

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

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Acid Rain Progress Under Threat

Déjà Vu All Over Again

Toxic storm-clouds are forming on the horizon. The 115th Congress and the Trump administration have promised to eliminate many environmental laws and regulations that they believe hurt business growth. In reality, these regulations are the cornerstone for protecting our environment and human health. These rollbacks threaten the progress we've made over the past two decades in limiting acid rain-causing pollution in the Adirondacks and elsewhere.

The Council is joining our state and national partners to ensure the Environmental Protection Agency's funding for acid rain research remains intact. Our staff went to Washington, D.C. in April and met with policymakers on both sides of the aisle. We are asking Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R-Willsboro) to fight these proposed rollbacks and to work to preserve funding for acid rain research. This research is the only means of proving that clean air laws are working and necessary. Significant progress has been made, but acid rain is still harming soils, forests, birds, and fish, and threatening the health, property and livelihoods of Adirondack residents and businesses. The Adirondacks are a national treasure and deserve better.



Some of the Adirondack Council staff, board members and supporters who attended the People's Climate March in Washington, D.C. to protest climate change and acid rain.

Climate-Smart Grants Go To Adirondack Farms, Businesses

Grants awarded to 23 farmers & entrepreneurs to build low-carbon economy

The Adirondack Council, with support from the Klipper Family Fund, Lookout Fund, International Paper Co. and others, worked with a coalition of partners, to celebrate Earth Day and award Cool Farms/Healthy Park micro-grants to farmers and other local businesses.



Reboboth Homestead received a \$1,500 grant to install a 10.44kw photovoltaic solar-power system.

Micro-grants of between \$500 and \$1,500 were awarded for energy conservation, carbon emission reductions and sustainable and environmentally healthy farming and small business projects. These efforts will enhance the economic, human and/or environmental sustainability and climate resiliency of the Adirondacks.

In the program's second year, 16 grants were awarded to local farms and seven grants to other local businesses. In some cases, grants covered the entire cost of the project, but in most cases, the grant supplemented other funds and grants. A complete list of the 2017 climate-smart grantees is available online.

Want to help support our micro-grants program? Purchase a Cool Farms/Healthy Park Carbon Reduction Certificate, available in our shop at AdirondackCouncil.org.

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Newsletter photos by Council staff unless otherwise noted.

Preserving the Adirondack Legacy

Planning for the next 125 years

On May 20, the Adirondack Park celebrated its 125th birthday and a long string of conservation successes. The ageless beauty of this living landscape remains a legacy of hope – for us and for generations to come. For the next 125 years, we need the Adirondacks more than ever. Yet the federal government is moving in the wrong direction on acid rain and more. We see challenges and opportunities regarding future state wild land protection and efforts to foster vibrant communities.




On this birthday, we announced 10 things that should be done now:

1. Approve a general ban on all-terrain vehicles on Forever Wild lands;
2. Improve private-land stewardship and limit clear-cutting;
3. Hire more rangers, foresters, planners, engineers, educators, law enforcement, and scientists;
4. Reject a Constitutional Convention, and any effort to repeal or weaken Article XIV, the “Forever Wild” clause;
5. Approve an amendment to allow road straightening and public utilities (broadband & drainage) on public roads that cross Forest Preserve lands;
6. Expand state grants to communities for clean water infrastructure, smart growth planning and invasive species protections;
7. Update 1970s-era private development rules to better protect the wild character and wildlife of the Park’s remote and unspoiled private backcountry;
8. Curb acid rain and greenhouse gas emissions that harm the Adirondacks and our health;
9. Expand the High Peaks Wilderness by 30,000 acres, including the recently acquired Boreas Ponds and mile-wide buffer to the south; and,
10. Modernize Park administration. Consolidate governance under an Adirondack Park Service built from a strengthened Adirondack Park Agency and parts of the Department of Environmental Conservation, while making the Park more welcoming to all.

Thank you for your support as we work as your advocate so the Adirondacks thrive for the next 125 years. Together we can preserve wilderness and wildlife, foster vibrant communities and protect clean water and clean air.

Thank you,


William C. Janeway
Executive Director

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

Final Budget Supports Adirondack Communities

Governor & Legislature invest in clean water & tourism

On April 9, the Governor and New York State Legislature passed a budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year, providing new funds that should benefit Adirondack communities and complement a Wilderness classification for the Boreas Ponds. **The budget authorizes \$2.5 billion in clean water funding** that will provide a boost in available grants to communities for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and



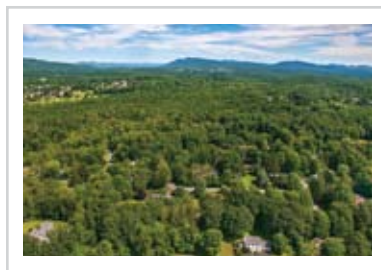
The site for the “Gateway to the Adirondacks” recreation hub at Exit 29 in North Hudson.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

source-water protection, and will help address the impacts of road salt. **A \$300-million Environmental Protection Fund** will support state land stewardship, smart growth projects and climate smart communities. **Tourism received large investments** with funding for a “Gateway to the Adirondacks” recreation hub at Exit 29 on the Northway on the former “Frontier Town” theme park lands. New monies were provided for a 750-mile “Empire State Bike Trail” running from Buffalo to Albany and New York City to Canada. Long-needed reforms to forest taxation laws and all-terrain vehicle riding were absent in this budget, though sorely needed.

Adirondack Park Agency Reform Considered

Bill aimed at clustering development and protecting wildlife

With the introduction of legislation (A.5451) by Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman Steve Englebright (D-East Setauket) to reform backcountry subdivisions on private lands in the Adirondacks, a conversation has begun amongst legislators and Adirondack stakeholders. Improvements at the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to make large-scale developments friendlier to wildlife



Development in a park-like setting.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

while making permit reviews more thorough and efficient have long been needed. This legislation would require the development of an Ecological Preservation and Forest Stewardship Plan on subdivisions of the largest and most sensitive tracts, with the goal of clustering development near established roads and away from wildlife habitat and migration corridors. A subdivision recently approved by the APA at Woodworth Lake pointed to the need for this reform. The Adirondack Council supports A.5451 and could support other legislation that addresses the same issue.



Kevin Chlad Government Relations Director discusses Adirondack legislative priorities with Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chair Steve Englebright (D-Setauket).

“Forever Wild” Amendments

Details matter

With the 2017 legislative session nearing its end, the legislature is considering two amendments to Article XIV of the NYS Constitution, which protects the state lands of the Adirondack Park from logging, sale or development. One amendment would allow legitimate, narrow and specific public health and safety projects by permitting the use of legal state, county and town roadways crossing Forest Preserve lands for bike paths and utilities such as water, sewer, electricity, telephone, and broadband. It also creates a land account, which would provide 250 acres for limited and specific projects adjacent to state, town and county roads such as road straightening, telephone pole setbacks and culvert improvements when there are no possible alternatives. Another amendment would allow Camp Gabriels, formerly a prison in the Town of Brighton, to be removed from the Forest Preserve, so that it can be sold for potential use as a group camp and retreat.

ATV Impacts Expand

Legislature stands by

Little action has been seen on all-terrain vehicle (ATV) reform this year, despite the Governor’s Department of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC) proposal for ATV use in the Grasse River Wild Forest and expanding ATV riding on roads, which exposes the Forest Preserve to potential trespass. The DEC Law Enforcement Division refers to illegal ATV use as its “most problematic activity” on state lands. Proposed legislation banning ATV use on the Forest Preserve exists, but the Legislature has not acted on it. The Council will fight for this long-needed reform.

IN AND ABOUT THE PARK

Marion River Carry Protected

Raquette Lake

As part of an agreement to settle the Township 40 (Raquette Lake) land ownership dispute that dates back more than 100 years, the state in May acquired the 296-acre Marion River Carry property. This was made possible by a Constitutional Amendment, and the Council working with landowners, conservation partners and state policymakers to find a resolution for the landowners that also resulted in a benefit for the Forest Preserve. Landowners contributed funding for the land acquisition and donations of land as part of the settlement.



Raquette Lake and the Marion River.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

Croghan Tract Easement

Lewis County

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is drafting a Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the Croghan Tract Conservation Easement (□) in Lewis County. This 12,800-acre tract of privately-owned land adjoins roughly 8.8 miles of the Pepperbox Wilderness Area (■) and Watson's East Triangle Wild Forest (■). Possible future uses on the easement tract include all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails. The Council continues to call for a general ban on ATVs on the Forest Preserve and other state lands as well as other environmental and safety reforms.

State Land Planning Proceeds

Blue Mountain Wild Forest

The DEC is currently seeking to amend the Blue Mountain Wild Forest (■) Unit Management Plan (UMP) to allow for uses associated with a number of regional recreational plans and to improve access to emergency infrastructure on the summit of Blue Mountain. These actions include the development of an accessible tent site on Lake Durant, the creation of a spur trail that will connect Long Lake to the Northville Placid Trail (NPT) and the construction of a lean-to on the NPT.

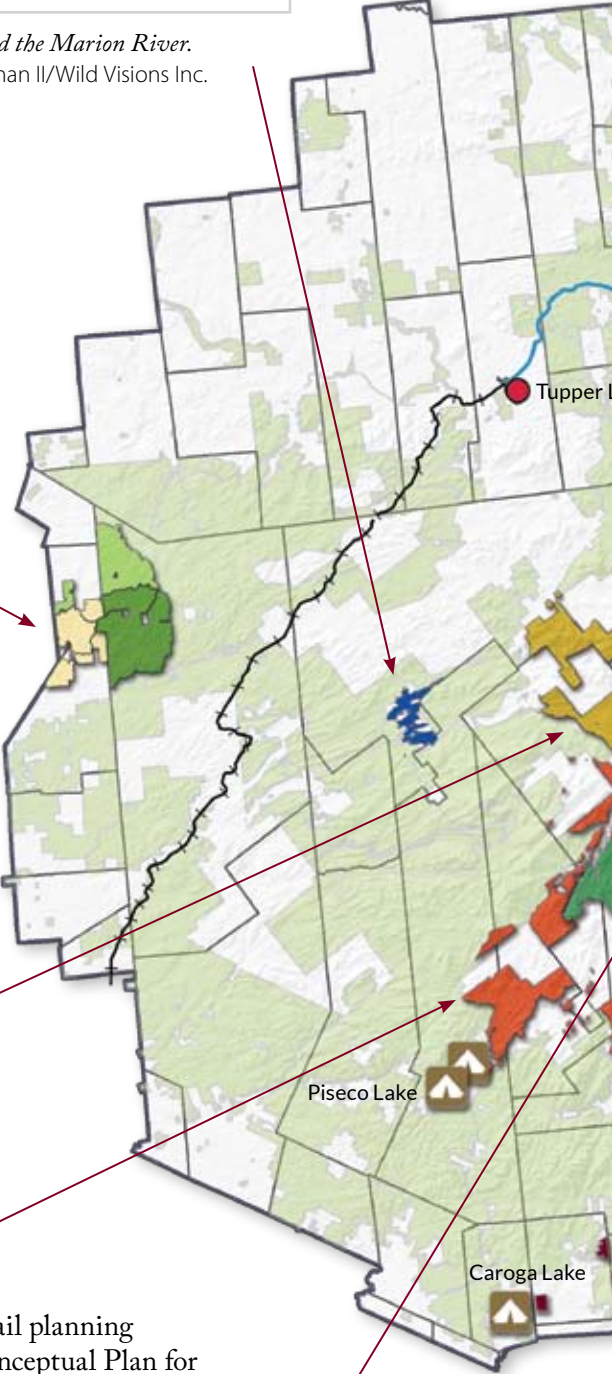


Tirrell Pond and the summit of Blue Mountain.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

Regional Planning Efforts Underway

Siamese Ponds Wilderness and Jessup River Wild Forest

Proposed changes to the Siamese Ponds Wilderness (■) and the Jessup River Wild Forest (■) UMPs seek to implement uses associated with three regional trail planning efforts, the North Country National Scenic Trail (ADK Park Trail Plan), the Conceptual Plan for Hut-to-Hut Destination-based Trail System, and the Great South Woods Complex Planning Strategy and Recommendations. Between the two UMPs, the DEC is proposing the installation of an iron gate to protect sensitive bat caves, the conversion of un-marked trails to formal hiking trails, the creation of a nearly two-mile connector trail to the North Country National Scenic Trail, and re-routing the Botheration Pond Trail around the East Branch River.

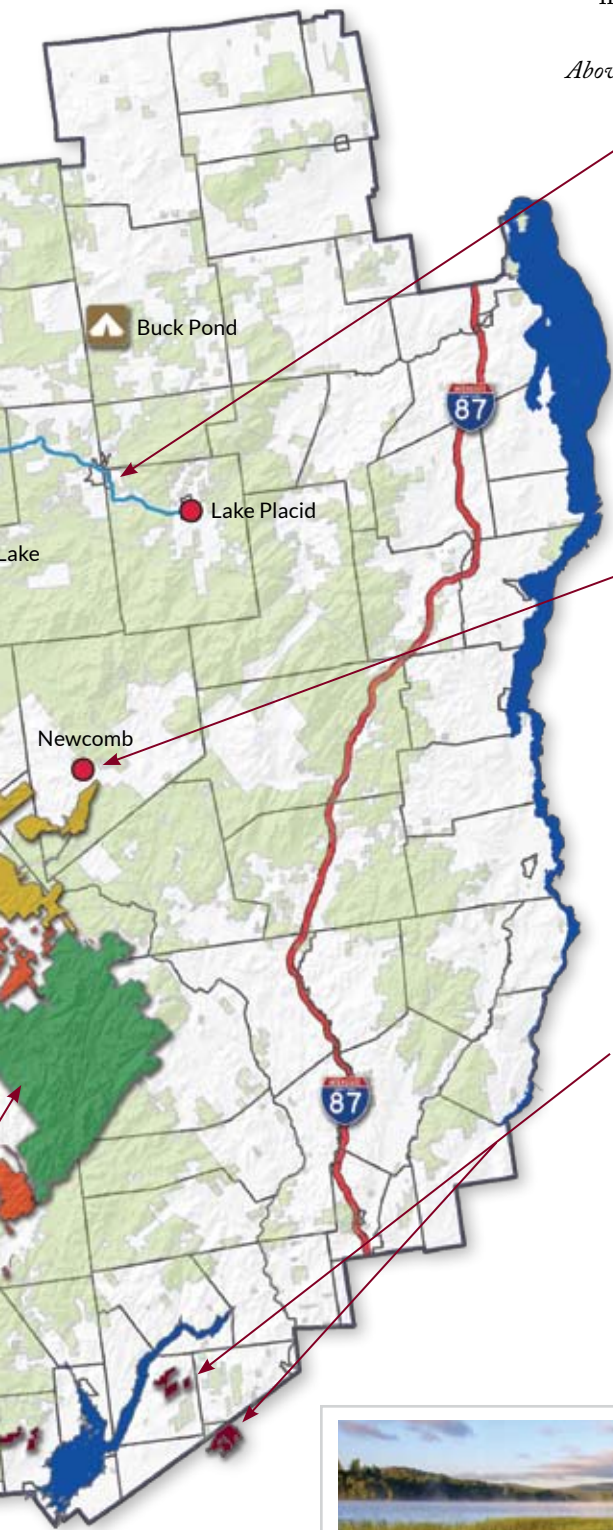


Multi-Use Recreation Trail Takes Shape

Remsen - Lake Placid

In April, the DEC released its Draft Conceptual Plan for a 34-mile multi-use recreational trail (■) on the Remsen-Lake Placid railway between Lake Placid and Tupper Lake. The Plan lays out strategies to protect the integrity of the travel corridor classification, and provides positive outcomes for the rail and recreational trail proponents and local communities. The Council suggested the state could improve its plans for interpretation along the corridor by having information about the Adirondack Park, including its history, natural resources and wildlife.

Above: Grant Conservation Associate Jackie Bowen walks a section of the Remsen-Lake Placid railway.



Forever Wild Day 2017

July 8 - Newcomb, NY

Join the Adirondack Council Board, staff and fellow supporters for our annual members' meeting and award luncheon on Saturday, July 8 at Overlook Park in Newcomb, NY. Celebrate your love of the Adirondacks with friends and fellow conservation advocates and help us honor Mike Carr as the 2017 Conservationist of the Year and recognize the extraordinary work of photographer Carl Heilman. See the back cover for more details.



L-R: Woodruff Pond, the Hudson River and Harris Lake in Newcomb.

Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

No Public ATV Use Here

Sacandaga Easement

In April, the DEC completed a final RMP for the 6,150-acre Sacandaga Block Conservation Easement Lands (■). The plan highlights public access and recreational uses on the seven tracts that make up this parcel located across both Saratoga and Fulton Counties in the Southern Adirondacks. These uses include cross-country ski and snowshoe trails, improved snowmobile connector trails and expanded parking areas. Public ATV use is prohibited on these easement lands.



Overlooking the Great Sacandaga Lake and Sacandaga Block Conservation Easement Lands.

Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

Camping Infrastructure Improvements

Piseco Lake, Caroga Lake, Buck Pond Campgrounds

The DEC is currently updating the UMPs for Piseco Lake, Caroga Lake and Buck Pond campgrounds (▲). Proposed positive management actions include replacing overhead powerlines with underground cables, replacing outdated water lines and relocating campsites to improve the visitor experience. As we go to press, the DEC is still seeking public comments on a proposal to permanently close the Poplar Point section of the Piseco Campground and redevelop it as a day-use area.

Piseco Lake, Hamilton County. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.



CONSERVATION MATTERS



The Challenges of Success

Loving the High Peaks to death

If you've visited the Eastern High Peaks area recently, you have no doubt seen the increase in the number of people eager to hike the Adirondack Park's most popular mountains. On holiday weekends especially, hundreds of cars line the roads where parking is (intentionally) limited at the trailheads. Increased erosion, trash, sanitary issues, noise, and crowds are degrading the wild character experience of climbing the Park's most popular and challenging mountains.

Efforts by recreation and conservation groups, the state and concerned citizens have helped with preparedness education and "Leave No Trace" practices. But, as the state completes its largest land acquisition in a century and the impacts of the Governor's investment in tourism is realizing success, local officials, advocates and others agree that a major collaborative effort is needed to develop new programs and policies that will better manage the expanding interest in hiking the Adirondacks (especially the High Peaks), while ensuring natural resources and the wild character will be safeguarded for future generations. We appreciate your eyes and ears as you are out and about in the Adirondacks. **Please share your concerns, ideas and photos with us via email or social media.** Thank you!



L-R: Livingston Pond, the Flowed Lands and Algonquin Peak. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

Waiting for History

No agency decision on Boreas Ponds, other new lands

Since the April and May Adirondack Park Agency (APA) meetings were absent any updates on the decision, we are still anxiously waiting for the Governor's APA to announce a decision about the classification for the Boreas Ponds tract and other lands and waters. We're proud of our campaign with partners and citizens calling for a Wilderness at the Boreas Ponds to be added to the High Peaks Wilderness, along with a one-mile buffer to the south. The science, the law, economic factors, public opinion, and state conservation traditions all support a Wilderness classification. We remain hopeful that the Governor will solidify his legacy for the Adirondacks by creating wilderness at a scale that would rival conservation landmarks out West, while improving public recreation and boosting the local economy. However, as eager as we are for a classification announcement, it's important that decision-makers take the time to make a thoughtful decision that is good and right for Boreas Ponds and the future of the Adirondack Park.



A recent poll by Siena Research Institute found that supporters of a Wilderness classification for Boreas Ponds outnumbered opponents of Wilderness by 4.5-to-1 (67% to 15%).

Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

Partnership to Fight Invasive Species

2017 boat steward program funded

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently announced that it is expanding its partnership with Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) to carry out its 2017 boat steward program. AWI is receiving \$1.4 million from New York State's Environmental Protection Fund to place 53 stewards at 28 sites across the Adirondacks. The stewardship program trains individuals to identify and remove aquatic invasive species found on watercrafts and trailers, and to educate the public about invasives.

DEC Announces Trail Crew Hiring

Will address high priority needs in the High Peaks

The Adirondack Council and others have applauded the first hiring of a DEC trail crew for the Eastern High Peaks in over 20 years to complement work by others including Adirondack Mountain Club, Adirondack Trail Improvement Society, the Barkeater Trail Alliance, and the 46ers. This stewardship is greatly needed.

SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL

UPDATE: Robert Wilson Adirondack Challenge

Goal to increase Park advocates within reach

With grateful thanks to our supporters and the trustees of the Robert Wilson Charitable Trust, we are well on our way to meeting the challenge match of \$250,000 by June 30, 2018. The late Mr. Wilson was interested in challenging the organizations he cared about to build their capacity so they could have even greater conservation impacts. Thanks to his vision and YOU, the Adirondack Council is doing just that. Thank you!

Timeline: June 1, 2016 - June 30, 2018

New Members & Sustaining Members **1,322 as of March 31, 2017** Goal Surpassed!

GOAL: 1,000 = \$50,000 MATCH

New & Increased \$1,000+ Support **\$139,769 as of March 31, 2017** Well On Our Way!

GOAL: \$200,000

#125YearsADK Photo Contest

Winner Announced

This May, we celebrated the Adirondack Park's 125th birthday with a two-week long photo contest asking people to submit a photo and describe what the Adirondacks mean to them. The response was overwhelming and demonstrated just how much the Adirondack Park means to so many people near and far.

Each entry was beautiful and special in its own way, and we had many favorites. But we are proud to announce that Jonathan Zaharek's photo of the Milky Way Galaxy and the AuSable Lakes from Indian Head is the winner!



ALTHOUGH I LIVE 12 HOURS AWAY FROM THEM IN THE STATE OF OHIO, 4 GENERATIONS OF MY FAMILY HAVE MADE THE TREK TO THE ADK EVERY SUMMER FOR NEARLY 90 YEARS IN A ROW. THIS ONE PLACE HAS AFFECTED MY LIFE SO GREATLY THAT I CAN SAY IF IT WASN'T FOR THE ADIRONDACKS, I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY.

**- Jonathan Zaharek
#125YearsADK Photo Contest Winner**



Adirondack Council Board Member Phil Forlenza and his daughter Laura enjoy a moment at the People's Climate March in Washington, D.C.

Make Your Gift Monthly

Impact made easy and automatic

Being a Sustaining Member provides a steady stream of support for the Adirondacks when you give through automatic, monthly payments. Managing your giving is easy with our new website and member account option (save your payment information and make updates anytime). With less mail, more of your gift goes to projects and programs that benefit Adirondack water, wilderness, wildlife, and communities. Thank you!



Win a Hornbeck Canoe!
Raffle Benefits Conservation

Peter and Ann Hornbeck of Hornbeck Boats have again kindly donated one of their top-selling New Tricks canoes in order to raise funds to support the projects and programs of the Adirondack Council. The 12' long kevlar and carbon fiber boat weighs just 18 lbs., perfect for exploring the beautiful remote waters of the Adirondacks. The drawing will take place on December 21, in time to plan your 2018 paddling adventures.

Raffle tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25 and are available on our website at: AdirondackCouncil.org or calling us toll-free at 1.877.873.2240.



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FOREVER WILD DAY 2017

Celebrating a National Treasure



OVERLOOK PARK - NEWCOMB, NY
In the Heart of the Adirondacks - July 8, 2017

JOIN US AT: OVERLOOK PARK *Celebrating the Adirondacks & Partnerships*

This year's Forever Wild Day will be at Overlook Park in Newcomb, NY. The day includes a celebration of our collective successes on behalf of our beloved Adirondacks, the Annual Members' Meeting and awards luncheon, and optional outings and time to share your love of the Adirondacks with friends and fellow conservation advocates.

2017 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Mike Carr

We will honor Mike Carr for his nearly three decades of partnering with environmental advocates, community leaders and the state to improve and protect the Adirondack Park. Mike is the Executive Director of the Adirondack Land Trust.



PARK COMMUNICATOR

Carl Heilman II

We will recognize the extraordinary work by photographer Carl Heilman II which has inspired governors and presidents, legislators and congressional representatives, state agencies and local governments to treat the Adirondack Park with respect.



EVENT SPONSORS

The Adirondack Council gratefully acknowledges the following businesses and organizations that have partnered with the Adirondack Council to provide financial and in-kind sponsorships for the event.

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| Adirondack Experience, The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake | Integrated Marketing Services, Inc. |
| Adirondack Explorer | International Paper |
| Adirondack Life | Lake George Mirror |
| Adirondack Mountain Coffee | Lake Placid Center for the Arts |
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Thank you to our event Patrons for supporting Forever Wild Day and honoring Mike Carr, our 2017 Conservationist of the Year recipient, and Carl Heilman, recipient of the Park Communicator award.

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