



## George D. Davis papers ARL.027

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Adirondack Research Library

897 St. David's Lane  
Niskayuna, NY 12309

[arl@union.edu](mailto:arl@union.edu)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Adirondack Research Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Davis, George D., -2010
<b>Source:</b>	Davis, George D., -2010
<b>Creator:</b>	Adirondack Park Agency (N.Y.)
<b>Creator:</b>	New York (State). Department of Environmental Conservation
<b>Title:</b>	George D. Davis papers
<b>ID:</b>	ARL.027
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1968-1994
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6.06 Cubic Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 Boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

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## Biographical Note

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George D. Davis, born in Oneida County, New York, was a wilderness preservationist who worked for thirty years in natural resource management, land-use planning, and environmental policy at the state, national, and international level as well as in the private sector.

In 1968 he became director of the New York State Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks leading to a career with the Adirondack Park Agency upon its founding. He became the first professional planner for the Adirondack Park Agency in 1971 and prepared the first wilderness guidelines, maps, and plans. In 1989 he became Executive Director of the New York State Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century.

Davis served as Executive Director of the Wilderness Society, was the principal partner in Davis Associates, an international land-use-policy consulting firm, and president of Ecologically Sustainable Development, the nonprofit successor to Davis Associates.

In the early 1990s Davis led an international effort to develop a comprehensive land use and allocation program for the Lake Baikal watershed in Siberia and for the Ussuri River watershed in Russia and China. His work in the Baikal watershed represented a major step toward international acceptance of democratic and ecologically sustainable land use policy and economic development. He was also active in preserving land and water resources of the Miskito Indians in Nicaragua and Honduras.

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## Content Description

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The George D. Davis papers consist of Adirondack Study Commission reports, Adirondack Park Agency records, materials related to the Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century, correspondence and special reports by the Adirondack Land Trust, USDA Forest Service records and correspondence, Davis Associates project files, correspondence with the Department of Environmental Conservation and other records relating to land use management.

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## Arrangement

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The papers are arranged chronologically as five series:

Series 1, Adirondack Park Agency, 1968-1994.

Series 2, United States Forest Service, 1973-1981.

Series 3, Adirondack Council and Adirondack Land Trust, 1982-1988.

Series 4, Davis Associates, 1984-1993.

Series 5, Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century, 1989-1990.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <https://www.union.edu/adirondack-research-library>

### Conditions Governing Access

Open for research.

### Custodial History

Donated by George Davis, September 1997.

On April 22, 2011, Protect the Adirondacks! placed the collection on permanent loan with Union College.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Environmental policy -- New York (State)
- Forest conservation -- Law and legislation
- Land use -- Planning -- New York (State) -- Adirondack Park
- Baikal, Lake (Russia)
- Davis, George D., -2010

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## Collection Inventory

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### Adirondack Park Agency, 1968-1994

Physical Description: 1.6 Cubic Feet

## Scope and Contents

Temporary Study Commission reports, writings, maps, hearing transcripts and other materials relating to the founding of the Adirondack Park Agency and later various land use drafts, impact statements and permit applications. Agency administration and litigation records involve memoranda and planning documents of the Berle Commission, later the Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century and include draft legislation to implement recommendations.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Adirondack Forest Preserve: a chronology," Norman J. Van Valkenburgh, typescript with annotations, 1968	box 1	folder 1
News releases and articles, 1968-1973	box 1	folder 2
Economy and developmental potentials of the Adirondack Park Area report and amendments, 1969-1970	box 1	folder 3
ASC Study 1, legal and constitutional studies, 1969	box 1	folder 4
ASC Study 2, fish and wildlife resources and management, 1969	box 1	folder 5-6
ASC Study 3, forest resources and forest industry of the Adirondack region, 1969-1970	box 1	folder 7
ASC Study 4, water resources of the Adirondack region, 1969	box 1	folder 8
ASC Study 5, recreation reports, 1970	box 1	folder 9-10
ASC Study 6, environmental influences of major mining activities, 1970	box 1	folder 11
ASC Study 7B, management guidelines for the Adirondack Park Forest Preserve, 1970	box 1	folder 12
ASC Study 7B, field reports, 1970	box 1	folder 13
ASC Study 7C, Perkins Clearing landownership consolidation, 1970	box 1	folder 14
ASC Study 9, local government and taxation, 1970	box 1	folder 15
Temporary Study Commission technical reports, 1970	box 1	folder 16
Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan public hearings, 1972	box 1	folder 17
Adirondack Park Forest Preserve classification and State Land Master Plan maps, 1972	box 1	folder 18
Adirondack Park Agency land use drafts and plans, 1972-1973	box 2	folder 1
Adirondack Park Agency files, 1973-1994	box 2	folder 2
Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Unit Management Plan environmental impact statement draft, 1987	box 2	folder 3
Adirondack Park Agency permit applications, 1987-1988	box 2	folder 4

AMIDAWS no growth in the Adirondacks correspondence and report, 1989	box 2	folder 5
Adirondack Park Agency public hearings, 1989	box 2	folder 6
Adirondack Park Agency administration and litigation, 1990	box 2	folder 7

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## United States Forest Service, 1973-1981

### Scope and Contents

Correspondence regarding land and resource management planning, manuscript edits, conferences and policy decisions. Themes include ecosystem representation in the national wilderness preservation system, ethics and revising plans for forests in Idaho and Washington State. The series also includes drafts of reports on wildlands classification, scenic resources and heritage conservation activities.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1973-1981 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1.23 Cubic Feet	box 3	folder 1-3
National Heritage Program, wild areas classification draft report, 1978	box 3	folder 4-6
National register of natural areas working group papers, 1978	box 3	folder 7
Roadless area review and evaluation records, 1978-1979	box 3	folder 8

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## Adirondack Council and Adirondack Land Trust, 1982-1988

Physical Description: 2.46 Cubic Feet

### Scope and Contents

Adirondack Council records consist of professional correspondence sent by Davis while serving as Program Director to officials at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, citizens and other interested parties. Topics include revisions to reports and papers, New York State Policy, amendments to development plans, historic preservation, land acquisitions, and other policy matters affecting the Forest Preserve. A report by the Council on overhead utility lines provides inventory and evaluation information as well as detailed photographs. Adirondack Land Trust records contain plans drafts, meeting minutes, reports, correspondence, maps and photographs.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1982-1987	box 3	folder 9-15
Aesthetic impacts of overhead utility lines on Adirondack Park travel corridors report, 1987	box 3	folder 16

New York State Wild Scenic and Recreation River Systems Act, 1982	box 4	folder 1
Land Trust fund raising, 1985	box 4	folder 2
Adirondack Land Trust records, 1985-1988	box 4	folder 3-6
Willsboro Bay Property Owners Association, 1985-1988	box 4	folder 7
Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper, John Brown Track Development Program, 1988	box 4	folder 8

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## Davis Associates, 1984-1993

Physical Description: 0.75 Cubic Feet

### Scope and Contents

Records created by Davis Associates consisting of private consultant work done in conjunction with environmental organizations. Includes unit management plan drafts with annotations, writings, project files, land development documents, reports and photographs. Correspondence to the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation pertain to various policies and plans in the Adirondacks.

Title/Description	Instances	
Five Ponds Wilderness and Buck Pond Primitive Corridor unit management plan, 1984	box 5	folder 1
Black Mountain Section Lake George Wild Forest unit management plan, 1985	box 5	folder 2
Five Ponds Wilderness and Buck Pond Primitive Corridor unit management plan, 1986	box 5	folder 3
Gore Mountain Ski Center Environmental Impact Statement and unit management plan, 1987	box 5	folder 4
Pharaoh Lake Wilderness final draft unit management plan with annotations, 1987	box 5	folder 5
Whiteface Mountain Ski Center draft environmental impact statement, 1987	box 5	folder 6
Speeches and writings, 1987-1993	box 6	folder 1
Correspondence, 1988-1989	box 6	folder 2-3
Davis Associates projects, papers and news clippings, 1988-1990	box 6	folder 3
Diamond-Lassiter land development documents, 1988	box 6	folder 4
Large land owners in Northern New York list, 1989	box 6	folder 5
Natural Heritage Trust agreements, 1989	box 6	folder 6



Awards, 1990	box 6	folder 7
A treasury of great Adirondack stories introduction draft and correspondence, 1990-1991	box 6	folder 8
Paradise Bay Estates Residents Committee records, 1990-1991	box 6	folder 9
White's Hill Tower briefs and photos, 1990-1992	box 6	folder 10
Lake Baikal reports, 1993	box 6	folder 11

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## Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century, 1989-1990

Physical Description: 1.25 Cubic Feet

### Scope and Contents

Various commission records including stastics, outlines, studies, drafts, and data relating to the issuing of a final report. The findings proposed a new development in Resource Management and Rural Use areas of the Park's private land to provide time for the State legislature to consider and enact public policy options to protect the Park's working landscape.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Adirondack commission, general	box 7	folder 1
Contracts	box 7	folder 2
Vision statements	box 7	folder 3-7
Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century	box 7	folder 8
Correspondence	box 7	folder 9
Timeline and meetings	box 7	folder 10
Votes from commission members	box 7	folder 11
Issues and studies	box 7	folder 12
Drafts and outlines	box 7	folder 13
Committee records	box 7	folder 14-21

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