



Summer Institute Review

July 29- August 3, 2007

Submitted by Dianne Knapp

The sun served us well during our 16th annual summer institute held at the Historic Great Camp Sagamore, Raquette Lake. The weather was perfect for our week of Professional Development, creation, re-creation and recreation. While our hands were busy with fine crafts, our thoughts focused on research, quotes, statistical evidence and tested lessons that support a curriculum where the Arts are woven into the fabric of education! "... ***In fact we know that a well rounded curriculum that includes the arts and music contributes to higher academic achievement.***" - Margaret Spellings, US Secretary of Education. Quotes of the Day added inspiration and words of wisdom as well as an opportunity (especially for those participants with good memorizing skills) to win textbooks and supplies donated by some of our favorite vendors and by dedicated art teachers.

Once again a group of professionals came from across the state as strangers with a common interest, and left as good friends, bonded by a common experience rich in creative energy and set in a wilderness site with the luxury of comfortable amenities. Discussions that started with keynote speakers continued voluntarily while we worked elbow to elbow doing Solar Plate Printmaking with Roger Hyndman, and Suminagachi Marbling or Book Making with Beth Atkinson. Adirondack Crafts, led by Chris Hubbard, were modified to become a vehicle for teaching patterning and color theory. High quality Handmade Paper was produced under the guidance of Claudia Sibree and then used for Visual Journaling or printmaking or saved for framing. Hiking, canoeing and star gazing, under the expertise of Wayne Fisher, provided inspiration and information for our artwork. Wayne also taught 3-D felting. The soft sculptured deer and forest animals grew from dyed felt during the wee hours of the morning because the energy level of our group carried us from one day to the next. Our closing critique, reflection and ceremony proved once again that each summer institute can get better, that a week can encompass an amazing amount of work and you can feel both exhausted and energized at the same time! Watch for our 17th annual summer institute. It is sure to be another winner!