



Founded in 1994, the Adirondack Research Consortium is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based at Paul Smith's College. Our mission is to promote the exchange of research and knowledge to inform sound policy decisions that shape the future of the Adirondack region.

We lead a variety of educational initiatives, including the Annual Conference on the Adirondacks, held each May in Lake Placid, and topic-specific workshops on themes such as women in leadership, climate change communication, and the health of private forests in the North Country.

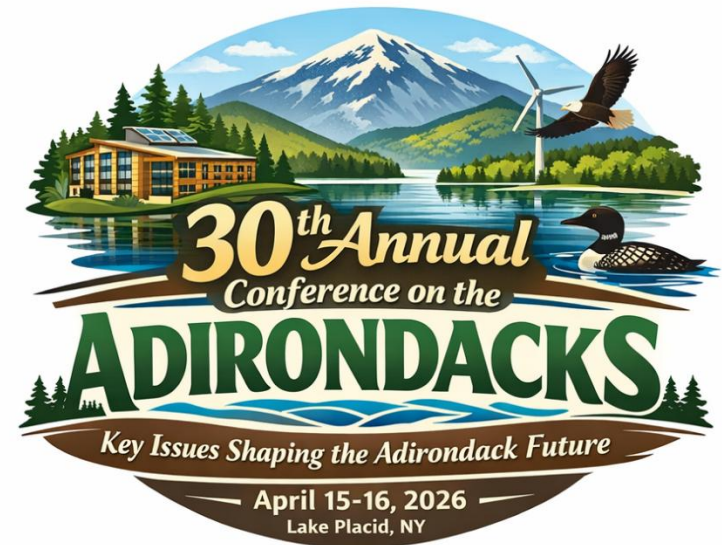
The Consortium also publishes the Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies each year, featuring articles that explore critical issues, research findings, and the work of organizations serving the Adirondack community.

We invite you to support our mission through a tax-deductible donation. Your contribution directly supports our efforts to advance environmental science and research in the Adirondacks. Thank you for your support!

The **Elizabeth Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award** is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated significant contributions to the long-term sustainability of Adirondack Park through scholarship, research, and policy initiatives. Past awardees include: **Nathalie Costa Thill**, Adirondack Center for Writing; **Robert C. Glennon**, Protect the Adirondacks; **Curt Stager**, Paul Smith College; **Diane Fish**, Adirondack Council; **Bill Porter**, Boone and Crockett Club Professor at Michigan State University; **Nina Schoch**, a wildlife veterinarian and biologist; **Ray Curran**, Adirondack ecologist; **Eileen Allen**, SUNY Plattsburgh; **Barbara Bedford**, Cornell University; **Joe Martens**, former Commissioner, NYS DEC; **Myron Mitchell**, SUNY ESF; **Jerry Jenkins**, Wildlife Conservation Society; **Dudley Raynal**, SUNY ESF; and, **Barbara McMartin**, Adirondack author.

30th Annual Conference on the Adirondacks " KEY ISSUES SHAPING THE ADIRONDACK FUTURE"

2026 Awards Luncheon



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Richard Dunn Morse, a dedicated environmental policy advocate and longtime member of the New York State Assembly, served for 32 years and played a key role in advancing landmark initiatives, including Superfund legislation. An avid outdoorsman and musician, he embraced activities ranging from alpine skiing and sailing to Ironman triathlons, with music remaining a lifelong passion. Established in his honor, the Richard Dunn Morse Award Fund provides

annual scholarships to students in and around the Adirondack region who share his commitment to environmental policy, music, and the outdoors—ensuring his legacy continues to inspire future generations.



**2026 Richard D. Morse Award Winner
Alexander Amann, M.S. Student, SUNY Plattsburgh**



Alex is a graduate student at SUNY Plattsburgh studying stream water chemistry dynamics in Adirondack forested watersheds. Originally from New Hampshire's Lakes Region, he developed a deep appreciation for aquatic systems and the surrounding landscape, along with a strong interest in environmental processes and outdoor recreation. He is an avid kayaker, hiker, cyclist, and skier.

Since moving to Plattsburgh, Alex has become active in the local Trout Unlimited chapter, volunteering on stream restoration projects. He is also passionate about music—he plays bass and performs with bands at venues from Plattsburgh to Saratoga. In fact, it's not uncommon to hear music drifting from the water quality lab while he carefully filters and analyzes samples.

**2026 Dr. Elizabeth W. Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award
Dr. Jon D. Erickson, University of Vermont**



An internationally recognized leader in ecological economics and sustainability science, Dr. Erickson's work spans climate policy, renewable energy, and watershed management—areas central to the long-term stewardship of the Adirondack region. As Professor of Ecological Economics and Associate Dean at the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School, he has produced an

extensive body of scholarship that advances understanding of land conservation, biodiversity, and bioregional planning. Equally impactful is his leadership within the Adirondack Research Consortium as a founding member and past president, and his service as editor of the Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies, where he helped strengthen the connection between research and policy. Through both his scholarship and public service, Dr. Erickson has made enduring contributions to environmental governance and sustainability in the Adirondacks, exemplifying the spirit and purpose of this award.

Liz Thorndike is a distinguished public policy leader whose career has been dedicated to environmental stewardship and organizational leadership. A founding force behind the Center for Environmental Information (CEI) in Rochester, she served for more than three decades in key roles including executive director, president, and board member. Her public service includes appointments to the Adirondack Park Agency, Governor Mario Cuomo's Environmental Advisory Board, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). She also played a pivotal role in establishing the Adirondack Research Consortium as a respected nonprofit and continues her service as a trustee of Paul Smith's College. This award is named in recognition of her many contributions to the Adirondack Research Consortium and her enduring impact on environmental leadership in this region and beyond.

