

ADK Today

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Trail Conditions

The Eastern High Peaks, Dix Mountain and Giant Mountain wilderness areas are all open for public recreation, but a few trails remain closed in the Eastern High Peaks and the Dix Mountain wilderness areas. State Route 73 is open. The bridge to the Garden parking lot is limited to vehicles under 6,000 pounds. Please use caution. More information is available on ADK's [Trail Conditions](#) page, which is updated weekly. Information on Catskill trail conditions is available [here](#). And here is the [Fall Foliage Report](#).

In the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, ADK's Trails Program was inundated with calls and emails from eager volunteers. More than 150 people signed up for Fall Trails Day on Saturday (Oct. 1), but because of the enthusiastic response, registration was closed early. But you can still help by supporting ADK's [Trails Appeal](#).

Allegany State Park

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has signed two bills that will help protect Allegany State Park from natural gas drilling. Allegany is vulnerable to drilling because the state does not own the subsurface rights to all of the park's 65,000 acres. Under one of the laws, subsurface claims that have been dormant for more than 20 years will revert to the state unless the claimant files a timely notice of claim. The second measure gives the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) the authority to regulate surface activities related to drilling in the park and to take steps to mitigate environmental impacts from such activities as land clearing, tree cutting and road building. ADK's Public Affairs Office helped craft both bills and shepherded them through the legislative process.

Allegany State Park, which is widely used for outdoor recreation by ADK members in western New York, is the site of the 2011 ADK [Fall Outing](#) scheduled for Oct. 14-16.

In a related issue, DEC has released proposed regulations for natural gas drilling using high-volume hydraulic fracturing. The draft regs create a legal framework for implementing the proposed mitigation measures in the revised draft [Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement](#). Comments will be accepted on the proposed regs and the SGEIS through Dec. 12. More information [here](#) and [here](#).

Catskill Map

The ADK/National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map for the Catskills is now available. The Catskill map is designed to be used with ADK's guidebooks covering the region, including "Catskill Trails," "Catskill Day Hikes for All Seasons" and the soon-to-be-released "The Catskill 67: A Hiker's Guide to the Catskill 100 Highest Peaks Under 3500'."

The large-format, folded, waterproof trail map retails for \$11.95. ADK member price is \$10.76. The map is widely available at bookstores, outdoor stores and at ADK stores in [Lake George](#) and [Heart Lake](#) (near Lake Placid). Call ADK at (800) 395-8080 or (518) 668-4447 (Mon.-Sat., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.) to place an order.

Presidents' Dinner

ADK's 11th Annual Presidents' Dinner will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, at Michael's Banquet House, Route 9, Latham. For more information, or to make a reservation, [click here](#).

St. John Trail Project

The ADK Supervised Volunteer Trails Program is again heading south to St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In February, ADK volunteers will help maintain the network of trails on St. John, clearing brush from trails and ruins, constructing water bars, digging ditches and establishing new trail sections. Volunteers will stay at a base camp at the Cinnamon Bay Campground in Virgin Island National Park. Details [here](#).

ADK in the News

- [Adirondack Mountain Club release field guide](#)
- [State acts to shield park from gas claims](#)
- [Hikers returning to the backcountry](#)
- [Cuomo signs law protecting Allegany from drilling](#)
- [A changed wilderness](#)

Other News

- [Scientists hope to buy time for threatened ash trees](#)
- [DEC releases hydrofracking regulations, sets hearings](#)
- [DEC moves to expand offices as gas drilling looms](#)
- [Distance growing between humans and nature](#)
- [Man with broken leg survives four days in Utah desert](#)
- [New Adirondack slide is challenging](#)
- [Adirondacks, Catskills open for business](#)
- [Science Lags as Health Problems Emerge Near Gas Fields](#)
- [Hiker airlifted following injury in High Peaks](#)
- [Obama Sides With Republicans, Business in Abandoning Ozone Rule](#)

ADK Today is an occasional compendium of news and views of interest to members of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK). It is produced and distributed by the ADK Communications Department, 301 Hamilton Street, Albany, NY 12210. Comments, questions or concerns about the content of this newsletter? Send us an [email](#). Read [past issues](#).