



24th Annual Conference on the Adirondacks

“Transitions and Connectivity”

2017 Award Luncheon
May 25, 2017, Conference Center at Lake Placid

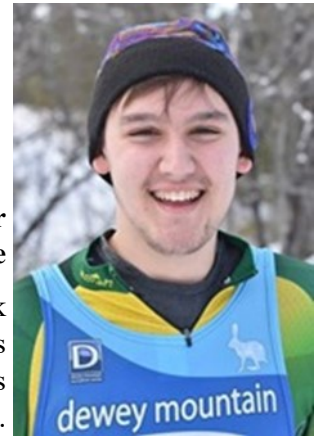


2017 Rick Morse Award Tyler Dezago, Senior, Paul Smith's College

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 are 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.



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.

About the Award

In partnership with Ecology and Environment, Inc., the Adirondack Research Consortium manages the Richard D. Morse Memorial Award Fund. Through this \$10,000 Fund, an annual \$500 award is presented to a student who is studying at a college/university in the region that shares the passion Rick had for environmental policy, music, and/or outdoor activities in the Adirondacks. The Award is used to support research or educational activities. It is presented annually at the Annual Conference on the Adirondacks held each May in Lake Placid, NY. If you have a candidate for the 2018 Award, please contact the Adirondack Research Consortium.

Accepting the Rick Morse Award on behalf of Tyler are from the left: Dan Fitts, Executive Director, Adirondack Research Consortium; Cathy Dove, President, Paul Smith's College; Dan Castle, Vice President, Ecology and Environment; and, Liz Thorndike, Adirondack Research Consortium Board of Directors and Paul Smith's College Trustee. Photo by Ken Rimany.