

State of the Park 2006



THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL
Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness

The Adirondack Park

The Adirondack Park is the largest park in the contiguous United States. It contains six million acres, covers one-fifth of New York State and is equal in size to neighboring Vermont. The Adirondack Park is nearly three times the size of Yellowstone National Park.

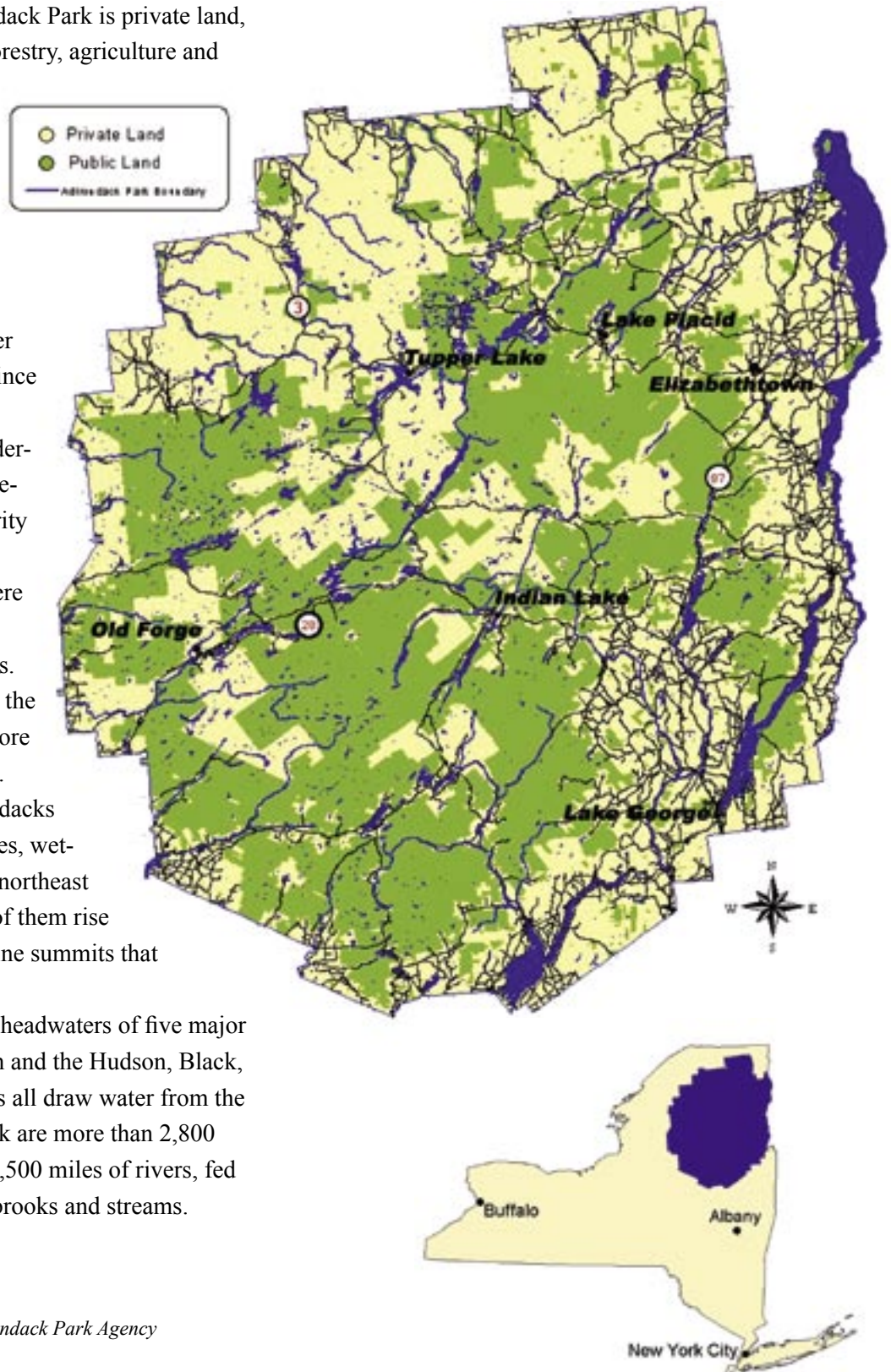
More than half of the Adirondack Park is private land, devoted principally to hamlets, forestry, agriculture and open-space recreation. The Park is home for 130,000 permanent and 110,000 seasonal residents, and hosts ten million visitors yearly.

The remaining 45 percent of the Park is publicly owned Forest Preserve, protected as “Forever Wild” by the NYS Constitution since 1894. One million acres of these public lands are protected as Wilderness, where non-mechanized recreation may be enjoyed. The majority of the public land (more than 1.3 million acres) is Wild Forest, where motorized uses are permitted on designated waters, roads and trails.

Plants and wildlife abound in the Park. Old growth forests cover more than 100,000 acres of public land. The western and southern Adirondacks are gentle landscapes of hills, lakes, wetlands, ponds and streams. In the northeast are the High Peaks. Forty-three of them rise above 4,000 feet and 11 have alpine summits that rise above the timberline.

The Adirondacks include the headwaters of five major drainage basins. Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Black, St. Lawrence and Mohawk Rivers all draw water from the Adirondack Park. Within the Park are more than 2,800 lakes and ponds, and more than 1,500 miles of rivers, fed by an estimated 30,000 miles of brooks and streams.

Through public education and advocacy for the protection of the Park’s ecological integrity and wild character, the Adirondack Council advises public and private policy makers on ways to safeguard this last remaining great expanse of open space.



Map data provided by the Adirondack Park Agency

State of the Park 2006

A Non-Partisan Review of Elected and Appointed Government Officials' Actions Affecting the Adirondack Park

Written and Edited by Adirondack Council Program Staff

Design by Sheri Amsel

Online Edition: www.adirondackcouncil.org

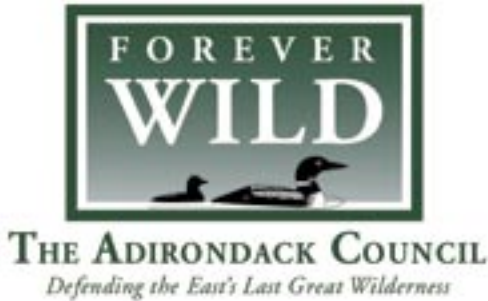
©Copyright by The Adirondack Council

Fall 2006

Contents

Letter from the Executive Director.....	2
Governor.....	3
Legislature	4
Courts.....	8
Local Governments.....	9
Adirondack Park Agency.....	11
Department of Environmental Conservation	13
Other State Agencies.....	16
Attorney General.....	17
Federal Government.....	18
Ecology Update.....	20
Tip of the Hat.....	21
2006 Award Winners.....	22
Annual Membership Meeting and Forever Wild Dinner.....	23
Adirondack Council Gifts.....	24

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. We envision the Adirondack Park composed of large core wilderness areas, connected to working farms and forests, and augmented by vibrant local communities, all within a diverse mosaic of biologically intact landscapes.



State of the Park 2006



Dear Council Members and Friends:

At a recent meeting, one of our Adirondack Council Board members stated, “In our role as vigilant guardians for the Adirondack Park, we will often need to be critical of institutions and their actions. But if we criticize a situation, we should also be the solution department.”

Creating solutions is the most exciting part of our team’s daily efforts to protect this very special place. Due to the Council’s collaborative efforts with a wide variety of elected officials, organizations and agencies, in this year’s State of the Park, I am happy to report that we have cleaner air, better water quality, more wilderness protected, and more engagement with local leaders on solutions that benefit Adirondack communities, their economies and the environment. As you read this 2006 State of the Park, I think you will understand how we accomplish our work and how much has been done.

In this election year, we are currently communicating to all local, state and federal candidates whose districts include the Park. Our expectations are for them: to reduce air pollution, improve water quality, protect open space, revitalize local communities, and reform the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation.

The coming year will present many new challenges and opportunities for the Adirondack Park. A new gubernatorial administration will take over in January 2007. In November, voters will also be selecting an Attorney General, Comptroller, members of the state Senate and Assembly, members of Congress and a US Senator. We have a busy year ahead of us as we work with these public servants to further protect the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. In next year’s State of the Park, we will report back to you on how well these elected officials have performed against the measures we have given them.

Over this past year, I had the opportunity to meet many of our members and learn about your love for this beautiful place. Thank you for all your ideas and support; we can’t accomplish much without you. If you are not already a member of the Adirondack Council, I hope this publication convinces you to become one.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Houseal

On the Cover: Lake Simond is adjacent to the subdivision and development proposed by Preserve Associates in the Town of Tupper Lake. The Adirondack Council is concerned about the project’s backcountry fragmentation, upslope development, and water quality and wildlife impacts that would result from the 700 plus-unit plan as currently configured. Photo by Carl Heilman II.

The Governor



EPF Given a Final Boost

In his final budget proposal, Gov. George E. Pataki asked the Legislature to spend \$180 million towards environmental capital projects around the state, creating the largest Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) since the fund was created in 1993. The EPF uses money from the Real Estate Transfer Tax to offset environmental damage stemming from new development. The fund's general categories include land acquisition, state land stewardship, and municipal landfill closures. Through the budget negotiations, the final EPF was increased to \$225 million. The fund will provide \$50 million for open-space protection programs, a substantial increase from 2005. The EPF includes \$3.25 million to fight invasive species, including \$250,000 earmarked for non-chemical removal of Eurasian Milfoil from Lake George, \$3 million for Quality Communities planning assistance, and \$7 million for water quality improvements.

Short-sighted Proposal Short Circuited

In April, Governor Pataki vetoed a bill which required annual Legislative approval for the two programs administered by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The Systems Benefit Charge (SBC) is the source of funding for the state's Long-term Monitoring Program for Evaluating Changes in Water Quality in Adirondack Lakes and energy efficiency programs. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) helps achieve the goal of having 25% of New York's energy come from renewable sources by 2013 and offers grants for the research and development of clean alternatives to fossil fuels. Funding for both programs comes from small fees on consumers' electric bills. The Authority already has



Pataki

a board of directors and a citizens' advisory panel to oversee these programs.

Awareness Breeds Vigilance

The Governor declared the second week in July to be Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Awareness Week, benefiting one of



Lakes in the St. Regis Canoe Area are among those threatened by invasive species. View southeast from Long Pond Mountain.

the Park's most important conservation efforts. Aside from appropriating money to fight invasive plant species in the state budget, the Governor's declaration helped to educate residents and tourists about the importance of protecting native plant habitat and how to identify plants that don't belong.

Give, and Ye Shall Receive

The Governor acted on a request from conservation groups including the Adirondack Council and the Land Trust Alliance by adding a New York state-funded property tax credit for landowners who sign voluntary agreements to permanently protect their lands from development. The credit provides an income tax refund equivalent up to 25 percent of the local property taxes paid (up to \$5,000 annually) on lands restricted by conservation easements in which the development rights are partially or entirely donated to a not-for-profit land trust or governmental body. With half of the Adirondack Park's lands in private ownership, this tax credit will encourage landowners to keep large

parcels intact to ensure the ecological integrity of their land long into the future.

The Bob Grows

The Governor took yet another step this spring in the long-term protection of the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness when he announced the purchase of 1,000 acres of land, with an additional 800 acres protected through a conservation easement, along the shore of Lows Lake, on the border of St. Lawrence and Hamilton Counties. While the new state parcel remains unclassified for now, it is expected to become part of the William C. Whitney Wilderness Area, which begins just south of Lows Lake. The lake is in the north central section of the Council's proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilder-

ness; a plan consolidating several existing Wilderness Areas into a single 408,000-acre roadless Forest Preserve and canoeing complex.

New Wilderness

Governor Pataki's agencies in the Adirondack Park worked together this spring to create a new Wilderness Area in the west-central Adirondack Park comprised of 10,700 acres around the Bog River in the southeastern corner of St. Lawrence County, between Sabbatis and Tupper Lake. The new Bog River-Round Lake Wilderness became the Park's 17th Wilderness Area of 10,000 acres or more. The Park contains about 1.1 million acres of state designated Wilderness.

Failed the Class

Governor Pataki ignored the urgent advice of every Adirondack environmental organization last fall when he allowed the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation to classify the Forest Preserve lands immediately east of Carry Fall Reservoir in the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County, as Wild Forest rather than Primitive. A Primitive designation, which is often considered "Wilderness in waiting," would have prevented any motorized access to the area's fragile boreal forests. Motorized vehicles are allowed in Wild Forest Areas. The Jordan River Valley, east of Carry Falls Reservoir contains 73,000 acres of intact

spruce and fir forests. It is the core of the low-elevation boreal biome that stretches for nearly 200,000 acres in the river valleys of the northern Adirondacks. The forest is home to some of the rarest wildlife in the Northeast, including moose, spruce grouse and two insect-eating plants (pitcher plant and sundew) as well as a plethora of other endangered and protected native species.

The Governor allowed his agencies to ignore this area's fragile ecosystem and make it possible for motorized vehicles to negatively impact this special place. The next Governor should reverse this decision.

State Legislature



Both Houses

Growth Spurt

Legislators forged an agreement with the Governor this summer to dedicate \$225 million to environmental capital projects, creating the largest Environmental Protection Fund in the state's history. In addition to land and water protection funds, monies are also available for local planning assistance and specifically targeted for the Adirondack and Catskill Park communities.

A Powerful Agreement

Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, and Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman Thomas DiNapoli worked together in June to pass a joint resolution of their two houses to benefit Tupper Lake and the Park's environment. The resolution would result in much less damage to Adirondack forest ecosystems when a new power line is built to Tupper Lake in 2008. The resolution is the first step in amending the NYS Constitution to



Little

allow the New York State Power Authority (NYPA) to construct the power line alongside Route 56 in the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County. The roadside is currently part of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, where power line corridors are prohibited. To avoid delays, NYPA had planned, and the APA gave a permit, for a power line route that skirted the Forest Preserve for over ten miles. The detour would damage wetlands, an old-growth white pine forest and the habitat of the endangered spruce grouse. The resolution outlined a procedure for NYPA to use a few roadside acres of Forest Preserve for the power line, and in turn give a larger amount of more valuable land back to the Preserve. If the resolution is approved by the Legislature again in 2007, it will be placed on the November 2007 ballot for a statewide vote.

Legislation that Gets the Green

Legislation was introduced by Environmental Conservation Committee Chairmen Senator Carl Marcellino, R-Oyster Bay, and Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli, D-Great



Marcellino

Neck, to increase the amount of money in the EPF. In January, both lawmakers said their goal was to increase the EPF to \$300 million by 2009. The legislation was not passed, but it served as a negotiating tool that helped secure the final EPF amount.

Rights for Rangers

Senator Little and Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito, D-Rome, gained the approval for a bill that would guarantee NYS Forest Rangers the option of seeking binding arbitration when negotiating salaries, benefits and working conditions with the state. Forest Rangers deserve the same protections as other unionized state employees. Over the past decade, the Ranger force has undergone sweeping changes to its staffing, district assignments, district sizes, academy training, firearms requirements and overtime pay.



Destito

You Make the Call

Senator Little, along with former Assemblyman Chris Ortloff, R-Plattsburgh, and Teresa Sayward, R-Willsboro,

persuaded the State Police to repair the long-defunct emergency call boxes located alongside the Adirondack Northway (I-87) between Pottersville (Exit 26) and Peru (Exit 35). The call boxes are linked to local State Police stations and each is powered by a solar panel because there is no power line nearby. This stretch of the interstate travels through dense forest, passing few homes or communities, and carries very little traffic at night. The phones stopped working Dec. 31, 1999, in what the troopers called their only Y2K-related computer malfunction. The Council urged that they be repaired.



Sayward

👍 Safer Scraps

Senator Marcellino and Assemblyman William Colton, D-Brooklyn, gained approval for a bill that would limit the total amount of mercury used in producing new automobiles for sale in New York State. The measure is designed to reduce the amount of mercury emissions from the incineration process used to strip scrapped cars down to base metals for recycling. Organic mercury particles, whether emitted from a power plant or incinerator, can cause birth defects and neurological damage and can disrupt the functions of internal organs. Mercury can be inhaled in fine particles or ingested by eating contaminated fish or other fish consuming animals.



Colton

👎 Preventing Protections

Senator Little and Assemblyman Darrel Aubertine, D-Cape Vincent, introduced identical legislation this session to strip the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) of its authority to regulate recreational vehicles (RVs) at seasonal campgrounds in the Adirondack Park. The current regulations state that RVs parked at seasonal campsites may remain for three months, but must then move on. Enforcement has been lax. In 2005, the APA announced it would step up enforcement, but would

extend the season so RVs could remain at campsites for four months each year. Senator Little responded by criticizing the Agency and introducing a bill to undo the current regulations. Senator Little managed to get her bill through committee, but the bill was subjected to a fierce debate from environmentally-minded colleagues. They produced photographs provided by the Adirondack Council, which showed numerous examples of seasonal campgrounds where RVs remained for years and had been affixed with porches and decks.



Amsel

👎 Power Grab

In March, both houses of the Legislature passed a budget which included a provision that would have required annual Legislative approval for two programs administered by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); the Systems Benefit Charge (SBC) and the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). These programs' funding comes from small fees on consumers' electric bills. The SBC funds the state's water monitoring program in Adirondack lakes. By making these programs subject to budget debates, the Legislature would have endangered 20 years of continued acid rain research and monitoring in the Adirondacks, and plans to develop renewable energy systems state-wide.

Senate

👍 Fighting Invasions

Senator Little served the Park well in this year's negotiations over the Environmental Protection Fund. The Senator secured \$250,000 in additional funds to control invasive aquatic species in Lake George, above the \$3 million already set aside for invasive species control statewide. The Senator also helped secure \$3 million for a Quality Communities program to provide money for better planning and measures to combat sprawling development in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

👍 Defenders of Green Funding

Senator Minority Leader David Paterson, D-New York City, and Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Delmar, held a press conference along with environmental organizations calling on their colleagues to not override a budget veto that would have required annual Legislative approval for the Systems Benefit Charge and the Renewable Portfolio Standard administered by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority. The Legislature overrode several of the Governor's vetoes, but left these programs alone.



Paterson



Breslin

The Adirondack Council does not accept government or taxpayer funding of any kind. The Council's work is funded entirely by your private donations, strengthening our advocacy efforts.

Twenty Questions

Sen. Elizabeth Krueger, D-Manhattan, carried out a vigorous debate over the merits of a bill sponsored by Senator Little that would have stripped the Adirondack Park Agency of its authority to regulate the Adirondack Park's 133 private campgrounds.



Krueger

The unexpected challenge forced Senator Little to wait for a sufficient number of majority colleagues to return to the chamber to register their votes. The bill had been expected to pass without debate and many GOP Senators had left the chamber to conduct other business. Several majority members voted against the bill. While it passed with a slim majority, the debate called the attention of the Assembly majority to the bill, where leadership did not permit it to pass out of committee.

of timber, living or dead, from the Forest Preserve since 1894. In 1950, following a hurricane, Gov. Thomas Dewey suspended enforcement of the clause to allow for the commercial removal of fallen trees from the Preserve. This resulted in widespread theft of unharmed trees and extensive damage to rivers and streams. In 1995, after a storm of similar intensity, Gov. George Pataki ordered that the fallen trees be left alone on the Forest Preserve, except to clear existing trails for public use. Senator Little's bill did not pass the Senate. The bill was also introduced by Assemblyman Aubertine in the Assembly, but fortunately it died in the Judiciary committee.



Adirondack Anarchy Advocated

Senator Little moved a bill through the Finance Committee that would have required the Adirondack Park Agency to issue a permit within 30 days for any development that met with the approval of any local government in the Park. The poorly drafted legislation would have placed the same restrictions on the Lake George Park Commission, NYS Departments of Health and Transportation, the Office of General Services and every other state agency with authority over the Park's natural resources and safety regulations.

Under the bill, if a town board approved a development that violated the plain language of the APA's rules and regulations, the APA would be powerless to stop it. Before the APA can modify or deny any permit, the Commissioners must vote at their monthly meeting to send the project to an adjudicatory public hearing, often taking longer than the 30-day window required by this legislation.

Overdevelopment Opposition

Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, D-Mamaroneck, forced a prolonged debate with Senator Little over the merits of Little's bill that would require the state to transfer development rights to localities every time the state acquires new Forest Preserve. The bill would have allowed significant over-development of private land within the Park. Allowing a higher density of buildings per acre could degrade water quality and wipe out miles of existing shoreline wildlife habitat. It passed the Senate with the bare minimum of positive votes, but thanks to Oppenheimer's resistance, it went nowhere in the Assembly.



Oppenheimer

Bad Little Bills

Senator Little gained the Senate's approval for a slate of bills that would have caused great harm to the Adirondack Park and to the Adirondack Park Agency's ability to protect it. One bill would have taken away the APA's authority to regulate private campgrounds. Another would have forced the state to increase the development allowed on private lands in towns where the state purchases new Forest Preserve.

Chopping Into the Forever Wild Clause

Senator Little also proposed a Constitutional Amendment that would have weakened the Forever Wild Clause (Article 14, Section 1) by allowing anyone to remove fallen timber from the Forest Preserve. Due to ecological concerns, the Forever Wild Clause has prohibited the removal



Assembly

No Handouts

Assembly Local Governments Committee Chairman, Robert Sweeney, D-Lindenhurst, refused to allow a bill out of his committee that would have aided the developers of a proposed 700 plus-unit subdivision in Tupper Lake by allowing them to avoid paying for the roads needed to complete their controversial project. The developers wanted current town residents to pay for the new roads, promising they would reimburse taxpayers if the Resort project was not a success. Since the town would have to borrow the money and use it on lands it doesn't own, the developers needed special permission from the Legislature to create a "road district," where the use of town funds would be legal. The Adirondack Council believes the proposed project would cause forest fragmentation, water pollution, wetlands degradation and unfair financial pressure on town residents.

Preserving Our Communities

Assembly EnCon Chairman DiNapoli gained his house's approval for the Community Preservation Act. The bill would allow local governments to impose a real estate transfer tax of up to 2 percent on the sale of any home that fetches a price higher than the median value in its county. The funds could be used for the preservation of open space or for historic preservation projects. The median value threshold was established to prevent the tax from being levied on working families or low-income housing. The Senate failed to act on a similar bill proposed by Senator Marcellino, preventing the idea from moving further.



DiNapoli

Protecting the Preserve

The Assembly stayed strong and refused to create a new ATV trail system without environmental protection of the natural resources. Last year, increased ATV

registration fees were established with the intention of using these funds the following year to create a trail system for ATV riders. During the process of negotiating the details of such a program, the Assembly consulted with environmental organizations and insisted on increased fines and seizure of vehicles from repeat offenders. It also refused to open the Adirondack Forest Preserve to ATV trails, even to make connections between private lands where ATV riding is legal. A still-pending Commissioner's Policy at the Department of Environmental Conservation would virtually outlaw ATVs from any area of the Forest Preserve. The Adirondack Council supports this policy, as well as the Assembly's actions. Since no agreement on the ATV trail development process was reached, the increased registration fee and trail program were rescinded in the final state budget.

Authority Not Authorized

The Assembly, at the request of the Council and other environmental groups, did not pass a bill that would have allowed the creation of a Warren County Convention and Sports Authority. Our main concern was not the authority itself, but the location it was planning to use for a new convention center. Last year, the Town and Village of Lake George were preparing to turn the 7-acre Gaslight Village property into a wetland. This year, the County wanted the property for a new center, with a parking lot that would negate any benefit of a smaller wetland on the property. The Council and others are hopeful the entire property, which remains for sale, can be turned into a wetland to help protect the water quality of Lake George.

Paddle Through

Assemblyman Alexander "Pete" Grannis (D-Manhattan) introduced legislation to ensure, by statute, the public's right to access navigable waterways throughout the state. The Adirondack Park depends on tourists seeking recreational opportunities to sustain a largely nature-based



Grannis

tourism-based economy. This legislation will guarantee that people seeking to use waterways for passage through an area for fishing, boating, canoeing, and other benign recreational activities where permitted, will by law have the right to do so. Members of the public wishing to access waterways for such purposes must use public launch sites so that private property rights are not diminished. The bill moved all the way to the floor in the Assembly, where it was unfortunately left – without being passed – at the close of session.

Putting the Brakes on Bad Bills

Assembly Committee Chairs and members refused to act on several bills advanced in the Senate that would have reduced the APA's authority to effectively regulate land use in the Park. The measures would have made it impossible for APA to properly review permit applications, changed the way APA measures building height – a criterion that can trigger a formal review, moved development rights off of Forest Preserve land on to private land, and weakened the "Forever Wild" clause of the State Constitution. These bills increased tensions between local governments and the APA, and did nothing to protect the ecological integrity of the Park.

Unfortunate Alliance

Assemblyman Darrel Aubertine cosponsored two bills with Senator Little, which would have lessened the APA's authority and the protections afforded the Forest Preserve under the "Forever Wild" clause of the NYS Constitution. Unfortunately, neither Aubertine nor Little introduced measures that would reform the Park Agency to make the process simpler for permit applicants and protect the ecological integrity of the Park as well. The Council is urging lawmakers to find a balance between both goals, instead of simply introducing legislation that increase tension between the regulatory agencies and Park residents. Fortunately neither of the bills moved out of committee in the Assembly.

Courts



Wrong Way, Go Back!

State Supreme Court Justice Richard Aulisi in May struck down a local law in the Town of Horicon, Warren County, which had opened eight roads within the Adirondack Forest Preserve to all-terrain vehicles. The local law declared that all of the roads were actually town roads and subject to town law, not to state laws banning ATVs from Forest Preserve lands. The judge rejected this argument, stating that the town could show no proof that it owned or even maintained the roads, before or after the state added them to the Forest Preserve.



Damage caused by ATVs in the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest

That's Not Permitted

In November, State Supreme Court Justice Michael Daley in Herkimer County ordered a halt to construction of a mansion built on a narrow spit of land adjacent to Second Lake of the Fulton Chain. The judge upheld an enforcement judgment by the Adirondack Park Agency Board of Commissioners ordering the owner to dismantle sections of the house that exceeded height and square-footage limits. The partially constructed house exceeded the 35-foot height limit by 14 feet and would have been more than seven times larger than the 2,500 square-foot limit his permit allows.

new equipment to reduce pollution. The same argument used by Cinergy is also being employed by the EPA to justify its poor proposal to change the NSR requirement to the hourly rate. The states' suit originated in 2001 when Cinergy backed out of an agreement to clean up its plants without further litigation.

coal-fired power plants each year, without triggering a demand for new pollution controls.

Preventing Power Plant Pollution

In August, the United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, unanimously ruled in favor of the federal government and several states, including New York, that electric company Cinergy Corp. could not change how it measures emissions to avoid cleaning up its dirty coal-fired power plants in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Cinergy was attempting to use the rationale that its emissions should be measured based on an hourly rate instead of the current system of annual levels. This could allow much more pollution to be emitted without having to comply with the New Source Review (NSR) program and install

Eliminating NSR Dodgers

In March, the US Court of Appeals, DC Circuit, ended an attempt by the Bush Administration to weaken the Clean Air Act by rendering moot the "new source review" clause (NSR). Last summer, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared that most equipment replacement projects at power plants, refineries, and other industrial facilities were exempt from the Clean Air Act's NSR requirement to install new pollution controls at the same time. NSR states that any work beyond routine maintenance triggers a rule requiring the power plant to meet the same pollution standards as a brand new plant. The judges told EPA that NSR was explicit in forbidding any work to extend the life of a power plant without installing new pollution controls. Until it was struck down, the EPA's new interpretation of the Clean Air Act would have allowed power companies to replace 20 percent of their

Frankenpine Freed

In January, State Supreme Court Justice Frank Williams dismissed on a technicality the lawsuit brought by the Adirondack Council against the Adirondack Park Agency for its decision to allow the construction of a 104-foot-tall fake pine tree cell phone tower (a.k.a. Frankenpine) on a slope above Lake George. The judge blamed the law firm representing the Council for failing to provide court papers to one of the defendants on time. While he considered the Council's petition to reargue the case, he came to the same conclusion the second time. The defeat marks the first time the Council has lost an article 78 lawsuit, which allows citizens to appeal arbitrary decisions made by state agencies.

In August, several sections of the Frankenpine tower were delivered to the site on Pilot Knob in the Town of Fort Ann, and construction began shortly thereafter.



Local Governments



The Route to a Better Future

The Towns of Inlet, Old Forge and Webb worked together in May and August to gather community input and support for a joint Rt. 28 Corridor Revitalization Plan. The plan will address waterfront access; hamlet revitalization; economic and market analyses of potential land-uses; sustainable, tourism-based economic development; protection of community character and cultural resources; growth management; and, protection of natural resources.

A Glaring Improvement

Last Fall, the Village of Lake George approved new zoning ordinances that placed new standards for parking, building height and landscaping. In addition, a new sign code set regulations for placement, height, lighting and size of signs. Internally illuminated signs would have to be taken down within five years and omni-directional lighting must be removed or altered within two years.

Town Overrides Own Veto

The Town of Franklin, Franklin County, lifted its objections in May to the state's plan to acquire a conservation easement on lands within the town that were sold to Lyme Timber of New Hampshire by former owner Domtar Industries of Canada. Rather than continue posing a roadblock to the agreement, the town worked with state officials to ensure that public access would be included in the deal, and then lifted their objections. Both the Domtar and International Paper Co. land sales remain incomplete as a result of local objections.

In both cases, the timber lands are spread over several counties and numerous towns, most of which raised no objections to the sales or the easements. Yet objections from a handful of towns (whose supervisors want all-terrain vehicle access

to unrelated areas of the Forest Preserve) have held up the portion of the deal in their respective towns.

Reverse Course!

Former Lewis County Legislator Bruce Krug persuaded his colleagues in December of 2005 to repeal a local law that had opened miles of county roads to ATV traffic, including roads in the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Krug insisted that the county law was in violation of the state Vehicle and Traffic Law because the state law banned ATVs from any road where cars or trucks were allowed, with few, very limited exceptions. While supporters of the county law refused to believe Krug, he finally persuaded the board to seek an opinion from the NYS Attorney General's office. The AG's opinion confirmed that the law should be repealed.



Bruce Krug of Constableville tells the media about damage done to public lands in Lewis County by ATV riders, during a press conference in May at the NYS Capitol. He has been a strong advocate for removing ATVs from hiking trails and sensitive forests.

Decision Augurs Well for Quiet Auger Lake

In April, the Chesterfield Town Board created a new local law banning personal watercraft (jet skis) from Auger Lake. The board took advantage of a state law that the Adirondack Council worked hard to gain approval for in 2000, which gave local governments the right to regulate jet skis, or ban them entirely, on waters within their

jurisdictions. Town Supervisor Gerald Morrow said an overwhelming majority of lakeshore residents favored the ban. Auger Lake is west of Route 9 and I-87 in Essex County, just south of the Clinton County border.

Revamped Proposal

The newly elected Saratoga County Board of Supervisors in January decided to stop pressuring the Adirondack Park Agency to approve three new emergency communications towers on mountaintops and ridgelines around the north end of the Great Sacandaga Lake. The county's proposal clearly violated the APA's policy against highly visible structures that rise above the surrounding trees. The Council, the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, and one affected landowner, were set to mount a legal challenge against the county's proposal. The APA called for a formal, adjudicatory hearing, which is required before any permit can be modified or denied. The hearing was set to begin in the fall of 2005, but was postponed at the county's request. The newly elected board decided to halt the permit process and call off the hearing. Chairman John Lawler of Waterford told the Council that he wanted to cooperate in finding the best system for the county and offered to share the information presented to the APA by the county's newly hired emergency communications coordinator.

Access for All

The Village of Saranac Lake won a \$51,000 grant from the state Environmental Protection Fund in July and will use the money to complete a new access point behind the village offices for people with disabilities. Construction is expected to start in the spring of 2007. The state grant was part of \$2,073,650 doled out for 14 open space recreation, preservation and waterfront projects in Hamilton, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis and Franklin counties in 2006.



E-Town's Invisible Friend

Elizabethtown will allow Verizon Wireless to install a cell phone antenna within the cupola of the Town Hall and receive \$1,000 a month for its use. The antenna will not be visible from the outside of the building. After watching the Town of Fort Ann lose the battle against Frankenpine on Pilot Knob and learning that they can earn revenues by leasing their infrastructure and collocating telecommunications equipment, many communities have offered prime locations for rent. For example, the Town of Essex leases space on its water tower, as do other villages across the Park

Elizabethtown Town Hall



Lake Placid Sees the Light

Village Mayor Jamie Rogers announced in August that Lake Placid would begin replacing existing streetlights on Main Street with shorter, more efficient lights that will reduce the community's electricity use. Funding for the \$188,000 energy-saving project came from the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and from the village's own energy efficiency fund. The current lights were installed in 1968. The village is replacing 450-watt lights with twice as many 200-watt fixtures. The placement and design of the lamps will direct more light downward, where it is needed, rather than into the sky, where it is wasted. Thus, the streetscape will be brighter, despite the reduction in wattage. Streetlamps that shine sideways or reflect light upward diminish the view of the local night sky and can disturb both people and wildlife.

Next door, the Town of Harrietstown (Saranac Lake area) is also making use of a NYPA grant to improve energy efficiency at municipal facilities, including the town hall.



Largest Land Deal Still Victim of Local 'Veto'

The Adirondack towns of Colton, Hopkinton, Parishville and Piercefild have refused to grant their consent to a final agreement that would forever protect from development their portion of the 260,000 acres of former International Paper Co. holdings located within their towns. Town officials that have objected to the deal said they want the state to first grant permission for a snowmobile and ATV bridge

across the Carry Falls Reservoir into a rare and fragile low-elevation boreal forest that would be severely degraded by such traffic. In 1989, the Council proposed the creation of a 73,000-acre Boreal Wilderness in this forest, surrounding the Jordan River Valley. Motorized traffic is not allowed in Wilderness Areas. Acreage in these four towns totals about 34,000 acres of the 260,000.



Reversal of Fortune

Lewis County officials are again violating the law in a mad dash to open about 50 miles of access roads, fire lanes and trails to ATV traffic. The action was taken without completing a proper environmental review, and in apparent violation of the State Vehicle and Traffic Law. The roads and trails were opened before Lewis County officials completed a legally required study under the State Environmental Quality Review Act. Such reviews give the public an opportunity to comment on the plan and present evidence concerning the areas' suitability for ATV use. Under state traffic law, roads that carry automobile traffic cannot be used by ATVs. This is the second time in the past five years that the county has acted hastily in violation of the law in an effort to accommodate ATVs. In their final meeting of 2005, the Legislature voted to rescind the 2001 law opening portions of 39 county roads to ATV traffic, citing an opinion from the state Attorney General that said roads should be opened only to connect actual trails or other riding areas, not other roads.



Down the Wrong Trail

The St. Lawrence County Legislature is copying the poor examples set by Lewis County's attempts to legally open roads to ATVs. It is also ignoring the repeated losses in court by the Town of Pitcairn when it illegally opened roads and was sued by its own taxpayers. The Legislature in July set in motion a plan to establish an ATV trail system on county forests that would have a usage fee. They didn't consider the cost to the public due to the inevitable damage to trail surfaces, air quality, wildlife habitat, water quality, vibrant fisheries and local serenity. Public officials should weigh those costs against the paltry revenue expected from trail fees, rather than just anticipate the political rewards of providing a new recreational amenity.



Amsel

Adirondack Park Agency



Repelling Persistent Invaders

In May, the Adirondack Park Agency adopted a formal plan for fighting invasive plants and animals that threaten the Park's rivers, lakes and streams. Until now, homeowners, state agencies, local governments, environmental organizations, lake associations and boating organizations have fought independent battles against at least 48 non-native species, including zebra mussels and Eurasian Milfoil. Such invaders can change lake and river ecosystems by consuming or out-competing native species and throwing off the natural balance. Zebra mussels crowd out native mussel species, can clog water intakes, and can cause millions of dollars of damage to residential water systems and municipal facilities. Milfoil crowds out native water plants and creates thick mats of vegetation. Both species are easily spread by boats that are moved from infected waters to non-infected ones, carrying exotic species on their trailers, in bilge water and motor-cooling water. Large portions of the Park are still free of invasive species. The Council's goal is to protect these places, while working to eliminate existing invasions.



zebra mussel
illustration by Sheri Amsel

The Height of Vigilance

The Park Agency's leadership stood fast in the face of criticism and pressure from an influential Lake Placid resident whose enforcement case was sent to the NYS Attorney General's office after he refused

to cooperate with the Agency's remediation plan. In April, the Attorney General carried forward the enforcement action by bringing suit against the landowner in Essex County Court on behalf of the APA. That case is still pending. It could bring fines of \$500 per day for land-use violations dating back to September, 2004. The owner built his house beyond the height restrictions given to him in his APA permit and also violated setback and erosion control rules.

Mega-Resort Plan Panned

In March, the Agency told the development partnership Preserve Associates to go back to the drawing board with its plans for a 700-plus unit residential and commercial subdivision on the slopes around Big Tupper Ski Center. The APA was concerned over the cursory treatment given new elements such as a shooting school, equestrian center and revised marina plans within the application. The APA also cited the lack of approval from the Town of Tupper Lake for a local zoning change and the lack of an agreement with the town and the Franklin County Industrial Development Agency regarding financing for roads, sewers, water, and power services. This is the second time since May 2005 that the APA has returned the application to the developers with additional questions.

First Amendment Protected

In November 2005, the APA Board of Commissioners rejected a plan proposed by Chairman Ross Whaley to curtail public comment on Agency matters by eliminating one of the two remaining public comment periods in the APA's monthly meeting schedule. The Agency has taken several steps in recent years to curb public comments at APA meetings on permit decisions for projects. The Adirondack Council has objected to each of these measures, stating that the Commissioners

should have as much information as possible when ruling on projects of regional impact. When Chairman Whaley proposed the change in October 2005, Adirondack Council Executive Director Brian Houseal informed the Commissioners and media that the Council would take action if it sensed any further erosion of public input at the APA.

APA in U.M.P. Slump

The Park Agency has repeatedly abdicated its responsibility to protect the Forest Preserve by refusing to say no when reviewing the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Unit Management Plans (UMP). In the past 24 months, the Agency has approved DEC management plans that violated both the letter and the spirit of the State Land Master Plan (SLMP). The APA's main duty in reviewing the plans is to ensure compliance with the SLMP. Its review is supposed to be a check on the power of DEC officials to declare how "Forever Wild" public lands will be managed. APA has approved plans that contain such flaws as the retention of fire towers expressly ordered to be removed by the SLMP; authorization for tree-cutting on Forest Preserve mountain summits to preserve hikers' views; creating new snowmobile trails at a time when DEC appears to have already authorized 600 miles of trails above the limit contained in the SLMP, and allowing Forest Preserve roads to remain open to automobiles. On one occasion, a DEC regional official who disagreed with public comments on an illegal provision in a UMP, responded to critical comment letters by Adirondack Council Activists and urged the writers to alter their comments. While the employee was mildly disciplined, his impact on the public record was not considered by the APA.

Taking the Wild Out of Wilderness

The APA Board Commissioners voted in August to allow Barton Mines to avoid a public hearing on its plan to install a sec-

ond wind-measuring tower on the slopes of Pete Gay Mountain. The APA granted a permit for a similar tower (more than 100 feet tall) without a hearing two years ago. The Adirondack Council and Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks had urged the Agency to either hold a formal hearing or require the applicant to reveal the details of its plan to construct 10 wind turbines. According to Barton officials, each turbine would be 420 feet tall, built atop Pete Gay, which stands 2,900 feet above sea level. Pete Gay is adjacent to the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area and is visible from other surrounding Wilderness Areas.

Project Pushed Through

In June, the Agency approved a major subdivision on Woodhull Lake in the Herkimer County Town of Webb without an adjudicatory public hearing. Such a hearing would have allowed the Agency to reduce the number of lots and the potential damage to Woodhull Lake's shoreline habitat. The project will result in the development of 25 principal residences and accessory structures on 1,235 acres of land classified as Resource Management on and around the lake. Two lots will be accessible only by water. Resource Management lands are those that are the most restricted under the APA land use plan. Before the formal application was submitted, the applicant (the Adirondack League Club) worked with APA staff and consulted the Adirondack Council and other groups. The League Club agreed to negotiate restrictions on tree-cutting and to require soil tests for septic systems and wells. In addition, there will be no additional development within 500 feet of the shoreline, the engine size for boats launched on the property will be restricted, and any generators must be enclosed and must not be any louder than 40 decibels. The Council still believes that the size and scope of the project may degrade water quality and wildlife habitat in the Woodhull Lake watershed. About one-third of Woodhull Lake's shoreline is "Forever Wild" Forest Preserve, within the Black River Wild Forest.

Power Play

Again succumbing to pressure from other quarters, the APA issued a permit to the NY Power Authority (NYPA) in March ignoring its mandate to avoid undue adverse impacts to the Park's natural resources. Without holding a public hearing, the APA approved a plan by NYPA to detour a proposed power line through fragile ecosystems. The proposed 46-kilovolt, Stark Falls-to-Tupper Lake power line would cut through an old-growth white pine forest and cross wetlands and rare bog habitat for the endangered spruce grouse. This diversion through these forests was employed to avoid a small section of Forest Preserve along the roadside of Route 56, where no such fragile habitat exists. NYPA thought it would save time by avoiding Constitutional issues that might bring a lawsuit, but promptly was sued by a Colton landowner from whom it wants to seize property for the detour.

After the APA's hasty approval, the Council worked with the Authority and with other state officials to gain first passage for a Constitutional Amendment in June. The amendment would remove a small amount of land along the roadside area from the Forest Preserve and replace it with more ecologically valuable lands in another location.

Frankenpine Lives

The Adirondack Park Agency refused to reopen its review of an application filed by two independent cell phone companies for a Frankenpine (fake tree cell tower) even though neither company exists any longer. The Frankenpine is on the slopes of Pilot Knob, a peninsula on the scenic eastern shore of Lake George. Regional cell phone companies Nextel Partners and Independent Wireless One (a Sprint regional affiliate) were the official applicants for the permit. Each claimed repeatedly (in response to the Adirondack Council's examination) during the APA's 2005 adjudicatory hearing that they had nothing to do with the national companies Sprint and Nextel. However, before the APA issued its final approval for the permit in April, Sprint and Nextel had merged into a single corporation. The Council argued that the APA would be violating its own rules by issuing a permit to an entity other than the actual applicants. The Council also argued that a

combined Sprint/Nextel no longer needed as tall a tower (104 feet), since they would be sharing the same wireless equipment. The APA rejected the Council's petition. Sadly, construction on the Lake George Frankenpine is underway.

We Surrender

The APA ran for cover last fall when faced with criticism of its reasonable, new plan to enforce its rules regarding the length of time a recreational vehicle (RV) can remain at a "seasonal campground." The APA had noted that its lax enforcement of the three-month limit on campground stays for RVs had allowed some campgrounds to become permanent second-home subdivisions. The Agency proposed extending the season to four months, but warned that the RVs had to be moved at the end of that time period. When state Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, complained that the APA was being too hard on campground owners, the APA backed off and never mentioned the proposal again.



While NEXTEL's Frankenpine was substantially redesigned after a great deal of APA input, the Council doesn't believe that fake trees belong in the Adirondack Park. Thankfully, instead of pursuing a similar route again, NEXTEL and other wireless communications companies have focused on collocating new equipment on existing infrastructure.

Department of Environmental Conservation

Mercury Falling

In May, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Denise Sheehan announced that the state would require deep, new cuts in mercury emissions from coal-fired electric power plants statewide. Under the draft proposal, plants would have to cut their current emissions by approximately 90 percent by 2015. The current federal standard requires only a 70 percent cut by 2018 and allows for the trading of mercury credits. The Adirondack Council opposes mercury credit trading, and New York's draft rule does not allow it. A large portion of the mercury emitted from power plants is deposited in areas close to the smokestack and trading could allow for "hot spots" where emis-



sions at a certain plant increase, causing public health and ecological problems locally. The Adirondack Council will work

with DEC to move up the timeframe of the reductions so that New Yorkers will see the benefits as soon as possible.

Establishing a Nest Egg

At the August 2006 monthly meeting of the Adirondack Park Agency in Ray Brook, DEC Region 5 Director Stuart Buchanan approved the final agreement for the world's first Bicknell's Thrush Mitigation Fund. The fund will be used to raise awareness about the need to protect the bird's threatened, high-elevation homes. Much of the bird's breeding is done on Adirondack peaks above 2,800 feet. Most, but not all, of that habitat is protected from development because it is part of the "Forever Wild" Forest Preserve. The remainder of its breeding range is outside the Park, on mountains that lack similar protections. Its wintering range is on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, which contains the nations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In addition to the Council, organizations signing the agreement to create and maintain the fund were the Wildlife Conservation Society, Audubon New York, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, the Adirondack Nature Conservancy, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, and the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA).

At the Adirondack Council's insistence, ORDA had taken a second look at its plans for developing new ski trails at Whiteface Mountain. Once an appropriate trail plan was developed, all of the interested parties agreed to work together to protect the Bicknell's habitat, both in the Park and on Hispaniola.

Driven to Change

At the urging of DEC, the NYS Environmental Board adopted in November 2005 new rules for automobile emissions that require cars sold in New York to meet the same stringent greenhouse-gas-emissions standards as cars sold in California. The rule is in limbo as auto makers are suing to prevent the implementation of the new regulation.

Forcing Out Invasives

DEC officials worked cooperatively with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to complete and issue the final report of the NYS Invasive Species Task Force last November. The report was the culmination of several years of work

by both agencies, as well as stakeholder organizations to gather information about the status of invasive plants and animals in New York, and the state's capacity to mitigate, eradicate, and prevent them. The final report was used as the basis for the state to establish a new category of funding for invasive species in the Environmental Protection Fund, and spend \$3.25 million fighting invasive plants and animals this year.

Roadside Rampage Punished

In March, the DEC fined the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) \$50,000 for cutting thousands of live trees within the Adirondack Forest Preserve in 2005, along an 11-mile stretch of state Route 3 between Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake. It is the first time the DEC has issued a fine against another state agency since Gov. George Pataki took office in 1995. DOT officials said they were reacting to a call from local officials to clear the roadside of trees that might fall across the road and block emergency traffic. DEC sent

DOT officials a strong message to seek the DEC's guidance before embarking upon roadside cutting on Forest Preserve lands. DOT has also agreed to have a "czar" coordinate all of its activities within the Adirondack Park, which spans part of three regional DOT offices.

👍 Wise Closures

In contrast to their actions in other Forest Preserve Unit Management Plans, DEC officials proposed the elimination of several miles of dead-end snowmobile trails and roads, as well as unused and poorly located campsites, in one unit this spring. In May, the DEC held hearings on the Moose River Plains Wild Forest Unit Management Plan to explain its position. Regional officials did a thorough job explaining the need to protect specific resources within the plains, as well as the need to discard snowmobile trails that traversed sensitive places or could not be connected to the existing network.

👍 Disappearing Act

In November 2005, DEC released a draft of the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan that eliminated any reference to two proposed Adirondack Wilderness Areas that had been part of the plan since it was created more than a decade ago. The areas removed from the plan were the 73,000-acre Boreal Wilderness, proposed for the Jordan River Valley in St. Lawrence County, and the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness, proposed for a 408,000-acre section of the Oswegatchie River Basin in the west-central Adirondacks. The Bob Marshall plan, which would combine several existing Wilderness areas into one, was known in the Open Space Plan as the Oswegatchie Great Forest. DEC officials said the Wilderness proposals were removed to make the Open Space Plan shorter and simpler. The Council felt there was little chance the Legislature would appropriate the money for these areas without official recognition in the Plan. In 2006, DEC officials confirmed they would put both proposed Wilderness Areas back into the final version of the plan which has yet to be released.

👎 Fuzzy Math

In July, the DEC made a preposterous presentation to the Adirondack Park Agency regarding the DEC's computerized

👍 Well Manored

In July, DEC Commissioner Sheehan officially opened the Scaroon Manor Day Use Recreational Area, which the state had acquired almost 40 years ago and had left relatively dormant. The new Recreation Area comprises 241 acres in the towns of Chester, Warren County, and Schroon, Essex County. It includes 1,200 feet of shoreline on the western shore of Schroon Lake. The day use area, picnic sites and the beach bathhouse amenities are accessible to people with disabilities. There are 58 picnic sites, 120 feet of public beach and a 10,000 square-foot swimming area. In the next phase of the project, DEC plans to clean up an existing amphitheater and construct a campground with 60 campsites, comfort stations, and other related facilities. Hiking trails and an interpretive center for preservation of Adirondack cultural history also will be created.



Scaroon Manor Day Use Recreational Area on Schroon Lake is the first new recreational facility constructed by DEC in the Adirondack Forest Preserve since 1977.

inventory of existing snowmobile mileage on the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The DEC estimated that only 850 miles of snowmobile trails exist on Forest Preserve lands throughout the Adirondack Park. This figure drastically differs from a much larger number given during a meeting with the environmental groups and snowmobilers earlier in the year.

Snowmobiles are allowed on some Wild Forest trails, but the total miles of snowmobile trails are limited to 848 miles by the State Land Master Plan. DEC has continued to allow trail network expansions without keeping an accurate count of what it has opened, and has closed very few trails during the UMP process.

Every official and unofficial state inventory of snowmobile trail mileage since 1992 has estimated that the Forest Preserve contains somewhere between 1,200 and 1,400 miles. The first reports from DEC officials on their 2006 computerized Geographic Information Service inventory reached the same conclusions. However,

DEC officials soon changed their minds and blamed a computer program malfunction for the initial figures. So far, DEC has released no detailed maps or explanations of this oddly convenient new estimate. Meanwhile, the DEC continued to add miles of snowmobile trails to individual Unit Management Plans it has submitted to the APA over the past two years. The Comprehensive Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park, which DEC began more than three years ago, is still not complete.

👎 On Wrong Trail with Snowmobiles

The DEC management plan for the Jessup River Wild Forest included the addition of 3 miles of snowmobile trails - including at least one section of new trail that would cut through old-growth forest - at a time when the state has refused to provide an accurate count of the total miles in the Park, which is limited by law. The DEC has also allowed its Draft Comprehensive

Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondacks languish for more than two years, while promising to issue an update. This spring, DEC unexpectedly announced it was changing the plan's name to the Conceptual Snowmobile Plan. All three actions were giant leaps backward in the process of establishing a safe, reliable and legal network of snowmobile trails in the Park.

Tower not Toppled

Despite clear instructions in the State Land Master Plan (SLMP), the DEC contorted its Unit Management Plan for the Blue Ridge Wilderness to seemingly justify retaining the non-conforming fire tower on Wakely Mountain. The SLMP states that man-made structures are not allowed in Wilderness Areas. The SLMP has instructed the DEC to close and remove the Wakely Mountain tower since 1989 because it is no longer used for the purpose for which it was created, sighting forest fires. Rather than comply, DEC decided to attach radio equipment to the top of the tower to justify keeping it in place. The SLMP also instructs DEC officials to add Wakely Mountain to the Blue Ridge Wilderness. Instead, in the UMP, DEC contemplates adding Wakely Mountain to the Moose River Plains Wild Forest, which would legally allow the fire tower to remain.

Making matters worse, the DEC official who worked on the development of this UMP was also the person in charge of reviewing public comment. When a flood of letters arrived urging the DEC to follow the law and remove the tower (many from Adirondack Council members and activists), he took it upon himself to respond personally and urged the writers to change their opinions and re-submit their comments.

Burning Desire

DEC officials announced this spring that they were re-writing the rules for non-conforming fire towers within Forest Preserve Primitive Areas rather than follow the law to remove them. The State Land Master Plan (SLMP), which has the force of law, is the rule book for how certain classifications of Forest Preserve (Wilderness, Wild Forest, Canoe, Primitive, etc.) will be managed. In some cases, the SLMP is very specific, instructing the DEC to remove specific towers. Two of

They Put the "Saw" in Sawyer

In its recent Unit Management Plans for various portions of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, the DEC has introduced an unprecedented change in the way it manages mountaintops, where some of the Park's most sensitive wildlife habitat is located. In the plans for the Wakely Mountain Primitive Area and the St. Regis Canoe Area, DEC officials said they wanted to cut down trees at the summit to enhance the view for hikers. Some unapproved tree cutting by DEC personnel occurred on Sawyer Mountain. The Adirondack Council believes the DEC should never advocate a Forest Preserve management scheme that involves harming the environment to accommodate recreation.



Sawyer Mountain

those are the towers located on Hurricane and St. Regis Mountains, in their respective Primitive Areas. Primitive Areas are essentially Wilderness Areas-in-waiting. In each case, all other private and state structures are gone and all roads beyond the fire towers are now closed.

Five Years of Waiting

DEC gave into local pressure when it released its Draft Unit Management Plan for the Silver Lake Wilderness and allowed the last 0.7 miles of the West River Road to remain open for another five years. This section of the road is in the Wilderness area and the State Land Master Plan requires that it be closed immediately. Instead, the UMP allows the road to stay open and in five years, a barricade will be installed just beyond the last private residence on the road, to prevent continued motorized traffic into the Wilderness area. Local officials have said if boulders are placed there, they will be moved and could lead to violence over the closing.



Illustrations by Sheri Amsel

Other Agencies



👉 Songbird Salvation

After several years of wrangling with the Adirondack Council and others over the details of its plan to expand ski trails at the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center, the Olympic Regional Development Authority agreed to help create an innovative program to protect the habitat of a rare songbird both in the Adirondacks and on its wintering range on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean. The authority signed an agreement in August with the Adirondack Council and a host of other groups that will create a Bicknell's Thrush Mitigation Fund. The fund will be used to preserve the bird's habitat and to educate the public about the need to protect it.

👉 On the Path to Success

NY Power Authority officials worked with the Adirondack Council and state Legislators this spring to reach an agreement on how to avoid a power line construction detour that would cause significant environmental damage. Originally NYPA had proposed going around the Forest Preserve with a long detour through fragile ecosystems. Environmentalists, who would normally applaud NYPA for going around public lands, said they would rather see the line built along the already disturbed roadside area. NYPA balked, saying such a route could draw a citizens' lawsuit in defense of the Forest Preserve, delaying the power line for years. It proceeded with its application to the Adirondack Park Agency, which approved it with little debate.

👉 Two Adirondack Lakes Relinquished

In October 2005, the NYS Canal Corporation signed an agreement with the Department of Environmental Conservation to transfer into the Adirondack Forest Preserve 719 acres of forest and two undeveloped lakes in Herkimer County. This area will become part of the Black River Wild Forest. The two parcels contain Twin Lakes Reservoir, covering 38 acres, the 152-acre Chub Reservoir,

and the land around them. The waterways were originally acquired by the state in the 1800s to provide additional water to the state's barge canal network. The lakes were connected by a stream to the canal system, but were never needed. When the NYS Thruway Authority took control of the canal system and its associated lakes in the Adirondack Park in the early 1990s, it announced a plan that included selling and leasing canal lands to private individuals. The Adirondack Council pointed out that a 1908 Court of Appeals decision required the canal system's Adirondack lands and waters to be afforded the same protections as the Forest Preserve; therefore they could not be sold or leased. This eventually led to a survey of the canal lands to ensure there were no private encroachments, and a review of the status of surplus lakes. The resulting transfer will allow Chub and Twin to remain "Forever Wild" regardless of unforeseen changes to the status of the state's canal lands.

👉 PSC's SBC for ALSC is A-OK

The NYS Public Service Commission, which regulates the state's power companies, ensured the integrity of the state's most vital acid rain research in December 2005, when it renewed the System Benefits Charge (SBC) for another five years. The SBC is a fee on consumer electric bills that provides money for environmental programs. The SBC funds the research of the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC). The ALSC has performed monthly chemistry tests on 53 Adirondack lakes and ponds for more than two decades. Its records include more than 25 years of uninterrupted data which has provided the foundation for all of the Adirondack Council's advocacy on acid rain. (For more information on the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corp., see our Summer 2006 Forever Wild newsletter, online at www.adirondackcouncil.org.)

👉 NYSERDA is Under Comptrol

This spring, state Comptroller Alan Hevesi helped to discourage an attempt by the Legislature to take control of the annual budget for the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The Authority already has a board of directors and a citizens' advisory panel to create and oversee its spending plan. Hevesi's 2005 audit revealed that the Authority is well run. He urged the Legislature to leave the Authority alone.



Hevesi

👉 Connecting the DOTs

Although the Department of Transportation (DOT) participated in the state's Invasive Species Task Force, it neglected to address the issue in its own comprehensive plan for the management of the state's highway roadsides. DOT has made great strides in its efforts to preserve wild flower habitat on roadsides and medians across the state. But it must also consider ways to manage its mowing and vegetation removal to control the spread of aggressive, non-native plant species that proliferate on roadsides (i.e., purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, phragmites). A 2006 map generated by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plants Program shows that most of the Park's exotic plant infestations occur near roadways.



Purple loosestrife
by Sheri Amsel

Attorney General



Turning Up the Heat

In April, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer joined forces with nine other states, the District of Columbia and City of New York to file a federal lawsuit against the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for failing to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. The plaintiffs want the EPA to curb carbon dioxide in an effort to stem global warming. Carbon dioxide is the most common of the so-called greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere that would otherwise radiate into space. Dramatic climate change is one of the most potent global threats to the Adirondack Park's ecological health.



Spitzer

sue the federal government – this time over the gas-mileage standards set for cars and Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs). The coalition filed suit against the US Department of Transportation, seeking, among other things, the right to set and enforce mileage standards that are tougher than federal regulations. Currently, only the federal government can set minimum mileage standards. The 2006 federal standard for new SUVs is (a fleet-wide average) 21.6 miles per gallon (mpg), compared with 27.5 mpg for automobiles. Under the current DOT plan, the standard for SUVs will rise to an average 24 miles mpg by 2011, or just 2.4 mpg more over the next five years.

No Market for Mercury

In June, Attorney General Spitzer worked with his counterparts in 15 other states to file a federal petition seeking to stop the USEPA from issuing lax rules for the control of mercury emissions from power plants. The suit seeks to strike down the “allowance trading” section of the regulations, which allow some com-

panies to avoid mercury reductions if they can find another company willing to make cuts deeper than the law requires. This suit is coupled with one brought by the states last year that sought to overturn EPA's decision to reclassify mercury so that it would not be subject to strict Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standards for emissions reductions. Rather than tighten the rule, EPA issued the final version with additional shortcomings.

Don't Mess with Success

During the NYS Legislature's 2006 budget negotiations, Attorney General Spitzer helped to thwart the Legislature's attempt to seize control of the annual budget of the Systems Benefit Charge and the Renewable Portfolio Standard administered by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority. Spitzer issued a statement this spring calling on the Legislature to leave these programs alone, which eventually was successful.

Miles Ahead of Feds

In May, Attorney General Spitzer again helped to lead a 10-state effort to



Split Rock Lighthouse



Bob Preyer, Julie Ball, Kip and Delia Thompson enjoy a visit at Split Rock Lighthouse.

Supporters of the Adirondack Council celebrate the 10th Annual Split Rock Lighthouse Summer Gathering of Friends in August. In honor of the 10th anniversary of the event, host Gary Heurich and friends of the Council raised \$10,000, with all funds going directly to support the Council conservation and advocacy programs.

Federal Government



Environmental Statesman Retires From Congress

In March, US Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-Utica, announced that he will retire at the end of his 12th term in December. Congressman Boehlert has been a staunch advocate for stronger federal regulation to control acid rain, mercury emissions and greenhouse gases, sponsoring and co-sponsoring several key pieces of legislation. He served effectively as Chairman of the House Science Committee. In 2001, he held a hearing on acid rain pollution as part of a Washington, DC conference co-sponsored by the Adirondack Council. In 1995, he sponsored the Forest Legacy Act. Less than a year later, federal funds from that program were provided to the Town of Indian Lake, Hamilton County, for a crucial environmental and economic development project.

EPA Sounds Smog Horn

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed the final implementation plan for the Clean Air Interstate Rule this March, setting the ground-rules for a 29-state program that is expected to reduce acid rain-causing smokestack emissions by 70 percent by 2015. In completing the plan, EPA also ordered New Jersey and Delaware to submit plans for federal approval that will control the nitrogen-based pollution that leads to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog).

A Change of Climate in US Congress

In May, Senator Thomas Carper, D-DE, introduced legislation that would require all coal-fired power plants to reduce their mercury emissions by 90 percent by 2015 and force steep cuts in emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide. It is a modified version of his Clean Air Planning Act, which he first introduced in 2002. The new proposal

would not allow emissions trading to achieve the mercury emissions reductions (see Heavy Metal below). The Adirondack Council supports this, and any other legislation that would require deeper cuts on a faster schedule than current federal regulations.



Carper

Speeding Toward a Better Economy

In April, US Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-NY, and US Rep. John McHugh, R-Pierrepont Manor, jointly announced that they had secured \$545,000 in federal grants to help create the Adirondack-Champlain Community Broadband Network. The high-speed computer information network will use a 500-mile fiber-optic and wireless network stretching from Plattsburgh to Saranac Lake. A similar network (a 400 mile-loop) is being constructed in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties to serve the western Adirondacks. The network will be operated from the Plattsburgh State College Technical Assistance Center. McHugh also helped secure an additional \$250,000 grant from the Department of Commerce for the project in August. Construction of the network is expected to cost \$20 million.



Clinton



McHugh

Weed Whacker

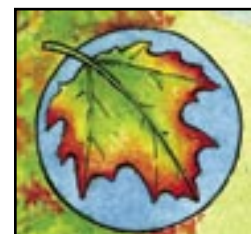
A group of government agencies and environmental organizations will receive \$100,000 in federal funding to prevent the spread of invasive plant species in the Adirondack Park, thanks to a grant obtained by US Rep. John Sweeney, R-Clifton Park, in May. The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program will inventory, map, monitor and eradicate or contain existing infestations. It hopes to work with additional community organizations to undertake new education and prevention efforts. The funding, which was received through the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee, will also pay for similar studies and action in the Catskill Park. Invasive plants can displace native plants and thus remove important links from the natural food chain. Invasive plants can also worsen allergies.



Sweeney

Scrubbing the Air

Through its Power Plant Improvement Initiative, the US Department of Energy provided a \$14.5 million grant to Consol Energy for a demonstration project of removing sulfur, nitrogen and mercury from a plant owned by power company AES in Dresden, Yates County. The program is designed to install state-of-the-art technology on smaller plants where such equipment may not be financially feasible. Greenidge Unit 4 produces 107 MW of power and will also test pollution controls when biomass is burned. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$33 million.



Waxman's Wisdom

In June, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-California) introduced the Safe Climate Act of 2006 (H.R. 5642) aimed at stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions in the United States at 2009 levels, followed by emissions reductions each year until 2050, when emissions would be 80% below 1990 levels. This legislation would provide the strong action needed by the federal government to ensure that the nation achieves the cuts desperately needed to prevent catastrophic environmental changes that would have serious impacts on the Adirondack Park. The bill would create a cap-and-trade system similar to that used now for acid rain pollutants. Allowances would be sold to polluters by the federal government, and the proceeds from those sales would be put into a fund to prevent cost increases to consumers, expand research on new technologies used to lower emissions and support other programs working to reduce climate change and related impacts. The bill has 76 cosponsors, including New York Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-New York), Jerry Nadler (D-New York), Major Owens (D-Brooklyn), Charles Rangel (D-New York), Maurice Hinchey (D-Kingston), Steve Isreal (D-Hauppauge) and Jose Serrano (D-Bronx).



Heavy Metal Breakdown

The EPA went through the motions of reviewing its proposed federal smokestack regulations to control emissions of mercury, but still failed to protect the public from a bad policy. EPA was flooded with public comments on the mercury rule, stating that its 70-percent reduction goal was too small and its 13-year implementation schedule was far too long. Citizens expressed nearly universal displeasure with the "allowance trading" section of the regulations, which allows some companies to avoid mercury reductions if they can find another company willing to make cuts deeper than the law requires. Communities downwind of power plants need relief from mercury pollution as quickly



The Common Loon, a signature species of the wild character of the Adirondack Park, is currently listed on the New York State Threatened Species List due to widespread mercury contamination.

as possible. Rather than tighten the rule, EPA issued an unconvincing rationale and finalized the rule. Lawsuits challenging the new rule are still pending. The weak EPA effort led Gov. George Pataki to order a 90-percent cut from New York power plants by 2015.

EPA = Energy Producer's Ally?

The EPA turned its back on public health in 2005, when it put forth a rule that declared power plants would be subject to an hourly, rather than an annual test to determine if emissions had increased, which would trigger New Source Review (NSR).

This is based on a Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, case won by Duke Energy, which environmental groups are now bringing to the Supreme Court. Traditionally, any increase in a plant's emissions from one year to the next was grounds for NSR to be considered. With EPA's new interpretation, only if a plant's hourly rate increased would NSR requirements come into play. Under the new guidelines, if a plant operated at the same rate for twice as long, it would not be reviewed as long as the hourly emissions rate did not increase. As of this printing, the regulation is being reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Sign up for Adirondack Council E-News!

Go to our website:
www.adirondackcouncil.org
and click on

Sign up for Email Updates



Ecology Update



The State of the Park, Ecologically

Ecologically speaking, New York's Adirondack Park is in better shape today than it was a century ago, and is one of the wildest, healthiest landscapes in eastern North America. Much damage persists from past abuses of the land, however, and new threats could reverse the gains made by the wildlife and people of New York over the past hundred years.

Persistent threats include the regional eradication of top predators and other critical species; habitat destruction and fragmentation; invasion by exotic weeds and pathogens; and degradation of air and water quality. The emerging hazards to the native ecosystems and species include exurban development (sprawl) and global climate change. Important species severely reduced or eliminated from the Adirondacks include: Gray Wolf (or Red Wolf or both), Eastern Cougar, Wolverine, Lynx, Landlocked Salmon, Lake Sturgeon, Round Whitefish and Harbor Seal (yes, this charismatic pinniped was a top predator in Lake Champlain until people exterminated it in the 1800's). Loss of these species has meant unnatural and unhealthy abundance of some prey species, which can in turn harm tree regeneration and other forms of biological productivity.

Habitat destruction and fragmentation, by roads, dams, liquidation logging, and inappropriate development, have left wild areas within the Park separated from each other. Some have been split by the Adirondack Northway (I-87), and others isolated from the Park's other natural landscapes by heavily developed areas around its periphery. As a Western anchor for habitat connectivity across the Northern Appalachian/Acadian Ecoregion, the Adirondack Park needs strong wild connections with Tughill Plateau to the west, Green Mountains to the east, Algonquin Park to the northwest, and along the Richieu River to the northeast.

The invasion of the Park by exotic species has already left many of our trees



The Harbor Seal was once a top predator in Lake Champlain. Photo by US Fish and Wildlife Service.

sick or dying. American Beech, American Elm and Butternut are among the victims of alien pathogens. Our native mussels have also been depleted largely due to Zebra Mussels out-competing them. Some wetlands have been overtaken by Purple Loosestrife or Phragmites, and some ponds and lakes are infested with Eurasian Milfoil and/or Water Chestnuts.

Although more than half the Park enjoys strong protection as Forest Preserve (2.7 million acres) or partial protection by conservation easement (500,000 + acres), most of the remaining 2.8 million acres or so are vulnerable to subdivision and development. Second-home development on Resource Management and Rural Use lands – the privately owned back-country – is perhaps the single biggest threat to the Park's ecological integrity. Mini "estate" lots are being developed across the Park and threaten the resources that have made the Adirondacks such an attractive destination for generations.

Global warming, with attendant regional and local climate changes of unprecedented speed threatens to magnify and complicate all the other problems mentioned, particularly the spread of in-

vasive species and the loss of native flora and fauna, such as the sugar maple.

The Adirondack Park is in much better shape than almost anywhere else in the eastern United States, but the largely positive trends of recent decades stand to be reversed by today's challenges. The solution is conservation and restoration: protecting more land and reconnecting water courses and wildlife migration corridors; encouraging sustainable forestry and farming; removing exotic species and allowing the recovery of missing species; and conserving energy and recycling resources. The state of the Park one hundred years from now will closely reflect the steps we take in protecting it today.



Tip of the Hat



The following organizations and companies are among the many who accomplished great things for the Adirondack Park's wild character and ecological integrity this year. Where appropriate, the group's website is listed at the end for those seeking more information.

A statewide coalition of environmental, social, labor and religious organizations, including the Adirondack Council, joined forces again this year as the **Friends of New York's Environment** in a successful effort to gain a substantial increase in the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). The EPF is the state's primary source of capital funding for major environmental projects. The EPF increased from \$150 million in 2005 to \$225 million this year.

Established in 1994, the **Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies (AJES)** continues to be a vibrant and valuable publication for those interested in the sustainable management of the Adirondack Park's natural resources. Editor Gary Chilson – a professor at Paul Smith's College – welcomes submissions from a wide range of disciplines and offers a forum to discuss the major conservation issues of the day. Chilson has recently broadened the focus of AJES from the six-million-acre Adirondack Park to encompass the 72-million-acre Northern Forest, which stretches from the Tug Hill Plateau through the Adirondacks to the northern reaches of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The magazine is published semi-annually. (www.adkresearch.org)



The **Lyme Timber Company**, of Lyme, New Hampshire, purchased the former timberland holdings of International Paper Company and Domtar Industries, of Montreal, and said it intends to operate both properties under a third-party-certified sustainable forestry plan. The two purchases netted Lyme more than 375,000 acres of commercial forest, which amounts to more than 10 percent of all private lands in the Adirondack Park. An independently certified forestry plan should protect the long-term ecological integrity of these forests and their waters, while ensuring a steady supply of high-quality timber.

On July 1, the **International Paper Company** officially opened to the public a 15,800-acre forest in Long Lake, Hamilton County, which the company has developed into a back-country recreation area for people with disabilities. Hardened wheelchair paths, grade-level leantos, fishing piers and other amenities are available without charge. The **John Dillon Park** was named in honor of the now-retired IP CEO who hailed from the Adirondack region. **Paul Smith's College**, Dillon's alma mater, has agreed to assist IP in managing and improving the facilities. The recreation area entrance is 4 miles north of the Village of Long Lake on NYS Route 30. (www.johndillonpark.org)

Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Communities and Conservation program has produced an outstanding report again this year. *Impacts to Wildlife from Low Density, Exurban Development: Information and Considerations for the Adirondack Park*, clearly and concisely describes the many ecological problems associated with back-country development; one of the principal threats to the Park. This report is available from www.wcs.org/Adirondacks.



The **Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks** hosted a star-spangled opening at its new Tupper Lake home on July 4, with Gov. George Pataki and US Sen. Hillary Clinton on hand to help celebrate. The Natural History Museum, also known as the Wild Center, contains a stunning array of displays on the Park's forests, wildlife, geology and waters. (www.wildcenter.org)

Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks

2006 Award Winners



Conservationist of the Year Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation



Brian Houseal, Council Executive Director (right) presents Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation Executive Director Jed Dukett, and ALSC scientist Karen Roy with the Conservationist of the Year award, a hand carved loon by Council member Dr. Robert Poe. Jed Dukett joyfully called it "our Stanley Cup."

The Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC), based in Ray Brook, NY, is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1984 as a cooperative agreement between the Empire State Electric Energy Corporation (ESEERCO) and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The ALSC conducts vital research for the state and federal governments, providing the information needed to identify and combat the causes and impacts of acid rain.

The Survey Corp works together with DEC's Division of Air Resources and receives joint funding from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the United States EPA.

To find out more about the ALSC visit:
www.adirondacklakessurvey.org.



The Adirondack Council honored retiring Congressman Sherwood Boehlert during the Council's Annual Forever Wild dinner festivities at Great Camp Sagamore on July 8th. Congressman Boehlert has been a champion for the natural resources of the Adirondack Park, working to reduce acid rain pollution, mercury emissions and carbon dioxide.



Bill Howland of the Lake Champlain Basin Program received recognition for his program's efforts to restore and protect Lake Champlain. Pictured L to R: Brian Houseal, Council Executive Director; Bill Howland, LCBP; Patricia Winterer, Council Chair; and Gary Heurich, Council Trustee and keeper of the Split Rock Lighthouse.

Annual Meeting & Dinner



Former Chairs and Directors Emeriti Barbara Glaser and Peter Borrelli joined current Board, members and staff to celebrate the Council's achievements and recognize the Conservationist of the Year at Great Camp Sagamore in Raquette Lake.



After a morning of outings at Great Camp Sagamore, Adirondack Council Trustees, staff and members gathered for lunch and the Annual Membership Meeting.

Save the Date! July 14, 2007

The Adirondack Council's Annual Membership Meeting and Forever Wild Dinner

The Adirondack Council will host our annual members' meeting, outings and Forever Wild dinner at the Heurich Split Rock Farm in Essex, NY on Saturday, July 14, 2007. The Split Rock Farm is part of the Heurich Estate on the shore of Lake Champlain, another portion of which was purchased by New York State in 1993 and added to the Forest Preserve. Split Rock Wild Forest, now nearly 4000 acres in size, contains the highest mountain on Lake Champlain, three miles of undeveloped shoreline, magnificent palisades, habitat for the timber rattlesnake (a state-listed threatened species), and 80 percent of the Champlain Valley's 193 species of birds.



Adirondack Council members Ben and Jane Lacy make their way around Sagamore lake during a nature walk before the Annual Membership Meeting.



Adirondack Council Members learn the history of Great Camp Sagamore before the Adirondack Council's Annual Members' Meeting and Forever Wild Dinner.

The Adirondack Council offers a small collection of gifts to help raise the funds we need to fight for the Adirondack Park every day. Every gift you purchase...whether it's a Clean Air Certificate to remove a ton of pollution that causes acid rain or our 2007 calendar to remind you of the Park's wilderness and wildlife...every gift purchase helps the Council protect the natural resources of the Adirondack Park.



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL HAT

The Adirondack Council's baseball-style cap features the "Northern Helldiver" loon, symbol of the Adirondacks. The tan cap is made of 100% cotton and identifies you as someone who is "Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness" on the back. **\$15**



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL 2007 FOREVER WILD CALENDAR

Featuring the Adirondack landscape photography of Carl Heilman II, the Adirondack Council's 2007 calendar brings you into the Park with Carl's breathtaking images of the Adirondacks. **\$13**



FOREVER WILD MUG

Our almond-colored mug features the Adirondack Council's logo on one side and a "Forever Wild...for everyone" message on the other. This wild 15 oz. mug is the perfect way to enjoy your favorite hot drink and show your support of the Council's efforts to protect the Adirondack Park. **\$12**



CLEAN AIR CERTIFICATE

For each gift of \$50, the Adirondack Council will permanently retire one ton of acid-rain-causing pollution reducing the total amount of acid rain that can fall in the Adirondack Park. The recipient will receive a clean air certificate in their name. **\$50**

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Please consider giving a gift membership to someone you know who cares about the Adirondacks, clean air and water, and wild places.

Gift memberships are \$35 each and you and the recipient will each receive the Adirondack Council's 2007 Forever Wild Calendar.

To purchase a gift membership go to our website at www.adirondackcouncil.org or call the Council toll-free 1.877.873.2240 M-F 8:30 am - 5:30 pm (Visa/MasterCard).

Give a gift membership and help us continue to grow the strength of our advocacy for wilderness, water, and wildlife.

GIVE A GIFT THAT HELPS PROTECT THE ADIRONDACK PARK!

It's easy to place an order!

1. Use this form.
2. Make your purchase on our secure website at www.adirondackcouncil.org.
3. Call toll-free **1.877.873.2240**
M-F 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. (Visa or Mastercard)

**Proceeds benefit
Adirondack Park
conservation.**



THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL
Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness

103 Hand Avenue, Suite 3 877-873-2240 toll free
P.O. Box D-2 518-873-6675 Fax
Elizabethtown, NY 12932 info@adirondackcouncil.org
www.adirondackcouncil.org

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____


Check enclosed ~ payable to:
THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Visa/MC# _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please enter the 3-digit security code that appears on
the signature panel on the back of your card _____

ITEM	QUANTITY	TOTAL
 THE ADIRONDACKS NEW! Book by Carl Heilman II \$17		
 2007 FOREVER WILD NEW! CALENDAR Photos by Carl Heilman II \$13		
   LOON TIE \$30	<u>BURGUNDY</u>	
	<u>BLUE</u>	
 FOREVER WILD ORGANIC COTTON T-SHIRT S M L XL \$15	SIZE	
	S M L XL	
 FOREVER WILD 15 oz. MUG \$12		
 THE ADIRONDACKS: WILD ISLAND OF HOPE Book by Gary Randorf \$23		
 SINGING LOON TOY \$12		
 FOREVER WILD TOTE BAG \$12		
 FOREVER WILD CAP \$15		
 CLEAN AIR CERTIFICATE \$50 <i>Name(s) to appear on certificate:</i>		
	Free Shipping	

POSTAGE AND HANDLING

For orders:
 \$10.00 - \$30.00 add \$4.00
 \$31.00 - \$60.00 add \$7.00
 \$61.00 - \$90.00 add \$9.00
 Over \$90.00 add \$12.00

Subtotal

Postage and
Handling

TOTAL
AMOUNT DUE

Thank You!

The Adirondack Council

Founded in 1975, the Adirondack Council is a privately funded, not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. The Council achieves these goals through research, education, advocacy and legal action.

Adirondack Council memberships begin at \$35. Membership benefits include regular newsletters, annual bulletins such as this one, special reports on important topics of the day, action alerts and the opportunity to play an active role in protecting the Park's precious natural resources and scenic beauty.

Staff

Brian Houseal, Executive Director
Lilli Anson
Julie Ball
Elaine Burke
John Davis
Erika Edgley
Diane Fish
Lisa M. Genier
Susan Hughes
Kathy Kelley
Scott M. Lorey
Jessica Ottney
John F. Sheehan
Rae Sicola

Directors Emeriti

Timothy L. Barnett
Richard Beamish
Peter Borrelli
David Bronston
Alison Hudnut Clarkson
Tom Cobb
David C. Condliffe
Dr. Dean L. Cook
George D. Davis
James C. Dawson
Joanne Waldron Dwyer
Edward D. Earl
Christopher Elliman
Barbara L. Glaser, Ed.D.
George R. Lamb
Ernest LaPrairie
Scott L. Paterson
John M.C. Peterson
Clarence Petty
James S. Phillips
Avery Rockefeller III
John K. Ryder, Jr.
Samuel H. Sage
Arthur V. Savage
Ellen Marshall Scholle
Constance A. Tate
Norman Van Valkenburgh

Board of Directors

CHAIR,
Patricia D. Winterer
VICE CHAIRS,
Douglas S. Luke
& Curtis R. Welling
TREASURER,
Etienne Boillot
SECRETARY,
Karen Meltzer
Jeff Bronheim
Charles D. Canham
Ann E. Carmel
Liza Cowan
Evan A. Davis
Baird Edmonds
Betty Eldridge
John Ernst
J. Edward Fowler
Robert L. Hall
Sarah Collum Hatfield
Gary F. Heurich
Theodore L. Hullar
Robert J. Kafin
Cecilia A. Mathews
Brian Ruder
David Skovron
James L. Sonneborn
Curt Stiles
Thomas D. Thacher II
Tony Zazula

Where to Find Us

Main Office
P.O. Box D-2
103 Hand Avenue
Elizabethtown, NY 12932
(518) 873-2240
(877) 873-2240 toll free
info@adirondackcouncil.org
www.adirondackcouncil.org
Albany Office
342 Hamilton Street
First Floor
Albany, NY 12210
(518) 432-1770
(800) 842-PARK

printed on recycled paper



THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness

P.O. Box D-2
103 Hand Avenue, Suite 3
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Syracuse, NY
Permit No. 994