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Adirondack Chapter

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ADIRONDACK LAND TRUST

SPRING 2015



news

Saw-whet owl ©Megan Lorenz



ADIRONDACK LAND TRUST

Adirondack Chapter  
8 Nature Way | P.O. Box 65  
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Protecting nature. Preserving life.®



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## MEET THE STAFF

# The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program coordinator is on the hunt

## Q&A: Brendan Quirion



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### Adirondack Land Trust

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### How did you get started in conservation?

I've always been interested in natural resources and the environment. I mean, I was catching frogs and turtles and playing in the swamp behind my house when I was a kid growing up in Schoharie County. But what really got me interested in fisheries and wildlife was my uncle. He was an avid hunter and outdoorsman and introduced me to turkey hunting when I was 12. He worked really hard with me to get me my first turkey. After that my eyes were opened. I knew I wanted to be involved in some capacity in wildlife management and conservation.

### What brought you to the Adirondacks?

When I was studying wildlife management at SUNY Cobleskill, I kind of took the Adirondacks for granted. Then, as an intern with the New York State Department of Transportation, I worked on some of the first mapping of invasive plants in the Adirondacks. That's when it clicked: there are major problems with invasive species in the southern part of the state, and they're having a significant impact on the lakes and lands that I enjoyed recreating on. Once you experience the lands and waters of the Adirondacks, and how native and wild they are, it's hard not to be compelled to try to maintain those qualities.

### When you're hunting do you keep an eye out for invasive species?

I'm an avid tracker. During deer-hunting season I may bushwhack eight or ten miles a day just exploring new areas. And to be honest I don't think I've ever stumbled upon an invasive plant infestation way back in the woods. They're usually right at the trailhead or where there's some level of disturbance. I believe the Forest Preserve serves to some extent as a natural defense against invasive species. Thriving natural ecosystems provide fewer opportunities for invasives since the space is already occupied by native plants and animals.

### What can we do to help?

We hold trainings every summer on both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. People often have them on their property and don't even realize it. Trainings empower people to identify and manage invasive species. To sign up, see [adkinvasives.com](http://adkinvasives.com).

As far as what people can do right away, for aquatic invasives it comes down to Clean/Drain/Dry. Make sure you clean your watercraft and your fishing gear. Drain the bilge and live wells. Make sure your equipment dries long enough to kill off anything that may be hitchhiking.

On the land, make sure you garden only with noninvasive plants. While camping, use local firewood to prevent the spread of forest pests such as emerald ash borer or Asian long-horned beetle. Lastly, take ownership: if you find an invasive species while you're out and about, report it at [adkinvasives.com](http://adkinvasives.com) so we can try to address it.

*APIPP funding provided by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund and administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation via contract with The Nature Conservancy.*

# Stewardship is Forever

## \$2 Million Grant Creates Fred M. and Walker D. Kirby Land Stewardship Endowment at the Adirondack Land Trust

The Adirondack Land Trust is delighted to announce that the F. M. Kirby Foundation has made a \$2 million commitment to help fund perpetual care of working farms and forests under conservation easements.

The foundation established the Fred M. and Walker D. Kirby Land Stewardship Endowment to provide and inspire greater support for the critical but behind-the-scenes role of stewardship in land conservation.

“Purchase of land, or protection by voluntary agreement with a private landowner, is just the beginning of conservation work,” said S. Dillard Kirby, president of the F. M. Kirby Foundation. “Stewardship is forever. We hope this grant will encourage others to help meet long-term conservation needs at the Adirondack Land Trust.”

“The F. M. Kirby Foundation has been a key partner in Adirondack land protection since 1974,” said executive

Stewardship staff work in the field in all seasons, playing a critical but behind-the-scenes role in conservation management of private lands.



director Michael T. Carr. “The foundation has worked with Adirondack Land Trust for decades, now making the largest grant in the land trust’s history. The Fred M. and Walker D. Kirby Land Stewardship Endowment is truly a lasting legacy.”

The endowment honors Fred M. Kirby II, who passed away in 2011, and his wife, Walker. Walker continues to serve on the board of the F. M. Kirby Foundation, based in Morristown, New Jersey, with next-generation members of the family, who share her love of the Adirondacks and her support for effective private conservation action.



Fred M. and Walker D. Kirby at Jerseyfield Lake, in the Adirondacks. *Courtesy of the F. M. Kirby Foundation*

The Adirondack Land Trust protects working farms and forests, unbroken shorelines, scenic vistas and other lands contributing to the quality of life of Adirondack communities. The Kirby Endowment will boost the land trust’s capacity to care for 50 conservation easements spread across a 9,000-square-mile region of Northern New York. These properties include 20 working farms that produce milk, apples, eggs, cattle and hay (7,363 acres); 3,327 acres of working forests; 1,274 acres of recreation lands; and 1,733 acres of forested shoreline properties.

A conservation easement is a voluntary land-preservation agreement between a landowner and a land trust that determines how a tract will be managed and how its conservation values will be maintained over time. It is a legally binding pact that runs with the land no matter how many times a property changes hands. In accepting a conservation easement, the Adirondack Land Trust assumes a responsibility to monitor the property and ensure that easement goals are met in perpetuity. Stewardship includes regular site visits, working with landowners to advance mutual objectives, keeping accurate records, and communicating effectively to avoid violations of easement terms. It costs approximately \$5,500 per year per easement for the Adirondack Land Trust to meet these legal and moral obligations.

**To learn more or to make a gift to the Fred M. and Walker D. Kirby Land Stewardship endowment, contact Nancy Van Wie, director of philanthropy, at [nvanwie@tnc.org](mailto:nvanwie@tnc.org) | (518) 576-2082.**



Photos © Erika Edgley/TNC

## Towns and businesses team up

Above: Newcomb Guides, LLC, a new business, is gearing up to offer a shuttle service for paddlers, fishing and hunting trips, biking tours, snowshoeing excursions and more. Partners in the new venture met with town officials at the Newcomb Town Hall. In back, from left to right: Kelly Audino, Matt Savarie, Ruth Olbert, Dave Olbert, Deputy Town Supervisor Wester Miga, Tony Audino, Jason Richards. Front: Town Supervisor George Canon and Katie Richards, with Jacob Richards.

Above right: Grant funds are also seeding recreational development beyond the five main hub towns. Business owner Nate Pelton and Johnsbury town supervisor Ron Vanselow see North Creek as a base camp for visitors to new state lands, especially the 14-mile stretch of Upper Hudson now bordered almost exclusively by Forest Preserve.

Right: High Peaks Kitchen and Campground, in Newcomb, will build horse stalls to meet greater demand by equestrian visitors to Forest Preserve trails. Michelle Armstrong says customers enjoy seeing horses walk by her family's restaurant.



# Investing in Conservation and Communities

## Upper Hudson Recreation Hub Opens for Business

You won't find the Upper Hudson Recreation Hub as a name on a map, but Newcomb is one of five central Adirondack towns that collectively identify themselves under this new label. North Hudson, Minerva, Indian Lake, and Long Lake are the others. These communities host more than 80 percent of the former Finch lands being protected by the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Each is now implementing tourism and recreation projects recently awarded Upper Hudson Recreation Hub grants. The \$500,000 pool of funds, provided by the Conservancy and administered by DEC, is strengthening the link between local economies and conserved lands.

"We are light years ahead of where we were just five years ago," says town of Newcomb deputy supervisor Wester Miga. The town received a grant of \$60,000 for business-development and marketing efforts, including a new brochure, brochure racks, and banners along the Route 28 corridor. The project also supports Newcomb's expanding efforts to promote year-round recreational opportunities, lodging and other visitor amenities. "Our future economy is tourism," says George Canon, town supervisor.

Newcomb has long provided southern access to the High Peaks Wilderness, a popular hiking destination. In 2013, the town also became gateway to the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area, established after the Conservancy worked with DEC to add 18,300 acres to the publicly owned Forest Preserve. Since 2010, Newcomb has been connected via snowmobile trails to Indian Lake and Long Lake—trails that were secured for public use when DEC acquired a conservation easement from the Conservancy protecting 89,000 acres of private working forestlands. (Trail connections to North Hudson and Minerva are in the works.)

The story is similar in other communities with newly accessible former Finch lands. Upper Hudson Recreation Hub grants are supporting equestrian staging areas, modernized lodging, campground improvements and a microenterprise start-up project. It's all helping the heart of the Adirondack Park beat stronger than ever.



### Heart of the Adirondacks project

In 2007, a private equity firm purchased Finch, Pruyn & Co.'s paper mill in Glens Falls; The Nature Conservancy purchased the company's Adirondack forestlands—161,000 acres in all, featuring 415 miles of rivers and streams, 300 lakes and ponds, 90 mountain peaks and 16,000 acres of wetlands. The company now operates under the name Finch Paper.

The Conservancy has been steadily implementing a conservation plan for the forests. More than half of the land is protected by conservation easements that prevent development and allow sustainable timber harvest. About 65,000 acres are being protected as state land.



"Our future economy is tourism."

George Canon  
Newcomb town supervisor

## #507 Fund Supports Alpine Stewardship

Dr. Edwin Ketchledge (1924–2010), known fondly as Ketch, was a passionate botanist, teacher and researcher who founded an innovative program to protect the fragile plants atop the highest Adirondack mountains.

Ketch was gravely wounded in the 10th Mountain Division's Italian campaign during World War II. When he recovered, he treasured every day. The Adirondack Summit Stewardship Program is a result of his commitment to a meaningful life.

As outdoor recreation grew in popularity over the last century, hikers inadvertently trampled the windswept tundra of the High Peaks. Ketch realized the problem could be solved by education, and he led an effort to place stewards above tree line, to teach hikers how they can preserve the resource.

Now, a new fund honors Ketch by creating a perpetual annual income stream to secure the long-term future of the Summit Stewards. The #507 Fund (Ketch was the 507th person on record to climb all 46 Adirondack High Peaks) is hosted and managed by the Adirondack Foundation, an accredited community foundation. Annual grants from the endowment



©Nancy Battaglia

Dr. Edwin Ketchledge.

will support on-site hiker education and research. The fund may also one day help put stewards on additional peaks.

The Adirondack Summit Stewardship Program is a partnership of The Nature Conservancy, Adirondack Mountain Club and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The program reached a record 28,488 hikers last year and has made progress in restoring alpine ecosystems. While hiker ethics are improving, the number of visitors to the High Peaks is increasing. There are always new people to enlist in the cause of alpine stewardship.

**To learn more and to make a gift, see [507fund.org](http://507fund.org) or contact Cali Brooks, Adirondack Foundation director, at (518) 523-9904.**



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## Postcard from Palau Wild Islands of Hope

Last fall communications director Connie Prickett traveled with some New York and U.S. Nature Conservancy staff to Palau, a Pacific island nation seven degrees north of the Equator. The Conservancy works around the world to protect lands and waters on which all life depends. Members and staff are encouraged to visit other conservation sites, to exchange ideas and gain perspective. The Adirondack Chapter has hosted staff from China, Dominican Republic, Chile and Columbia. To learn more about Conservancy trips, see [nature.org/travel](http://nature.org/travel). Following are some thoughts Connie sent home during a trip to the other side of the globe.

Most of the snorkeling and scuba-diving visitors in Palau come from Japan and Taiwan. It was a longer haul for me, yet now that I'm here it feels closer to the Adirondacks than I'd ever imagined.

For one, Palau's 40 protected areas and the Adirondacks' 2.7 million acres of Forever-Wild forest draw people from around the world. During dinner one night, President Tommy Remengesau and I compared notes about how the Adirondacks and Palau are both investing in tourism amenities to draw sustainable economic value from nature's beauty.

The Conservancy has worked in Palau since 1992. Staff from the Micronesia program are fantastic hosts, showing us around and introducing us to conservation partners. I've never seen coral reefs as diverse as those in the Rock Islands Protected Area. The reefs provide seafood and storm protection, and, like Adirondack forests, are so far demonstrating resilience to climate change.

We may not have groupers in the Adirondacks, but we do have trout and freshwater that are vulnerable to rising temperature and shoreline encroachment. People in Palau are identifying strategies to withstand intensifying threats to the natural world, which is intricately tied to their way of life.

Palau offers hope by demonstrating how protected areas play a central role in sustainability, for nature and people.

—Connie Prickett

# Trio of Knowledge

Three reports provide new information to address issues in the field

The Nature Conservancy bases its work on the best available science. When information isn't available, we research questions ourselves and make the findings available. Three recent reports provide new data to help us and others make better decisions.



**1** *Lake Trout and Climate Change in the Adirondacks* provides the first status update on the ice-age relicts since 1977. The report also assesses which kinds of Adirondack lakes are likely to lose coldwater basins and which are likely to remain viable as temperatures increase.

**2** *The Actual and Potential Economic Impact of Invasive Species in the Adirondack Park: A Preliminary Assessment*, commissioned by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, looks at eight invasive species and anticipated costs on property values, forestry, recreation and other economic sectors. Without strategic investments in prevention, the cost to the Adirondacks is estimated at \$900 million.



**3** *Boat Inspection and Decontamination for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention: Recommendations for the Adirondack Region* by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Paul Smith's College, Lake Champlain Basin Program and Lake George Association is guiding a new park-wide boat-and-trailer inspection and decontamination program.

PDFs of these reports are online; search by title. For a paper version, contact Connie Prickett, communications director, at [cprickett@tnc.org](mailto:cprickett@tnc.org) | (518) 576-2082.

# GET OUTDOORS!

Connect with nature on guided hikes at three favorite Adirondack conservation sites.

**Spring Wildflowers at Coon Mountain**  
**Tuesday, May 5**



©Connie Prickett/TNC

Join naturalist and licensed outdoor guide Elizabeth Lee in search of bloodroot, sharp-lobed hepatica and other delicate wildflowers of the Champlain Valley spring woods. *Moderate terrain with one steep section, up to 2 miles.*

**Mushroom Walk at Spring Pond Bog**  
**Wednesday, June 24**



©Erika Edgley/TNC

Former Adirondack Conservation Intern Walker Cammack returns to explore our largest preserve in search of mushrooms. Walker specializes in wild edibles, but we'll also look at other fungi, pitcher plants and the curious life of boreal bogs. *Up to 1 mile of mostly level walking and some bushwhacking.*

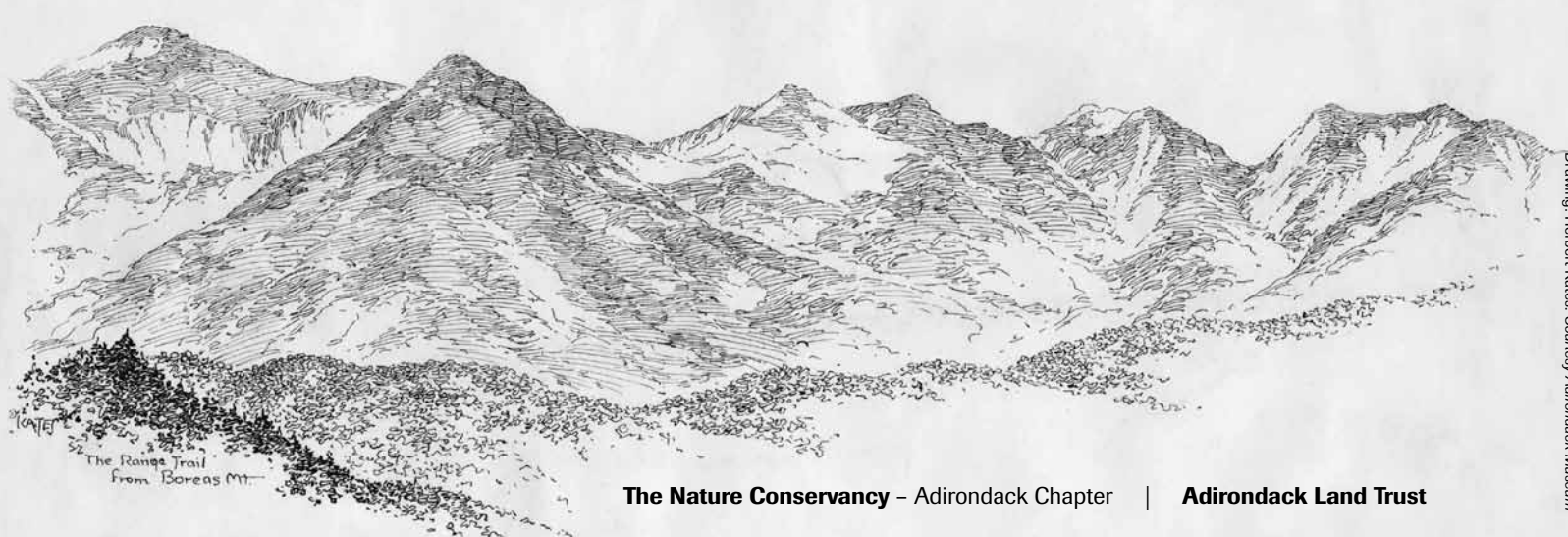
**The Amazing Mosses of OK Slip Falls**  
**Saturday, September 12**



©Blake Gordon for TNC

Dr. Sean Robinson, a professor of biology at SUNY-Oneonta and a former Summit Steward, will lead us on a hike to the 250-foot falls. High moisture and cool temperatures nurture an unusual abundance of mosses and liverworts at the site. *5-mile round trip over moderate terrain.*

**Group size is limited to 8. Outings begin at 10 a.m. and end early-to-mid afternoon. For more details or to sign up, please contact Sophie McClelland at [smcclelland@tnc.org](mailto:smcclelland@tnc.org).**



Drawing: Herbert Kates. Courtesy: Adirondack Museum

The Nature Conservancy – Adirondack Chapter | Adirondack Land Trust

## Annual Meeting

## Save the Date

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8**

**Tannery Pond Community Center  
North Creek**

- 2:30 pm Arrival
- 3:00 pm Conservation update and annual meeting
- 4:30 pm Cocktail reception with trustees and staff

**Come to the North Creek area early or stay an extra day to explore special places your support has helped to protect, including:**

- Hudson River Ice Meadows, short walk, off Route 28 near Warrensburg
- OK Slip Falls, 5-mile round-trip hike, off Route 28
- Indian/Hudson/Cedar rivers, 1.5-mile round-trip hike to Indian/Hudson confluence, or 7.4-mile round-trip hike to Cedar River, from Chain Lakes Road, Indian Lake

**To register for the annual meeting, or for more information on self-guided day trips, please contact [ewalkow@tnc.org](mailto:ewalkow@tnc.org)**



A little  
planning today  
can make a  
big difference  
tomorrow.

## CREATE YOUR LEGACY

A planned gift allows you to have a tremendous impact on the natural world.

An outright gift of stock or real estate can result in immediate conservation benefits and tax savings.

By naming the Conservancy and/or Land Trust as a beneficiary of a 401(k), IRA or life-insurance policy, a portion of your estate, or your residual estate, you can:

- Retain control of your assets during your lifetime
- Modify your bequest if circumstances change
- Realize possible estate tax savings

You can also make a lasting gift while providing yourself or others with income for life.

### LET US KNOW

If you've already named The Nature Conservancy or Adirondack Land Trust in your estate plans, we'd love to hear from you.

To learn more please contact: Erin Walkow | (800) 266-2082 ext. 133 | [ewalkow@tnc.org](mailto:ewalkow@tnc.org) | [nature.org/bequest](http://nature.org/bequest)