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## NEWS

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10/24/02

### Pro-Adirondack stewards earn special DEC awards

ALBANY — The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has presented the 11th-annual Adirondack Stewardship Awards to David Gillespie of the Alpine Club of Canada and to the New York State Ranger School in Wanakena.

"Stewardship is one of our most important tools in managing and preserving the beautiful lands and waters of the Adirondacks," Commissioner Erin M. Crotty said in a news release.

The Adirondack Stewardship Award is presented by DEC to groups or individuals who demonstrate outstanding care of the natural resources of the Adirondack Park.

The awards were presented at the Centennial Conference of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, held at the Adirondack League Club.

The award went to Gillespie "in recognition of his role, through his work with the Alpine Club of Canada, in facilitating communication between the DEC and Canadian visitors to the Adirondacks and for fostering stewardship of the Forest Preserve in Canadians and Americans alike."

He is the volunteer coordinator for the Alpine Club of Canada's Montreal Section, as well as the manager of the section's Keene Farm property in Keene Valley.

The 105-acre Keene Farm property, purchased in 1966, provides housing and camping facilities in a primitive setting for members of the Montreal Section of the Alpine Club.

Gillespie organizes more than 200 volunteer Canadian hikers and climbers annually to assist in trail maintenance in the Adirondacks and educates them about DEC rules.

DEC also recognized the Ranger School's "90 years of commitment to the stewardship and sustainable management of lands

throughout the Adirondack Park and for educating nine generations of land stewards."

The Ranger School, in St. Lawrence County, is a division of the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse.

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