

**THE ADIRONDACK BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGE:
K-12 TEACHERS DESIGNING, TESTING, AND PUBLISHING CURRICULUM
EXPLORING BIODIVERSITY**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS & AFFILIATIONS:

Sandra Bureau, Board of Directors & Founding Member, Adirondack Curriculum Project; Educator, Indian Lake Central School

Paul Hai, Program Coordinator, Roosevelt Wild Life Station at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry; Adirondack All Taxa Biological Inventory (ATBI) Education Committee

Assisting:

Dr. Celia Evans, Associate Professor of Ecology, Paul Smith's College; Board of Directors, Adirondack Curriculum Project, ATBI Education Committee

Sandra Hildreth, retired educator, artist, Board Member & Workshop Committee - ACP, ATBI Education Committee

BRI GENERAL CATEGORY: Education Initiative

ABSTRACT :

At a time of unprecedented loss of species, and children who spend little time outdoors, education initiatives that increase awareness of the value of biodiversity are critical. A coalition of organizations in the Adirondack Park formed the Adirondack All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) in 2004. The Adirondack Curriculum Project (ACP) develops and implements workshop opportunities for K-12 teachers to create standards-based curricula on topics of importance within the Park. We will invite 12 pairs of teachers in the region to participate in a 3-day workshop. They will be immersed in the Adirondack environment, learn about biodiversity through hands-on workshop activities, and develop an "Adirondack Challenge" (lesson plans) to use in their classroom. Teachers will test their "challenge" during the following school year. Students will present posters or presentations of completed challenges to their school communities to further increase public awareness. Teachers and students will attend and present their posters for peer review at a special session of the May 2008 Adirondack Research Consortium "Conference on the Adirondacks". A CD containing all the challenges, examples of student work and poster presentations will be distributed to schools throughout the Adirondacks and made available on the ACP web site to all educators.