The 2015 Leadership Awards Gala was held on September 18, 2015 at the Adirondack Hotel in Long Lake, NY. The Honorary Co-Chairs for the event were the Hon. George Canon, Supervisor, Town of Newcomb, and Dr. Quentin Wheeler, President, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The Frank M. Hutchins Adirondack Environmental Education Leadership Award recognizing exceptional leadership in fostering educational programs and experiences was presented to the Rockefeller Institute of Government and Adirondack Wild for their joint efforts to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the federal Wilderness Act. It involved classroom based activities, outdoor recreational programs, a series of public lectures and cultural activities that were held at several public and private colleges and universities throughout upstate New York. Also honored at the Gala were George Canon and Mike German, founding Board Trustees of the Adirondack Park Institute, for their leadership of the organization and commitment to promoting children and family based educational programs in the Adirondacks. A tribute The Gala is the major fundraising event held annually with proceeds used to support educational programs in the Adirondacks.
Hornbeck Boat Drawing

Pete Hornbeck generously donated a 12’ New Trick Canoe to the API for a fundraising drawing. Dan Fitts, API Executive Director, stands with the lucky winner, Susie Delehanty of Tupper Lake, NY. The drawing raised over $2,500 for educational programs. To learn more about Hornbeck Boats, go to www.hornbeckboats.com.

Photo by Ken Rimany

Remembering Bill Hale (1921-2015)

To honor our long time friend, the API has established the William B. Hale Scholarship Fund. This annual scholarship will provide $500 to a Paul Smith’s College student studying in a field related to environmental education. Bill was a founding Board Member of the API and generous contributor. Pictured here with his daughter Kathy at Paul Smith’s College.

Photo by Paul Smith’s College.

2015 Funds Awarded

This year, the API awarded $17,500 in program funds to the SUNY ESF Adirondack Interpretive Center. These funds supported such programs as the summer lecture series, a summer naturalist, the area school visitation program, and a summer artist-in-residence. In addition, $2,000 was provided for the Paul Smith’s College VIC Butterfly House in memory of the API’s Founding President, Frank Hutchins. Also this year, the API launched the Educational Enrichment Small Grant Program providing grants of up to $500 to support environmental education projects in Adirondack schools, youth groups and community organizations. The goal is to increase opportunities for experiential “hands-on” natural history and conservation literacy as the foundation for stewardship of the Adirondack Park’s natural and community resources. To learn more about these programs, visit www.adkinstitte.org.

Become a Member Today!

The strength of our organization is the generous support of our donors and members. Since 1989 we have raised over one-million dollars in support of family based programming that is giving generation after generation the opportunity to learn and appreciate the natural world. Please donate or become a member today. Remember, your gift is tax deductible! Contact us for details or see our webpage at www.adkinstitute.org.

Celebrating Arto Monaco

Through a generous grant from the Charles R. Wood Foundation, the API developed an interpretive banner telling about the life and accomplishments of Adirondack entertainer and educator, Arto Monaco. Arto’s work can be found today throughout the region and permanent exhibits can be seen at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake and the Adirondack History Museum in Elizabethtown. The goal of the project is to build the networking capacity of the API by showing the banner at museums, colleges, and schools throughout the Adirondacks. Pictured above, Aurora McCaffery, the Executive Director of the Adirondack History Museum, with the banner on display in Elizabethtown. (Photo API)

Young visitors at the Interpretive Center in Newcomb with naturalist Frank Morehouse, far right. (Photos ESF)