunlight and can be yellow, orange or red, although most are yellow.

Leaves with large amounts of both anthocyanin and carotenoid will look orange. Without either of the pigments, other natural chemicals such as tannins can alter the leaf color making them brown.

Temperature and cloud cover make the biggest difference in the autumn colors each year. A number of warm sunny days and cool, not freezing nights will produce a good red year. Sunny days produce more bright colors because anthocyanin needs light. While overcast days lead to more brown and yellow leaves.

Rain can affect the coloring as well. Dry years can delay the colors a few weeks, while a warm wet fall will lower intensity or brightness of the leaves. Frost kills the leaves causing them to drop. Ultimate color years come with a warm wet spring, summer that is not too hot or dry, and a fall with plenty of warm sunny days and cool nights.

### Other Entries From Alumni Photo Contest

During the summer alumni had the opportunity to share pictures taken throughout the week at Raquette Lake as part of our alumni photo contest. Pages 3 and 6 each share the two overall winning photographs. The pictures that follow are a small representation of other entries. It was wonderful to see all of the beauty and joy through someone else's vernacular.



Cindy Santner '76



Kevin Przybyla '78



Judith Przybyla '77



Rachel DeRancy  
daughter of Doug DeRancy '75





Brian Kenealy '78



Tali Bechwith Cohen  
Grandaughter of Linda Frank '61



Andrew Morrison  
Grandson of Carolyn Carter '49



Beth Barber  
Niece of Cindy Matteson '76

**Alumni** Camp Information and Registration  
for 2012 available on our Web site

**Dates**

**Antlers**

June 30-July 6  
July 7-13  
Aug. 16-19  
Aug. 24-26  
Aug. 27-31

**Camp Huntington**

June 30-July 6  
June 30-July 3  
July 3-6

Kirby Camp Information and Reservation Form  
can be found on our Web site under upcoming events  
<http://www2.cortland.edu/off-campus/outdoor-education-facilities/raquette-lake/upcoming-events.dot>

2012 week  
June 17-Sept. 8

Reservations accepted beginning Jan. 1