



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Dan Plumley, 518-524-7771, [dplumley@adirondackwild.org](mailto:dplumley@adirondackwild.org)

David Gibson, 518-469-4081, [dgibson@adirondackwild.org](mailto:dgibson@adirondackwild.org)

## Former APA State Land Chair Honored

Indian Lake, NY – **Dick Booth**, former Adirondack Park Agency (APA) State Land Chair and Member of the APA for eight years was honored this month for his public service to the APA, the Adirondack Park and the Park's people and wilderness. He received the **Paul Schaefer Wilderness Award** from the not-for-profit **Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve** at the organization's annual members meeting at the Indian Lake Theater.

The award reads: "By upholding the integrity of the Adirondack Park's laws as a member of the Adirondack Park Agency and chair of its State Land Committee, casting difficult votes, expecting policy analysis and high standards protective of wildlands and natural resources, you have been the APA's conscience, critical thinker and exemplary public servant, showing how the Adirondack Park can be a global example and beacon of hope to youth of distant tomorrows."

"Dick was the conscience of the APA and always expected the agency to uphold its responsibilities, meet high standards, and elevate its policy discourse," said Adirondack Wild's Dan Plumley. "His extraordinary public service, especially on behalf of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, would have earned the esteem of Paul Schaefer, our founder. We are honored to present Dick this award in Paul's name."

Among Booth's finest moments recognized by Adirondack Wild were his carefully reasoned votes against the Adirondack Club and Resort subdivision, the Essex Chain of Lakes Unit Management Plan and the State Land Master Plan amendments of 2016. Last June during his final week serving the APA he issued a detailed memorandum for public distribution on State Land Master Plan Classifications of Large-Acreage Forest Preserve Acquisitions. Parts of the Dick Booth memo were read during the award ceremony, including this: "The Master Plan forcefully

favors the protection of large, wild, remote, high resource value tracts of the Adirondack Park's Forest Preserve lands from intensive human use, including motorized uses and motorized access. The SLMP does so because it is vitally important that people have meaningful and extensive opportunities to experience nature in its unbridled form without many of the intrusions of the modern world. Protecting those opportunities today is increasingly important and difficult because the world in 2016 is so much more crowded and busier a place than it was in 1972. Protecting and enhancing those opportunities will become ever more significant and ever more challenging as the decades proceed, as new generations arrive, and as technology wears away at more and more of the world's natural fabric."



Dick Booth holds the award, featuring a Carl Heilman II aerial of the Essex Chain of Lakes Primitive Area. Photo by Ken Rimany, Adirondack Wild

In his acceptance remarks, Dick Booth recalled his joining the APA's staff as a young lawyer in 1972 and how he benefited from the wisdom of the agency's first chairman, Richard Lawrence, APA's planning director George Davis and others. After growing up in Plattsburgh he told the audience that he had been drawn to teaching in the classroom and in the outdoors, as well as the law. He taught school in the Park and counseled at various Adirondack summer camps before gaining legal training, joining the APA staff and eventually joining the City and Regional Planning faculty at Cornell University where he still teaches. He concluded his remarks by urging Adirondack Wild's members and guests to "keep the pressure up" on the NYS Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation.

The award is named after Paul Schaefer (1908-1996), foremost Adirondack wilderness coalition leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, who was also an Adirondack author, archivist, film-maker, hunter and guide, and builder of early American, Dutch-styled homes as well as Adirondack camps. Schaefer was named by *Audubon* magazine as one of the 100 most influential conservationists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Among the many organizations he founded was Friends of the Forest Preserve in 1945, which was reorganized and renamed Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve in 2010. Adirondack Wild is a not for profit, membership organization which advances New York's "Forever Wild" legacy and Forest Preserve policies in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, and promotes public and private land stewardship consistent with wild land values through education, advocacy and research. More can be found at [www.adirondackwild.org](http://www.adirondackwild.org).