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**For Immediate Release**

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**Adirondack Wild to Host September 5th Community Forum in Keene Valley**

**Forum to Present Practical Steps to Sustain Communities, Connectivity, and Wild Places in the Adirondack Park**

Keene, NY – *Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve* holds its first public forum focused on the ten strategies outlined in its recently published guidebook *Pathways to a Connected Adirondack Park – Practical Steps to Better Land Use Decisions*. The community forum takes place at **7 PM, September 5, 2017 at the Keene Valley Congregational Church** in the church's Van Santvoord Room off Rt. 73 in Keene Valley. The meeting is free of charge and refreshments will be served. Public participation is encouraged.

The event will feature an illustrated presentation by guidebook author Dr. Michael Klemens, Adirondack Wild's Advisor in Landscape Conservation. Following his presentation, discussion, questions and comments from the public are invited and encouraged. Residents and visitors in Keene Valley, Keene, Upper Jay, Jay and nearby communities are warmly invited both to listen and to participate. *Pathways to a Connected Adirondack Park* can be downloaded at [www.adirondackwild.org](http://www.adirondackwild.org) and hard copies will be available at the forum.

The publication's author is conservation biologist Dr. Michael Klemens who states that: "In this time of decreasing state and federal support for conservation, locally-based grass roots efforts such as described in *Pathways* will become ever the more vital to sustaining the ecological and economic health of the Adirondack Park."

"Empowering local government, community leaders and residents to plan for conservation, protection and community resiliency in an era of rapid changes, both environmental and political, is an urgent task," stated Adirondack Wild's Dan Plumley, a resident of Keene. "We published *Pathways* to empower local efforts to plan with ecological systems in mind, thereby securing and sustaining the wild, rural qualities that attract so many to visit, recreate or reside here for a lifetime. We sponsor this forum in that spirit, to bring friends and neighbors together to explore and address these challenges."

*Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve* 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.