

Teaching Generations to Care

Fall Newsletter

2025

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The Adirondack Park Institute (API) partnered with the creative and dedicated staff of the Adirondack Interpretive Center (AIC) in Newcomb to offer engaging summer programming to both locals and visitors of the Adirondack Park. Although some trails remain partially closed due to flooding in 2023, the beautiful Rich Lake Trail is still open and has been enjoyed by many.

While exploring the trails and taking in the beauty of the landscape, visitors also had the opportunity to encounter API-sponsored Artist-in-Residence Anicka Chaffey, as she worked on her craft and shared her insights with guests. Interpretive Naturalist Intern Karin Hoover was also on hand, leading guided walks, engaging with visitors daily, and producing content to share her observations with a wider audience.

Inside the Center, workshops, classes, lectures, and films were available, complementing the AIC's thoughtfully curated exhibits and historical displays that highlight the natural and cultural heritage of the Adirondack Park. Looking ahead to 2026, the AIC expects to complete the final 3.5 miles of trail repairs by the end of the summer, with the trails open for public use. The AIC staff is excited to celebrate this milestone with special events and tours in the coming seasons.

API SUPPORTED PROGRAMS



SUMMER INTERN



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



HUNTINGTON LECTURE SERIES



**ESCAPE THE ELEMENTS
SUMMER SCREENING SERIES**



**Summer Movie Series
Escape the Elements**



Questions?

Email info@adkinstitute.org



Artist in Residence

Anicka Chaffey

Anicka is a comic artist and illustrator whose main focus is finding creative ways to make learning about science fun and accessible. While at the AIC she held regular "Learning Through Comics" Workshops. She also created her book *Journey to the Hudson*, about the life of a raindrop as it travels the Adirondack headwaters.



Summer Intern

Karin Hoover

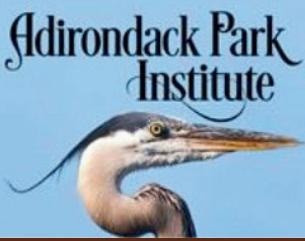
Interpretive Naturalist who shared her passion for the natural environment at the AIC leading interpretive walks, creating content, and hosting demonstrations

HUNTINGTON LECTURE SERIES



For more information and the latest Adirondack Park Institute News, head to adkinstitute.org

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As the Friends group to the Adirondack Interpretive Center, the Adirondack Park Institute provides support for the Center's free educational and experiential programs that teach generations to care for the Adirondack Park's unique natural and cultural resources.

2025 Awards Gala

The Gala was held on September 21st at the historic Adirondack Hotel in Long Lake. Gala Co-chairs for the event were Joanie Mahoney, the President of SUNY ESF and John Ernst, Former President of the APA. Proceeds from this event fully fund free programs offered at the Adirondack Interpretive Center in Newcomb, NY.

The Frank & Jean Hutchins Environmental Education Leadership Award was presented to **Ross Whaley**

President Emeritus of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) and former Chair of the Adirondack Park Agency
Ross is a Director Emeritus of the Adirondack North Country Association, and past board member of ADKAction.org .

He makes his home in Michigan now, but has a long history of living on the shores of Upper Saranac in Tupper Lake and spent nearly 60 years as a leader in forestry and natural resource education. Among his many other positions in education and consulting, he has also served on several state government councils and task forces, and accepted consulting engagements throughout the world.



Ross Whaley



Jack Delehanty, API Advisory Board Member (left), and Ross Whaley
credit: Liz Thorndike

The Community Service Award was presented to **Garrett Marino**, Youth Climate Leadership Coordinator for the Wild Center
Garrett sits on the boards for John Brown Lives! and the New York State Association of Conservation Commission as Region 5 Director. He also chairs the Saranac Lake Climate Smart Communities Task Force. Garrett focuses on empowering communities and people by empowering them with the skills, resources, and knowledge that they need to take climate action.



Left: Garrett on a hike Right: Garrett while speaking at the Gala

The Youth Community Service Leader Award was presented to **Brooke Furlong**

Brooke graduated from Long Lake Central School in 2025 as Salutatorian, earning a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. She is the first Junior EMT on the Long Lake Rescue Squad. Brooke served as President of the National Honor Society, Vice-President of the Student Council, and President of the Green Team. She and her team won the 2025 Hamilton County Envirothon. Additionally, Brooke was captain of both the varsity soccer and softball teams.



ABOUT THE API

The Adirondack Park Institute is a not-for-profit organization formed in 1989 for the purpose of funding environmental education and interpretive programs in the Adirondacks. The

API receives its funding through annual memberships, individual donations, and grants. The programs we fund teach the young and inspire all generations to care about the natural and cultural environments of the Adirondacks.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Please consider a tax-deductible donation today to support our work in the Adirondacks.

Payment is easy at our website adkinstitute.org to Visit to find out how you can contribute. Thank you!

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