

## **HISTORY CORNER**

### **A TALE OF TWO ANNUAL SUMMER EVENTS**

TALE ONE begins in the summer of 1925. Johns Brook Lodge had just been established by the Adirondack Mountain Club in the High Peaks near Keene Valley. That year T&T started to make annual weekend trips to JBL. The lodge is a 3.5-mile hike from the trailhead in Keene. From there, many of the high peaks are accessible. Our club's first ascent of Mt. Marcy was on that first trip. Interesting to note, is that the club had fireplace andirons made and gave them to the lodge as a gift. They are still in use today. For a few decades T&T stopped going to JBL, but member Roger Felske brought back this much-loved adventure in 2012. Since then it has been an annual event each July, with current leaders Carolyn Eastman and Tom Schenck. While there you can hike the peaks and many surrounding trails, take a dip in the brook (for which the lodge is named) or simply relax on the porch and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Meals are provided, and hikers share co-ed bunkrooms with a washroom and compost toilet.

TALE TWO starts in 1991 when club member, Sue Lemery, conceived the idea of a weekend camp-over at Adirondack Lodge on Heart Lake near Lake Placid, inspiring many members to climb all 46 high peaks. Soon it became known as High Peaks Weekend. Since Sue there have been a number of leaders and co-leaders including Frank Guilfoil, Roger Felske, Harold Pier, Lu Blanchard, Dick Blanchard, Geoff and Donna Horan. Numerous members have also helped to make this weekend happen. This August will be our Club's 32nd year! Although climbing the High Peaks is usually the focus, as Frank used to say, "there are also many low valleys, as well as low peaks and high valleys to hike". Over the years the Club invested in a canopy to keep Tramps dry if it rains and two gas stoves to cook our food. It's a great time to share potluck suppers, sit around a campfire, and inevitably partake in hilarious adventures that make wonderful stories to tell on the trail later.

If you haven't already experienced one or both of these weekends, it's time to come out and have some fun! See you there!

Submitted by: Bobbie Scarpino