

Follow-up: 'Preserving Santanoni'

LAKE PLACID — Last weekend we received a note from architect and historic preservationist Janet Null, of Argus Architecture & Preservation in Troy, following our publication last week of an update on the preservation of Camp Santanoni, in Newcomb.

“I think you are overstating the extent of repair or restoration work that has been done,” Null wrote. “There are still major structural problems and a huge amount of deterioration (that is, serious risk of loss).”

Null knows what she’s talking about. Not only has Null’s firm helped in preparing recent conservation plans for Camp Santanoni, but Null is on the board of directors for Adirondack Architectural Heritage, the nonprofit organization at the center of efforts to restore and preserve Santanoni.

We may well have given the wrong impression in last week’s article about the extent to which repairs have been completed at Camp Santanoni. The fact is, much still needs to be done — and quickly — if the surviving resources at this Adirondack Great Camp are to be saved for the enjoyment of future generations of New Yorkers.

A PDF version of the 2003 Conservation Plan for Camp Santanoni, commissioned by Adirondack Architectural Heritage, is being prepared right now and should be available to the general public in the near future. The Conservation Plan provides detailed descriptions and photographs of current conditions at Santanoni, along with specific conservation recommendations for remedying the problems documented in the Plan. For information on how to get a CD-ROM containing the Santanoni Conservation Plan PDF package, when it becomes available, contact AARCH at (518) 834-9328, or go to the group’s Web site at www.aarch.org.

Null also noted that although we mentioned only the work on the Conservation Plan done by Carl Stearns, of the architectural firm of Crawford & Stearns, her firm (Argus Architecture & Preservation) was also a partner in that project.

“The work that led to the Conservation Plan, and the Plan itself, was done by both Argus and Crawford & Stearns,” Null wrote. “We [Argus] did the Farm and Gate complexes, Carl did the Main Camp, and we had the prime responsibility for pulling together the overall Plan.”