

For Immediate Release
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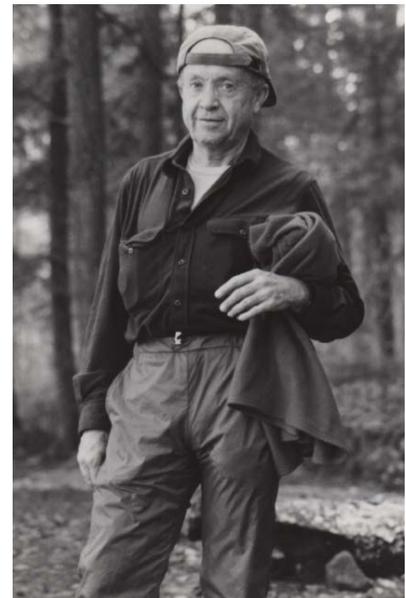
**Adirondack Wild's Annual Awards Program Set in the Champlain Valley;
Gary Randorf, Champlain Area Trails , and John Davis to be Honored**

Whallonsburg, NY -- Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve presents its highest honor, **the Paul Schaefer Wilderness Award**, to **Gary Randorf** for a lifetime of achievement in protecting and educating the world about the wild Adirondack Park.

The award will be presented in absentia to Randorf's close friends at a ceremony during the organization's Annual Meeting at **The Grange in Whallonsburg**, Essex County, NY on Saturday morning, **October 5**. Gary Randorf now lives in North Carolina, but used to live in Essex. Following the presentation, Bonnie MacLeod will present a slide show of Gary's wild land photography, courtesy of the Adirondack Council.

In addition, Adirondack Wild presents its Wild Stewardship Award to **Champlain Area Trails (CATS)**, headquartered in Westport, NY for that organization's effectiveness in creating and stewarding trails in the Champlain Valley to link communities and ecosystems. **Chris Maron**, Executive Director and **Katharine Preston**, Board Chair, will accept the award.

John Davis, a resident of Essex, NY and former Conservation Director for the Adirondack Council, former staff for the Foundation for Deep Ecology, former editor of *Wild Earth*, and land manager with the Eddy Foundation will also receive the organization's Wild Stewardship Award.



Gary Randorf. Photo ©Ken Rimany

Adirondack Wild's annual meeting and award presentations are free and open to the public. The meeting begins at 10 AM on October 5 at The Grange. For reservations and directions to The Grange, visit www.adirondackwild.org.

Gary Randorf began his career in 1972 as an ecologist with the NYS Adirondack Park Agency and conducted, along with the legendary Clarence Petty, a comprehensive review of Park's wild, scenic and recreational rivers. He later became executive director of the Adirondack Council, where he led that organization to new heights as a Park advocate. He became a leader in the fight to combat acid rain's devastating impacts on the Park's fish, soils and freshwater. Later, Randorf returned to the APA as an educator and interpreter for the new Park Visitor Interpretive Centers.

His award-winning Adirondack and wild land photography continues to capture interest from around the nation and the world in the beauty and global significance of the Adirondacks. In his beautiful book *The Adirondacks, Wild Island of Hope* (2002), Gary Randorf wrote about the Adirondacks: "We are and will continue to set an example of how to do it – that is saving a wilderness that includes people. If we fail, we fail not only our state, our country and ourselves, but also the world."

Dan Plumley, Adirondack Wild partner, who once worked with Randorf at the Adirondack Council, says: "From his leading work with the young Adirondack Park Agency, assessing the park's Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, fighting side by side with him for federal legislation to combat acid rain, or standing up to rapacious developers, Gary Randorf used his drive, intellect, voice and photography to secure the Adirondack Park for a generation and generations to come. Gary epitomizes all that Paul Schaefer taught us in the fight for protecting wild places."

Adirondack Wild's Ken Rimany is a friend and fellow photographer: "I met Gary in 1994 when Adirondack conservationist Paul Schaefer received the Governor's Environmental Achievement Award. Paul greatly admired Gary for his legendary contributions as a wilderness advocate and photographer. How appropriate now that Gary earns this award in Paul's name and honor."

Adirondack Wild partner Dave Gibson adds: "There has been no better educator, advocate and friend of the Champlain Valley and the entire Adirondack Park than Gary Randorf. Furthermore, Gary would be applauding the other worthy award winners today, Champlain Area Trails and John Davis. He would recognize that they are not just following in his footsteps but advancing connections between wild places and human communities in new and exciting ways."

Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve reorganized in the summer of 2010 as a not-for-profit, member-supported organization devoted to wilderness and wild nature. Adirondack Wild advances New York's "Forever Wild" legacy and promotes policies and land stewardship consistent with wild land values through education, advocacy and research. For more, please go to www.adirondackwild.org.

