



**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on the Adirondacks**  
**May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid, NY**

**"Resilience in Action: Addressing Climate Challenges in the Adirondacks"**  
*Impacts, Socio-ecological Issues, Human Responses*

The 29th Annual Conference on the Adirondacks will explore the theme “Resilience to Climate Change in the North Country.” Featuring keynote addresses, expert panels, and interactive sessions, the event will address climate impacts, socio-ecological issues, and human responses across the Adirondack region. Highlights include discussions on invasive species, wildlife, water quality, sustainable building, and the unveiling of findings from the ACORN Project. With participation from academic leaders, environmental organizations, and policymakers, the conference offers a platform for collaboration and innovation in building regional resilience.

**DRAFT PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

- 8:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Poster, and Exhibit Set-Up (Avalanche Pass)
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Messages: Ellen Percy Kraly, ARC President
- 9:15 a.m. Keynote Speaker: TBD, Civic Trust, Social Capital, and Resilience
- 10:00 a.m. Panel: Higher education as a driving force for meaningful, systemic change in resilience and sustainability through leadership in climate resilience, community engagement and partnerships, and preparing future leaders.
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m.
  1. An overview of the NYSERDA Climate Assessment
  2. An overview of the Assessment's Society and Economy Sector, especially regarding North Country issues. Potential speaker: Robin Leichenko, Dept. of Geography, Rutgers University, and Sector Co-chair.
  3. Climate resilience case studies from the North Country - communities that have been impacted, how they recovered, what programs/funds they utilized, and how they are preparing for the future.
  4. An overview of the ACORN project, Sunita Halasz
- Noon Lunch – (Great Range) Speaker:  
  
Meet the Poster Authors
- 1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions:
 

Session 1: (Algonquin) Invasive Species Update
Session 2: (Iroquois)
Session 3: (Wright)

2:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions:
	Session 1: (Wright) Adirondack Wildlife
	Session 2: (Algonquin)
	Session 3: (Iroquois)

3:00: p.m.	Concurrent Sessions:
	Session 1: (Wright)
	Session 2: (Algonquin)
	Session 3: (Iroquois)

4:00 p.m. Reception (The Den)

**Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

8:00 a.m. Opens, Coffee

9:00 a.m. Panel: Survey of Climate Change in Adirondack Lake Ecosystems (SCALE), (Dave Miller), Water Quality Research in Adirondacks: History, Program Parameters, Initial Findings and Program’s Goals, Plans moving forward.

- Kevin C. Rose, Ph.D., Associate Professor & Frederic R. Kolleck '52 Career Development Chair in Freshwater Ecology, Acting Director, The Darrin Freshwater Institute Director, The Jefferson Project
- How climate change magnifies the impact of pollution sources in Adirondack Park.

9:45 a.m. Panel: Water Quality, Case statements from Successful Programs, Threats to Adirondack Waters: Lessons from Lake George

- Moderator & Introduction: David Miller, Adirondack Council Clean Water Program Coordinator
- Major Threats to Adirondack Waters from WWTPs, Septic Systems, Non-Point Runoff, and Road Salt.
- Chris Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper: Lessons Learned from Lake George: A comprehensive approach to water quality protection and a model for Lakes throughout the Park.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Panel: Panel: Adirondack Built Environment, Opportunities and Challenges for Building Construction in the Adirondacks: Wild Center, Green Building Council, NOA (Kevin)

Noon Annual Awards Luncheon:

- Speaker:
- Richard H. Morse Student Award:
- Presentation of the 2025 Elizabeth Thorndike Adirondack Achievement Award:

1:30 p.m. Group Discussion: Findings and Future Actions of the Adirondack Climate Outreach and Resilience Network (ACORN), (Sunita)

3:00 p.m. Adjourn