2018 Fall Newsletter

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2018 Awards Gala

The Adirondack Park Institute (API) hosted the seventh annual Awards Gala, Friday, September 21st, 2018, at the Adirondack Hotel in Long Lake. This is the major fundraiser for the API with all proceeds dedicated to funding environmental education programs at both SUNY ESF’s Adirondack Interpretative Center (AIC) in Newcomb and the Paul Smith’s College VIC. Honorary Gala Chairs were William Farber, Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors, and Vickie Sandiford and Alex Roalsvig in honor of their mother and late API Board Member, Abbie Verner. Pictured above left to right: Vonnie Liddle, Alex, Vickie, and Christine Campeau.

Liz Thorndike Honored at 2018 Gala

The 2018 Frank M. Hutchins Adirondack Environmental Education Leadership Award was presented to Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) Thorndike. In addition to being a founding member of the API, Liz has been a tireless proponent of the Adirondack Park and its residents. She has served on the NYSERDA Board of Directors and has also been a Commissioner of the Adirondack Park Agency leading efforts to improve community relations and dialogue. Her contributions to the Adirondacks and environmental education are unparalleled, as is her inherent decency and dedication to everything she does.

Artist-in-Residence

Neil Rizos was the 2018 Artist-in-Residence at SUNY ESF’s Adirondack Interpretive Center in Newcomb. Pictured here in his studio at the Center, above left, Neil led several drawing workshops and lectures on his work that were enjoyed by the community and visitors to the area. Above right, Neil with a drawing class. This program is funded by the API and with a generous grant from the Essex County Arts Council.

Photos by SUNY ESF.

Photo by Phil Terrie.

Photo by Laurinda Minke
Some of the Programs funded by the API in 2018

The 2018 Lepidopterist-in-Residence was Danielle Urich. She managed the Breck Chapin Native Species Butterfly House at the Paul Smith’s College VIC and shared her expertise on butterflies and moths with visitors. At a welcoming reception, pictured at right is Danielle at left with VIC Naturalists Thompson Tomaszewski and Mary Greagan. This was the 25th anniversary of the Butterfly House program. Also attending the reception were, below, VIC Manager Andy Testo, Naturalist Martha Van der Voort, Shannon Oborne of Paul Smith’s College and API Trustee, with Dan Fitts. Photos by API.

Above left, Paul Smith’s College Professor Craig Milewski leading a demonstration at the Homesteading Festival at the Paul Smith’s VIC. At right, Danielle and friend release a butterfly after tagging. Photos by Paul Smith’s College. Below, the Artist-in-Residence welcoming reception at the AIC in Newcomb. Photo by Laurinda Minke.

Ruth Olbert, local businesswoman and API Trustee, led a Needle Felting Workshop at SUNY ESF’s Adirondack Interpretive Center in Newcomb on April 28th, 2018. This API sponsored the event which was attended by 22 people, who came as far away as Latham and Glens Falls, as well as, from local communities. Ruth, pictured above standing, leads workshop participants with their projects. Photo by Jackie LaCourse.

The Summer Naturalist in Newcomb, Elise Rubenstein, above, helped manage the Interpretive Center. Elise also designed and presented hands-on educational programs for community residents and visitors at the Center. Photo by ESF.