



FALL

2023



**ADIRONDACK
EXPERIENCE**
The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake

Fall 2023
Newsletter

SEASON IN REVIEW

THAT'S A WRAP ON ANOTHER GREAT SEASON HERE AT THE ADKX, AND WHAT A SEASON IT WAS!

Our biggest news of the season was the opening of our new exhibition *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild*. This permanent exhibit, featuring more than 250 works across four main galleries, is the most comprehensive showing of the museum's art and design collections in its history. The exhibit took more than five years to complete and resulted from a successful fundraising campaign that raised \$5.6M for the renovation and construction of the space.

On July 1 the ADKX hosted a grand opening celebration, inviting visitors, exhibition artists, and donors to a day devoted to art-related activities and programming. Highlights of the event included artist demonstrations and live music, muralling, and screen-printing. Visitors gathered to watch the official ribbon-cutting ceremony with ADKX Board Chair Nancy Reardon Sayer, Executive Director David Kahn, and artists Takeyce Walter and Benjamin "Ben" Benedict before the doors were officially open to the public.

"Five years in the making and we're finally able to share Artists & Inspiration in the Wild with the public," said Chief Curator Laura Rice. ***"We couldn't be more thrilled to welcome visitors into the space and give them the opportunity to connect with the Adirondack landscape through multiple generations' worth of art."***

We were delighted to host both Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for a visit and tour of the new exhibit! The hugely successful opening of *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild* follows the 2017 opening of our keynote exhibition *Life in the Adirondacks*. Both of these exhibitions are part of a larger goal to update our campus to give visitors a reason to come back year after year. Stay tuned for other special projects as the ADKX continues to improve the visitor experience and share even more Adirondack stories.

This exhibition was made possible in part by Empire State Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Institute of Museum and Library Service, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Adirondack Experience is extremely grateful to the generous donors, foundations, and corporations who supported *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild*.



Official ribbon cutting of *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild* exhibition on July 1.



Senator Kirsten Gillibrand explores the new exhibit.



Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado visits the ADKX.



EDUCATION UPDATE

Bringing ADKX to classrooms around the park and beyond!

Autumn is the time of year when yellow school buses get back on the road for a new school year. ADKX educators are back on the road as well, bringing the museum to classrooms throughout the region! We have a growing list of schools and programs scheduled for outreach visits this fall and winter with nearly 2,000 students already signed up for ADKX programs!

We were thrilled to welcome so many students to campus this fall for field trips as well. We hosted 200 more student visitors this fall than previously, including many high schoolers, a group we have been actively trying to reach in recent years.

Meet the ADKX Educator team:



Faith Ordonio recently completed two years with School Programs at the ADKX. She is a graduate of George Washington University with an MA in Museum Education. Faith is now a veteran of outreach programming having seen hundreds of students in their classrooms and driven many, many miles!

Elyse Bennett joined us in August bringing valuable experience, most recently serving as a historic interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg. Elyse holds an MA in Museum Studies from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Wish Faith and Elyse well as they set out on the busy fall outreach season bringing the ADKX to students in the Blue Line and beyond.

ANOTHER SEASON OF NEW CONNECTIONS

Building off the success of our pilot outreach initiative with Outdoor Afro of Albany and Upstate New York in 2022, the ADKX sponsored eight bus trips for community groups from Albany, Utica, and Syracuse during the 2023 season. Through community outreach and partnerships, we were thrilled to welcome 30-40 visitors each month from these regional cities. ADKX Trustee Benita Law-Daio helped lead the community outreach and accompanied all six of the bus trips from Albany. Visitors of all ages were excited to explore the campus and exhibits, learn about Adirondack history, and enjoy the outside beauty of the Adirondacks. Many took the opportunity to hike the Minnow Pond Trail out to the ADKX Boathouse where they paddled around the pond, several paddling for the first time ever. Providing these kind of experiences for new visitors is the inspiration behind this outreach program and part of ADKX's larger commitment to diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.



ADKX WELCOMES NEW & RETURNING TRUSTEES



Harriet B. Huston

Harriet and her husband, Jack, reside in Manhattan and Old Forge. Harriet has had a diverse career spanning the telecommunications and education sectors where she was a highly successful leader with skills in project management, communication, and fundraising. Her professional career began at

AT&T where she rose through a series of positions to develop a new business information system for the company's Board of Directors.

Following a career hiatus to raise five children, during which she was twice elected and served as town Councilwoman for Hopewell Borough in New Jersey, Harriet joined The Lawrenceville School. While there, she utilized her project management skills to implement a software solution to integrate their fundraising practices. Following this, she worked as a Major Gifts Officer to help the school reach a \$200M capital campaign goal.

Now retired from her full-time career, she focuses on supporting non-profit organizations, including serving as a Trustee and Club Secretary of the Adirondack League Club. Through New York Cares, Harriet is a frontline volunteer for various social service organizations in New York City.



Jacob Wright

Jacob is a year-round resident of Lake Placid with his wife, Tara, and four children. He is the founder and CEO of Skyward Companies, which focus on developing hotel projects and managing short-term rentals, hotels, and resorts. An entrepreneur since the age of 18, Jacob has funded, developed, sold, or

managed more than 25 companies in the real estate development, hospitality, live sports, and website development industries.

Jacob has a long, personal connection with the museum as a visitor, coming as a child and now, bringing his family. Prior to joining the board, Jacob served on an ad hoc committee for the museum. His property development expertise has proven to be beneficial.

Jacob also has a long history of volunteer and board service. When he was in his 20s, Jacob was on the board of the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse and became familiar with museum operations. Along with his service on the ADKX Board, Jacob is the President of the Board of Directors of the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.



Anne H. Van Ingen

Robert S. Searle and Anne H. Van Ingen

Anne and Rob were former Board Co-Chairs who both served three terms. During their tenure as Co-Chairs, Anne and Rob saw the museum through the completion of an \$11M capital campaign, the start of the \$5.6M *Artists & Inspiration in the Wild* exhibition project, and guided the museum through the height of the pandemic. After a brief rotation off, the ADKX is glad that both of these dedicated volunteers have returned to offer their expertise to the museum.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE ADKX!



Get all your holiday presents at the ADKX store, open November 24 and December 16 or online anytime!





CALLING ALL READERS AND BOOK LOVERS!

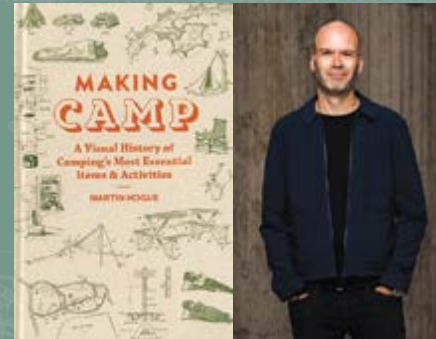
Join us each month for the ADKX's new virtual book series "In the Adirondack Library," featuring recently published books about the North Country. Explore Adirondack life, history, and culture with a diverse group of regional writers.

The series presents new books through selected readings and illustrated talks by the authors; followed by thoughtful interviews with North County Public Radio's Mitch Teich, host of North Words; and lively Q&A sessions. This season's authors examine the lives and work of Adirondack photographers and sculptors; provide new insights about the role of the wilderness and camping in American culture; and illuminate the experiences of Black communities in the North Country.

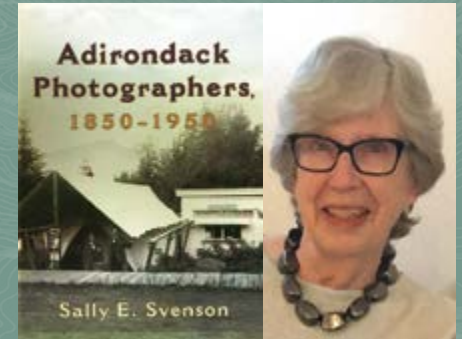
Programs are Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Registration Required. Scan for more info.



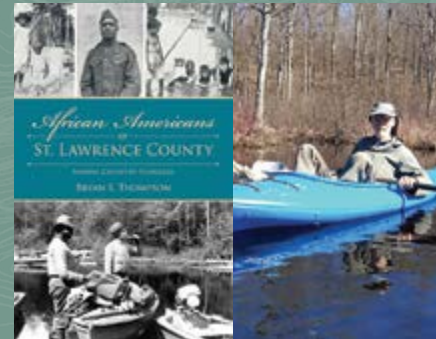
UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday, December 11
Making Camp: A Visual History of Camping's Most Essential Items and Activities
by Martin Hogue



Monday, January 8
Adirondack Photographers, 1850-1950
by Sally Svenson



Monday, February 12
African Americans of St. Lawrence County: North Country Pioneers
by Bryan Thompson



Monday, March 11
Seneca Ray Stoddard: An Intimate Portrait of an Adirondack Legend
by Daniel Way

Books featured in the series will be available at the ADKX Store. Museum members receive a 10% discount.

REMEMBERING TWO ADIRONDACK EXPERIENCE TRUSTEES



Robert R. Worth

Robert (Bob) R. Worth was the fourth Board Chair in the history of the organization, serving from 1990 to 2003, and had been an Honorary Trustee ever since. During his tenure, Bob was the lead negotiator in separating the ADKX from the Harold K. Hochschild Foundation and getting the

museum on solid footing with strong board leadership to move the organization forward. Bob was a wonderful person who took an active interest in the museum's affairs long after stepping down as chair. Just a few years ago, he raised the funds needed to publish *The Adirondack Guideboat: Its Origin, Its Builders, and Their Boats* by Stephen Sulavik. (The ADKX houses Sulavik's research papers.) Bob and friends paid to have the manuscript completed and then printed. Bob and Blaikie, a niece of ADKX founder Harold Hochschild, were constants at the museum's annual gala for over 20 years. Bob showed his support for the organization whenever and wherever possible. Bob passed away at the age of 92 on May 30.



Ann R. Elliman

Ann Rockefeller Elliman was a Trustee from 1992 to 2004, Trustee Emeritus from 2007 to 2009, and became an Honorary Trustee in 2009. She was a member of the Art Committee, an ongoing supporter of the Annual Fund, and made generous gifts to the museum's first-ever capital campaign

in the late 1990s as well as the more recent campaign. Ann was married to Edward S. Elliman, President of Douglas Elliman-Gibbons & Ives. Ann's father, Avery Rockefeller, purchased the 3,856-acre Ampersand Park in the Adirondacks in 1938. Ann was the last of her generation to enjoy Ampersand Park. She grew up knowing the famous Adirondack Hermit Noah John Rondeau (1883- 1967), whose tiny cabin is on display in our Woods & Waters exhibition. In 1990 Ann donated to the ADKX an unusual birchbark canoe made for her parents in the late 1930s by Dan Emmett, a member of the Abenaki Caughnawaga Reservation near Montreal. Ann passed away at the age of 96 on June 16.

REMEMBERING BIG RED



Dorothy Swanson

Dorothy Swanson, the long-serving secretary and assistant to the director at the Adirondack Experience recently passed away in Potsdam, New York. She was 92 years old. With curly red hair, Big Red was a big personality. Dorothy loved TV soap operas, toy poodles, gin and tonics, and the Adirondack Museum. She was a superb typist, proofreader and organizer, and worked with four museum directors. Dorothy knew how to get things done, and she could fix the photocopier and postage machine too. She remembered everybody's birthdays, and everyone enjoyed receiving her off-color greeting cards. At her retirement party, the staff donned red wigs in her honor. Dorothy was also a talented musician. She was a fixture at the restaurant at Potter's Resort, where she played the Lowrey Organ each summer, serenading diners with requests, oldies, and show tunes by Big Red.



ADKX MEMBER PROFILE

Frank and Beth Boland first came to the Adirondacks in 1997 because they were looking for a vacation spot that had both lakes and mountains. Despite a cold and rainy first visit, they fell in love with the region and the museum. They have come back every year for their summer stay at The Hedges on Blue Mountain Lake, right down the road from the museum.

Since their first visit, Frank and Beth have been loyal members of the ADKX. They always recommend the museum to travelers because it's "the best regional museum we've ever been to."

Photo: Beth and Frank Boland standing on a dock at The Hedges, with Blue Mountain visible behind. August 2022.

EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

On top of being members, Frank and Beth donate to the Adirondack Experience Annual Fund every year. As a private nonprofit organization, the museum relies on hundreds of members and supporters to maintain our campus, care for collections, and mount engaging exhibitions. Please donate to the 2023 Annual Fund so we can continue to provide all our visitors—including YOU—a memorable experience year after year.

Scan here to donate on our website
or use the envelope enclosed.



GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR!

Looking for the perfect gift? A gift of membership to the Adirondack Experience is a unique and meaningful present that lasts all year! Share your love of the museum with family, friends, and colleagues this holiday season. Visit the www.theadkx.org/join-support/ or call Membership Coordinator Matt Waligora at (518) 352-7311, ext. 112 to purchase gifts of membership for everyone on your list!

Scan here to to give the gift of an
ADKX membership.



2023 ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

Anne Elizabeth Smith (b. 1967)
Noah John Rondeau: The Hermit of Cold River, ca. 1998
 Cotton
 2023.043.0002
 Gift of James and Anne Schoff



This is one of two portrait quilts of the Adirondacks's favorite hermit, Noah John Rondeau, by Anne Smith. The Schoff family commissioned the quilts to hang in Camp Wenonah on Upper Saranac Lake, near Rondeau's former home at Coreys. Noah John often entertained himself and visitors (he was a very sociable hermit) by playing the fiddle and dancing. Smith's portrait skillfully captures his likeness using contrasting light and dark fabrics to create depth, and framing the image with trees in fall colors.

Clarence W. Brockway, Jr. (1936-2014)
Sign, 1974
 Wood
 2023.061.0001
 Gift of Richard Jewtraw



DJ's Rustic Restaurant was a beloved diner and gathering place in Saranac Lake for more than 50 years. Named for Richard "Dick" Jewtraw (1918-1979), a former owner, the small eatery was popular with locals and tourists alike, featuring simple, tasty, made-to-order meals. Every morning, a cast of regular customers met, sitting at the counter to talk over coffee before starting their day. This weathered sign came down after DJs closed in October 2022.

Holly Pyke
Inclusion, ca. 2023
 Ash splint, sweetgrass
 2023.043.0002



Holly Pyke made her rainbow basket with ash splint dyed in 25 different colors "representing all the people on Turtle Island," or Earth. It took her eight weeks to get the colors just right. As she was weaving, "usually all the splint is uniform but I noticed a few pieces were not, [yet] how can I do a basket to represent acceptance when I was going to get rid of imperfect splint? So I kept them in which is not something I've never done before."

New Home Sewing Machine Company
Sewing machine, ca. 1910
 Cast iron
 2023.003.0001
 Gift of Ed Petty in memory of Catherine Petty



Catherine Petty (1876-1959) gave birth and raised her three sons—Clarence, Bill, and Archie— with husband Ellsworth in a platform tent, small shanty, and, finally, a house on Coreys Road. (Clarence, her eldest, would become the Adirondack's most fervent and beloved advocate.) A family member gave this small, hand-cranked portable sewing machine to Catherine while she and her young family were still living without electricity. She used the machine to make the family's clothing and other essentials.

WACC Conservator Visit

Conservators from the Williamstown Art Conservation Center (WACC) were here in October to survey 620 pieces from our collection of drawings. After analyzing each piece, they will be providing us with a report on the condition of the drawings, and proposing any necessary conservation treatments. The visit from WACC is the latest in a series of projects designed to ensure our collection is in excellent condition for generations to come.



Adirondack Historical Association

PO Box 99

Blue Mountain Lake, NY

12812-0099

THE ADIRONDACK HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

2023 BOARD OF

TRUSTEES

Nancy Reardon
Chair

Anne Donovan Bodnar
Vice Chair

E. Darcie Corbin
Secretary

Peter J. Falco

Drew C. Forhan

Harriet B. Huston

Nancy Keet

John R. Kimberly

Benita Law-Diao

William Locke

Dennis J. Phillips

Geoffrey Robillard

David Rockwell

Treasurer

Richard Scordato

Robert S. Searle

Scott Manning Stevens

Garrett W. Thelander

James T. Townsend

Sarah M. Underhill

Anne H. Van Ingen

Gregory S. Wolcott

Jacob Wright

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David M. Kahn

2023 HONORARY BOARD

OF TRUSTEES

J. Dinsmore Adams Jr.

Frances Beinecke

William H. Boardman Jr.

Sarah Cohen

Margot Paul Ernst

John G. Fritzingler Jr.

Walter F. Harrison III

Hilary C. McDonald

Jane Love McGraw

William J. Nolan III

David F. Remington

Lauren Razook Roth

Sidney S. Whelan Jr.

Gilda G. Wray