This spring, the Kelly Center has welcomed back the birds. We resumed some in-person events and re-opened the center, but of course the birds never really went away. We are especially pleased to have partnered with Union’s new student Ornithology Club in sponsoring a visit from Bridget Butler, aka The Bird Diva, who spoke in April on “Slow Birding: Reimagining Our Connection With Birds.” The morning after her talk, she led members of the club and community on a bird walk. A little rain didn’t deter the birds nor the birders at Vischer Ferry. You can read more about Bridget Butler online.

Other bird events this spring have included participation in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count in February and a talk by Jason Hill from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies on “Climate Change and the Future of Montane Birds in the Northeast.” As always, you can find more information on KAC events at our website.

If you’d like to try your hand at birding, come on over to the Reist Wildlife Sanctuary, maintained by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. Enjoy the trails in the preserve, but beware. Just like in the Adirondacks in spring, it’s muddy on the trails!

Be sure to stop by the Kelly Adirondack Center to do a bit of Slow Birding from our library windows, with excellent views of our popular bird feeders.

Doug Klein  
FACULTY DIRECTOR, KELLY ADIRONDACK CENTER

Margie Amodeo  
COORDINATOR, KELLY ADIRONDACK CENTER

MAY, 2022
Paul Schaefer left the Adirondack Research Library a red binder holding its earliest records. He inscribed on the first page, “This library is designed to be more than just a collection of books and documents of the Adirondack and Catskill Mountain regions. Our objective is to have on hand the story of the discoveries and the wonders of this, the most magnificent land on earth; the record of men, and their vast achievements and terrible mistakes. For if [we] know the past, we can understand the present, and perhaps in some small way provide a better future than would otherwise occur in this chosen land.”

In February we lost two remarkable women who knew and felt the meaning and charge of these words most profoundly. Patty Prindle and Anne Weld were volunteers, board members and chairs of the Adirondack Research Library. Their legacies serve as the very foundation of the work we do every day.

Margie Amodeo, Kelly Adirondack Center Coordinator

BELIEVED former Adirondack Research Library Committee Chair Anne Weld died in February this year. At age 98, Anne led a very full, Adirondack life with husband, Phil, and children, Kathy and Dan. Anne was a chemistry laboratory instructor at Phillips Andover Academy in New Hampshire, where Phil also taught. During many summers, the couple also ran a summer camp on Lake Clear, near Paul Smith’s in the Adirondack Park. Later, they and their children, and then grandchildren, moved nearby to a place on Upper St. Regis Lake accessible only by water. An expert canoe and boat captain, Anne was the family’s top navigator, bringing countless family members and friends back and forth across the lake in all seasons and weather. She became so familiar with this lake country that she grew very protective of it - and led the local lake association in its efforts to require best stewardship practices by the many private owners along its shores. She never hesitated to contact the Department of Environmental Conservation, Adirondack Park Agency, and Adirondack Nature Conservancy to come to the lake area and take appropriate action to help her protect its shorelines, wildlife and water quality.

She and Phil were members of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, attended all its conferences, and after Phil died, Anne was elected an Association Trustee. An avid Adirondack reader and researcher, in 2006 she was elected to chair the organization’s Adirondack Research Library. Thanks to Anne, in 2008 the Library received a grant to support its first paid librarian and archivist, thus maintaining regular library hours and strengthening its competency in cataloguing, archival collections, and service to the visiting public. Anne’s leadership helped to make the Adirondack Research Library ever more useful to the people of the state as a center for information, knowledge and learning about the Adirondack Park. Those at the Kelly Adirondack Center, ARL and Adirondack Wild (formerly AfPA) mourn her passing, miss her leadership and forever remember Anne as their best friend, counselor and guide.

David Gibson, Managing Partner, Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve
If I were going to thank anyone for the library that is housed at the Kelly Adirondack Center on St. David’s Lane, it would be a number of individuals and organizations. The Schaefer Family, AfPA, ARL, Professor Carl George, Edith Pilcher, Union College and Patty Prindle.

Circa 1996, I met Patty at a reception hosted by AfPA (The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks) at their newly acquired property, Paul Schaefer’s residence. She was running the punch table. I was relatively new to the area and was looking for volunteer opportunities. So, I offered my services. Patty sucked me in right away. Little did I know, I was in fact volunteering for ARL (Adirondack Research Library), not AfPA. ARL was formed to preserve Paul Schaefer’s Adirondack collection of books, papers, etc. Luckily, ARL was linked with AfPA, which was embarking on a building program. The result: a beautiful addition to Paul’s residence, which included office space for AfPA and a wonderful library for ARL.

From moving day into the new space in 2005 to transfer day in 2011 to Union College, Patty recruited and inspired volunteers to sort, file and box Paul’s collection – and have fun at the same time! She had a wonderful way of making every volunteer feel welcomed and valued. We worked once a week for 3 or 4 hours at a time sorting, sorting, sorting. Mind you, many of the materials were stored haphazardly in cardboard boxes by Paul in his damp, dark basement. At Patty’s behest, nothing was thrown out! Slowly things were organized into archival boxes.

Patty spent many more hours at the library than we volunteers. She kept the library moving forward, with the hiring of a part-time librarian, Dorothy Barnes and a part-time archivist, Gretchen Koerpel. She even sent me to a workshop on how to preserve maps! She imparted to all her love of Adirondack history and her love for dogs, especially her Nicky, a Kerry Blue Terrier. I would say Nicky was the unofficial mascot of ARL. He attended every meeting!

When the property at St. David’s Lane was transferred to Union College, it was a bittersweet moment for Patty and her group of volunteers. I know she was grateful (as I am) that the library is now being cared for by Union College.

Susan Baker, ARL volunteer
REMEMBERING,

I will always remember Patty Prindle as the face of the Adirondack Research Library (ARL) when it was a committee of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (AfPA). It was after reading the footnotes in Forest and Crag, the Waterman’s epic work, that I knew I had to go to the ARL. Patty met me at the door and showed me around the library. It was a trove of information for my research interests at the time. Her enthusiasm was infectious; her knowledge of ARL’s collections was amazing. She quickly figured out that I could be trusted with a key to the door so I could come in after-hours to research the Apperson papers when no one was around. She also figured out that she wanted me on the Library Committee. I still do not know how it happened, but next thing I knew, I was the chair of the Library Committee.

Patty was a retired math teacher, and I can only imagine that she was an amazingly effective teacher. She could read people from a mile away, figure out how they worked and how to deal with them most effectively. That is how she sucked me into becoming chair of the ARL without me even realizing it until it was too late.

She once told me a story about how she learned about a learning disability called synesthesia, having recognized it in one of her students. The cure for this student was to wear glasses with lenses of a certain color that neutralized the effects of synesthesia. The student quickly went from being a poor learner to a good learner.

I am not the only one who recognized Patty for who and what she was. Soon after the AfPA merged with the Residents’ Committee for the Protection of the Adirondacks to become Protect the Adirondacks!, the new organization arranged to sell the property to Union College, and place the ARL on permanent loan to the college.

Of all the ARL volunteers, they chose Patty to familiarize them with the newly acquired collections. Patty, with her usual cheer and enthusiasm, met with them for many months, even though she knew that it was the end of her association with the library.

That is the Patty Prindle that I know, the lady who gave me the key to the kingdom.

Patty with her great grandson Oliver

Dick Tucker, ARL volunteer
Union College libraries are proud to announce the recent adoption of digital preservation software Preservica.

Collections at the ARL have long been in traditional formats. While we have made strides in digitizing some of these to increase their accessibility online, digital objects themselves do not last forever, and the need to manage and preserve them is urgent.

A unifying characteristic of all digital materials is their dependency on computers. As technology becomes more sophisticated, this dependence becomes more elaborate and harder to maintain. Electronic records are particularly susceptible to being deleted, damaged or lost. I am sure all of us have experienced losing access to shared documents in Google, dropping an external hard drive, or forgetting a password needed to access an account. While we may store things in the cloud for safekeeping, this only lasts for a short time without intervention. This intervention is known as digital preservation.

Digital preservation encompasses policies, strategies and actions that ensure access to electronic content over time. Without these measures, historians have warned of a “digital dark age” in which many contemporary records are lost due to obsolescence and bit-rot.

As keepers of Adirondack history, we are committed to using modern tools to continue the work started at the founding of the Adirondack Research Library. While we have traditionally put objects into labelled folders, sleeves and boxes, we are now ensuring that digital files are migrated into preservation formats, preserved bit by bit, and that their context, function and associated metadata remains intact. This can now be done with ease through the suite of tools provided by Preservica and integrated into our existing workflows and systems.

We all create electronic records in our daily lives. We hope with this announcement we can build trust and encourage donors who have electronic records related to the Adirondacks to consider donating them in the near future. With the help of our new system, we can ensure their care into the 21st century and beyond.

Matthew Golebiewski
PROCESSING AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT LIBRARIAN

THE KELLY ADIRONDACK CENTER AT UNION COLLEGE

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