



**ADIRONDACK  
EXPERIENCE™**

*The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake*

# FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

Photo by Nancie Battaglia

# THE 2019 SEASON IN REVIEW

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID KAHN

2019 has been a banner year for Adirondack Experience, the Museum on Blue Mountain Lake (ADKX).

As summer winds down, we are looking back on all of the achievements and milestones that made for another great season here at ADKX. Over the course of the past school year, which ended in June, we served 10,450 students and teachers. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a special event celebrating the opening of our new ADKX Boathouse and the reinterpreted Minnow Pond Trail. Our 2019 special exhibitions, *Curious Creatures* and *A Private View*, debuted as big hits with audiences. (*Curious Creatures* will be back again in 2020.) During our gala on July 27<sup>th</sup>, board co-chairs Rob Searle and Anne Van Ingen announced the successful conclusion of our *For Generations* Capital Campaign, with the wonderful news that we



exceed our original \$9.4M campaign goal by raising over \$11M. This year we were also very pleased to be able to host six Diversity Fellows, who spent ten weeks on campus learning about museum work and helping ADKX staff plan for future exhibitions. The Diversity Fellows program was such a success that we plan to continue it in 2020 and beyond. Best of all, throughout this season we have welcomed thousands of repeat and new visitors to our campus—we like to think that we played a part in their enjoyment of this unique and beautiful region.

## LIBRARY

## KNOWING HAROLD

Most everyone at Adirondack Experience knows the name Harold K. Hochschild. He was, after all, author of the Adirondack history tome *Township 34*; chairman of the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks, which led to the creation of the Adirondack Park Agency; and last but certainly not least, the founder of this museum.

As we celebrated our 60th anniversary year in 2017, we got to thinking about Harold's lasting impact here and throughout the Adirondack Park and we realized that we wanted to get to know this extraordinary man better. Although he died in 1981, Harold left behind many friends, family members, and colleagues who could speak to his vision, his character, and his personality. In the summer of 2018, our Library Director Ivy Gocker embarked on an oral history project to record reminiscences from these people whose lives were directly touched by our founder, Harold.



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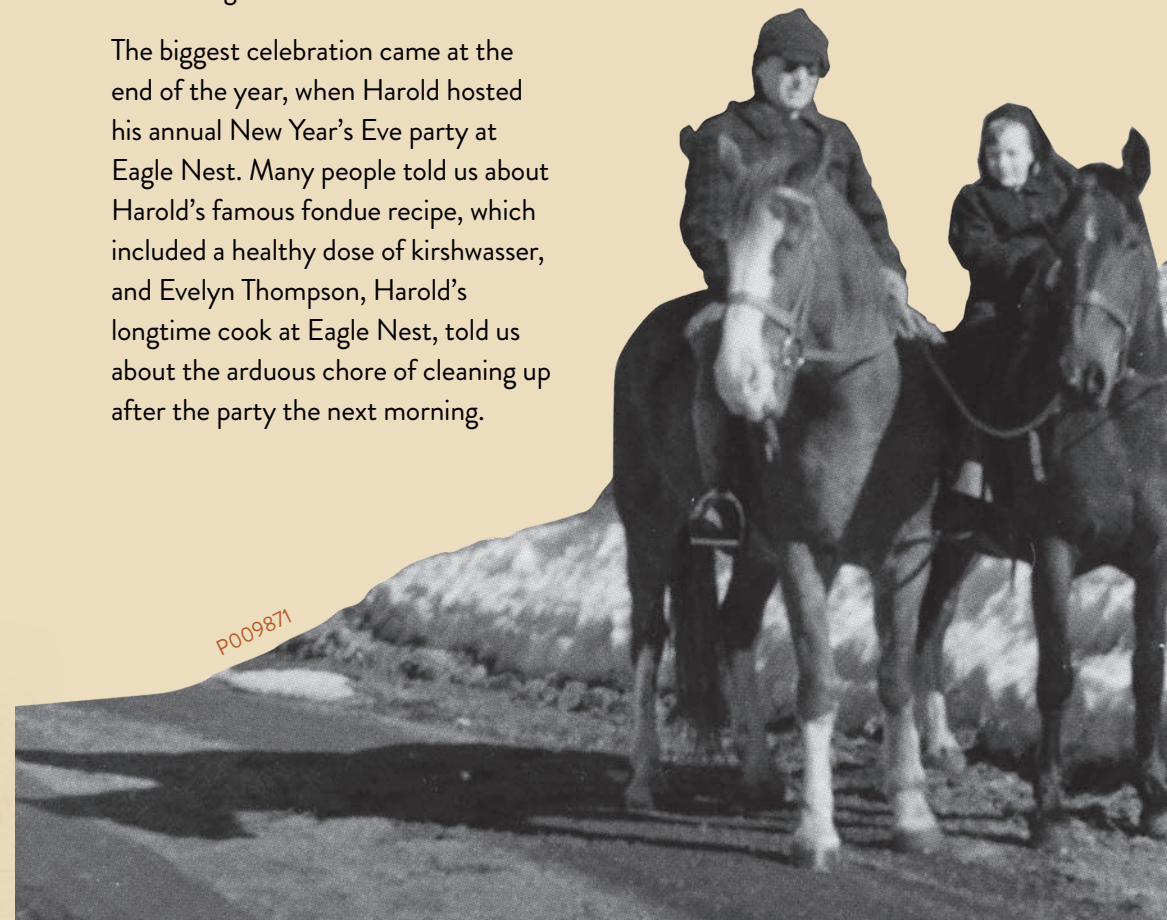
The project sent Ivy all over the Park as she visited interview subjects in their homes and on their porches. They told us about Harold's passion for Adirondack history and his personal oversight of the development of the Adirondack Museum, now the Adirondack Experience. As Mae Kaemmerlen related, Harold visited museums all over the world to get ideas, and came back from a trip to Switzerland exclaiming, "We need a photo belt!"

They shared stories of weekends at Eagle Nest, Harold's camp in Blue Mountain Lake, where Harold invited a diverse range of friends and acquaintances to enjoy outdoor activities like waterskiing and horseback riding followed by stimulating dinner conversation.

The biggest celebration came at the end of the year, when Harold hosted his annual New Year's Eve party at Eagle Nest. Many people told us about Harold's famous fondue recipe, which included a healthy dose of kirshwasser, and Evelyn Thompson, Harold's longtime cook at Eagle Nest, told us about the arduous chore of cleaning up after the party the next morning.

Over the course of 12 interviews, these personal recollections and anecdotes coalesced into a portrait of a man who was extremely generous, forward-thinking, and deeply committed to the Adirondack Park. On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ivy presented clips from the oral history project at one of our best-attended Monday Evening Xplorations of the summer, with special guest Peter S. Paine, Jr., who served with Harold on the Temporary Study Commission. She continues to record interviews with people who knew Harold, and all of the recordings are being cataloged in the museum's online catalog so that they can be of use to future researchers.

**If you have a story about Harold to share, please reach out to Ivy at [igocker@theadkx.org](mailto:igocker@theadkx.org).**

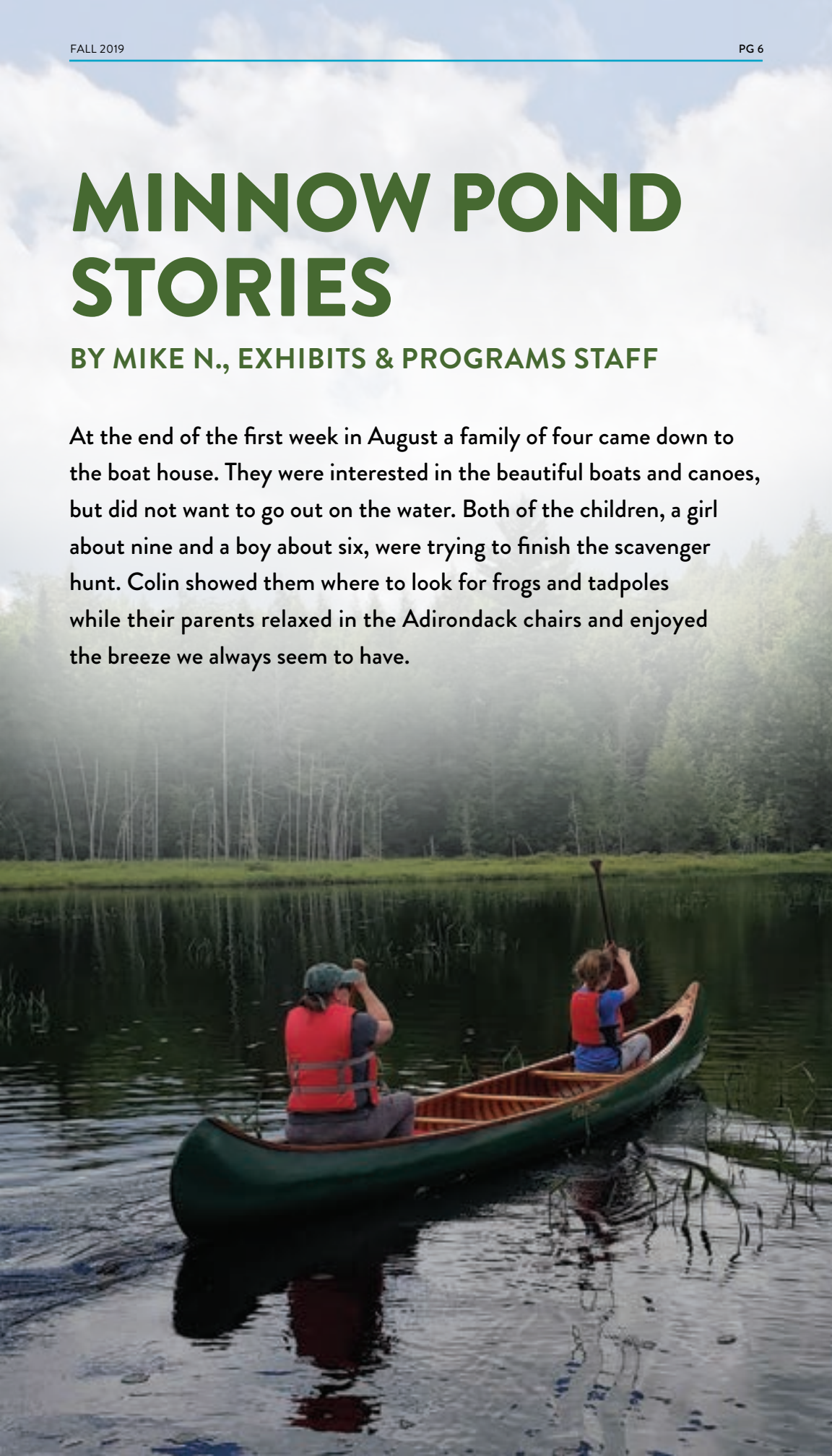


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# MINNOW POND STORIES

BY MIKE N., EXHIBITS & PROGRAMS STAFF

At the end of the first week in August a family of four came down to the boat house. They were interested in the beautiful boats and canoes, but did not want to go out on the water. Both of the children, a girl about nine and a boy about six, were trying to finish the scavenger hunt. Colin showed them where to look for frogs and tadpoles while their parents relaxed in the Adirondack chairs and enjoyed the breeze we always seem to have.



The kids wanted to know if we had any mammals at the pond, so I took them out on the dock to look across the pond to see if we could spot the otters. We did not have any luck with that, however when we turned back toward the boathouse, we saw a blur of movement along the shoreline ten feet from us. We kept still, and a few seconds later, we got to observe a beautiful mink exploring the shoreline just a few feet away from us.




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...when we turned back toward the boathouse, we saw a blur of movement along the shoreline ten feet away from us.

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We watched the mink as it entered the water without pause and swam right under the dock where we were standing. Its luxurious coat gave it amazing buoyancy. Regaining the shore, the mink continued hunting along in the other direction, and a few moments later returned for an encore. All of us, especially the children, were fascinated by that encounter.

During the second week of August, a young man named Sean and his wife came down the trail to the boathouse in the early afternoon. With a big smile on his face Sean announced that he was here to row a vintage guideboat. I asked him if he had any prior experience with a guideboat. He said “Yes, I have. I was in the guideboat in *Life in the Adirondacks* twice this morning. I made it across the lake both times, and the second time I did it really fast.” I said that is remarkable. He replied “That’s what the staff person at the guideboat said, and then he told me that I should come down here to try out a real guideboat, so here I am!” We got Sean and his wife (who seemed less impressed by Sean’s skill set than he was) into life jackets, gave them a brief review of the guidelines, put them into the Blanchard and set them off. I have to say, I have not seen anyone do as well as they did for their first time. When they came back in, with a perfect approach to the dock, they were both beaming. So were all of us.

## GALA

# WHEN ALL THE STARS ALIGN...

The ADKX honored Barbara Glaser with the Harold K. Hochschild Award at the annual Gala this summer. The evening couldn't have been more perfect – the humidity didn't inch too high and the temperatures didn't dip too low.

The camaraderie among the 228 guests was palpable and the food was wonderfully palatable thanks to catering by Mazzone Hospitality, which has taken care of our guests for almost ten years. Our formula for the Gala works. The three hours of fun starts with cocktails and laughter, while guests peruse silent auction items. Next up is a delicious dinner with a few remarks to toast our evening's honoree. And the evening concludes with a brief, yet spirited Live Auction. The Gala is the museum's main fundraising event, so the money raised is critical to support our overall operations year in and year out. We have the space to grow this event, and **WE WANT YOU!**

Mark your calendar NOW for the **ADKX's 2020 Gala on Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**. You don't want to miss this party!



*Doug Stinson & Barney Bellinger*



*Carin Mei*



*Paul Zacho, Barbara Glaser, Willie Janeway*



*Amy McNamara & David Rockwell*



*Terry DeArmas*



# EXPANDING OUR REACH

ADKX is the most prolific provider of curriculum-based cultural programming for students in the Adirondacks and nearby areas. This school year we served **10,450 students** and teachers. With additional resources, ADKX now proposes to take our P-12 programming to the next level in an initiative called **ADKX Education NXT**. Over the course of three years, ADKX will increase students and teachers served by **30% to more than 15,000**, provide **additional teacher training opportunities**, create a **college internship program** focused on museum education and interpretation, and **develop online educational resources** for use throughout the Adirondacks and beyond. ADKX seeks a total of \$300,000 over the next three years to make this initiative possible. We're halfway there already!



Our very generous benefactors, Vicki and Dick Schwartz, have already committed **one-half of the funds required.**

We have added two educators to our P-12 programming department. Taylor Ewald comes to us from Nebraska with a history and educational studies background. Grayson Grau joins us from Oneonta, NY with an MA from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Science Museum Studies.



Taylor and Grayson will be expanding our reach in local schools, bringing enrichment programs to students in the twelve counties that touch the Adirondack Park.

We have also completed two orientation videos to help teachers learn about our offerings. An online scheduling system to streamline the registration process is nearing completion.

School Programs is also making a concerted effort to serve more middle and high school groups. This spring we hosted the regional National Honor Society dinner with 105 students and teachers in attendance; in late May six buses filled with students from the Shenendehowa District pulled in delivering 300 middle school students to campus. On August 1<sup>st</sup> we welcomed three dozen teens and tweens from Girls Inc of the Capital District. They embodied their motto of "Strong, Smart, and Bold" as they explored exhibits and trekked out to the ADKX Boathouse.



INTERPRETATION: FELLOWS

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 DIVERSITY FELLOWS!

ADKX is proud to have welcomed its first class of Diversity Fellows this season. We hosted six undergraduates—Amaris Henderson, Nyree Dowdy, Lyndzie Vail, Talaya Robinson-Dancy, Mougheis Umar, and Tianna Back—from traditionally under-represented populations in the museum profession. Starting on June 1, the students were at the ADKX for a 10-week Fellowship program! They completed certified interpretive guide training, met with staff from non-profit organizations, museums, and cultural sites around the Adirondacks, received mentorship from Dr. Donathan Brown, and completed different projects under the supervision of museum staff. Embedded within ADKX departments, the students developed ideas that museum staff hope to implement in the coming years. Through their outstanding groundwork, we are developing three new initiatives to engage our members and visitors: the 2020 temporary exhibition *From Wilderness to Warfront*, new young adult programming, and pop-up displays to promote ADKX at events throughout the region.



ADKX BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOME

# NEW AND RETURNING TRUSTEES

Richard (Dick) Scordato has joined ADKX board as of July 2019. Dick and his wife Susan split their time between a home outside of New York City, and their camp on Second Lake in Old Forge. They have enjoyed being members at the Adirondack League Club since 2014.

As he prepares to retire as President and CEO of VistaLab Technologies, a business started by his father in 1957, Dick is excited to take a step beyond having a seasonal home in the Adirondacks by getting involved at the board level here at the museum. While ADKX reaps the rewards of Dick's great business experience and love of the Adirondacks and outdoors, his wife will be sharing her knowledge and passion as a newly appointed trustee at View.

And, back by popular demand—Nancy R. Keet. The ADKX is thrilled to welcome Nancy back to the board after a year's rotation off. We would say we gave her time to rest but anyone who knows Nancy (and her husband Lee) know they never rest from giving back their time and talent to many Adirondack organizations.

Nancy and Lee split their time between their homes on Lake Colby in Saranac Lake and New York City with plenty of world travel in between. A list of all of the Adirondack boards Nancy has either served on or is currently involved with could fill volumes. The museum is fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer and friend back among us!

# “CURIOUS” ABOUT OUR 2020 TEMPORARY EXHIBITS?

ADKX is thrilled with the fascination sparked by our 2019 *Curious Creatures* exhibition; we are grateful for the feedback we received and to our generous collectors for making it possible. And just how enthusiastic was the response? Enough so that we have decided to bring this popular exhibit back for a second season. You might be thinking “Been there done that.” Well think again! 2020’s *Curious Creatures* will include many of the objects seen this year, but ADKX staff are working with private lenders to include new materials next year. Additional programming and workshops are also in development. Stay tuned!



Leather bomber jacket owned by Roland Merritt Brown, Sr., when he was a Tuskegee Airman, United States Air Force. #2011.23.1

## WHAT ELSE IS IN STORE FOR NEXT YEAR?

### *From Wilderness to Warfront: The Adirondacks and World War II*

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, ADKX is proud to present a new exhibition devoted to the connections between Adirondack people and the global conflict. From regional industry and tourism to first-person accounts, this exhibition will explore diverse stories—those previously untold as well

as those well-remembered—of regional mine workers, Mohawk code-talkers, Tuskegee airmen, and the countless local young men and women who bravely served during this remarkable time. In the coming months, ADKX will be collecting accounts and artifacts from the public for this exhibition. For information or questions, please email [ADKXWWII@theadkx.org](mailto:ADKXWWII@theadkx.org).

**To make a gift to support this important exhibition, please call (518) 352-7311, extension 130.**



## 2018 DONORS

The Adirondack Experience offers its most sincere “thank you” to all who support the museum. Many of you are longtime donors, and we are truly grateful for your steadfast support. Others have only just begun donating to the museum—we welcome you to our family of supporters and thank you for coming on board. The following list includes 2018 donors who gave a gift of \$500 or more.

**A list of all donors can be found on our website, [www.THEADKX.org](http://www.THEADKX.org).**

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