

AJES

Adirondack Journal of
Environmental Studies

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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MISSION STATEMENT

The *Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies* (AJES) exists to foster a dialogue about the broad range of issues that concern the Adirondacks and Northern Forest.

AJES serves to bridge the gaps among academic disciplines and among researchers and practitioners devoted to understanding and promoting the development of sustainable communities, both human and wild.

The journal purposefully avoids serving as a vehicle for any single or special point of view. To the contrary, in searching for common ground AJES welcomes variety and a broad spectrum of perspectives from its contributors.

CONTRIBUTING TO AJES

We encourage the submission of manuscripts, reviews, photographs, artwork and letters to the editor. For additional information please visit the AJES website at www.ajes.org/ or contact Jon Erickson at jon.erickson@uvm.edu or 802-656-3328.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Adirondack Research Consortium was founded with a single intent: to bring together those who do research and those who make decisions about the Park. The motive was a recognition that researchers and policy makers often traveled in different circles and would benefit from greater contact with one another. Policy makers needed partners to better understand the science underlying complex issues and researchers needed partners to help frame the scientific questions of the future.

In the past two years, ARC has begun building on that mission at an accelerating pace. The first goal was to put the organization on firm financial footing and build a strong leadership team. With the establishment of the organization as a 501(c)(3), ARC began to acquire the financial resources necessary to hire an executive director. We were successful in hiring Dan Fitts and adding new board members with strong experience in public service and business. As a result, the ARC is now moving forward aggressively.

Our goal over the next two years is to build a forum for the exchange of a widening array of ideas. That forum will take two forms. First, our goal is to build the annual ARC conference into a meeting that serves a much broader audience in the Adirondacks. We seek to attract the business community, local government leaders, county planners and state agency staffs. We seek to bring in representatives of industry and environmental advocates, and educators as well as researchers.

Where in the past this was a meeting of 100 people, our goal is to attract 300 within the next two years. We intend to do that by listening more carefully to what people and organizations would like to hear more about, or wish to present. And we intend to target a more diverse spectrum of topics.

Simultaneously, we are moving forcefully to provide an electronic forum for the exchange of ideas. The *Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies* is moving to electronic publishing with a goal of being more accessible to a wider audience. This move is in keeping with the trend among researchers to offer more information on the Internet. However, just as much of the new information arising at our annual conference comes not only from the formal presentations, but also the networking, so we are reaching into the electronic world to provide that combination. In addition to *AJES*, the ARC is now offering a blog that is open to all. Please check out our evolving site at <http://www.adkresearch.blogspot.com>.

The payoff for all of this is an Adirondack community that is more organized and more effective in promoting the opportunities for the region. At their core, these qualities emerge from good, well-informed decisions about how to sustain a healthy wilderness environment and grow a vibrant regional economy. We look forward to working with you toward these goals.

William F. Porter
President, Adirondack
Research Consortium