Sagamore is a place that attracts people from all walks of life. It has hosted the elite society when the Vanderbilts welcomed the likes of Gary Cooper, General George C. Marshall, Madame Chiang Kai-shek and other luminaries of the twentieth century.

At the same time native “Adirondackers” formed the core of the working community at camp, people who constructed buildings, maintained roads and ran farm operations. Together these disparate groups created the Sagamore experience that continues today.

Our presenters are a key part of the Sagamore community. They not only teach our guests about the traditions and history of the Adirondacks but they also build the community that people come back for year after year.

At the Annual Benefit for Historic Preservation held on August 4, 2018, we honored Bill Smith. He is a legendary Adirondack storyteller and folk artisan who has been a part of the Sagamore experience for more than 40 years.

Bill was born in Colton, just outside the northwestern corner of the Adirondack Park, the youngest of ten children. His father was a logger who taught Bill the crafts of the woods—basket making, trapping and carving. From his mother he learned to sing the traditional songs of the north woods and play the guitar. Although he worked for many years in the woods as a trapper and lumberjack he found his true calling as a storyteller and tradition bearer in the 1970s when he began telling his stories at schools, colleges and public events. He quickly found his way to Sagamore and has become a part of our community ever since. When he is not in the Playhouse spinning a yarn or singing a song he can be found in the Dining Hall, usually accompanied by his wife Sal, enjoying a camp meal and holding court with guests and staff.

At the benefit Bill received recognition for his life’s work and contributions to Sagamore. Amongst the many gifts he received that night, one stands out most of all. A stunning quilt made by Sagamore volunteer Elaine Rubeneau-Reich that illustrates Bill’s life in a series of squares. The quilt is now an heirloom for Bill and his family to enjoy for many years to come.

New Staff

In 2018 Sagamore recruited key staff members:

- Jen Maguder joined Sagamore as Program Director in May after working as an environmental educator in Central and Western New York. Jen is a graduate of Paul Smith’s College and lives in the Saranac Lake area.
- Ted Riehle is Sagamore’s Director of Facilities. A native of Old Forge, Ted’s career path includes Supervisor of the Town of Webb, General Contractor and owner of the historic Strand Movie Theatre.
- Vicki Jordan, Lodge Manager, brings experience from many years as a hospitality manager in places as diverse as hunting lodges in the far west and a New Orleans hotel. She oversees both registration and guest services.
- Vonnie Liddle from Indian Lake is our Office Manager. She coordinates schedules, accounts payable and generally keeps Sagamore staff organized and on schedule.
Each summer for more than twenty-five years, Great Camp Sagamore has hosted a variety of traditional folk artisans from throughout the North Country to demonstrate the arts and crafts that make Sagamore a unique place. In 2018 we hosted the following demonstrations supported by New York State Council on the Arts:

- **Bill Smith** Rustic Carvings
- **Helen Condon** Rug Braider
- **David Woodward** Blacksmith
- **Chris Hubbard** Chair Caning
- **Jane Desotelle** Herbalist
- **Pat Smith** Cedar Canvas Canoe Builder
- **Chris Woodward** Guide Boat Builder

**Preservation Notes**

_Sagamore_ embarked on a number of important preservation projects in 2018 that will help maintain the historic buildings, increase accessibility and enhance visitor comfort while at camp. The year started with the renovation of the Chalet building in progress. This project was funded in part by a grant from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and created a new interpretive area in the front of the building that combines public programming, store and café functions. In addition, the renovations improved the accessibility to the building's first floor, added an ADA suite and updated bathrooms, wiring and other infrastructure.

The project was set back when the contractor discovered that additional repair work was needed in the area of the main entrance. This delayed the completion and caused a significant cost overrun. Sagamore board members, staff and volunteers stepped in to finish additional areas of the project, such as wiring and woodwork that helped bring costs down and allowed the building to open in June.

While work was being done on the Chalet, Sagamore's Lakeside building needed major stabilization and renovations to make it available for staff housing. This included repairing a collapsed foundation wall in the kitchen area, rewiring, plumbing and tile repairs as well as a new kitchen for the Executive Director's housing. The building is divided into three living units for staff at the present time, but the long-term plan is to convert it to guest housing.

Thanks to a donation by a longtime Sagamore supporter, a team consisting of Sagamore staff, board and a crew from Munter Enterprises of Middle Grove, NY, began work in the fall of 2018 on the long-anticipated renovation of Sagamore's kitchen and dining complex. The project will create accessible entries and bathrooms for the Dining Hall and bring the kitchen up to contemporary health and safety codes. The project will also create program spaces in the kitchen for classes, update the Durant-era dining porch and the main dining room. The project is scheduled for completion prior to the opening of the 2019 season at Sagamore.

**Thanks to Our Volunteers**

For many years Sagamore has relied on a dedicated crew of volunteers who help open and close camp and take on special restoration projects. These people come from all walks of life and bring enthusiasm, dedication and skills to their assignments.

In 2018 Sagamore prevailed upon many of them to contribute to an important project—completing the restoration of the Chalet building in time for our season opening.

The call came in May, when staff realized that project cost overruns and unexpected complications might put off the opening of Sagamore's season. Without hesitation, groups of skilled volunteers and willing helpers descended on camp every weekend and completed wiring, woodwork, painting and cleaning. They were joined by staff who pitched in as well. Working together they completed the project in time to welcome our interns and for the store to open in June.

**2018 Work Weekend Hosts: Eva and Bryan Greguski**

To ensure the future of Sagamore, please remember us in your will and trusts. Speak to your attorney or accountant for more information on planned giving that benefits you and Sagamore.

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**FOLK ARTISAN DEMONSTRATIONS** are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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**Bring your friends and family members for Guided Tours throughout the season**

**Summer Tours** • 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM

**Spring/Fall Tours** • 1:30 PM
Sagamore Institute of the Adirondacks is the steward of Great Camp Sagamore and is dedicated to its use for education and interpretation. Our mission is to foster understanding, care, and respect for nature, people and their critical interdependence.