



## For Immediate Release

September 27, 2017

Contact: Ken Rimany, [krimany@adirondackwild.org](mailto:krimany@adirondackwild.org)  
or Dave Gibson, 518-469-4081, Dan Plumley 518-524-7771

### **Adirondack Wild Presents 2017 Wilderness and Wild Stewardship Awards at Tannery Pond, North Creek, on Saturday 9/30**

North Creek, NY – **Adirondack Wilderness Advocates**, an advocacy group which has sparked an outpouring of feeling and support for a Wilderness classification of Boreas Ponds, will receive *Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve's* highest honor – **the Paul Schaefer Wilderness Award**.

The wilderness award will be conveyed on Saturday afternoon, September 30<sup>th</sup> at Adirondack Wild's annual meeting at the Tannery Pond Community Center in North Creek. The meeting includes a Community Forum about Practical Steps to Better Land Use Decisions in the Adirondack Park beginning at 1 PM. The meeting and forum are open to the public, but reservations are requested. There is no charge. To reserve, please contact Ken Rimany at [krimany@adirondackwild.org](mailto:krimany@adirondackwild.org).

**Paul Schaefer Wilderness Award: Adirondack Wilderness Advocates** is an informal advocacy organization which was among the first to recommend a full Wilderness classification for the 21,000-acre Boreas Ponds tract, including the closure of the Gulf Brook Road which cuts through the tract. AWA's founders, Bill Ingersoll, Pete Nelson and Brendan Wiltse, thoroughly documented the area's wilderness attributes, and its potential for wilderness restoration in the future through the closure of the Gulf Brook Road and other management actions that could happen if the tract was classified Wilderness. In addition, AWA inspired dozens of young outdoorspeople, residents and visitors, to speak out for Wilderness during

the eight public hearings sponsored by APA in late 2016. That strong turnout contributed to the more than 80% of public comments supportive of Wilderness. The NYS Adirondack Park Agency (APA) has not yet announced its decisions regarding State Land classification.

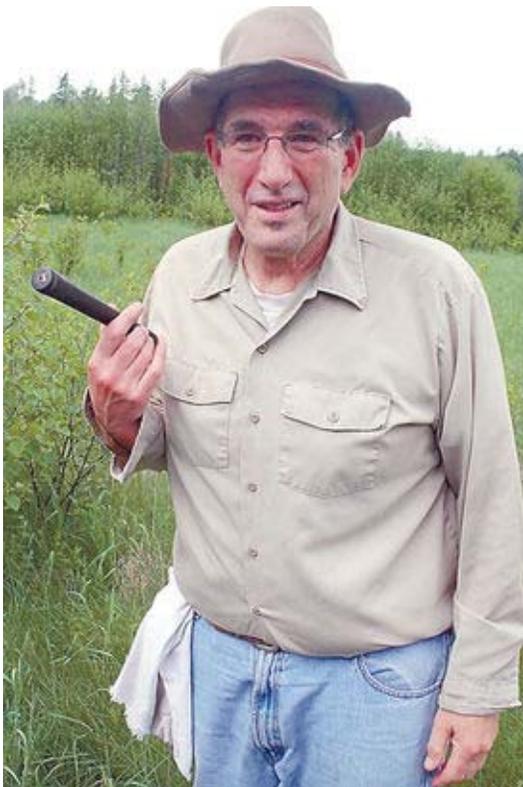


*Pete Nelson of AWA, at right with microphone, answers a question during a Forum about Boreas Ponds in Schroon Lake.*

“AWA’s founders and followers have given voice to the many young people choosing to live in the Adirondack Park because of its wildness,” reads Adirondack Wild’s award. “They have the vision and courage to speak out for a fully wild Boreas Ponds that is roadless, unmechanized and ecologically intact to benefit not just themselves but the many to follow. They are worthy successors to Paul Schaefer (1908-1996), Friends of the Forest Preserve founder, whose goal was a wilderness to save and explore for youth of distant tomorrows.”

**Wild Stewardship Award, Dr. Michael W. Klemens:** Michael Klemens is a conservation biologist who earned an achievement award from the American Planning Association recognizing his accomplishment in integrating complex ecological data into land use planning decisions in the Hudson

Valley and Connecticut. Dr. Klemens seeks to transport these strategies and practical steps for better land use planning to the Adirondack Park. These strategies are contained in the guidebook he authored and which Adirondack Wild published this year, *Pathways to a Connected Adirondack Park*. Community forums to discuss these strategies at the grassroots level, such as this meeting at Tannery Pond, are underway. Over the course of 30 years, Dr. Klemens has made a personal journey from a museum-based research scientist into the realm of ecology and applied science and public policy. In addition to his consultancy with Adirondack Wild, Dr. Klemens is a Research Associate in Herpetology at the American Museum of Natural History and serves as gubernatorial appointee to the Connecticut Siting Council which determines the placement of telecommunications and energy generation facilities in that State. He is the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission in his home town of Salisbury, CT and has worked for many years with the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, among many other not-for-profit organizations.



*Michael Klemens*

**In Honor and in Memory of John Collins:** Adirondack Wild will also pause during its award presentations to remember John Collins of Blue Mountain Lake who devoted his life to the wilderness and people of the Adirondacks.

Adirondack Wild's meeting at Tannery Pond Community Center is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested. To reserve, please contact Ken Rimany by email at [krimany@adirondackwild.org](mailto:krimany@adirondackwild.org). *Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve*([www.adirondackwild.org](http://www.adirondackwild.org)) 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.