

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



September 2013

AEHS and Flagstaff Chapel Association Celebrate Their Histories

On the weekend of August 2-4 the two groups combined their efforts and energy to conduct a joint weekend of activities. The weather was spotty but was good enough so as not to hinder the outdoor activities.

Most of the activities centered around the Cathedral Pines Campground and the nearby Flagstaff Chapel, in Eustis. It was well attended and a number of the attendees wore Colonial period costumes.

Saturday's activities included boat rides down Flagstaff Lake to the site of the now inundated Flagstaff Village, a guided bus ride along the expedition's route, from Eustis to the Canadian border. A delicious picnic supper was had, followed by an evening lecture regarding the Expedition's passage through the Upper Dead River Valley and Chain of Ponds, by noted author, Stephen Clark. More than 60 attended. On Sunday, a fine church service was conducted at the Chapel followed by a pot luck lunch.

Many thanks for the success of the events should go to Betty and Dude Wing, bus driver Kenny Wing, and several of the AEHS directors, including Guy Grant and wife Fran and Sherri Clark. Other directors attending were Laura Stewart, Norm Kalloch and Hank Dillinback.

During the same weekend, the Carry Ponds Association was having its annual meeting on West Carry Pond. AEHS president, Jay Robbins attended and gave a fine presentation about the expedition's passage across the Great Carrying Place. All in all, a fine weekend for the AEHS. Colored pictures of the event will appear in the December edition of the *Messenger*.

Disaster At Lac Megantic

Most AEHS members are aware of the tragic railroad disaster in the heart of the town of Lac Megantic, which lies on the route of the Expedition in Canada. The rail tank cars, filled with crude oil, exploded after being derailed and burned through the heart of the town, killing 47 citizens. It also poured heavy oil into both the lake and the Chaudiere River. We need to support the people suffering through this terrible tragedy. A special account has been set up at the TD Bank in Farmington, Maine. AEHS members who would like to donate towards this relief fund should send checks made out to: Lac Megantic Relief Fund, in care of TD Bank, P.O. Box 900, Farmington, ME 04938

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- AEHS Summer Celebration
- Election of Officers & Directors
- West Carry Pond Camps
- Annual Meeting and Speaker
- Trail Clearing Activities
- Arnold at Pownalborough
- June Directors Meeting

Nominations of Officers and Directors

The nominating committee composed of Norm Kalloch and Steve Clark will present the following proposed list of officers and directors at the upcoming September 21 annual meeting of the AEHS. Further nominations from the floor may be presented at the meeting. The slate is:

For Officers, one year term:

President, John (Jay) Robbins

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: Stephen Clark

Treasurer: Alan Burnell

For Directors, three year terms:

Robert Cunningham

Norman Kalloch

John Parsons

Laura J. Stewart

Alan Burnell

Elected as Honorary Members

At the June 22, 2013 directors meeting, five members were elected as Honorary Members of the AEHS. They Robert Cunningham, Duluth Wing, Betty Wing, Tom Desjardin and Lori Desjardin.

Both Bob and Dude are original founding fathers of the Society and have been involved for more than forty years. Bob had served as Treasurer for many years as well as a director to the present. Dude has involved himself in many Society projects, but in particular, has been instrumental in the recovery of many key artifacts that have added important knowledge regarding the expedition.

Betty Wing has diligently supported the Society's goals for many years and has worked to involve many others in the Society. Duluth and Betty both are life members of the Flagstaff Chapel Association.

Tom and Lori Desjardin have been recognized because of the many years they have spent in restoring the historic Colburn house facilities in Pittston into one of the most significant historic sites in Maine. Much of this work was accomplished on their own, weekends and

evenings, not as a part of their employment. We hope the many Colburn heirs will have a chance to visit the facility and view the many changes and improvements that Lori and Tom have magically transformed. It has been an exceptional effort. Rueben and his wife must be very pleased with the changes their home, the Colburn House has received. Even meals can now be baked in the Keeping Room's huge fireplace-oven.

Congratulations to all five of these exceptional people who in their own ways, have made history come alive.

Nichols Cabin Repairs and Upgrades

The weekend of June 28-29, saw John and Ron Gamage make repairs to the cabin, accomplishing quite a lot.

They discovered an old yarding area and found some left over wood that they cut up with a chainsaw into firewood length. They then collected a pickup truck to replenish the firewood in our new firewood shed.

John had brought along a 20 ton jack and jacked up the SW corner of the cabin to bring it level. He thought it was lifted about two inches. That evidently did the trick as the window now slides quite well.

They also had brought a vacuum cleaner that works off a truck converter. They were able to clean out the mice droppings under the main camp bench-bed. They also removed an antler that the mice were feeding upon.

Thanks John and Ron for a job well done.

In August, Rocky Freeman and family members made several trips to the camp. The first task was to reduce some brush and alders blocking views of the lake. They then moved on to a major job of repainting the entire outside of the camp, with Colonial Red and White trim. This was a big job as it has not been done in several years. The camp looks almost new! Thanks Rocky and family for making the camp look as good as when Arnold slept in it!