MOMENTS
A brand new experience

Outside This Summer

Building Wild Walk

WILDCENTER.ORG

Summer 2014
Why is it called Whiteface?

You can read a cold misty theory on the mountain’s name and see the peak live now on the part of the exhibit that lives on our website. wildcenter.org/dig-in/island-in-the-sky

When the Museum Association of New York (MANY) unveiled its top prizes at its annual gathering in Albany there was a single science-based museum recognized, and the award was for work done almost a mile in the sky.

The award was given to The Wild Center for innovation, for taking its storytelling out of the Center and right into its subject - the natural world of the Adirondacks. In this case, the exhibit that opened last summer on Whiteface Mountain. The Whiteface exhibit joined a brief list of winners that included MOMA and the FIT museums in New York City.

While the MANY award named the Center, the exhibit was the result of a broad partnership between ANCA, the DEC, the Olympic Regional Development Authority and the NYSDOT. “From a distance, it looks like a bunch of initials helped make the exhibit happen,” said Tracey Legat, who managed the project, “up close it was a lot of people who gave us the green light to try new things and break old rules about what an exhibit looks like. To be recognized for innovation means people were willing to take a risk, and we all hope the award will lead to more partnerships to innovate in more places in the future.”
“A must for all ages..”

We want to send a thank you to the readers of Adirondack Life who voted The Wild Center the 2014 number one attraction in the Adirondacks. As always, winning this kind of recognition just makes us want to do more. We’re also humbled that the runner up has been around for a few million years, is magnificent 365 days a year, and also happens to be home to the highest museum exhibit in New York - Whiteface Mountain.

The annual Readers’ Choice Awards are in the magazine’s May/June 2014 issue.

Students & Science

National Science Foundation, The Wild Center and Paul Smiths College Team Up on Adirondack Climate Science

Anyone who fishes, hunts, gardens or monitors birds in the Adirondacks already knows that a changing climate is changing the region. In the coming years, decisions about everything from fisheries to flood control will be made against a complex climate backdrop.

As a science center in a landscape that will be impacted by changes driven by climate, The Wild Center is committed to helping people understand the science behind the disruptions. The exact genesis of the Paul Smiths collaboration, as with many Wild Center ideas that arrive from multiple directions and land on the same spot, is unclear. What is clear is that support from the National Science Foundation will spawn an innovative project in the Adirondacks.

This work will combine The Wild Center’s science-communication capacities with the knowledge base of one of the region’s leading climate scientists. The goal is to give a select group of students at Paul Smiths College the knowledge and skills they need to be conduits of information that can help other leaders in the North Country get the complex science, and use it to inform decisions.

Professor Curt Stager at Paul Smiths, and Rob Carr from The Wild Center will lead the project. The 16 students in the current program will use the skills they learn to execute outreach programs that will make the information accessible to hundreds of leaders in the Adirondacks.
How do we see the moments in the world around us? This summer the entire center of the Pataki Hall of the Adirondacks will be converted to a place to experience moments. The space will include ways you can learn to capture more of the moments around you and special chances for visitors to use art to experience the wild world.
Mission

IGNITE AN ENDURING PASSION FOR

THE ADIRONDACKS

WHERE PEOPLE AND NATURE CAN

THRIVE TOGETHER

AND SET AN EXAMPLE

FOR THE WORLD
Of Bees, Blues & BuzzzFest

Some wild bees do something astounding to the flowers of blueberries and they do the same to the tomatoes in gardens. They vibrate at a rate that shakes loose the pollen and germinates seeds. Germinated seeds encourage berry growth. Different bees do similar shakedowns for different flowers. This July 5, in a year where the news is too full of stories of bee declines around the world, we’ll dedicate BuzzzFest to these jewelled links in the chain of life. Come, join us for a day of mead, music and fun, and you’ll leave with new ways to appreciate the hive of life around us.
Wild Walk - Stepping Up in 2015

Come to the Center this summer and you will see a big new experience start to rise.

“With Wild Walk we will turn The Wild Center inside out. The forest will be our live exhibit where we will experience the natural world from a completely different perspective. Wild Walk will open that world so we can start to see how nature may not be quite the way we humans define it, but infinitely more complex, and varied.”

Karen Thomas - Chair of The Campaign for The Wild Center

Wild Walk is scheduled to open July 4, 2015.
Win a new iPad Air and a free workshop with Carl Heilman taking pictures in the Adirondacks by entering the Moments contest this summer. Here’s how:

Go to wildcenter.org/moments, our Facebook page or use #CaptureAMoment on Twitter and Instagram and upload a picture that best captures your favorite Adirondack moment. Browse through the gallery and vote on the image you think is the best Adirondack moment. The contest closes September 30, 2014.

WHAT’S ON THIS SUMMER

A small sampling of the special events on our campus this summer. For the complete list, bookmark wildcenter.org/calendar

THURSDAY, JUNE 26 - THE SAGA OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY
Lincoln Brower, one of the nation’s foremost monarch experts, will bring the screening of Flight of the Butterflies to a close with this special evening. Made possible by adkaction.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 5 - BUZZZFEST 2014
An all day festival with music, butterfly walks, presentations and fun. This year BuzzzFest will celebrate bees and the work they do to support life. BuzzzFest will feature honey in every shape and form.

TUESDAY, JULY 15 - PROTECTING WATERSHEDS
Join documentary photographer Alison Jones, Founding Director of No Water No Life, for a stunning glimpse into the world of conservation photography.
Winner gets an iPad Air and a free ticket to an all day photography class with Carl Heilman.

You’ll be notified by email, and the wifi iPad Air with 16 GB and retina display will be shipped to your address from Apple.

THURSDAY, JULY 17 - LAKE PLACID SINFONIETTA
An evening filled with the music of Mozart, Copland and Tchaikovsky.
Cost: $20 for adults ($17 for Wild Center members), children 14 and under free.
Buffet dinner in the Esplanade Tent is an additional $25 per person.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14 - FLAVORFEST 2014
All day event with free food, live music, a special regional celebration of the best tastes of the Adirondacks, and dozens of food vendors, farmers, and chefs cooking up a great family day.
CHECK OUT MILES OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER ON SPECIAL WILD CENTER EXPEDITIONS

The opposite of our behind-the-scenes-tours, these into-the-scene trips take small groups to see the nature of the Adirondacks where it lives.

BYOB (Bring Your Own Boat) / These popular paddles are a fun combination of Adirondack natural and cultural history. Naturalist Jen Kretser and historian Hallie Bond take you to beautiful waters around the park, highlighting the natural setting and providing context for the historical significance in each location. These trips are a special offer to our members only and fill up fast.

Bird the Adirondacks / We team with local ornithology professor Alan Belford on full-day birding excursions to habitats you won’t find elsewhere in New York. These bogs and boreal lands are the perfect place to see many specialty birds like gray jay, boreal chickadee, and black-backed woodpecker. This year we’re offering our first Owl Prowl on June 1st, a perfect evening program for you and the night owls in your family.

Paddle and Hike with Broadwing Adventures / Local professional guides Jack Drury and Doug Fitzgerald partner with The Wild Center to increase our eXpedition offerings. Join Jack, Doug, and The Wild Center on these fun, full-day paddling (and sometimes hiking) adventures in places like Long Pond and the recently accessible Essex Chain of Lakes.

Plant and Wildlife Excursions / If a full-day adventure isn’t for you, we’re offering a few shorter trips this year. Join us for a morning of birding on the Bloomingdale Bog Trail, a Fungi Foray on August 1st, and a botany exploration with Dan Spada along the Scarface Mountain trails.

When you sign up for these and dozens of other events online we’ll send you custom complete details for each eXpedition. Trips are limited to 12, so please sign up soon. wildcenter.org/calendar
Bucket Brigade
(aka Shoulder Season)

Spring in the Adirondacks goes by several names. Tourism people call it a shoulder season for etymological reasons that remain a mystery. People with children and gravel roads call it mud season, (etymology very clear in this case) and most of us call it the end of winter.

Over the past few years it has earned another sobriquet at the Center, “sweet season”, because the first warming days start the maple sap flowing, which leads to tapping, and then carrying of buckets and boiling of sap.

All of this is followed by a parade of aspiring syrup sommeliers lining up at The Wild Center sugar house to taste each day’s vintage.

This summer you can get a taste of all the fun in the Big Wolf Great Hall Lean-to. We’ll have a new syrup exhibit, and you can join our bucket brigade. Just bring your face.

The syrup project is another way the Center works to build meaningful connections between people and the natural world.

Try It

The top picture is the real original shot of the maple operation’s founding boss, Dave St. Onge decked out in his Quebecois finery for his own personal bucket-list picture. The other shots are a few Wild Center faces enjoying their own photo op once Dave got cut out. You can picture yourself as a tapper this summer.
Chelsae Radell rushed across the Great Hall. It was February and she was running from an exhibit meeting to the exhibit hall hugging a sheaf of papers to check if the idea of a kettling vulture that would rise off the floor from an updraft would actually fly.

The result of that sprint across the Great Hall, and hundreds of other tests and trials, will be on display in a brand new experience built in the middle of the Pataki Hall of the Adirondacks, complete with dark places to see a night vision-equipped owl, and live chances to capture your own moments.

The natural world is filled with wild moments - the split seconds when animals come into contact with each other and the world around them. Moments, Reimagining Nature through Art is a new interactive exhibit designed to capture a wide array of moments, and freeze them long enough that you can look into them. It includes a studio where visitors can test drive their skills at drawing something out of the moments around them.

Moments features the work of Allen Blagden, an artist and illustrator whose worklife includes time with the Smithsonian and Cornell’s Laboratory of Ornithology.

There will be special events and activities associated with Moments throughout the year. You can sample more at wildcenter.org/moments
Wild Walk is rising all over the United States. In Wisconsin, Jason Burnie leads the team at the firm that built the Center’s indoor exhibits, including the work to cast the rocks in the waterfall at Otter Falls from real Adirondack cliffs. His group is using the bark from an Adirondack White Pine to sheathe one of the world’s biggest snags, where you will be able to climb inside and see how lively ‘dead’ trees are.

Outside Syracuse, Kevin Dates leads a team of welders at Phoenix Welding and Fabricating. Their work is causing rubbernecks to slow traffic on Route 481 where the giant towers are rising before they are reassembled at the Center this summer.

In St. Louis, Chip Reay, who led the team that designed the Center and who dreamed up the design for Wild Walk, continues to tinker with his vision as it takes full scale form.

Finally, in the Adirondacks, designers and staff are at work on the exhibit experiences. Our tree crew, under Dave St. Onge, is getting ready to plant the native forest that will replace some of the non-native trees on the Wild Walk site, and construction crews are signed up to begin to assemble the pieces as they arrive from across the country.

Come this summer and catch a glimpse of the newest trail in the Adirondacks, one that will let you step up into another world.
A Stunning Year

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE WILD CENTER PASSES $18 MILLION

Less than a year ago The Campaign for The Wild Center was launched, with a goal to raise $20 million by December of 2015. The Campaign will build Wild Walk, solidify the Center’s endowment, and underwrite its programs.

The Center is still a young organization, and the Campaign’s success will help it move from its launch phase, deepen the experience it offers visitors, and place the Center on a sound financial foundation.

At this writing, the Campaign has secured $18 million toward its goal of $20 million. There remain opportunities to join this groundbreaking work, including opportunities to name parts of Wild Walk.

We want to thank all of you who have made contributions to the Campaign. The Wild Center is a community, and the strength and breadth of that community is the driving force behind the Center’s ability to serve the Adirondacks.

Campaign news and updates will be posted at wildcenter.org/campaign

Belong

Member Highlights

SATURDAY, JULY 26 & THURSDAY, AUGUST 21 - REIMAGINE NATURE, ARTFULLY
Exhibit curator Caroline Welsh on the history of wildlife art, Allen Blagden’s work and the MOMENTS experience.

MEMBER BREAKFASTS - SATURDAY, JULY 19 & THURSDAY, JULY 31
Breakfast buffet in the Great Hall followed by a special program.

MAY 29 - OCTOBER 30 - MEMBER THURSDAYS
Back of House Tours (1:30pm) and discounts in the store and café.

See more at wildcenter.org/calendar or call (518) 359-7800.
There is a plaque in the middle of the long bridge that curves over The Wild Center’s Greenleaf Pond. It bears a dedication to Mary Clifford, placed there after she asked that it be named Rainbow Bridge, for its curve, and because so many people had suggested that the work to build the Center was akin to chasing rainbows - a dream that however alluring, never comes true.

Mary passed away this March, with her family, and Obie, her deeply devoted husband of nearly 60 years, at her side.

The bridge is now part of a very real Center, and its name reminds all of us of two characteristics that made the Center a reality. The first was a willingness to dream, and the second an ability to persevere and commit to see the dream turn into something concrete.

Mary Clifford embodied those characteristics, and she embodied love too, for her family and for the Adirondacks, where she and Obie have deep family ties.

All that we really have is time, and Mary gave hers generously and effectively, to the Center, her family, her neighbors and causes that mattered to her. We will miss her and we will work to nurture and support the best dreams for this Center, dedicated to the Adirondacks she loved.
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