AARCH Celebrating 25 Years
AARCH MATTERS
2015 HIGHLIGHTS VOLUME 24 NUMBER 3

AARCH Wins National Trust for Historic Preservation's *Trustees' Award for Organizational Excellence*

In recognition of the organization's accomplishments over the past 25 years, the National Trust for Historic Preservation presented its *Trustees' Award for Organizational Excellence* to AARCH in Washington DC on November 5.

"Over the past 25 years, **Adirondack Architectural Heritage has emerged as one of the most effective rural preservation organizations in the nation,**" said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "From its work at the National Historic Landmark Camp Santanoni, to its innovative efforts on behalf of historic fire towers, to its successful campaigns to create historic districts in smaller communities, AARCH is making a difference across New York's picturesque Adirondack region."

Executive Director Steven Engelhart and Howie Kirschenbaum, founder and Board member, accepted the award on behalf of AARCH and all those who are preserving historic places and revitalizing communities in the Adirondacks.

"We are grateful to the National Trust for this honor, especially in light of the outstanding preservation work that is being done in places across the country by all of the Trustees' Award nominees," said Steven Engelhart.

"We accept it on behalf of *all* of the organizations, state agencies, elected officials, businesses and many, many individuals that AARCH has worked with and relied on as partners in our effort to preserve the Adirondacks' historic built environment. It truly belongs to all of us — we're just bringing it home!"

Steven Engelhart and Howie Kirschenbaum accept the Trustees' Award

National Trust for Historic Preservation

The Trustees' Award for Organizational Excellence recognizes a nonprofit organization, large or small, that has demonstrated sustained and superlative achievement in historic preservation and has accomplished the following goals:

- Achieved outstanding success in historic preservation over a sustained period of time.
- Broadly and effectively communicated the value of historic preservation to its constituents.
- Exhibited leadership in issues of importance to historic preservation.
- Demonstrated integrity in its dealings, including financial management.
- Made appropriate efforts to be inclusive in the composition of its board, staff, membership, and programs.

Camp Santanoni Partners Honored by New York State

NEW YORK STATE Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) announced on October 30 that the Town of Newcomb, the Department of Environmental Conservation and AARCH will share an award for **our long-term collaborative efforts to restore and interpret Camp Santanoni** and to make it one of the region's most important and beloved historic destinations.

The annual *New York State Historic Preservation Award* "honors excellence in the preservation and revitalization of New York's historic and cultural resources." The recognition is especially fitting as AARCH was founded around the campaign to save Santanoni. We are very proud of the lasting partnership that exists today and is the bedrock of its future.

Many people have contributed to this success: *Friends of Camp Santanoni* volunteers, seasonal staff members and interns, work crews, guides, researchers and, of course, the tens of thousands who visit and care deeply about this unique place.

Please give! ANNUAL APPEAL

"Without fail, every place I visited over the years, local citizens mention the pivotal support that AARCH provided in helping *them* preserve *their* heritage.
— Pat Tiller, *National Park Service, former Deputy Associate Director for Cultural Resources*

Farm Manager's Cottage

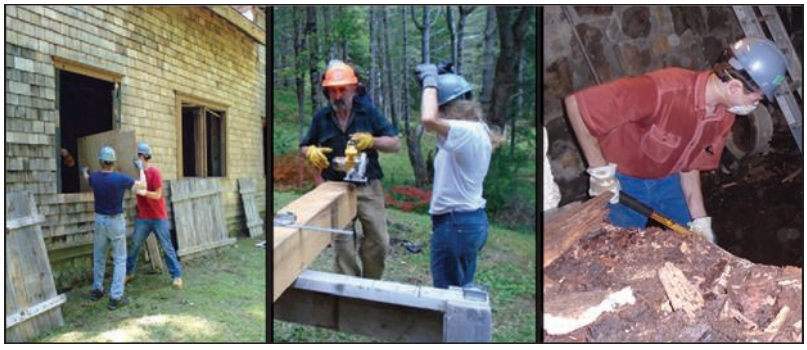
Santanoni: Focus on the Farm

The highlight of this year's conservation work at Santanoni was **an intensive two-week project with HistoriCorps** to rehabilitate two cottages at the farm. HistoriCorps is a national program that brings crews of volunteers, led by experienced tradespeople, to repair and restore historic buildings on public lands.

The crew, with Michael Frenette supervising, was there in August and made a big dent in repairing the very deteriorated interior framing of the herdsman's and farm manager's cottages. Chuck Higgerson, a longtime volunteer and part-time Newcomb resident, architect, and AARCH member, also completed the repointing and rebuilding of the stone steps that lead to the farm manager's cottage.

Update on the UMP

The DEC's proposed revisions to the *Camp Santanoni Historic Area Unit Management Plan (UMP)* were made public in 2015. AARCH played an active role in advocating for the plan and in proposing some improvements. The draft plan does allow for rebuilding the Santanoni farm barn, lost to fire in 2004, and for more public use and widespread interpretation of the site. However, we feel that the plan does not go far enough in allowing for the restoration of the agricultural landscape around the farm. We hope that this will be part of the final plan going to the Adirondack Park Agency later in the year.



The HistoriCorps team working at the Farm

Other Highlights

- A record 1,200 people arrived at Santanoni by horse-drawn wagon this summer. Some **15,000 people will have visited the camp** in 2015.

- Thank you to our great summer staff: Janell Keyser (Eastern Michigan U.), John LaDuke (Memorial U. of Newfoundland), and Emma Gencarelli (U. of Delaware). John, a folklorist, interviewed Myron Melvin about his memories of Santanoni and Emma took raw footage to create video pieces when she returns to school. Stay tuned!

- *Friends of Camp Santanoni* held two volunteer days where they **worked with DEC staff members to cut brush, trim trees and begin restoring the farm landscape.** These efforts will help re-create the original openness of the farm and allow visitors to venture farther and explore more of the farm's original buildings and structures.

Thanks to everyone who worked at Santanoni this year, staff and volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer in 2016, send an email to Howie Kirschenbaum at HKirschenb@aol.com.

Like A Bird From Above

Thanks to Jed Thone, you can now see the "phoenix" shape of Santanoni in a beautiful video. Jed used a drone to capture a view of the camp you can only see from the air. Find it on **YouTube**, search *Santanoni Drone.*

A Visit to Santanoni *(excerpts)*
by Annika Johnson

We shared where we were from, beneath a crisp Adirondack morning. Despite the wide range of backgrounds, we had all chosen Santanoni as a place to converge. **The great camp was doing what it did best,** drawing people in with a rustic charm and a true embodiment of the Adirondack Park.

Walking under yet **another set of stone arches,** I entered the creamery feeling as if I was stepping into history, itself. Between its concrete walls the building held an overpowering stillness that muffled the outside world. Inside, it seemed as though you were suspended in the rich past of this place.

People gathered here in pursuit of a peacefulness and unbound happiness missing in urban life.

Times have changed, but our reasons to be in the woods haven't. Everyone can find a piece of Santanoni that speaks to them.

Annika Johnson is a photographer, videographer and high school student who summers in the Adirondacks. You can see stunning photos of her trip to Santanoni and read the full article online on our blog, ***The AARCHER. Go to www.aarch.org/blog.***

Please give! ANNUAL APPEAL

"Clearly one of the top preservation non-profits in the country. An outstanding model and inspiration for our students."
— **Thomas Visser,** *Director, Historic Preservation Program, University of Vermont*

Looking Up: Fire Tower Progress

One of the joys we've had this fall is seeing a piece of regional history preserved through the restoration work on the **fire towers on Hurricane, St. Regis and Spruce Mountains.** These icons on the landscape represent a century of life and history.

Fire observation towers dotted the Adirondacks throughout the 20th century — **57 of them at one point.** The steel towers were built 40-70 feet high with a 6′ x 6′ glass-enclosed cab that housed the fire observer, map and alidade (for fixing locations) and a telephone. The heyday of the towers was from 1920-70, when observers lived in cabins near the towers, educated summit visitors, and passed on their stories, while saving huge tracts of wilderness threatened by fire.

Hurricane Mt. volunteers work on new steps

The last tower closed in 1990 and, almost simultaneously, groups were formed to save and restore some of them. **AARCH provided support for these efforts** and partnered with six fire tower "Friends" groups, including those working on the Hurricane and St. Regis towers. After a major public campaign, the DEC in 2014 reclassified the land underneath them as "Historic," allowing the structures to be restored.

The 2015 restoration work was done by **a partnership of the DEC, volunteers, and a crew from the Student Conservation Association (SCA).** AARCH staffer Mary-Nell Bockman hiked up to join the Hurricane work team for a day, and she promises wonderful views and the magic of Adirondack history when you climb up here or to any of the other restored fire towers.

Breezeway to the Main Lodge, Eagle Island

Eagle Island: A Win for Kids!

A National Historic Landmark and former Girl Scout camp (1937-2008), Eagle Island on Upper Saranac Lake will soon be owned by the Friends of Eagle Island (FEI). In October, after a 6-year campaign, FEI announced the purchase and their desire to, **"begin to bring back to life this amazing property."** Their plan is to open it, possibly by this summer, for children and families to enjoy and to upgrade and preserve the historic buildings designed by William Coulter.

AARCH Board member Howie Kirschenbaum has been helping FEI through the process.

Why Should We Save the Inner Gooley Club?

Why is AARCH trying to save a humble hunting and fishing club?

First, over the past several decades, tens of thousands of acres of land have been transferred from private to public ownership (Forest Preserve) and, as a result, hundreds of traditional hunting and fishing clubs in the Adirondack region have been forced to close. This is a huge loss. Preserving the National Register-eligible Gooley Club buildings, one of the oldest existing clubs, is a way of honoring this traditional way of life and the architecture associated with it.

Even more importantly, **the buildings could be repurposed for public use.** The Outer Gooley Club is a perfect location for a small museum dedicated to the region's hunting and fishing club culture, and a group of enthusiastic volunteers is ready to take on this project. The Inner Gooley Club buildings (see photo below), a complex of simple cabins on

Third Lake, could be a way-station within the hut-to-hut trail system, for hikers, skiers and horseback riders, that is in development for the Essex Chain region.

AARCH is working with Gooley Club members, local organizations, and officials to make a case for the preservation and public use of these buildings in the hope that the responsible state agencies will see and endorse their promise and preservation.

Update on the Old Stone Barracks in Plattsburgh

In November 2014, efforts by AARCH and Friends of the Old Stone Barracks (FOSB) paid off when the building was purchased by Terry Schmaltz and Mary Theresa Pearl, owners of Valcour Brewing Co. They are restoring this 1838 National Register-listed building and the craftsmanship is beautiful. The brewery plans for a late 2015 opening and the FOSB is now raising funds to create an interpreted history walking trail through the old base property. Visit *www.oldstonebarracks.org* for more information. We can soon raise a craft-brewed glass to a new life for the Old Stone Barracks!

2016 Winners: Preserving Places *and* Communities

Nearly 80 AARCH members and friends set sail on September 25 aboard the Horicon *on Lake George to honor this year's Preservation Award winners.*

As you can see, all the projects that won this year have a strong sense of community around them. You can read more about these inspiring people, organizations and their award-winning places on our website.

Lenny & Pam Broiles, The Revival, Wells

The old Baptist church, built in 1845, landed in the Broiles' hands when no one else could keep it up. Over two years, they rebuilt and repaired the porch, plaster ceiling, roof and much else while restoring the pews, pulpit, woodwork, windows and steeple. The Revival is now a community music and event center, much enjoyed by locals. The original church bell rings out again to signal intermission.

Analise Rigan and Merritt Hulst, The Paradox House, Schroon Lake

This grand house, a prominent feature on Route 74, was built by Merritt's great-grandfather in 1896 and served summer visitors who enjoyed the nearby lake. A family home until the 1960s, it stood empty and deteriorating for four decades until Merritt and Analise brought it to life again. Today, it is a comfortable, year-round bed & breakfast "retreat," offering guests the beauty and warmth of this memory-filled place, now restored.

Marcella Sembrich Memorial Association, The Sembrich, Bolton Landing

Now an opera museum, the building was the studio of a world-famous soprano and Met Opera diva. It sits on a wooded peninsula on the shores of Lake George and extensive work to restore the studio and grounds has been ongoing since 2000. The result is a light-filled event space that hosts summer concerts by world-renowned singers and musicians and an impressive place for visitors to experience the "Golden Age of Opera."

SUNY-ESF, The Huntington Lodge and Masten House, Newcomb

The Durant-designed **Huntington Lodge** came to the State College of Forestry in 1939 and had various uses over the decades. In 2008, renovations created a functional and beautiful interior while restoring its connection to the outdoors.

The Masten House, purchased by ESF in 2013, is one of the last buildings from the Tahawus Club-era and served as a posh executive retreat. The restoration created smaller, comfortable bedrooms, an energy-efficient footprint, and home-like feel for its conference and meeting rooms — a beautiful oasis within a stunning, wild landscape.

Tumblehome Boatshop, The Carpenter Building, Warrensburg

The renovation of this 1950s warehouse into Tumblehome's wooden boatbuilding shop is a marriage of function and form with amazing results. Wood, metal and concrete are combined in unusual ways, work areas are light and airy throughout, and the space serves manufacturing needs while showcasing the signature craftsmanship in every boat.

Whallonsburg Civic Association, The Whallonsburg Grange, Essex

The hall was built as a community center in 1915 by the local chapter of the Grange, a national organization of farmers and rural residents that began after the Civil War. It had been unused for years when volunteers came together to renovate and re-create it. After extensive work including a new well, septic, commercial kitchen, sound upgrades and other amenities, the Grange now draws large audiences year-round to lectures, movies, concerts, plays and more.

Do you know a great restoration project? *Nominate it!*

Help AARCH recognize the groups and individuals who are restoring the special places in the Adirondack region. Nominations for the **2016 Preservation Award** are now open. Visit **www.aarch.org/preserve** for information or call 518-834-9328.

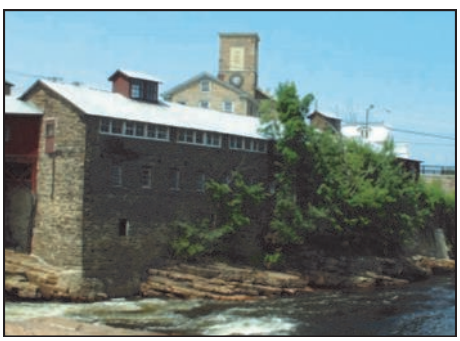
All Aboard to Save the Remsen-to-Lake Placid Rail Corridor

Throughout 2015, AARCH has continued advocating for the preservation of the National Register-listed Remsen-to-Lake Placid rail corridor and all of its contributing historic features: rails, stations, and the trains themselves. We have spoken out against the DEC proposal to rip up the tracks from Lake Placid to Tupper Lake to put in a recreational trail. **AARCH has actively supported the "Trails with Rails" plan** that leaves the rails intact and develops a trail alongside.

The Adirondack Scenic Railroad, run by volunteers and staff from the Adirondack Railway Preservation Society, has seen its ridership grow to 85,000 this year, with 22,000 people riding between Lake Placid and Saranac Lake. The new Rail Explorers' rail bikes have drawn 15,000 to enjoy this accessible and fun way to ride the rails. We support these continuing and expanding uses of the rail corridor as the best example of what preservation means: **creative reuse of historic resources to revitalize communities.**

AARCH's commitment to saving the railroad is part of our mission. We have urged the New York state agencies tasked with overseeing historic preservation to lend their considerable weight to this as well. We nominated the rail corridor as one of the New York Preservation League's "Seven to Save" places for 2016. AARCH has also joined in a strong regional coalition of railroad advocates who are working together to preserve the present use and future of this historic resource.

The Keeseville Stone Mill: Back to the Future



*A major focus next year will be the project to renovate and develop new uses for the Stone Mill on the Ausable River in Keeseville (far left). The former Ausable Horse Nail Factory was purchased by AARCH in 2008 and the company office is now our beautifully restored home. As you can see, the 11,000-square-foot mill building also has a bright future. The photo at right is from **our 25th Anniversary Gala** held there in August. Everyone agreed it was a magical evening!*

AARCH Assistance Squad: Have Tool Box, Will Travel

One of the things that members can be proud of is the wide array of preservation technical assistance that AARCH provides in the region. Think of this as our big tool box.

Sometimes it's a phone call or email exchange, but often it's a site visit to help individuals, groups or local officials **assess a building or site, explore options for preservation, and help owners access resources** for restoration and reuse.

AARCH staff and some of our experienced volunteers open this tool box about 40 times a year and, with a few exceptions, at no charge. It's part of ensuring that people get what they need to succeed with projects and with dreams.

A few of the places we've consulted on this year include:

Camp Taiga, Long Lake *(photo at right)*
Westport Town Hall
Aiden Lair, Minerva
Schoolhouse, Upper Jay
Soper Road Bridge, Saranac
Cape Cod Village
Hague Cottage
Sacandaga Park
St. James Episcopal Church, Ausable Forks

Please give! ANNUAL APPEAL

"A focused, clear voice for the preservation and reuse of the region's historic built environment. — Anne H. Van Ingen, *Chair, Preservation League of NY*

Oh, the Places You've Been on an AARCH Tour This Year!

The dust has settled from the 2015 Tour Season and it is official: **more people came on more tours to more places** than ever before. From first — Village of Champlain on May 16 — to last — Monhegan Island, Maine September 18 — participants walked, biked, boated, drove and rode horse-drawn wagons and tractors to learn about hundreds of historic buildings, sites, and communities in this region and beyond. You and 1,420 others went on AARCH tours where we:

- Collaborated with the Adirondack Museum on a tour to Tahawus that brought 11 descendants of William McIntyre from five states to the iron works he built;

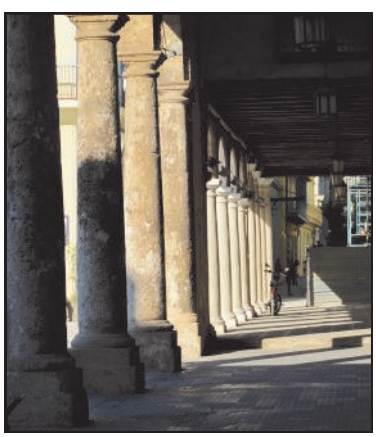
Small Farm Rising tour at Mace Chasm Farm

- Traced the life of women's rights leader Inez Milholland through visits to her former family home, now Meadowmount School of Music;
- Walked through Essex, Westport, Plattsburgh, Glens Falls and other towns on tours that changed how even longtime residents view their communities;
- Overnighted in the "Heart of the Adirondacks" at the newly renovated Masten House, winner of a 2015 AARCH Preservation Award;
- Checked a once-in-a-lifetime visit to Lake Kora (formerly "Kamp Kill Kare") off our bucket lists;
- Visited the birthplace of the Preservation League of New York State in Rensselaerville – a place so special that the entire hamlet is on the National Register of Historic Places; and
- Enjoyed "camp life" as we picnicked and paddled on beautiful summer days at Great Camp Santanoni and Debar Pond Lodge.

Our **2016 Tour Schedule** will be out in mid-April. Until then, we hope you have lots of memories of AARCH Adventures from this year to keep you warm!

AARCH Goes to *Cuba!*

AARCH's first international trip explores the architecture and historic places of Havana, Santa Clara, Trinidad and beyond with preservationists and urban planners in Cuba, January 9-19. We'll be giving presentations on the tour this spring so let us know if you'd like to schedule one!



Lectures: On the Road

AARCH had another active year on the "lecture circuit," **giving nearly twenty illustrated talks** from Herkimer to Chazy, from Big Moose Lake to Diamond Point, and many locations in-between. Newest of our talks is *The 100 Mile House: Why the Greenest House Might Just be the One that Already Exists*, which explores the energy and sustainability implications of historic preservation.

Lectures are also ways for AARCH to reach new audiences and gain new members. We almost always **come away with new insights into preservation efforts in these communities**. For instance, a talk in Corinth has led to getting involved in creating a local history museum at the former International Paper headquarters. In Edinburg we met a young man adept at creating architecture in a virtual gaming environment with great possibilities for engaging more young people. At a talk in Tupper Lake we were invited to become more involved in main street revitalization there.

Walking tour of Plattsburgh

Keep those requests coming! We'll have new talks and all the favorites in 2016. Go to **www.aarch.org/adventure/lectures** for more information.

Bartlett's Carry Club tour on Upper Saranac Lake

Please give! ANNUAL APPEAL

"For me, AARCH events capture the heart and soul of the Adirondacks with one-of-a-kind experiences. — Suzanne Doin, Plattsburgh

The Guide to the Architecture of the Adirondacks

Quite a few years ago, we conceived the idea of developing a "field guide" to the architecture of the region. This would be a book that people could use to explore Adirondack communities and the architecture and historic resources that make them distinctive.

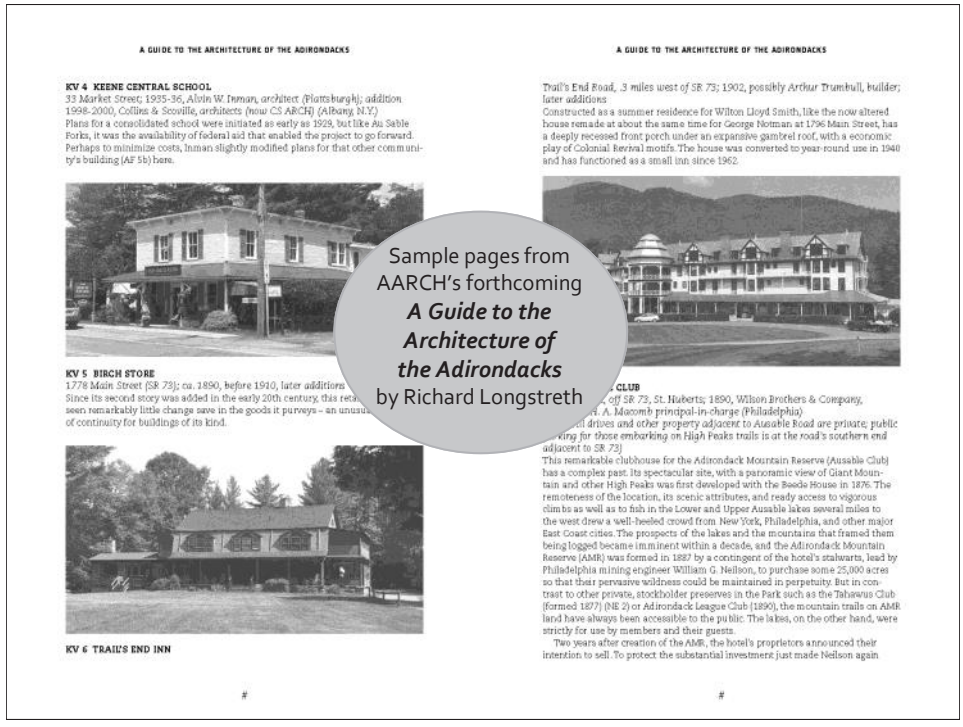
But in a region as large and diverse as the Adirondacks, it's a daunting task to find, catalog, photograph, research and then write a guide to its special places. It really had to be a labor of love and, luckily, we were able to find, in author Richard Longstreth, just the right combination of passion, devotion, deep knowledge, and scholarship.

Richard has been a seasonal resident of the Adirondacks for thirty-five years, and is a professor at George Washington University where he directs the program in historic preservation. He is also the author of a dozen other books.

The 850 entries, from every community in the region, are all places that can be seen from the road and will be a front-seat companion for the many miles it covers. The *Guide* will be a paperback, intended to stand up to lots of "thumbing through."

We are especially pleased to be publishing this together with *Adirondack Life* magazine.

ADIRONDACK LIFE



Sample pages from AARCH's forthcoming ***A Guide to the Architecture of the Adirondacks*** by Richard Longstreth

Here are some of Richard's thoughts about the book.

Did anything surprise you?

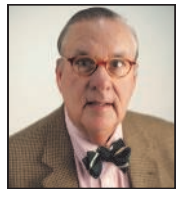
RL: A pleasant surprise was the abundance of interesting places worthy of inclusion. We had worried that there might not be enough without being able to write about the places that can't be seen from the road, but that was hardly the case. There are some 850 entries.

Did you discover any "undiscovered" places or special towns in your travels

RL: I certainly came across buildings that I was not previously aware of. Many people steered me to some of these but then there were places that I just came across, like the Masonic camp at Woodgate, or the work of architect Bryan Burke, who is based in Essex and has done some of the most interesting modernist designs in the Adirondacks.

Any interesting statistics from your travels?

RL: I've traveled at least 10,000 miles within the Park and have taken thousands of photographs.



Beautiful drawings, special places. Order your signed & numbered
25th Anniversary Commemorative Print

Designed and signed by world-renowned illustrator and AARCH member **Steven Kellogg** to celebrate this special year.

14" x 11" and printed on heavy stock, suitable for framing. $50 each, including shipping. All proceeds go to support AARCH. Order online, call 518-834-9328 or email info@aarch.com.

What You Say About AARCH

"Over the years, [AARCH has] always made us feel 'recognized' and welcome. That means a lot to us who are pretty 'small fish' in what we've watched become a fairly big sea."
Susan & Joe Telfer, Westerlo, NY

"AARCH has a unique ability to connect people to their surroundings by the physical, intellectual and emotional exploration of architecture"
Susan Prescott Buck, Argyle, NY

"Even though it might not seem practical to bring a 1-year-old on an architectural tour, it was incredibly stimulating for her. We will be back next year!"
Natalie Campbell,
Washington, DC

"GREAT, GREAT, GREAT!!
The organization, professionalism and content of this experience were outstanding."
Shirley Ware, Manilus, NY

"We joined AARCH as founding members because of our profound interest in Adirondack history and culture. We have enjoyed multiple trips every year and we have seen some very unusual and inaccessible places.
Caroline & Jim Dawson,
25-year members, Plattsburgh, NY

"Thanks for your efforts...our quality of life is much better because of you!"
Bob & Nancy Kohlbecker,
Keene, NY & Fort Myers, FL

I love your organization, I love what it does!
Phillip Terrence,
New member, Studio City, CA

Please give! ANNUAL APPEAL

A quarter century ago, a small group of concerned individuals came together to save Camp Santanoni and begin the work that became AARCH's mission. Today, over 2,000 people are members of AARCH, with the same focus and determination of the founders.

Everything we do — advocacy, education, and preservation — is supported primarily by your donations to the Annual Appeal and through membership contributions.

Thank you for your continued support.

- **Join AARCH or renew your membership.**
- **Donate to the Annual Appeal.**
- **Order your 25th Anniversary Commemorative Print** (see p. 7).

You can do all of this easily online at **www.aarch.org**. Or call the office, Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm at 518-834-9328. Email us at info@aarch.org.

AARCH
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