

# News letter



## Tragedy and Progress at Camp Santanoni



*By the time the Newcomb Fire Department got to the Camp Santanoni farm, all they could do was to keep the fire from spreading to other buildings and the nearby forest.  
Photograph courtesy NYSDEC.*

On July 13, a fire of suspicious origin destroyed Camp Santanoni's Dairy Barn, one of the most visible and significant buildings at the camp. In many ways, for AARCH and its Santanoni partners, it was our worst nightmare come true. Santanoni's buildings are predominantly wood, highly flammable, and there is currently no fire detection or protection equipment on site. There is also little regular oversight and the remoteness of the most of the camp make saving a building nearly impossible by conventional means.

Since this devastating loss and after a long internal discussion, AARCH has been urging the state to use the fire as

a wake-up call to reaffirm its commitment to Santanoni and provide the resources needed for effective fire protection, conservation of all the buildings, and proper staffing. AARCH has also taken the position that the barn should be reconstructed.

The barn was the anchor structure of the Santanoni farm and the size and sophistication of the farm is one of the camp's most unique features. "Without the barn and without the open fields that once surrounded the farm, the remaining buildings are but cottages in the woods. The barn is essential to understanding why this is an important site and why it is a National Historic Landmark" said Steven Engelhart,

# From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Another busy year has gone by at AARCH with many changes and many things remaining the same. At our annual meeting in August, we elected four new board members (see below) and new officers: President, David Hislop; Vice president, Jane Mackintosh; Treasurer, Jeffrey Sellon; and, as Secretary, the ever faithful Peggy Prime. We welcome them all and wish them a fulfilling and productive term.

Fortunately, the things that remain the same include our excellent staff of Steven Engelhart, Paula Dennis, and Bonnie DeGolyer. Our unique mission continues to be educating and assisting people to protect and preserve the historic built environment of the Adirondack Park. To that end, 2004 saw a record number of educational tours from the rustic camps on Otis Mountain to the Federal style mansions on Willsboro Point. As always, we explore the unique and endangered, such as the imposing Dannemora Prison and the threatened Debar Lodge. We also held our third conference this time at the Silver Bay Association on Lake George. *Adirondack Fire Towers: Past, Present and Future* was attended by all the major players in the fire towers arena, including authors, preservationists, and representatives from the many "Friends" groups.

On the financial front, the AARCH Board established an endowment fund to help guarantee the long-term fiscal security of the organization. We were fortunate to have been granted a \$10,000 Endowment Challenge Grant from the Adirondack Community Trust (ACT) to set this endowment in motion. One of our goals for 2005 is to raise the matching funds required by the ACT grant and to begin to grow the endowment beyond this initial stage.

As you are all aware, Camp Santanoni is one of AARCH's major long-term projects. The news here this year was also one of extremes. First the devastating fire which completely consumed the architecturally significant dairy barn in July. Then, the great joy that AARCH was one of only sixty *Save America's Treasures* grant recipients in 2004 with a grant of \$365,000. This, along with other matching funds, will enable us to continue our efforts to halt deterioration and conserve buildings at this National Historic Landmark.

This year promises to be a memorable one. In addition to our usual offering of educational programs and major work at Santanoni, we plan to publish Sally Svenson's new book on the design and building of Adirondack churches. We are also considering how and where we might create a permanent home for AARCH. All kinds of intriguing new outings, preservation challenges, and organizational growth lie ahead!

David Hislop, Jr.

President

## AARCH Welcomes New Members to its Board of Directors

AARCH is pleased to welcome four new people to its board of directors. **Beatrice Garvan** was the Curator of American Decorative Arts at the Philadelphia Museum of Art between 1966 and 1989 and is now a Curator Emeritus there. Bea has a long association with the Adirondack region and was, with her late husband Anthony N. B. Garvan, owner of Kamp Kill Kare. She is a summer resident of Raquette Lake, where she has been instrumental in the preservation of St. Williams Church on Long Point. **Sandra Hutchinson** worked as a staff archeologist for the NYS State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and worked, as an attorney, for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. She is now the features editor of the Glens Falls *Chronicle* and the publisher of *Adirondack Family Magazine*. **Marion E. Jeffers** is no stranger to the Adirondacks. Both sets of her grandparents owned historic homes in Elizabethtown and Marion summered as a child in one of these "Otis Mountain camps." She now lives in Keene Valley, where she is the proprietor of The Birch Store. **Darren Tracy** is Vice president of West Branch Construction. Their work on historic buildings has included the Keene Valley Library, Lake Placid High School, the Hall of Springs at Saratoga Springs State Park, and Hubbard Hall in Elizabethtown.

# Tragedy and Progress at Camp Santanoni, *continued*

AARCH's executive director. Adding to the tragedy is the fact that New York State "self-insures" its buildings and rebuilds them only when it sees fit. In this case, the state has not yet taken a position on rebuilding the structure.

Another critical need at Santanoni is for better overall site supervision and management. "A full-time, professional site manager is needed for a historic property of this scope and importance," stated Howie Kirschenbaum, AARCH's founding board president and co-author of *Santanoni*. "The Town of Newcomb and AARCH will continue to provide summer interpreters and volunteers, but this is a state-owned property, and the state needs to have a line in the Department of Environmental Conservation's annual budget to insure adequate staffing and conservation efforts there." Currently, one DEC person, Clive Friend, oversees Santanoni and his responsibilities extend over a huge territory well beyond the camp.

## Main Camp Conservation

There is also plenty of good news. Thanks to a \$92,000 grant to AARCH from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, work is well underway to restore the Boathouse and other outbuildings at the Main Camp. The grant has been matched with other funds from NYSDEC, the Town of Newcomb, and the *Friends of Camp Santanoni*.

The Boathouse was among the most seriously deteriorated of all Santanoni's remaining buildings. In the past ten years, most of the roof had collapsed, the floor system had completely deteriorated, and many

of the building's log walls had begun to rot.

The work is being done by Tupper Lake builder and craftsman, Michael Frenette, and a crew of three others. This was Michael's eighth season at Santanoni and, by far, the most challenging.

Over the summer, the crew reinstalled stone foundation blocks built an entirely new floor and sill system, and conserved existing logs and installed new logs, as needed. In addition, several drainage trenches have been put in place in and around the building to allow for proper drainage. To accomplish all this, the existing log walls had to be stabilized and the whole building was raised, in order to replace the deteriorated components of the building underneath. Work was also done on the Generator House, Gazebo, Ash House, and Pump House.

Thanks to Michael and his crew for their great work and passion for rescuing this building. Carl Stearns, our preservation architect, called the summer's accomplishments "nothing short of miraculous." The work will be completed in 2005.

## Save America's Treasures

In the fall, AARCH received the very good news that we had been awarded a \$365,000 grant from the federal *Save America's Treasures* program. This funding, along with matching funds of at least an equal amount from New York State, will allow AARCH and its partners to begin to address the widespread decay and deterioration that exists



From top to bottom: Michael Frenette completes lap joint of floor beam; the crew sets floor joists for new floor; and "Max" helps to set a top course log.

elsewhere at the camp. It will be used for foundation and structural repairs, new roofs, other exterior restoration work, installation of much needed fire detection and protection equipment, and repairs to the camp's historic bridges and culverts. This work will commence in 2005 and will extend over three years.

# Books of Interest

The following are recently published books that should be of interest to AARCH members because they explore some interesting aspects of the region's history and architecture. Most are available at local booksellers or through the web sites listed below.

*The Adirondack Atlas: A Geographic Portrait of the Adirondack Park* by Jerry Jenkins with Andy Keal. Syracuse University Press and Adirondack Museum. [www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu](http://www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu) and [www.adirondackmuseum.org](http://www.adirondackmuseum.org)

The *Atlas* is a multi-layered, geographic portrait of the Adirondack region. Whether you're interested in settlement patterns, cougar sightings, tax rates, climate, ecology, or employment trends, this book provides a remarkable array of information through the text and beautifully executed maps and diagrams.

*Adirondack Fire Towers: Their History and Lore, the Southern Districts* by Martin Podskoch. Purple Mountain Press.

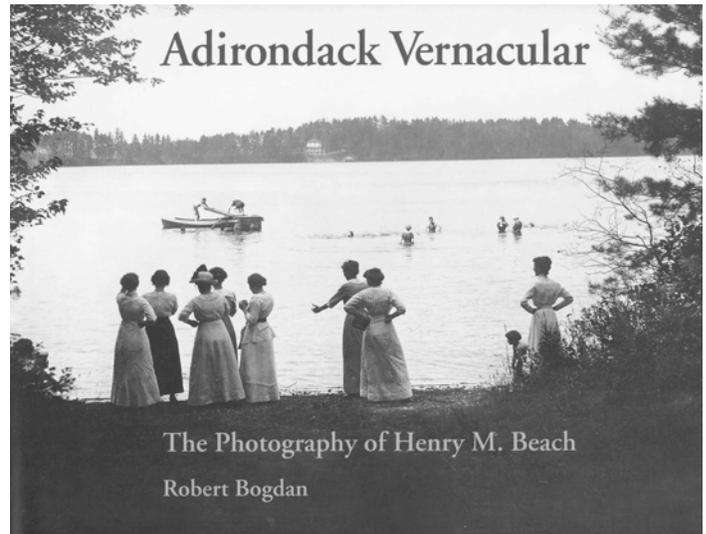
Even though fire tower structures have great appeal, it is the stories of the observers and rangers associated with them that really make them come alive. Marty Podskoch has traveled the region collecting stories and has woven them into an engaging narrative about life in these high places.

*Adirondack Lakes* by Thomas A. Gates  
*The Adirondacks: 1931-1990* by Don Williams  
*Along the Adirondack Trail* by Don Williams  
*Fort Ticonderoga* by Carl C. Crego  
Arcadia Publishing. [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com)

Through a series of captioned postcards and old photographs, these books explore and reveal many diverse subjects and personalities of the region.

*Adirondack Vernacular: The Photography of Henry M. Beach* by Robert Bogdan. Syracuse University Press.

Beach was an accomplished and prolific photographer who documented the Adirondack region in the early twentieth century. His "real-photo" postcards and panoramic photographs reveal much about everyday life at hotels and resorts, logging and hunting camps, villages, and company towns.



*A Mountain View: A Memoir of Childhood Summers on Upper Saranac Lake* by Lewis Spence. Syracuse University Press

The backdrop of much of the late Lewis Spence's lively memoir is Camp Woodwil, a rustic camp on the Narrows of Upper Saranac Lake.

*Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks: The Story of the Lake, the Land, and the People.* Jane A. Barlow, Editor. Big Moose Lake History Project and Syracuse University Press.

Of particular interest to AARCH members will be the information and photographs in this book on the rustic camps and hotels on Big Moose Lake, including Big Moose Inn, Camp Crag, Covewood Lodge, The Glenmore, Lakeview Lodge, and The Waldheim, among others.

*The Fire Observation Towers of New York State: Survivors That Still Stand* by Paul Laskey. MKL Publishing. [www.nysfiretowers.com](http://www.nysfiretowers.com)

Through text, illustrations, and technical information, this book documents the fifty-eight remaining, state-constructed, fire observation towers in New York State.

*Litchfield Park: Stories from an Adirondack Great Camp* by John Stock. Adirondack Museum.

John Stock was a professional forester, property rights advocate, entrepreneur, writer and speaker, local historian, civic leader, and commissioner to the Adirondack Park Agency. For twenty-seven years he also worked for the Litchfield Park Corporation near Tupper Lake. This book is a collection of stories about his time at Litchfield and its operations and owners through three generations.

From time to time, the *AARCH Newsletter* will reprint articles and commentary from late 19th- and early 20th-century journals, magazines, and other publications, items that should be of interest to our readers. Each will pertain to some aspect of the built environment of the Adirondacks. The following is an excerpt.

## “Houses in the Woods”

by Waldon Fawcett

from *The House Beautiful*, July 1902

The growing love for homes in the woods should prove a most democratic influence, for in the provision of no other class of habitations are all mankind necessarily so nearly on a plane of equality. The forest dweller of wealth may be desirous of making lavish expenditure for a home in the wilderness, yet will be confronted at the outset with the knowledge that to rear a huge, pretentious villa will banish irrevocably the elusive fascination which he has migrated to the woods to find. On the other hand, if he give countenance to architectural extravagances or elaborate furnishings, he will lose that restful simplicity which constitutes the chief charm of the perfect woodland haven and thus it comes about that the wealthy man's lodge, if constructed in accordance with refined artistic taste and with a proper regard for the eternal fitness of things, does not differ greatly, save in detail, from that of his neighbor who is possessed of less of this world's goods.

Houses in the woods may be divided into three general classes. In the first class may be placed all those built of logs, from which the bark may or may not have been removed, according to individual preference. The second class comprises frame buildings, which are covered exteriorly with slabs or half logs with the bark on. Finally there are the shingled houses, which are, of course, by no means confined to the woodland regions, but which, when placed in such an environment, are usually given some distinctive features, often designed as suggestive picturesque chalets of the Swiss and Italian mountains. Each of these types is susceptible of innumerable modifications and combinations. For instance, many attractive woodland homes have a first story of logs, the upper portion of the structure presenting an ornamental shingle effect.

In the Adirondacks, where the woodland home has reached the highest stage of its development, the “camps,” as they are called, present two different styles

of arrangement. On the one hand, a camp may consist of a group of from ten to fifteen rustic buildings devoted to the owner, his guests, servants, etc., or on the other, it may comprise a single good-sized building, one, two, or two and a half stories in height. To indicate the size of some of these buildings, it may be noted that Sagamore Lodge, the Adirondack home of Mr. Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, is seventy-five by forty feet.

In many of the Adirondack lodges the entire first floor is given up to one gigantic living-room, the kitchen being located either in a “lean-to” or detached building. This arrangement affords boundless opportunities for carrying out original ideas in furnishings and ornamentation in the immense apartment occupying the ground-floor, particularly since in many camps the logs on the inside of the building have merely been peeled, or mayhap the bark has not been removed. The floor is bare; partly covered, perhaps, with deerskins or dull red rugs, and most of the furniture is intensely rustic....

The greatest possibilities of one of these ground-floor rooms in a good-sized woodland house are disclosed, however, when the different corners are each given a distinctive character. For instance, there may be an Indian corner with blankets, beaded novelties, and perhaps a miniature tepee. A hunter's corner affords a background for an artistic arrangement of snowshoes, rifles, and mounted game heads, whereas the fisherman's nook is correspondingly rich in possibilities. In the Woodruff camp [Kamp Kill Kare] in the Adirondacks a decidedly novel adjunct has been secured by the provision of a birch-bark canoe filled with balsam boughs, forming a marvelous restful couch. Over the fireplace are hung rich-hued ears of corn, and the walls are adorned with striking, decorative pictures suggestive of the joys of life “in the open.”

To sum it up, it might be said that the ambition of the woodland builder should be to provide a home that is open and comfortable, and that the chief pitfall to be avoided by the woodland householder is that of over-furnishing, for in no other class of habitation will a surfeit of decorations suggestive of tawdriness appear so jarring and incongruous.

# AARCH Awards

## Ninth Annual Awards Presented at The Friends Lake Inn



Winners of AARCH's 2004 Awards gather outside The Friends Lake Inn. From left to right are: Kristen Bronander, Woodruff House; Lois Reece, Batchellerville Presbyterian Church; Nils Luderowski for the McClelland Family, Rivermede Farm Store; Jay Latterman, The Woods Inn; Bill and Nancy Cadwallader, Northwood Cabins; Wanda Goodrow, Otter Lake Community Church; and Brother Ed Falsey, St. William's on Long Point.

In 2004, at a special awards luncheon on September 25 at the Friends Lake Inn in Chestertown, AARCH honored a diverse range of preservation activities and accomplishments. We salute this dedicated group of people and trust their work will inspire others.

### **St. William's on Long Point**

#### **Raquette Lake**

#### **The Trustees of St. William's on Long Point, Inc.**

*For a sensitive restoration of the former church*

In 1890, William West Durant, responsible for developing the rustic style of recreational camp building known as the great camps, responded to the needs of his Catholic workers by donating land, money, and materials to build a house of worship on Raquette Lake. Durant employed the contracting firm of Hammond and Mosher to complete an inspiring Shingle style structure designed by the New York City firm of J.C. Cady and Company. Eventually, the community center moved across the lake, the small settlement at Durant declined, and St. William's on Long Point gradually deteriorated.

Through the vision of Brother Ed Falsey and the support of the founding board of

trustees, a proposal was presented and accepted by the Catholic Diocese to deed the church and associated buildings over to a newly formed nonprofit corporation. Its 1992 incorporation statement calls for "...providing a setting for people to gather to share spirituality, learning, community, environmental, and other concerns in the context of an historical and recreational Adirondack setting, and to preserve the actual church building...".

Over 1000 volunteers; visitors, community members, corporations, and preservation professionals, donated time and financial resources to secure the building's structural integrity and envelope. The massive stone piers are now upright and stable and the entire shingled skin, from roof to skirt, has been replaced in kind.

### **The Woodruff House in**

#### **Elizabethtown**

#### **Kristen Bronander**

*For a sensitive restoration*

In 1868, noted local builder Augustus Woodruff chose the popular Italianate style for the design of his family home. Perfect to its form, the house has a box-shaped core topped with a square cupola and with a service or kitchen wing

extending to the rear. The residence retains much of its original architectural detailing including its bracketed cornice and window sash.

Owner, Kristen Bronander served as general contractor doing much of the restoration work herself with the help of local craftsmen. She noted: "While I'd bought the house knowing full well it would be my home, rather than a museum, I nonetheless wanted to restore it as much as possible. It's important to make the distinction between a restoration and a renovation – many people use those words interchangeably. So I wasn't creating a museum, but I wanted my plaster fixed."

With the help of two local craftsmen — Stewart Patnode, a wallpaper hanger, painter, and period plaster restorer and Sharpe Swan of Cloudsplitter Carpentry — the house now has beautifully restored plaster walls and period detailing. The color schemes all reflect the palette of the Italianate period. Historic plantings and antique furnishings grace the rooms and landscape.

### **Batchellerville Presbyterian Church in Edinburgh**

#### **The Session of the Northville**

#### **Presbyterian Church**

*For long-term stewardship*

On the banks of the Sacandaga River, this church replaced the former Congregational Church across the river in Beecher's Hollow. The church organization passed a resolution on February 14, 1867, changing the church government from Congregational to Presbyterian. Construction of the modest Greek Revival style church began in 1866 and was completed the next year.

In the 1930s, construction of the Conklingville Dam transformed the river

Join us for this year's  
**AARCH Awards luncheon and  
 tour at the newly restored  
 The Woods Inn in Inlet on  
 Friday, September 23, 2005.**



2004 AARCH Awards (from top to bottom): St. William's on Long Point, The Woodruff House, Rivermede Farm Store, and The Woods Inn.

valley. Many buildings lay within the impoundment area. In order to save it, the church was moved across the road to higher ground. It was built with a substantial timber frame, facilitating the move in two unequal sections. The larger portion was restored with the pulpit at the opposite end of the sanctuary. The smaller portion was renovated into a Sunday school room with an upstairs kitchen. New stained glass memorial windows were installed.

A decline in attendance led the Batchellerville Presbyterian Church to remain open only in the summer. In 1959 the church merged with the Northville Presbyterian Church and continues to open for services during July and August. In 1996 the church was placed on the Registry of American Presbyterian/Reformed Historical Sites and in 2002 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Northwood Cabins in Tupper Lake**  
**Bill and Nancy Cadwallader**  
*For long-term stewardship*

Northwood Cabins were built in the early 1930s on the Wawbeek Road just north of Tupper Lake to accommodate the new breed of tourists traveling by car. During construction of the state highway in 1937, along the former railroad bed of the Brooklyn Cooperage Company, the eight cabins were moved and realigned to face the new road. In 1939, the Sears and LaPorte families purchased the cabins with Mrs. LaPorte operating the business as the Northwood Tourist Camp until 1972. The LaPortes, over the years, owned the Pine Terrace, Park Hotel, and Red Top Motel in Tupper Lake. In 1940 the house, a Sears and Roebuck kit home, was built in the middle of the row of cabins. Additions to the house and complex in 1947 included two new cabins all with cobblestone chimneys.

The Cadwalladers have owned and cared for Northwood Cabins since 1978. When they found the Northwood property they were attracted to the charm of the cabins and the landscaping of trees, yard, and the relationship of buildings to the driveway. They have meticulously cared for the cabin colony, maintaining its

original architectural charm and characteristics. Today probably as many people stop to take pictures of the sign as to rent the cabins.

**Rivermede Farm Store**  
**The McClelland Family**  
*For a sensitive restoration*

The original complex, built by Ernest Kelly and his sister Bernice, consisted of a garage, gas station, diner, and sleeping cabins. The roadside building was designed by Adrian Edmonds and built by Clarence Edmonds in 1933. It retains all of its charm as an example of a multifunctional structure supporting the needs of early auto tourism. Designed in a vernacular Craftsman style the building retains much of its original integrity in massing and in detail. All of the original windows are in place as well as the garage and associated entrances.

When purchased by the McClellands in 1999, all original systems required repair. The main building underwent careful renovation, retaining all of its original architectural features. The front canopy now subtly mirrors the original Craftsman detail present in the massing and window sets. A careful selection of natural granite and stone form the base for the flared canopy posts. A vibrant resource for fresh produce, meats, and flowers, the building now houses the Rivermede Farm Store owned by Rob Hastings.

**Otter Lake Community Church in Otter Lake**  
**The Trustees of the Otter Lake Community Church**  
*For long-term stewardship*

The church was erected in 1859 in Hawkinsville on the Black River and was dedicated in 1861 as a German Lutheran church. By 1891, the church was abandoned, standing idle until 1921, when it was photographed, dismantled, and re-erected fifteen miles north-east at Otter Lake.

Revived as a non-sectarian Protestant church, it is open for services ten weeks each summer. The building is a classic example of the Gothic Revival style,

## AARCH Awards ... continued

maintained in its original form with few alterations or modifications. A 1921 newspaper account states, "many of the old timbers are in a fine state of preservation and bear the tool marks of the sturdy mechanics of a day gone by when an axe fulfilled their chief requirements."

The church community recently celebrated listing of the property on the National Register of Historic Places. A condition assessment completed in 2004 by Carl Stearns of Crawford and Stearns, Architects was funded by a matching grant from the New York Landmark Society's Sacred Sites program.

### **The Woods Inn in Inlet** **Joedda McClain and Jay Latterman** *For a sensitive restoration*

The Woods Inn on Fourth Lake was originally built in 1894 by Fred Hess, builder of other hotels in the area including the adjacent Arrowhead, current site of the Inlet town park and docks. It got its name from Philo C. Wood, owner of the hotel through its early 20th-century heyday. Around 1949 the Dunay family of Inlet purchased the property and ran the hotel until 1989. Remaining vacant since that time, it appeared likely the old wooden hotel might join the roster of so many lost to decay.

Joedda McClain and Jay Latterman first saw The Woods Inn while coming to Fourth Lake to vacation in their nearby log cabin. Finding themselves out from under several business obligations and renovation projects, they decided to take on The Woods Inn challenge. In 2003, they bought the property from the Dunays, after first convincing the family they were serious about and qualified for the renovation, and began work on July 9, 2003. The building was structurally sound and retained much of its original integrity. Through careful planning and much diligence, less than one year later on June 25, 2004, they opened the doors on a newly restored inn. McClain and Latterman plan to remain open year-round.

## **AARCH's Eighth Annual Raffle a Huge Success**

On October 15, the winning tickets were drawn for our eighth annual raffle.

The winners were:

### **Carole Slatkin**

A week at a lakeside cabin at Camp Uncas

### **Edwin Collins**

A spring weekend at White Pine Camp

### **George Hogan**

A weekend at Greystone Mansion in Essex

### **Ann Parker**

A weekend at Silver Bay on Lake George

### **Kay Stevens**

A two-night stay at Wellscroft in Upper Jay

### **Carl Resek**

A two-night stay at The Hedges on Blue Mountain Lake

### **Brian Cale**

An Adirondack area rug from The Birch Store in Keene Valley

### **William Lowe**

Four passes to Fort Ticonderoga

### **Barbara Howe**

One-year membership to the Adirondack Museum

### **Jocelyn Smith**

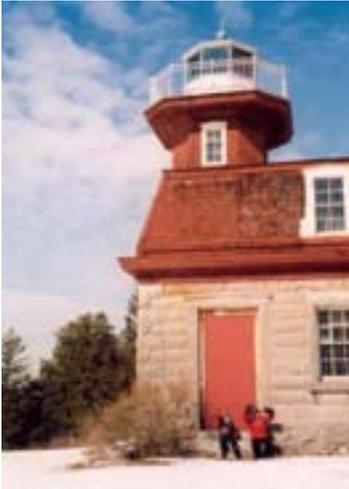
A season's pass for two to all AARCH tours

The raffle raised more than \$7,000 and drew additional attention to our important work. Many thanks to those who donated prizes, including: Adirondack Museum, Fort Ticonderoga, David Hislop, Howie Kirschenbaum, Silver Bay Association, Linda Stanley at Wellscroft, The Birch Store, and Pat Benton at The Hedges

*The AARCH Awards program annually recognizes exemplary historic preservation work throughout the Adirondack region.*

*We seek examples of sensitive restoration, rehabilitation, and demonstrated long-term stewardship. From houses to libraries, motels to commercial buildings, log cabins to gas stations, help us spread the word about the good work going on in our region by nominating a project from your community. We welcome nominations throughout the year. For more information on our awards program and to obtain a nomination form, contact AARCH or visit our website at [www.aarch.org](http://www.aarch.org).*

# AARCH Interpretive Cross-country Ski Tours



## Historic Valcour Island: On Lake Champlain

**Saturday, February 12**  
**10 A.M. to 3 P.M.**

*Explore the interior of the 1874 lighthouse, ski the woodland trails, view fossil features, and the breathtaking landscape on Lake Champlain as you learn about the history of the island from AARCH Executive Director Steven Engelhart and naturalist David Thomas-Train.*

## Camp Santanoni: Adirondack Great Camp

**Saturday, March 5**  
**10 A.M. to 4 P.M.**

*Ski the 4.8-mile historic carriage road into the majestic wilderness estate to view the camp's three complexes. Visit the massive log retreat at Main Camp and see authentic 19th-century rustic interiors with Robert Engel, co-author of Santanoni: From Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp and John Friauf, licensed NYS guide.*



**Ski tours are \$15 per person / \$10 for AARCH members.**  
**Advance registration is required. Attendance is limited.**

**To register or for more information contact  
AARCH at (518) 834-9328**

## About Adirondack Architectural Heritage

**Adirondack Architectural Heritage** is the non-profit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park with an educational mission to promote better public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the region's architecture and communities. We fulfill this mission by sponsoring tours and workshops, giving public slide presentations, offering technical assistance, and supporting local governments, organizations, and individuals in their preservation efforts. AARCH is a membership organization with 1000 members. Members receive a biannual newsletter, discounts on AARCH sponsored events and publications, and may attend our annual meeting.

### Join AARCH!

*I want to help preserve the Adirondack Park's historical and architectural legacy. Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership contribution.*

- \$30 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$50 Supporting
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$250 Patron
- \$500 Benefactor

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to  
"Adirondack Architectural Heritage" and  
mail to: AARCH, Civic Center, Suite 37,  
1790 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944

### AARCH Special Events in 2005 SAVE THESE DATES

- ◆ **Annual Meeting Saturday, June 25, 2005**  
*Masonic Lodge, Greystone Mansion, & the Lois McClure, Essex.*
- ◆ **AARCH Benefit, Saturday, July 30, 2005**  
*Wenonah Lodge, Upper Saranac Lake.*
- ◆ **AARCH Awards Luncheon, Friday, September 23, 2005**  
*The Woods Inn, Inlet.*

# News & Notes

**ALBANY:** Enacted in 2000, the New York State Barns Restoration and Preservation Program annually awards grants of up to \$25,000 per project for the restoration of historic barns throughout New York State. Eight Adirondack Park properties received grants in 2004. They are: the Penfield Homestead Museum, Crown Point; the Dickinson Hay Barn, Westport; Solid Rock Ranch, Northville; Keeping North Country Green, Queensbury; 999 Wall Street, Diamond Point; the Maggy Farm, Cadyville; Sister's Farm Barn, Gabriels; and the Wells Barn, Wells. For more information contact the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation at (518) 237-8643 or [www.nysparks.state.ny.us/grants](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/grants). For historic barn rehabilitation tax credit information contact the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance at (518) 457-7429 or [www.tax.state.ny.us](http://www.tax.state.ny.us), or your tax professional.

**AUSABLE CHASM:** the Old State Road Bridge, a circa 1890, National Register listed, Pratt pony truss bridge was closed in 2004 by the Clinton and Essex County Departments of Public Works, due to safety concerns. AARCH has offered to work with the counties to study and find funding for the rehabilitation of this and other historic Ausable River bridges.



*Technology students from the Westport Central School were led on an outing to explore the Ausable River's historic bridges by AARCH's Steven Engelhart in the fall of 2004.*

**DUANE:** Thanks to advocacy by AARCH, the Town of Duane, and others, the NYSDEC has decided to study the preservation and reuse of Debar Pond Lodge, which was built in 1939 for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wheeler and designed by Saranac Lake architect William Distin. DEC's original plans were to demolish it after it came into state ownership in 2004.

**ELIZABETHTOWN:** Garondah Lodge, an elegant Queen Anne style house built in 1882, was demolished on January 17, after decades of neglect and decay. It was originally built by Thomas Coddington, a metals magnate, as a summer retreat for his two daughters. In the 20th century, it was used as an inn. Garondah had been on AARCH's Endangered Properties List for years. The new owners of the property plan to restore the Gaming Cottage and other remaining historic buildings there.

**GABRIELS:** The Town of Brighton is the recipient of a \$40,000 legislative member item,

through NYS Senator Elizabeth Little, to assist with the rehabilitation of the Brighton Town Hall, which was designed and built in 1914 by local builder Ben Muncil. A \$12,000 grant from NYSCA's Architecture, Planning and Design Program funded the restoration and rehabilitation plan prepared in 2004 by Crawford and Stearns, Architects of Syracuse.

**HADLEY:** Following careful consideration by all concerned parties, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the Federal Highway Administration have issued formal approval for the most recent rehabilitation design for the 1885 Bow Bridge. The design by Ryan-Biggs Associates proposes insertion of a shallow-beam secondary structural system able to carry unrestricted loads, while maintaining the historic structure's visual integrity. Saratoga County, recipient of a \$1.2 million Transportation Enhancement Award (TEA-21) to rehabilitate the bridge, anticipates completion of the project by 2006. AARCH was instrumental in advocating for the bridge's preservation and in acquiring the funds to study and rehabilitate it.

**JAY:** After years of controversy and delay, the restoration of the historic 1857 Jay Covered Bridge was largely completed in 2004. The bridge was rehabilitated in its present temporary location, on one bank of the Ausable River, and will

# News & Notes ... *continued*

be returned to its original site after a new bridge is built about 400 yards downstream. Both projects should be completed by 2006. This work was done by Alpine Construction for \$652,184 and was funded by a federal grant to Essex County.

**NORTH CREEK:** In 2004, the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks published *The Future*

*of Adirondack Fire Towers*, a comprehensive look at the region's fire observation towers. To obtain a copy or for more information about the report, call (518) 251-4257 or visit [www.rcpa.org](http://www.rcpa.org)



*Floral Hall at the Essex County Fairgrounds in Westport was restored in 2004.*

## **New Properties on the National Register of Historic Places**

In 2004, several properties in the North Country were listed on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places. These include:

- Brighton Town Hall, Franklin County.
- Forest Presbyterian Church, Lyons Falls, Lewis County.
- Edwards Town Hall, St. Lawrence County.
- Clare Town Hall, St. Lawrence County.
- D&H RR Station, Rouses Point, Clinton County.
- St. Williams on Long Point, Raquette Lake, Hamilton County.
- St. Regis Mountain Fire Observation Station, Santa Clara, Franklin County.
- First Union Protestant Church of Mountain View, Belmont, Franklin County.
- First Congregational Church of Lewis, Essex County.
- Otter Lake Community Church, Forestport, Oneida County.
- Covewood, Big Moose, Herkimer County.

**PARADOX:** In August, Crawford and Stearns, Architects completed a condition report for the Paradox Community Center, a modest Greek Revival style, former one-room schoolhouse. The report funded through a grant from NYSCA's Architecture, Planning and Design Program, reveals early dove-tailed timber frame techniques and vertical plank wall construction.

**POTTERSVILLE:** after years of neglect and deterioration, the Wells House, a circa 1845 hotel, is being fully restored. The project is being undertaken by Paul and Shirley Bubar and, when completed, will include ten guest rooms and dining for sixty-five. As part of the project, the owners are nominating the building to the National Register.

**VALCOUR ISLAND:** Bluff Point lighthouse was built in 1874 and was a navigational aid for Lake Champlain boat traffic until 1935, when a steel tower and automated light was built adjacent to it. Illustrating that so many things in life are cyclical, in 2004, the United States Coast Guard installed an automated light in the historic lighthouse tower. The restored steel

tower will be preserved as a second generation navigational light. The lighthouse is maintained by the Clinton County Historical Association in Plattsburgh.

**WESTPORT:** Floral Hall, the architectural centerpiece of the Essex County Fairgrounds in Westport, was restored in 2004. The work done by S&R Construction of Corinth and was funded by Essex County with support from a \$125,000 grant from New York State. The circa 1885 hall is used for exhibitions of farm and home products during Fair Week and for special events at other times of the year. This project is part of a larger effort by the county and fair organization to restore and improve this historic facility. The fairgrounds will be nominated to the National Register in 2005.

**We welcome items about architecture, historic preservation, local history, and related subjects for *News & Notes*. Please let us know what's going on in your area.**

# New AARCH Book in 2005



*St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Piercefield.  
Photo by Henry Beach, ca. 1900; courtesy of  
Edward Comstock, Jr.*

In 2005, AARCH will publish a new book, tentatively titled, *Adirondack Churches: Their Design and Building* by Sally E. Svenson. This book will explore the rich history of church design and building, from the earliest Congregational churches in the

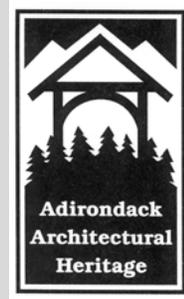
Champlain Valley to the seasonal chapels throughout the region's interior. The book will be richly illustrated with more than 230 historic and contemporary photographs and line drawings. The following is an excerpt from the book:

The more than two hundred churches in the Adirondack region did not emerge in a vacuum. Residents here belonged to the same mainstream religious groupings as people throughout the rest of the country. Congregations were subject to the same denominational directives or lack thereof, the same financial restraints, the same design influences. They responded to the same stylistic revolutions, the same technological advances, and the same patterns of change in the building trades and architectural profession. To know something about the ideas and resources that physically shaped Adirondack churches is to also understand to some degree the same phenomena holding sway in similarly populated regions of Pennsylvania, Texas, or Oregon.

We expect the book to be available this summer. An order form will be mailed to all AARCH members in the spring. We are most thankful for financial support for this publication from Furthermore, the John A. Sellon Trust, the Fowler Merle-Smith Family Trust, and Charles and Sally Svenson.



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