

**THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL**  
*Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness*

SUMMER 2005

Dear Adirondack Council Members and Friends,

At a recent 30th Anniversary celebration for the Adirondack Council in Washington D.C., we praised the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its work on acid deposition and the March announcement of the Clean Air Interstate Rule. At the event, a high ranking government official was asked why the Adirondack Council is consistently asked to provide testimony to the U.S. Congress on acid rain and its effects. Without a moment's hesitation, the response was, "First, the Adirondacks are the hardest hit region in the country and if we can reduce the impacts of acid rain there, we know it will improve elsewhere. Second, the Adirondack Council has been a persistent voice for over 25 years calling for a solution to this environmental problem. And third, they work in a non-partisan fashion to find a solution, and that is refreshing in Washington."

That statement is an accurate summary of how the Council approaches its advocacy efforts to address major threats to the Adirondack Park's ecological integrity and wild character. Using the best available scientific information, we focus on achieving sound policy solutions, and tenaciously stay with the process until the problem is solved.

Although the Clean Air Interstate Rule will further reduce acid rain-causing emissions from coal-burning power plants by an additional 65%, the biggest reductions in our history, the battle isn't over yet. It will be decades before we see improvements in our waters, soils and forests, and we will continue our vigilance to make it happen.

We are now turning our energy to another looming crisis -- the continuing degradation of the Adirondack Park's waters. Acid deposition, mercury contamination, invasive aquatic species, sewage pollution, and urban and agricultural run-off are steadily damaging water quality throughout the Park, endangering public health and eroding the habitat for our cherished wildlife. The Park's water quality is also essential to the tourism economy of our local communities.

On the occasion of the Adirondack Council's 30th Anniversary, we will redouble our efforts to return the Park's waters to the pristine condition that earlier generations knew, and future generations deserve. Even if it takes another 30 years, the Council will be there fighting to protect and improve the quality of this incredible place. (Please read about the launch of our water initiative on page 12.)

It is an honor to direct such a vibrant and growing organization. You, as our members and supporters, are a key part of our past successes and the future challenges that we must undertake on behalf of the Adirondack Park's wilderness, waters, wildlife and human communities. On behalf of our entire Board and staff, I want to congratulate you on a job well done. Thank you for all you have done to make the Council the largest and most effective organization working exclusively to protect the Adirondacks!



Brian L. Houseal  
Executive Director

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## Our Mission

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. Founded in 1975, the Council is a privately funded, not-for-profit organization.

Newsletter design by Sheri Amsel

*Cover: Kiss this scenic vista goodbye if the Adirondack Park Agency's decision to approve a 104-foot-tall Frankenspine (fake tree) cell tower holds up. Ignoring the advice of its own technical staff, local tourism business owners, every major environmental organization in the state, and its own Local Government Review Board, the APA unanimously approved the Frankenspine without even considering alternative sites. The Council and others are still working to prevent the construction of any fake tree towers in the Park, while ensuring that emergency communications services are improved. Photo by Carl Heilman II.*

Newsletter Photos by Adirondack Council Staff unless otherwise noted.

# Council Hails U.S. Rule to Stop Acid Rain

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff, trustees and members of the Adirondack Council, the greatest advance in mandatory air pollution reductions since the creation of the Clean Air Act in the 1970s took place in March.

In early February, Council Executive Director Brian Houseal was one of only two environmental advocates nationwide invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on pending clean air legislation. While the majority was attempting to pass the Clear Skies Act from the committee, we pointed out a number of shortcomings in the legislation, such as the long timeframe for reductions, the trading of mercury allowances and potential weakening of New Source Review provisions. After listening to our concerns, the committee agreed to make some of the changes we had suggested, but was unable to get enough votes to pass the bill from committee without a mandatory carbon reduction program.

The Council was unsatisfied with the status quo and once it became obvious that the legislation would not be moving forward, we immediately called upon the Environmental Protection Agency to finalize the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR). Hundreds of you wrote letters and emails to the EPA in early 2004 urging the adoption of this important rule in order to protect the Adirondack Park as soon as possible.

Your comments were heard. Last summer, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Leavitt came to our water conference at Paul Smith's College in the northern Adirondack Park and promised to finalize a new Clean Air Interstate Rule. Although Leavitt was named Secretary of Health and Human Services before he could fulfill his promise, his successor followed through for him on March 10.

That morning, new Administrator Stephen Johnson announced he would require 65 percent reductions in sulfur- and nitrogen-based air pollution from 28 Eastern, Midwestern and Western states, plus the District of Columbia. This translates into a nearly 2 million ton reduction in the emission of nitrogen oxides over the next decade and a 4.5 million ton decrease in sulfur dioxide. He noted that the new rule would cause the largest and most significant human health benefit since federal regulators banned lead from gasoline 30 years ago, about the same time the federal Clean Air Act was created. In short, CAIR stands as the largest guaranteed reduction in power plant emissions in American history.

The cuts will be carried out in two phases over the next 10 years. The new rule makes no changes to the current Clean Air Act's New Source Review program, nor do they affect the rights of states to file petitions against out-of-state polluters. It does not impact states' rights to impose tougher rules on their own power plants.

The new rule is specifically designed to protect human health, but will also greatly reduce the impact acid rain is having on the Adirondack Park. The same sulfur and nitrogen pollutants that give us asthma and other respiratory ailments also cause the acid rain, acid snow and acid fog that kills our lakes and forests. The CAIR cuts ordered by EPA are even deeper than cuts proposed in 1998 by the late New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who was the driving force behind the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and EPA's current acid rain program. CAIR is also the regulatory equivalent of the sulfur and nitrogen cuts in the Acid Rain Control Act, legislation sponsored by Adirondack

Congressional delegation members John M. McHugh of Pierrepoint Manor, John Sweeney of Clifton Park and Sherwood Boehlert of Utica, who refer to themselves as the Adirondack Acid Rain Team.

Even New York's Senators, both frequent critics of the Administration, also spoke in favor of the rule, calling it "a step in the right direction" according to Senator Clinton and a "good first step to decrease air pollution" by Senator Schumer.

The Council will continue to work diligently over the next few years to make sure that the rule is fully implemented. We will also advocate for funding of crucial monitoring programs used to determine if the rule is having the desired effect of recovery of Adirondack lakes and soils.

*"Here today to testify is Brian Houseal of the Adirondack Council ... [Mr.] Houseal will represent a group that is perhaps one of the most effective advocates for clean air in our country."*

U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton  
Clean Air Hearings  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Feb. 2, 2005

*"...One of our most regular interlocutors from the environmental community has been the Adirondack Council, who is here today ... We have had a very constructive and productive set of conversations with them because they were the champions of this (cap-and-trade) approach to begin with, and really saw it through and really produced the great result that we are getting from Acid Rain Trading Program."*

James Connaughton, Chairman  
White House Council on Environmental Quality  
March, 2005



*Adirondack Council Executive Director Brian L. Houseal testifies before the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in February, where he told committee members that any federal clean air legislation they passed ought to be at least as effective as the then-proposed Clean Air Interstate Rule. The committee deadlocked on the proposed Clear Skies Act. The US Environmental Protection Agency imposed the Clean Air Interstate Rule one day after the final vote.*

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## When a Tree Isn't Really

The Adirondack Park Agency, a powerful group charged with protecting New York's six million-acre state park, decided last week that a cellphone tower could be constructed near Lake George. The tower, a 104-foot fake pine tree, will be "substantially invisible," the agency's statement promised. If this tower looks like others in the cellphone tree arboretum, one suspects it will be about as substantially invisible as a smiley face tucked into one of the famous Georgia O'Keeffe paintings of the very landscape in question.

Across the country these days, there is an expanding battle between those who want the wilderness to stay as wild as possible and those who want cellphones to work even when they're camping. At present, the technology has not made it possible to communicate from deep in the forests or out in the desert without also having a 100- to 200-foot tower somewhere nearby. So, some telephone companies have been offering these electric trees and plants that are supposed to look more natural. There is a cellphone magnolia, a cactus that looks as if it could poke a hole in the moon and now the mock white pine at Lake George, or, as opponents

have aptly named it, the Frankenpine.

Already there are about 70 cell towers in the park. Some are set along the highways or attached to taller structures that are already in place, like steeples or apartment buildings. But environmentalists have begun to worry that too many stand-alone towers are being built without regard to other possibilities.

As Brian Houseal, executive director of the Adirondack Council, an environmental group, makes clear, applicants to build towers "often simply ignored viable, less visible options to avoid the expense of investigating them." Presumably, it is easier to start from scratch than to get a bank building or a church to make room for cellphone gizmos.

The new Frankenpine of Lake George still merits thorough reviews by the state's Department of Environmental Conservation and the Lake George Park Commission. Both should make certain that this tower doesn't damage the environment or the aesthetics of one of America's most treasured state parks.

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## Calls Still Needed on Frankenpine

Thank you to those members who have already called the Governor's office expressing your outrage with Nextel/Sprint's proposed fake pine tree cell tower we dubbed "Frankenpine." While the APA gave its approval to the flawed project, you can still help stop the metal monster from taking over Lake George.

The Adirondack Council believes that modern wireless communications equipment is needed in and around the Park's communities and along its major highways, but not in the middle of a forest where it will spoil a scenic landscape.

Call Governor Pataki's office at (518) 474-8390. Tell him that this commercial structure that will soar above the trees around it is inappropriate. Let him know that its poor design would degrade the water quality and beauty of the Queen of American Lakes. Urge him not to squander a century of careful stewardship over the Park's scenic beauty to accommodate Nextel/Sprint's desires. Tell him the Lake George Park Commission must deny Nextel/Sprint's application for a stormwater permit.

Call today.



*"Nextel built a horrible fake pine tree antennae tower next to me. I tried to fight it but they have too many lawyers. They promised they would blend it ... it is absolutely terrible. Can I help you fight yours somehow?"*

Chris P., Rochester, NY  
July 8, 2005

## Fate of Boreal Wilderness Rests in Classification Effort

It may be several months before Gov. George Pataki renders a final decision on a sweeping plan to classify new Forest Preserve lands and to change the classification and management plans for large areas of existing Forest Preserve. The fate of the Adirondack Council's proposal to create a 73,000-acre Boreal Wilderness in eastern St. Lawrence County hangs in the balance.

The Council extends its heart-felt thanks to those who took the time to attend hearings or send comments on the proposed land classification changes to the Adirondack Park Agency, which will examine their status and make a final recommendation to the Governor. There are three areas within the proposed Boreal Wilderness totaling 12,533 acres in the Towns of Colton and Hopkinton, currently under review by the Adirondack Park Agency. Of those, 11,000 acres are existing Wild Forest units, surrounded by 1,533 acres of newly acquired state lands. Park-wide, a total of 70,000 acres were under classification review.

By classifying all of these lands as Wilderness or Primitive, the Park Agency can take the state's second major administrative step toward creation of the Boreal Wilderness. In 1993, state officials incorporated the Boreal Wilderness proposal into the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan.

The Council first proposed its Boreal Wilderness plan in 1990, with the publication of 2020 VISION Volume II: Completing the Adirondack Wilderness System. The wilderness would provide permanent protection to some of the most rare and fragile wildlife and plant habitat in the Adirondack Park.

Low-elevation boreal forests such as this one are generally confined to the sub-arctic zones of Canada and Siberia. While such spruce-fir forests are more common on mountaintops, the north slopes and northern flow river valleys of the northern Adirondack Park hold more than 180,000 acres of boreal habitat.

The Jordan River Valley, bounded by Carry Falls Reservoir and the West Branch of the St. Regis River, contains 73,000 acres devoid of public highways and communities.

However, several local officials and a collection of snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle clubs are interested in building a bridge to carry motorized traffic over the Carry Falls Reservoir – straight into the heart of the proposed Boreal Wilderness. If they are successful, snowmobile and ATV traffic would almost certainly destroy the plants and wildlife that make the forest so unique. Damage to the moss mat covering the forest floor would be inevitable on both public and private lands.



*ATV trail abuse in the Jordan River area of Boreal forest.*



## ATV Hearings Hostile, but Completed

Congratulations! Your comments and letters made a huge difference. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently took the Adirondack Council's advice and released a Draft Policy for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) access to public land that essentially bans most ATV use on the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves.

ATV riders turned out in large, loud numbers to protest the proposed policy during a series of public hearings statewide in April and May. Speakers advocating expanded ATV use often interrupted opponents during the hearings and resorted to name-calling in an attempt to intimidate opposing speakers.

The Council and other groups have documented severe ecological damage caused by ATV abuse throughout the Adirondack Park between 1998 and 2004. Evidence of illegal use of ATVs on hiking and snowmobile trails showed trampled vegetation, eroded and rutted trails, mud pits, and complete destruction of the character of these trails and footpaths. Sensitive wildlife and ecologically important plant communities of the Forest Preserve cannot survive this type of habitat destruction.

The draft policy will ensure that ATV access to certain lands

under DEC's jurisdiction conforms to state laws, rules and regulations, and the Adirondack and Catskill State Land Master Plans. The policy will allow the use of ATVs only on some roads in the Forest Preserve to access private or easement lands, and only if certain criteria are met. The Council has urged DEC to eliminate even this small accommodation, based on the outrageous destruction wrought in several areas of the Park where ATVs had been allowed and the likelihood that such destruction will continue.

While the policy recognizes that there are very few areas on the Forest Preserve where public ATV access can be provided, it does state that ATV riding opportunities will be considered on conservation easement lands in appropriate areas. There are more than 400,000 acres of such lands in the Park. If the natural resources of easement lands can handle ATV use and other criteria are met, it will be established under the terms of each individual easement.

The Council will also continue to push for a law in the NYS Legislature banning ATVs on Forest Preserve lands (except for areas set aside for the handicapped), since policies can change with gubernatorial administrations.

# Power Authority to Construct Tupper Electric Line

In May, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) announced a plan to construct a new power line aimed at improving electrical service in Tupper Lake and the Tri-Lakes Region that includes Lake Placid and Saranac Lake.

For decades, Tupper Lake has suffered repeated power outages and insufficient power supplies due to its location at the end of a one-way power supply line. Under an agreement unveiled last November by Gov. George E. Pataki, the Villages of Lake Placid and Tupper Lake, NYPA and Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. will work together to improve the regional electric system and reliability problems caused by winter weather and increased electric use. For example, Tupper Lake has banned the installation of electric heating systems in any new homes or businesses.

The Adirondack Council supports the idea of stabilizing Tupper Lake's power supply by providing a second electricity source.

NYPA will obtain the permits for the line, Niagara Mohawk will build it. It is expected the new 46 kV (kilovolt) power line will be in service by 2008, at an estimated cost of \$29 million.

Within the next few months, NYPA and Niagara Mohawk plan to submit a preferred and alternate route of where to locate the power line in applications to the Adirondack Park Agency, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These routes will take into consideration information gathered from public comments, regulatory agency consultations, and environmental and engineering studies.



*Finding habitat in the Boreal Wilderness, the sundew is a carnivorous plant with the unique ability to capture and digest insects.*



*The New York Power Authority map above shows two potential routes for a new power line. One from Stark Falls power dam in Parishville. The other from the Newton Falls power dam. The Adirondack Council said it would work with NYPA to develop the route least destructive to the Park's resources. The proposed Stark Reservoir route bumps out to the east as it approaches Sevey Bog, just northwest of Sevey's Corners, to avoid construction inside this biologically unique wetland. The wetland was first identified by the Council in 1988 as an area worthy of permanent state protection.*

## Park Agency Puts Brakes on Big Tupper Plan

The out-of-state partnership that filed a preliminary application in February to redevelop the Big Tupper Ski Center in Tupper Lake into a vast resort complex will have to answer some questions before the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will consider their application.

The Village and Town of Tupper Lake are hopeful that redevelopment of Big Tupper will be a boon for Tupper Lake. If approved, the Adirondack Club and Resort will comprise more than 700 housing units, a 40-room inn, a new base lodge, a marina and a refurbished ski area.

The Adirondack Council has not yet taken a position on the project, but will carefully monitor the work of state agencies required to review it, urging them to apply the highest possible environmental standards to protect the health and beauty of the region.

In its 33-page notice of an incomplete application, the APA asked for specific information about 160 issues, including financial arrangements between Preserve Associates LLC and local governments to pay for water, sewer and electrical lines; a fuller analysis of economic impacts over time; and more details about the revitalization of Big Tupper.

Since February, 82 housing units have been cut from the plans and confined to 950 of the 6,400 acres the investors own. A 90-room condo hotel is no longer proposed and has been replaced

with 45 town houses that would be sold as time shares. A restaurant originally proposed for McDonald's Marina on Tupper Lake is off the table.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environmental Conservation has identified nine aspects of the Big Tupper development project in which it has or may have jurisdiction.

In a five-page letter dated May 25, DEC explained that the department may require permits for aspects of the project affecting stormwater runoff, water supplies, air quality, pollution and solid waste, among others. The letter said the DEC would definitely require a permit for the development's sewer project, devoting 14 subsections to the issue. For example, the department's review of plans to connect the development to a proposed sewer district "finds that the system has not (been) designed to accept this development's sewage."

As part of the deal, the Village of Tupper Lake would borrow \$38 million to install the water, sewer and electrical lines necessary to build the resort. Mayor Sandra Strader told local newspapers that paperwork will be filed with the bank to hold the village harmless if the developers default. According to documents filed by Preserve Associates, about 6,000 people live in the town and village of Tupper Lake. The per capita income is \$15,567.

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## Council Works on Global Warming Initiatives

Global climate change poses a serious threat to the Adirondack Park. With warming temperatures, the entire ecosystem of the Park will change, and native species will be driven out. Water quality and quantity, and industries including tourism and agriculture will be degraded, and many of the unique habitats in the Park will not survive. The Adirondack Council is currently working on a number of measures that will help reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and help our region slow the progression of global climate change.

### Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

In 2003 Governor George Pataki invited governors from across the northeast to join him in forming the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The goal was to develop a trading system for carbon dioxide emissions, like the trading system currently in place for sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, in order to reduce emissions throughout the region. RGGI now has the participation from 9 northeastern states, and 2 other states, the District of Columbia, and two Canadian provinces are observing the process. The goal of RGGI is not only to design a trading system for the northeast region, but to develop a system that could be expanded to other regions or nationwide. Although work is progressing, RGGI is currently behind schedule. As a member of the statewide stakeholder process, the Adirondack Council will continue to encourage staff at the Department of Environmental Conservation to move forward with the program and advocate for the deepest cuts on the shortest timelines possible. This fall a model rule is due to be published and then the rule must go through regulatory approval in each state separately. During this process the public will be able to comment, and we will be urging members to do so.

### Low Emission Vehicles

In May 2005 the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released draft regulations for tailpipe emissions from motor vehicles. These regulations would implement the new California emissions standards in New York State. The Adirondack Council made comments to DEC in support of the regulations, which will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons. These chemicals not only cause global warming, but adversely affect human health. According to state regulators, adoption of the new standards will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 40,700 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent tons per day in 2020 and by 72,000 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent tons per day in 2030.

### Legislation

During the 2005 Legislative session the Adirondack Council advocated for legislation to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants. The bill, sponsored by Environmental Conservation Committee Chairs Senator Carl Marcellino (R-Syosset) and Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli (D-Great Neck), passed the Assembly, but unfortunately stalled in the Senate. The Council believes that in addition to regulatory limits to carbon dioxide emissions, legislation should be passed, since statutory limitations on emissions are more apt to survive legal battles and changes in administration. We will continue to press for legislative action on carbon in the State Legislature next session.

On the federal level, the Council continues to call on Congress to pass the McCain-Lieberman Climate Stewardship Act. We have also urged the Administration to change their position on climate change and regulate carbon emissions.

# Council Opposed to Mountaintop Wind Power Project

It is time for the Legislature and Governor George Pataki to designate certain areas where wind power projects do not belong. The Adirondack Park should be at the top of that list.

It would be silly to argue with the developers of the proposed wind power facility at Barton Mines near North Creek when they say there are many benefits to wind-generated electric power. Every kilowatt we produce with wind is one we don't need to make by burning coal, gas or oil. It's also true that Pete Gay Mountain is already scarred by an open-pit mine and is the Park's only mountaintop industrial site.

But like every other power plant, or any major construction project proposed for a mountaintop inside the Adirondack Park, there are many potential impacts to consider before we decide whether this type of development is appropriate.

Barton and its out-of-state partners want to build 10 towers whose height, including the blades, would exceed 400 feet. Each wind turbine would be the same height as the Corning Tower in downtown Albany -- the tallest building between Manhattan and Montreal.

They would be taller than the smokestacks planned for the proposed St. Lawrence Cement plant in Hudson, which was denied a permit due to its potential visual impact on the city. Hudson is less than 100 feet above sea level. Barton's towers would start at 2,900 feet and loom over the village of North Creek and the Teddy Roosevelt Memorial Highway.

But that's not all. Barton's own assessment shows they would be visible from Blue Mountain, 32 miles away in Hamilton County, on a hazy day. If one were to draw a circle with a 32-mile radius from Pete Gay Mountain, it becomes clear that the towers would spoil the view from seven of the Park's 16 Wilderness Areas, and dozens of popular scenic vistas.

Visibility is no small matter in the Adirondacks. More than 10 million people a year come here to enjoy the unspoiled vistas and wild beauty so lacking back home. As every other corner of the Northeast is cluttered with ridgeline development and towers, the Adirondacks remain an ocean of green, where nearly all development is concealed beneath the treetops.

We have a long tradition of protecting scenic beauty in this 113-year-old Park. Back in 1924, the Adirondack Park was the first place state officials banned billboards and off-premise signs. In 1973, the state legislature created the Adirondack Park Agency Act specifically to protect the "scenic, aesthetic, and open space resources" of the Park.

While the Barton project's visual impact on the Adirondacks would be huge, its impact on the state's energy production would barely be noticed. Barton is so small in terms of our overall needs, it won't cause a single coal-fired plant to shut down, or even slow down.

If the Barton project is approved, we will gain 27 to 30 megawatts of new, clean power generation. Ironically, we could save more than 30 megawatts of power in the Adirondack Park through simple, proven conservation methods in homes and businesses. Communities across America are using new technologies to reduce energy consumption, but few of those methods are in use in the Adirondacks. The Adirondacks are one of few areas of rural New York whose population is growing. Energy-efficiency requirements for new home construction, major additions and

commercial development would go a long way toward reducing our needs.

The Park has already paid a high price for clean energy production. The Adirondack Park is already a substantial exporter of clean electricity. Our hydro-electric plants currently produce 240 megawatts of continuous power—more than twice the electricity consumed by the Park's 70,000 homes. Most of that cheap, clean power goes into the statewide grid where it is distributed far beyond the Park's borders. Our power dams were built with no environmental safeguards between 1800 and 1960. Tens of thousands of acres of forest, wildlife habitat, family homesteads and historic villages were flooded and wiped out. Entire ecosystems were lost.

Wind power has environmental consequences too. If the Barton project goes forward, construction noise will affect the adjacent Siamese Ponds Wilderness. Muddy runoff will flow into local streams. More than 10 acres of fragile mountaintop forest will be permanently denuded, and filled with steel and concrete. Bird and bat deaths are fewer with newer turbines, but are still a problem.

As the price of oil skyrockets and wind power becomes a more cost-effective alternative, we will find that Barton's mountaintop is not the Park's only viable turbine site. Other proposals have already been floated for Ireland Vly, near the Great Sacandaga Lake, and in Ellenburg, just inside the Park's northern border.



Congratulations to everyone at the Council on the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Adirondack Council. From its humble beginning in the Rockefeller board room, the Council has led the struggle to preserve the Adirondack Park.

Some of the Council's most significant accomplishments are the result of behind the scenes work. Over a decade ago, the Council began working with the Domtar Corp. to convince the state of the importance of conserving their 100,000 acres in the Park. Those efforts have finally come to fruition. And the state acquisition of the Whitney Wilderness would have looked quite different without the Council's intervention.

The Council played a crucial role in convincing the state to close the last landfill in the Park. And the reason that casino gambling is no longer proposed for the Adirondacks is thanks to the Council's steadfast opposition and effective work with the Legislature.

Time and again the Council steps forward to protect the Park. That is important to all of us who cherish this place. Keep fighting those towers!

Tim Burke, Essex  
Adirondack Council Executive Director, 1991 – 2002



## NYSERDA Nixes Turbines in Park

Over the next several years, the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will decide which proposed wind-power projects around the state receive state grants to promote the creation of renewable energy. Receiving such a grant can turn a marginal project into a profitable enterprise. Conversely, a lack of public financing may sink projects that are proposed in controversial or inappropriate locations. The following is an excerpt from a June 14 letter written to the Times-Union of Albany by NYSERDA President Peter Smith:

“...I would like to argue that New York does not need to build large windmills in the Adirondack Park to send a signal that we are serious about renewable energy. Gov. George

Pataki has made that commitment clear through his actions on a number of initiatives, including his support for the development of the most aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standard in the country.

“The [Adirondack Park Agency] has an existing policy regarding the height and visibility of towers in the park, which requires that any proposed tower be ‘substantially invisible.’ This policy was developed to protect the irreplaceable scenic vistas that have become one of the park’s most important economic engines. The large commercial windmills in use today are often 400 feet tall with very large turbines. It is difficult to understand how such a structure could be made compatible with the APA towers policy.”

## Energy Conservation: Cleaner Park, Cooler Planet

While the Adirondack Council supports plans to bring more reliable power supplies to communities such as Tupper Lake, the Council is also encouraging state energy officials to bring their expertise to the task of energy conservation.

As part of the Tupper Lake power line project, the NY Power Authority has begun energy efficiency audits to encourage conservation through the use of energy efficient methods and products at a targeted sampling of municipal offices, businesses and residences in Lake Placid and Tupper Lake. NYPA supplies the electricity used by the municipal electric systems serving Lake Placid and Tupper Lake.

The audits will gather information on these facilities and their typical energy use to help identify a broader range of customers well-suited to participate in energy efficiency programs. These audits will also serve as the basis for developing cost-effective,

energy-saving recommendations and measures for these municipal systems customers to implement. Recommendations were expected by the end of July 2005.

Statewide, NYPA has completed 1,400 energy-efficiency projects involving more than 2,200 government office buildings, public housing, schools, colleges and universities. These projects have resulted in \$89 million in annual energy cost savings, 845,365 megawatt-hours of electricity conserved each year and reduced annual emission of 658,958 tons of greenhouse gases.

The energy-efficiency measures include high-efficiency lighting, motors, motor drives, heating, ventilating and air conditioning, boilers and building shells and the use of clean energy technologies such as fuel cells, microturbines (low-profile, rooftop residential wind power generators) and solar energy projects.

### Energy Conservation Tips

Below are ways homeowners can use less electricity inside the home and throughout the property.

- Replace your regular light bulbs with energy efficient or compact fluorescent bulbs. You can even phase them in as old bulbs die out. These more efficient bulbs usually last longer and produce the same amount of light.
- When replacing appliances including washers, dryers, stoves, microwaves, air conditioners, televisions, and computers, look for energy efficient models. In New York State you can look for the Energy Star label. Sometimes the State offers rebates to individuals who buy Energy Star appliances. Ask your retailer about these models and any special offers.
- If you have an automatic thermostat, set it so that once your home is warmed or cooled the system shuts off. Be mindful of open windows and doors if the heat or air conditioner is on.
- If you are replacing the heating or cooling system in your home, look into adding solar panels or geothermal technology. These systems can often be added to existing homes to allow them to produce some of their own energy without the use of fossil fuels.
- Make sure your home is well insulated so that you are not heating or cooling the neighborhood.

You can find more energy conservation tips on our website: [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org).

## Council Legislative Priorities Tackled

This session of the New York State Legislature was a successful one for the Adirondack Council. In addition to the first passage of the Constitutional Amendment to provide Raquette Lake with a potable water supply, and the \$25 million increase to the Environmental Protection Fund, the following bills were passed by both Houses of the Legislature and were awaiting the Governor's signature at press time:

### **Snowmobiles**

The bill would establish a 55 mph speed limit for snowmobiles. It also would provide liability relief for private landowners who allow snowmobiles on their property. These provisions will relieve traffic from the Forest Preserve. Sponsored by: Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, D-Rochester, and Senator Raymond Meier, R-Utica.

### **Waterfront Funding**

This bill would allow the Fulton Chain of Lakes and the north and middle branches of the Moose River within the definition of "inland waterways," which will qualify them for waterfront revitalization funding through the Department of State. Sponsored by: Adirondack representatives Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, R-Willsboro, and Senator Betty Little, R-Queensbury.

### **Binding Arbitration for Forest Rangers**

The bill gives forest rangers, the law enforcement force in the Adirondack Forest Preserve, binding arbitration in labor negotiations. This will improve the ability of the forest rangers to carry out their duties and protect the Adirondack Park. Sponsored by: Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito, D-Utica, and Senator Betty Little.

### **Increased fines for ATV trespass on agricultural lands**

This legislation would increase the penalties for ATV riders who trespass on agricultural lands. With over 20 agricultural districts in the Adirondack Park, this legislation will allow our local farmers to deter trespass and protect surrounding public and private lands. Sponsored by: Assemblyman William Magee, D-Oneida, and Senator William Larkin, R-New Windsor.

## Legislature Passes On-time Budget—Mostly

For the first time in 20 years, the New York State Legislature beat the April 1 deadline for passing a new state budget. Nearly lost in the celebration of an on-time budget was the fact that certain portions of the spending plan, including the dedicated Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), had been omitted.

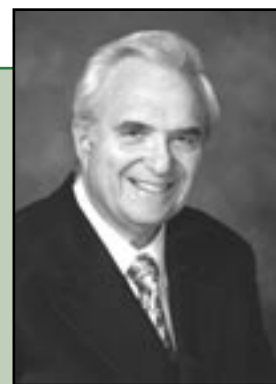
With the help of Environmental Conservation Committee Chairmen Assemblyman Tom DiNapoli (D-Great Neck) and Sen. Carl Marcellino (R-Oyster Bay), this was corrected a few weeks later, when the Legislature passed an expanded EPF of \$150 million.

The new environmental capital projects spending plan represents a \$25-million increase in the EPF, which had been stalled at \$125-million for the past few years. The increase brings the total available each year for open space acquisition up to \$40-million (it has been \$32-million). However, the total EPF still falls well short of the \$250-million target that the Friends of New York's Environment coalition had urged the Legislature to adopt in January. The coalition has presented a number of proposals to the legislature to increase environmental funding, including a Bond Act, expanding the EPF further and using unclaimed can and bottle redemption deposits to pay for environmental programs.

Also included in this year's spending plan was increased reimbursement for local governments affected by the state's timberland tax abatement programs (480/480-a). Last year, the Council worked with a diverse coalition to secure partial reimbursement to towns, counties and school districts impacted by the state tax program. This year, the funding was \$3.5 million, nearly double the money allocated last year.

In addition, Senator Betty Little (R-Queensbury) secured \$1 million for an invasive species eradication matching grant program. This money should help many municipalities and volunteer groups throughout the Park using non-chemical means to control invasive plants and animals -- a costly endeavor.

The Legislature and Governor also worked to create a \$3-million Quality Communities planning program, with a portion of funds dedicated specifically to the Adirondack and Catskill parks.



## In Memoriam

### **Senator Ronald B. Stafford, Plattsburgh, NY**

Senator Stafford represented the people of the north country for 37 years in the New York State Senate, from 1965 until 2002. During his tenure, Stafford served in various leadership positions, including Chairman of the Judiciary, Codes, Higher Education and Finance committees.

The Senator was instrumental in the passage of the 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act and the creation of the Environmental Protection Fund, which helped to finance the closing of the Essex County landfill and community enhancement grants for Adirondack municipalities. He also worked to protect the Park's water bodies from the damage of out-of-state acid rain pollution and to allow towns to limit the use of personal watercraft on waters within their jurisdiction.

Stafford was a driving force behind Lake Placid's 1980 Olympic bid and the creator of the state's Tuition Assistance Program. He also supported the development of the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks in Tupper Lake.

The Adirondack Council recently paid tribute to Senator Stafford at a reception in Albany on June 8. He died at age 69 and is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, a stepson, a stepdaughter and four stepgrandchildren.

## Rattlesnakes Vulnerable Under New Split Rock Management Plan

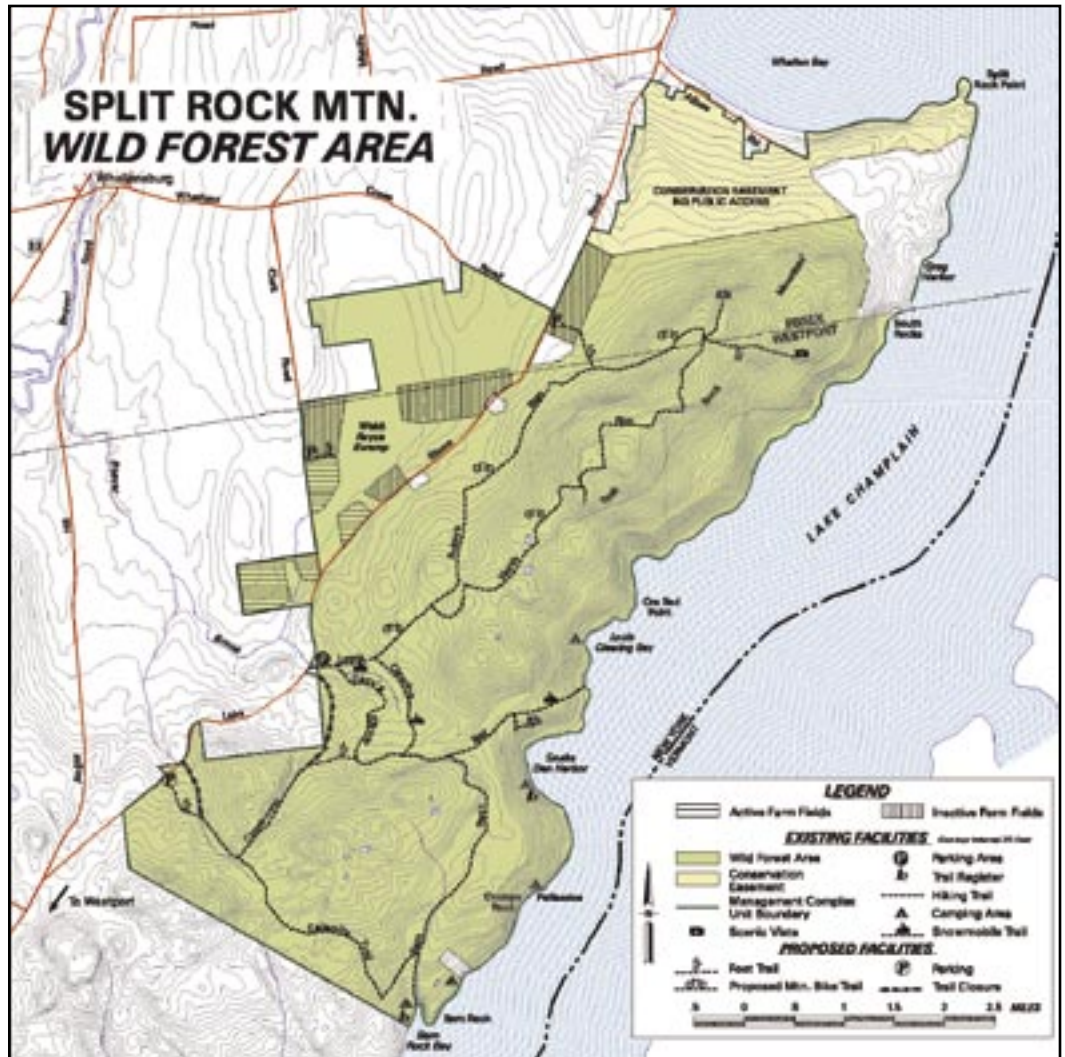
The Adirondack Council in April called on the Adirondack Park Agency to amend or reject a proposed new management plan for the Split Rock Mountain Wild Forest because mountain biking may imperil the rare timber rattlesnakes that make their homes there.

The Council's objections became the subject of newspaper stories statewide and a national news broadcast on Fox News in April and May. The APA can amend or reject DEC management plans that don't meet the criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, which requires the protection of wildlife habitat against dangers imposed by human recreational pursuits.

The Council expressed its concern over a plan to allow mountain biking on trails running through prime habitat for the Eastern Timber Rattlesnake. Rattlesnakes are quite common in this location.

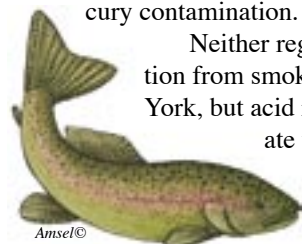
Eastern Timber Rattlesnakes are listed by state wildlife officials as a "threatened species" in New York State. There are more than 1,000 miles of mountain biking trails and primitive roads available to mountain bikers in the Adirondacks.

While the Council could not persuade the APA to amend the Split Rock Management Plan this spring, such plans are reviewed and updated periodically. The Council will pay careful attention to any reports of snake and cyclist conflict and continue to press for elimination of mountain biking in trouble areas.



## State Mercury Warnings Expanded

The NYS Dept. of Health issued a warning in April urging that women of child-bearing age and children younger than 15 avoid eating northern pike, pickerel, walleye, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and larger yellow perch from all waters in the Adirondack and Catskill mountain regions because of mercury contamination.



Neither region receives more mercury deposition from smokestacks than any other part of New York, but acid rain problems in both parks accelerate the absorption of mercury into fish.

As acid rain subsides over the next few decades due to new state and

federal regulations, the leaching of mercury from soil and decaying plants will subside as well. But people are advised to wait until the warnings are withdrawn before resuming a steady diet of Adirondack or Catskill predatory fish. Loons, mink, otters, migratory birds and other fish-eating wildlife are harmed by mercury as well.

Trout, catfish, smelt and other popular food fish have not been found to have elevated mercury levels. Mercury can effect a developing nervous system as well as the development of organs in a fetus, infants and young children. Some of the contaminants may also build up in women and may be passed on during breast feeding, according to the state Health Department.

## Adirondack Council 30th Anniversary Water Initiative

On the occasion of our 30th Anniversary, the Adirondack Council is focusing conservation, advocacy, outreach and education efforts on addressing the threats that are most likely to negatively impact the Park over the next thirty years. It is for this reason that the Adirondack Council is redoubling its efforts to preserve the Park's water.

The Council's efforts to protect the Park's water will ensure that aquatic ecosystems are healthy and able to provide the clean, fresh water that has been historically characteristic of the Adirondack Park. Addressing major threats to water quality, the Adirondack Council will focus on objectives that will lead to tangible results, securing pure Adirondack Park water for generations to come.

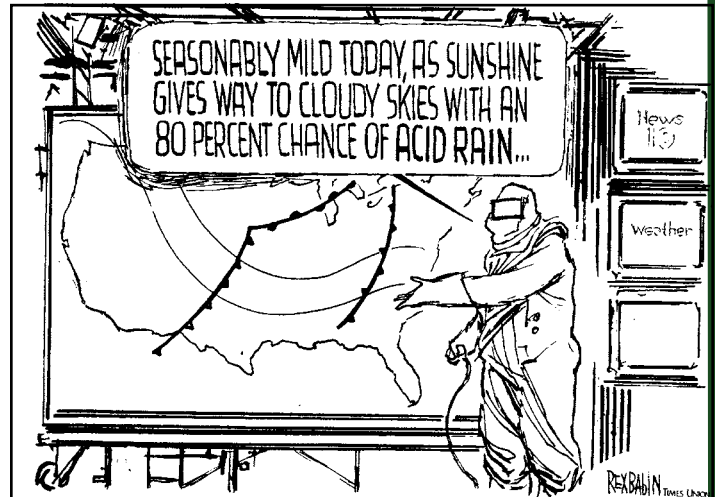
High acidity levels in many Adirondack lakes make them inhospitable to fish populations and create mercury levels that make Adirondack fish unhealthy to eat. Aging sewage and septic systems and run-off from farms add phosphorous and nutrients to waterbodies, contaminating swimming areas and creating a suitable environment for aquatic nuisance species like milfoil and algae. High levels of chloride and sodium from the improper storage and use of road salt is also contaminating drinking water supplies and harming fish and amphibian communities.

Fortunately, the solutions to mitigate these threats to the Park's waters have been identified.



*Piseco Lake*

**To reduce acid rain**, the Adirondack Council will advocate for and monitor the speedy implementation of the EPA Clean Air Interstate Rule issued in March 2005 reducing sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants in twenty-nine eastern states.



1995: *The Times Union of Albany* helps the Council spread the word on acid rain.

**To reduce toxic mercury poisoning**, which comes with acid deposition and is being found at increasing levels in our fish, amphibians, and loons – the symbol of the Adirondack wilderness, the Council will monitor the U.S. EPA's proposals for mercury emissions reductions, advocating for deep cuts and opposing any provisions to trade pollution allowances. We will also advocate for increased funding for the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation in the New York State Budgets for 2006 and 2007 to expand monitoring for mercury and its biological effects in Adirondack ecosystems. Building on past successes to limit emissions from power plants, the Council will work with the State Legislature and DEC to enact limits on mercury emissions from power plants in New York State.

**To control aquatic invasive species**, including Eurasian milfoil, water chestnut, zebra mussels, and lampreys, which choke out native species and interfere with water quality and recreational activities, the Adirondack Council will raise awareness through a public education campaign about the impact of invasive species and how they enter our waterways. We will continue to collaborate with the Adirondack Watershed Institute and co-sponsor the Annual Adirondack Water Quality Conference. The Council will also continue to work with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) to design an Adirondack invasive species strategy to prevent their dispersal, restore infested areas, and ensure increased funding to sustain APIPP's work. Finally, we will advocate for legislation on invasive species with funding incentives for Adirondack communities to control invasive species with non-toxic means.

**To upgrade wastewater treatment systems**, which include outdated septic and municipal sewage treatment systems which allow pollutants to flow into our waterways and threaten our drinking water supplies and human health,

the Council will promote legislation requiring inspections and improvements for residential on-site wastewater treatment systems with financial incentives to ensure compliance. We will also advocate for additional funding for Adirondack communities to undertake community planning to project their needs and secure funds for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.

**To prevent runoff from overdeveloped shorelines and inappropriate farming practices,** Adirondack Council will advocate for Adirondack Park Agency Act reforms focusing on shoreline development including larger setbacks, lot sizes and vegetative buffers to reduce runoff and improve water quality.

**To limit contamination from road salt,** which finds its way into our waterways and drinking water supplies threatening public health, the Council will promote legislative action requiring proper storage and prudent application of road salt and the use of alternative ice controls on roadways in the Park. The Adirondack Council is raising \$250,000 during our

30th Anniversary year to support intensified research, public education, media, and lobbying efforts to protect the Park's water. The Adirondack Council's Board of Directors has generously given \$50,000 to match gifts from members through December 31, 2005. We hope every member will consider making a special anniversary gift to the Council to protect Adirondack waters. Any support that you can give will make a real difference.



### Third Annual Water Conference -- Paul Smiths College -- August 15-17, 2005

As an idea initially spawned by the Adirondack Council and Paul Smith's College, we are now collaborating on the Third Annual Adirondack Water Quality Conference with the Adirondack Watershed Institute, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), APA, DEC, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, lake associations and other organizations. This year the participants will assist in the preparation of an "Adirondack Aquatic Nuisance Species" strategy to prevent new introductions, limit their spread into uninfected waters, and abate negative ecological, socioeconomic and public health and safety impacts resulting from infestations. This strategy will be used to inform the Invasive Species Task Force created by the Legislature several years ago and will serve as a guide to advocate for legislation on invasive species with funding incentives for Adirondack communities to control invasive species with non-toxic means.



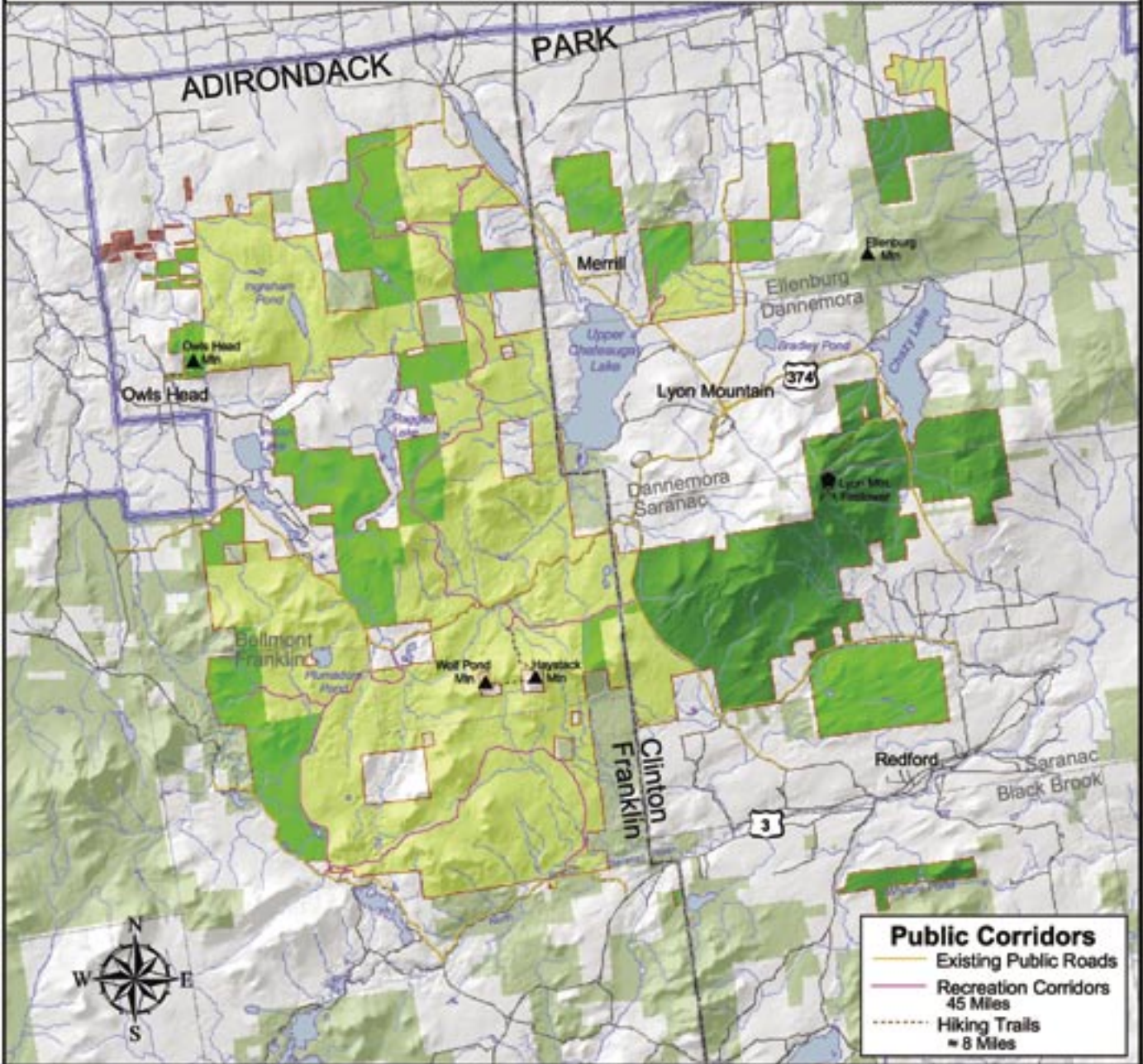
*Lake Mary Louise*

### TIPS FOR REDUCING WATER CONTAMINATION:

- Be sure you know the age and size of your septic system. Locate the tank and absorption field, keep a log of when maintenance is done on the system, and make a sketch of where your system is in relation to your home and property.
- Have your septic system inspected and pumped every few years (2-6 depending on whether you are in a year round or seasonal residence). A good indicator that pumping is needed is when sludge fills half the septic tank. Have this work done by a professional service. Be sure to keep records of when these types of activities occur.
- Avoid choosing household cleaning products that may alter the effectiveness of your septic system. Look for low-phosphorus detergents and limit your use anti-bacterial soaps. Limit your the use of bleach, ammonia, and other harsh cleaners and cleansers, which kill the bacteria in the septic tank needed to break down the waste.
- When landscaping, don't use chemical pesticides or herbicides. They can runoff into local waterways and contaminate water supplies. Choose organic or natural alternatives.
- Leave vegetation in place near rivers, streams and lakes to help minimize run-off into the water. To minimize nutrients being added to the water, compost or collect leaves, grass clippings or other organic matter rather than dumping them into the water.
- Avoid planting non-native species in your gardens, especially near waterways, which easily carry and spread seeds. Invasive species spread aggressively and choke out native plants. Be sure to wash any boat that you transport from one water body to another.

# Sable Highlands: A 104,000 - Acre Conservation Project in New York's Adirondack Mountains

Easement Lands Open to Public (27,000 Acres)
  Leased Easement Land with Recreation Corridors (57,000 Acres)
  TNC Purchase for Transfer to Public Ownership (20,000 Acres)



<p><b>Location</b></p> <p>             ★ Project Location              □ Adirondack Park              □ New York State         </p>	<p> <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #4CAF50; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> State Forest Preserve  <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFEB3B; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Conservation Project Boundary  <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #C0392B; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Outliers Excluded from Easement         </p> <p>  Adirondack Park Boundary   Lakes + Ponds         </p> <p>  County Line   Town Lines   Paved Roads   Rivers + Streams         </p>	<p>  Kilometers              0 1.5 3         </p> <p>  Miles              0 1.5 3         </p> <p>             Map Prepared by Daniel Wright for              ANC/ALT GIS, Keene Valley, NY              December, 2004              The Nature Conservancy         </p>
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An agreement struck earlier this year between the Adirondack Nature Conservancy, the State of New York and Domtar Industries of Canada will result in permanent protection for 104,000 acres of forests and water in Clinton and Franklin counties. This ANC map shows new public access and delineates which lands will remain in timber production (under a conservation contract) and which will become "forever wild" Forest Preserve. The Adirondack Council has urged the state to protect the Domtar lands since 1993.

## Federal Land Funding Uncertain

Three successful federal land protection programs face an uncertain future as Congress works on its next budget, which is due October 1. The U.S. Senate has recommended adding funds that the House version of the Interior appropriations bill has reduced or eliminated.

The Senate has proposed allocating \$63 million for the Forest Legacy program, which assisted New York with several million dollars for the Tahawus project last year. The House version only calls for \$25 million to be divided up among the states.

The Senate has suggested that \$30 million be used for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) stateside grant program. This money is used for a variety of park enhancements by both localities and state agencies. The House had proposed to eliminate this program entirely. New York has been able to use this program to receive \$28 million for projects since 1998.

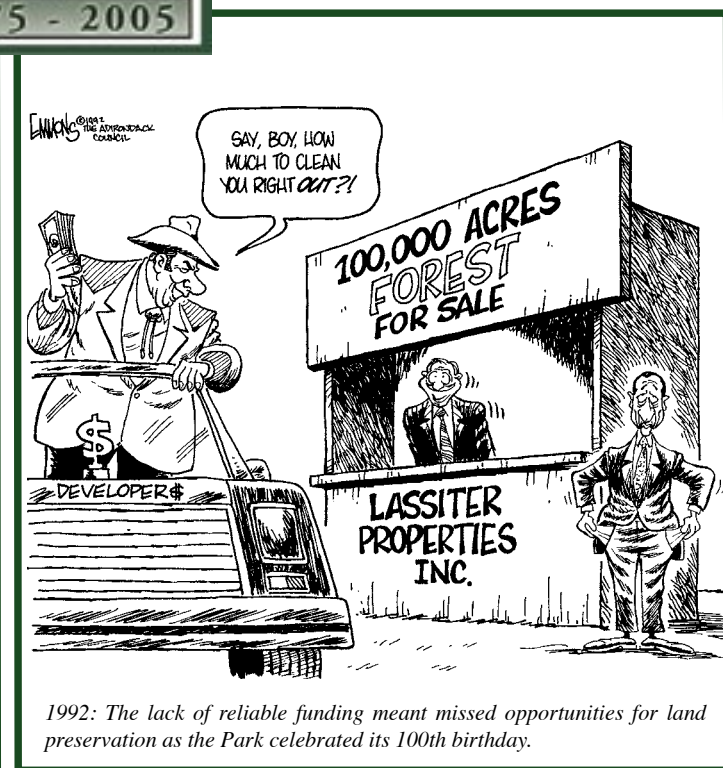
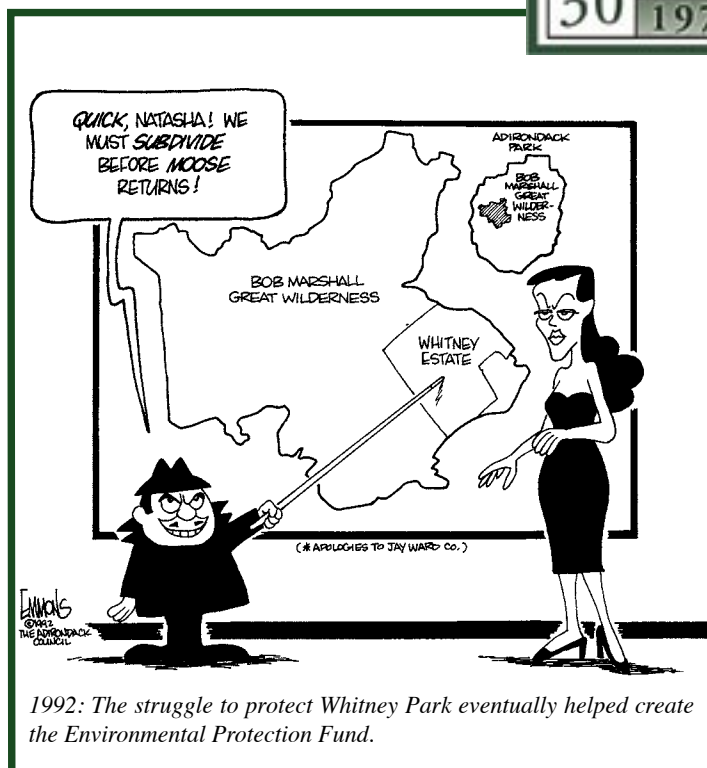
In addition, Congress is considering greatly limiting or ending a successful tax credit program that has helped to protect millions of acres across the country. Some irregularities have taken place when landowners have donated conservation easements. However, eliminating the program is not the right solution. Changing it to avoid questionable dealings in the future is, so that preservation can continue through this important mechanism. The Adirondack Council and other New York State conservation organizations are calling for increased funding.



Key land acquisitions to protect undeveloped areas like Preston Ponds (pictured) depend on Federal Forest Legacy funding.



Ansel©



## Raquette Lake Water Amendment Approved

The Adirondack Council worked with the Town of Long Lake, the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and Audubon New York this spring to gain the NYS Legislature's approval of a land swap that will dramatically improve the quality of drinking water in the isolated hamlet of Raquette Lake.

The land swap will allow Raquette Lake to use drilled wells for drinking water and to abandon its tainted reservoir. The wells were drilled adjacent to the reservoir. Both are currently located on the Forest Preserve. While an existing Constitutional Amendment allowed the creation and use of the reservoir, the "Forever Wild" clause doesn't allow wells on the Forest Preserve. So Raquette Lake will swap 12 or more acres of currently private land to the state for inclusion in the Forest Preserve. In exchange, the hamlet will take ownership of one acre of the Forest Preserve surrounding its wells.

The resolution was sponsored by Senator Betty Little, R-Queensbury, Assembly EnCon Chairman Thomas DiNapoli-D-Great Neck, and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, R-Willsboro. Because Constitutional Amendments must be approved by two separately elected Legislatures before being placed on the statewide ballot, the sponsors intend to introduce it again in 2007. If approved then, it would be placed on the statewide ballot during the November 2007 general election.

Residents of the hamlet of Raquette Lake in the Town of Long Lake had been without an adequate supply of fresh, clean drinking water for many years. A boil water warning from the State Department of Health had been in effect for more than the past year. Last fall, the Town of Long Lake won extraordinary approval from the State to site a temporary well on Forest Preserve lands, however, the amendment would bring the town into state constitutional compliance.

### Wildlife and Forestry in New York Northern Hardwoods Guide for Forest Owners and Managers



Audubon New York, a founding member organization of the Adirondack Council, has published a guide for landowners and forest managers with information on the effects of different harvest regimes on wildlife communities. To view the guide online visit [http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ny/forestry\\_manual.htm](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/ny/forestry_manual.htm).



1996: The Council often found itself in conflict with Governor Pataki's first APA Chairman, who resigned the post after two years in office.

### The Council Hits the Airwaves This Summer

This summer the Adirondack Council is underwriting programming on 3 public radio stations that can be heard throughout New York State, Vermont, the northeast, and everywhere online. The Council will be a featured sponsor of Northeast Public Radio (WAMC), North Country Public Radio (NCPR), and Vermont Public Radio (VPR). Find a station near you at [www.amc.org](http://www.amc.org), [www.ncpr.org](http://www.ncpr.org) and [www.vpr.net](http://www.vpr.net).

### Sustainable Tourism Money for Inlet to Make it a Gateway to 'The Bob'

With the support of the Adirondack Council and the Sierra Club, Gov. George Pataki announced in June that the Town of Inlet would receive a \$125,000 matching grant to assist the Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Tourism (CAST) with developing and protecting ecotourism opportunities within the region. The Council and Sierra Club lobbied the State Legislature for a bill that allowed Inlet to be declared eligible for the grant.

The Council has supported this program because it would help the tourism economies of local gateway communities (villages and hamlets at the edge of large blocks of Forest Preserve) while also protecting the natural resources that are the reason why so many people visit these places.

This idea goes hand-in-hand with the Council's Bob Marshall Great Wilderness proposal, which would create a 408,000-acre wilderness complex of permanently protected public and private lands in the remote west-central Adirondacks. Inlet is one of more than a dozen communities located at the edge of the proposed wilderness, providing an opportunity to build its tourism as a preferred entryway into the largest area of protected old-growth forest and wilderness in the Northeast.





*Friends of the Adirondack Council joined Board members Doug Luke and Charlie Canham for an interpretive nature walk and gathering this spring in Dutchess County.*



**One Environment... One Simple Way to Care For It**  
 Earth Share of New York is more than 65 of the most effective environmental and conservation charities working to preserve and protect our environment - locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Earth Share of New York makes it easy for government organizations and corporations to help their employees preserve, protect, and defend the environment through expanded charitable giving campaigns at the workplace. Contact Earth Share today to talk about how we can bring Earth Share to your workplace! [info@earthshare.org](mailto:info@earthshare.org)  
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**Thank you to our Earth Share contributors who named the Adirondack Council as a recipient of your charitable workplace giving!**



*Art by Sheri Amstel*

The Adirondack Council's Forever Wild Partnership raises awareness about environmental issues of the Park. By supporting our outreach efforts, our Forever Wild Partners help us inform residents and visitors about the Council's efforts to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondacks. We hope you will support our Partners in Adirondack Park protection.



- ADIRONDACK CAMP Lake George
- ADIRONDACK FARMERS' COOPERATIVE
- ADIRONDACK LAKES CENTER FOR THE ARTS Blue Mountain Lake
- ADIRONDACK LIVING SHOW
- ADIRONDACK THEATRE FESTIVAL Glens Falls
- ARTS CENTER/OLD FORGE
- ATEA RING GALLERY WESTPORT
- THE BARK EATER INN Keene
- BRANT LAKE CAMP Brant Lake
- CAMP TREETOPS Lake Placid
- DEPOT THEATRE Westport
- ELK LAKE LODGE Elk Lake
- LAKE PLACID CENTER FOR THE ARTS Lake Placid
- THE LODGE ON LAKE CLEAR Lake Clear
- MINNOWBROOK CONFERENCE CENTER Blue Mountain Lake
- OLD ADIRONDACK WILLSBORO
- PENDRAGON THEATRE Saranac Lake
- THE WAWBEEK RESORT Upper Saranac Lake

Like what you're reading?  
Not a member yet?  
**Join the Adirondack Council today!**

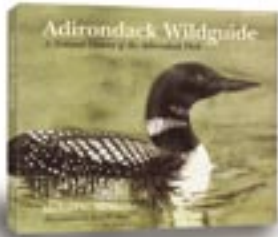
When you join the Adirondack Council, you become a part of our spirited group of individuals that fight for the freedom of the wild. You also receive: • The State of the Park report: the latest scoop on what elected officials have done for the Park • The Adirondack Council newsletter: the issues, people and trends in the Park • An invitation to our Adirondack Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner: an opportunity to meet other people who share your concerns and appreciation of the Park • Exclusive updates on Park-related issues • Special activist alerts on breaking issues • Free access to our member information services • Satisfaction in doing your part to make this earth a better place!

**YES!** I want to be part of a spirited group of individuals working to defend the Adirondack Park.

**Enclosed is my membership contribution of:**  
\$35\*   \$50   \$100   \$250   \$500   Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return in the postage-paid envelope provided.

\*With your membership gift of \$35 or more, you can choose to receive the ADIRONDACK WILDGUIDE.



**ADIRONDACK WILDGUIDE**  
A Natural History Guide to the Adirondack Park.

From "Nature's Pickle Barrel" (bogs) to "Islands in the Sky" (alpine summits), you'll delight in the birds, mammals, flowers, forests and glacial geology of the greatest wilderness in the eastern U.S. Written by ecologist Michael G. DiNunzio, with paintings and drawings by Anne E. Lacy, and photographs by Gary Randorf and others. 160 Pages Retail value \$16.95

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Please make your check payable to **The Adirondack Council**.

Visa/MC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Enclosed is my membership gift of \$35 or more, please send me the Adirondack Wildguide.
- Do not send anything; use all of my contribution for the Council's work.
- Please do not rent or exchange my name with any other organization.

You can also join on-line on our secure website at [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org).

The Adirondack Council is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Your membership contribution is tax-deductible except for the retail value of the Wildguide.

**Your gift helps us make sure the Adirondack Park is protected for the future. Thank you!**

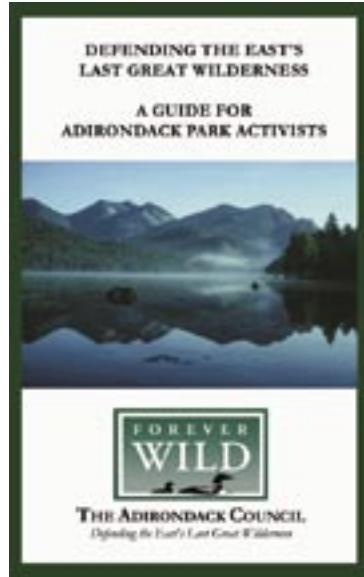
WWW.ADIRONDACKCOUNCIL.ORG P.O. BOX D-2 ELIZABETHTOWN, NEW YORK 12932-0640  
TOLL-FREE 877-873-2240 INFO@ADIRONDACKCOUNCIL.ORG

## Thanks for All Your Help!

Many thanks to those of you who wrote letters and attended hearings on the APA Classification Proposals and the DEC Draft Policy on ATVs in the Park! Time and time again you have answered the call of our action alerts and have supported the Council in our efforts to protect the Park. We would not have been as successful throughout the past 30 years without dedicated members like you! Thanks again for your help on these very important issues.

## Activist Manual Available

To celebrate 30 years of advocacy, the Adirondack Council has created "Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness – A Guide for Activists" for our members to enhance their activist skills. The manual includes information on writing letters to policymakers, meeting with elected officials, and other advocacy tools. It also contains a section with Park facts and history for easy reference. If you would like a copy, please call us toll-free at: 877-873-2240 or e-mail us at [activists@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:activists@adirondackcouncil.org).



*"I am pleased to have been one of the Founders of the Adirondack Council in 1975. It quickly became, and now, at age 30, in 2005, it continues to be, a strong and effective monitor for the Forever Wild provision in New York State's Constitution."*

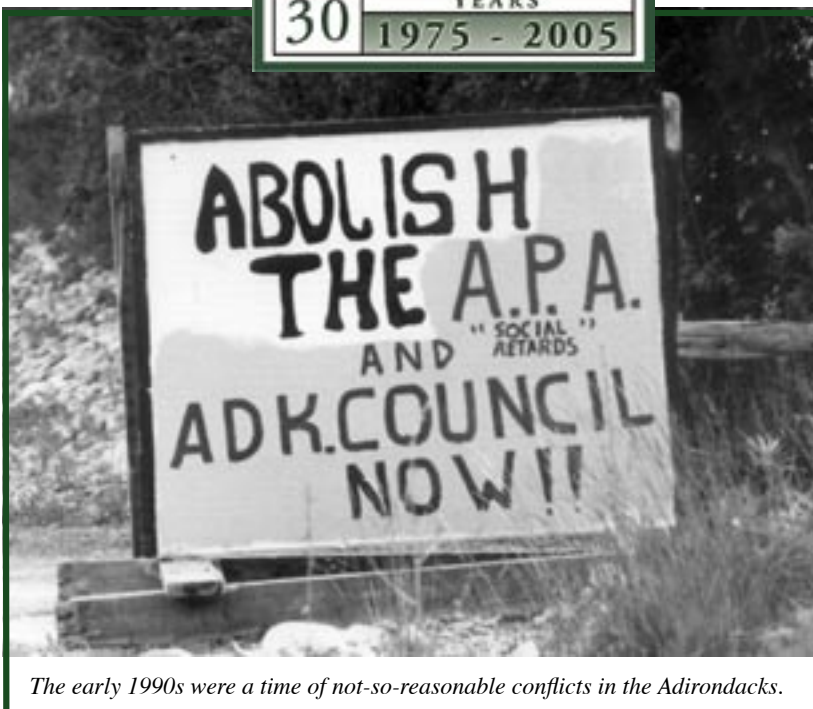
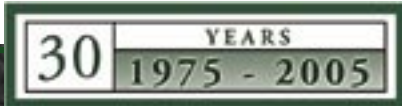
Arthur V. Savage, Manhattan  
Adirondack Park Agency Commissioner  
1979 to 1996

## Please Help Us Keep You Informed

When you have changes in your mailing address, phone number, or e-mail, or if you have an e-mail address that you haven't already shared with us, please call us toll-free at: 877-873-2240 or e-mail us at: [info@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:info@adirondackcouncil.org). Your correct mailing address saves us money! Thank you.

## Why Do We Want Your E-mail Address?

E-mail is the fastest and least expensive way for us to communicate with you about urgent issues affecting the Park. When public hearings are scheduled on vital policy matters, there often isn't enough time for us to send an Action Alert to all of our members through the U.S. Mail. When legislation affecting the Park is moving through the Legislature or through Congress, a few days or even a few minutes can make the difference between your voice being heard or ignored. If you want to receive Action Alerts via e-mail, call us toll-free at: 877-873-2240 or e-mail us at: [info@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:info@adirondackcouncil.org).



*The early 1990s were a time of not-so-reasonable conflicts in the Adirondacks.*

## We're Sorry...

Due to a printing error beyond our control, our most recent mailing provided you with a gift envelope that did not have our address printed on it!! We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate the folks who took the extra effort to write our address and attach a first class stamp in order to make a contribution. The envelope enclosed in this newsletter can be used to renew your membership or make a special additional gift. Please enclose a short note that indicates your preference. Many thanks for your generous support of the Council's efforts on behalf of the Adirondack Park!





*Gary Randorf, former Executive Director (left), and Barbara Glaser, Board Emeritus (right) present Clarence Petty with the Adirondack Council Forever Wild Lifetime Achievement Award.*



*Conservationist of the Year, Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky thanks Bob Poe for the loon he hand-carved for the award.*



*Guests Rob Vogel, Dan Gottsegen, Liza Cowan (Board of Directors) and Lindsay Coe celebrate the 30th Anniversary with the Council on July 9.*



*Art by Sheri Annset*



*Board Emeriti Clarence Petty, Joanne Dwyer and Ellen Scholle and Council staff member Julie Ball at the 30th Anniversary Forever Wild Dinner.*



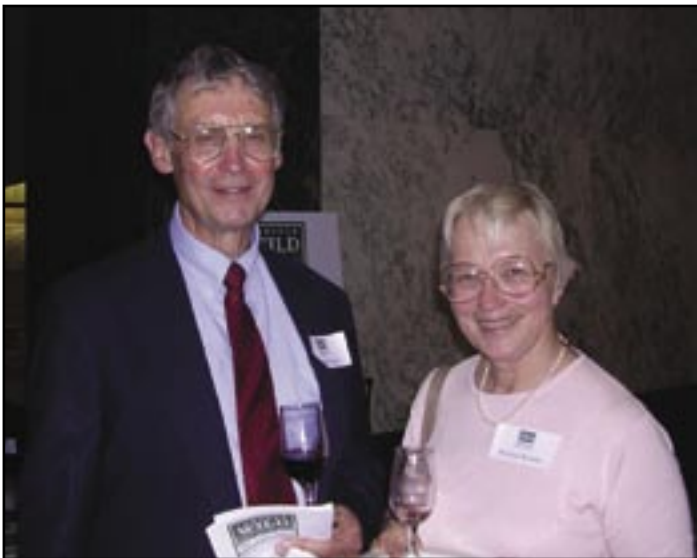
*Gary Randorf and Clarence Petty – friends, colleagues and mutual admirers visit during the Annual Meeting. Gary was the Council's first Executive Director. Clarence was a founding director and served on the Council Board for two decades.*



Holli Howard, Council member and Julie Ball of the Council staff, enjoy a visit during an Adirondack Council 30th Anniversary reception hosted by Gary Heurich at the Brewmaster's Castle in Washington, DC.



Adirondack Council member Paul Littman visits with Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward during the Council's 30th Anniversary reception in Albany.



Adirondack Council members Fred and Winifred Wilhelm joined the Council's 30th Anniversary celebration honoring Sen. Ron Stafford.

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



*While we have sometimes approached issues from different perspectives, the hearts of all of us have always been in the Adirondacks and North Country, with the people, the waters, and the mountains. We have therefore been united by bonds of trust and friendship. We have shared the long view that comes only to those who have gazed across the landscape from a high peak or looked down the lake from a guide boat. These bonds have enabled us to work together, for the good of the waters and mountains, and for the people near and dear to us.*

*"I congratulate the Adirondack Council on its many achievements over the years. I wish that old friends like Harold Jerry, Dick Lawrence, and Wayne Byrne, who were present at the creation of the Adirondack Council, were here with us to celebrate those achievements. If I have been helpful, I can only be grateful that I was given the opportunity to help. I wish you many years of continued success, and I look forward to seeing you all soon."*

Ret. NYS Sen. Ronald B. Stafford  
June 8, 2005

## Clarence Petty Internship Program

The Clarence Petty Internship Program supports young, emerging environmental leaders to work with the Adirondack Council in conservation, government relations, education or outreach to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park.

Clarence, a native of the Adirondacks and now 99 years old, has spent a lifetime working to ensure good stewardship of the state's public lands and sound decision-making about private land use in the Adirondack Park. A former Adirondack Council Board member and life-long Adirondack Park resident, Clarence has been a mentor to many advocates for the Adirondack Park. The creation of a living memorial to Clarence in the form of the internship program not only honors Clarence appropriately, but also recognizes the importance of educating young people about the Adirondack Park.

Clarence Petty Interns gain valuable first-hand experience working with the conservation, government relations, or fund development and marketing departments at the Adirondack Council. Recent interns have provided public policy and conservation research, participated in public meetings regarding state land management, taken responsibility for marketing efforts, and assisted in fundraising and membership projects. The internships are offered for a three-month period with a stipend provided.

In 2002, a generous gift was made to name the intern program in honor of Clarence Petty and begin a fund with the Adirondack Community Trust to establish long-term financial support for the program. To make a contribution to the Clarence Petty Intern Fund with ACT, sponsor an intern in 2005-2006, or to apply for an internship position, please contact Diane Fish, Director of Fund Development, 877-873-2240 or [dfish@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:dfish@adirondackcouncil.org).



Hayley Beers



Holli Edgley



Juliana Butz

Lowell Bailey from Lake Placid interned in the summer of 2004. "The Clarence Petty Internship was a great opportunity for me to learn about the Adirondack Park. During my time at the Adirondack Council I participated in a community outreach campaign to raise public awareness about the ecological and political threats facing the Park today. In addition, I had the opportunity to travel throughout the region and attend various policy-oriented meetings regarding management of Park lands. Overall, the internship led me to a greater understanding of the Adirondack political climate and an increased appreciation for those who seek to protect the region that I call home." Lowell recently finished his environmental studies degree at the University of Vermont.

## The Adirondack Legacy Society

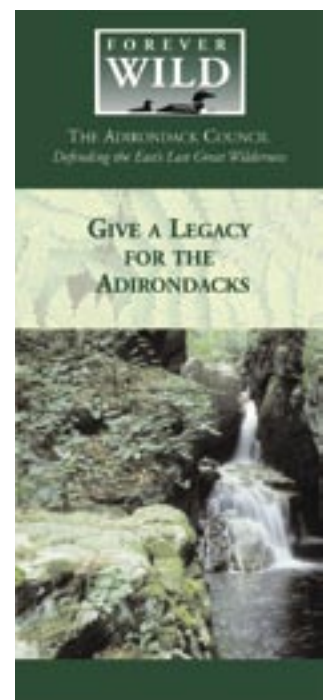
How better to make a difference than a legacy of protected Adirondack wilderness, waters and wildlife? By becoming part of the Adirondack Legacy Society with a bequest to the Adirondack Council, you can ensure the natural heritage of the Adirondacks will be protected for future generations. By naming the Adirondack Council in your will or as a beneficiary of life insurance or unused retirement assets, your generosity will leave a legacy for future protection of the Adirondack Park.

All estate gifts received by the Adirondack Council become part of the Council's Forever Wild Fund, an operating endowment set aside for special projects and long-term financial support to help the Council protect the Park long into the future.

For more information on creating a will and providing a legacy gift for the Adirondack Council, please contact Diane Fish at 877-873-2240 or [dfish@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:dfish@adirondackcouncil.org). Thank you!

*"We have lived near the Adirondacks all our lives and have canoed and hiked to enjoy many beautiful sites. We support the Council's work to preserve the Adirondacks for future generations. Therefore, as part of our estate plan, we have designated that a portion of our tax deferred IRAs will go to the Adirondack Council. Our charitable gift will have tax benefits, and gives us an opportunity to help assure the future of the Adirondacks."*

Richard and Kay Ryder,  
Shelburne, VT



Adirondack Legacy Society members Kay and Richard Ryder.

The Adirondack Council offers gift items to help raise the funds we need to fight for the Adirondack Park every day. Whether it's a Clean Air Certificate to remove a ton of pollution that causes acid rain or our new Forever Wild T-shirt...every item purchased helps the Council protect the natural resources of the Adirondack Park.

### “FOREVER WILD” ORGANIC COTTON T-SHIRT

Be wild! The Adirondack Council's new t-shirt is made of 100% organic cotton. Featuring the Adirondack Council “Forever Wild” logo, this t-shirt is “natural” color. X-Small, Small, Medium, Large (Sizes run large. Call for measurements.) **\$15**



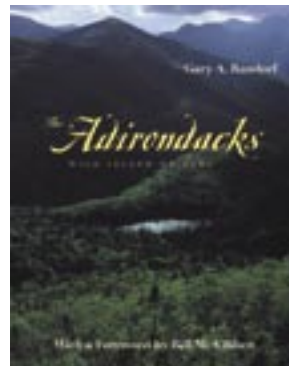
### ADIRONDACK COUNCIL SILK TIE

The Adirondack Council's logo necktie, featuring a mother loon with her chick, the forever wild symbol of the Adirondacks! 100% silk. Available in burgundy or blue. **\$30**



### SINGING LOON TOY

THIS SYMBOL OF WILDERNESS SINGS A BEAUTIFUL LOON SONG WITH JUST A GENTLE SQUEEZE. FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES. FIVE INCHES TALL **\$12**



### “THE ADIRONDACKS: WILD ISLAND OF HOPE” BOOK BY GARY RANDORF

One hundred full-color photographs combined with a unique blend of Randorf's favorite “random scoots,” conservation ethic, and side trips into natural history. **\$23**

### 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 recipients 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, WILD PLACES, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES. MEMBERSHIPS BEGIN AT \$35 AND RECIPIENTS RECEIVE A PACKET OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS ALONG WITH A CARD ANNOUNCING YOUR GIFT. GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP AND HELP US CONTINUE TO GROW THE STRENGTH OF OUR ADVOCACY FOR WILDERNESS, WATER, AND WILDLIFE.

### IT'S EASY TO PLACE AN ORDER! YOU CAN:

1. Make your purchase on our secure website at [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org).
2. Call toll-free 1.877.873.2240 M-F 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. (Visa or MasterCard)
3. Download an order form from our website or call our toll-free number and we will mail one to you!

Proceeds benefit Adirondack Park conservation. Free Adirondack screen saver with every purchase!

# Lake George Waterkeeper and Park Advocate Honored at 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Forever Wild Dinner

The Adirondack Council named Lake George Waterkeeper Christopher Navitsky its 2005 Conservationist of the Year at the Council's annual Forever Wild Dinner at the Lake Placid Resort on July 9. At the same dinner, the Council celebrated its 30th Anniversary by presenting its first Lifetime Achievement Award to Clarence Petty of Coreys (near Tupper Lake).

Chris Navitsky has been an important force for environmental protection since he first began his work on Lake George, under the guidance of The Fund for Lake George and the Riverkeeper Program. He has worked alongside Adirondack Council staff members on projects including the Fort William Henry Hotel reconstruction and preventing chemical contamination in Lake George. His engineering skills helped uncover major flaws in the stormwater plan for the 104-foot-tall 'Frankenpine' fake-tree cell tower, proposed for the slope above Pilot Knob by Nextel and Sprint.



*Clarence Petty mapping rivers in 1974.*

*Photo by Nancy Morton Trautmann*

Navitsky has been a tireless advocate for the lake's health and for the sound planning and the well-enforced zoning needed to protect it. He received a specially commissioned, museum quality, hand-carved loon in recognition of his accomplishment.

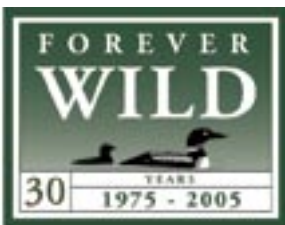
Clarence Petty, who turns 100 this summer, attended the founding meetings of the Ad-

irondack Council in 1975 at the age of 70, arguing that the Park needed a strong, well-organized advocate for its wild character and ecological health. He served on the Council's board of trustees for more than two decades and remains a close friend and trusted advisor. Clarence's work in conservation began during the Great Depression, when he ran a group of Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the Adirondacks, building roads and trails to improve recreational access. He worked his way up to the position of Regional Forester for the Department of Environmental Conservation, and later worked for the brand-new Adirondack Park Agency, mapping every river in the Park for the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers program.

Chris Navitsky was the 21st winner of the Council's annual Conservationist of the Year Award. Clarence Petty was the first recipient of the Forever Wild Lifetime Achievement Award.



*Brian Houseal, Adirondack Council Executive Director, and Chris Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper.*



THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL  
*Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness*

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