

NEWS IN AND ABOUT THE SIX-MILLION-ACRE ADIRONDACK PARK

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Historic Boreas Ponds Purchase

Sets up wilderness expansion opportunity

On May 10, Governor Andrew Cuomo travelled to the Adirondacks to celebrate the state's acquisition of the 20,500-acre Boreas Ponds tract. Boreas Ponds is the state's final purchase of the former Finch Pruyn paper company lands from the Adirondack Nature Conservancy and is considered the "crown jewel" of this historic land protection project.

The Adirondack Council has been preparing for this announcement for a while, as it presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand the High Peaks Wilderness Area to create 280,000 acres of contiguous wilderness in the heart of the Adirondacks.

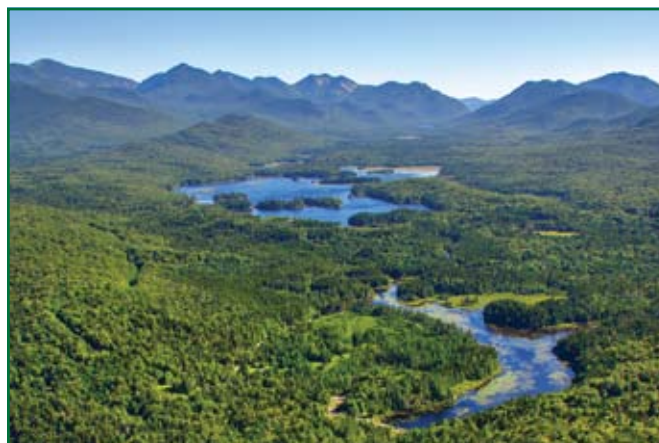
In November 2015, the Council, the Adirondack Mountain Club and six other conservation organizations called on the Governor to protect the Boreas Ponds as Wilderness, along with several other state-owned parcels nearby. The coalition launched the BeWildNY campaign (BeWildNewYork.org).

To explain why Wilderness is the best classification for Boreas Ponds and other nearby, unclassified state lands, the BeWildNY coalition recently released three scientific studies commissioned by the Council. Two ecological studies showed why Boreas Ponds meets the Adirondack Park Agency's criteria for a Wilderness classification and why it warrants the state's strongest protection measures. The third assessed the economic impact of state land classification decisions, finding that over the past decade, buyers paid up to 25 percent more for Adirondack real estate if it was within six miles of a wilderness area. See page 6 for more.

The state will hold a series of public hearings on the classification plans for Boreas Ponds and the other not-yet-classified Forest Preserve parcels nearby. Your participation will help to ensure success.



Above: Adirondack Council staff and volunteers spent a day talking about the importance of protecting water and wilderness in the Adirondack Park at Earth Day NYC 2016 at Union Square. L-R: Kevin Chlad, Streater Kelley, Douglas and Adam Schultz.



Above: Boreas Ponds and the High Peaks Wilderness. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

PROVIDING INCREASED RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS IN THE ADIRONDACKS WILL HAVE A POSITIVE ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO OUR SMALL COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE PARK.

~ ASSEMBLYMAN DAN STEC

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Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff
unless otherwise noted.



Wilderness is Priceless

A lasting legacy for future generations

Large areas of motor-free wilderness are what set the Adirondacks apart from all other protected areas. The wild Adirondack landscape is a national and global treasure.

This is no accident. It is a legacy given to us by our ancestors, generations of whom carefully nurtured the “Forever Wild” Adirondack Forest Preserve, starting in 1885.

This year, Gov. Andrew Cuomo will get a chance to enhance the Forest Preserve, as the Adirondack Park Agency holds hearings to gather public comments on plans to classify more new Forest Preserve, most of it adjacent to the existing High Peaks Wilderness Area.

The choice is essentially between Wilderness, where motorized use and mechanized recreation (mountain bikes and electric motors) are not allowed and other classifications, where those and potentially other uses can be authorized. The governor gets the final word, but you have a say. We need your voice to secure this historic expansion of the High Peaks Wilderness Area.


Why do we and future generations need the Governor to create more Wilderness areas? There are excellent personal and societal reasons for wanting more wilderness.

Society benefits because wilderness protects clean air, pure water and wildlife habitat. By protecting the natural functions of our environment, we protect the things the planet and the human race need to survive. On a more personal level, being in or near wilderness provides many physical, mental and spiritual benefits too.

Jason Mark in his book *Satellites in the High Country: Searching for the Wild in the Age of Man* says, “I wouldn’t want to live in a world without wilderness any more than I would want to live in a world without museums.” We are losing wilderness around the world. The Adirondacks can provide wilderness for future generations, unlike anywhere else in the world. Our speaking up for Wilderness will make a difference for the future of the Adirondacks.

It is an honor to receive your support and trust. You make us stronger and better able to protect what we all treasure about the Adirondacks.

Thank you,



William C. Janeway
Executive Director

Above: Janeway and son Charlie.

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations.

We envision an Adirondack Park with clean water and air and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working farms and forests and vibrant local communities.

CAPITAL MATTERS: ALBANY

An Extraordinary Year for Adirondack Funding

Thanks to our members for taking action

The Adirondack Council is thrilled to celebrate an historic year of Adirondack and environmental funding with you. We would not have accomplished this tremendous achievement without your letters and emails to state policymakers. Thank you!

The Governor and Legislature passed the 2016-17 New York State budget which included the approval of a \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). This is a record high, almost doubling fiscal year 2015-16 funding of \$177 million. All EPF categories met or exceeded Council requests, including:

\$40 million for Open Space Acquisition

\$12 million for Invasive Species

\$28 million for State Lands Stewardship

\$24 million category for Climate Change Adaptation

\$660,000 for Adirondack Community Revitalization

\$450,000 for Adirondack County Landfill Closure/Gas Management projects

The New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act was increased by \$200 million, doubling this program's total approved funding. The first grants from this program supported community water projects in both the Village of Saranac Lake and the Town of Willsboro. While there is much to celebrate in this year's budget, we are disappointed to see \$68 million swept from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds and the absence of state agency staff restorations.

Calling for ATV Policy Update

Protections needed for Forest Preserve

Though the Adirondack Council blocked a proposal in this year's budget to expand inappropriate ATV use, no reforms have been enacted that protect public lands and health, improve rider safety and promote riding in appropriate areas.

The Council supports a general ban of ATVs on the Forest Preserve and other state lands; a trail fund that promotes trail maintenance and repair on private lands, enforcement and rider education; and, reforms to air quality standards. The Council will continue to work with all stakeholders on this issue to achieve these much needed changes.



Above: Advocacy and Outreach Assistant Greg Redling sharing the advocacy work of the Council at the fourth annual Adirondack Day in Albany.

Legislature Contemplates Constitutional Amendment

Addressing community road and utilities

As we go to print, the NYS Legislature is discussing an amendment to the "Forever Wild" clause of the NYS Constitution. Please see our website for the current status of the proposal and letters from the Adirondack Council to elected officials communicating our position. As of this writing, the final details and fate of this constitutional amendment were not yet known. The goal is to help Adirondack communities improve local roads, broadband, and utilities, while strengthening the Forest Preserve and honoring its history. The Council supports communities in their effort to address infrastructure needs.

Changes at Park Agency

What will the future hold?

Chair of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) board, Lani Ulrich (*top right*) recently announced she will not accept reappointment to her post at the end of June. Also, board member Dick Booth (*bottom right*) stated he will not seek reappointment, but will serve until he is replaced. As of June 30, five of the 11 APA board member seats will be vacant or eligible for reappointment. The Council has called upon the Governor to appoint members who have strong environmental credentials and a high regard for Adirondack Park policy and science, and who will represent the interests of all New Yorkers.



Congratulations for a Deal Well Done

65,000 acres added to Forest Preserve

In April, New York State (NYS) purchased the 20,500-acre Boreas Ponds tract (■), the last piece of the 160,000 acres formerly owned by Finch Pruyn. The protection of these lands began in 2007 when Finch put its paper mill up for sale. This left the rest of their holdings, some of the most biologically rich and beautiful lands in the Adirondack Park, with an uncertain future.

Thankfully, the Adirondack Nature Conservancy (TNC) stepped in and purchased most of the Finch property. In 2012, NYS began purchasing 65,000 acres from TNC which included the Essex Chain of Lakes, OK Slip Falls, MacIntyre East & West, Thousand Acre Swamp, and the Benson tract (■).

Under the deal, TNC also worked to protect 90,000 acres of this land with a state-held conservation easement (■) to keep it in timber production and prevent it from being developed. Also, TNC set aside some of the lands for community development projects to help the three surrounding communities.

Council's Legal Actions Make a Difference

Protecting Adirondack water and wildlands

The Adirondack Council's successful legal actions recently prevented unlawful all-terrain vehicle (ATV) traffic, advocated for Adirondack river protections and defended a local effort to protect water.

The Council won a lawsuit in the Town of Forestport when the Oneida County State Supreme Court overturned a local law aimed at expanding ATV riding which violated New York State law.

In Essex County, the Council's lawyers argued that the state should reject the novel theory that a history of previous private use could "grandfather" future public motorized use in a state Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Corridor. The compliance with the law is one of several concerns the Council has with the state's new plan for the Essex Chain of Lakes complex.

The Council's legal memo in defense of the Lewis County, Town of Greig's zoning code was incorporated into the May Supreme Court decision that upheld the town's right to require a commercial-use permit for a proposed water-extraction business. The town argued that a local commercial-use permit was needed for the pipeline project. The court agreed.

Note: The Council prefers to resolve issues without going to court, but when necessary the Council will engage attorneys and take legal action.

Remsen-Placid Travel Corridor Plan Finalized

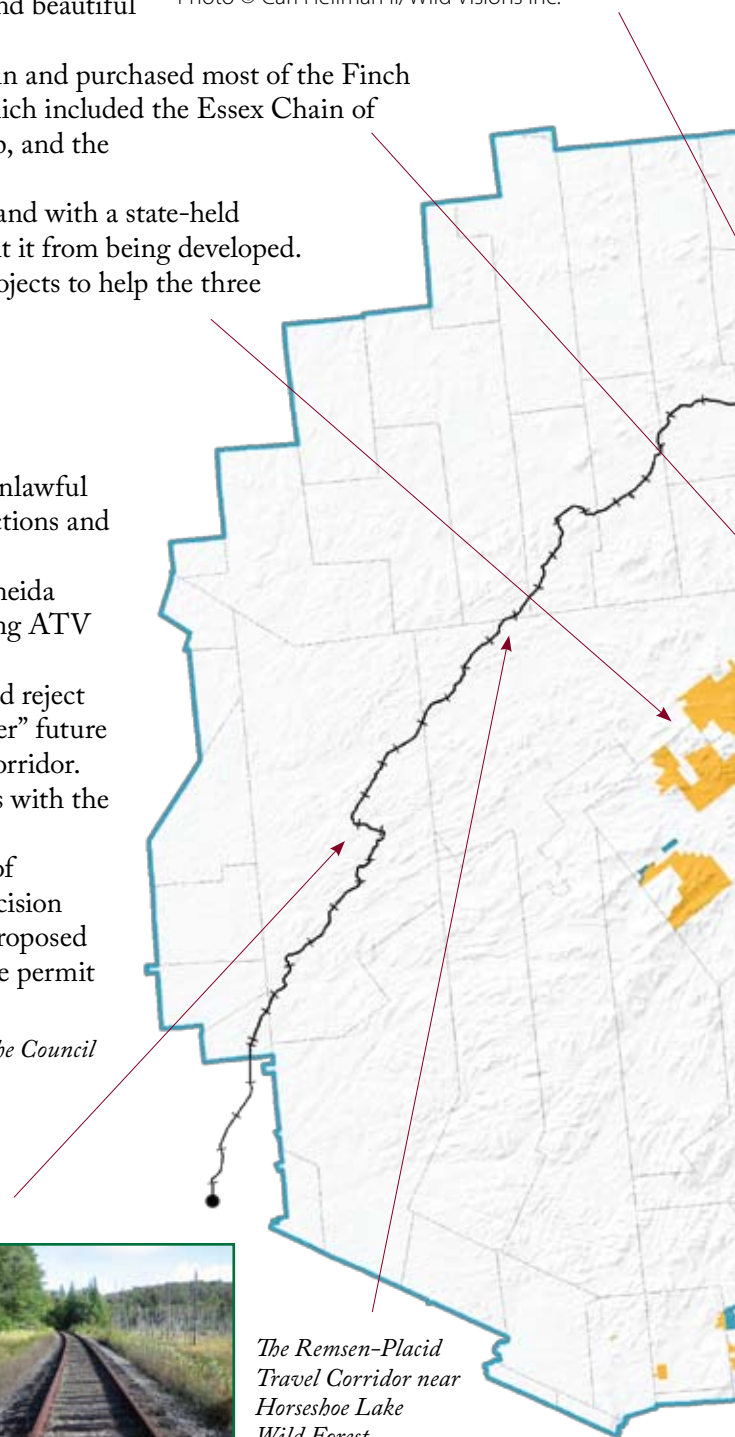
Remsen-Lake Placid

In mid-May, Governor Cuomo adopted a new Unit Management Plan for the 119-mile travel corridor from Remsen to Lake Placid that divides the old train line property into two segments. The 34-mile piece from Tupper Lake to Lake Placid will become a new multi-use recreational trail for hikers, bicyclists and others to travel from community to community through the Tri-Lakes Region. The old railroad line segment running west of Tupper will be upgraded. The state owns the whole corridor, which is managed under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, and will invest in both building the trail and rehabilitating the railway.

The Council applauds the Governor and state agencies for arriving at a plan consistent with our 2014 principles that call for preserving the integrity of the corridor, protecting surrounding environmental quality, and providing economic benefits to communities that will be visited by both recreational trail users and train riders.



Boreas Ponds looking west over the High Peaks.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.



The Remsen-Placid Travel Corridor near Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.



Oil Train Risk

Adirondack Coast threatened

On April 17, the Adirondack Council, other national and regional environmental organizations, local officials, and Park residents held a press conference in Plattsburgh, NY to urge the New York and Vermont congressional delegations to divert oil train traffic away from the purest waters, most sensitive wildlife habitat, and most vulnerable lake-side communities of the Adirondack Park. The coalition includes more than 100 organizations and individual leaders.

Left: Communications Director John Sheehan and Senior Counsel for National Wildlife Federation Jim Murphy urge protection for clean water, wildlife habitat and communities.

Grants Benefit the Adirondacks

In April, the state awarded grants that will benefit the waters, wilderness, wildlife, and communities of the Adirondacks.

Promoting smart growth

Six Adirondack communities will receive nearly \$400,000. Projects include: \$75,000 to the Essex County Fish Hatchery in Crown Point, \$75,000 for the Mirror Lake Stormwater Improvement Project in Lake Placid, \$74,772 for Adirondack Harvest Program of Essex County Cornell Cooperative Extension in Willsboro, \$70,000 for the Adirondack Public Observatory in Tupper Lake, \$75,000 to Adirondack Trail Towns throughout the Park, and \$22,250 for streetscape improvement designs in the Village of Lake George.

Fighting invasive species

Municipalities, nonprofit organizations and colleges will receive \$2 million in grants to help fight the spread of invasive plants and animals. Adirondack recipients include the Lake George Association, Paul Smith's College, and the towns of Horicon, Lake Pleasant, Long Lake, and North Elba.

Conserving open space

Several nonprofit land trusts across the state will receive \$1.8 million in grants from Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Land Trust Alliance. Adirondack recipients include Champlain Area Trails (\$30,000) and the Lake Placid Land Conservancy (\$5,000). These grants will help protect farmland, wildlife habitat and water quality, enhance public access, and conserve open space.

State Wildlife Action Plan Approved

Projects protect wildlife conservation

This spring, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved the first major revision and update to the 2005 NY State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The 2015 SWAP will guide wildlife conservation strategies and research, particularly for those 366 species of greatest conservation need, for the next decade. Acceptance of the 2015 plan will allow New York to receive continued USFWS funding

through State Wildlife Grants, which average \$2.3 to \$3.7 million per year, and implement projects in its SWAP. In the Adirondacks, conservation projects that help protect key bat habitat will benefit. Special thanks to Council members who sent letters in support of this critical wildlife funding.

Northern long-eared bat.
Larry Master, masterimages.org



Forever Wild Day 2016

July 9 - Northville, NY

Join the Adirondack Council Board, staff and fellow supporters for our annual members' meeting and award luncheon on **Saturday, July 9 at the Inn at the Bridge in Northville, NY.** Celebrate your love of the Adirondacks with friends and fellow conservation advocates and help us honor Joe Martens as the 2016 Conservationist of the Year! See the back cover for more.



Climate Smart Grants

Cool Farms/Healthy Park projects

The Adirondack Council and the Klipper Fund celebrated Earth Day 2016 by working with a coalition of partner organizations to award our first *Cool Farms/Healthy Park* micro-grants to 12 Adirondack farmers and food producers.

The grants are designed to make the farms more environmentally friendly while helping them remain an important part of a sustainable Adirondack economy. Climate-smart Adirondack farms provide local communities with safe local food, jobs and tourism while helping combat global climate change and protecting Adirondack water, wildlife and wilderness. Grants were awarded to:



- **Black Kettle Farm, Essex:** \$1,500 for a horse-powered wood-splitting operation
- **Boquet Valley Farm, Westport:** \$1,000 to modify and enhance beekeeping equipment
- **Echo Farm, Essex:** \$1,500 for improvements to a solar-powered watering system
- **Harris Family Farm, Westport:** \$1,500 for draft horse gear at an organic dairy
- **Hub on the Hill, Essex:** \$1,500 for solar power improvements
- **Juniper Hill Farm, Westport:** \$1,500 to upgrade cold storage and decrease energy use
- **Kelsie's Creamery, Essex:** \$500 to increase seeding and pasture sustainability
- **North Branch Farm, Saranac:** \$1,000 for diversified more climate resilient crops
- **North Country Creamery, Keeseville:** \$500 to expand/improve grazing rotations
- **Reber Rock Farm, Essex:** \$500 towards an expanded marketing campaign
- **Sugar House Creamery, Upper Jay:** \$500 to upgrade milking technology
- **Tangleroot Farm, Essex:** \$1,000 for a growing tunnel to support early season crops

Purchase **Carbon Reduction Certificates** to support the *Cool Farms/Healthy Park* micro-grants at shop.AdirondackCouncil.org.

BeWildNY Wilderness Campaign Grows

Historic opportunity to expand Adirondack High Peaks Wilderness

The campaign continues to gather momentum. Visit BeWildNewYork.org for recent news, a list of coalition partners, and more.

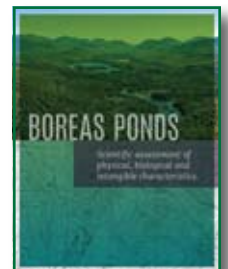
Latest studies show Boreas Ponds should be Wilderness

In April, two separate scientific studies were released that underscore the unique ecological richness of the 20,500-acre Boreas Pond tract that was recently purchased by the state.

The Wildlife Conservation Society's report, *Ecological Composition and Condition of the Boreas Tract*, showed that the tract would make the surrounding Wilderness areas more biologically rich, diverse and resilient, and would enhance wildlife connections to adjoining wildlands.

Adirondack Research's study, *Boreas Ponds: Scientific assessment of physical, biological and intangible characteristics*, showed that the tract exhibits high levels of ecological integrity and wild character, with fragile wetlands, steep slopes and erodible soils that make it a poor choice for siting roads.

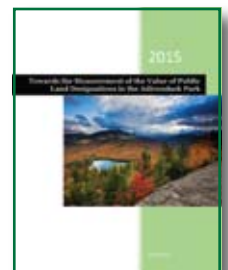
These studies highlight scientific reasons why the Boreas Ponds tract would make an excellent addition to the adjoining High Peaks and Dix Mountain Wilderness Areas.



Study shows positive economic impact of Wilderness

A new Clarkson University study shows that the Adirondack Park's constitutionally protected Forest Preserve is an economic asset to the private lands and communities near it, and the wildest of those lands returns the greatest positive economic impact.

It is well accepted that there is no better indicator of economic value of something than the price people are willing to pay to be near it. The study confirmed that people seeking to purchase homes and businesses in northern New York paid more for the same property inside the Adirondack Park than they would have outside of it. Specifically, properties within 0.5 to 6 miles of Wilderness are valued at up to a 25-percent premium over lands that are not near Wilderness. A recent tourism study of Essex County in the Adirondack Park found most visitors spent their time and money on non-motorized recreation.



Above: View of the High Peaks from Boreas Ponds.

SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL

\$250,000 Robert Wilson Adirondack Challenge

Challenge seeks to expand conservation impact

The founder of a successful hedge fund, Robert Wilson gave away much of his fortune during his lifetime (1926-2013). He liked to contribute challenge match grants to some of the world's best known conservation organizations to help them build their capacity and have an even greater impact. Mr. Wilson was also a long-time supporter of the Adirondack Council.

Now, the trustees of the Robert Wilson Charitable Trust have offered the Council a challenge matching grant of \$250,000, with \$200,000 to match new and increased gifts of \$1,000 or more and \$50,000 if 1,000 new supporters donate to the Council by June 2018. At its May meeting, the Council Board of Directors accepted this ambitious challenge.

We are encouraged by the Trust's commitment to the Adirondack Council's programs and projects, and grateful for their interest in helping the Council reach new levels of effectiveness.

For over 40 years, Council supporters have helped us achieve results for the water, wilderness, wildlife, and communities of the Adirondacks. YOU inspire us to do even more. We look forward to taking on the Robert Wilson Adirondack Challenge with YOU to secure an additional \$500,000 over two years to enhance our efforts to protect our Adirondack legacy and to increase recognition of the Adirondack Park as a national treasure.

#ForeverWildADK Photo Contest Winners

What does "Forever Wild" mean to you?

Thanks to all the contestants of the #ForeverWildADK photo contest for sharing photos and captions of what the natural beauty of the Adirondack Park means to them.

1st Place: Chad Miller - "Endless Opportunities"

2nd Place: William Johnson - "A place to enrich the soul"

3rd Place: Kyle LeClair - "Having a place to quiet the noises of the mind"



Above: The Adirondack Council was the 2016 recipient of Rockefeller College's Outstanding Internship Site/ Supervisor Award. The award recognized the Council's Clarence Petty Internship Program. (L-R) Legislative Intern Dana Mancini, Director of State Operations and former Council intern Jim Malatras, and Government Relations Director Kevin Chlad.

Clarence Petty Intern

Meet Emily Liebelt

Emily Liebelt is the current Clarence Petty Intern working in the Council's Elizabethtown office with a special focus on climate change communications. Emily is a recent graduate of St. Lawrence University, where she received a BA in Anthropology with a minor in English. This summer, Emily will examine public attitudes toward climate change, understand the impacts on local communities and help communicate climate policy, actions and programs.



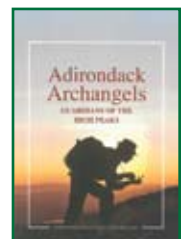
As someone who grew up in the park, Emily has an enthusiasm for the outdoors and an appreciation for local culture. During her spare time Emily enjoys playing the bassoon, camping, skiing, and gardening.

The Council's internship program seeks to carry on the legacy of beloved Adirondack conservation activist Clarence Petty (1904-2009) by training and inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders.

New Book - Adirondack Archangels

Testimonials about the High Peaks

Learn about the iconic Adirondack High Peaks through a series of essays about the passionate individuals and organizations dedicated to the preservation of Adirondack wilderness. Published by the Adirondack Mountain Club in support of the Summit Stewardship Program (#507 Fund). - \$25.00





ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness

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JOIN US ON SATURDAY, JULY 9 IN NORTHVILLE

This year's Forever Wild Day will be held on the bank of the Great Sacandaga Lake in the Village of Northville at the southern edge of the Adirondack Park. The day includes a celebration of the Council's hard work and our collective successes on behalf of our beloved Adirondacks, the annual membership meeting and award luncheon honoring Joe Martens as the 2016 Conservationist of the Year, and optional outings and time to share your love of the Adirondacks with friends and fellow conservation advocates.



The Town of Northampton (in which the Village of Northville lies) was established in 1762 and was known by the name of Fish House. It acquired its name from Sir William Johnson, who had a fishing camp in the area. Northampton/Fish House is located on the eastern shore of the Great Sacandaga Lake. In the 1920's, the state decided to dam the Sacandaga River in an effort to control flooding downstream. In 1930, the Conklingville Dam was finished and the Sacandaga Valley was flooded to make the lake. Although the Village of Northville itself was mostly spared, several other communities, including a large portion of Sacandaga Park (across the Sacandaga River from the Inn) and approximately half of the Town of Fish House was covered with water.

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Thank you to our event patrons for supporting Forever Wild Day and honoring Joe Martens, our 2016 Conservationist of the Year.

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