



July 3, 2020

John Barron, Marianne Hebert
Receive Distinguished Volunteer Award



The Adirondack Mountain Club has presented Laurentian Chapter members John Barron and Marianne Hebert the Distinguished Volunteer award for their roles in developing the Educational Affiliate Program (EAP) at SUNY Potsdam.

Created in conjunction with SUNY Potsdam Wilderness Education faculty, the EAP gives students a specially designed program to foster safe and responsible outdoor skills. Marianne and John have worked closely with SUNY faculty to provide a variety of opportunities for students, including outings, trail work, Azure Mountain summit stewarding, skills training, and a College Weekend at Adirondack Loj. To date, the EAP has trained 53 Potsdam students from the Wilderness Education minor as trip leaders, and most outings are student-led.

Upon receiving the award, Marianne Hebert commented,

I am humbled and honored to be given the Distinguished Volunteer Award.

EAP wouldn't have been possible without the vision of John Gilewicz, and the leadership of John Barron, who did the lion's share of the work to coordinate and run the program at SUNY Potsdam. EAP has flourished only because of the support we got from Wilderness Education faculty Adam Wheeler and Mark Simon, and the Student Government Association business office staff.

And most of all, EAP would not have been successful without the many engaged students who completed the Leadership Training course and went on to lead EAP outings. I am thankful for having had the opportunity to participate in the EAP program, and I am delighted when I hear about the accomplishments and adventures of our students who have graduated.

This has been a wonderful and rewarding experience. Thank you.

John Barron added that

A lot of people besides Marianne and I have contributed to the success of the EAP, including faculty and staff at SUNY Potsdam, volunteers and staff at ADK Headquarters, and the students themselves. It has been great fun taking part with the students in events including technique clinics, leadership training, trail maintenance, and a few outings. Mostly the students have led the EAP outings themselves.

We occasionally get insight years after they graduate into what the students are up to, and it's very gratifying to see that they've adopted a lifetime commitment to responsible outdoor recreation both as a personal interest and as a profession.

The Adirondack Mountain Club's Laurentian Chapter is pleased with the success of the Educational Affiliate Program. We thank John Barron and Marianne Hebert for their hard work in establishing and maintaining the EAP, and congratulate them on their receipt of the Distinguished Volunteer Awards.