Volume 13, Issue 5, May 2021

AARCH MATTERS

Your Preservation News for the Adirondack Region

"It has been said that, at it's best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future."

-William Murtagh, first keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

May is preservation month - a time to celebrate the nation's heritage through historic places. The most common resource that comes to mind when we talk about historic preservation is buildings. But our historic landscapes parks, cemeteries, gardens, ruins, and rural landscapes, and structures like bridges, fire towers, sculptures and monuments also have stories to tell about the rich and lively history of people and places in the Adirondacks. There are many ways to get involved and celebrate **Preservation Month**.

With an optimistic eye on the future, 2021 is a year of recovery and for embracing our sense of kinship again. This summer and fall, we are focused on creating safe, quality experiences for our members, friends, and staunch supporters. These new and classic outings, and some fresh, invaluable hands-on workshop experiences, seek to bring us together again, and meet the moment and navigate toward a safer, more equitable, and reenergizing road ahead of us.

Notably, this season is also Steven Engelhart's last as AARCH's long-time leader and founding Executive Director. The outings that Steven has led are some of the most enriching given his over two decades of experience, deep knowledge, and connection not only with the places we visit, but all the members of the AARCH family. We encourage everyone to join us in exploring with Steven and celebrating his numerous achievements in AARCH's 30th year as an organization. The camaraderie that AARCH offers is a great starting point for us all to consider the past, look to the future, and discover new places, conversations, and stories together.

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*Above: Sculpture by John Van Alstine on exhibit at **Chesterwood** .*
Below: Valcour Island

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ADVENTURE

2021 PROGRAMS and EVENTS

AARCH Members receive priority registration for tours until Monday, May 24.

There is still time for members to get their tour request in before the May 24th deadline. We will start the tour lottery drawing the week of June 1st, 2021.

This season, our 30th year as an organization, the effects of the coronavirus have reverberated into our early year of planning, but we remain confident that our outings will be safe, meet our high standard, and offer members and friends a way to reconnect with our region's unique places. Exploring downtowns like Malone and Gloversville, each with ambitious revitalization plans aiming to preserve their historic buildings and heritage, we will interact with communities embracing more optimistic futures. New hands-on workshops exploring art and architecture through sketching, and destigmatizing power tools for women, will offer experiences for folks to build their DIY toolkit and expand their artistic senses. Brand new experiences await members in Greenwich, a beautiful and richly historic village in Washington County, or even to scenic Stockbridge to visit the Massachusetts summer estate and studio of famed sculptor Daniel Chester French where the work of a contemporary Adirondack sculptor stands exhibited today. Lastly, a handful to classic outings to Valcour Island, Raquette Lake, Big Moose Lake, Essex, and more open the door for members and non-members alike to rediscover, or discover for the first time, the places and stories that both bring us together and make our region such a gem.

You can read more about this year's program offerings **HERE**.

You can register for the lottery **HERE.**

Images: Top: Church of the Transfiguration, Blue Mountain Lake
Middle: Twitchell Lake Inn, Big Moose
Bottom: Malone Commercial District

AARCH MOMENTS

In our ongoing series of AARCH Moments, founding member Howie Kirschenbaum explains,

HOW I CRASHED AN AARCH TOUR

Mary and I had never been to Wanakena along the Oswagachie River at the outlet of Cranberry Lake. So one summer day about six years ago, we packed a picnic lunch, drove to Wanakena, explored the little hamlet and hiked on a lovely trail along the river. I hoped we might come across an architecturally stunning pedestrian bridge spanning the river, which I had only seen pictures of. Sure enough, after a half-mile or so of walking along the river, there it was. A dirt road led to the bridge and a path continued on the other side leading to a camp in the woods overlooking the river.

An older man was sitting on the abutment of the bridge. Just to be friendly we said hello, nice day, lovely spot, etc. I joked that he looked like he was waiting for a bus there, and he explained that he was waiting for some people who were going to visit his camp. Then he asked me if I had ever heard of a group named "AARCH". Before I had a chance to respond, he went on to explain to me that this organization was involved in preserving historic architecture all around the Adirondacks and conducted tours of special architecture and historic places. In fact, it was an AARCH tour that was scheduled to arrive momentarily.

When I finally answered him, yes, I had heard of AARCH; in fact I was its founder, first president, and current board member, we all had a good laugh, and he invited Mary and me to join the tour. Moments later Susan Arena, our program director then, arrived with the group, many of whom we knew, and we all had another good laugh at the unexpected meeting. Mary and I enjoyed the tour of this very interesting property. I felt a little guilty crashing a full AARCH tour like that and not paying, but I got over it.
Howie Kirschenbaum

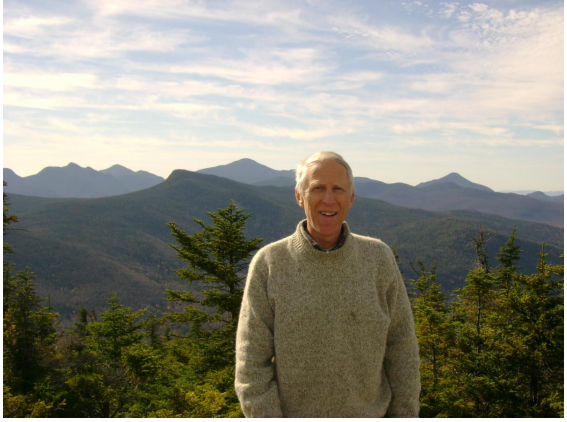

Image: Above - Howie on Porter Mountain, Below - Howie at Big Wolf

May is Preservation Month! To celebrate, we're sharing some special recollections from our Executive Director, Steven Engelhart, over his 30 years of work with AARCH on our **Facebook page**.

*Do you have stories and memories of AARCH to share? We would love to hear them! Please send to **info@aarch.org**.*

STAFF NEWS

AARCH is pleased to welcome **Samantha Johnson** as our new Administrative Director. A Schuyler Falls native, Samantha is excited to return to AARCH as Administrative Director, having first joined the organization as an intern while studying art history at SUNY Plattsburgh. Since then, she has gone on to earn an M.S. in historic preservation from the University of Vermont and most recently worked at an architectural firm in New York City that specializes in historic restoration. Samantha has long been passionate about history and has had the opportunity to follow that curiosity through positions at museums, archives, and archaeological sites. She brings this diverse perspective along with her north country roots to AARCH, where she is eager to help the team continue to explore and preserve the rich legacy of the Adirondacks.

You can contact Samantha at Samantha@aarch.org

PRESERVE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
2021 Preservation Awards Nominations

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 a better place to live, work, and visit.

Please send **nominations** to our Preservation Services Director Christine Bush at **christine@aarch.org** so that we may continue to support and highlight historic preservation projects, both large and small, that are happening throughout the Adirondack region.

For applications and additional information, please visit:
www.aarch.org/preserve

The 2021 AARCH Preservation Awards will be held **Saturday, September 18** at **Hotel Saranac**

Projects of any size are eligible for consideration

Deadline for submissions:

June 31, 2021

SUPPORT

Please join the Adirondack Architectural Heritage Board of Directors in honoring Steven Engelhart's 30 years with AARCH and 27 years as its executive director by making a contribution to the **Engelhart Education Fund**. Proceeds from this fund will be used to further AARCH's educational work in a variety of ways, including to develop new programs, fund new publications, bring more educational content online, and reach and educate new audiences. The fund will ensure that AARCH's programming will continue to be innovative and far-ranging far into the future. The AARCH Board of Directors has established a goal of raising $200,000 from AARCH's members and friends over the coming year.

You may mail in a contribution or **DONATE ONLINE**. THANK YOU for honoring Steven and ensuring the continuation of our remarkable educational programming with your support!

THERE IS STILL TIME!! PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS TODAY!
Support AARCH through our Annual Raffle

The annual AARCH raffle is on! Thanks to the generosity of several area businesses and organizations, you have the chance to win one of these **13 fantastic prizes**:

Three Nights stay at **Camp Dragonfly**
Two Nights Lodging at **The Hedges** **in Blue Mountain Lake**
Two Nights Glamping Experience at **Lake Harris Lodge**
Dinner for Six at a **Private Camp** on Lake Adirondack, Indian Lake
A $250 Visa Gift Card generously donated by **Imerys**
A $100 Gift Certificate to **Smoke Signals**
A Gift Package, including two Admission Passes to the **Adirondack Experience** (2021 season)
Two 18-hole Rounds of Golf with cart at the **High Peaks Golf Course** (2 prizes)
A $100 Gift Certificate to **Ward Lumber**
A $25 Gift Certificate to **North Country Creamery**
Six admission passes to **Ausable Chasm**
A one year subscription to **Adirondack Life Magazine** **and gift basket**

Tickets are $10 each or 5 for $45. For more information on these prizes and how to support this important fundraiser, **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**.

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

Humanities New York
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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.

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A world of AARCH exists online. Join us there.

Visit our Website