



APRIL 2023

Vol. XXXXIII No. 1

# MUSEUM NOTES

## News from the Iroquois Museum

### ANNUAL APPEAL - THANK YOU ALL!...

Once again we want to acknowledge our indispensable museum members. Together, they contributed \$44,855 to our 2022 Annual Appeal! These tax deductible contributions are enormously important to the Museum's ability to present timely exhibitions, maintain our trails and grounds, and offer a wide variety of educational opportunities each year. Membership has numerous perks including free admission, museum newsletter, and discounted shop purchases. At the \$100 level, members receive notecards featuring work from our collection and North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM) benefits good at 1301 museums, zoos, galleries, and gardens. But most importantly, members at all levels are responsible for the creation of something positive and larger than themselves. Niawen'kó:wa (Many Thanks), we look forward to seeing many of you during the 2023 season!



*School children learning to make a cornhusk doll.*

### WELL DESERVED AWARD PRESENTED TO FRED STEVENS...



*Fred (on left) accepting a donation from Pat & Don Wheeler*

Congratulations Fred! At the 2023 New York State Archaeological Association's annual banquet Fred Stevens received the Theodore Whitney Commendation for Archaeology. The award is given annually in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding support in the furtherance of New York State archaeology. Fred certainly embodies this description as a lifetime avocational archaeologist and a lover of the knowledge that can be gained from respectful research about our collective past. Fred has been a member of the Iroquois Museum since 1982, served on the Museum Board from 1987-1996, and rejoined the Board in 2002. He took over as head of the Museum's Archeology Department in 1998 and remains the driving force behind a dedicated crew of volunteers. We could not be more pleased that Fred has received this acknowledgement.



### OPEN HOURS

**April & November:** Monday-Wednesday: Closed; Thursday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday: Noon-4 p.m.

**May-October:** Monday: Closed; Tuesday-Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday: Noon-5 p.m.

## **MORE IMPROVEMENTS AFOOT!...**

If you are familiar with the Museum you are probably well aware that our needs far exceed our physical space. Thanks once again to Nicholas Juried, a long discussed option to enclose the back porch is about to come to fruition. Plans for the new enclosure were designed by architect Vince LaGanga and will feature large windows on both back and sides to preserve the superb eastern view of the nature park and grounds. This 600 square foot space will be particularly helpful when the weather is not conducive to using the outdoors, (which is much of the time in the spring and fall) for presenting education programs. Currently, we often encounter a conflict between school classes and the experience of regular visitors as our seating areas also serve as exhibition and high traffic areas. Additionally, this newly envisioned space will be ideal for artist demos, workshops, and overflow accommodations for receptions. Construction will be done by Gribben Enterprises Inc. of West Fulton, NY and will begin in September 2023.

## **BOARD CHANGES...**

The Museum is pleased to welcome a new member to our Board of Trustees. Marjorie Kaniehtonkie Skidders joins Andrea Chrisjohn (Oneida); Hayden Haynes (Seneca); Perry Ground (Onondaga) and Emily Tarbell (Mohawk) as the 5th Haudenosaunee representative on our Board. Marjorie resides at Akwesasne and is Mohawk Nation Bear Clan. She is the mother of four children and grandmother to eight. She holds a BA in art and throughout her professional career was deeply involved in education. She was a teacher, an Indigenous content curriculum writer and a school principal. Upon her retirement, Marjorie turned her attention once again to the arts. Today, she expresses through writing and photography.

Marjorie's first foray into the Indigenous art scene was in 2017. Encouraged by public response, she applied and was accepted into Ganondagan State Historic Site's juried Hodinöhsö:ni' art show. There, the quality of her work was recognized by the NY State Museum's Curator of Ethnography and purchased for their permanent collection. Marjorie has earned awards for her photography from the Adirondack Abenaki and Mohawk Art Market (Adirondack Experience, Blue Mountain Lake, NY); Ganondagan (Victor, NY); Akwesasne Art Market; and the Onöhsagwë:de' Cultural Center (Seneca Nation at Allegany, 2023).

Kaniehtonkie recently presented her work at SWAIA (Southwestern Association for Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM); the Native North American Traveling College (Cornwall Island, Mohawk Nation territory); and the Canadian Museum of History, Indigenous Women's Conference (Quebec). Kaniehtonkie/Majorie is currently editor of Akwesasne's Indian Time Newspaper. We look forward to her insight and involvement with the Museum as we transition into an exciting new phase in our history. \*bio partially paraphrased from <https://indigenouartscollective.org/marjorie-skidders-2/>

We also extend our thanks and best wishes to departing board members, Andrea Lodovice, Susan McGiver and Don Quigley. Each brought unique contributions to their appointment. Susan McGiver has been on the Iroquois Museum board since 2013 and continues to lead Harva Company, a third-generation, family-owned manufacturing business in Schoharie County. During her time on the Board, she acquired a major collection of Haudenosaunee art; opened her home for a Museum fundraising event; and over the years has graciously donated many plexiglass exhibit fronts and vitrines to protect our exhibitions.

Don Quigley has been on the Museum's board since 2010. A NYS certified social studies teacher, he has studied and taught Seneca- Iroquois Studies and presented teacher workshops. He has served on the Board of the Friends of Ganondagan (Victor, NY) for 5 years.

Andrea Lodovice joined our board in 2019. She has an academic background in Anthropology and Computer Design and Drafting and volunteered with the Museum's archaeology department. She served as an Interpreter at the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, NY from 2005 - 2007; substitute teacher, Vice President of the Iroquois Studies Association, and counter and spotter for Franklin Mountain Hawk & Golden Eagles Watch.



*"Oil & Water" - 2023 featured exhibition*

### FROM THE DESK OF THE CFO...

Little Boy, Chief Feline Officer at the Iroquois Museum, has been (yawn!) working tirelessly all winter. In addition to his duties of overseeing expenditures, watching the bottom line, and paper shredding, he has been actively protecting the Museum and his human charges from any and all canine intruders. Daily perimeter checks and gallery patrols have kept Little Boy in peak condition and he is eagerly awaiting photo ops now that the museum is open. He will not be granting personal interviews at this time. Anyone wishing to employ him for a remake of Audrey Hepburn's feline sidekick in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* should contact his agent at [Info@iroquoismuseum.org](mailto:Info@iroquoismuseum.org)



### WELCOME BACK BRENDA...

Brenda LaForme, Onondaga Beaver Clan, returned from visiting family (and getting to know a delightful new grandbaby) up north to rejoin the Museum staff as our Cultural Interpreter. In 2022, Brenda took a year-long hiatus from her position at the Museum, but continued to deliver Live Virtual Visits remotely to numerous groups over the winter forwarding the Museum's mission even during our seasonal closure. Brenda has returned to her position to meet and greet our onsite visitors and share her knowledge and perspectives with students, elders, and other groups just in time for our 2023 season. On April 8, not long after her return, Brenda was on the road again. She spoke (to enthusiastic applause) at Catskill Mountain Foundation's Orpheum Performing Arts Center in Tannersville, NY at the opening of *Ajijaak* on Turtle Island, a performance by the award-winning Ibex Puppetry Company. Be sure to stop by the Museum this spring and give her a warm welcome.

### ALBANY FIRE WOLVES INDIGENOUS NIGHT LACROSSE GAME...

On March 4, seven Museum staff, board, and volunteers participated in the Albany Fire Wolves Indigenous Night lacrosse game. Well, okay, so we didn't actually PLAY...but we did attend with promotional information about the Museum. The Fire Wolves feature several Haudenosaunee players on their team and acknowledge the Indigenous roots of the game in their brand identity. A lively Haudenosaunee dance group led by Chris Thomas from Onondaga opened the event and provided a social dance demonstration at halftime.

The Museum was also asked for suggestions of Haudenosaunee who could design a jersey for the players to wear on Indigenous Night. From the list we provided Akwesasne Mohawk artist Jordan Thompson was selected and designed a stunning burgundy and black jersey featuring traditional tattoo designs. We are in conversation with the Fire Wolves to bring their Haudenosaunee players to the Museum for the annual Labor Day Festival to sign autographs. Additionally, Museum staff met representatives of the Iroquois Lacrosse Program led by Kevin Sandy at the Fire Wolves game. This Six Nations based Program also expressed interest in coming to the Festival to offer children's activities and demonstrations. Watch this space for details!



*Albany Fire Wolves in action*

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION...

Once again, the Museum celebrated its hardy and dedicated volunteer base with a special gathering in November. Handmade Silver Bears were presented to eligible volunteers. Rose Swanhall, Colleen Sheehan and Beth Suter each donated over 100 hours of time, qualifying them to join the esteemed Silver Bear ranks. Our 48 volunteers bring a wide variety of skills to the Museum. They work with the public, assist with the Three Sisters and Medicinal Gardens and landscaping, update the appearance of our gift shop; assist with promotion and cataloging; create children's activities; do database entry; serve on our archaeology team; help with special events; paint; clean; and carry boxes.

In total, volunteers contributed 3057 hours to Museum operations in 2022. Their time and talents are worth far more towards the Museum's success than minimum wage. But, even using that modest wage as a reference, their combined hours represent the equivalent of a \$42,800 contribution to the Museum's operations. Want to be part of this affable team? Contact Chris Hanks at [CHanks@Iroquoismuseum.org](mailto:CHanks@Iroquoismuseum.org) or call us at 518.296.8949.



*Volunteer Vic DiSanto talks to interested visitors.*



*Garden volunteers working hard.*

## COLLECTIONS STORAGE MOVE COMPLETE...

It's been far from quiet at the Museum this winter! No sooner than we closed our doors in November the staff and volunteers began the daunting task of moving the entire ethnographic/art collection, 2300+ objects, and countless trays of archaeological material out of the collections storage area. Shop inventory, books, children's museum and exhibit supplies followed shortly after until the entire room was empty for the first time since our construction in 1992. Old storage units and file cabinets were dismantled and removed, floors were cleaned and painted.

In late January Donnegan Systems installed a state-of-the-art Spacesaver High Density Storage System. The rolling storage units and shelving create safer and more accessible conditions for the art and infinitely more storage space to accommodate future acquisitions. Both collections were resettled into the new units by mid-March and the space designated the Nicholas J. Juried Collections Room in recognition of the substantial charitable support the Museum received for the project. This much needed upgrade would never have been possible without Mr. Juried's financial assistance.



*Volunteers Pat Hults & Rose Swanhall help put the collection into the new storage units.*

## SHOUT OUT TO COUNTRY OUTLET FRAMING...

Special thanks to Kevin Soose at Country Outlet Framing in Duanesburg, NY for offering the Museum a great discount on framing for six of the Ernest Smith paintings in our feature exhibit. Country Outlet Framing has 15 years experience in the business and offers custom framing, mats, glass and shadowboxes.

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

Be sure to check out our 2023 feature exhibit, *Oil & Water: Works by Ernest Smith, Jesse Cornplanter, and James Beaver*. A departure from our usual exhibits that feature new works drawn from living Haudenosaunee artists, *Oil & Water* salutes three artistic pioneers from the past. The exhibit was largely inspired by a generous gift to the Museum of 49 paintings by Seneca painter Ernest Smith (1907 - 1970) from the Estate of John R. and Eileen K. Riedman.

Ernest and Jesse were instrumental in the Seneca Indian Arts Project from 1935 – 1941 and James was one of the first Haudenosaunee to employ a western style of painting in his expression. Two of the works featured in the show underwent conservation treatments by O'Connor Art Conservation with funds from the Greater Hudson Heritage Conservation Treatment Program in preparation for their inclusion in the exhibition.

**A reception is scheduled from 1 – 4 pm on Saturday, May 6** with guest speaker **Perry Ground**. A well-known storyteller, Perry is a member of the Onondaga Nation and the nephew of Ernest Smith. Later this summer, at **2 pm on July 8**, **Seneca scholar Scott Manning Stevens, PhD** will share his research and observations on the WPA's Seneca Indian Arts Project, its intent, and its ongoing impact on Haudenosaunee art.

Building on one of the themes of the exhibit, the season's offerings will feature two Haudenosaunee storytellers. **Arihonnhi David**, Mohawk from Akwesasne will be our guest on **July 22**. Honni will share his 2023 children's book *Who Will Win?* and other fabulous tales that inspire his artwork. Hailing from Allegany Reservation, **Leeora White**, the granddaughter of noted Seneca storyteller Duwayne Bowen will take center stage with her own brand of storytelling on **August 19**. Additional 2023 programming welcomes back some of your old favorites as well as several individuals who are new to the Museum.

The season kicks off on **May 13** with the **Dineh Tah' Navajo Dance Troupe**. In keeping with the Haudenosaunee tradition of extending hospitality to travelers, the Museum is hosting this award-winning Troupe from the southwest as they journey through our region. Shawn Price and company will introduce visitors to the rich cultural traditions of the Diné/Navajo people. Not to be outdone, on **July 29 and August 12**, the **Niagara River Dancers** and **Allegany River Dancers** take back the dance floor with Friendship, Smoke, and other Haudenosaunee social dances.

**Cobleskill-Richmondville School District 2nd graders** will claim their own place in the spotlight from **May 23 to June 4**. Art inspired by the students' study of Native cultures will be on display in the children's museum with an **opening reception** for family & fans at **2 pm on June 4**.

Seneca visual artists **Cliff Redeye** and **Penny Minner** will be in the house on **May 27** and **August 4 & 5**. Cliff is known for his original hand tooled leatherwork and Penny for her traditional cornhusk work and ash splint baskets. Painter **Bruce Boots** from Akwesasne draws his inspiration from Haudenosaunee stories and events with interpretations that are further enriched by his humor and attention to detail. Bruce will be our guest on **July 15**. All three of these established artisans are current recipients of a Creatives Rebuild NY Grant award. Each will be on hand throughout the day to share their creative processes, their artistic goals, and welcome questions about their art, culture, and respective communities.

No season would be complete without our large annual events. **Roots, Rhythm and Ale**, a Cajun/Zydeco/Blues bash will feature the popular Rubber Band on **August 4**. Hot music, local artisans, tasty food, and a silent auction make this fundraiser a night you won't want to miss. **Early Technology Day** for all you rock hounds (archaeology buffs) will be **October 14** with flintknapping demonstrations, cordage making, fire starting, artifact identification and more. And, of course, (Whoop Whoop!!) the **40th Iroquois Arts Festival** will present dancing, storytelling, an all Iroquois arts market, wildlife demonstrations, family activities, and Native food. The Festival is Labor Day Weekend **Saturday and Sunday, September 2 & 3**.

Last, but by no means least, on **Saturday & Sunday, October 21st & 22nd**, Seneca artist **Jamie Jacobs** will offer a two-day workshop on Porcupine Quill Embroidery. When this master artisan demonstrated his award-winning quillwork in 2022 many of our visitors expressed interest in learning this exquisite and seldom practiced art form. We heard you! This is a very special opportunity with a limited number of participants so you'll want to sign up early. Registration is \$75 members/\$85 non-members and includes all materials.



---



---

## WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A PART OF OUR TRADITION OF GIVING

**Make a Gift:** Make a donation to the Annual Appeal or give online through our website.

**Matching Gift Program:** If you work at a company that has a matching gift program, ask your employer for a matching gift form and send it in with your contribution.

**Give Appreciated Securities:** By donating directly to the Museum appreciated stocks or other securities held for at least one year, as a general rule you can avoid the federal capital gains tax that would be incurred if you sold the securities and you can obtain a charitable deduction equal to the fair market value of the securities.

**Include the Museum in Your Will:** Bequests can help transform the future of the Museum and the process is simple. You may specify a portion of your estate or a specific dollar amount for the Museum. We urge you to consult your attorney for appropriate bequest language to carry out your charitable goals. The following sample language may help in the preparation of your will:

*I give and devise to the Iroquois Museum, located in Howes Cave, New York, the sum of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or percentage of your estate) as an unrestricted gift to be applied to the Museum's general uses  
and purposes (or for the support of a specified fund or purpose).*

**Type of Gift or Bequest:** An unrestricted gift or bequest allows the Museum to determine the best use of your donation at the time the Museum receives it. An earmarked gift or bequest allows you to support the program of your choice.

Earmarked donations are welcomed for the following established funds and purposes: Iroquois Museum Endowment Fund; William N. Fenton Research Fund; Staff Support; Public Program Support

To discuss your proposed gift or bequest, please contact us at: Iroquois Museum, P. O. Box 7, Howes Cave, NY 12092 or at [info@iroquoismuseum.org](mailto:info@iroquoismuseum.org) or call us directly at 518-296-8949. Ask for our Director, Steph Shultes.

---

### Connect with Us

**Website** [www.iroquoismuseum.org](http://www.iroquoismuseum.org)  
**E-mail** [info@iroquoismuseum.org](mailto:info@iroquoismuseum.org)  
**Facebook** IroquoisMuseum  
**Instagram** @iroquoismuseum &  
 @iroquoismuseumkitty

**Mailing address**  
 PO Box 7, Howes Cave, NY 12092

**Physical address**  
 324 Caverns Road, Howes Cave, NY 12092

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023

**President** Christina Hanks  
**Treasurer** Fred Stevens  
**Secretary** Sue Beatty

Lisa Anderson  
 Andrea Chrisjohn  
 Kathy Condon  
 Perry Ground  
 Hayden Haynes  
 Peter Johannsen  
 Barry Keegan  
 Marjorie Skidders  
 Emily Tarbell

### IROQUOIS MUSEUM STAFF

<b>Museum Director</b>	Stephanie Shultes
<b>Curator of Exhibitions</b>	Colette Lemmon
<b>Assistant to the Director</b>	Heather Livengood
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Kanaka Urbano
<b>Cultural Interpreter</b>	Mike Tarbell
<b>Cultural Interpreter</b>	Brenda LaForme
<b>Receptionists</b>	Olivia Farnum
	Yvaine Melito
	Anika Urbano
<b>Maintenance</b>	Alan Livengood