

May 2015

AdkAction.org Summertime Events

The annual membership meeting/party will be on Thursday July 23, 5 to 7 pm at a great camp on Upper Saranac Lake. An invitation will be sent out to members in June. This event will also include a silent auction. Please put this on your calendar as you will not want to miss this event.

Another planned event in addition to the annual meeting is the pop up Art Show. It



will be held in Lake Placid in August and will benefit AdkAction.org. Don't miss these two lovely evenings. Only AdkAction.org members and special guests will be invited so if you forgot to pay your annual dues this year, go online and pay simply and easily by credit card or PayPal. [This](#)

[link makes it quick and simple online.](#) Please help us recruit new members by forwarding this newsletter, with your personal message, to urge your friends and neighbors to join us too.

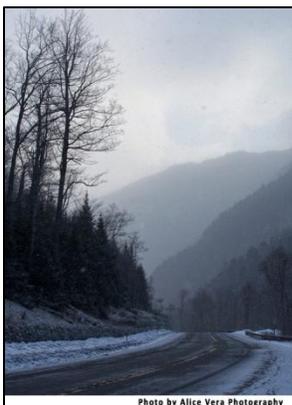
Art Banners: Last year we sponsored art banners in downtown Saranac Lake to emphasize the excellent art and artists in that town. They will be hung again this summer. This year we have sponsored art banners for Keene and Keene Valley in coordination with High Peaks Artists, the organization of artists in these two towns. These banners will be hung by Memorial Day and are expected to remain throughout the summer. They will also remind the passers-by of the Art show held in that community in August. If you are passing through Keene



or Keene Valley this summer please look out for those beautiful banners sponsored by AdkAction.org. (Banner Art by Naj Wikoff)

Adirondack Village Revitalization: AdkAction.org will sponsor a visit by a well-known architect, Roger Brown, to Saranac Lake. During this visit in late May he will tour the town and meet with members of the local development corporation, the downtown advisory board, the Village Board and the comprehensive planning board. The hoped for outcome is to develop a vision plan for a vibrant and sustainable village making use of built and natural resources.

Early Childhood Development In conjunction with the Adirondack Foundation, private foundations and AdkAction.org a meeting was held on May 13 for 35 child care professionals from three counties (Essex, Clinton and Franklin), most of whom participated in the research study run by Ezra Schwartzberg that identified overlaps and gaps in the birth-to-three (BT3) services available across the three counties. This was mainly a listening session, with the introduction making it clear that we were looking for ‘what would you do if money and current structural constraints were gone’ answers. The goal was to determine if they could form a leadership group from across diverse communities to lead the BT3 effort. A survey was conducted after the meeting and the early results are more than encouraging. The next step is to form a Steering Committee from among the participants who volunteer. Their job will be to help hire a Project Coordinator and staff and to work together to flesh out an action plan.



Salt reduction: the working group that was created after the 2014 September Winter Road Maintenance Conference has now met twice, chaired by Willie Janeway of the Adirondack Council

and Randy Preston, Supervisor of Wilmington. An initial charter has been developed that calls for the reversal of the build-up of salt in our watersheds, a very tall order given the decades it would take to slow the release of prior salt deposits from lake bottoms and soils. Knowing this our Senator, Betty Little, is arranging a meeting with the DOT and DEC Commissioners to discuss the State's involvement in the next steps. The initial experiment was successful in reducing per-lane, per-mile application of salt by 30% but the net result was an increase in salt use in each of those three years due to harsh winters. It is abundantly clear that to reach our goal radical versus incremental change will be needed (e.g., canopy cutback, new road designs with runoff channels and catch-basins, use of liquid deicers in sensitive areas, a return to hard-pack in some areas, the use of abrasives versus chemicals, new plows to accomplish this, revised laws, etc.). Unless the Commissioners are willing to go to the Governor with a BIG request for policy changes, supported legislation, and funding, the initiative will be still-born.

Cultural Symposium. The Symposium to include representatives from performing arts, visual arts, and museum/historical sites will bring these domains together to discuss how they can collectively improve their outcomes. Issues such as shared services, joint ticketing, regional promotions, sources of support, and the like will be covered for all three groups in the morning and by domain in break-out sessions in the afternoon. It will be held on September 10, 2015 at the Lake Placid Conference Center. "Save the date" emails and postcards have been sent to over 200 targeted organizations and already 43 have pre-registered. Later this spring we will send mail packets with registration instructions to this same list and reminders will be sent to some sites who do not have a representative registered. Jim McKenna, Dave Mason, and Jim Herman have agreed to act as moderators and break-out hosts. Several key speakers and panelists have committed to the program which promises to be the first of its kind to bring these groups together.

Property Assessors' Seminar; An educational seminar open to all North Country property assessors will be held on September 17 at the Lake Placid Convention Center. This will be the 3rd such seminar sponsored by AdkAction.org. Once again Dave Briggs will lead the conference and the topic will be assessing high value (unique) residential property in the Park. In addition Doug Tichenor will be presenting his methodology for assessing the land portion of lake front property.

Monarch butterflies: The monarchs have decreased to a perilously low number, so



low that efforts are being made to put this species on the endangered list. This decrease in number is directly related to the change in farming practices with the extensive use of weed killers such as Roundup. Not only are the weeds and wild flowers killed without affecting GMO crops but this application also

eliminates the milkweed on which the monarch depends for survival and reproduction as it travels from Canada to and from Mexico each year. However this spring there is an uptick in numbers, not as high as those numbers a few years ago but higher than last year or the year before. All of us can help by growing milkweed and succulent flowers on which that they depend. Details about these plants are [outlined on our website](#). AdkAction.org has sent a letter to all the highway superintendents in NY State to request that they not mow the sides of the roads from late June to mid-September so as to give the migrating monarch an opportunity to feed on the milkweed.

Please enjoy our latest humorous [commentary](#) on the environment.