

Organizations come together for Earth Day celebration

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SARANAC LAKE — An Earth Day celebration will take place this weekend, with informational speakers and music at the Harrietstown Town Hall on Sunday and events at Paul Smith's College on Saturday.

Organizer Susan Hahn said she was inspired by national events.

"This is a time when many of the environmental gains we've made are in danger of being rolled back," said Hahn. *"We've seen real progress with acid rain and other pollution that affects the Adirondacks in the last decades."*

"We want everybody to be at the event," she said, *"so we are hoping the weather is not good."*

A group of local people got together last year to see what they could do that would be positive and constructive, and they ended up forming TriLakes350, an affiliate of 350.org, a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization that uses online campaigns, grassroots organizing and public actions to oppose new fossil fuel projects and work toward clean energy for the benefit of all. Steve deHond started TriLakes350 only last September, said Hahn.

Paul Smith's College is holding its Earth Day event on Saturday, which is organized separately from the Tri-Lakes 350 event on Sunday. Using the hashtag #BeTheGreen students are pledging to do volunteer projects around the Tri-Lakes area.

Curt Stager of PSC will be the keynote speaker at the Sunday event, in a lineup of illustrious men. Stager is a well-known ecologist, paleoclimatologist and science writer who co-hosts a science program on North Country Public Radio, teaches at the college, and has published several books and over 30 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Other speakers include Richard Brandt, science manager of the University of Albany's Atmospheric Science Research Center on Whiteface Mountain, who

worked on climate science for University of Washington for 23 years and was involved in 19 polar expeditions.

Dan Plumley, a partner with Adirondack Wild and former forest ranger, has worked for and with the Adirondack Park Agency and the Adirondack Council, as well as setting up cultural exchanges with Russia, Mongolia, China, India and Tibet to the Adirondack Park.

Retired UN Ambassador Lance Clark will share knowledge gained from 35 years of service in international work.

In addition to the speakers, Partridge in the Pines and Barb and Sarah Curtis will provide music, and over 20 local environmental groups will have exhibits.

Student environmental teams from both Lake Placid and Saranac Lake high schools will present their work after Stager's talk. Inspired by the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake, they have been addressing climate change in their schools and communities through climate action initiatives.

In addition, there will be interactive children's activities organized by Paul Smith's College Visitor Interpretive Center and a juried art exhibit by middle school students from Saranac Lake and Lake Placid.

The Tri-Lakes chapter of 350.org has been awarded a grant by Humanities NY in support of the Earth Day event and follow-up Community Conversations. These will be held at the Saranac Lake Free Library within a few weeks of Earth Day. The focus of the conversations will be determined by responses to surveys being distributed at the town hall event.