Volume 10, Number 2
Winter 2000-2001

Newsletter

ADIRONDACK
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE

A Milestone Year at Camp Santanoni!

With the Gate Lodge in the background, Santanoni's National Historic Landmark plaque is unveiled on September 8th. From left to right: Virginia Hall, Newcomb Historical Society; Assemblywoman Elizabeth Little; George Canon, Town of Newcomb Supervisor; John Cahill, NYSDEC Commissioner; and Steven Beatty, National Park Service.
Photo courtesy NYSDEC

On September 8th, a huge gathering took place at Camp Santanoni to celebrate three significant accomplishments of the summer. These accomplishments - the reclassification of Camp Santanoni as an historic area within the Adirondack Forest Preserve, the dedication of Camp Santanoni as a National Historic Landmark, and the publication of a major book about Camp Santanoni - are collectively a major milestone for Santanoni and represent years of efforts by AARCH, the Town of Newcomb, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Preservation League of New York State, and the thousands of other supporters who have sought to ensure Santanoni's preservation and appropriate public use.

Most AARCH members and friends are fully aware that since New York State acquired the camp and its 12,900 acres in 1972, Santanoni's future has hung in the balance. Because of legal and constitutional questions, for more

continued on page 3

From the President

A Busy and Productive Year!

AARCH's Millennium Year has kept board and staff hopping. Following our strategic planning retreat in December 1999, the board created the new position of Program Director, intended to increase AARCH's capacity to develop and carry out its various programs, ranging from our very popular tours of architecturally and historically interesting places to expanded programs in the region's public schools. At the same time, the new position is already giving Steven some breathing room to enlarge AARCH's influence on regional preservation issues and concerns.

In time for our 2000 Annual Meeting, Paula Dennis, the new Program Director, had joined the staff. Paula fitted in quickly, and the benefits of increased staff capacity were almost immediately realized as the busy summer season began.

The Board also added four new members this year: Ted Caldwell, Jay Higgins, Ellen Phelan, and Phebe Thorne. Sadly, we lost Jim Glavin, our long-time member from Cranberry Lake, to retirement. The new board members (see box on this page) bring knowledge, expertise, and stature in many areas, including fund-raising, preservation policy issues, and education.

The year 2000 also saw the satisfactory completion of two long-term efforts, both involving Camp Santanoni. At long last, our incredibly thorough and informative book, replete with many historic photographs, *Santanoni: from Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp*, was published. The timing was perfect for it coincided with the Adirondack Park Agency's approval of a State Land Master Plan amendment creating the Camp Santanoni Historic Area and the Camp Santanoni Unit Management Plan. The APA's action was followed by Governor Pataki's approval and a ceremony at Camp Santanoni on September 8th (see lead story).

Energized by new staff and board members and emotionally rewarded by the progress at Camp Santanoni and on many other fronts, in December the AARCH board and staff concluded the year with a second planning retreat at the Adirondack League Club. There we focused on many short and long-term matters of importance and made plans to build our already substantial membership, to improve and expand our educational programs, and to take on new projects and endeavors. We hope 2001 will be even better than 2000 and, with your strong support, I'm sure it will be.

Bill Johnston

AARCH Welcomes New Board Members

AARCH is pleased to welcome four new people to its board of directors.

Phebe Thorne has already had three distinct careers: as a hospital administrator, a legislative assistant, and a judge. She now divides her time between Ketchum, Idaho and her family summer home, The Uplands, in Keene Valley.

Ellen Phelan is an accomplished painter who is both the Chairperson of the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies and the Director of the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts at Harvard University. She resides part of the year at Kenjockety in Westport.

James H. Higgins III is currently Director of Development for The British Consortium in Washington, D.C. He is a seasonal resident of Lake Placid, is on the board of the Lake Placid Institute, and is very active in the Antique and Classic Boat Society.

Ted Caldwell is the Director of the Tri-District Consortium and is a long-time resident of Bolton Landing.

Herb Pollock, long-time friend of AARCH, dies at age 87

We were extremely sad to learn that Herb Pollock, a long-time friend of AARCH, had passed away this fall. Herb and Pat Pollock have owned Moss Ledge, a William Coulter designed camp on Upper Saranac Lake, for many years and have been most generous in opening up their camp to AARCH tours every summer. Those of you who met Herb on one of these outings will remember him as gregarious, knowledgeable, and having a great affection for the the Adirondacks and the wonderful buildings of the region. We will miss his spirit and enthusiasm and we wish Pat, their children, and grandchildren our condolences.

State of the Arts
NYSCA

This publication and much of AARCH's good work is made possible with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

A Milestone Year at Camp Santanoni ..... *continued from page 1*

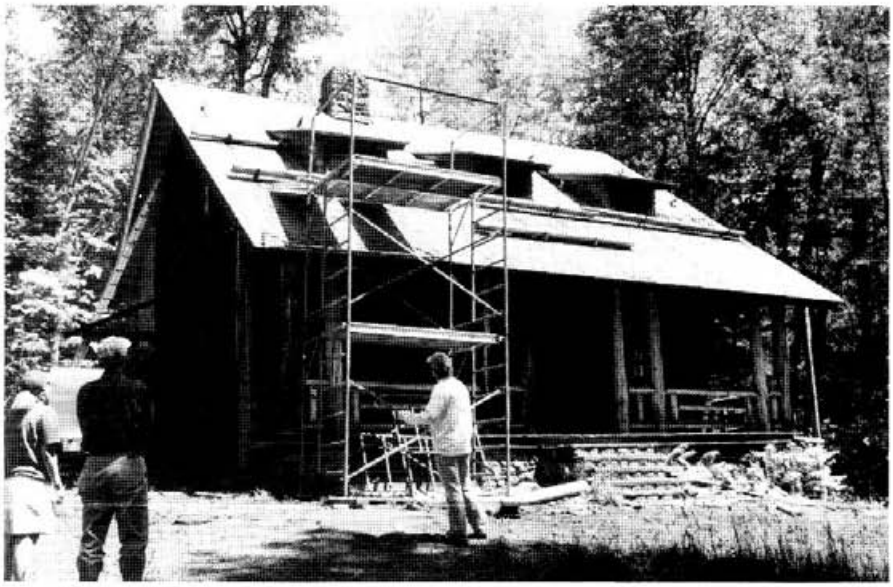
than twenty years Santanoni was allowed to deteriorate. The fate of Camp Santanoni was one of the issues around which AARCH was formed in 1991 and, over the past ten years, AARCH has played a major role in advocating for its preservation.

At the celebration, Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill announced that Governor Pataki had approved the reclassification of 32 acres of the camp as "historic" under the Adirondack State Land Master Plan and had also approved a Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the Camp Santanoni Historic Area. The land reclassification now makes it legally possible to move ahead with the restoration of Santanoni and the adoption of the UMP is the blueprint for doing so. In making the announcement, Commissioner Cahill said "We are going to make sure that the place that hosted Teddy Roosevelt will host future generations to come." On a more personal note, he added, "I love coming here every year to camp with my children. One of the best experiences we've had is to come here." The UMP calls for spending about $750,000 over the next five years for Santanoni's restoration. Cahill also announced a commitment of $170,000 for the first year for building restoration and road repair there. The development of the UMP took nearly five years to complete and involved the participation of dozens of organizations, individuals, municipal officials and representatives from state agencies.

Santanoni's official designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) also took place that day. Steven Beatty, a representative of the National Park Service, unveiled a National Historic Landmark plaque and observed "There are six criteria for selecting National Historic Landmarks and typically an NHL site will meet one or two of these criteria. What is truly unusual and remarkable about Camp Santanoni is that it meets four different NHL selection criteria." As the nation's highest historic sites designation, NHL status will help the state and its partners to make an even stronger case for funding its restoration. Santanoni's designation was part of a larger multiple property nomination, "Adirondack Camps National Historic Landmarks Theme Study," prepared by Wes Haynes. Camp Sagamore, near Raquette Lake, was also designated as an NHL and other large rustic camps will be eventually designated as well.

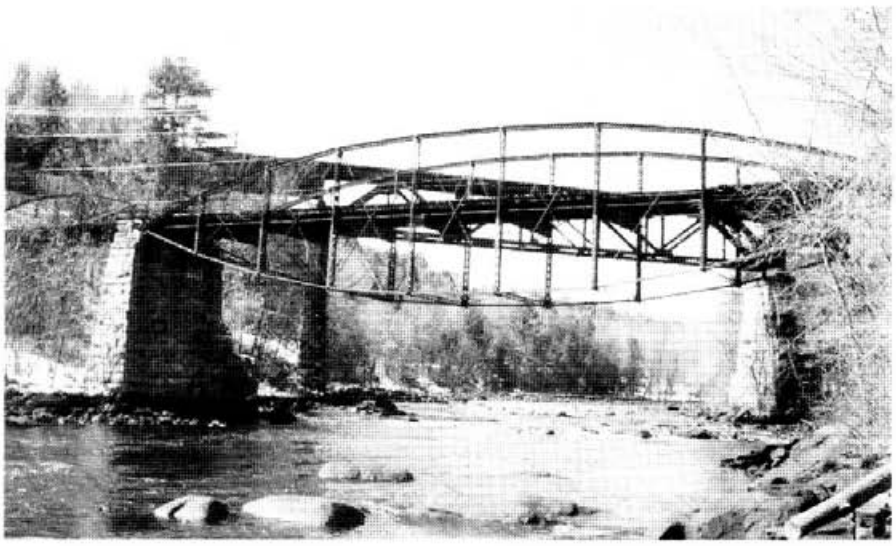
We also celebrated the publication of *Santanoni: from Japanese Temple to Life at an Adirondack Great Camp* by Robert Engel, Paul Malo, and Howie Kirschenbaum. This long-awaited book, three years in the making, is the first book to fully explore any of the region's Great Camps — describing Camp Santanoni's rich history, its superb architecture, and its future in state ownership. Using more than 160 historic and contemporary photographs, fishing records, letters, and guestbooks that recall the visits and antics of notable guests such as Theodore Roosevelt, it provides an intimate view of Santanoni's fascinating architecture and an extraordinary way of life. If you haven't yet ordered *Santanoni*, you can do so by calling AARCH at (518) 834-9328.

For all the advocates and supporters of Camp Santanoni, this was a tremendous day, one filled with a huge sense of accomplishment. Now at the beginning of a new century, Santanoni's future seems brighter than ever - New York State is solidly behind its restoration and use, Santanoni's historic and architectural importance has been clearly established through a major book and a new federal designation, and the camp now has thousands of friends from all walks of life. Its future looks so bright that Scott Heyl, President of the Preservation League of New York State, in making his remarks to the enthusiastic crowd, officially took Santanoni off the League's Seven to Save list.



Work also continued this year on several restoration projects at Santanoni. Shown here is the Herdsman's Cottage at the Santanoni Farm, where serious structural repairs have been made, including a new roof. This work was done by a DEC crew with funding from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund.
Photo by Paula Dennis

Making a Difference: AARCH in Action
The Bow Bridge in Hadley



The Bow Bridge in Hadley, an extremely rare lenticular or parabolic truss bridge.
Photo by Steven Engelhart

The Bow Bridge in Hadley is one of the most significant historic bridges in the region and, until recently, its future was very uncertain. Saratoga County, the bridge's owner, had even made plans to have it dismantled and removed. Now, thanks to the hard work of AARCH and many other bridge enthusiasts, the Bow Bridge may have a new lease on life.

The Bow Bridge crossing and the adjacent railroad trestle were major land-based transportation links here for most of the 19th and 20th centuries. Spanning the Sacandaga River near the confluence of the Hudson River, these river crossings moved people and products in and out of Hadley and Lake Luzerne by road and rail. In 1885, the Berlin Iron Bridge Company (BIBC) of East Berlin, Connecticut, was awarded the contract to construct a new bridge on the abutments of an 1813 covered bridge, recently destroyed by fire. Based on an 1878 patent granted to William O. Douglas of Binghamton, New York, the BIBC built a mid-deck lenticular iron truss there. Although the firm would built more than 400 lenticular truss bridges, they erected very few mid-deck or semi-through truss bridges and today the Hadley bridge is one of only two of this type, surviving in situ, in the United States. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and was thoroughly documented by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) in 1994.

After nearly 100 years of service, due to lack of sustained maintenance, and growing safety concerns, the bridge was closed in 1983 to vehicular traffic. A 1994 adaptive reuse pedestrian proposal failed to gain the Town of Hadley's financial support, even though Federal funds were awarded for most of the project. The town, lacking the economic resources to maintain or demolish the bridge, eventually turned the structure over to Saratoga County. The town felt strongly that a vehicular crossing was necessary to revitalize the economy of the surrounding communities and was pushing for a new bridge to be built.

The county obtained the bridge with the original intention of assisting the town with its removal and therefore was not prepared to fund its restoration. But county officials may not have been aware of the regional and national support for the preservation of the Bow Bridge, as well as the positive sentiment held by local residents toward it. In March of 2000, AARCH began working with concerned citizens to encourage the county to fully explore the rehabilitation of the bridge. A prominent historic bridge engineering consultant joined AARCH at the site to discuss rehabilitation options for the bridge with town and county officials. Letters of support began pouring into town and county offices from all around the country. Local school children took up the cause by writing letters of support for the bridge as well as contributing to the production of a book about the bridge (see News & Notes). In his letter of support, Eric DeLony, Chief of the HAER stated, "I implore you and your fellow county and local leaders to exhaust every avenue of preservation before making the decision to demolish." In response to all this, the county decided to put off their dismantling plan and to study the rehabilitation of the bridge.

In August, the Preservation League of New York State, through its Preserve New York Program, awarded Saratoga County and its consultant, Ryan-Biggs Associates of Troy, $15,000 to prepare an Historic Structure Report on the bridge. AARCH assisted in preparing this application for the county. The report, expected out this winter, will serve as a planning tool, providing historic documentation, analysis of existing conditions, recommendations, and cost estimates for work on the bridge. AARCH continues to work with the county, members of the community and other Bow Bridge advocates to develop a plan and funding strategy in support of the bridge's preservation. If all goes well, a most important national treasure will continue to serve the community as a regional asset.

Architecture in the Classroom: *AARCH's innovative program for the region's public schools*

Over the past three years, AARCH has been part of developing an innovative Arts-in-Education program in the Plattsburgh City School District. Using the Kent-Delord House Museum as a primary resource, this program explores local history and culture by pairing 4th grade classrooms with different artists and consultants, each representing a different discipline or subject area. The nine areas of exploration are: architecture, domestic arts, occupations, performing arts, visual arts, applied arts, recreation and sport, literature, and photography.

Through slides, drawings, model making, a neighborhood walkabout, a tour of the Kent-Delord House Museum, and group discussions, students in Steven Engelhart's architecture class learned about the many things that buildings and their surroundings can teach us. They learned to date buildings and understand how they are made, they learned how the culture and local history are reflected in buildings, and they learned to see how buildings change over time. As a final project, they made drawings of their own homes and the museum, built a series of building models which expressed different architectural styles, building technologies, regional traditions, and ways of life. All this was a great way to get to know their own neighborhood, to understand the "language of architecture," to see the connections between history and architecture, and to have a lot of fun in the process.

Fourth Graders from the Oak Street School in Plattsburgh go on a walking tour of their neighborhood with Steven Engelhart as part of a district-wide Arts-in-Education Program cosponsored by the Kent-Delord House Museum.
Photo by Nancy Dufrain

With this experience behind us, AARCH is now planning to expand and broaden its public school programs throughout the region. With financial assistance from the New York Foundation for the Arts, a consultant is helping us to design and implement this program. We are now actively looking for new school districts to work with, so if you are a teacher or administrator and would like to discuss this further, please contact us at (518) 834-9328.

About Adirondack Architectural Heritage

Adirondack Architectural Heritage is the regional, non-profit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park. Our educational mission is to promote better public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the built environment of the region. We fulfill this mission in a variety of ways, including 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 nearly 1000 members. AARCH members receive a biannual *Newsletter,* get 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.

___ *$25 Individual*
___ *$35 Family*
___ *$50 Supporting*
___ *$100 Sponsor*
___ *$250 Patron*
___ *$500 Benefactor*

_____
NAME

_____
ADDRESS

_____
CITY

_____
STATE/ZIP CODE

_____
TELEPHONE

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

Fifth Annual Awards Presented at AARCH Annual Meeting at Silver Bay

AARCH Awardees, 2000: Naomi McCormick for the Depot Theater and Town of Westport; John Van Alstine and Holly Hallman; Helen Weltman; Elaine Winslow for the Hadley Fire Tower Restoration Committee; Dr. George Miller for Paul Smith's College; and Mark Ormiston, manager of the Deer's Head Inn. Photo by Barbara Parnass

The Adirondack Architectural Heritage Awards Program annually recognizes exemplary historic preservation work throughout the region. The following awards were made at AARCH's Annual Meeting on June 17, 2000 at the Silver Bay Association.

Helen Weltman Big Moose Lake has a long history of providing simple, comfortable, rustic accommodations for visitors to the Adirondacks. Henry and Earl Covey built and managed Crag Point and Covewood Lodge, the Martin family built and managed The Waldheim, and the Higby family operated the Higby Camp. Jim Higby began his hotel in 1887 and, as his clientele and reputation increased, so too did the size of the complex. The hotel and its surrounding cottages were constructed using vertical spruce half-log walls and featured peeled log beams, rafters and railings. When Jim died in 1913, his widow, Francena, and 20-year old son, Roy, continued to manage and expand the hotel. Over the next sixty years, the Higby Camp continued to thrive and was host to heads of governments, Hollywood celebrities, and generations of family visitors. In 1969, the hotel property was subdivided and in 1971 the hotel was intentionally burned to the ground.

Comfort Cottage was built about 1898, as part of the original hotel complex. It was called Comfort Cottage because its outhouse was a "two seater." Helen Weltman and her husband bought the camp in 1979. After her husband's untimely death in 1983, she began the restoration of the cottage. False ceilings were removed to expose original beams, knotty pine paneling was removed from around the brick fireplace, the front porch was restored, floors were stripped of many layers of paint, and the kitchen was remodeled. It has been a labor of love. While other neighbors have demolished their cottages, Helen has always loved the charm and architecture of the cottage, has steadfastly believed in the importance of Higby's legacy, and has taken great care to preserve the last of the original Higby cottages.

John Van Alstine & Holly Hallman The former Adirondack Lumber Company buildings are on eight acres of land squeezed between Route 30 and the gently curving Sacandaga River in Wells. The site was first developed around 1804 as a tannery and pottery. In the 1870s a large building was built for the manufacture of wood products, including bobbins. Around 1900, with the success of its veneer and planing mills, it became a major employer in town. A fire devastated the mill in 1918 but the complex was rebuilt and continued to thrive throughout much of the 20th century by producing high quality knotty pine, house kits and home building supplies.

In 1987, John Van Alstine and Holly Hallman purchased the complex with the idea of creating a seasonal residence and studio spaces. John is a sculptor whose stone and steel creations have been exhibited all over the world and Holly is an accomplished oil painter. Over more than ten years they have completely transformed these gritty industrial buildings into an exceptionally attractive and practical place. The planning mill became their 1600 square foot home, another building is the guest cottage, the large warehouse spaces are ideally suited to their work needs, and the beautifully landscaped grounds are filled with John's outdoor sculpture. They now live here year round with their

daughters Chloe and Eden. This is a remarkable project which we hope will be a model for others in the future.

Paul Smith's College In 1858, Paul Smith built a seventeen room hotel on Lower St. Regis Lake. From these beginnings, the hotel evolved into a sprawling 500 room complex which had a reputation for good accommodations and excellent guides and which attracted some of America's wealthiest families.

Paul's son, Phelps Smith, willed most of the estate to create a college that emphasized "learning by doing." In 1946, Paul Smith's College matriculated its first class of students in the fields of forestry, resort management and liberal arts. From these beginnings, Paul Smith's College has grown to become the premiere regional educational institution. It is now undertaking an ambitious building program, guided by its master plan. Two key components of that plan are the restoration of the three remaining Paul Smiths Hotel era cottages along the shores of Lower St. Regis Lake and the construction of new buildings which reflect and respect regional styles.

This award honors the work that Paul Smith's College did to restore Baker Cottage. The College has done a tremendous job in restoring the deteriorating cottage, inside and out, for its new use as Blum House, now a residence hall. The cost of renovations totaled more than $740,000 and was made possible by a generous gift from trustee Ralph Blum. Blum House is now a shining example of how historic buildings can be part of an institution's future and can help set a tone for how the institution grows.

Town of Westport and The Westport Depot Westport is a lovely village located on the shores of Lake Champlain. When the lake was an important water route throughout the 19th century, Westport thrived as a regional lake port. When the Delaware & Hudson Railroad built a line through the Champlain Valley in the 1870s, Westport again served as an important transportation link in the region. In 1876, the Westport Depot was constructed and it has served the community ever since. Not only does it continue to be an Amtrak stop but its lobby functions as a small gallery and the former baggage room has been home to the Depot Theater since 1979.

This award honors the recent restoration of the Westport Depot. This project involved replacing the building's magnificent slate roof, exterior repairs and painting, new electrical service, and a new handicapped accessible bathroom. The restoration was a long process and one that involved many partners. The building is owned by the Town of Westport and a portion of it is leased and managed by the Depot Theater. The town and theater got tremendous support from the Essex County Planning Office and the Housing Assistance Program of Essex County and financial support from Amtrak, the New York State Department of Transportation, the Rural New York Program, the New York State Council on the Arts, Senator Ron Stafford, the Osborne Charitable Trust, and the Great American Train Station Foundation. The depot is now in excellent condition and ready for many more decades of public use.

Hadley Fire Tower Restoration Committee To combat the large, dangerous and expensive forest fires that occasionally swept though the region, New York State erected more than fifty Fire Observation Stations in the Adirondacks during the first quarter of the 20th century. When these towers became obsolete in the 1980s, all were closed and many were taken down. The Hadley Mountain fire tower was among the first to be restored. This effort began in 1994 and eventually evolved into an innovative partnership between NYSDEC, the Adirondack Mountain Club, Cornell Cooperative Extension, many businesses, and hundreds of individuals. The Committee began their work in 1996 and have restored the tower and opened it to the public, sponsored educational programs, published a trail brochure, and placed a summit guide on the mountain. The work of the Hadley Fire Tower Restoration Committee has not only restored the tower and given new life to the mountain, but it has served as a model for all other fire tower restoration projects that have followed.

Deer's Head Inn Every year we like to recognize at least one project that hasn't been in the headlines, that hasn't cost lots of money, that hasn't even saved an important building or structure from demolition. But rather, we like to recognize the work of at least one person or business or organization that has simply taken care of an important place over many years and, by virtue of taking care of this place, it has survived and been part of our everyday lives. That's what we call stewardship and that's what thousands of people do everyday to make sure that our architectural legacy is intact for the future. The Deer's Head Inn is just such a place. It is a rambling, mid-19th century, white frame building, is reputed to be one of the oldest inn in the Adirondacks, and has been part of life in Elizabethtown ever since. Over these many years, the inn has retained much of its 19th century charm and integrity, inside and out. It epitomizes quintessential Adirondack hospitality with excellent food in an elegant dining room, beautiful lodgings, and great service. Thanks to many generations of appreciative owners, the Deer's Head Inn, has survived and thrives as a classic regional establishment.

This year's **AARCH Awards Committee** was Mary Hotaling, Barbara Parnass, Carl Stearns, Peggy Prime, and Steven Engelhart.

We welcome nominations from members and the general public for our annual awards. Nominations are due each year by March 1st.

News & Notes

ALBANY: Recent Adirondack region listings on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places include:

- the Keene Valley Library
- the Peru Community Church
- seven Adirondack Fire Towers
- a large historic district in Warrensburg
- the Childwold Presbyterian Church

ALBANY: New York State leads the nation in offering preservation incentives to owners of historic barns. The $2 million New York State Barns Restoration and Preservation Program provides grants of up to $25,000 to restore historic barns and other agricultural buildings. New York also offers the NYS Barn Rehabilitation Tax Credit which provides a 25% income tax credit for rehabilitating barns. For more information, call 518-474-0427 (grants) or 518-237-8643 (tax credits).

BLOOMINGDALE: Tim and Diana Fortune were the recipients of one the Preservation League of New York State's First Annual Barn Awards. This award recognized the Fortune's hard work to stabilize and maintain their 19th century barn for future use as an artist's studio. Said Diana, "saving the structure for its historical value and beauty were the motivating factors behind this renovation."

BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE: The Hedges, a marvelous late 19th century resort, is under new ownership. Rip and Pat Benton are enthusiastically restoring portions of several buildings, helping to ensure that the resort will have a long and bright future.

HADLEY: A new book, *The Art and History of the Bow Bridge,* celebrates community reverence for this rare structural artifact through mixed media and prose. Copies are available for $19.95 through the project's creator, Tom Ryan at (518) 654-7705.

JAY: In August, NYSDOT announced plans to construct a new bridge over the AuSable River, to be located 400 feet downstream from the historic Jay Covered Bridge crossing site. The 1857 Covered Bridge will also be restored and placed back in its original location. Both projects are expected to be completed by 2004.

Thanks to an initiative by Senator Ron Stafford, New York State has funded a series of community enhancement projects in the region through the **Adirondack North Country Community Enhancement Program** (ANCCEP). The following is a brief description of the historic preservation projects funded through this program.

- Adirondack Railway Preservation Society, for the preservation of the **Thendara Station**. ($24,000)
- Edinburg Historical Society, for the restoration of the **Copeland Covered Bridge**. ($25,000)
- Fourth Lake Property Owner's Association, for the restoration of the **Shoal Point Lighthouse**. ($19,210)
- Friends of the North Country, for the restoration of the **Hollywood Theater** in AuSable Forks. ($25,000)
- Historic Saranac Lake, for restoration work at the **Saranac Laboratory**. ($24,000)
- **North Creek Railroad Depot** Preservation Association, for restoration work at the railroad depot complex. ($25,000)
- **Sagamore Institute**, for restoration work at the Main Lodge. ($25,000)

KEENE VALLEY: The Keene Valley Library Association recently published *Two Adirondack Hamlets in History: Keene and Keene Valley.*, edited by Richard Plunz. More than a decade in the making, this profusely illustrated book explores the history, people, and architecture of these fascinating hamlets. Copies are available for $24 through the library by calling (518) 576-4335.

LAKE GEORGE: The Adirondack Mountain Club is pleased to announce the publication of *Views from on High: Fire Tower Trails in the Adirondack and Catskills* by Jack Freeman. This 112-page book guides hikers to 29 peaks in the Catskill and Adirondack Parks which have fire towers. It also provides lots of interesting historical and anecdotal information, maps, and photos. Order by calling 1-800-395-8080 or on-line at www.adk.org.

LAKE PLACID: The Adirondack Mountain Club is planning changes to Adirondack Loj on Heart Lake. In the fall issue of "Good Tidings," Marcia Mosey writes: "Because the Loj is in need of a new roof and some major structural work, it has been proposed that now is the time to proceed with the 1993 Master Plan, by constructing a NEW Loj, limiting the building to include a great room, central dining facilities with kitchen and storage, and having only 4 double rooms with baths in the Loj. ADK proposes to construct a NEW lodging facility, the "Mt. Jo House," with 20 double rooms with private baths, AND construct six 6-person cabins with kitchens. All this, of course, would require upgrading the sewage system. These new accommodations are said to be in response to the Loj's 'changing needs'"

This is a controversial project, even within the organization, as evidenced

News & Notes

continued

by members' responses published along with the article.

LYON MOUNTAIN: Thanks to a $25,000 Legislative Member Item through Senator Ron Stafford, the Friends of Lyon Mountain was able to purchase the vacant railroad depot in this former iron mining community in Clinton County. The Friends plan to restore the depot for use as a museum which focuses on the community's long iron mining history. For more information, call Jim Humiston at (518) 497-6685.

Mt. ARAB: The Friends of Mt. Arab continued to make progress over the past year with the restoration of the Mt. Arab fire tower and observer's cabin. The cabin restoration is nearly complete and the tower has a new roof and new windows. Erin Brown spent the summer on the mountain as a guide and an Americorps crew did more than 300 manhours of trail work. In recognition of all their great work, NYSDEC awarded the Friends an Adirondack Stewardship Award in 2000.

OLD FORGE: Despite protests from many residents, the Triangle Building, a handsome, three story structure (1925-27) at the village's "four corners," has been demolished. Its location, beautiful brick work, and Palladian windows made it a local landmark. Its owner, Lynn University, cited the high cost of repair as the reason for tearing it down. The site will be made into a "vest pocket" park.

POKE-O-MOONSHINE: In 2000, the Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine did additional work on the fire tower and published an interpretive guide to the mountain. This later work included installing a series of markers along the two mile trail to the summit. Work on the tower is expected to be completed in 2001.

SARANAC LAKE: On September 20th, the Adirondack Scenic Railroad made its inaugural run between Saranac Lake and Lake Placid. In just five weeks, more than 7,000 people rode the trains. For more information, call (315)369-6290.

UPPER JAY: Several years ago Wellscroft, a grand Tudor Revival style lodge, was on AARCH's Endangered Properties List because it had been abandoned and vandalized. Now, thanks to the heroic work of Linda and Randy Stanley, Wellscroft will be open as an inn sometime in 2001.

Wellscroft in Upper Jay. Photo by Lee Manchester

WANAKENA: The fire observation tower which once stood atop Tooley Pond Mountain in St. Lawrence County has been reerected on Cathedral Rock Hill at the New York State Ranger School in Wanakena. The project was spearheaded by Kermit Remele, a retired forestry and surveying teacher at the school. Originally taken down in 1971 by Wanakena students, the tower was put in storage for nearly thirty years. It was rededicated on August 5th.

WILLSBORO: The Willsboro Central School is in the process of building a new facility, so its existing c. 1935, two-story, school building will be eventually vacated. The district is actively looking for ideas for its reuse. For more information or suggestions, call (518) 963-4456.

WILLSBORO: The Town of Willsboro will be creating a new visitor center in a mid-19th school house on the village's Main Street. This project will preserve an important historic building, and give it new life and purpose. The architect for the project is Janet Null of Argus Architecture.

WILMINGTON: the Whiteface Preservation and Resource Association was recently awarded a $3400 grant from the Preservation League of New York State's Preserve New York program to place the Whiteface Veterans Memorial Highway on the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination will be prepared by AARCH staff and is expected to be completed in 2001.

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

Discover ....

Adirondack Loj

Adirondack Loj, near Lake Placid
Photo by Nancie Battaglia

Adirondack Loj, located on Heart Lake, southeast of Lake Placid, is owned and operated - year round - by the Adirondack Mountain Club. This rustic accommodation was built by the Lake Placid Club in 1927 to replace Henry Van Hoevenberg's great log hotel of the same name, which was destroyed in the forest fire of 1903. The new "Adirondack Loj" - in Melvil Dewey's simplified spelling - was designed by Adirondack "Great Camp" designer William G. Distin. It has facilities for 46 guests in a combination of private rooms, family rooms, and a bunk room. Although it is "smaller and simpler than the original lodge, Distin captured the woodsy and comfortable spirit always present at Heart Lake," wrote Sandra Weber in *The Finest Square Mile*. The building was included in a 1991 historic sites survey of the Town of North Elba and was declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. From the Loj are countless miles of hiking and cross-skiing trails and access to the High Peaks region. Phone the Loj at (518) 523-3441 or call (518) 523-3518 for weather and trail conditions. **MBH**

See related piece in News & Notes

Ski Tour of Camp Santanoni Offered

On **Sunday, February 11th**, AARCH will sponsor a guided cross-country ski tour of Camp Santanoni. The tour will be led by John Friauf, an AARCH board member and licensed NYS guide, and Steven Engelhart, AARCH's executive director. The round trip ski is about 10 miles on a gently sloping carriage road. At the Main Camp, participants will also see some of the camp's interiors. Ski conditions are usually excellent but the trip will not be held if there is not enough snow. Meet at 10 AM at the Santanoni parking area off Route 28N in Newcomb. Preregister by calling (518) 834-9328.

Adirondack Architectural Heritage

CIVIC CENTER, SUITE 37
1790 MAIN STREET
KEESEVILLE, NY 12944
518-834-9328
518-834-9225 (FAX)
aarch1@aol.com
www.aarch.org

Board of Directors

Edgar M. Caldwell
WSWHE BOCES
George Canon
Town of Newcomb
Edward Comstock, Jr.
Old Forge
John Friauf, Jr.
Sagamore Institute
James H. Higgins, III
Lake Placid
David Hislop, Jr.
Essex
William Johnston
Essex County Planner
Howard Kirschenbaum
Raquette Lake
Richard Longstreth
Keene Valley
Jane Mackintosh
Adirondack Museum
Jean Olson
Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages
Barbara Parnass
Saranac Lake Free Library
Ellen Phelan
Westport
Margaret Prime
Queensbury & Lake Placid
Carl Stearns
Architect
Phebe Thorne
Keene Valley
Nicholas Westbrook
Fort Ticonderoga

Staff

Steven Engelhart - Executive Director
Paula Dennis - Program Director
Bonnie DeGolyer - Administrative Asst.