

# BALD MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER

## *Adirondack Forest Preserve*



Observers  
Harrite Rega  
(circa 1930)  
and Walter  
Coon Briggs  
(circa 1920)



The Bald Mountain tower was staffed by more than 30 observers — including three women — during its 73 years of active service.

Tower observers were equipped with maps, range finder, compass, field glasses, radios (later telephones) and food. It could be a lonely eight months—self-sufficiency was required..



In 19192, the first observer worked on top of twenty high wooden tower. They lived in tents for the first two summers. This was not an easy life.

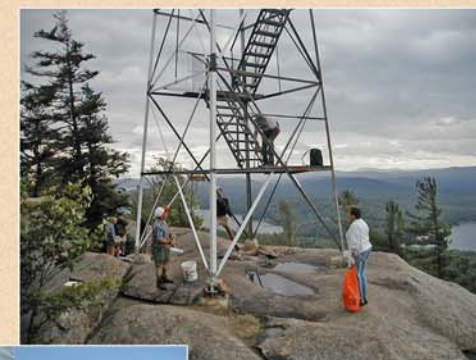


From 1951-1954, an observer lived with his wife and two small children in the 12 x 16 foot cabin from April to November.

The Bald (Rondaxe) Mountain tower, built in 1917, was one of 120 fire towers constructed in New York in the early part of the 20th century. Tower observers reported smoke sightings to forest rangers, documented weather conditions and recorded all planes flying over the Adirondacks during World War II. The tower, closed in 1990, was re-opened on June 18, 2005



The summit, at 2,350 feet, offers spectacular views of the Fulton Chain of Lakes, Blue Mountain and several high peaks including Mt. Marcy 55 miles to the north.



In 2001, volunteers formed the Friends of Bald Mountain to restore the 35-foot tower. They signed an "Adopt-A-Natural Resource" agreement with DEC and went to work. Four years later the tower was officially re-opened to the public.

