

Hamilton County Express
July 20, 2011

More than 100 attend - Piseco hosts Forever Wild Day

By PETE KLEIN - Express News Staff

PISECO - The Adirondack Council's annual Forever Wild Day at The Irondequoit Inn on the north shore of Piseco Lake Saturday, July 9, was treated to a perfect summer day.

Well over 100 members and guests arrived, some coming early and others staying beyond the end of the meeting to go on guided hikes or paddle, learn about the history of the inn, join a workshop about invasive species and purchase native plants.

Town of Arietta Supervisor Rick Wilt spent a good part of the day there. He was particularly interested in checking out native Adirondack plants from Fiddlehead Creek Farm & Native Plant Nursery in Hartford for Piseco Airport.

The highlight of the day was the Conservationist of the Year Award, which went this year to the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP).

APIPP Director Hillary Smith accepted the award, directing praise to the many volunteers who help fight invasive plants.

"We are only as strong as our partnership base," she said. "We started 13 years ago and have grown and adapted."

Special mention was given by Smith to Wayne Blanchard, Indian Lake, who, Smith said, "Single-handedly pushed back invasive species at DEC Adirondack campgrounds."

Blanchard was the state Department of Environmental Conservation's invasive species operations specialist.

Progress is being made but the fight against invasive species continues, Smith said.

"Just this week we eradicated some giant hogweed found in the eastern Adirondacks. It can be overwhelming. It sometimes seems like a new invasive plant is knocking on the door every day." The award included a wooden loon, carved by Robert Padden, a resident of Greece and Inlet.

APIPP is a partnership program housed at the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in Keene Valley.

This year's guest speaker was forest ecologist Charles D. Canham, who lives in Millbrook. He is a forest ecologist with a doctoral degree from Cornell University in Ithaca.

Canham noted about one-third of the plants in the State of New York, including the dandelion, are not native to the state.

Canham had some good news about climate change for those who treasure the current landscape of a mixed forest. He doesn't believe there will be much change in forest composition even if global warming continues as predicted by most climatologists, for the next 50 years.

He said forest productivity (growth) might slow down but on the whole, "I feel good about the future because there are so many now who care."



Pete Klein - Many Adirondack Council members took advantage of its Forever Wild Day at The Irondequoit Inn on Piseco Lake July 9 by hiking some of the local trails or paddling on the lake. This group hiked up Panther Mountain to Echo Cliff for a great view of Piseco Lake.



Pete Klein - The 2011 Adirondack Council Conservationist of the Year Award went to the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. Here, APIPP Director Hillary Smith, center, accepts the award from Council Chairman Brian Ruder, left, and Executive Director Brian Houseal, right.