

WINTER + SPRING

2024



**ADIRONDACK
EXPERIENCE**

The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake

Winter/Spring 2024
Newsletter

ADKX COLLECTION ASSESSMENT

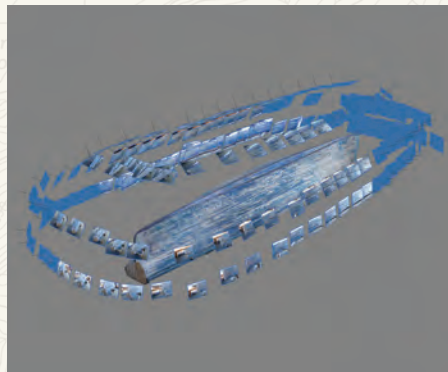


PHOTOGRAMMETRY RESEARCH PROJECT

Bringing New Technology to our Guideboat Collection

This winter the ADKX has been working on an exciting independent research project that utilizes 3-D photogrammetry technology. This scanning process will allow ADKX to create accurate and highly detailed 3-D models of our renowned Adirondack guideboat collection.

Our collections and curatorial departments collaborated with experts in watercraft and 3-D photogrammetry technology for this groundbreaking project. Former GM engineers David Cockey (President of the Traditional Small Craft Association) and Katherine Cockey, alongside Ben Fuller, curator of the Penobscot Marine Museum and writer for *WoodenBoat* Magazine and former



curator of the Mystic Seaport Museum, arrived in December to help us begin scanning select boats in the collection.

To create these detailed models, we capture between 200 and 350 overlapping photos of each boat. The photogrammetry software then uses the photos to create a “point cloud” with millions of data points. The program then builds a 3-D virtual mesh from the points, texturing the model by mapping the photos onto the mesh and adding surface details. The end result is a scale 3-D model!

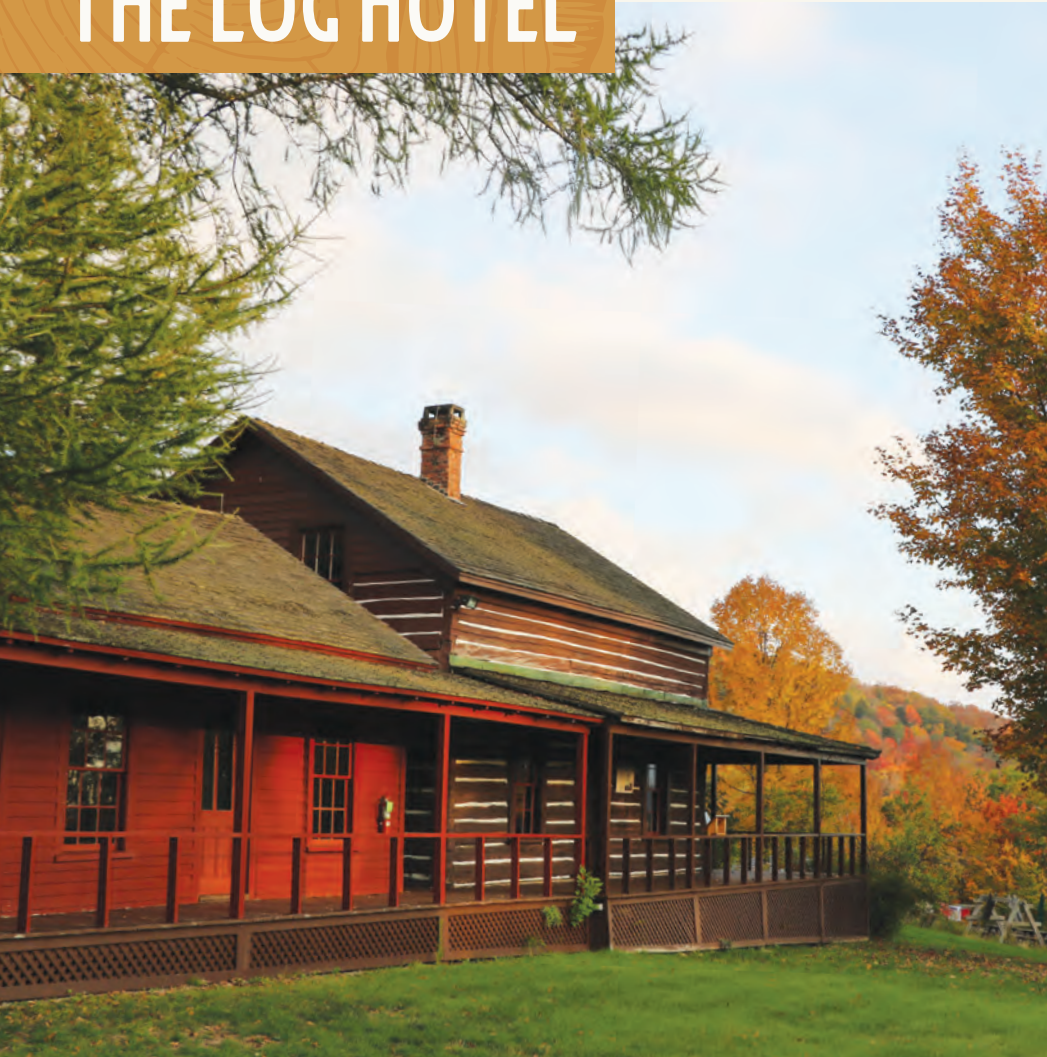
These boat models have tremendous potential. The ADKX could eventually provide boat lines for our whole collection, easily analyze and compare guideboat designs, and allow online access to our visitors seeking data or 3-D models of our boats. The models could also aid our conservation efforts, allowing for a detailed record of each boat. We could even sell accurate scale models of our guideboats in the ADKX Store!

Together we scanned over a dozen boats, with more scans scheduled for the future. The scanning process is time consuming, so the ADKX has prioritized our guideboats first!

Photogrammetry is being used to reconstruct and examine museum collections around the world. We are excited to explore the possibilities this will have for the ADKX collection.



PRESERVING THE LOG HOTEL



The ADKX is pleased to announce a \$310,000 Parks and Historic Preservation Grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. This grant will support the preservation of the Log Hotel, an important historical structure and key attraction on our campus. The museum is actively fundraising to meet the matching requirement of this grant and cover the full project costs of over \$600,000.

Built in 1876 by Miles Tyler Merwin, the Log Hotel is thought to be the oldest extant building in the central Adirondacks and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Log Hotel embodies the evolution of the Adirondack economy. Originally built as a logging campsite, it was later converted into a hotel for tourists. The Merwin family continued to add buildings to the site. The remnants of some of those later structures are still visible on the museum's campus today. All of the other early hotels in Blue Mountain Lake are now gone, including the Prospect House, the first hotel in the U.S. to be lit by electricity. The Log Hotel stands as a monument to regional history.

The museum has cared for the Log Hotel since 1954, but a recent comprehensive assessment revealed routine maintenance would no longer suffice in preserving the structure. In 2012 its foundations were stabilized, and in 2023 its electricity was upgraded, but more is needed to best preserve this historic structure for years to come. Restoration priorities include: reinforcing the roof and replacing shingles, repairing logs and restoring siding, further stabilizing the piers, and dismantling and reconstructing the chimney. These efforts to preserve the Log Hotel will ensure that it will continue to tell the story of Adirondack history for ADKX's thousands of annual visitors.

If you are interested in supporting this project, visit our website, scan the QR code, or call one of the ADKX's advancement staff at (518) 352-7311, ext 119.



COLLECTIONS ASSESSMENTS

Uncovering new facts about the ADKX collection

This winter season, the Curatorial Department was busy delving deeper into the ADKX collection, inviting experts in various areas to give their opinions and recommendations for our objects. These professionals helped us discover previously hidden gems, while letting us know which pieces needed conservation work or further research. They also helped us identify gaps in the collections, so we know what objects and artists to look for with future acquisitions.

Last year arms historian Ashley Hlebinsky took a look at our firearms collection. In November, former Carriage Curator for the Long Island Museum Merri Ferrell joined us to assess our horse-drawn vehicles. In December, former Mystic Seaport Museum curator and current curator of the Penobscot Marine Museum Ben Fuller stopped by to analyze our boat collection. In February, textile and costume historian Lynne Bassett assessed our textile collection. Later this spring, vintage fishing and tackle expert Dean Smith will join us. Next up for assessments are our landscape paintings and Indigenous artifacts collections, which we hope to complete by the end of 2024.

To supplement the experts' opinions, the Curatorial Department has been searching through the original paper files accompanying each donation. These files often contain important information about an object's owner, maker, where it was used, and how it passed through their family. We are working diligently to research and discover new information about our collection which will enhance our storytelling capabilities for future exhibitions.



CURATORIAL UPDATE

New Acquisitions on View in 2024

In 2024 we will be featuring pieces that have been recently acquired or that have not been on exhibit before in our exhibitions. We're excited to share these amazing works—come and see us this summer!

Women's outfit, 2022

Niioieren "Niio" Perkins
Silk, velvet, glass, pearl
2023.012.0001

Niio Perkins is a rising star in the fashion world, bringing Indigenous design into the mainstream. In 2023 she was a featured designer in the WHITE Milano show in Italy, exhibiting her work to buyers from major luxury brands during Milan Fashion Week. This traditional Mohawk woman's outfit was the finale to her runway show. Perkins made her dress from fabric printed with her own design. Thousands of glass beads embellish the collar, cuffs, bag, dress, and leggings with Haudenosaunee motifs of flowers, sky domes, and the celestial tree. The nine pieces that make up the outfit took hundreds of hours to complete.



lonkhisothokon:a Ratiweras (Grandfather Thunders), 2023

Katsitsionni Melissa Fox
Ceramic
2023.033.0001

Katsitsionni Fox honors the natural elements of the world by depicting the annual return of summertime thunderstorms. Fox depicts each grandfather with a bolt of lightning around the rim of the pot. The darkened clay, created during firing, suggests the power of their electrical bolts or perhaps the fires that might heat food held in this traditional cooking pot.



Cosmic Portal, 2022

Tyler Schrader
Oak, ash, poplar, maple, steel, LED lights
2023.015.0001

Tyler Schrader is a meticulous woodworker, using organic shapes, spirals and curves that suggest natural tree forms. Schrader made *Cosmic Portal*, one of his largest works at 9' tall and 6' wide, from Adirondack wood. Layers of oak, maple, ash, and poplar curve over lights that move in rhythm and change colors in response to music or the natural electrical impulses of plants. The exacting challenges of creating such a complex piece required 2 1/2 months of long workdays to complete.



Pyxis Awry 2021 (plunge IX), 2021

John Van Alstine
Bronze
2023.075.0001

Pyxis, the mariner's compass, is a constellation in the Southern hemisphere. Sculptor John Van Alstine invokes this celestial compass as metaphor for people and events that have gone adrift or off-course. Created during the COVID pandemic, he found the "dangerous and uncertain times" a spur to his creativity; this is one of 100 bronze pieces he completed during the shutdown.



Memory Sketches, 1876

L.L.S.
Watercolor
1972.044.0015

This charming watercolor is one of 17 "Memory Sketches" painted by an anonymous artist in August, 1876. Known only by the initials L.L.S., he or she may have stayed at the Rustic Lodge, built by Jesse Corey in the 1850s about 12 miles southwest of the village of Saranac Lake. Although this scene depicts an early period in the area's settlement, some of the land has already been cleared and a fence erected, perhaps to keep oxen and horses in pasture. The road stretches away from the viewer to the south, toward the Seward Range.





TRAIL MAKERS

100 Years of the Northville-Placid Trail

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT). The ADKX is thrilled to honor this milestone with a new temporary exhibition that will open this year in *Woods & Waters*. The new exhibition will feature works from the museum’s art, photo, guidebook, and map collections and connect directly to objects on view permanently, especially stories about hiking and trails as well as the beloved Adirondack figure Noah John Rondeau. The exhibition will open May 24, 2024 and close at the end of the 2025 season.

Visitors in the exhibition will learn about the history of the trail, the team who built it, particularly Edwin Noyes and Howard Rowe, the people along the trail’s path (French Louis, Noah John Rondeau, the Plumley family, among others) and the trail as it is used today. You will have a chance to see Noyes’s maps, gear, photos, and notebooks, DEC and Adirondack Mountain Club NPT trailmarkers, and artist sketches of lean-tos along the trail. Given the affinity many have with the trail, the museum will also create opportunities for you to share your own thoughts, memories, and photos of the NPT through talkback stations. This exhibition offers a unique opportunity to connect hikers, history buffs, and those who simply treasure the region to come together to mark this anniversary in a personal way that will resonate with every visitor.

CALLING ALL BUSINESS OWNERS TO HELP US MEET A MATCHING GRANT!

The ADKX received a \$10,000 challenge grant from The Wesson Group in Johnstown, NY to underwrite this exhibition. We are inviting local businesses to help us meet this matching grant.

As an “NPT Section Sponsor” for \$500, your business will receive:

- Recognition on a plaque in the exhibition for two years.
- 12-month Partner Level Business membership with recognition in the Visitor Center.
- An invitation to the exhibition opening reception on June 6, 2024.

As an “NPT Thru-Hiker Sponsor” for \$1,000, your business will receive all the previous benefits PLUS:

- Prioritized business name recognition on the exhibition plaque.
- Inclusion on exhibition promotional materials for greater visibility, including in at least two emails to the ADKX’s 2,500+ member households.



To sponsor this exhibition, scan the QR code to donate by May 1, 2024!

TUESDAY TRAIL TALKS & TOURS

The ADKX is introducing a new monthly series, *Tuesday Trail Talks & Tours*, in conjunction with the temporary exhibition. Join us each month at 2pm to learn more about the people who hike, maintain, and work to preserve the Northville-Placid Trail today. A short tour of the exhibit will be given by ADKX’s project team after each presentation.

Julia Goren, Deputy Director, Adirondack Mountain Club
July 9 | 2pm

Matt Burnett, Matt Burnett Guiding
August 13 | 2pm

Jaime Parslow and Jon DeSantis, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
September 10 | 2pm

ADKX GALA 2024!

The Adirondack Experience is thrilled to announce that the Harold K. Hochschild Award will be presented to Nancy and Lee Keet and the Cloudsplitter Foundation at its annual summer Gala on **Saturday, July 27, 2024.**



Lee and Nancy Keet have been active members of the Adirondack community for many years, serving as board members to a variety of Adirondack organizations including the Adirondack Foundation, Adirondack Council, The Nature Conservancy, Adirondack Land Trust, AdkAction, Trudeau Institute, Adirondack Rail Trail Association (ARTA), Point Positive, Lake Colby Association, Colby Foundation, North Country Public Radio (NCPR), Northern Forest Atlas Foundation, and Adirondack Experience.

Their tremendous dedication to improving the Adirondack region led them to form the Cloudsplitter Foundation in 1986, where Lee serves as the foundation's Chair and Nancy is the Grants Committee Chair. The Cloudsplitter Foundation is dedicated to improving the environment, economies, and lives of people in the Adirondacks. Together with a volunteer board of local residents and a small number of family members, the Keets and the Cloudsplitter Foundation have distributed \$15,730,007 within the Adirondacks from 2011-2023.

We can't wait to celebrate and honor the Keets with you. The evening will include a peek into some special exhibits, delicious food, a silent auction of unique items, and, as always, the wonderful camaraderie of museum friends and supporters seeing each other again after too many months apart. Space is limited, so don't wait to confirm your attendance!

If you are unable to join us, please consider honoring the Keets with a contribution toward the museum's only annual fundraising event. Feel free to go online today and make a contribution to the Gala. If you **respond by May 31st**, you will be listed in our formal invitation, to be mailed out in June.



JOIN THE ADIRONDACK EXPERIENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR AN EVENING OF GREAT FOOD, FUN, AND COMPANY.

The Adirondack Experience's Gala, while being a blast of a night, is also the one major fundraiser the museum holds each year. During the event, the museum will be recognizing Lee and Nancy Keet and the Cloudsplitter Foundation with the prestigious Harold K. Hochschild Award.



The museum's campus will be open exclusively for Gala attendees starting at 5 PM for a chance to explore special exhibitions. The night's scheduled program will begin at 6 PM. Please join us in celebrating the Adirondacks during this memorable evening. Visit our website to learn more.

HONORING ADKX TRUSTEE SIDNEY S. WHELAN JR.

Sidney Smith Whelan Jr. of Essex, Conn., passed away peacefully on January 27, 2024, surrounded by family. He was 94 years old. Sid served as a Trustee of the museum from 1980 to 2003. He stayed supportive, and very much involved, as an Honorary Trustee from 2004 on. In fact, Sid was corresponding with staff and Trustees about museum programs and projects he cared deeply about and donated to, right up until days before he passed. Trustees, Honorary Trustees, and staff had the great opportunity to share with Sid and Patsy a resolution passed in honor of Sid at the January Board of Trustees meeting.



Resolution of Thanks and Deep Appreciation for Sidney S. Whelan Jr.

Adopted by the Adirondack Experience Board of Trustees

Whereas, Sidney S. Whelan Jr. (universally known as Sid) served as a dedicated Trustee of the Adirondack Museum, now the Adirondack Experience, from July 31, 1980, to July 26, 2003, contributing his boundless energy, his valuable insights and unwavering commitment to the mission of our organization;

Whereas, Sid was elected as an Honorary Trustee on July 24, 2004, recognizing his exceptional contributions and continued dedication to the Adirondack Experience as a Trustee and member of innumerable committees;

Whereas, Sid's philanthropic spirit and generosity have left an indelible mark on the Adirondack Experience;

Whereas, Sid established the Adirondack Heritage Fund in 1985 with a donation to promote a better understanding of the cultural and natural heritage of the Adirondacks which has grown over the years;

Whereas, Sid was instrumental in launching ADKX's planned giving program in 1994-1995, coining the name "Source Society" in collaboration with a fellow trustee;

Whereas, at the request of the founder Harold Hochschild, Sid retrieved the Adirondack diaries of Arpad Gerster, an early Raquette Lake camp owner, transcribed them, conducted years of meticulous research into their text and procured their publication in two handsome volumes for the museum;

Whereas, Sid was the driving force behind the decision to build the 26,000-square-foot Collection Study and Storage Center, which opened in 2000 and protects ADKX's irreplaceable collections of Adirondack artifacts;

Whereas, Sid played a pivotal role in creating the Boatbuilder in Residence Program in 2008 and helped to raise an endowment to support the program;

Whereas, Sid's notable gifts have significantly enriched our programs and initiatives, including support for: the Worth Publication Fund; the guideboat photogrammetry project; the guideboat builder in residence program; the Henry Fair photo exhibit; Ed Kanze's guided nature hikes; a video on the subject of the logging industry; Stephen Sulavik's guideboat book; and an emergency generator for the Collection Storage and Study Center;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Adirondack Experience expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Sidney S. Whelan Jr. for his unwavering dedication, outstanding leadership, and extraordinary generosity over the years, which have greatly enhanced our ability to fulfill our mission of preserving and sharing the history and heritage of the Adirondacks;

Be it further resolved that this Resolution of Thanks and Deep Appreciation be formally recorded in the records of the Adirondack Experience and shared with Sid as a testament to our profound gratitude and admiration for his enduring contributions.

Unanimously adopted on this twenty-fifth day of January 2024

The family has asked that memorial gifts be made to the Adirondack Experience, The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake, P.O. Box 99, Blue Mountain Lake, NY 12812, toward the Endowed Boatbuilder-in-Residence program, which Sid helped to launch.

HOCHSCHILD SOCIETY MEMBERS REMEMBERED

We are so sad to share the news that three wonderful, long-time, generous friends of the Adirondack Experience and members of our Hochschild Society (planned giving program) died in 2023.

A celebration of life for **Vicki Schwartz** was held for hundreds of close friends and family in Rochester, NY in December. Vicki spent summers visiting the Adirondacks. She and her husband Richard brought their family up for adventures when their kids were young. Their keen interest in the museum, especially the free K-12 programs, led them to make substantial gifts in support of this initiative. (See more about the K-12 program in the inset to the right.) They were also major contributors to recent capital campaigns. In 2006 Vicki and Dick made the decision to include the museum in their estate plans, further demonstrating their commitment to the organization's mission. All who knew Vicki will deeply miss her energy, passion, and kindness.



John Linck died last October at the age of 90. Right up until last summer, John drove back and forth from his home outside of Philadelphia to his favorite place on Earth, his camp at Raquette Lake. He and his wife, Ann, made sure to visit the museum every summer, and they were regulars at Galas and Hochschild Society dinners. He instilled a love for the museum in his daughter, Elizabeth, who interned at the museum for two summers. Elizabeth recalls cherished memories of boating with her Dad around Raquette while he wielded his camera to get “just the right shot” of the wilderness around them. He brought a warm smile to every gathering he came to at the museum.



Piseco camp owner, DC resident, and a regular fixture at the Adirondack Experience's Hochschild Society dinners, Galas, and Monday Evening Lectures, **Arthur (Art) Saltford** died in December. Art and his wife, Nancy, never missed an ADKX party in DC. They even opened their own home for a (very) snowy reception for fellow members and donors in 2008. Nancy often teased Art and his “hollow leg” that he liked to attend these parties for the food. Those of us who knew Art, knew it was much more than that. Art never grew tired of roaming the museum galleries and grounds. He regularly commented that he saw something new every time, despite coming to the museum since its opening. Art and Nancy made provisions for the museum in their estate plans in 2009 and were active members of the Hochschild Society.



The ADKX is honored to be a part of Vicki, John, and Art's legacy. Including the museum in your estate plans is one of the most significant contributions you can make to secure the future of the Adirondack Experience. If you have any questions about legacy giving or the Hochschild Society, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 518.352.7311 ext. 125.



ADKX K-12 Program

In 2012 the museum began to offer school programs free of charge to any school within one of the 12 Adirondack Park counties. In 2023 ADKX educators drove 12,500 miles to reach students in 307 classes from 44 different school districts. 9,535 students participated in classroom enrichment, museum field trips, or virtual programs. This reflects a 15% increase over 2022, and a return to the numbers of students reached before the pandemic drastically impacted education. The museum relies upon generous donors, like Vicki, for the growth of our K-12 program impact.





YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUSTAINS US

Join or renew now and become a part of the place you love. Your membership support allows the museum to continue to preserve Adirondack cultural heritage and share important Adirondack stories. You'll also be helping us fulfill our mission by funding artifact care and acquisition, educational programming, and so much more.



Your membership is good for **FREE** admission for the *entire* 2024 season, and you will be among the first to know about this year's events and museum plans!

Do you enjoy sharing your passion for the Adirondacks with others? Love the great outdoors? Then come work at the ADKX this summer!

We have a variety of positions available during our open season that are perfect for those looking for something fun and unique. Interact with the public and teach them about the stories of the Adirondacks as an Interpretation Assistant, welcome visitors to



the museum as a Membership Representative, work in the Lake View Café or ADKX Store, and more! We offer a variety of perks that make for a fun summer! Visit our website to see all of our employment opportunities.

WE'RE HIRING!



2023 ADKX DONORS MADE A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE!

Thanks to all who made a financial commitment to the ADKX in 2023. Each area of contributed income for the museum was up over the previous year thanks to our generous friends. The donors listed below have profoundly impacted the museum. We cherish our donors, members, and those who have named the museum in their estate plans. Thank you.

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

(\$500 and up)

A full list of all donors to the 2023 Annual Fund can be found at www.theadkx.org.

\$25,000 and up

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Lee and Nancy Keet

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in loving memory of Lib Wardwell
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