

# The Castle Chronicle

Newsletter of the Castle Preservation Society



## Letter from the Director

#### Dear friends,

As you will see on the following pages, 2023 was a remarkable year for Castle Preservation Society. The board and staff have worked diligently to continue our work across the five areas of focus in our Strategic Plan, aimed at strengthening the Castle's long-standing role as a resource for our community.

We engaged nearly 60,000 people last year, between guests touring the Lucknow Mansion, dining at the Carriage House restaurant, participating in our more than 130 public programs, or attending numerous weddings and events enhanced by the beauty of the Lucknow Estate.

The Castle Preservation
Society's mission is to preserve,
interpret and share the buildings
and landscape of the Castle in the
Clouds as a cultural and educational
resource for the benefit of the public.

Restoration work continues – highlights of recent projects are featured in this report – and, we have dramatically expanded the number of partner organizations we are working with to meet the needs of our constituents.

None of this work would be possible without the generosity of the friends and donors who support our mission. We truly appreciate your role in our success, and welcome your feedback about all that we are doing here at Castle in the Clouds. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the information in this report or our plans for the future.





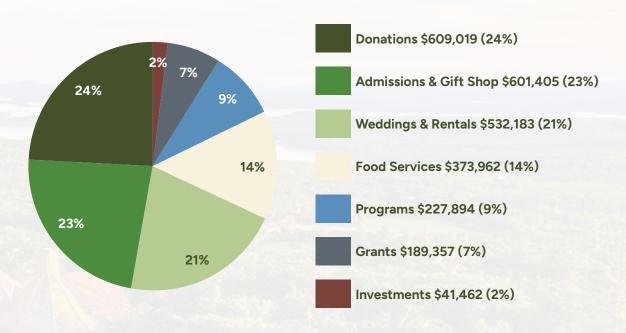
Sincerely,

Charles Clark, Executive Director (603) 476-5411

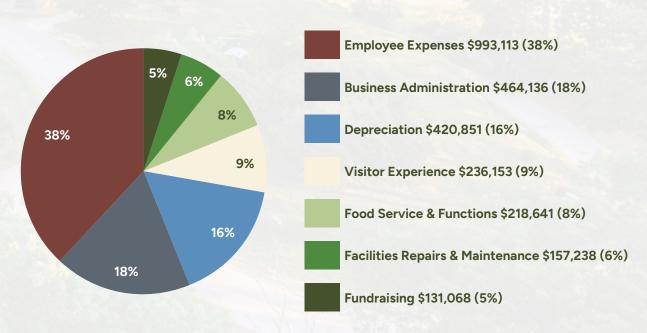
# Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

Leone, McDonnel & Roberts P.A. conducts an independent audit of Castle Preservation Society (CPS) finances annually. In addition to the summary information shared here, our most recent IRS Form 990 is available for review on our website under the "About" tab.

#### 2023 Income Breakdown



#### 2023 Expense Breakdown



# Thank You to Our Generous Donors

#### **Donations to Castle Preservation Society**

Castle Preservation Society would like to recognize and thank the following donors of \$250 or more for their support during our past fiscal year – January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. All gifts support our mission and are critical to our success. Thank you!

Anonymous (10)

Miriam Adams & David Edelman

Aging Excellence

Dominic C. Albanese

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John & Christopher Amrich

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Barbara & Franklin Cannon

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## Thank You to Our Generous Donors

#### **Donations to Castle Preservation Society**

Kristin & Donald Taylor

The Haynes Family Foundation, Inc.

The Laker

The Olcott Family Foundation, Inc.

The Schifrin Foundation, Inc.

The Scotto Laporte Foundation

Mark & Ginger Ishkanian

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Jo Ann Wood

Ann Xavier

Cynthia Yeo & Sara Parisi

Isaac & Leanne Young

Paul "PZ" Zimmerman

#### **Lucknow Legacy Society Donors**

Members of the Lucknow Legacy Society have made a gift or commitment to the CPS Legacy Fund, which is designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization. Legacy gifts are often part of a donor's estate plans. However, CPS has recently received gifts to the Legacy Fund from donors wishing to see that fund grow during their lifetimes. Whether from these special donations or through an estate plan, CPS is truly thankful to these donors for their foresight and generosity in supporting our work into the future! If you would like to know more about our Legacy Fund, and how you can support it through your estate plans or by making a special donation, please contact Executive Director Charles Clark.

#### **Lucknow Legacy Society Donors**

Anonymous (2)
Martin Berman &
Mary Ann Jasienowski
Jim & Jane Gregoire
George & Ann Hackl

Donald & Nancy Harper Richard & Nancy Marriott Michael Mooney Judith Ryerson Robert & Sally Stewart Paula Wanzer Jay Williams Paul & Deb Zimmerman

We have made every effort to ensure that these listings are as accurate as possible. Please contact Charles Clark, CPS Executive Director at (603) 476-5411 if you have any questions or corrections.

#### Governance CPS Board of Directors

Ann Glover, Chair

Jim Gregoire, Vice Chair/Treasurer

Mark Borrin, Secretary

Jonathan Browher

Andy Coppinger

David Frost

Ann Hackl

Allison Hart

Rusty McLear

Richard Nylander

Dana Pope

Anita Springer

Christopher P. Williams

Charles Clark, Executive Director

As a nonprofit corporation, Castle Preservation Society is governed by a group of board members who volunteer their time and talents in support of our mission, and is managed by a professional staff with the wide range of expertise needed to keep all facets of our operation running smoothly.

# Thank You, 2023 Volunteers

In addition to our staff and volunteer Board Members, CPS is grateful for the amazing support of our community volunteers. Their contributions range from working directly with guests across the property to decorating the Lucknow Mansion for Christmas at the Castle! We truly could not fulfill our mission without their hard work and dedication. Thank you!

We have made every effort to acknowledge all of our 2023 volunteers. If you believe our records are in need of updates, please contact Kim Prause, Volunteer Coordinator, at (603) 476-5419 with any corrections.

Gretchen Large

Terry Akashian Matthew Alexander Pam Alexander Ed Ambrose John Amrich Dick Anderson Mike Anderson Brenda Arigno John Arigno Dara Badon Alana Baranoski Brenda Barth Martha Billings Diane Bolduc Mark Borrin Joanne Boyer Barbara Brash Janine Brothers Jonathan Browher Hettie Buck Terry Calder **Amber Carpenter** Rebecca Carter Lynn Casey Joe Comeau Lorraine Connell Margaret Connor Thomas Cookson Andrew Coppinger Anna Costa-Turner Jill Cromwell

Kent Cromwell

Colleen Crowley

**Brodie Deshaies** 

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Darlene Ellis Deb Engelhardt Helen Evans Adam Fielding Cliff Fielding Jonathan Fielding Kimberly Fielding Taylor Fielding Ethan Fifield Ted Fodero David Frost Carol Gerken Ann Glover Christina Good Pam Gramatikas Jim Gregoire Pauline Griffis Marty Grover Ann Hackl Anna Hadgis Jaryn Hall-Haines Allison Hart Kim Heath Stan Herman Amy Hobgood Andrew Honold Susan Hugel Karen Jonash Ron Jonash Marilyn Kaers Tracey Kolb Miller Krauss Wendy Krauss Robert LaFlamme

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## **Volunteer Tributes**

#### Nancy Gaver (1941 – 2023)

In 2006 when the Castle Preservation Society took over the Castle in the Clouds business and restoration from the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT), CPS faced badly disintegrated buildings, a staff resentful of change, and a public unsure of the Castle's future. Top priority was to restore and properly present the Lucknow Mansion to the public and find someone with special expertise and experience to head this effort. Nancy Gaver was intrigued by this challenge and was the perfect person to lead the way forward!

Nancy, who was retired as a school guidance counselor, psychologist and alternative education specialist, became Museum Manager for CPS in 2007. Her first task was to recruit volunteer docents to supplement the small number of remaining paid staff guides. She scoured the community to find 25 volunteer docents, a number which grew over the years to 47. Nancy built this random group of volunteers into a true team, unifying them with monthly newsletters, contests, social events, joint preparation of exhibits portraying the culture of the Plant era, and her ongoing education program that would promote uniform, accurate, and interesting messaging for the public. Many of Nancy's original Lucknow team founded friendships there that continue today even though most of them are now retired.

Nancy's second challenge was the mansion Lucknow itself, with water damage from failed chimney mortar having ruined wallpaper and ceilings in many areas. Furniture was broken, upholstery worn and torn. Undaunted, Nancy made the house attractive anyway, covering a hole in the sofa with a book, throwing a shawl over a chair, installing an exhibit to distract visitors' eyes from peeling plaster. Not stopping there, Nancy, along with the Curatorial Committee of which she was a member, set about retrieving the furniture and artifacts that had been removed by previous owners, most notably the Boudoir furniture which the Tobey family so generously returned.

It is hard to describe the enormous impact that Nancy's hard work, dedication, and skills had on CPS's early revitalization of the Castle in the Clouds! Her standards were high and everyone rose to meet them. She was a friend to all who needed her. She always focused on the accomplishments of others, not her own. Her dedication and passion for the Castle was unwavering. The Castle Preservation Society and all who had the good fortune to know Nancy Gaver will be forever grateful for her vision, passion, determination, and talent that brought the Castle in the Clouds back to life to serve our community!

#### "Ossie" McLeod (1935 - 2023)

"Ossie" (Donald Osmond) McLeod was a natural leader who genuinely loved people and people loved him. A true NH native, born in Concord in 1935, Ossie attended Concord High School and the University of NH, a football hero and class president at each of his schools. Ossie's business career was in packaging film material, beginning with DuPont and 20 years later founding his own firm McLeod and Dewey Associates. With his outgoing personality, he was the consummate salesman! Clients could never say "no" to Ossie!

Ossie's skill in sales would later translate into fundraising genius and be key to the LRCT purchase of the Castle in the Clouds and the launch of the restoration work by CPS. Retiring in 1978, Ossie moved from CT, returning "home" to NH and building a house at the Bald Peak Colony Club.

In 2001, Ossie joined the Board of the LRCT, right after the organization committed to purchase the Castle in the Clouds for \$5,900,000. It was Ossie's fundraising efforts that raised almost half of that purchase price from members of Bald Peak! When the LRCT decided they needed another entity to run the Castle business and restoration, Ossie was at the forefront of the founding of CPS in 2006 and was a major fundraiser for CPS restoration projects right up until he reached his 9-year Board term limit in 2015. The Castle was not Ossie's only interest. He served on the Board of the University of NH for 9 years, using his fundraising prowess to support athletic and academic programs.

In 2020, Ossie and his wife Kathy moved to Riverwoods, a retirement community in Durham, NH, where Ossie immediately became the unofficial "mayor". In September of 2023, Ossie died of leukemia surrounded by his large family.

It is impossible to overestimate the role Ossie played in securing the future of the Castle in the Clouds. Ossie cared deeply about preserving this property for posterity. He would even work for hours clearing brush with his chainsaw. His commitment, with his wonderful sense of humor and winning smile, raised a significant part of the \$10,000,000 that the LRCT and CPS raised jointly for the Castle from 2001 to 2015. The Castle is now a true community resource and a proud NH landmark in large part because it was difficult for donors to say "no" to Ossie!

# Calendar of Programs & Events

## **Recurring Programs**

MUSIC NIGHTS • \$15 cover charge per person Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays 6/3 - 9/11 (except 7/21) • 5:30pm - 8:00pm • reservations required

HIKERS CLUB • FREE • Saturdays 5/25 - 10/19 (except 6/22, 9/21 & 10/5) (see monthly pages for times)

**SOLAR GAZING • FREE •** with the NH Astronomical Society • Mondays 5/27 - 9/2 • 12:00pm - 4:00pm

**GARDEN TOUR** • \$15 per person • with Gretchen Large • every other Friday 6/7 - 9/27 (select Saturdays: 6/15, 6/29, 7/27, 8/24, 9/7, 9/21) • 9:30am - 10:30am

**SENSORY-FRIENDLY SATURDAY • FREE** for sensory-friendly guests; \$20 per accompanying adult; \$15 accompanying youth 5-17; *children 4 & under:* FREE • 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month (June - Oct) 9:00am - 10:00am

**YOGA ON THE LAWNS OF LUCKNOW** • \$15 per person • with Yoga4Life • Wednesdays 6/12 - 8/28 6:00pm - 7:00pm

#### **VOLCANOES & CELLAR HOLES WALKING TOUR** \$10 per person • every other Thursday 6/13 - 9/19 1:00pm - 2:30pm

**STORY TIME • FREE •** with the Moultonborough Public Library • Mondays 6/24 - 8/26 11:00am - 11:30am

**KIDS CRAFT HOUR • FREE •** Mondays 6/24 - 8/26 11:30am - 12:30pm





#### **May Events**

**1920s DANCE WORKSHOP** • \$10 per person • with Live History • Sunday 5/19 • 1:30pm - 2:30pm

**MYSTERY BUILDING WORKSHOP** • \$30 per person with Live History • Sunday 5/19 • 3:00pm - 4:00pm

**"THE INTERVIEW" INTERACTIVE THEATER** \$30 per person • with Live History • Sunday 5/19 5:00pm - 6:00pm & 7:00pm - 8:00pm

CASTLE 2024 SEASON OPENING DAY • 5/25

MAY HIKERS CLUB • FREE Saturday 5/25 • Brook Walk • 9:00am - 11:30am

**BIRD WALK** • \$15 per person • with Ken Klapper Sunday 5/26 • 8:00am - 11:00am

**GUIDED HIKE: BROOK WALK** • \$5 per person Thursday 5/28 • 10:00am - 11:30am

**MEMBERS COFFEE • FREE (Members only) •** with Executive Director Chuck Clark on the Terrace Thursday 5/30 • 9:00am - 10:00am

# **Preregistration is required** for most Castle in the Clouds programs and events.\*

For updates and newly added programs & events, please check <u>CastleintheClouds.org</u> or scan the QR code.

\*Although day-of registrations are sometimes accepted, please keep in mind that some programs and events may be cancelled in advance if registration minimums are not met.

## Offering 200+

programs & events! Just scan the QR code.





## June Events

#### JUNE HIKERS CLUB • FREE • Saturdays

6/1 Mt. Roberts Trail • 9:00am - 11:00am 6/8 Faraway Mountain Connector • 9:00am - 12:00pm 6/15 Bald Knob via Turtleback • 8:00am - 11:30am 6/29 Shannon Brook Trail, Brook Trail, & Scenic Auto Road • 9:00am - 11:30am

**GUIDED HIKE: Settlement Loop** • \$5 per person Thursday 6/6 • 10:00am - 11:30am

**CONSTELLATIONS AT THE CASTLE • FREE •** with the NH Astronomical Society • Thursday 6/6 • 8:00pm - 10:00pm

#### **GRANITE STATE ADAPTIVE EQUINE PROGRAM**

**FREE** • with Granite State Adaptive • Saturday 6/8 10:30am - 11:00am, 11:15am - 11:45am & 12:00pm - 12:30pm

**TEACHER OPEN HOUSE • FREE •** Sunday 6/9 10:00am - 2:30pm

**WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP** • \$50 per person • with Pat Edsall • Tuesday 6/11 • 12:00pm - 2:00pm & 3:15pm - 5:15pm

**DECADES NIGHT: 1920s** • \$5 per person Thursday 6/13 • 6:30pm - 8:00pm

**MEMBERS COFFEE • FREE (Members only) •** with Executive Director Chuck Clark on the Terrace Thursday 6/20 • 9:00am - 10:00am

**GUIDED HIKE: Oak Ridge** • \$5 per person Thursday 6/20 • 10:00am - 12:00pm

Community Arts Festival • FREE • Presented with the Lakes Region Art Association • Saturday 6/22 (rain date 6/23) • 10:00am - 4:00pm

**SOUND BATH** • \$20 per person • with Sound Intentions LLC • Thursday 6/27 • 6:30pm - 7:30pm

MEMBERS MIXER & GALLERY RECEPTION

FREE (Members only) • Friday 6/28 • 5:30pm - 7:30pm

**CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: Letting Nature Prompt You** • \$20 per person • with Barbara Bald
Saturday 6/29 • 1:00pm - 3:00pm



# **July Events**

#### JULY HIKERS CLUB · FREE · Saturdays

**7/6** Oak Ridge • 9:00am - 11:00am

**7/13** Bridle Path & Turtleback Trail Loop 9:00am - 11:00am

**7/20** Bridle Path & Settlement Trail Loop 9:00am - 11:00am

**7/27** Brook Walk via Turtleback Mountain Trail 9:00am - 11:30am

### CITIZEN SCIENCE INTRO & OBSERVATION COLLECTION WALK • FREE

Tuesday 7/2 • 10:00am - 12:00pm

**GUIDED HIKE: Brook Walk via Scenic Auto Road** \$5 per person • Friday 7/5 • 10:00am - 12:30pm

#### MEMBERS COFFEE · FREE (Members only)

with Executive Director Chuck Clark on the Terrace Thursday 7/11 & 7/25 • 9:00am - 10:00am

**DECADES NIGHT: 1950s** • \$5 per person Thursday 7/11 • 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**HAVANA NIGHT GALA** • \$175 per person • July 7/12 5.00 - 10:30pm (See page 17 for more details)

**GUIDED HIKE: Settlement Loop** • \$5 per person Thursday 7/18 • 10:00am - 12:00pm

NATURE & MINDFULNESS MINI-RETREAT • \$200 per person • with Taking Root • Saturday 7/20 9:00am - 12:00pm

#### **GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**

\$100 per person • with Matt Cohen, ArtWorks Saturday 7/20 • 9:00am - 1:00pm

#### **CONSTELLATIONS AT THE CASTLE • FREE** with the NH Astronomical Society

Thursday 7/25 • 8:00pm - 10:00pm

**CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: The Art of Wondering & Wandering •** \$20 per person • with Barbara Bald • Saturday 7/27 • 1:00pm - 3:00pm



# **August Events**

# September Events

#### AUGUST HIKERS CLUB · FREE · Saturdays

8/3 Oak Ridge • 9:00am - 11:00pm

8/10 Bald Knob via Cutoff • 8:00am - 11:00am

8/17 Upper Bridle Plus • 8:00am - 11:00am

**8/24** Shannon Brook Trail, Brook Trail, & Scenic Auto Road • 9:00am - 11:30am

**8/29** Bridle Path & Settlement Loop Trail • 9:00am - 11:00am

**GUIDED HIKE: Oak Ridge** • \$5 per person Thursday 8/1 • 10:00am - 12:00pm

**LOCAL AUTHORS NIGHT** • \$30 per person with the Moultonborough Public Library & The Friends of the Library • Thursday 8/1 • 6:30pm - 8:00pm

WAR OF THE ROSES PART II: Curses & Queens Promenade Theater • Refundable reservations: \$20 adults, \$15 seniors, \$10 youth or student with Advice to the Players • Sunday 8/4, Wednesday 8/7, Thursday 8/8 5:30pm - 7:30pm

#### CITIZEN SCIENCE INTRO & OBSERVATION COLLECTION WALK • FREE

Tuesday 8/6 • 10:00am - 12:00pm

**MEMBERS COFFEE • FREE (Members only) •** with Executive Director Chuck Clark on the Terrace • Thursday 8/8 & 8/22 • 9:00am - 10:00am

**GUIDED HIKE: Brook Walk •** \$5 per person Thursday 8/15 • 10:00am - 11:30am

**DECADES NIGHT: 1980s** • \$5 per person Thursday 8/15 • 6:30pm - 8:30pm

BACK IN THE SADDLE AT THE CASTLE • FREE (donations welcome!) • with Back in the Saddle Equine Therapy Center • Saturday 8/17 & Sunday 8/18 10:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: Diving Into the Past, Leaping Into the Future** • \$20 per person • with
Barbara Bald • Saturday 8/17 • 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**BEAUTY & THE BEES: The Story of Pollinators FREE** • with Pollinator Pathways NH • Sunday 8/18 1:00pm - 2:30pm

**CONSTELLATIONS AT THE CASTLE • FREE •** with the NH Astronomical Society • Thursday 8/22 • 8:00pm - 10:00pm

**THE BOOK OF WILL STAGED READING** • Suggested donation \$25 per person • with Advice to the Players Sunday 8/25 • 5:30pm - 7:00pm

**GUIDED HIKE: Brook Walk via Scenic Auto Road** \$5 per person • Thursday 8/29 • 10:00am - 12:30pm **SEPTEMBER HIKERS CLUB • FREE • Saturdays 9/7** Faraway Mountain Connector • 9:00am - 12:00pm

**9/14** Mt Roberts Summit • 8:00am - 12:00pm

9/28 Mount Shaw via Cold Springs Trail • 8:00am - 1:00pm

**LABOR DAY FAMILY PICNIC & MINI PARADE • FREE**Monday 9/2 • 12:00pm - 2:00pm

**BIRD WALK** • \$15 per person • with Ken Klapper Sunday 9/8 • 8:00am - 11:00am

**GUIDED HIKE: Bald Knob via Cutoff** • \$5 per person Thursday 9/12 • 8:00am - 11:00am

**MEMBERS COFFEE • FREE (Members only) •** with Executive Director Chuck Clark on the Terrace • Thursday 9/12 & 9/26 • 9:00am - 10:00am

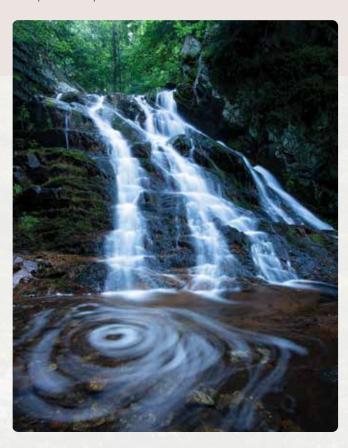
#### GRANITE STATE ADAPTIVE EQUINE PROGRAM FREE

- with Granite State Adaptive Saturday 9/14 10:30am
- 11:00am, 11:15am 11:45am & 12:00pm 12:30pm

**TEACHER COCKTAIL NIGHT** • \$15 per person Thursday 9/19 • 5:30pm - 8:00pm

**GUIDED HIKE: Oak Ridge** • \$5 per person Thursday 9/26 • 10:00am - 12:00pm

**CASTLE SUNSET TOUR** • \$30 per adult; \$15 youth 5-17; *children 4 & under: free* • Thursday 9/26 5:30pm - 8:30pm



# **October Events**

## **November Events**

OCTOBER HIKERS CLUB • FREE • Saturdays
10/12 Turtleback Mountain 8:00am - 12:00pm
10/19 Mount Shaw & Black Snout Loop 8:00am - 2:00pm

**CASTLE SUNSET TOUR** • \$30 per adult; \$15 youth 5-17; *children 4 & under: FREE* • Thursday 10/3 5:30pm - 8:30pm

2024

#### **CASTLE CAR SHOW**



Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00am - 2:00pm



**SPECTATORS** • **\$5 per person** 10:00am - 2:00pm

#### **VEHICLES REGISTRATION**

**\$20** early bird (by 8/31)

**\$25** pre-registration (9/1 - 10/3)

**\$40** day-of registration (10/5)

8:00am - 2:00pm

FOR MORE DETAILS scan the QR code.



**GRAVEYARD HISTORY WALKING TOUR** • \$15 per person • Mondays & Saturdays in October 10/7 - 10/28 3:00pm - 5:00pm

**MEMBERS COFFEE • FREE (Members only) •** with Executive Director Chuck Clark on the Terrace • Thursday 10/10 • 9:00am - 10:00am

#### BACK IN THE SADDLE AT THE CASTLE • FREE

(donations welcome!) • with Back in the Saddle Equine Therapy Center • Saturday 10/12 & Sunday 10/13 10:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP** • \$50 per person with Pat Edsall • Tuesday 10/15 • 12:00pm - 2:00pm & 3:15pm - 5:15pm

**GUIDED HIKE: OAK RIDGE** • \$5 per person Thursday 10/17 • 10:00am - 12:00pm

**PUMPKIN WALK • FREE •** with Moultonborough Recreation Department, Lakes Region Conservation Trust Friday 10/18 • 5:00pm - 6:30pm

**CASTLE 2024 SEASON CLOSING DAY • 10/20** 

### Christmas at the Castle! Home for the Holidays

**MAKE YOUR OWN WATERCOLOR HOLIDAY CARDS** \$60 per person • with Pat Edsall • Tuesday 11/12 • 2:30pm - 4:30pm & 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**CHRISTMAS AT THE CASTLE PREVIEW PARTY** \$75 per person • Friday 11/22 • 4:00pm - 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS AT THE CASTLE • \$25 per adult; \$15 youth 5-17; 4 and under FREE • Saturday 11/23, Sunday 11/24, Saturday 11/30, Sunday 12/1, Saturday 12/7, Sunday 12/8 • 10:00am - 4:00pm

## **December Events**

**TWELFTH NIGHT PERFORMANCE** • \$15 per person with Advice to the Players • Saturday 12/14 & Sunday 12/15 • 5:00pm - 7:00pm





## **Restoration in Action:**

#### The People Behind the Progress

"Of stone and hewn oak, built to stand for centuries." This is how Thomas Plant described his Lucknow Mansion in 1924. However, even the most rugged materials will fail after years of use and exposure. Since 2006, the Castle Preservation Society (CPS) and an array of preservation specialists have worked diligently to restore the Lucknow Mansion and the other historic structures on the property.

Over the last three years, we have been thrilled to unveil the results of several restoration projects, both within and outside Lucknow Mansion.



The Blue Room, a chamber on the first floor of the North Tower, is a wonderful example of discovering traces of original

finishes. By moving the wardrobe, we revealed patches of the original trim paint and floor stain, which we were then able to match. The current wallpaper is also a close match to the imitation grasscloth wallcovering that was first hung in that space circa 1914. We owe Mike Sawyer (Tuftonboro, NH), who has been painting and wallpapering Lucknow Mansion for over a decade, many thanks for breathing new life into this room. And the space comes together thanks to its textiles. Richard Nylander, Chair of the CPS Restoration Committee and his wife Jane are national authorities on historic wallpaper and fabrics. They have guided our selection and fabrication of historically appropriate textiles throughout the mansion. Karyn Caldwell of Wolfeboro's Caldwell Designs has created from these period-appropriate fabrics the curtains, slipcovers, and bedspreads that play such an important role in interpreting the decorative style of Tom and Olive Plant.

Mike Sawyer's most recent work is on display in the Brown Room, the North Tower's second floor

guest chamber. We were again able to find and match the original paint and floor stain in this room, which greatly improved its appearance for the 2023 season. Before we open in 2024, Mike will also install new wallpaper, digitally reproduced from scraps of the original by Waterhouse Wallhangings (West Hempstead, NY). We will also replace the current (not original) wall sconces with recently acquired Caldwell fixtures that match the original sconces throughout the rest of the house.

The Library is another example of dramatic change as we bring the interiors back to their original appearance. Before restoration commenced, this room was very dark with maroon and gold wallpaper and red upholstery. This project took several years and included refinishing all of the woodwork (Mike Sawyer), recreating the inglenook's molded plaster ceiling (Peter Lord Plaster and Paint, Limington, ME),



and reupholstering the furniture to match the original fabrics as closely as possible (Rollins Upholstery, Wolfeboro, NH). Then, in 2023, Bruno Jounne (Soft Walls Associates, Boston, MA) undertook the remarkable process of installing a silk damask wallcovering (designed and produced by H-K Designs, Wayland, MA) that recreates the appearance of the original wallcovering. The results are a must-see on your next visit to the Castle.

# Restoration in Action: (continued)

We are also responsible for the preservation of the property's other historic buildings. Over the last year, our preservation specialists have been hard at work at Maple Lodge, the stone gatehouse at the top of Ossipee Park Road. The building, which has been vacant for many years, required a full restoration of exterior stonework, wooden rafters, and windows. This winter, interior work commenced with the installation of updated plumbing, electrical, and HVAC systems. Maple Lodge will also need plaster repairs and new finishes before it is ready to serve as the Castle's education and archive space. That work is planned for later this year, and we look forward to sharing the finished space with you very soon!



It has been 100 years since Thomas Plant wrote of Lucknow's longevity. As long as we continue to care for and maintain this special estate, there is no reason it should not stand for centuries just as he envisioned.



#### Shannon Pond Dam Update

Engineering and design work on a permanent solution to the overflow issues we have experienced at Shannon Pond continues, and we hope to move forward with the project very soon. In the meanwhile, the temporary measures we implemented last year have stopped the immediate threat of additional overflow, and the pond's wildlife continues to thrive even at the lower water level. Make sure to visit the fist





even at the lower water level. Make sure to visit the fish and ducks on your next trip to the Castle!

# Growth & Success: School and Public Programs

#### **School Programming**

Castle in the Clouds school programs got off to a great start in 2023 with pilot field trips bringing students from elementary to high school to tour Lucknow Mansion and experience the beauty and history of the Estate. Currently, we are working on expanding upon our offerings with new traveling programs called "Castle in the Classroom", which we are piloting this winter and spring. We also plan to add virtual programs in the near future, which will allow us to reach students throughout the state and maybe even beyond. Our curriculum uses the rich history and environment of Castle in the Clouds and the story of Tom Plant as the backdrop for activities about history, geography, social studies, STEM, and the arts.



# Growth & Success: School and Public Programs

We have been able to create and structure all of these programs with the help of our Castle Teacher Advisory Group (C-TAG). Every other month, teachers from the area covering several disciplines and grades gather with a staff member to give their advice, opinions, and feedback as we develop school programming. C-TAG members, who have just all reached the end of the first term, have been invaluable to us, both in terms of word-of-mouth marketing to other teachers and in giving us groups of students to help test out new programs.

We are always looking to bring in more teachers and widen the perspectives offered by this group – the application and more information is available on our website.

Additionally, we are committed to hosting special events for educators throughout the year, giving them ample opportunity to learn about all that we can offer to them and their students. Last year, we began this effort with a Teacher Open House and Cocktail Night. We have expanded this year by also adding a Professional Development day hosted and organized by CPS staff.

As the C-TAG teachers summed up for us, our educational programs will "Explore the Past, Examine the Present, and Envision the Future." and we look forward to doing just that as we continue to expand our school programming in the coming years.



#### **Public Programs**

Our 2023 season was jam-packed with a wide array of public programs. We brought back many of our perennially popular programs, such as Yoga on the Lawn of Lucknow, Guided Hikes, and of course the annual Castle Car Show. We also held numerous arts programs throughout the season. Notably, we hosted our inaugural Community Arts Festival in partnership with the Lakes Region Art Association in June. Featuring nearly 50 booths with artists, crafters, and community organizations, the event drew hundreds of visitors to see the talent of local artists and hear about the good work done by nonprofits in our community. Interest in this year's Community Arts Festival – scheduled for Saturday June 22, 2023 – is



high, and we expect the event to grow each year and become a signature event at the start of every summer at Castle in the Clouds

We offered a plethora of hands-on arts opportunities as well. Highlights included a watercolor workshop taught by Pat Edsall, in which attendees painted the picturesque view of Lake Winnipesaukee and the Ossipee Mountains from the Castle, and a jewelry

workshop taught by Deb Ryan, in which attendees made their own necklaces inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement.



Additionally, we recently assembled a Community Advisory Group, modeled off the success of our Castle-Teacher Advisory Group. This group will provide invaluable insight into how the Castle can better serve the wants and needs of our local community through our public programs, and we are excited for the boundless possibilities of this group.

We are looking forward to bringing back so many of our beloved program offerings for the 2024 season while continuing to expand our horizons. A summary of program offerings is included on the following pages and the calendar of events on our website is updated regularly as new programs are confirmed. We already have more than 200 program sessions planned for this year and we hope you will join us for many of them!

# **Partnerships**

The success of our programming is driven in large part by our commitment to working with other organizations in the area. Building off of the success we have had working closely with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and Great Waters, last year saw us welcome in several new partners focused particularly on expanding our offerings in the arts! As mentioned above, the Lakes Region Art Association (LRAA) co-hosted our first annual Community Arts Festival and worked with us to bring watercolor workshops and other arts-based programming to the Castle.

We also began working with the Lakes Center for the Arts (LCA) and had a display of their artwork up in the Carriage House for all of our guests to see during their visits. Additionally, we started a partnership with Advice to the Players, and hosted a performance of An Iliad on the Lucknow Lawn and multiple performances of Twelfth Night in the Carriage House. This year, we are looking forward to bringing more theatrical performances to the Castle property and will continue working with the LRAA and LCA on the Community Arts Festival and other artistic programming for our guests!

We also began a membership exchange program with Tin Mountain Conservation Center. Both of our organizations offer hiking and a plethora of unique programs that will benefit our members year-round!

Not to be outdone, we have continued, and strengthened, our partnerships with several organizations, including the Moultonborough Public Library and the NH Astronomical Society. The solar eclipse in April gave us the opportunity to collaborate with the library for an Eclipse After School Program and to welcome members from the NH Astronomical Society to the meadow for







our Eclipse Watch party. We expect this to be just the start of a lot of wonderful programming we are able to offer our guests as a result of our community partnerships!

# **Looking Ahead**

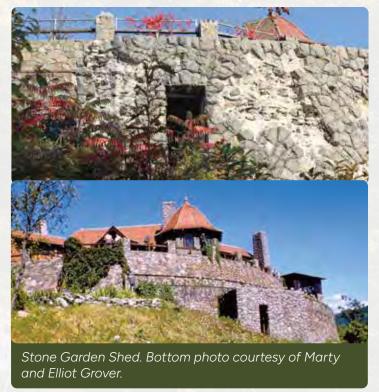
In addition to the programs, partnerships, and restoration projects mentioned on the previous pages, we expect to move a number of strategic priorities forward in 2024.

- Full funding is in hand for the planned interior rehabilitation of Brook Lodge, and work will commence soon.
- A new gallery exhibit will debut, exploring the lives and stories of the employees who lived and worked alongside Tom and Olive Plant as they built and managed the Estate.
- An updated menu and new service model will allow our Carriage House Restaurant to once again serve lunch every day that we are open for tours. We have also expanded our most popular food service, dinner during Music Nights, to three nights per week this summer.
- Kicking off our work to integrate the garden complex with the rest of the restored Lucknow Mansion, proceeds from our 2024 Gala will be dedicated to the full restoration of the stone garden shed, which is on the verge of collapse. This long-neglected area was once a key part of the estate and includes the stone garden shed, 100-foot-long Lord & Burnham greenhouse, and manicured lower gardens, all features recognized as important in the Estate's listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

As you can see, 2024
will certainly be another
great year at Castle in the
Clouds. We look forward to
seeing you soon!







# Thank You to our Sponsors!





## Paul Zimmerman



























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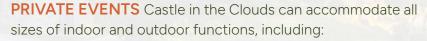
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# Unforgettable Events

When you plan an event at Castle in the Clouds, our dedicated wedding and event team assists you in planning every detail, every step of the way. To learn more about our venues and availability, please call 603-476-5413 or email events@castleintheclouds.org.

**WEDDINGS** Castle in the Clouds is the perfect blend of historic charm and modern sophistication to create the ideal romantic setting for your happily ever after. We offer a variety of enchanting wedding venues, including:

- The Gardens at Lucknow and Carriage House Terrace offer stunning lake and mountain views.
- The Winnipesaukee Room offers an indoor space steeped in timeless elegance.
- The Meadows at Shannon Pond provide a magical backdrop for tented receptions.



- Milestone birthday
- Special anniversary
- Fundraiser
- · Baby or wedding shower

**CORPORATE MEETINGS** Escape the office and elevate your corporate outings at Castle in the Clouds. Our museum estate offers a unique setting with historic charm, natural beauty, and the contemporary needs for effective outings, including:

- · Business meeting
- Client presentation
- Team-building activities
- Leadership and board retreats



Photo by Thalia Catheryn Photography





