



**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on the Adirondacks**  
**April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid, NY**



**“Key Issues Shaping the Adirondack Future”**

This year’s program tackles some of the region’s most significant issues—from the expansion of mass timber and new energy technologies to wildlife impacts, water quality challenges, and partnerships with Indigenous communities.

**DRAFT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

- 8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Poster, and Exhibit Set-Up (Avalanche Pass)
- 8:45 a.m. **Welcome and Messages:** Dr. Ellen Percy Kraly, ARC President
- 9:00 a.m. **First Adirondackers: 12,000 Years of Indigenous Peoples in the Adirondack Uplands,** Dr. Curt Stager, Draper-Lussi Endowed Chair in Lake Ecology and Paleoecology, Paul Smith’s College, David Kanietakeron Fadden, Wolf Clan of the Kanienkehaka
- 10:00 a.m. **Panel: Timbuctoo: Creating Awareness, Access, and Opportunity,** Paul Hai, SUNY ESF
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. **Panel: Nature on the Move - Wildlife in a Changing World**  
John Davis, Adirondack Council, Overview of Wildlife Movement and Habitat Connectivity
- Noon Lunch – (Great Range)
- 1:00 p.m. **Panel: Updates: Invasives, Pests and Pathogens**
- 1:45 p.m. **The Uses of AI in Resource Protection**
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**  
• **Issues in the Build Environment: Mass Timber, Energy Codes, Flood Maps**
- 3:30 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**  
• **Water Protection at the Watershed Level**
- 4:15 p.m. **Student Poster Presentations and Reception**

**Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

- 8:00 a.m. Opens, Coffee
- 9:00 a.m. **Keynote: Connections Between Social and Ecological Sciences**, Jamie Shinn, Associate Professor, SUNY ESF
- 9:45 a.m. **Panel: Where People and Ecosystems Meet—Everyday Experiences in Social and Ecological Science**
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. **Panel: The Evolution of Energy Technologies**
- 11:15 a.m. **Panel: Community Perspectives on Key Issues**
- Noon Lunch (Great Range) - **Annual Awards Luncheon**
- Unveiling of the ACORN Rural Resilience Roadmap Website, Cedar Young
  - Presentation of the Richard H. Morse Student Award:
  - Presentation of the 2025 Elizabeth Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award:
- 1:30 p.m. **Workshop: Connecting Higher Education Research with Community Priorities**  
*This workshop is a follow-up to the North Country Climate Ready Workshop and St. Lawrence University's Community-High Ed Collaboration for Community Resilience fall program.*
- Panel Presentation:
  - Audience Discussion
  - “Speed Dating” Exercise
- 3:30 p.m. Adjourn