



30th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE ADIRONDACKS
April 15th and 16th, 2026
High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid, NY



KEY ISSUES SHAPING THE ADIRONDACK FUTURE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15TH, 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, Moderator, SUNY ESF, Timbuctoo Institute, "What is the Timbuctoo Institute"
 - Emme Christie, SUNY ESF, Systems Manager and Research Coordinator, "Measures of Success"
 - Alex Walls, SUNY ESF, Assistant Director, "Demonstration of Success"
- 10:45 a.m. **Break**
- 11:15 a.m. **Panel: Nature on the Move – Wildlife and Habitats in a Changing World**
- Mark Watson, Moderator, Adirondack Research Consortium
 - Joelee Tooley, Cornell University, Snapshot NY
 - John Davis, Adirondack Council, Overview of Wildlife Movement and Habitat Connectivity
 - Jessica Raspitha, Assistant Director, Environment Division, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Noon **Lunch** – (*Great Range*)
- Presentation: From Nepal to the Adirondacks: Community Conservation, and Lived Landscapes**, Dr. Melanie Johnson, Assistant Professor David Simmons, and students from Paul Smith's College will share reflections and insights from their recent trip to Nepal.
- 1:00 **Movement Session**
- Rose Pasquarello Beauchamp, University of Rochester

1:30 p.m. **Panel: Invasives Update:**

- Brian Greene, Moderator, APIPP
- Jason Denham, DEC and Jim Lieberum, Warren Co. SWCD - Lake George Hemlock Coalition
- Michele Curry, Blue Mountain Lake Association - Aquatic Invasive Species Management
- Angello Johnson, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division - Black Ash Protection Measures

2:30 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions I**

Panel 1 <i>(Algonquin)</i>	Remoteness in the Adirondack Park: Why It Matters and How We Protect It, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackie Bowen, Adirondack Council • Pete Nelson, Adirondack Wilderness Advocates
Panel 2 <i>(Iroquois)</i>	Drinking Water Source Protection Program, Opportunities for Water Infrastructure Funding, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaz Rorick, NYS Department of Health • Gabby Smith, Environmental Facilities Corporation
Panel 3 <i>(Wright)</i>	How You Too Can Build Watershed-Wide Connections - The Black River Watershed Coalition Case Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunita Halasz, Moderator, Adirondack Council • Nichelle Swisher, Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District • Katie WhitKovits, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District • Jillian Lee, NYS Tug Hill Commission

3:45 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions II**

Panel 1 <i>(Algonquin)</i>	Shoreline Biodiversity on Upper Saranac Lake, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michale Glennon, Moderator, Paul Smith's College & Adirondack Watershed Institute, • Alec Cimini, Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute An Assessment of the use of ProcellaCOR in Lake George, NY, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayla Grant, SUNY Plattsburgh
Panel 2 <i>(Iroquois)</i>	Equity, Belonging & the Land We Share, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiffany Rea-Fisher, Director, Adirondack Diversity Initiative
Panel 3 <i>(Wright)</i>	Publishing in AJES, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Henderson, University of Vermont • Ellen Percy Karly, Colgate University

4:30 p.m. **Reception** *(The Den)*

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2026

8:00 a.m. **Conference Re-opens**, Coffee

9:00 a.m. **Keynote: Bridging the Social and Ecological Sciences through Community-engaged Research: Insights from Appalachia**

- Dr. Jamie Shinn, Associate Professor, SUNY ESF

9:45 a.m. **Panel: Where People and Ecosystems Meet—Perspectives on Carrying Capacity, Saranac Chain of Lakes**

- Claudia Braymer, Moderator, Executive Director, Protect the Adirondacks
- Chris Amato, Conservation Director and Counsel, Protect the Adirondacks
- Dave Gibson, Managing Partner, Adirondack Wild

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. **Panel: The Evolution of Energy Technologies**

- The Importance of Energy Storage, Camille Warner, Moderator, NYSERDA
- Navigating New York's Energy Transition, Kevin Lanahan, New York ISO
- Renewable Energy Sector and Economic Development/Jobs, Andrew Rush, CHPE

11:15 a.m. **Panel: Adirondack Rural Community Opportunities and Challenges, Essex County Perspectives**

- Sunita Halasz, Moderator, Adirondack Council
- Joe Pete Wilson, Supervisor Town of Keene
- Hannah Neilly, Deputy Director Essex County Office of Community Resources
- Jim Dougan, Essex County Superintendent of Public Works
- Adirondack Community Foundation

12:15 p.m. **Lunch (Great Range) - Annual Awards Luncheon**

- Unveiling of the ACORN Rural Resilience Roadmap Website, Cedar Young
- Presentation of the Richard H. Morse Student Award: Alexander Amann, SUNY Plattsburgh, Colin Fuss, Sponsoring Professor
- Presentation of the 2026 Elizabeth Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award: Jon Erickson, University of Vermont

1:30 p.m. **Workshop: Connecting Higher Education Research with Community Priorities**

- Sunita Halasz, Adirondack Council, and Diane White Husic, St. Lawrence University, Facilitators
 - *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, and "Speed Dating" exercise

3:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

TABLES

- ❖ The Intersection of Art and Science, Michale Glennon, Paul Smith's College, Adirondack Watershed Institute
- ❖ Drinking Water Source Protection Program, Chaz Rorick, NYS Department of Health
- ❖ Opportunities for Water Infrastructure Funding, Gabby Smith, Environmental Facilities Corporation
- ❖ Survey of Climate Change and Lake Ecosystems (SCALE) Project, Jon Borrelli, The Jefferson Project at Lake George
- ❖ Protect the Adirondacks, Claudia Braymer
- ❖ AdkAction, Sawyer Bailey
- ❖ Ausable Freshwater Center, Marque Moffett

VISUAL/AUDITORY EXHIBIT *New this year!*

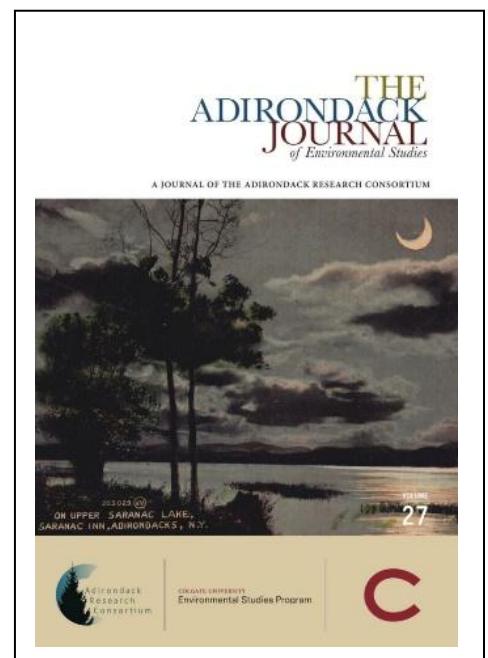
- ❖ Please take a moment to explore this year's Art Visual and Auditory Arts Installations, created by Stephanie Ashenfelder, University of Rochester and set up throughout the Conference Space

AJES - AVAILABLE NOW ONLINE

The Adirondack Research Consortium and Colgate University's Environmental Studies Program have formed a partnership to host the Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies (AJES). This peer-reviewed Journal is co-edited by Dr. Joseph Henderson, Colgate University alumnus, and Dr. Ellen Percy Kraly Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies emerita, Colgate University.

Drs. Henderson and Kraly stand ready to receive submissions for the next volume of the journal which will be published later in 2026. Researchers, artists, policy and community leaders, and students are encouraged to submit statements of interest:

jhenderson11@gmail.com; ekraly@colgate.edu.



WWW/AJES.COLGATE.EDU/