

PADDLING GUIDE

Great Adirondack Waterways



VisitAdirondacks.com





WITH 3,000+ LAKES AND PONDS & THOUSANDS OF MILES OF RIVERS AND STREAMS,

the Adirondacks offer enough paddling destinations to keep you on the water, paddle in palm, for a very long time. From the vast open waters of Lake Champlain to remote ponds and narrow streams, you can explore almost every corner of the Adirondacks in a canoe or kayak – or even on a stand-up paddleboard!



Find the right paddling destination for you, and get ready to hit the water.



[VISITADIRONACKS.COM](https://www.visitadirondacks.com)

Paddle the Waters of a Wilderness Like No Other

There are more than 3,000 lakes and ponds and 6,000 miles of rivers and streams in the Adirondacks. Paddling ranges from roiling whitewater chutes to glassy ponds where deer stop to drink; from a short circuit around a scenic lake to a multi-day river and lake trip.

This is a general guide to locations for paddling opportunities. Once you decide on a location, get yourself a good topographic map and/or guidebook. Special usage regulations may apply along some routes, so refer to the appropriate Department of Environmental Conservation publications or call them for specific information (see below). Much of the lands that border the routes identified in this guide are privately owned. State navigation law allows for paddlers to travel on private lands for short distances to bypass obstacles in the waterway. However, entering private lands for any other reason, including putting in and taking out, is trespassing, unless permission has been granted from the landowner. If you lack experience or gear, knowledgeable guides and outfitters will be happy to make your outing memorable.

Adirondack Guidebooks and Maps

Guides

Adirondack Canoe Waters: North Flow
Paul Jamieson and Donald Morris

Adirondack Paddler's Guide
3rd edition

**Adirondack Paddling:
60 Great Flatwater Adventures**
Phil Brown

**Adirondack Passage: The Cruise of the
Canoe Sairy Gamp**
Christine Jerome

Adirondack Waterfall Guide
Russell Dunn

Adirondack Canoe Routes
William Howard

Bob Marshall in the Adirondacks
Writings of a Pioneering Wilderness Preservationist.
Edited by Phil Brown

**Canoe and Kayak Guide:
East-Central New York State**
Edited by Kathie Armstrong and Chet Harvey

**Canoe Guide to Western and Central
New York State**
Edited by Mark Freeman

**Canoeing the Adirondacks with Nessmuk:
The Adirondack Letters of George Washington
Sears**

George Washington Sears; Dan Brennan, editor

Discover the Adirondacks Series
Northern Adirondacks, South Central Adirondacks,
West Central Adirondacks, Adirondack High Peaks,
Southern Adirondacks, Southeastern Adirondacks,
Southwestern Adirondacks, Eastern Adirondacks,
Central Adirondacks, Northwestern Adirondacks,
Northeastern Adirondacks. Barbara McMartin

Fun on Flatwater
An Introduction to Adirondack Canoeing
Barbara McMartin

**Longstreet Highway Guide
to the New York Adirondacks**
Phil Brown

Quiet Water Canoe, New York
John Hayes et Alex Wilson

**Reflections from Canoe Country: Paddling the
Waters of the Adirondacks and Canada**
Christopher Angus

Maps

Adirondack Canoe Map
Old Forge to Upper Saranac Lake and the Saranac Lakes/
Saint Regis Canoe Area. Available at local sporting goods
stores. www.adirondackmaps.com

Adirondack Map Series
Series of five topographic trail maps: Central
Mountains, High Peaks Region, Lake George Region,
Northwest Lakes, West-Central Wilderness Area.
Scale: 1:62,500. Find at area sporting goods stores.
www.adirondackmaps.com

**Adirondack Paddler's Map
for Canoe & Kayak Travel**
Large waterproof topographic map. Includes the
Saranac Lakes Chain and headwater ponds, St. Regis
Lakes and St. Regis Canoe Area, Osgood River and
Rainbow Lake area, Santa Clara Tract (St. Regis River
and Madawaska Area), Five Ponds Wilderness and
Oswegatchie River, William C. Whitney Wilderness
(Little Tupper Lake, Round Lake and Lake Lila),
Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, Raquette River (Long
Lake to below Tupper Lake), Bog River Flow and
Lows Lake. Designated wilderness/wild forest areas,
access and boat launch sites, parking, portage trails,
campsites, lean-tos and hiking trails. Scale: 1:50,000.
www.canoeoutfitters.com

**National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map
Series: Adirondack Park**
Series of five topographic maps. Trails are
marked with point to point mileage. Designated
wilderness and wild forest areas, access and boat
launch sites, parking, lean-tos and portage trails.
Waterproof. Scale: 1:75,000.

Map 742: Lake Placid/High Peaks
Map 743: Lake George/Great Sacandaga
Map 744: Northville/Raquette Lake
Map 745: Old Forge/Oswegatchie
Map 746: Saranac/Paul Smiths

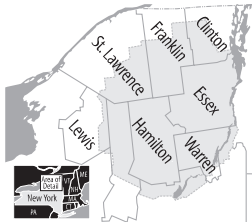
NY State Atlas and Gazetteer
DeLorme Mapping www.delorme.com

U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps
Available at area sporting goods stores.

Northern Forest Canoe Trail Map
Adirondack North Country (west): Fulton Chain
of Lakes to Long Lake. Adirondack North Country
(central): Long Lake to Saranac River. Adirondack
North Country (east): Saranac River to Lake
Champlain.

NFCT Safety Brochures:
The Paddler's Safety Checklist, Wear It! Life Jackets
Matter, Cold Water Survival

Adirondack Information



Adirondack Regional Tourism Council
Comprehensive travel information
for a seven-county region.
www.VisitAdirondacks.com

**Regional Office of Sustainable
Tourism/CVB of Lake Placid**
2608 Main St., Lake Placid, NY 12946
518-523-2445 or 800-447-5224
lakeplacid.com
tupperlake.com
saranaclake.com
adirondackhub.com
whitefaceregion.com
lakechamplainregion.com
adirondackexperience.com

Adirondack Frontier
(Franklin County)
518-481-1573
exploreadirondackfrontier.com
Adirondack Tug Hill
(Lewis County)
315-376-3014
discovertughill.com

**Adirondack Coast
Visitors Bureau (Clinton County)**
518-563-1000
goadirondack.com
Adirondack Seaway
(St. Lawrence County)
315-386-4000 or 877-228-7810
visitstlc.com

Lake George Area
(Warren County)
518-761-6366 or 800-365-1050
visitlakegeorge.com

NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

For trail conditions, backcountry information and permits, fishing and hunting regulations and licenses, contact the DEC offices listed below. Normal office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:45pm.

DEC Headquarters

625 Broadway, Albany, NY
518-402-8013
www.dec.ny.gov

DEC Region 5

Clinton, Franklin, Essex, Hamilton, Warren,
Fulton, Saratoga & Washington counties

DEC Region 5 Headquarters:

Ray Brook, 518-897-1200

DEC Region 5 Sub-Offices:

Northville, 518-863-4545
Warrensburg, 518-623-1200

DEC Region 6

St. Lawrence, Lewis, Herkimer, Jefferson
& Oneida counties

DEC Region 6 Headquarters:

Watertown, 315-785-2239

DEC Region 6 Sub-Offices:

Potsdam, 315-265-3090
Herkimer, 315-866-6330
Lowville, 315-376-3521

Forest Preserve Campgrounds
Reservations 800-456-CAMP
www.newyorksparks.reserveamerica.com

**Park-wide DEC Forest Ranger Emergency Search and Rescue and Forest
Fire Hotline: 518-891-0235**

Universally Accessible Waterways in the Adirondacks

Recreational opportunities for people with mobility impairments can be found throughout the Adirondacks. Look for universally accessible facilities such as docks, outhouses and viewing platforms at places such as Ausable Marsh (pg. 6), Lampson Falls (pg. 8), Sand Pond-Mud Pond Area on the West Branch Oswegatchie River (pg. 13), Francis Lake (pg. 13) and Moss Lake (pg. 13). Scenic boat tours can be enjoyed on many Adirondack lakes. John Dillon Park, just north of Long Lake, is a state-of-the-art facility (www.dillonpark.org) that does it all. Check with full-service outfitters for more options.

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Paddling the Adirondacks' Iconic Waterways

Essential vocab:

Portage/Carry – When you want to pond hop to another body of water, but need to carry your canoe over a stretch of land to access it. See St. Regis Wilderness Canoe Area for example.

PFD – Personal Flotation Device, aka a life jacket. This is necessary whenever you're on the water. If you get stopped by a Forest Ranger and are caught without one for each member of your group, they may issue you a ticket and escort you back to shore.

Boat Launch/Put-In – Designated places to put your canoe or kayak in the water, operated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Adirondacks are unique among mountain regions in North America for the simple fact that for every mountain peak, there are hundreds of miles of waterways. From the mighty Hudson River, to the magnificent Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks are a paddler's paradise boasting more than 3,000 lakes and ponds, and 30,000 miles of rivers and streams.

Whether you've never been paddling before, or you're one of the few who make it their life's passion to get out on the water as much as possible, you'll find paddling experiences in the Adirondacks that you won't find anywhere else on Earth.

Canoeing: Family-Friendly Adventure

The Adirondacks are home to New York State's only designated canoe wilderness area, the St. Regis Canoe Area, which spans 18,400 acres in the aptly named Adirondack Lakes Region. Ideal for overnight canoe camping trips, St. Regis offers a

network of lakes and ponds with opportunities for portaging and continued exploration, as well as 75 primitive tent sites, and three lean-tos.

The 90-Miler Adirondack Canoe Classic

The Adirondack Canoe Classic is a paddling race from Old Forge to Saranac Lake, spanning three grueling days of open-water paddling. Held annually in early September, the 90-Miler attracts paddlers from across the county. As the ultimate in distance paddling challenges, the race is open to all abilities, ages and classes of canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards, and crosses some of the most unique waterways in the Adirondacks, including the Saranac River Locks.

Whether you're training for the 90-Miler, or just going for a morning paddle, remember: safety first. Carry life jackets and other personal flotation devices to ensure you and your group's safety.

Tandem and Solo Kayaking Exploration

For extreme whitewater kayakers, the Adirondacks offer routes that few have conquered, including Hanging Spear Falls. Recently the focus of pro Red Bull athlete and documentary film maker Steve Fisher, Hanging Spear Falls is located on the Opalescent River, and is the steepest mile of whitewater in New York State. The route should only be attempted by whitewater kayaking pros.

Fortunately, the Adirondacks offer thousands of miles of flatwater paddling for novices. Explore

gentle ponds and shorelines home to water fowl, or try a sea kayaking adventure on Lake Champlain, paddling out to Valcour Island, or rise at dawn to watch the sun rise over the water.

Necessary Equipment

You'll enjoy your Adirondack paddling experience so much more if you have the proper gear, whether you're going out for a few hours or a couple of days. Necessities include:

- **Personal Flotation Device (PFD)** – Don't leave shore without one for each member of your group. If a Forest Ranger stops you and you don't have a PFD, you will be fined. Think of it as the safety belt of the sea—buckle up!
 - **Drybag**—Sometimes, your dry goods can end up tipping over the side and floating away on the current. To avoid soggy snacks, pack your food and other supplies in a drybag. Even if it does go overboard, your camera and your food will survive.
 - **Map**—A good map and basic orienteering skills are recommended, especially when doing overnight trips. Additionally, paddling route maps identify boat launch sites, nearby hiking trails and the nearest towns and villages.
- Throughout the region, professional outfitters, including St. Regis Canoe Outfitters in Saranac Lake and Adirondack Coast Paddle Board Co. in Plattsburgh, can provide maps, equipment and advice on where to go based on your group's ability.

FUN ON THE WATER STARTS WITH A SAFE BOATING COURSE & A LIFE JACKET!

Heading out to the beautiful waterways and lakes of Adirondacks in your boat is a perfect way to enjoy a sunny summer day. Whether your choice is a motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, kayak, canoe, or a stand-up paddleboard, safe boaters have more fun and everyone can be a safer boater by following the Big Three of Boating Safety : 1. Take a boating safety course 2. Wear your life jacket 3. Don't drink alcohol while boating.

New York State's Mandatory Motorboat Education Law requires that anyone BORN ON OR AFTER MAY 1, 1996 must complete an approved course in order to operate a motorboat. The operator of a personal watercraft (i.e. Jet Ski, Wave Runner, Seadoo) must be at least 14 years of age and hold a boating safety certificate. Approved courses are taught by New York State Parks, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the U.S. Power Squadron. Students must be at least 10 years of age to take a course.

The owner of a recently purchased motorboat will have 120 days from the date of purchase to complete a course if born on or after May 1, 1996. New owners who were born before this date do not have to take a course.

Every boat must have one life jacket on board for each person. Life jackets must be U.S. Coast Guard approved, properly sized for the intended wearer, in good condition with no rips or tears and all the buckles and zippers must work, and be readily accessible in case of emergency. NY State Parks recommends that you wear your life jacket as accidents on the water can happen quickly. U.S. Coast Guard estimates that 71% of boating accident deaths were drownings and that 85% of those people were not wearing a life jacket.

There are four situations in which a life jacket is legally required to be worn:

1. Children under the age of 12 unless in a fully enclosed cabin
2. Everyone riding on a personal watercraft
3. Anyone being towed behind a boat whether tubing, water skiing, etc.
4. Everyone on all boats less than 21 feet long from November 1 to May 1

You should also wear your life jacket if you are boating alone, you are not a good swimmer, you are boating with children, the water becomes rough in windy weather, the water is busy with boat traffic, you are boating at night, or any time you would feel safer wearing your life jacket. As captain of your boat, you can require your passengers to wear their life jackets. The best life jacket is the one that you wear.

Lastly, consider zero alcohol consumption while boating. According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics 31% of fatal accidents involved the use of alcohol. If you do choose to drink while boating, have a designated driver who does not drink. Boating while intoxicated is 0.08 BAC, the same as for driving a motor vehicle.

For more boating safety information or to find a New York Safe Boating Course go to www.WearItNewYork.com

PADDLING 101



PADDLING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE AN OAR-DEAL

Getting out on an Adirondack lake with your canoe, kayak, or SUP is a summer highlight. With more than 3,000 lakes and ponds, and 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, there is definitely no shortage of places to explore. With so many options to choose from, we wanted to provide you with important information in one spot so you can spend less time searching the web and more time paddling.

SAFETY FIRST

Even though paddling is a warmer month activity, the biggest safety concern is water temperature. In spring, even when the air temperature is warm, waters can remain cool, due to snowmelt and other factors. Capsizing in these cold waters can present hazardous, sometimes fatal, conditions and hypothermia becomes a serious risk. When paddling early or late in the season, a dry suit is a great option. For paddlers over the age of 12, a life vest or PFD has to be in the vessel at all times, but must be worn from November 1 to May 1. Children under the age of 12 must always wear a PFD when paddling.

Essentials:

- ☐ Appropriate clothing: non-cotton clothes, water shoes
- ☐ Sun & insect protection: sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, bug repellent
- ☐ PDF (must be worn from November 1 - May 1)
- ☐ Navigation: map, compass, GPS
- ☐ Dry-bag or waterproof container
- ☐ Towel & extra set of clothes
- ☐ First-aid supplies and an emergency kit



CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

As you may be aware, non-native aquatic invasive species pose a risk to Adirondack waterways, especially if recreation vessels are transported from lake to lake. In order to prevent spread, paddlers and boaters should practice “clean, drain, dry.” This means that all canoes, kayak, motorboats, and SUPs should be free of any debris or mud; drained of any standing water; and dried. Paddlers can wash / decontaminate vessels at home, but there is also knowledgeable staff stationed throughout the Adirondacks, and beyond, trained to inspect watercraft and perform decontaminations or washes. Examples of non-native aquatic invasive species are: Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, hydrilla, and spiny waterflea. While these species pose no direct harmful threats to humans, they do pose significant ecological threats. Decontamination sounds scary, but even if your boat seems clean, it’s a preventative measure that helps ensure Adirondack waterways stay pristine for years to come.

To find a decontamination station near you, visit the Paul Smith’s College Adirondack Watershed Institute website: www.adkwatershed.org/boat-wash-stations

WAYS TO PRACTICE LEAVE NO TRACE ETHICS ON THE WATER

- Plan ahead and prepare by checking weather reports and wind conditions
- Wash / decontaminate watercraft to prevent the spread of non-native aquatic invasive species
- Respect aquatic wildlife by keeping your distance
- Be considerate of other paddlers and boaters:
 - Keep close to shorelines and out of channels to allow safe passage of motorboats
 - Groups should paddle behind one another to prevent blocking passage of motorboats and other paddlers
 - Avoid blocking carries and put-in or take-out sites by loading or unloading your gear out of the way of the launch
 - When paddling into a take-out site, keep watch ahead so you don’t run into others who are also using that site
 - Speak quietly, sound carries across water



How to use the Descriptions & Maps

Get more information

The descriptions are brief and the maps rudimentary—the information provided here is not intended to be used as a working field guide. The complex nature of the waterways found in the Adirondacks requires that you obtain a good map and guidebook before setting out. The guidebooks and maps will not only help make your outing a safer one, they will also enhance your experience by providing interesting background information on the areas you will be visiting. A list of guidebooks and maps is found on page 6. Area and regional information centers and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) are also good sources of more information (see page 6).

Whitewater

Whitewater trips require special skills and equipment. See International Scale of River Difficulty below. It is essential to obtain good maps and guidebooks before venturing out to do any whitewater trips. If you don't have the necessary skills or equipment, consider taking a guided trip with outfitters who provide these services.

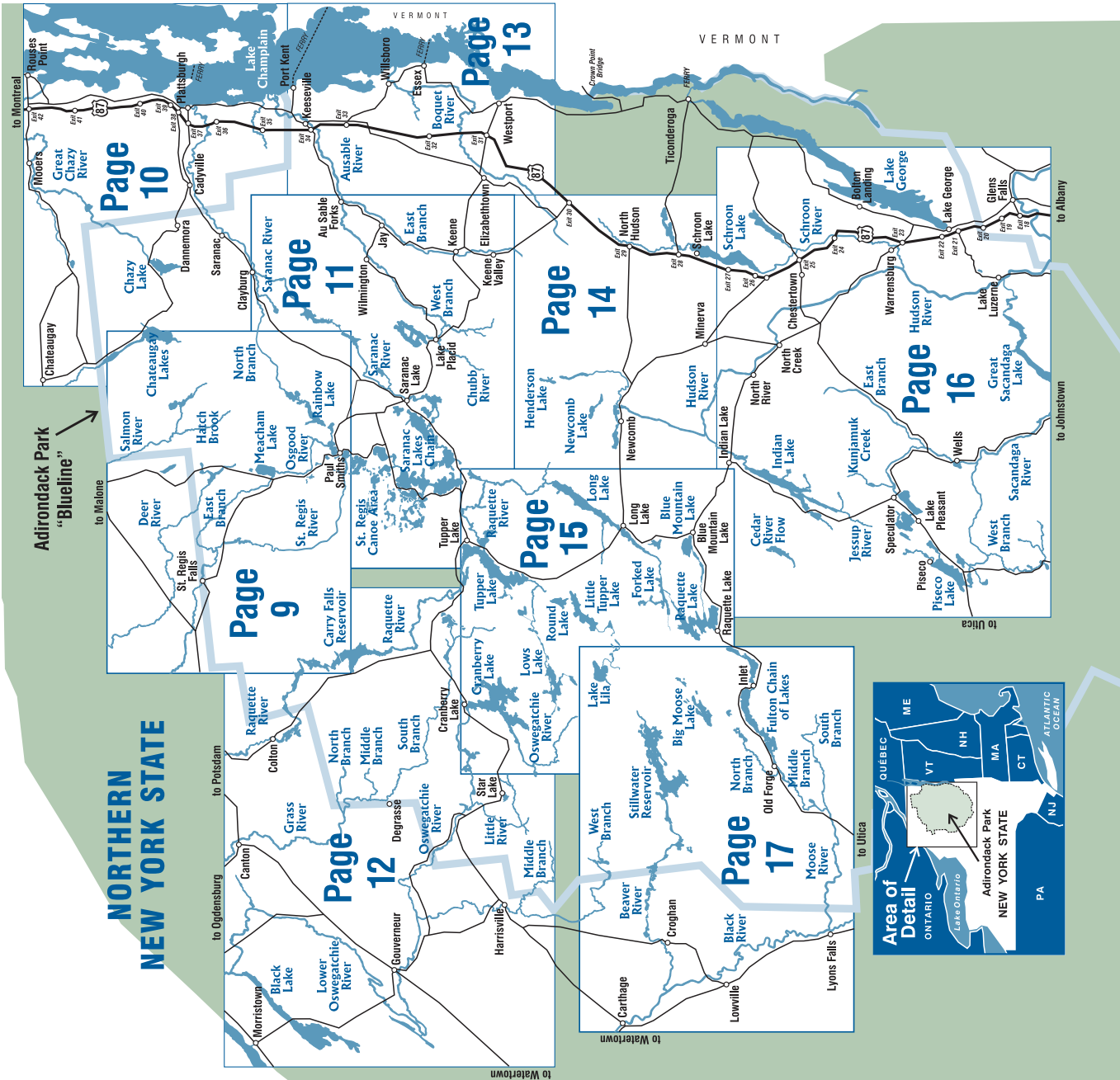
Water Levels

Adequate water levels are essential to running most of the river and whitewater routes in this brochure. Extreme water levels will change the difficulty classification of rivers (see below). Minimum and ideal levels are suggested in guidebooks. Most river routes are best done in the Spring (April to May). Fall or after periods of heavy rain.

Personal Floatation Devices: New York State Law requires all boats and canoes must carry a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable Personal Floatation Device (PFD) for each person in the boat. State law also requires that children must be wearing a PFD, and highly recommend that all occupants wear a PFD.

International Scale of River Difficulty

- Class I.** Moving water with a few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.
 - Class II.** Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide, clear channels that are obvious without scouting. Some maneuvering is required.
 - Class III.** Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that often require complex maneuvering. May require scouting from shore.
 - Class IV.** Long, difficult rapids with constricted passages that often require precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Scouting from shore is often necessary, and conditions make rescue difficult. Generally not possible for open canoes. Boaters in covered canoes and kayaks should be able to Eskimo roll.
 - Class V.** Extremely difficult, long, and very violent rapids with highly congested routes which nearly always must be scouted from shore. Rescue conditions are difficult and there is a significant hazard to life in event of a mishap. Ability to Eskimo roll is essential for kayakers and canoes.
 - Class VI.** Difficulties of Class V carried to the extreme of navigability. Nearly impossible and very dangerous. For teams of experts only, after close study and with all precautions taken.
- Cold water temperatures below 50 degrees and extended trips in remote areas increase normal difficulty by one class level.**



Deer River, Hatch Brook, Lake Kushaqua, Osgood Pond & River, Madawaska Flow & Quebec Brook, Rainbow Lake, St. Regis River

Deer River

Above High Falls is the 10-mile flatwater, Deer River Meadows. Below High Falls, the river drops rapidly with a mix of moving flatwater and rapids. Note that paddlers need to carry around the falls. Access is via dirt roads in Deer River State Forest. Beware of rapids.

Silver Staircase

Seven miles of nearly continuous whitewater. Requires advanced skills to maneuver through long and complex rapids rated up to Class IV. Scouting is not always possible.

St. Regis Flow/East Branch

A flatwater extends upstream for 6 miles above the dam in St. Regis Falls. Below Everton Falls, a 3-mile section of the East Branch picks up speed with a series of rapids and falls that may require portaging, alternating with moving flatwater channels. Medium-high water levels are best.

St. Regis River & Santa Clara Flow

Launching near an oxbow, you'll enter a section of moving flatwater which can be paddled upstream for several miles. Two miles downstream from the launch is a half-mile portage which marks the beginning of the Santa Clara Flow — a winding, marsh-lined flatwater. Take-out is at the state boat launch near the bridge on Route 458.

Madawaska Flow & Quebec Brook

Explore the extensive marshes, bogs and waterways of the Madawaska Flow — a classic example of a northern Boreal forest. Quebec Brook flows into and out of Madawaska Pond and provides an alternate and more challenging access route that starts from Blue Mountain Road and follows Quebec Brook upstream; several portages are required. The area is part of the Santa Clara Tract and is easily accessed via a five-mile dirt road starting from Route 458, one mile west of Route 30.

St. Regis River

Paddle up through a scenic 12-mile winding stillwater on the St. Regis River — part of the Santa Clara Tract. Access is via a 0.7-mile carry along an old road starting from Blue Mountain Road. An optional downstream take-out near the bridge is preceded by 1.5 miles of fast water rapids; look for carry trails on the right bank. No take-out downstream due to private property.

Everton Falls Preserve - East Branch St. Regis

Above Everton Falls, nine miles of winding flatwater traverses a broad marsh. Paddle upstream as far as you wish or start from the upstream end via a dirt road accessed from Route 458. A portage trail leads to the river.

MAP KEY

- paddling routes
- motorized vessels prohibited
- some restrictions to motorized vessels
- physical barriers to motorized vessels, ex. waterfalls, culverts, etc.

Hatch Brook

A swift current propels you through a marsh and varied scenery on a nine-mile flatwater cruise with good water levels all summer; take-out is above the Chasm Falls dam. En route you can explore upstream on the Salmon River for a half mile. Scenic area side trips include Indian Lake and Mountain View Lake. High Falls is a short hike from the road along the north bank of the Salmon River.

Deer River Flow

Enjoy mountain views and bird watching on this 2.7-mile marsh-lined waterway.

Lower Osgood River

Starting from Meacham Lake's outlet and its sandy southern shore, paddle upstream and then downstream on the Osgood which meanders through a wide marsh and beside a forested esker. Look for the huge eagle's nest on your left as you enter the river.

Scale of Miles



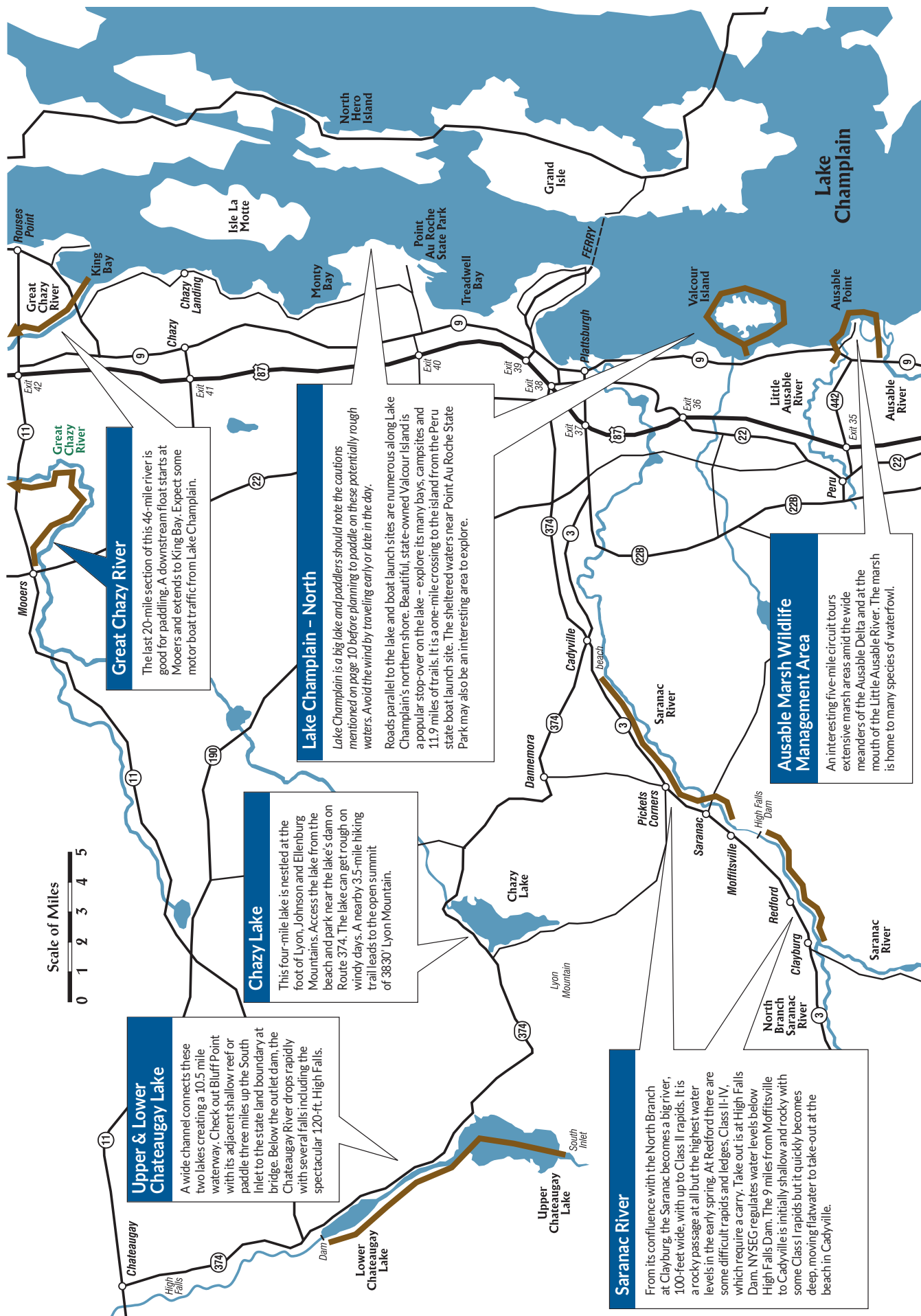
Lake Kushaqua to Osgood Pond

The 12-mile trip from Lake Kushaqua to Osgood Pond traverses an interesting group of lakes and channels. There's a 0.75-mile carry between Rainbow Lake and Jones Pond. You may need to wade sections of the channel between Jones and Osgood when water levels are low. Take time to explore the three-mile Stillwater outlet of Osgood Pond. An old canal connects Osgood to Church Pond. Extend the trip by carrying to Lower St. Regis Lake where myriad lakes and routed await the adventurous paddler.

See page 12 for Waterways to the West.

See page 10 and 11 for Waterways to the East.

Ausable River, Chateaugay Lakes, Chazy Lakes, Great Chazy River, Lake Champlain North, Saranac River



See Page 11 and 13 for Waterways to the South.

See page 13 for Waterways to the East.

See page 9 and 10 for Waterways to the North.

St. Regis Canoe Area & the Saranac River Headwaters

The St. Regis Canoe Area and the headwater lakes and ponds of the Saranac River are a pond-hopper's paradise. Many carries are short and most routes can be done as an unencumbered day trip. The classic "Seven Carries Route" is 9 miles from Little Clear Pond to Paul Smiths, traversing 10 lakes and ponds. You may need more time and a lightweight canoe for the "Nine Carries Route" which starts from either Hoel Pond or Long Pond (1.5 miles of carries) or Little Clear Pond (2.5 miles of carries); your ultimate goal is a cluster of ponds near remote Fish Pond. The area is bisected by a steep esker formation. Just south of the St. Regis Canoe Area, the Saranac River headwater ponds—Follensby Clear, Floodwood and Fish Creek—provide the starting point for various short loop trips. Short carries connect the many small ponds and channels. Expand these loops by carrying north into Long and Hoel Pond.

St. Regis Lakes Loop

The St. Regis Lakes—Lower St. Regis Lake, Spiffire Lake and Upper St. Regis Lake—are connected by wide channels; a loop tour would include a 0.6 mile carry from the Upper Lake to the outlet dam on Lower Lake. Great Camps can be seen along much of this route. Be sure to explore beautiful Black Pond.

Saranac River

The Saranac River is a slow-moving flatwater with one section of up to Class III water at Permanent Rapids just before Franklin Falls Pond. Carry around the falls on the adjacent road. A 0.4-mile carry leads from the dam on Franklin Falls Pond to Union Falls Pond.

Saranac River

From Union Falls Pond, the Saranac River drops rapidly. Class I-II rapids in the first 4 miles are followed by a Class V drop at Tefft Pond Falls. The carry is adjacent to private property. The next five miles include a complex series of Class II-III ledges, drops and hydraulics which demand advanced skills and ample water. It is rocky and there is a wide fluctuation in the water level due to dam releases.

East Branch Ausable River

The East Branch has some great spring paddling with Class II water and a tricky Class III boulder patch. You'll pass quickly through a scenic valley lined with high peaks and meadows. Shoreline is mostly private lands. Put in at boat launch in Upper Jay. Downstream take out is a 150 ft. stretch of state land, 2 miles upstream (before) high school. In summer, the water is too shallow to paddle.

West Branch Ausable River

Cruise through eight miles of mostly tranquil water with some Class I riffles and one carry; spring water levels are best. Don't miss your takeout just prior to monument falls. An unrunnable boulder-filled gorge follows which is better viewed from Rt. 86.

Chubb River

Take a wilderness cruise upstream through a winding channel into a remote mountain-ringed marsh. The nine-mile round trip has one short carry midway and you may find several beaver dams along the way.

Saranac Lakes Chain

From the north end of Upper Saranac to the east end of Lower Saranac is 17.5 miles of continuous waterway with only one half-mile carry. Lean-tos and campsites are found along the shore and on islands. A fee is charged for campsites on Lower and Middle Saranac lakes. This popular route continues through Oseetah Lake into the Village of Saranac Lake, where the Saranac River begins.



See page 14 and 15 for Waterways to the South.

See pages 9 and 12 for Waterways to the West.



Boquet River, Lake Champlain, Silver Lake, Taylor Pond

See page 10 for Waterways to the North.

MAP KEY

- paddling routes
- motorized vessels prohibited
- some restrictions to motorized vessels
- physical barriers to motorized vessels, ex. waterfalls, culverts, etc.

Silver Lake & Taylor Pond

These secluded lakes are great places to camp, fish or just paddle around. Dense woods and mountains surround the lakes. Take a short hike to the top of Silver Lake Mountain or Catamount for great views. Note: Parking fees for access.

Lake Champlain

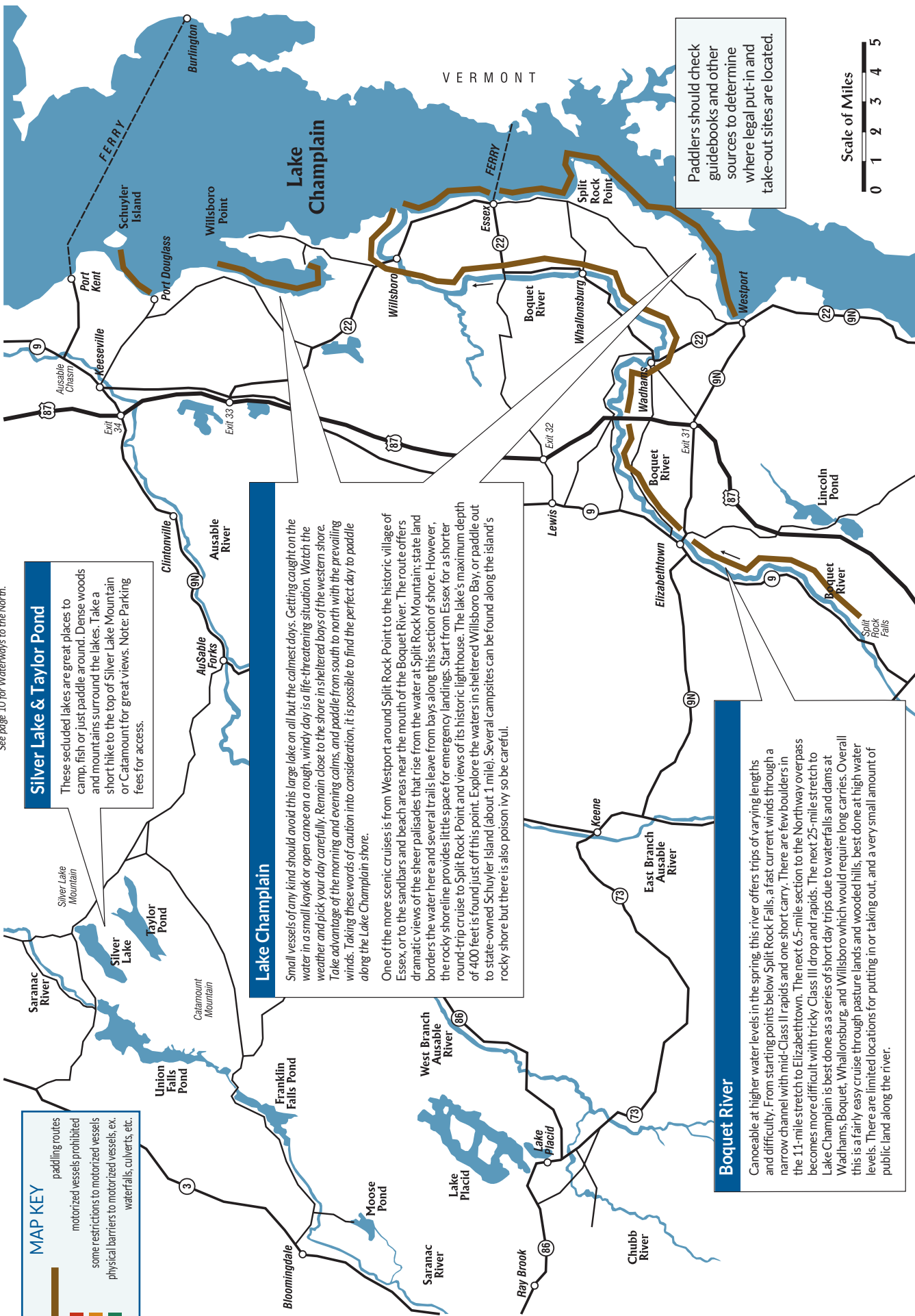
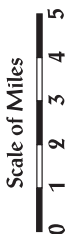
Small vessels of any kind should avoid this large lake on all but the calmest days. Getting caught on the water in a small kayak or open canoe on a rough, windy day is a life-threatening situation. Watch the weather and pick your day carefully. Remain close to the shore in sheltered bays of the western shore. Take advantage of the morning and evening calms, and paddle from south to north with the prevailing winds. Taking these words of caution into consideration, it is possible to find the perfect day to paddle along the Lake Champlain shore.

One of the more scenic cruises is from Westport around Split Rock Point to the historic village of Essex, or to the sandbars and beach areas near the mouth of the Boquet River. The route offers dramatic views of the sheer palisades that rise from the water at Split Rock Mountain; state land borders the water here and several trails leave from bays along this section of shore. However, the rocky shoreline provides little space for emergency landings. Start from Essex for a shorter round-trip cruise to Split Rock Point and views of its historic lighthouse. The lake's maximum depth of 400 feet is found just off this point. Explore the waters in sheltered Willsboro Bay, or paddle out to state-owned Schuyler Island (about 1 mile). Several campsites can be found along the island's rocky shore but there is also poison ivy so be careful.

Boquet River

Canoeable at higher water levels in the spring, this river offers trips of varying lengths and difficulty. From starting points below Split Rock Falls, a fast current winds through a narrow channel with mid-Class II rapids and one short carry. There are few boulders in the 11-mile stretch to Elizabethtown. The next 6.5-mile section to the Northway overpass becomes more difficult with tricky Class III drop and rapids. The next 25-mile stretch to Lake Champlain is best done as a series of short day trips due to waterfalls and dams at Wadhams, Boquet, Whallonsburg, and Willsboro which would require long carries. Overall this is a fairly easy cruise through pasture lands and wooded hills, best done at high water levels. There are limited locations for putting in or taking out, and a very small amount of public land along the river.

Paddlers should check guidebooks and other sources to determine where legal put-in and take-out sites are located.



See page 14 for Waterways to the Southwest.

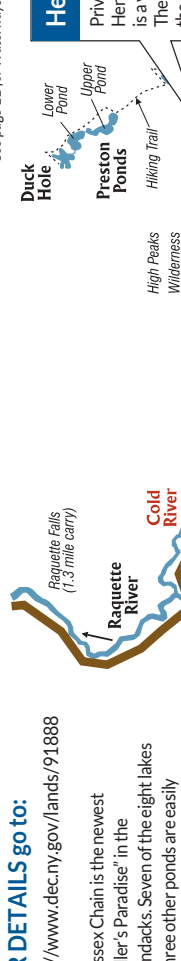
Harris Lake, Henderson Lake, Hudson River, Newcomb Lake, Rich Lake, Schroon River & Lake

Essex Chain Lakes FOR DETAILS go to:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91888>

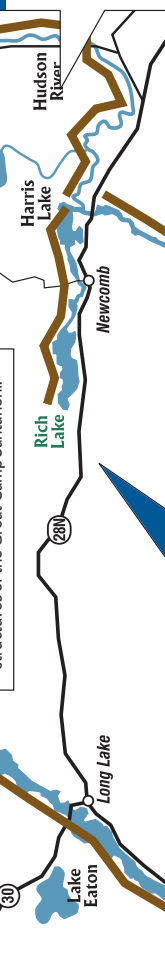
The Essex Chain is the newest "Paddler's Paradise" in the Adirondacks. Seven of the eight lakes and three other ponds are easily accessible using four short carries. A four-mile route from the southern end of Second Lake to the southern end of Seventh Lake can be done without ever leaving the water. Thirteen designated tent sites are available year round, but require a permit May 15-Oct 15.

See page 11 for Waterways to the North.



Newcomb Lake

Hitch a ride for you and your canoe (fee) on a horse-drawn wagon down a 4.5 mile dirt access road (closed to vehicles) to Newcomb Lake where you can explore both the lake and partially restored structures of the Great Camp Santanoni.



Harris Lake & Rich Lake

Start on the public beach or boat launch on Harris Lake for a scenic round-trip cruise. The flatwater channel between the lakes has some riffles and a carry. Do not proceed beyond the Route 28N bridge or you will be committed to running the turbulent Hudson River Gorge.

Upper Hudson River

The 12 miles from Newcomb to the Indian River is a beautiful remote of the Hudson River with some rapids. Beginners should portage around the Long Rapids and Ord Falls. The Blackwell Stillwater—a long stretch of the river with no rapids which provides access to lower reaches of the Goodnow River, can be directly accessed near the Iron Bridge. A takeout just above the confluence with the Indian River allows paddlers to easily exit the river before entering the Hudson River Gorge. The gorge packs in a series of difficult Class V rapids with powerful hydraulics, source holes and high, standing waves. These 13 miles are for expert paddlers only. Several outfitters offer rafting trips through the gorge. Water releases from Lake Abanakee mean high water levels every day during the spring, four days a week in the summer and weekends in the fall. Open canoes should not be used here except by experts at mid-summer water levels.

Upper Hudson River

Three-mile long Sanford Lake is a long narrow lake flanked by tailings from an old mine. From there the river meanders through a marsh for the next six miles to a bridge. After passing beneath the bridge, the river begins to drop more rapidly for several miles with come Class III rapids in a narrow channel. Below this point the river resumes its quiet meandering to the outlet of Harris Lake on the right.

Henderson Lake

Privately owned since 1826, the public now has paddling and fishing access on Henderson Lake and Lake Jimmy. Surrounded by tall mountains, Henderson Lake is a very scenic with steep, rocky shorelines and many secluded coves to explore. The water is very deep and clear. There is a quarter-mile carry past the gate to the put-in from the Upper Works hikers' parking area. Paddlers looking for a challenge and even more solitude may want to attempt the adventurous trip up to Preston Ponds and Duck Hole. The two-mile carry from northwest Henderson Lake to Upper Preston Pond is steep and difficult but the rewards in scenic beauty and solitude are great. Once on Upper Preston, continue to the outlet and access Lower Preston Pond from a short carry. From Lower Preston, it is a short bushwhack to Duck Hole. The trip is about five miles from beginning to end.

The Hudson River

High on the shoulder of New York's highest peak, Mt. Marcy, is the highest pond source of the mighty Hudson River: Lake Tear of the Clouds. From this humble beginning the Hudson flows 275 miles to New York City and the Atlantic Ocean. In stages, the Hudson progresses from a small stream to one of the finest whitewater runs in the East to the wide shipping lanes of the Hudson Valley. An avenue for commerce and trade as well as recreation, the Hudson River is New York State's premier river.

Upper Schroon

The 15-mile stretch of the Schroon River from North Hudson to Schroon Lake is an easy Class I flatwater cruise with one carry, six miles into the trip, at four-foot Schroon Falls. Wildlife sightings are frequent as you travel along this slowly meandering river. Take out just below the Rt. 74 bridge or continue further downstream and enjoy mountain views from the open waters of beautiful Schroon Lake.

Schroon Paddle Challenge

www.adirondackhub.com/schroon-paddle-challenge
The challenge consists of three paddles within the Schroon Lake Watershed:
1. Schroon River Paddle
2. Schroon River to Schroon Lake Paddle
3. Paradox Lake Paddle

Avoid approaching wildlife too closely, especially when they are nesting or have young with them.

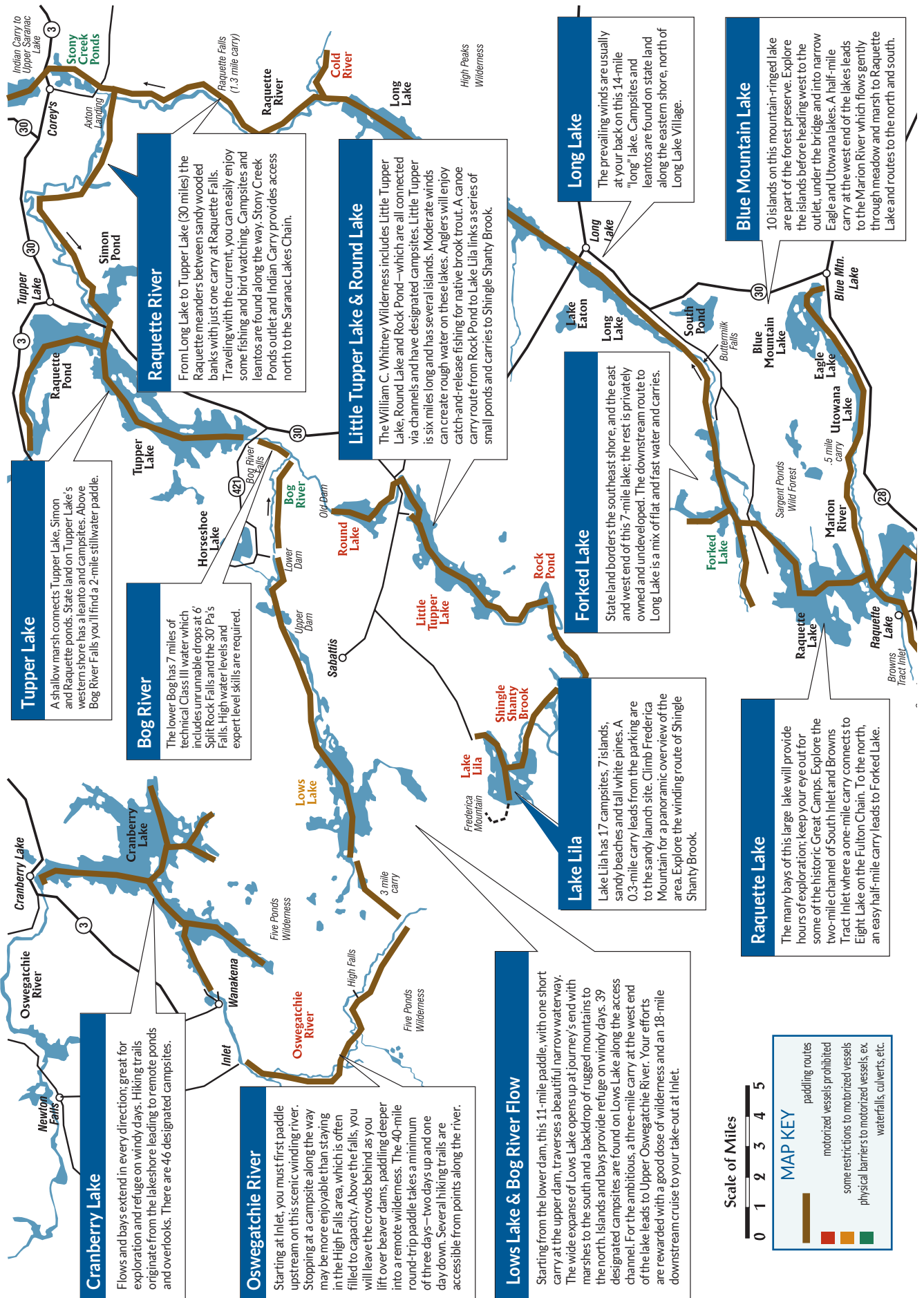
MAP KEY

- paddling routes
- motorized vessels prohibited
- some restrictions to motorized vessels
- physical barriers to motorized vessels, ex. waterfalls, culverts, etc.

See page 16 for Waterways to the South.

Bog River, Blue Mtn. Lake, Cranberry Lake, Forked Lake, Lows Lake, Oswegatchie River, Raquette Lake & River, Tupper Lake, Whitney Wilderness

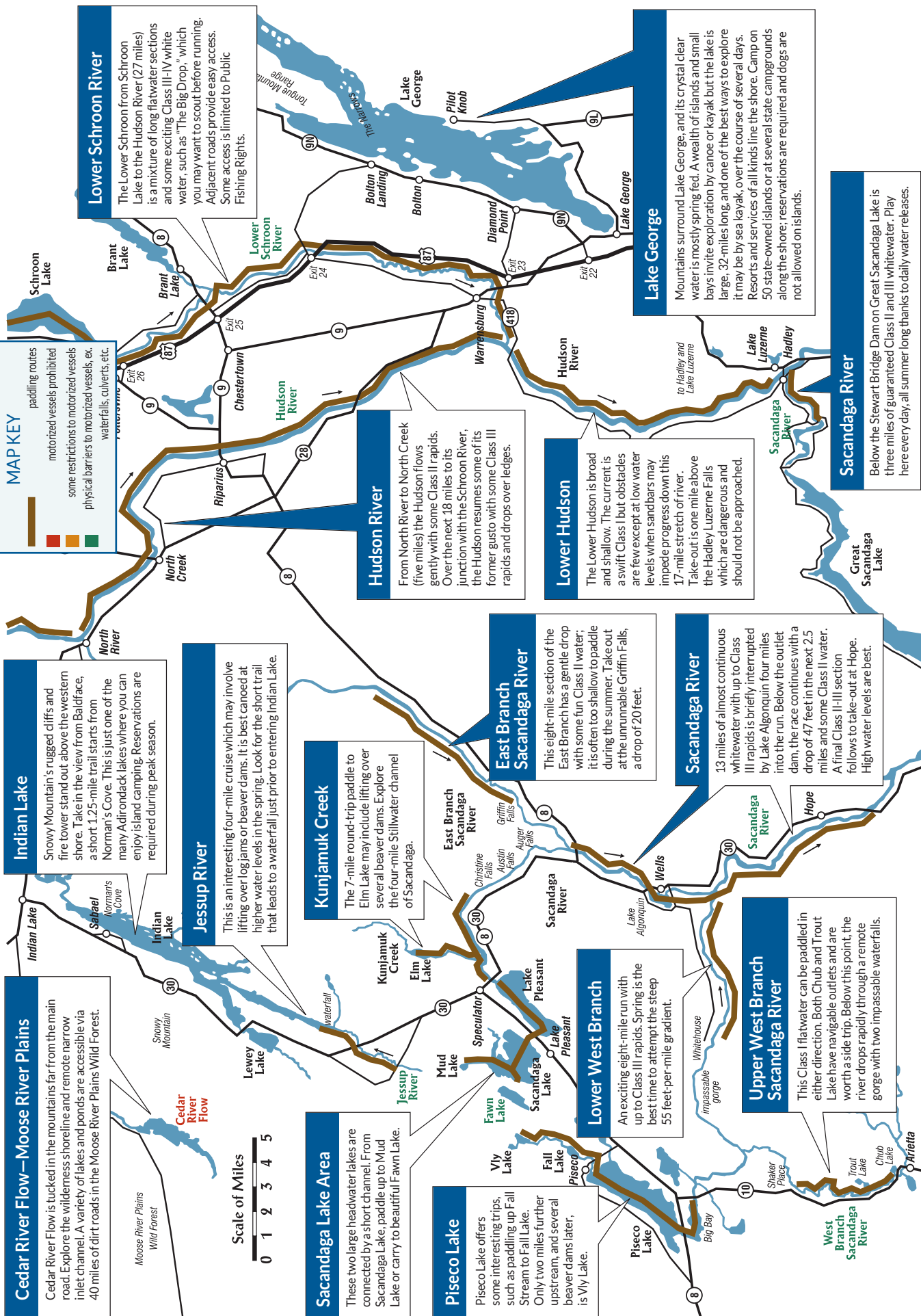
See pages 11 and 12 for Waterways to the North.



See pages 16 and 17 for Waterways to the South.

Cedar River, Hudson River, Jessup River, Kunjamuk Creek, Lake George, Piseco Lake, Sacandaga River, Schroon River

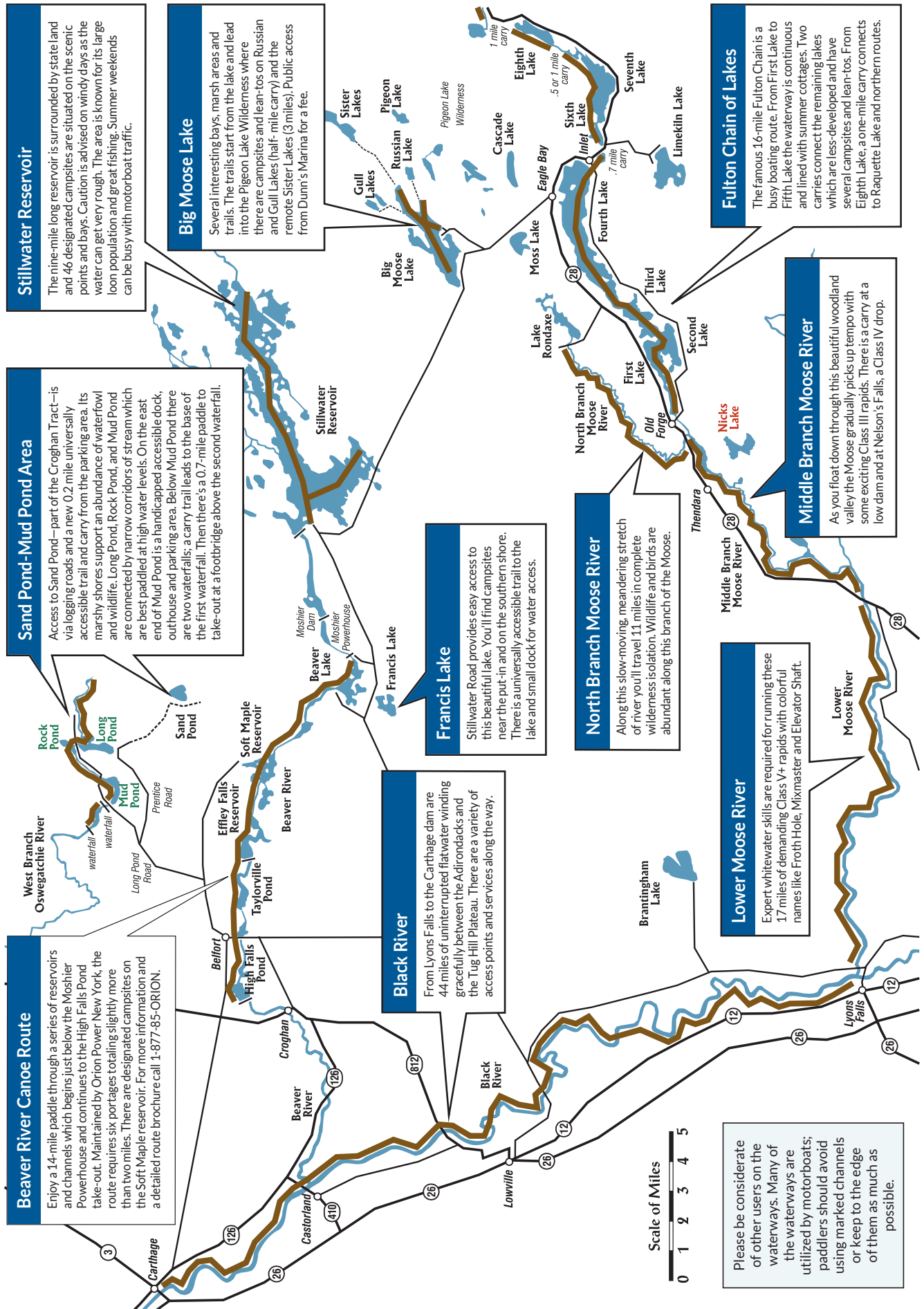
See pages 14 and 15 for Waterways to the North.



See page 17 for Waterways to the West.

Beaver River, Big Moose Lake, Black River, Fulton Chain of Lakes, Moose River, Moss Lake, Sand Pond-Mud Pond, Stillwater Reservoir

See pages 12 and 15 for Waterways to the North.



Keep Aquatic Invasives out of the Adirondacks!

There are a variety of non-native species and fish diseases that threaten our native Adirondack fish communities. The introduction of non-native fish species such as yellow perch and golden shiners can have severe consequences on native fish such as brook trout. An aquatic nuisance algae, known as "didymo" or "rock snot" has recently been found in eastern New York. Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a serious disease of fish that has caused fish mortalities ranging from a few fish to thousands of fish. The most likely way VHS can become established in Adirondack fish is by humans introducing it through stocking or the use of infected bait fish. These are just a few examples of the non-natives that threaten Adirondack waters.

You can help prevent the spread of unwanted aquatic species and diseases and maintain the best possible fishing in the Adirondacks by carefully following these guidelines:

- follow the new fishing regulations regarding bait fish,
- always dispose of your bait bucket water on land,
- do not transport fish from one body of water to another,
- remove all mud and aquatic plants from all gear, waders, boats, motors, and trailers before departing from the access site,
- drain all water; including bilges, livewells, and bait tanks; before departing from the site,
- clean live wells and waders with a 10% bleach to water solution (1 3/4 cups bleach per gallon of water). Rinse well to remove all chlorine residue,
- if you cannot clean your equipment, wait 48 hours after it is completely dry before using on another body of water.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
518-402-8920 • www.dec.state.ny.gov



For more information on preventing the introduction of invasive species and more information on the didymo: www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50121.html

Eleven Tips for Wilderness Ventures

- Study maps and guides of an area before venturing forth
- Develop your wilderness skills by taking shorter trips first
- Engage in a fitness program such as walking several miles a day
- Check short and long-range weather forecasts before heading out
- Inform someone of your planned route and time of return
- Sign in at all trail registers
- Carry a map, compass, and basic survival gear
- Beware of giardia; carry your water or use a quality filtering system
- Travel as lightly as possible
- Travel with a companion
- If you get completely lost, stay put and someone will find you



Protect Your Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species

Boats, trailers, waders and other fishing and boating equipment can spread aquatic invasive species from waterbody to waterbody unless properly cleaned, dried or disinfected after use. State law requires boaters to take these steps before launching their watercraft into public waterbodies. Although some invasive species such as Eurasian water-milfoil are readily visible to the human eye, many others are too small to be easily noticed. To avoid spreading invasive species please use the guidelines below:

Check Clean Drain Dry Disinfect Visit your local boat steward

Check your boating and fishing equipment for invasive species.

Carefully examine common attachment points such as trailer bunks, axles, rollers, lights, transducer, license plate, and motor props for any plants, mud, or debris. If your boat has been used in a waterbody known to have zebra mussels, run your hand along the hull. If it feels like sandpaper, it likely has mussels attached. Also inspect all gear used during your trip, including fishing gear and anchor lines.

Clean any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.

Discard materials in an upland area or in one of the invasive species disposal stations that have been installed at many boat launch sites for your convenience. Do not wash or release material into a waterbody. Some invasive species, such as zebra mussels, can be difficult to remove from a boat hull. They first need to be killed by water or steam that is 140 degrees F, then they need to be removed by a brush or pressure washer. For help cleaning your boat and equipment, visit a decontamination station for a free boat wash (leaves DEC website).

Dump unused bait in trash cans and bucket water on dry land, not in the water.

Drain all water holding compartments including ballast tanks, live wells, and bilge areas.

Drain your boat before you leave an access site. Be sure to drain boat ballast tanks if your waterski or wakeboard has them. Drain your live well if you have one.

Dry boats, trailers and all equipment before use in another waterbody. The most effective way to ensure that no invasive species or fish diseases are transported to a new body of water is to completely dry your boating and fishing equipment.

Drying times vary significantly depending on the type of equipment, air temperature, and relative humidity.

While the outside of a boat will dry relatively quickly, bilge, live wells, and other parts of a boat not reached by the sun or lacking good air circulation will take additional time to dry completely.

A minimum of 5-7 days drying time in dry, warm conditions is recommended.

Disinfect anything that came into contact with water if it cannot be dried before reuse.

Hot water is an effective disinfection agent for all aquatic invasive species and fish diseases. Soak all equipment in water that is at least 140 degrees F for 30 seconds.

Visit Your Local Boat Steward

To help protect New York's waters, boat stewards are located at various boat launches throughout the state. Boat stewards assist visitors with a free boat inspection to look for invasive species and they educate on the importance of cleaning, draining, and drying watercraft. They may also direct you to an on-site or nearby decontamination station. At decon stations, you may get your boat washed with high pressure hot water for free.

To find a boat launch with a steward or nearby decontamination station search 'boat stewards' at dec.ny.gov or visit adkcleanboats.com for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions about Clean.Drain.Dry. Regulations

1. **What is the purpose of Cleaning, Draining and Drying?**

All watercraft can transport aquatic invasive species (AIS). Cleaning, draining, and drying protects New York's waters by reducing the possibility of aquatic invasive species being introduced into new water bodies.

2. **Is cleaning, draining, and drying my boat mandatory?**

YES. New York State law requires that every boat (including motorboats, kayaks/canoes, and associated equipment) operated in the state is to be clean, drain, dry or treated before launching into a public water body. This requirement can be met by the boat operator OR by visiting a watercraft inspection station.

3. **What is involved in cleaning, draining, and drying?**

a. Clean any mud, plants, fish, or animals from your boating and fishing equipment (trailer bunks, axles, rollers, lights, transducers, license plates, motor props, tackle, waders, etc.) and discard the material in trash cans, at a disposal station, or well away from the water body, so it won't get washed in during a storm.

b. Drain all water holding compartments before you leave an access site.

c. Dry everything thoroughly before using your boat or equipment in another water body. A minimum of 5-7 days in dry, warm conditions is recommended.

d. Disinfect boats, trailers, and equipment. Use high pressure, hot water that is at least 140 degrees F or visit a boat steward/decontamination site to perform this step. Water holding compartments including bilges and live wells should be disinfected also.

4. **What is a Watercraft Inspection Station (WISP)?**

These are at popular boat ramps and roadside locations and are staffed with boat stewards (personnel typically wearing blue vests) who will educate boaters on aquatic invasive species and assist them in performing these steps.

5. **Where can I find a map of steward and decontamination unit locations and learn about the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program?**

The map can be found at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/107807.html> OR search 'boat stewards' at [dec.ny.gov](https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/107807.html) or visit [adkcleanboats.com](https://www.adkcleanboats.com) for more information.

6. **Are there different requirements when launching in the Adirondacks?**

YES. A new state law requires all motorboats launching into public water bodies within 10 miles of and in the Adirondack Park, comply with Clean.Drain.Dry. AND operators must be in possession of a self-issued or steward-issued certificate obtained at an accredited aquatic invasive species inspection station operated by a watercraft inspection steward. These certificates must be kept with the motorboat when launched.

7. **How do I certify my motorboat before launching?**

Visit an inspection station to have your motorboat inspected and certified by a watercraft inspection steward. Self-issued certificates are also available and can be obtained for download and printing from DEC's website (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/107807.html>). Motorboat operators should perform all necessary Clean.Drain.Dry steps and then must fully complete these certificates before launching.

8. **Is there a difference between self-issued certificates and an inspection certificate received from a boat steward?**

No. The certificates may look different but both document your compliance with Clean.Drain.Dry. standards and should be always kept on your boat.

9. **If I am re-launching into the same waterbody do I need to perform clean/drain/dry steps or obtain a new certification?**

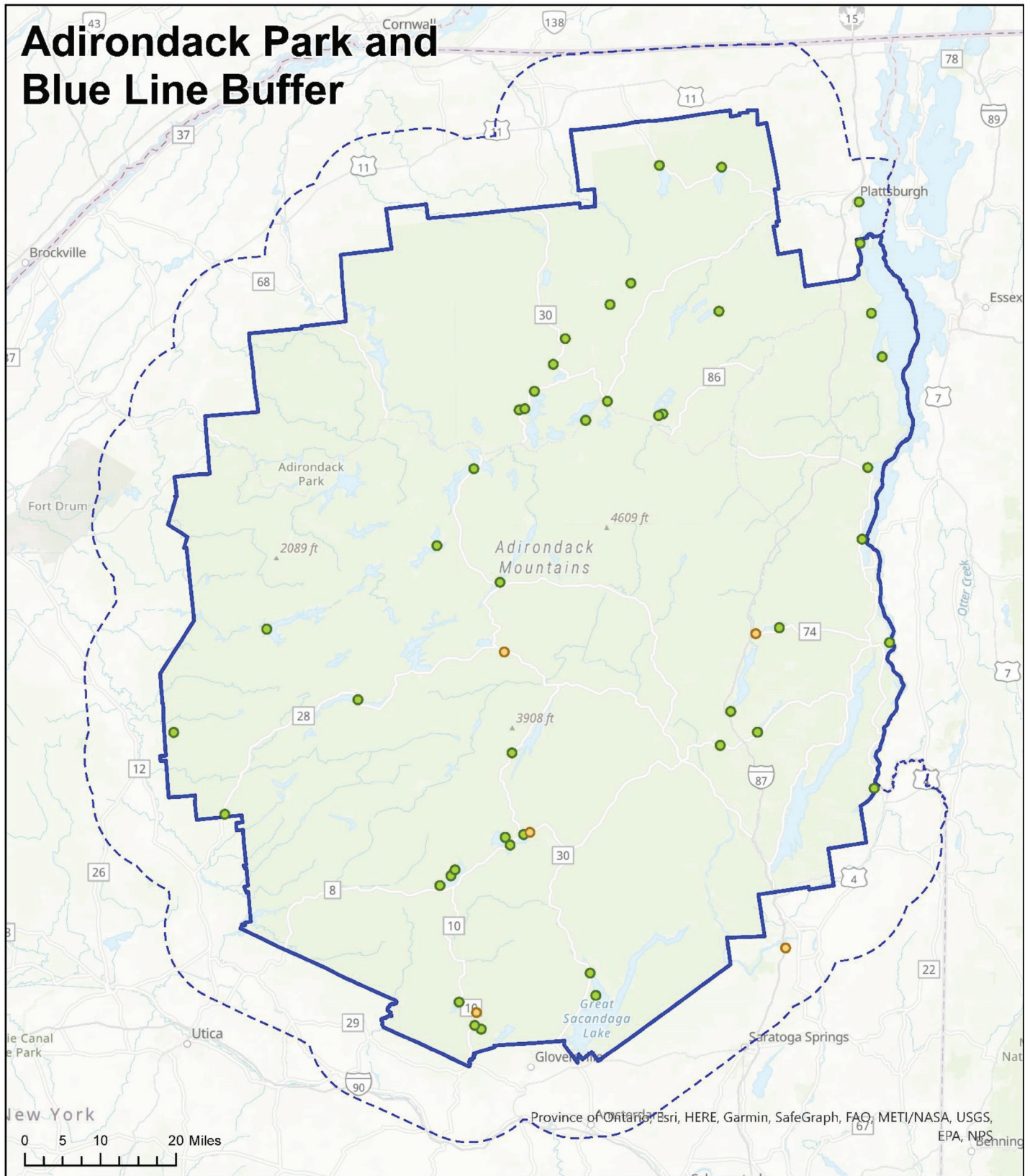
No. Operators should keep the certification form obtained during the initial launch.

10. **Do I need a certificate for my kayak or canoe?**

No. However, you are still required to Clean.Drain.Dry. your vessel and equipment.

11. **Do these requirements apply to small boats with trolling motors?**

Yes. All vessels that are driven with a motor (electric or fuel-driven) must follow these requirements.



Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Stations

- Roadside
- Boat Launch

- Adirondack Park Boundary 10 mile buffer
- Adirondack Park Boundary



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Data subject to change. Visit dec.ny.gov for latest information.

Last Updated: 03-Jun-22

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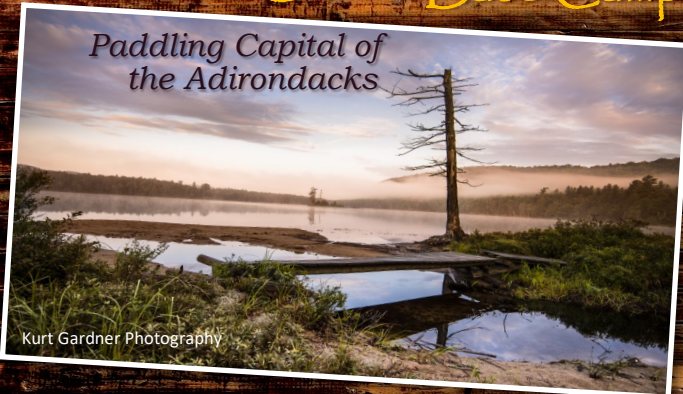
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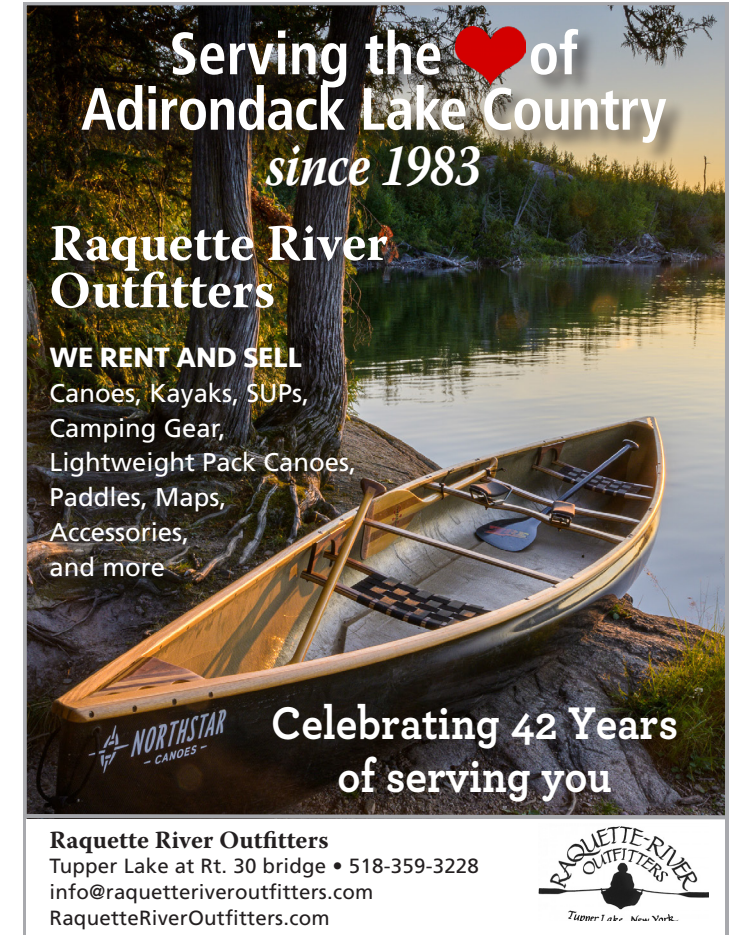
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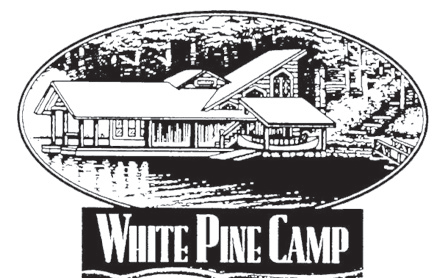
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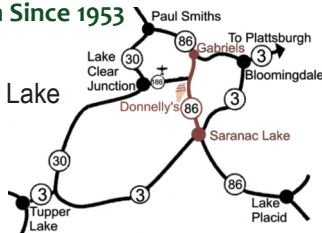
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Protect our Lands & Waters

Megan Pistolese-Shaw

Did you know that you can spread invasive species by boating, taking a hike, gardening, using firewood, and many other activities you may enjoy? Invasive species are non-native species that cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health. Once introduced, invasive species can easily and quickly out compete native species resulting in reduced bio-diversity and habitat health. There are simple actions you can take to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species while enjoying your favorite outdoor activities, such as, cleaning draining and drying your watercraft, cleaning the tread of your shoes before hiking, growing native plants, and sourcing local firewood for your campfires. You can learn more ways to protect your favorite outdoor places now and for generations to come by taking the Pledge to Protect. The Pledge to Protect was developed by the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM). The Pledge is a resource intended to inform and inspire you to protect your lands and waters from the impacts of invasive species. Upon taking the Pledge, you become a “Protector” and are sent monthly email blogs that provide simple actions you can take to protect your favorite outdoor spaces from invasive species and chances to win prizes by taking the suggested actions. In addition, the Pledge to Protect offers a social media toolbox, and virtual toolboxes themed for 5 pledge categories including: gardens, communities, waters, forests, and lands & trails. Each toolbox provides you with resources relevant to the environmental category and includes, invasives you may encounter, best management practices, regional and state-wide community science opportunities, prevention methods, and many links to helpful apps and other resources. To sign up to take the pledge visit iPledgeToProtect.org or scan the QR code. About SLELO PRISM The St. Lawrence-Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) is one of eight PRISMs that span the state of New York. SLELO PRISM is hosted by The Nature

Conservancy through the coordination of the NYS DEC and the support of various partners. Visit sleloinvasives.org to learn more.

The PRISM network stemmed from recommendations from the NYS Invasive Species Task Force in 2005 and became fully established in 2014. PRISMs are funded by the NYS Environmental Protection fund in coordination with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and various partners. PRISMs have made tremendous progress towards preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species and mitigating the impacts of existing invasive species within the state. Visit nyis.info to learn more about the PRISM network.



**Take the Pledge
Get The Tools
Earn The Badge**

**Protect Your Favorite Outdoor Spaces From Invasive Species
Now And For Generations To Come**

Sponsored by SLELO PRISM

iPledgeToProtect.org

Smart Paddlers know how to **BE SAFE & BE SEEN**



**Wear your lifejacket, carry a whistle and wear bright colors.
Add reflective stickers to your paddles to increase visibility.**

**Get your FREE reflective paddle stickers by sending
this ad and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:**

**NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Attn: Marine Services Bureau Reflective Stickers
Albany, NY 12238**



**New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation**

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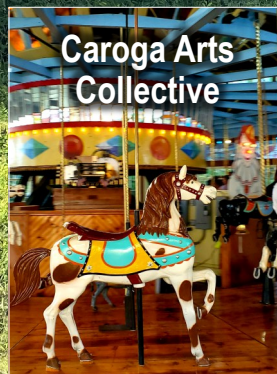


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safewaters.com/public-safety

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Fulton County is home of 44 lakes, the Great Sacandaga Lake with the world record Northern Pike legacy, and over 74,000 acres of wild forest.

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