Volume 12, Issue 10| November 2020

AARCH MATTERS

Your Preservation News for the Adirondack Region.

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."– **Melody Beattie**

We hope that members have had an opportunity to read AARCH's 2020 **Year In Review** mailed last week. You may also access this on our website.

As November begins and the holiday season of giving approaches, this a great time to reflect and be thankful for all that we have. Thanksgiving usually includes gathering with friends and family. Although this may not be possible this year, we can still keep the spirit of Thanksgiving by saying "Thank you" to each and every person and organization that makes positive contributions to our lives and our work here at AARCH. This year came with its shares of ups and downs, but we remain grateful to live in such a beautiful and diverse place with its rich and vibrant history, architecture, communities, and the people and stories that make our region special.

Expressing gratitude isn't just for November; it's something we do throughout the year for our extended AARCH family.

As we continue to support preservation efforts across the region, we want to thank all of you for your kindness and generosity. We could not do our important work without your support.

We wish you a safe, peaceful and joyous season.

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Debar Pond Lodge

AARCH members enjoying Blue Mountain Lake .

Click the image above to give to AARCH's Annual Appeal. Every gift of support, no matter how small, helps us immensely!

ANNUAL APPEAL

All of us at AARCH hope that you, your family, circle of friends, and community are safe and well in these difficult times – a year in which so much of life has been upended. For AARCH, too, this has been a year like no other in our 30-year history. We've changed how we work together, how we offer our educational programs and technical assistance, and how we do our work at Santanoni and at the two fire towers we manage with friends groups. And, with so much economic uncertainty, we've worried much more than ever

But there's also a lot of good news this year and many things to celebrate. Some of these are tangible accomplishments, highlighted in this *Year in Review*, but other reasons to celebrate are more nuanced – the way our staff rose to meet the challenges of this pandemic year with great agility and creativity or the way we've refocused our programming to meet the particular moment we're in, one that demands much great attention to creating harmony and civility, solving both small and existential problems, and not shying away from asking and addressing difficult questions.

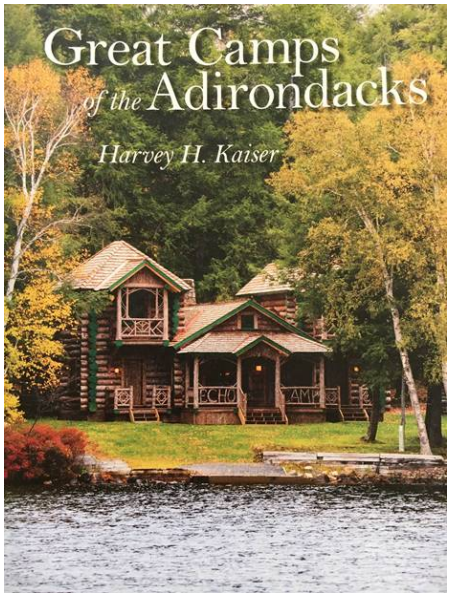
The other good news, at least anecdotally, is that it seems we are increasingly realizing what is truly important to us – our health, our families and friends, our economic security, and the vitality and sustainability of our communities and, in many of these arenas, AARCH has a lot to offer. The buildings, neighborhoods, and communities that we love and seek to preserve *are* the places where so much of our social, economic, and intimate lives happen and the quality of these places and spaces makes our gatherings and interactions richer and more meaningful. They are also what attract visitors, make us feel proud, reinforce our identity, and bring beauty and connection into our everyday lives. The pandemic may have made getting together more difficult but it also made us treasure these riches more deeply. After all, communities, like our woods and lakes and mountains, are restorative places, too.

Donate to our Annual Appeal HERE.

This year we have two annual appeal incentives. Donations of $250 and above will be matched, up to $8,000 total, through the generosity of some special friends of AARCH AND donors will also receive a copy of the new edition of Harvey Kaiser's *Great Camp of the Adirondacks*.

Please give as generously as possible so that AARCH can continue to help make the Adirondack region and its communities an incredible place to live, work, and visit.

Our work cannot be accomplished without you.



PRESERVATION AWARDS

Announcing Our 2020 Preservation Award Winners

The AARCH Annual Awards Program recognizes exemplary historic preservation work throughout the Adirondack region. For over 20 years, our annual awards program has recognized sensitive restoration, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of historic structures that are consistent with our mission of long-term stewardship. The awards honor the organizations, businesses, and individuals who, through these projects, make the Adirondacks better places to live, work, and visit. Our 2020 recipients represent the wide range of projects, places, and people who are helping to preserve and enhance the unique heritage and built environment of the Adirondacks.

Our 2020 Awardees are:

- A special recognition for the eight fire departments **Paul Smiths/Gabriels Fire Department, Owls Head Mountain-View Fire Department, Duane Fire Department, St. Regis Falls Fire Department, Bloomingdale Fire Department, Tupper Lake Fire Department, Saranac Lake Fire Department, Lake Placid Fire Department** who responded to the White Pine Camp fire this past summer, and whose efforts saved White Pine Camp from devastation.

- **Jill and Richard Tefft** for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Gramp's Old Schoolhouse in Greenwich (Washington County).

- **Hague Baptist Church** in Hague (Warren County) for the restoration and repair of its steeple and belfry.

- **Darcey and Bruce Hale** for their extensive restoration and reconstruction of Old Elm in Willsboro (Essex

County). The original 1840s stone home of Orrin Clark housed the family's historical and business records, which the Hales have actively worked to conserve.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners! To learn more about each of these projects please visit our website.

PRESERVE

Debar Pond Lodge

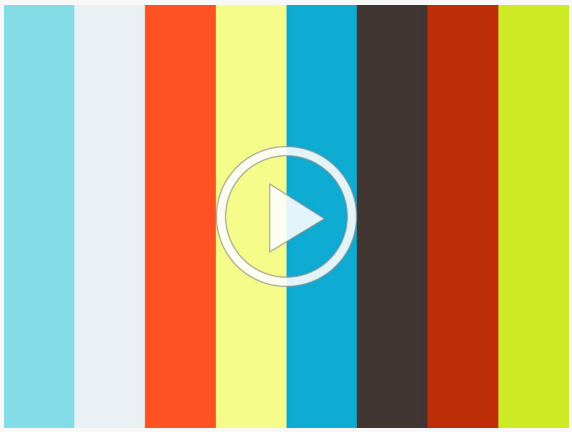
In response to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) recent Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) calling for the removal of historic Debar Pond Lodge and other outbuildings, we at Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) are working hard to champion the preservation and public use of this historic Great Camp complex. To review AARCH's letter to NYS DEC, click here.

Adirondack architect William Distin designed Debar Pond Lodge in 1940. This spectacular rustic-style log lodge stands on the shore of scenic Debar Pond in the Town of Duane (Franklin County) and is a remarkable example of a publicly-accessible Adirondack Great Camp. The Lodge is listed on both the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

There is tremendous opportunity here to preserve this Adirondack treasure and to create another place in the Forest Preserve for public use and delight. We should treat this valuable cultural resource the way we treat our incredible natural resources - with great care and stewardship.

The first window for public comment to NYS DEC has passed but we continue to encourage you to speak up for the preservation and public use of Debar Pond Lodge by lending your voice and support to AARCH's efforts. Please consider adding your signature and comments to the form linked here.

Thank you for your time, voice, and support.



Debar Pond drone video, courtesy of Merrill McKee

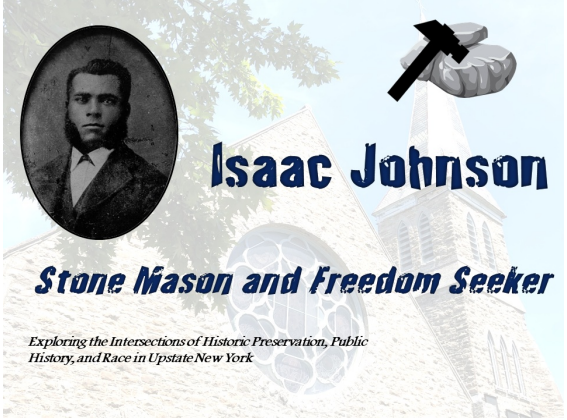
Recent narrated video produced by AARCH exploring the past, present, and future of Debar Pond Lodge.

LEARN

Recently, our Educational Programs Director Nolan Cool was invited to speak at his former alma mater and workplace, the Utica College Center for Historical Research. This educational and engaging talk based on Nolan's in-depth research, AARCH's work with historian Corky Reinhart, and our 2019 outing that explored the life of Isaac Johnson, an entrepreneurial African American stone mason and formerly-enslaved

man who made the North Country his home. His story is part of AARCH's work to better interpret the stories of underrepresented peoples, places, and experiences in our architectural and cultural fabric. We celebrate the accomplishments and crucial role African Americans played not only in building our region, but across the country.

Click the image to the right to see Nolan's talk.



ADIRONDACK ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Preserving the architecture and communities of the Adirondack region through education, advocacy, and action.

The mission of Humanities New York is to strengthen civil society and the bonds of community, using the humanities to foster engaged inquiry and dialogue around social and cultural concerns.

THANK YOU

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We would like to sincerely thank Humanities New York for awarding AARCH a generous Emergency Relief Grant as part of the HNY CARES program. With this vital funding, we are able to expand our virtual programming and create a more robust, accessible digital presence for our organization.

This publication was made possible, in part, through the generous support of the New York State Council on the Arts, Architecture + Design Program

A world of AARCH exists online. Join us there.

Visit our Website