



**Ken Rimany** is a Partner of Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve, the only not-for-profit membership organization in New York State solely dedicated to wilderness and wild land protection, advocacy and education. Originally founded in 1945 by Paul Schaefer, it was reconstituted again in July 2010. For the first twenty years of Ken's career he held several corporate financial management positions with the General Electric Company. Then in 1993 he decided to do a career change. Befriended and mentored by wilderness advocate Paul Schaefer, Ken decided to devote his talents and volunteer services to the not-for-

profit sector for the next twenty one years. From the age of 15, when Ken got his first Olympus point and shoot camera, Ken has since become an award winning photographer who has contributed and shared many of his Adirondack and Catskill images with numerous organizations and civic causes. His photographs have been published extensively in a variety of magazines, articles, books, news media, and more. A number of his photographs can also be found in several private and public art collections, including the *Civil War Institute* at Gettysburg College. Ken has a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Boston University, completed an MBA program at the American University, and graduated from GE's Financial Management Program.

The **Elizabeth Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award** is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated significant contributions to the long term sustainability of the Adirondack Park through scholarship, research, and policy initiatives. Past awardees include **Eileen Allen**, SUNY Plattsburgh; **Barbara Bedford**, Cornell University; **Joe Martens**, Open Space Institute; **Myron Mitchell**, SUNY ESF; **Jerry Jenkins**, Wildlife Conservation Society; **Dudley Raynal**, SUNY ESF; and, **Barbara McMartin**, Adirondack author.

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## 24th Annual Conference on the Adirondacks

“Transitions and Connectivity”

Conference Center at Lake Placid



## 2017 Award Luncheon

## May 25, 2017



**Richard Dunn Morse** passed away on Monday, November 7, 2016. He was 66. Rick received both his B.A. and M.A. from S.U.N.Y. Albany. After spending 32 years at the New York State Assembly, where he was one of the original authors of Superfund legislation, Rick worked as a senior policy advisor at Ecology and Environment, Inc. He was an avid backcountry and alpine skier, sailor,

runner and Ironman triathlete. Music was a central part of Rick's life from an early age and an enduring source of joy. Ecology and Environment has established an annual Award Fund in Rick Morse's name which is managed by the Adirondack Research Consortium. Through the Fund, \$500 awards will be given annually to a student who is studying at one of the colleges/universities in the Adirondack Region that shares the passion Rick had for environmental policy, music, and/or outdoor activities in the Adirondacks.

### **2017 Rick Morse Award Tyler Dezago, Senior, Paul Smith's College**



Tyler graduated from Rhinebeck High School in 2014 where he was the Rhinebeck High School Cross Country MVP his senior season. At Paul Smith's College, he is studying Natural Resources - Ecological Restoration with a minor in Forestry. At the athletic collegiate level Tyler participated in Men's Cross Country, Snowshoe Racing, Marathon Canoe Team, and Nordic Ski Team. Academic honors include the Yankee Small College Conference All-Academic Team, Paul Smith's College Dean's List, and U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association All-Academic Team. He will graduate a semester early next December. He plans to stay in the Adirondacks in the spring as a guitar building apprentice in Malone, NY.

Tyler has been playing acoustical stringed instruments most of his life. At Paul Smith's Tyler is often a featured performer on campus for the Open Mic Night, where he plays the guitar, mandolin or fiddle with various other students and faculty. Tyler also sings quite well, but his peers quite likely know him for his fiddle playing. In the future Tyler would like to work with AmeriCorps.

### **2017 Dr. Elizabeth W. Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award: Raymond P. Curran**

Mr. **Raymond P. Curran** is a professional ecologist, having worked for the Adirondack Park Agency for 31 years before entering the private sector in 2004. He has a varied community activity past, serving as President of Ausable Valley Habitat for Humanity, in the Adirondack Council of the Boy Scouts of America, as a Trustee for the Adirondack Nature Conservancy, and a founding director of Adirondack Sustainable Communities. Recently he served as a volunteer participating with Northern Forest Atlas Project, the Common Ground Alliance – Blueprint for the Blue Line, land use planning with the Town of North Elba, and recreation planning for the Town of Wilmington.



**Elizabeth Thorndike** has spent her professional career in the nonprofit and education sectors, and in public policy positions concerned with the environment at the local, state, and federal levels. Dr. Thorndike was founder, executive director, president, and member of the board of the Center for Environmental Information (CEI) in Rochester, NY from 1973 to 2007. She has held appointments as adjunct faculty at Cornell University since 1996. She has served as a Commissioner of the Adirondack Park Agency where she chaired the Agency's Park Policy and Planning Committee from 1980 to 1995, as a member of Governor Mario Cuomo's Environmental Advisory Board from 1985 to 1994, and as a member of NYSERDA's Board since 1997 where she chairs the Waste and Facilities Management Committee with oversight for cleanup of the West Valley nuclear waste site. Dr. Thorndike holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Stanford University and Harvard University and a doctorate in natural resource policy and planning from Cornell University.

