

New Hampshire **ToDo**

THE ADVENTURE & DISCOVERY MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2010

AMAZING AGRIFUN!
corn maze madness

Milford Pumpkin Fest
What's Punkin Chunkin?

Granite State Symphony Orchestra
OBOES IN OCTOBER

ANDRES INSTITUTE
surreal mountainside sculpture

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New Hampshire To Do

THE ADVENTURE & DISCOVERY MAGAZINE

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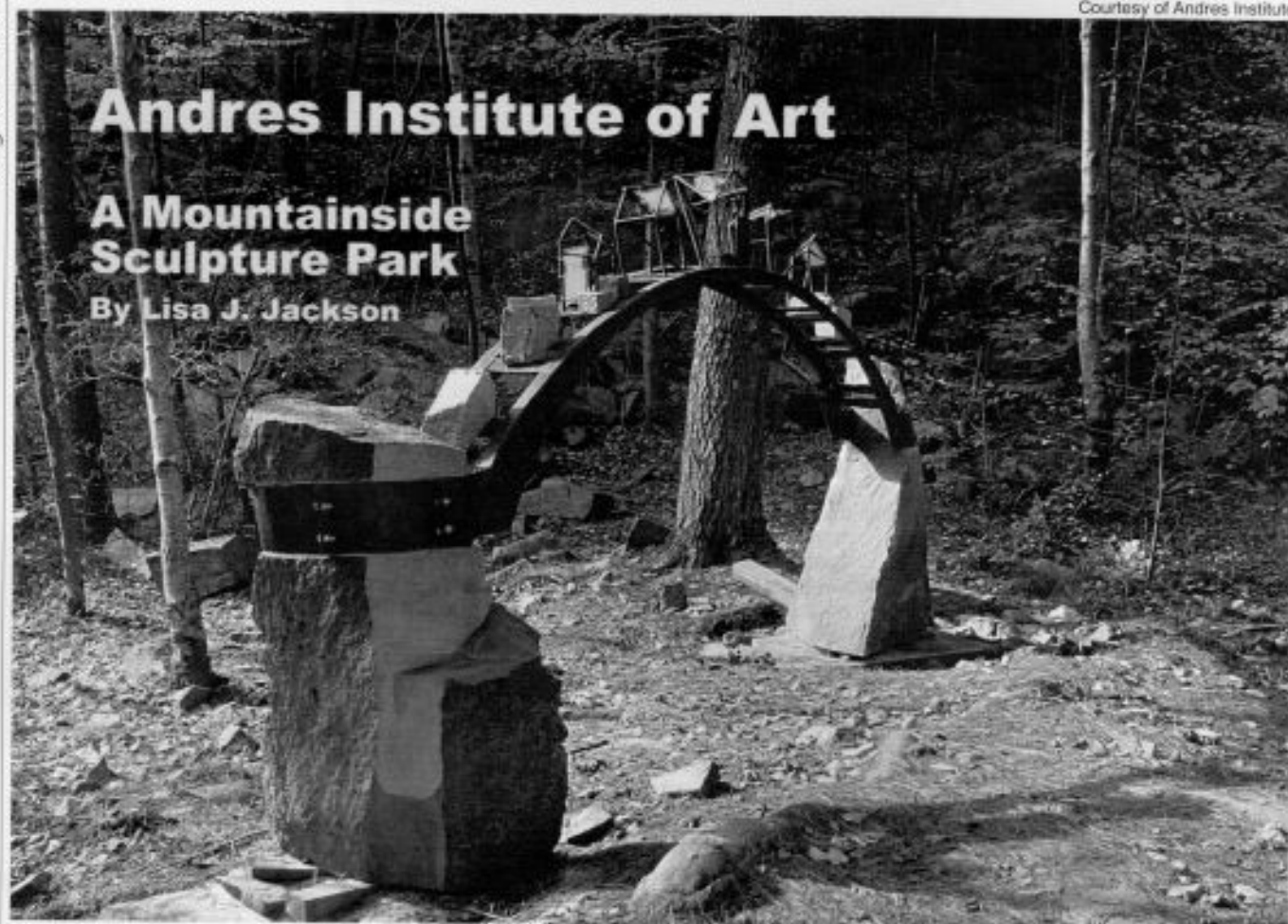
New Hampshire in the fall boasts incomparable vibrant beauty. Trips to farm stands like Bickford Farms in Orford and harvest fests are autumn traditions. More recently, corn mazes have sprouted up at some of these locales. We tell you all about them on page 30.

Ralph Morang Photo

Andres Institute of Art

A Mountainside Sculpture Park

By Lisa J. Jackson



A few years ago, I discovered a hidden-away gem in south central New Hampshire. I met up with several local hikers at Andres Institute of Art in Brookline. The name doesn't sound at all like anything to do with hiking, or the outdoors, but it is that and so much more. I have since introduced several of my friends to this unique place and everyone, young and old, has had a lot of fun discovering art in the woods.

The dirt road entrance to Andres Institute is easy to miss if you aren't paying attention. Watch for the carved granite and metal entrance sign, which is also an introduction to the type of sculptures spread out over the 140 acres. Parking is a short way up on the right. You'll find trail maps and a sculpture at the parking area.

The institute is an outdoor art museum where instead of hallways there are hiking trails. There are no "do not touch" signs. You are encouraged to approach the artwork and touch it if you like. Mostly, Andres is a great outdoor place to explore with family and friends any time of year, during daylight hours, for free.

The History

Philanthropist, engineer, and innovator Paul Andres purchased Big Bear Mountain (you

can still tell where the ski lifts were) in 1996. Two years later, he and world-renowned sculptor John Weidman co-founded Andres Institute of Art as a non-profit organization.

In 1999, seven artists were invited to the site to create sculpture that would fit in with the landscape. A sculpture park and annual symposium were born. Sixty sculptures currently decorate the landscape. Four new sculptures will be on display by early October.

New Discoveries

Andres is a great place to bring a picnic. There are many spots with a view. My favorite resting spot is at the summit near the cell tower. There are a couple of checkerboard green and white benches, that I swear came from a bowling alley, facing west. On a clear day, you can probably see Vermont. I know you can see Mount Monadnock and several other peaks.



Fred Shirley Photo

The hiking terrain isn't difficult, but the trails do go up a mountain, so some effort is involved. The Parkway Road Trail is handicap accessible and paved. You can view a map of the park from the main website. The map is color-coded with trail ratings and hiking times. Don't be scared by a difficult rating. There are no cliffs to traverse or bouldering to do, but there are a couple of steep sections that cause you to bend your knees a bit.

"Phoenix," the very first sculpture placed in the park, faces you as you look west from the summit. Janis Karlovs from Latvia created this 15' x 9' x 7.5' granite sculpture. While working on the mountain, Mr. Karlovs felt the spirits of American Natives. He constructed the sculpture from

stones found on the mountain in order to maintain the "natural ambience and spiritual essence of the sculpture site." It's an impressive sculpture, and well worth the hike to the top.

I've been to Andres Institute several times, and still have not seen all the sculptures. I have a couple of favorite trails, including the Quarry Trail that leads to a few sculptures that involve water, such as "Five Dimensions and Counting," and "Memories."

"Community and Diversity" is about halfway up the mountain on the Parkway Road Trail. It is a display of four 6.5' x 2' x 1' pieces made of granite and metal. Kristine Smock from Colorado created this during the 2002 symposium. The biped figures have expressive granite-carved faces with metal bodies. The display is great for conversation because there is so much to look at on each figure.

"Upheaval," found on the Summit Loop Trail, looks like a stone caterpillar coming out of the earth. This wire, acrylic, cement, and stone sculpture is 6.5' x 5' x 25'. Andy Moerlein of NH designed this sculpture in 2006. In part, he says, "This sculpture event is a monument to humankind's relationship to the perpetual forces of eradication."

I never fail to take a seat on the large bench called "Contempo Rustic," by Peter



Tracy Lee Carroll Photo

Harris of Vermont. When I visited the institute for the first time, seven of us sat on this bench sculpture. I think of it as a love seat, albeit one made of granite, for Papa Bear.

"Windows into Big Bear Mountain," made in 2001, is a beautiful 5' x 9' x .5' display filled with various colored glass and different types of metal. The artisan, Solomon Isekeije of Nigeria invites the viewer to "sit on the stone stool facing the panels" and "listen to the mountain."

This is one of three figures in the "Debate" sculpture created by Czech Republic artist Tomas Kus in 2001.



Fred Shirley Photo

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Community Events

Andres Institute is involved with many art-related activities through the year and offers various workshops that are open to the public. One of the latest events was an iron melt and pour held on August 21.

Professional artist of metal and ceramics, Joseph Montroy of Newington, NH and his wife Rachel, a ceramic sculptor, led the workshop.

The audience watched the set up of a cupola furnace and saw cast iron melted. Participants created their own scratch molds and watched as melted iron poured into their molds. Participants left with their own original cast iron sculpture.

Everyone who attended learned a little about the production of iron for cast metal sculpture.

"The iron melt went excitingly well," says John Weidman, director of Andres Institute of Art. "We had fifty-three participants, about seventy people in all present. Everyone had a good time. We will be planning for another iron melt, as well as other really great workshops in the near future."

Andres Institute's 12th Annual Bridges and Connections Symposium runs September 12 through October 3. The four participating artists are from Kisii, Kenya; Neghadeh City, Iran; Bangalore, India; and New York, U.S.

The 2010 event is themed "A Place for Change," based on the thought that individual actions allow each of us the ability to make worthwhile changes that affect our surroundings and the people in our

Tracy Lee Carroll Photo

**Andres Institute of Art**

98 Route 13, Brookline

(603) 673-8441

Open year-round, free of charge, but tax-deductible donations are welcome
www.andresinstitute.org

This is a carry-in carry-out park.

- Take only photographs and memories and leave only footprints.
- Dogs are allowed on the property but must be under your control at all times and must be cleaned up after as a courtesy to other visitors.
- Guided tours are available twice a month during the summer months.
- Wear sensible hiking shoes; bring water and bug spray.

Mission: Andres Institute of Art shall serve and advance the intellectual and social well being of the public by educating and training artists, by promoting the integration of art and technology, and by supporting fine arts.



Tracy Lee Carroll Photo



A visitor checks out one of the outdoor exhibits, titled "Upheaval." This sculpture was created in 2006 by New Hampshire artist Andy Moerlein.

community. Taking time to consider how we effect these changes in our lives is critical to making the world a better place.

Although the institute is open year-round, visiting during the three weeks of the symposium is encouraged. You have the chance to meet the artists while they are working, learn more about their craft and area of expertise, and make discoveries you may not make during any other time of the year. You can also ask them how they feel their sculpture fits in with the prescribed theme.

The closing for this year's symposium is Sunday, October 3, at the studio at the top of the mountain. All events related to the symposium are free and open to the public.

One feature through the Andrews Institute website I find quite handy is the audio tour downloads. You can select which trail(s) you plan to hike, and download the applicable audio files to your mp3 player. Not all displays have audio yet, as volunteers create them, but there are quite a few files to get you started.

Andres Institute of Art is a family-friendly mountainside sculpture park. Even if you can resist the pull of discovering new art and learning about artists, you can enjoy exercise and fresh air while exploring this hidden-away gem that attracts artists from around the world.

ToDo