



# Adirondack Park Institute, Inc.

*Teaching Generations to Care*

## Member News - Fall 2012

### THE NEW BEGINNINGS AWARD GALA

Pictured (top left, clockwise):

Frank and Jeanne Hutchins;

Kathy and Bill Hale;

John Collins;

Betsy Lowe, Bob Lilly, and Liz Thorndike;

George Canon, Mike and Susan German;

Assemblywoman Janet Duprey and John Mills;

and, (center)  
Neil Murphy,  
Senator Betty Little,  
and John Mills.

*Photos by Kathleen Keck.*



### The New Beginnings Award Gala

The Adirondack Park Institute, the “Friends of the Interpretive Centers” hosted the New Beginnings Award Gala on August 9, 2012 at the Paul Smith’s College VIC. The event was to celebrate the rebirth of the Interpretive Centers under new owners and to share with the community the promise of a very bright future. Over 100 local government officials, state agency representatives, business leaders, friends, and supporters were in attendance. The Honorary Chair of the Gala was New York State Senator **Betty Little** who presented **Dr. John Mills**, president of Paul Smith’s College, and **Dr. Neil Murphy**, president of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Adirondack Environmental Education Leadership Awards. Their commitments have set a standard for the importance of education and experiential learning in creating public understanding about the values of the Adirondack Park’s human and natural resources. “This is truly a new beginning for our community and our region as we work to keep these facilities open and thriving”, said Mike German, President of the Adirondack Park Institute. All net proceeds from the Gala will go directly for support of educational programs for families and children at the Paul Smith’s College VIC and the SUNY ESF Adirondack Interpretive Center.

## API Board News

We are very pleased to welcome three new Trustees to the API Board: **Rich Burns** is the Manager for Community and Customer Relations for Nation Grid. He manages strategic relationships with National Grid customers in St Lawrence, Franklin and Essex counties. **Rob Calihan** founded Calihan Law PLLC in Rochester. He started the firm after almost 30 years of practicing with large, full service law firms. Calihan Law looks for cases where it is prepared to share in the risk with its clients in place of the traditional hourly fee for services model. **Mark Leta** is currently Regional Operations Manager at New York State Electric & Gas Corporation. He is responsible for Electric Operations in NYSEG's Plattsburgh, NY & Mechanicville, NY Divisions, which span eight counties in eastern New York State.

The API expresses sincere appreciation for the dedicated service of the following Trustees who stepped down in 2012: **Jim Gould, Jorie Favreau, Elizabeth Harper, Val Trudeau, and Bob White**. We are also very pleased that **Thad Collum** and **Frank Hutchins** have agreed to continued service as Honorary Trustees.



Please support quality educational outreach at ESF's Adirondack Interpretive Center by purchasing your very own rubber loon! To learn more about these exotic species and own your very own, visit [www.esf.edu/aic/](http://www.esf.edu/aic/).

## Program Updates

So far in 2012, the API Board of Trustees has authorized the release of \$25,000 for the Paul Smith's College VIC, and \$17,500 for the SUNY ESF Adirondack Interpretive Center. These funds support children and family based programming at both the Centers. Here is a sampling of some of the programs we have funded.

At Paul Smiths, thousands enjoyed the Butterfly House. Under the skilled leadership of seasoned naturalist Sue Grimm Hanley, visitors enjoyed a dazzling display of color and a rich diversity of butterflies. Again this spring and fall, school children are back! We expect over 2,000 school children this year experiencing birds, plants, wildlife, and having a lot of fun



*Fiona Fitts from Wilmington, NY, and her grandfather, Dan Fitts, watch the butterflies in the Breck Chapin Butterfly House at the Paul Smith's College VIC.*

doing it. These hands-on experiences are a natural compliment to classroom curriculum taught in the schools. Many thanks this year to **Kay Stafford** whose generous donation to the API supported the Little Bobcat Program, an opportunity for area youngsters to experience and learn about the natural world. For all the VIC's programs and activities go to <http://www.facebook.com/THEPSCVIC>.

At Newcomb, we were proud to fund student naturalists who brought their expertise and talents to the program and our visitors. We are excited to be part of the restoration of an interpretive guide boat formally owned by Archer Huntington and look forward to programming associated with it. This fall, we will sponsor Rockwell Kent Day at the AIC and a holiday Chris Shaw Concert. To see all the programs going on at the Center go to [www.esf.edu/aic/](http://www.esf.edu/aic/).

## Please Support the API!

Please renew your membership or consider a tax deductible donation to help support the family and children friendly programs we have together supported for years. We believe we have made a difference in the lives we have touched and it is proven everyday as generation after generation return to the Centers. Thank you for your support! We hope to see you soon at the Interpretive Centers!

