



The CARRY

Volume Four | Fall 2010

History is in our nature

www.adirondackmuseum.org

In the Adirondacks, a “carry” is a piece of land that connects two bodies of water. You carry your canoe, kayak or guideboat over solid ground as you paddle from river to lake, lake to lake. *The Carry* will connect the museum with you, our members. Each edition will “carry” news of events, exhibits, projects, collections, and special programs planned just for our membership. We look forward to making a strong connection.

A PARTNERSHIP OF COMMON PURPOSE

By Jim Mandel

The Adirondack Folk School (AFS) in Lake Luzerne, New York in the southeastern Adirondack Park, opened its doors for classes on June 5, 2010. This one-of-a-kind school, focused on teaching traditional arts, crafts, and the culture of the Adirondacks, began with the moral support and encouragement of the Adirondack Museum. Its mission is to keep alive the crafts and culture unique to the Adirondacks, while stimulating the economy within the Park by hiring local artists and craftspeople as instructors. AFS is a non-profit school offering a wide array of year-round classes for adults, ranging from half-day to multiple day programs. AFS is based on the Danish folk school concept of learning in a non-competitive, not-for-credit environment for the sheer joy of learning. School founder, Jim Mandel, a long time supporter of the Adirondack Museum, has said that his inspiration came from visiting a similar folk school in Minnesota that focuses on Scandinavian crafts.

In just four months, Mandel and a group of dedicated volunteers have taken the old town hall building in Lake Luzerne, situated on a beautiful wooded lot overlooking the Hudson River, and created a woodworking shop, bench top studio for woodcarving, a weaving studio with six looms, a fiber arts classrooms for quilting and knitting, and much more. Complete with the best of tools and enthusiastic instructors, AFS is open and ready for fun! Upcoming classes will be offered in weaving, creating birch bark picture frames, soap making, 5-string banjo, rustic furniture, crafting canoe paddles, Adirondack Pack Baskets and much, much more. An outdoor amphitheater hosts Saturday evening presentations and demonstrations – even marshmallow roasts!

To sign up for classes, volunteer to help, or become a member, call the Adirondack Folk School at 518-696-2400 or visit the web site – www.adirondackfolkschool.org.



Grand opening festivities at the Adirondack Folk School. Caroline Welsh at right, Christine Campeau, left.

Jim Mandel is the founder and driving force behind the Adirondack Folk School. The Adirondack Museum is pleased to have played a small supportive role in its birth. Our work and missions complement one another: the Adirondack Museum collects and preserves the culture of the region while AFS ensures that traditions and skills live on. We offer hearty congratulations to all involved in this exceptional project.



L. Post Rustics, Larry and Joann Post, Ausable Forks, N.Y., received the “Peoples’ Choice Award” at the 2009 Rustic Furniture Fair.

RUSTIC FURNITURE FAIR

Join the museum for the Rustic Furniture Fair on September 11 and 12, 2010. Now in its twenty-third year, this exceptional festival of rustic arts will feature handcrafted furniture, furnishings, and Adirondack paintings. Visitors will discover quality craftsmanship and interpretations of “rustic” by more than sixty high-quality exhibitors.

Enjoy lively entertainment with bluegrass by “Adrenaline Hayride” on Saturday, September 11, and traditional fiddling by Frank Orsini on Sunday, September 12. Demonstrations of furniture making and fine painting will take place each day. The UPS store in Lake Placid, New York will provide shipping services for the Rustic Furniture Fair and Benefit Preview.

See all things rustic from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 11, and 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 12.

Rustic Furniture Fair Preview and Benefit

Be among the first to see the exquisite tables, chairs, desks, and accents that make this event the place to buy rustic. Enjoy the jazzy sounds of “Minor Swing,” delight in delectable food and beverages, and bid on the silent auction piece created by Barney Bellinger.

The Preview will be held on Friday, September 10 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. For tickets, please call (518) 352-7311 ext. 119. Proceeds from the Preview support the museum’s exhibits and programs. The museum will be closed to the public on Friday, September 10, 2010.

A FINANCIAL FACT: UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

The museum recently received a “challenge grant” from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust in the amount of \$20,000 toward the cost of renovating the Auditorium to make it universally accessible. With the wonderful news comes the hard work of matching their support with an additional \$20,000 by December 15, 2010. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are sure this project will resonate with anyone who has personally experienced the challenge of getting around a public place either on crutches, with a walker, or in a wheelchair. Or, helped a loved one do so.

The museum strives to make all of our buildings and grounds as easily accessible as possible, and the improvement to the Auditorium is major step in

the right direction. By re-designing one of the doors at the rear of the building as an attractive, covered, ramped entrance, we will eliminate the need for those with a disability to leave the museum grounds and enter from the parking lot. The renovation will allow the interior to be easily accessed by wheelchair, enabling everyone regardless of mobility, to enjoy or deliver presentations and utilize the rest rooms.

Every dollar toward this challenge will help, so please do not think your contribution is too small to make a difference! If you are interested in donating please email or call Sarah Lewin, Director of Institutional Advancement at slewin@adkmuseum.org, or (518) 352-7311, extension 125. 🍪



Top Chefs! The museum held a special event, “The Adirondacks Are Cookin’ Out,” on July 29, 2010. 925 enthusiastic visitors enjoyed the day! The highlight of the event was the Campfire Cook-off. Outstanding regional chefs competed in a trial by campfire. Each chef selected his own menu; all cooked over an open fire.

Participants included Chef Tom Morris, *Mirror Lake Inn*; Chef Eric Hample, *The Cellar*; Chef Kevin McCarthy, *Paul Smith’s College*; Chef Stephen Topper, *Lorenzo’s al Forno*; and Chef Luke Bowers, *barVino*.

The distinguished panel of judges included Tony Zazula, co-owner of *Commerce*; noted food authority Suvir Saran; and Sally Longo, owner of *Aunt Sally’s Catering*.

The competition resulted in a delicious tie! The winning chefs (back row) were Tom Morris on left and Stephen Topper to his right. They are joined left to right by judges Tony Zazula, Sally Longo, and Suvir Saran.



MEET THE MUSEUM STAFF: THE FACES BEHIND THE SCENES



Cynthia de la Torre

A museum exhibit takes time. Often years of planning, fund raising, research, artifact selection, concept testing, and writing are necessary before a grand public opening.

The museum will introduce the new mining exhibit in 2012, pending funding. This summer a special intern, Cynthia de la Torre, worked on a research portion of the mining exhibit.

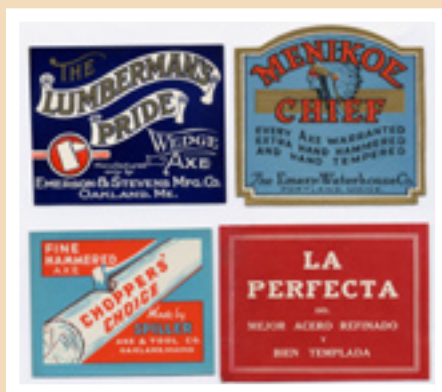
Cynthia’s charge was to conduct oral history interviews with former miners and residents of Tahawus and the Upper Works (also known as Adirondac). Work was also completed in Mineville. She worked in tandem with Christine Campeau, the museum’s School Program Manager, and Dr. Carol Burke, a member of the mining exhibit’s advisory committee. Interview subjects included the wives and children of miners as well as the men themselves: all were eager to share their stories and immensely glad that the mining exhibit will return.

Cynthia’s internship was made possible by a research grant from the University of California, Irvine, where she will be a senior in the fall. She had taken Dr. Burke’s course entitled “The Radio Story” and had learned interviewing techniques as well as sound editing. Her work at the museum included production of “sound stories” that integrate clips from interviews with music and narrative voice-over. These can be used in the exhibit, for radio programs, and on the web site.

Cynthia’s long-term interest is the environment and she plans to become an environmental lawyer. She will graduate from UC Irvine as a double major in Literary Journalism and Economics. 🍪

ARTIFACTUALLY SPEAKING

Ax Labels



The Adirondack Museum Library acquired 122 ax labels from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in 2009. The colorful collection probably came from a hardware dealer who used the labels to sell various brands of axes from as far away as Minnesota and South Carolina. Several of the labels are in Spanish.

Axes are among the earliest tools; the first true ax with a

handle dates from over 6,000 years ago. Arriving in America, colonists found vast forests. Settlement required axes and local American blacksmiths soon began making axes from iron. Improving on European designs, American axes were made with shorter, wider blades with better balance and geometry. By the late eighteenth century, this square design was known as the American ax.

The Bessemer process made steel axes affordable by the late nineteenth century. Polished steel axes reduce friction and the ax blade can be thinner, allowing size and weight to be reduced while maintaining cutting efficiency and improving balance. The American ax became the standard for quality axes, and was marketed worldwide.

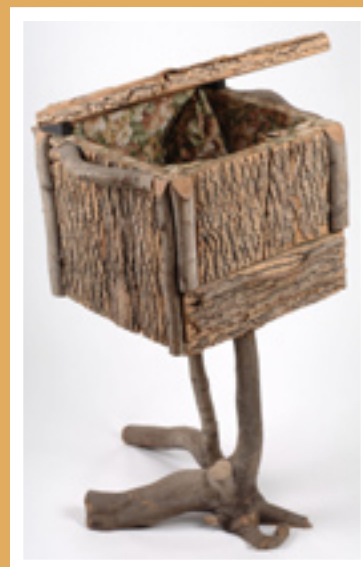
In the Adirondacks, axes were used by farmers, hunters, and surveyors and of course by the logging industry. Specialty axes were used by carpenters and for harvesting ice. Most Adirondackers owned axes. The production of American axes began to decline with the increased use of crosscut saws as felling tools, which occurred in the Adirondacks in the 1890s. The introduction of the power saw was the death knell for the ax. By the late 1950s, lightweight efficient chain saws had taken over work traditionally done with an ax. 🪓

Rustic Work Table

Wander into a quilt shop and you will find a wall of gadgets and tools to organize sewing materials and make work easier or more accurate. While acrylic rulers and rotary cutters were unknown to our foremothers, they too had needlework “toys” that might seem curious to us. One example is the “work table,” a specialized sewing table that was a recognized form by the 1700s. Thread, scissors, thimbles and the work itself were kept inside. In the eighteenth century, work tables often had a fabric bag that hung from the frame of the tabletop, under a lid.

Rustic furniture-makers would—and will—craft just about anything the customer wants. At the turn of the last century one made a rustic work table (1988.039.0002) for Camp Tremaine on Piseco Lake, Hamilton County, New York.

In this case, a fabric bag is enclosed in a rustic box made by nailing ash bark onto pieces of a wooden tea chest. We don't know whether the original owner of the table kept her quilt squares, needlepoint, or knitting in it, but we can imagine the pleasure she took in working on a fine piece of sewing while gazing out onto the calm waters of the lake, her tools and supplies close at hand. 🪡



Rustic work table.
Richard Walker photo.

MEMBERS' CORNER

Thank you for sharing!

In 2009, members were asked to complete a short survey to help the museum. Through renewal reminders, membership packets, email blasts, and a direct link to our website members had many opportunities to participate. We would like to thank all of you who filled out a survey and shared your opinions and ideas with us. We are currently analyzing the data so that we may serve you better in the future.



A total of 30 people—museum members, members of ARCH, and staff—enjoyed a fascinating field trip to Tahawus and Adirondac on June 28, 2010.

Your participation also supported the museum's Annual Fund to the tune of \$11,025, as the John A. Sellon Residual Charitable Trust made a generous matching gift for each survey completed.

Here are a few interesting things we now know about you:

- The average age of the participants is 61.
- Participants maintain memberships for an average of 12.5 years.
- 59% maintain membership to support the museum's mission (thank you!).
- 52% also give an Annual Fund gift in addition to membership dues (thanks to those who do and we hope to increase this).
- 63% hold Family level memberships.
- 56% bring friends when they visit.
- 47% are seasonal residents of the Adirondack Park.
- 84% visit the museum in August.
- 34% visit the museum 2-3 times a season.
- Favorite permanent exhibits include: “Woods and Waters,” “The Adirondack History Gallery,” and “Boats and Boating in the Adirondacks.”
- Lean-to building is the favorite children's program!



FALL CALENDAR



The Adirondacks are glorious in the late summer and fall. Enjoy autumn's splendor and one of our special events! Visit www.adirondackmuseum.org for details, reservations, or tickets.

August 20 & 21
American Mountain Men Encampment

September 10
Rustic Furniture Fair Preview & Benefit

September 11 & 12
Rustic Furniture Fair

September 25
Adirondack Fabric & Fiber Arts Festival

October 2 & 3
Adirondack Harvest Festival



Blast furnace, Tahawus



ASH BORER TRAP

Anyone traveling through the Adirondack Park may notice large, triangular, purple, kite-like objects in the trees. These are "sticky traps" used to monitor the progress of an invasive and very destructive beetle.

The Emerald Ash Borer, a metallic green, half-inch long beetle, is native to China and eastern Asia, and is responsible for the destruction of tens of thousands of ash trees in the Northeastern and Midwestern United States and in Canada.

The Adirondack Museum has a trap on the grounds in collaboration with the New York State Department of Conservation. Educational material provided by DEC – a sample of infested wood, the life stages of the insect, and other information is available for museum visitors. 🍷

Support from public funds:
New York State Council on
the Arts, a state agency.



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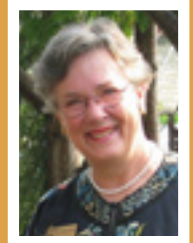
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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

An outstanding museum is distinguished by its collections. The value of the Adirondack Museum to our community is underscored by the extraordinary new collections that have been entrusted to our care this year.



Caroline M. Welsh

The most important acquisition is the records of the major Adirondack architectural firm, Coulter, Distin, Westhoff, Wareham, Delair. The collection consists of thousands of drawings for camps, residences, businesses, sanitarium, municipal buildings and churches, along with thirty-three boxes of records.

The Arto Monaco Historical Society has given a selection of Arto Monaco's imaginative creations, including educational toys and artifacts associated with the theme parks he developed, as well as personal and business records.

In addition, the owners of the Finch Pruyn Company are working with us to place an extensive woodlands management archive dating from 1860, the largest and oldest documentation of forest management and stewardship in the region, in the library.

We are honored by these significant donations. The gifts indicate faith in the museum's ability to preserve documents and artifacts, and to share the stories they represent with generations to come. 2010 has been a gratifying year.

Caroline M. Welsh

Fall Festival

