



**ADIRONDACK
EXPERIENCE™**

The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

2020 ADKX Staff Zoom Meeting

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

We hope that you and your families are well and are finding time to get outside and enjoy the warm summer weather. As you know, the Adirondack Experience will remain closed to the public for the 2020 season. This was not an easy decision for us, but one we felt was necessary in order to prioritize the health and safety of our members, staff, and the general public. Though we are disappointed that we cannot offer an in-person museum experience this season, we hope that you continue to explore and enjoy the many online programs, activities, and virtual experiences we have created to keep you connected with us throughout the year.

Our new web page—ADKX@HOME—launched on April 27 with a brand new look and menu of options for visitors to explore. Our staff continues to develop new online programming and activities, with more planned throughout the summer and fall. We are working on some new video series we will be offering later this summer that will explore the trails and waters of the Adirondacks as well as a look inside the workshops of today's makers, builders, and artists. You can read more about these and our other upcoming projects in this newsletter.

Each year we gather to celebrate this wonderful place, visit under the stars on the ADKX campus, and help raise much-needed funds during our annual Gala. This year we will be harnessing the virtual platform to bring you our first-ever Virtual Gala on July 25 from 6:00 – 7:00pm. The income from this annual fundraiser is a cornerstone of the museum's operating revenue. Your participation supports the stories and artifacts we gather, keep safe, and share through educational resources, exhibitions, and programs for people everywhere. We hope you will join us for this virtual event and visit our online auction filled with fabulous items from around the region.

In challenging times like these, we must remember that we are stronger together. Now is a time for us to come together and connect in new ways—through stories and objects, educational programs, and

thoughtful discussions. In response to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the nationwide protests, including protests around the North Country, ADKX is joining forces with the Adirondack Diversity Initiative to launch a new online series of programs—The Black Experience in the Adirondacks. The program schedule and details will be publicized as soon as possible. We hope you will join us as we explore the local ramifications of an event that has rocked the nation.

We miss having visitors here on campus, but as our staff begins to safely return, we are taking this opportunity to care for and restore our buildings and grounds, create new programming and events, and explore new exhibitions for an exciting 2021 season. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you back soon.

~ The ADKX Board of Trustees and Staff





JULY 25, 2020

ADKX VIRTUAL GALA - #STAYATCAMP

No fancy dress. No blazer. No worries about driving the winding Adirondack roads at night (or navigating a lake by boat AFTER driving the roads). But we WILL be missing the comradery of friends gathering together for the annual Gala at the Adirondack Experience, so we ask you to celebrate the museum and help make our first-ever foray into the world of virtual events and auctions a success.

Wherever you will be on **Saturday, July 25th**—a dock, camp porch, a tent, your home—we hope you will join us for ADKX's Virtual Gala. Invite your friends and family to take part; the more the merrier. This year we get to say, "The sky's the limit!" to how many can enjoy this night with us.

From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. we'll all connect virtually with live remarks, short videos, and an online auction led by the fun and fantastic Doug Stinson. Doug is a fine art auctioneer and appraiser with a full time auction gallery in Newton, MA. Doug serves on the board of our nearby neighboring institution Great Camp Sagamore, and loves all things relating to the Adirondacks.

The income from this annual fundraiser is a cornerstone to the museum's operating revenue. Your participation supports the stories and artifacts we gather, keep safe, and share through educational resources, exhibitions, and programs for people everywhere. Starting in March, year-round staff nimbly shifted their workload to better serve you in your home and reach regional students and teachers in different ways. Gala revenue will continue to support these efforts and enhance the institution's offerings for years to come. **If you have attended the Gala in the past, we hope you will maintain your support for our virtual event this summer. And if you haven't been able to make it to our Gala before, we hope you will join us for the first time this year.**



FEATURED AUCTION ITEM

One of our premier auction items for this year's Gala is a beautiful wooden Adirondack guideboat crafted by ADKX Boatbuilder-in-Residence Allison Warner.

This 15' 6" boat, commonly referred to as a "16-footer" is planked in white pine with seats, gunwales, decks, oars, and steering paddle carved in cherry. The stems are forward raking, much in the tradition of builders such as the Parsons brothers and the Grants. The midship is slightly wider than some guideboats and more closely resembles a guideboat designed by early builder Caleb Chase, whose design has proven to be very stable and seaworthy. Just like builders of old made varying shapes of Adirondack guideboats to serve one functionality over another, Allison designed this boat to be fast, but

also to have more initial stability when one gets into the boat. This will make it pleasant to relax in even on the windiest of days. Her attention to detail and years of boatbuilding make this original designed boat a must-have. This unique, gorgeous, and fast guideboat will be great to add to any aficionado's collection or appeal to the first-timer who will, without a doubt, fall in love with rowing. This is the sixth boat Allison has made to benefit the museum and her tenth boat overall. The starting bid for this year's guideboat is \$25,000.

Go now to ADKXgala.givesmart.com and preview other great auction items. Online bidding will start Friday, July 17. Can't make the date but still wish to support our efforts? Please go to ADKXgala.givesmart.com and make a donation today.





FIGHTING COVID-19: DOCUMENTING THE PANDEMIC

The emergence of the novel coronavirus early this year has affected people around the world. Governments have closed their borders, schools, and businesses; restricted travel and large gatherings; and grappled with providing medical care and basic supplies like toilet paper. Museums are responding by collecting in real-time the objects and photographs that will help future generations understand life during the 2020 pandemic.

As the North Country shut down to combat the spread of COVID-19, the Adirondack Experience began collecting stories, objects, and photographs to document how Adirondackers have been living and working during this extraordinary time. Although there have been relatively few cases of COVID-19 in the Adirondack region, our communities are still feeling the effects of the global pandemic. Social distancing and face masks,

homeschooling, and Zoom meetings have become our new normal. The stories and objects we are collecting reflect the struggles, strengths, optimism, and resilience of our communities.

When demand for hand sanitizer outpaced store supplies, distilleries in the Adirondack region stepped in, as alcohol is a major ingredient. The Lake George Distilling Company was one of the first, offering free bottles to local residents.

Recent steps to re-open the North Country were met with a mix of relief and caution. Some year-round residents worried that visitors from more infected areas might spread the virus. Travelers making their way into the Adirondack region on the Northway in late May were confronted with signs saying “Tourists Go Back! Stay Out of the Dacks!” and “Anywhere but Here!”

Restaurants stayed open for take-out only; Stewart’s shops roped off seating to discourage people from gathering. Grocery stores like Hannaford in Lake Placid introduced one-way aisles and encouraged shoppers to keep six feet between themselves.

Adirondack store owners went online to reach customers, selling hats and t-shirts with slogans like “Adirondack Strong” and “Social Distancing Since 1892.”

All of these objects and images will shape future historians’ understanding of how we are living through this pivotal time. Tell us your story—how are you and your family coping with the changes in your daily lives? How are you spending your time? What are your greatest challenges? When did you realize that the situation was serious? Every Adirondacker has a story. **Send us your stories, photos, and objects that best represent your experiences by going to www.theADKX.org.**



ADKX CAMPUS UPDATE

NOT YOUR AVERAGE YEAR IN THE FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

As we enthusiastically transition into our next phase of operations in accordance with the New York State plan for re-opening, the Facilities Department of the Adirondack Experience is already at work on our improvement projects for this year. Lemons make lemonade, and although closed to the public for the 2020 season, our goal to provide a beautiful and safe campus for our members and visitors to enjoy remains unchanged. The level of activity and excitement we experience on campus during the “normal” open season will be replaced, for now, by a different type of excitement and activity—campus updates and projects.

We are using this opportunity to plan improvements and develop our strategies around operating our facility in a post COVID-19 world while at the same time moving forward with capital projects that were already in the works. For instance, the steel structure of our new café deck (erected just before all non-essential construction was put on hold) has been waiting patiently for our contractors to resume their work. Originally planned

to be completed for opening this season, visitors can look forward to an amazing place to enjoy a great lunch while taking in the view of Blue Mountain Lake when they return next year.

Behind the scenes, we will install a new and improved HVAC system servicing our *Life in the Adirondacks* and *Woods and Waters* exhibitions. Improved inside air quality, greater energy efficiency,



STAYING CONNECTED

As staff at the ADKX jumped into reaching members and visitors using new and different modes of communication, one thing became abundantly clear early on during the pandemic: a simple phone call is a wonderful way to connect. Membership Coordinator, Colin Briggs, and Institutional Advancement staff members, Sarah Lewin and Sara McNamara, began calling members to say hello, check in on them, and thank them for maintaining their support while the museum navigates the days ahead. With over 3,000 members the task is on-going. Members on the other end of the line have greatly appreciated the calls and hearing that we care about our members and miss them!

Sara McNamara, Institutional Advancement Manager, calls members to check in.



PUBLIC AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

**A virtual conversation between ADKX staff:
Cheryl Braunstein, Director of Interpretation;
Christine Campeau, School Programs Manager;
and Micaela Hall, Public Programs Manager**

CB: You both focus on public interactions. How does that look today?

CC: I think that there's a real opportunity to connect with more people through the virtual offerings. And we can really connect with parents because students are at home. When the museum opens again, those parents will think about what they saw and plan a visit.

MH: There is an energy and a vitality to live programming that is really rewarding. But it is exciting to think about the fact that we'll be able to reach more people, people who might not be able to visit us in person.

CB: Where are you and your teams finding inspiration for these programs?

CC: Here's an opportunity to present something in a completely different way. We moved away from making butter because of the potential problems with food handling. But presenting it virtually to students—they can make butter at home themselves. Now I have the perfect forum!

MH: I've been very thankful for all of our colleagues, some people who don't normally work with the public, who may be behind the scenes, are sharing incredibly creative and compelling ideas that we're going to be able to move forward with.

CB: School and Public Programs staff work together more collaboratively during this crisis. What are your thoughts on that opportunity?

CC: I've enjoyed having the School Programs staff, especially the new staff, engage with the Public Programs staff. We can take something from Public Programs and then add the curriculum to it for teachers; that is so perfect.

MH: Chrissy and I have both been at the museum for a long time, for over 20 years. We used to do a lot of traveling and program development together. It's been wonderful to be working together again, to be inspired by each other, to work on specific projects together, and to build it and make it stronger for our audiences.

CC: How many programs have we developed in the car, Micaela?

MH: Yes! Programs and also some really classic songs.

CB: What are some of the biggest lessons you each have learned through the new digital program delivery?

CC: Patience, patience, patience. Keep trying and just keep trying and testing.

MH: I would agree. It's been a pretty steep learning curve for some of the platforms. I would say that each of us has our different strengths. Some people actually enjoy video editing—I am not one of those people!

CB: Micaela, what do you think will happen with public programs going forward once we do open campus again? What do you see a visit looking like?

MH: We're going to spend a lot of time thinking about and looking to science museums and children's museums, making sure that we can offer safe experiences for our families. Looking at live streaming and offering our programs online is something that we've been thinking about for a while. And I think it's a great way to reach audiences who can't be with us in Blue Mountain Lake. Our reach is going to be so much bigger.

CB: Schools are an entirely different set of unknowns. Christine, what are some of your thoughts about education?

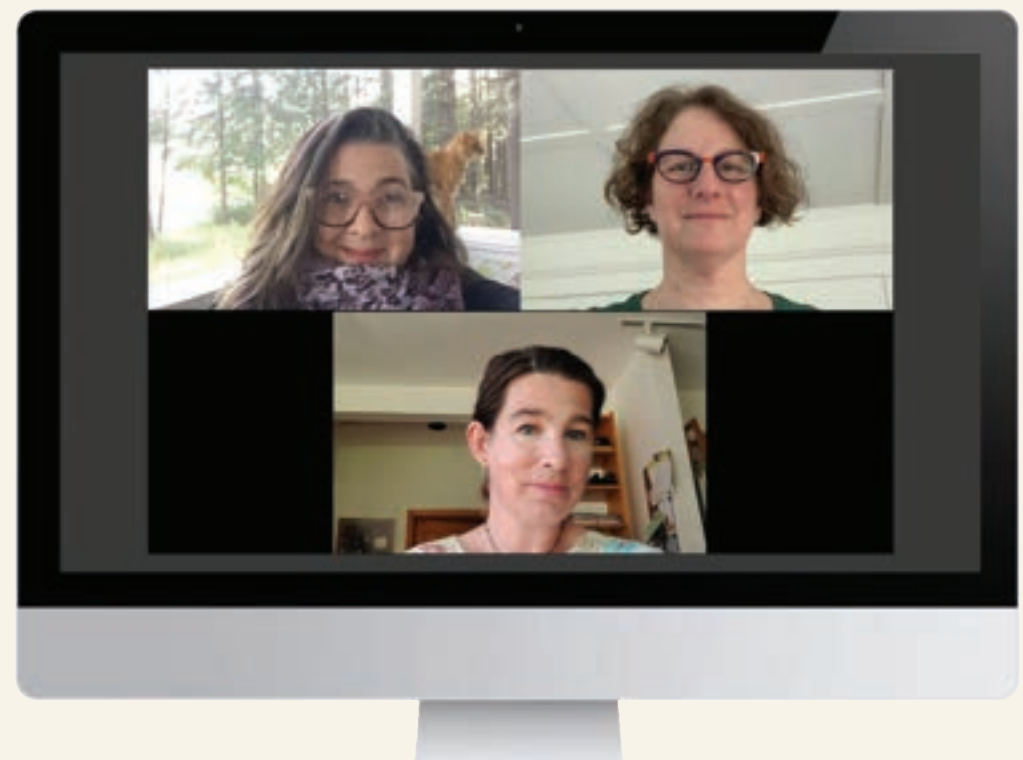
CC: It's a pretty heavy task that's ahead for all these school kids, both in our region and obviously around the world. I really look forward to when we can visit schools again with live, in-person programming. But we've been talking about adding online resources for a while. We have potential to reach beyond our borders and to more students and families. If we're able to return to live school presentations, and also have these remote offerings, that adds another layer of interpretation.

CB: What is the wildest idea that you have that you'd like to see happen for the museum?

CC: I think one of the wildest things would be to present to a hundred students at once. I'd love to see 500 kids on site at one time. I'd love to see more people on site all the time and have educators everywhere and just doing all of this programming. Can you imagine having 500, 600, 700 students? Here we are, social distancing. I want to see more people!

MH: I have my pre-COVID-19 wild ideas like a water table educational experience. Talking about the importance of water in this area and just sharing history and in a different way for a much younger audience. I would really like to explore the possibility of a different type of scan of our objects so that people can not only view them online, but they could also actually take them and incorporate them into games or virtual reality.

The sky's the limit. I'm sure we'll come up with new things.



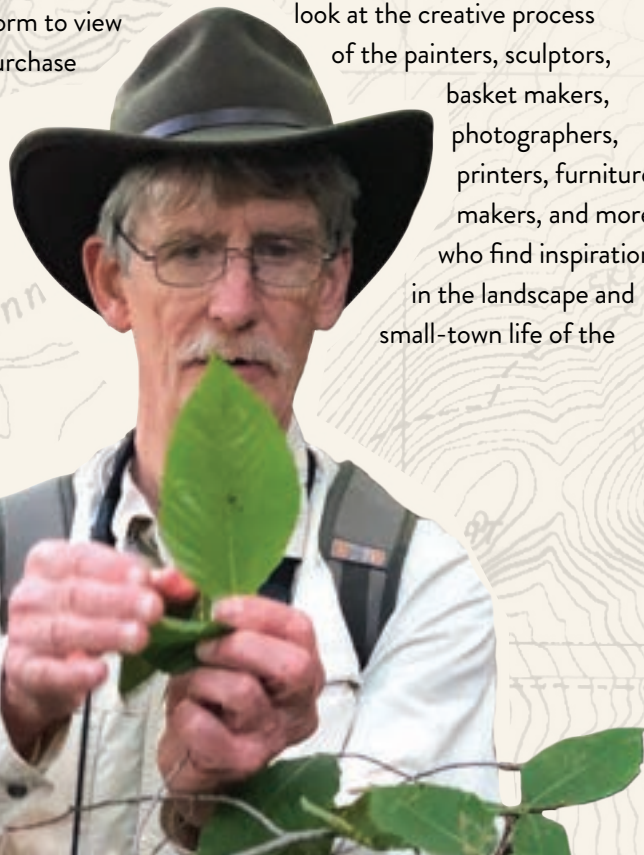
UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR ADKX@HOME

We are busy creating new programs and projects to keep you connected with the ADKX through the summer and fall. Look for these and other exciting programs coming soon!

Adirondack Artisans Online Fair & the Mohawk and Abenaki Virtual Art Market

The ADKX website will serve as an online directory that links viewers/buyers directly with artists and artisans. Both the Adirondack Artisans Online Fair and the Mohawk & Abenaki Art Market will be offered with some of our favorite artists, artisans, and makers featured during a week-long online shopping experience. Viewers/buyers will be able to view sample pieces of artwork and then link to artists' websites, Squarespace store, Etsy store, or other platform to view additional items and to purchase items directly from vendors. Look for the online markets in August. Check our website and social media for updates.

Naturalist Ed Kanze brings viewers along the trails of the Adirondacks.



Staying Grounded

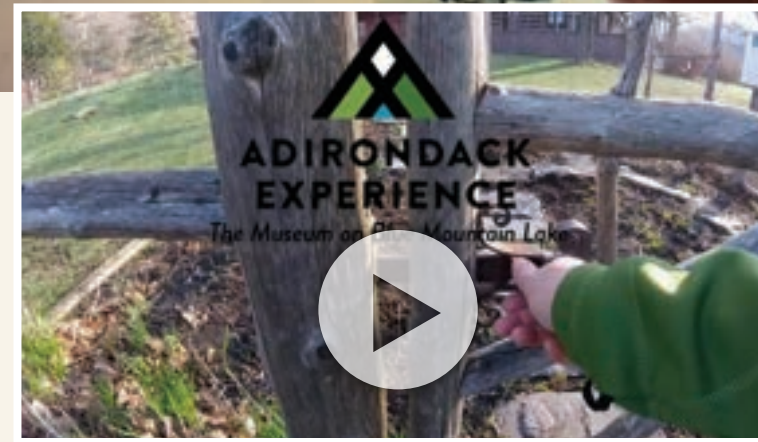
Join Karin, the ADKX Gardener, online as she shares tips and information about gardening in Zone 3. This series of videos will showcase seasonal work in the ADKX gardens, highlight ADKX collections related to gardening, and occasionally feature a special guest. Look for the link at www.theADKX.org.

Creativity in Quarantine

A showcase of the Adirondack Park's vibrant and diverse community of artists, this series will offer a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process of the painters, sculptors, basket makers, photographers, printers, furniture makers, and more who find inspiration in the landscape and small-town life of the



Above: a picture of artist Valerie Patterson in her studio. Left: Staying Grounded video series.



Adirondack Park. Working out-of-doors and in the shelter of their studios, artists share their works-in-progress and the ways the coronavirus crisis is shaping their creative process.

Xplore Adirondack Paths and Paddles

Wherever you call home, you can explore Adirondacks trails and waters with the ADKX. Naturalist and NYS Guide Ed Kanze will bring viewers along trails in the central Adirondacks and share a few notes about the natural and cultural history he sees along the trail. Hallie Bond, long-time ADKX Curator and boating enthusiast, will take armchair paddlers on trips through the central Adirondacks.

In the Shop with...

The Adirondacks have long fostered creativity, ingenuity, talent, and a deep appreciation for the region's woods and waters. The *In the Shop with...* series shares the stories and work of today's makers, builders, crafters, artists, and artisans. We explore how the region's beauty, natural resources, and history inspire and challenge them as they create new pieces. Learn more about the work of those who are carrying on traditions and using tools and techniques from the past. Explore how others are bridging the past and the present with modern materials, equipment, and technology. Look for videos featuring Adirondack boatbuilders in early summer and for videos with artists, artisans, crafters, and makers this fall.



SHOP WITH US ONLINE!

Don't forget the online ADKX Store is always open! Shopping online with us is a great way to help support the museum's maintenance needs in our exhibit spaces and our education programs. We have been adding lots of new products to our online store, so be sure to check back to see what's new. There's something for everyone including apparel, jewelry, books, balsam, gifts, and so much more! Don't want to pay shipping? Take advantage of our curbside pick-up option. As always—thank you for your continued support!

www.theADKXStore.com



SCHOOL'S OUT AND THE KIDS ARE HERE!

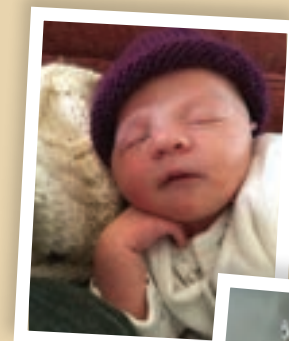
Typically in June the ADKX campus is filled with schoolchildren visiting for end-of-the-year field trips. With an empty campus this June we invited some “kids” from Asgaard Farm & Dairy to come help us with some landscaping and to visit the campus for some fun! Denim and Linen are 4-week-old goats who enjoyed exploring the empty campus and helping us clear some leaves and debris.

Follow their adventures on social media!

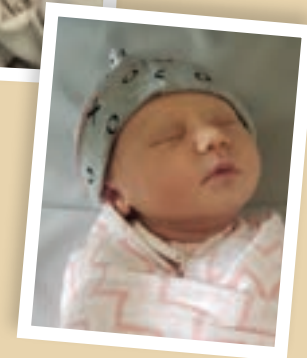


NEW ADDITIONS TO THE ADKX FAMILY!

We are excited to welcome two recent additions to the ADKX family. Wilda Fullflower Gocker III was born May 7th and Wren Evelyn Law was born May 29th. Congratulations to the Library Director Ivy Gocker and Finance/HR Associate Mallory Law.



◀ Wilda Fullflower Gocker III



▲ Wren Evelyn Law

Give the Gift of ADKX Membership. Perfect for family, friends, and colleagues! Call (518) 352-7311, ext. 181 or 112, or visit theADKX.org/join-support/support-our-mission/

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Adirondack Historical Association

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