

# NORTHERN LIGHTS



## Give a Little Bit

FOLLOWING ON the success of Kickstarter and other crowdfunding websites, Adirondack Gives is a new hub for regional cultural, environmental and social initiatives seeking support. Part of the Lake Placid-based Adirondack Foundation (formerly Adirondack Community Trust), the site went live late last year with eight projects, including wildlife tracking, high-tech mapmaking, purchasing arts equipment, and preserving old photographs. Goals for most projects are less than \$1,000 and campaigns last 60 days. For more information visit [adirondackgives.org](http://adirondackgives.org).

*“Inner-city girls and suburban girls are not exposed to the out of doors and to the wilderness. They’re not going to understand the importance of protecting it.”*

—Chris Hildebrand, of Friends of Eagle Island—an alumnae group suing the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey for closing its historic Eagle Island camp on Upper Saranac Lake—in the *Daily Beast*.



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

### PORCUPINE (*Erethizon dorsatum*)

**Description:** Known for their sharp quills (actually very stiff, pointed hairs with a spongy layer inside) that cover the head, back and tail, adults weigh in at 10 to 20 pounds.

**Habitat:** Mixed woods throughout the Adirondacks.

**Behavior:** In winter and spring porcupines chew through tree bark to get at the rich cambium layer beneath; like all rodents their incisors grow continuously, so this gnawing is essential to survival. In summer they add berries and leaves to their diets.

**Fact:** When threatened the porcupine raises its quills by tensing muscles and then shakes its body, warning predators by the increased size, rattling sound and a strong odor. It's a myth that the animal shoots its quills.