

2004 was a great year for AARCH

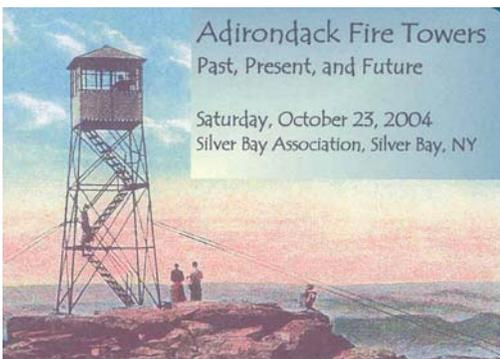


Lee Manchester, Lake Placid News

On our *Historic Willsboro* tour, we explored Scragwood, the home and office of quarry owner Solomon Clark. Below are our 2004 Stewardship Award winners.



4th graders from the Keeseville Elementary School explore the village with Steven Engelhart. AARCH's fall conference drew fire tower enthusiasts from all over the region.



Tours, Workshops, and Special Events. This year AARCH sponsored thirty public educational tours and workshops throughout the Adirondack region. They focused attention on a variety of communities and themes and reflected AARCH's broad view of what sites and communities have historic and architectural significance. We also offered exclusive tours of White Pine Camp, the 1926

Summer White House of Calvin Coolidge, near Paul Smiths and held five special events - our annual meeting in Valcour, three benefit events, and our ninth annual awards ceremony at the Friends Lake Inn near Chestertown.

Public Slide Presentations. AARCH continued to give public slide presentations this year, to diverse audiences, in locations throughout the region. Over the last ten years, we have done almost 250 such programs and reached more than 8000 people.

Architecture-in-Education. For the eighth year in a row, AARCH was part of an innovative program in the Plattsburgh City School District's 4th grades, where we used the architecture of the Kent Delord House Museum and the surrounding neighborhood to explore local history, culture, change, and building design. We also led neighborhood walkabouts for students at the Keeseville and Ausable Forks Elementary Schools and took Westport Central School technology students out to explore the Ausable River's historic bridges.

Fire Tower Preservation. We have continued to lend our organizational support to four fire tower preservation projects in the region - the *Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine*, *Friends of Mt. Arab*, *Azure Mountain Friends*, and the *Friends of Bald Mountain*. All of these groups have succeeded in creating grass roots organizations, restoring and reopening their respective fire towers, and undertaking other educational and trail improvement work. In the fall, AARCH also sponsored a regional conference, *Adirondack Fire Towers: Past, Present, and Future*, which drew enthusiasts from all over the region. We also continue to support the creation of a major documentary on fire towers.

Adirondack Architectural Heritage protecting and preserving the irreplaceable architectural heritage, historic places, and communities of the Adirondack Park



A fire on July 13th burned the main barn at Camp Santanoni to the ground. Michael Frenette and crew work on the restoration of the Camp Santanoni boathouse (below).



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AARCH nominated St. Williams Church (above) on Raquette Lake's Long Point to the National Register of Historic Places.

Debar Pond Lodge (below) has been spared demolition, so far, thanks to AARCH's advocacy.



Camp Santanoni. This was a year with both great progress and great devastation. On July 13th, the main barn at the Santanoni farm burned to the ground, as a result of carelessness or arson. AARCH immediately endorsed the rebuilding of this most important structure. The loss has also galvanized us to step up the pace of conservation efforts, fire protection, staffing, and other activities by the state and its partners. On the bright side, thanks to a \$92,000 grant to AARCH from the Environmental Protection Fund, the boathouse is being restored and will be completed in 2005. We also learned this fall that AARCH was one of only 60 Save America's Treasures grant recipients this year. This \$365,000 matching grant will be used to correct widespread deterioration and structural problems throughout the site.

National Register Nominations and Historic Sites Surveys. In 2004, AARCH staff prepared National Register nominations for the Essex County Fairgrounds in Westport, St. Williams on Long Point in Raquette Lake, and Flat Rock Camp in Willsboro. A survey of historic sites in the Town of Willsboro was also begun.

Technical Assistance. We continued to provide helpful assistance to more than forty historic property owners on a range of preservation issues. This included providing support for National Register nominations, distributing information on preservation grants and tax credits, and giving conservation advice. We are particularly excited to be part of a group looking to create a center for telling the story of the underground railroad and abolitionism in the North Country.

Advocacy for Endangered Properties. AARCH has been a consistent advocate for the preservation of important structures in the region, including the Bow Bridge in Hadley, Debar Pond Lodge in Duane, and threatened fire towers on Hurricane and St. Regis Mountains. We are particularly pleased that New York State has put off its planned demolition of Debar Pond Lodge and is studying possible agency and public uses of this 1939 Great Camp. We have also been part of the effort to preserve and interpret the historic McIntyre Furnace and remains of the hamlet of Adirondac and original Tahawus Club buildings in Newcomb. The Open Space Institute, the new owner of this property, has actively involved state agencies, organizations, and others in planning the future of this site.

Other activities and projects include: nurturing the Adirondack Arts in Education Partnership, which supports arts residencies in the region's schools through advocacy and grants; progress on our next book project, *Adirondack Churches: A History of Building and Design* by Sally Svenson; and, through the sale of a donated piece of real estate in Keeseville, the creation of a special projects fund.