

NEWS IN AND ABOUT THE SIX-MILLION-ACRE ADIRONDACK PARK

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-  NYS legislative wrap-up
-  New USEPA mercury rule
-  Annual art raffle
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Council Launches Advocacy Campaign for the Bob

New map highlights gateway communities

In June the Adirondack Council released a new map of the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex, providing thousands of maps to gateway communities in time for the start of the summer outdoor recreation season. Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) officials, local government leaders, and economic development non-profits joined the Council in Old Forge to announce the release of the Bob map. The Council is advocating with DEC to combine the 14 Forest Preserve units and manage them as one to protect the environment, create new recreation opportunities, and bolster the economies of gateway communities. Since the 1980s, Council members have advocated for protecting the 410,000-acre region. Today, more than 85% of the land has been protected either by state acquisition or conservation easement. Individual and family landowners carefully steward the adjacent private lands. It's time to celebrate and move the Bob forward in collaboration with agencies and gateway communities.



Channel to Rock Pond in the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex

EPA Finalized New Clean Air Rule

Best progress against acid rain in over 20 years

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took action in early July that will bring a halt to continuing acid rain damage in the Adirondack Park and beyond, giving the Park's fish, forests and wildlife a chance to recover their health and vitality. This rule replaces the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), which was finalized in 2005 and then the subject of federal litigation.

The new rule requires steep reduction in the pollutants that cause acid rain, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, by 2014. There will be a decrease in sulfur of over 70% and nitrogen will be reduced by over 50%. The reductions are taking place across nearly 30 states, including all of the states that impact New York's air quality. According to the EPA, the human health benefits of the rule will far outweigh the costs by at least a ratio of 40:1, including avoiding at least 13,000 premature deaths; 15,000 nonfatal heart attacks; 19,000 emergency room visits; and 400,000 aggravated asthma cases annually once the rule is in full effect.

The benefits of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule should be seen in the Adirondack Park within the next decade. In fact, many power companies have already started to shutter some of their older plants, switch to cleaner fuels, or install pollution-control equipment in an effort to meet the new pollution standards.

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Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff
unless otherwise noted.

Brian Houseal (R), Adirondack Council Executive Director, addressed supporters during the Council's annual Forever Wild Day. The gathering, held at the Irondequoit Inn in Piseco, included the recognition of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program as the Conservationist of the Year.



Weather events follow climate predictions

We have had some extreme weather in the Adirondacks over the past year. Last winter was marked by deep snowfalls. The spring thaw was doubly strong due to snowmelt accompanied by heavy rains. The results were that flood waters in Lake Champlain hit the highest levels in recorded history; Keene Valley was the epicenter for the largest mudslide known for New York State; and, many other rivers, streams and lakes across the Park also overflowed their banks damaging roads, homes and other infrastructure.

These weather events have prompted a discussion about whether climate change is the culprit. Although no single event of weather can be definitely linked to climate change, storms of greater intensity and duration, caused by a warming planet and more moisture in the atmosphere, are consistent with predictions of what climate change may bring.

Conservation scientists inform us that large core wilderness areas with intact natural communities and ecological processes will be more resilient to the threats of climate change, especially by resisting invasive terrestrial and aquatic species. The Adirondack Park Forest Preserve is an outstanding example of large intact natural areas. And although the work is not yet finished, great progress has been made.

We also know that connectivity across the working landscape of forests and farms will be needed for the migration of native species which will need to travel to higher, cooler and moister habitats to survive. In addition, systems of wetlands, rivers and streams with natural vegetation buffers alongside will be important to sequester carbon dioxide, filter nutrients, cool the waterways and reduce flooding. Naturally functioning river corridors that pass through the built environments of cities and villages, are not only recreation amenities for the human residents, but also play vital roles in cooling urban areas and restoring native species habitat.

In our daily work, the Adirondack Council looks to our long-term vision to guide our actions to address climate change. We have been a stakeholder in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative since its initiation in 2005. We helped to persuade New Hampshire's legislature not to withdraw from the program and recently called on New Jersey not to abandon this effort. We continue to advocate for the public funds needed to protect the core wilderness areas as Forest Preserve. We will advocate for conservation easements for working farms and forests that will stitch together the connectivity needed to confront the effects of climate change later in this century.

Your support is essential for us to succeed. Thank you!

Brian L. Houseal, Executive Director

Go to our website – www.AdirondackCouncil.org – for more information.



Photo by Casey Fish

2011 Legislative Session Draws to a Close

Environmental concerns fare better this year than last

While many of Governor Andrew Cuomo's successful legislative priorities grabbed the headlines, the Adirondack Council and other environmental organizations worked diligently to ensure that the NYS Legislature addressed important environmental issues affecting our state. Several of the bills we supported passed both houses. They include:

- ☛ **Water withdrawal permits** — This bill requires Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop regulations for the permitting of water withdrawals of 100,000 gallons per day or more. Prior to this, DEC had no way of knowing who was taking water from New York sources and in what quantities. The law is expected to be in effect early next year and provides for some agricultural exemptions.
- ☛ **Rt. 56 Constitutional Amendment implementation** — Following its approval by the electorate in 2009, this law will complete the land swap that enabled the new power line construction along the Rt. 56 corridor as a backup supply to the Tri-Lakes area by laying out the specific parcels to be exchanged. The state allowed National Grid to use six acres of Forest Preserve along the highway. In return, National Grid is giving 20 acres of land to the state to be added to the Forest Preserve that is of greater value and near the Raquette River.
- ☛ **Adirondack Community Housing** — One of several bills that had previously been introduced on behalf of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), this bill allows up to four units to be built where one development right currently exists. There are strict requirements relating to location, size and income levels to ensure the units are actually used for workforce housing. We hope this bill will help prevent sprawl into previously undeveloped areas.
- ☛ **Complete Streets** — This bill requires Department of Transportation (DOT) highway projects or projects overseen by DOT to consider "complete street" design features to allow for road use by people of all ages and uses and in all types of land settings. Features could include lanes and signs for bicyclists and more appropriate sidewalks, curb cuts and crossing signs for pedestrians.
- ☛ **Inland waterway expansion** — Communities along the Sacandaga River in Saratoga and Hamilton Counties will soon be eligible to receive additional state funding thanks to this legislation. By including the Sacandaga River in the list of inland waterways, towns along the river can now apply for waterfront revitalization grants, administered by the Department of State. This funding is part of the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

ACTION UPDATE

Thank you to Council members who took action in response to our alerts this spring. The Council is selective regarding when we ask you to reach out to government officials. We only request your involvement when we know it will make a difference in the outcome. Your letters, emails and calls about land acquisition, the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex, the state budget, and the proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mercury rule have and will continue to propel these critical issues toward resolutions that benefit the Adirondack Park.

Time does not always allow us to use the mail for our alerts.

Please be sure we have your current email so we can let you know when your comments are urgently needed.

Please send your name and email to foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org

Thank you!



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to view the documentary by Michael Williams on acid rain and the Adirondacks. The film includes an interview with the Council's Communications Director John Sheehan. You can also view the film at our website: www.AdirondackCouncil.org.



IN AND ABOUT THE PARK



Piercefield

New addition to the Forest Preserve

The Legislature approved a bill that will carry out the land swap authorized by a Constitutional Amendment that was passed by voters in 2009. The state provided six acres along Route 56 for a National Grid power line. In exchange, National Grid is giving 20 acres of land along the Raquette River for addition to the Forest Preserve.

Wanakena

Gateway to the Bob

The village is one of the 24 gateway communities that offers access to the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex. Home to the SUNY-ESF Ranger School, Wanakena has a general store for provisions, easy access to foot trails and the Oswegatchie River, a guide service with lodging available, and a historic walking bridge in the village center. To learn more about the Council's new Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex project, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.AdirondackCouncil.org. Pictured



above is the creator of the map, Clarence Petty Intern Daniel Stevens, and Ellen Marshall Scholle, long-time advocate for protecting the region that Bob Marshall first drew attention to in the 1930s.

Raquette Lake

Virtual lake steward

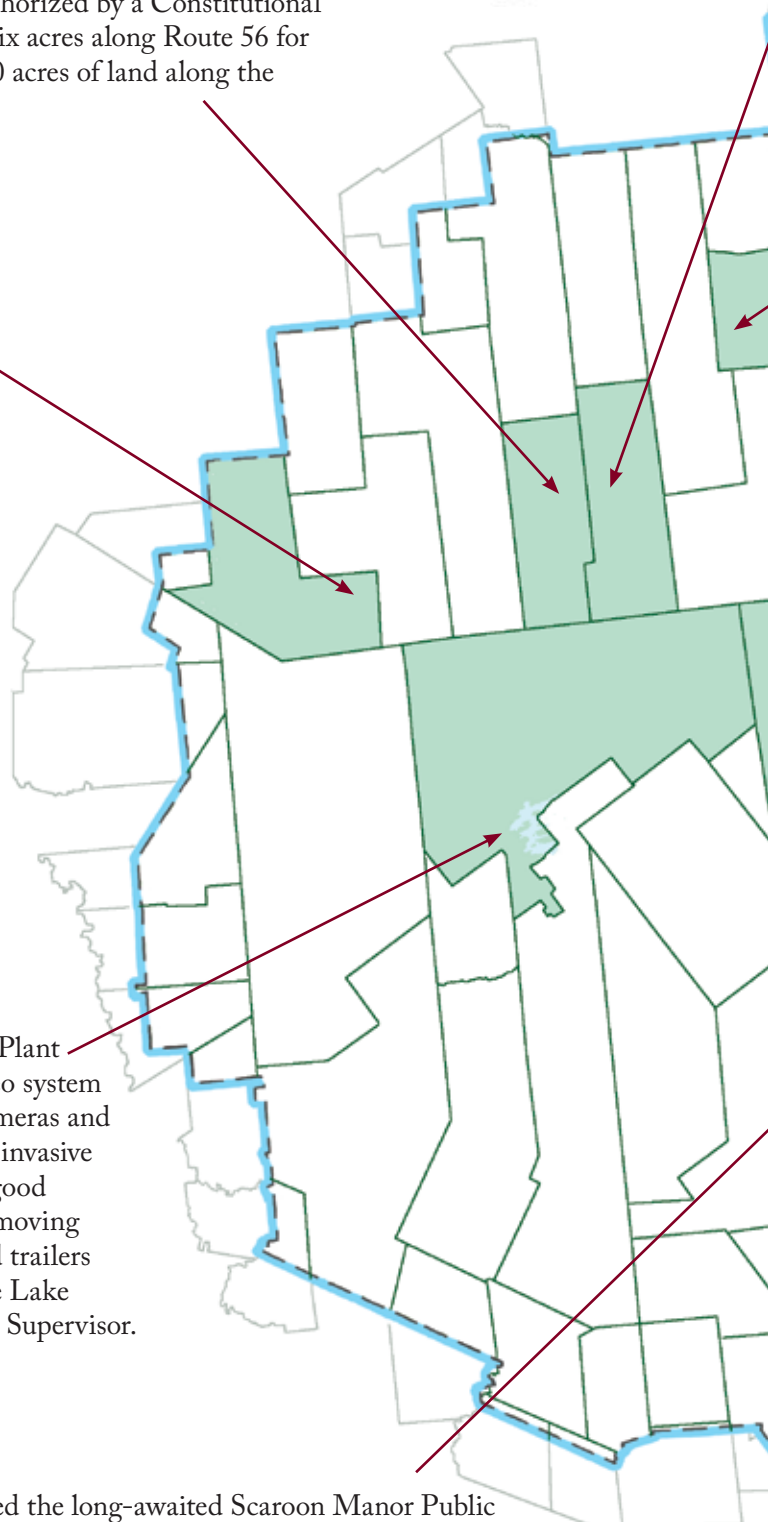
With support from Covanta Energy, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and volunteers on Raquette Lake are installing a 24/7 video system to check boats and trailers via video cameras and the internet to prevent the transport of invasive aquatic species. "Now all we need is a good transport law statewide to prevent the moving of plants and animals by watercraft and trailers throughout the Park." Pat D., Raquette Lake Invasive Coordinator and Boat Launch Supervisor.



Pottersville

New accessible campground

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) opened the long-awaited Scaroon Manor Public Campground early this summer. Located on the west shore of Schroon Lake on Taylor's Point, the day and camping facility is accessible to people with disabilities and offers swimming, fishing and naturalist programs.



Tupper Lake

ACR hearing ends

The hearing for the Adirondack Club and Resort has ended. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) will review the hearing record and is likely to make a decision regarding a permit late this fall. In addition to a permit from the APA, agencies with health and water-quality oversight will need to provide approvals.

Paul Smiths/Newcomb

New visitors centers



Photo by Paul Veneziano

The Visitors' Interpretive Centers were cut from the Adirondack Park Agency budget in 2010. This summer both centers are open and full of activities thanks to Paul Smith's College (www.adirondackvic.org) and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science & Forestry (www.esf.edu/aic).

Lake Placid

Governor Cuomo visits

Governor Cuomo (pictured greeting Adirondack Council staff member Julie Ball) visited Lake Placid this spring as part of his People First tour to promote his top priorities for the Legislature for the session that ended in June (tax relief, gay marriage, and ethics reform). In addition to his official visits, the Governor has made several trips to the Adirondacks during his first six months in office, signifying an interest and appreciation for this special place.



Essex

Giant invasive

After the highly toxic invasive Giant Hogweed was spotted near the docks in Essex, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program led efforts to eradicate the site. The sap can cause severe skin blisters and blindness if it comes in contact with eyes.



Photo courtesy NYSDEC

Whallonsburg

Algae alert

Thanks to the interest and inspiration of Council supporter Jeb Hart (left) of Essex, the Adirondack Council and the Whallonsburg Grange teamed up to show the film BLOOM that explores the causes of toxic algae in Lake Champlain. Eric Wolinsky, President of the St. Albans Area Watershed Association lead a Q&A session.



WATER AND WOODS



Photo by Casey Fish

Clarence Petty Intern

Meet Jessica Gale

Jessica Gale is researching a potential Adirondack Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Lake Classification System by using case studies, GIS, and watershed data to produce a comprehensive evaluation tool to help decision makers support best recreational uses and protection for Adirondack lakes. She is also assisting Director of Conservation Allison Buckley, in day-to-day research, projects and communication. Jessica received her Bachelor's degrees in Environmental Studies and English Literature from SUNY Binghamton. She will return to Syracuse in the fall to complete her final year in her Masters in Landscape Architecture from SUNY College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry. Her capstone studies focus on conservation and sustainable production in the Yucatan. This summer is her first visit to the Adirondacks and she has enjoyed exploring all the Park has to offer.



Clarence Petty Intern Jessica Gale (Center) enjoys a hike to the Echo Cliffs on Panther Mountain with Fund Development Associate Julie Ball (L) and Conservation Director Allison Buckley (R).

Mercury Rule Will Reduce Toxic Emissions

Adirondack lakes will benefit

In March, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its new rule to regulate the emissions of mercury and many other air toxins from coal-fired power plants. This new rule would reduce mercury emissions by 91% starting in 2015. EPA has estimated that for every dollar invested in cleaning up dirty old power plants, between \$5 and \$13 would be saved in human health costs. Mercury emissions harm people and wildlife such as loons, and damage the ecosystems of the Adirondacks. Power plant owners are trying to delay and weaken the rule. The Council is urging EPA to finalize the rule this year with the same level of reductions as it proposed.

Multi-Use Trail Systems Seek to Expand Recreation

Designated trails and state policy could reduce damage

The Adirondack Council's successful 2007 litigation involving Lewis County — for failure to conduct a proper environmental review for its all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail system — continues to shape the development of new trail systems in surrounding counties. This year, St. Lawrence and Franklin counties announced they were creating new ATV trails for public use. In both cases, county officials began the discussions by referring to the Council's lawsuit requiring Lewis County to count the environmental costs and abide by other state laws concerning ATV use.

ATV riding is the most destructive form of outdoor recreation occurring in the Adirondack Park. ATVs are not allowed on Adirondack Forest Preserve lands, under an interim set of rules adopted during the Pataki Administration. The Council is urging the Cuomo Administration to formally adopt those as regulations.

Meanwhile, the Council will review and comment on the environmental studies performed by the two counties. The Council will urge them to avoid areas where new trails would facilitate trespass on to Adirondack Park Forest Preserve lands. Both counties have extensive trails outside of the Adirondack Park, where ATV riders can be accommodated without causing harm to state lands.

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SUPPORT THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Raffle - 100 tickets available at \$100 each

Drawing: December 16, 2011



NORTHWOODS WINTER

Oil painting by Paul Matthews

18" x 24", oil on canvas, framed

"The idea of painting is to make the invisible visible - and the only means we have to do this is the visible. As impossible as this sounds, I believe it to be the case." Viewing Paul Matthews' brilliant Adirondack landscape paintings, portraits and images, you understand what the artist means by this statement. Paul's work captures the beauty of the ever-changing Adirondack light and how it affects, visually, the wild majesty of the Adirondack Mountains and woods. Paul Matthews lives in Lambertville, NJ and in Keene, NY. To view more of the artist's work go to www.paulmatthews.net.

To purchase tickets: call 1.877.873.2240 or go online at www.AdirondackCouncil.org



(L to R) New Board Chair Ann Carmel, outgoing Board member Tony Zazula, and new board member Laurel Sherwood enjoy the Council's Forever Wild Day at the Irondequoit Inn in Piseco. Blue sky, perfect temperature, no bugs!



Top: Journalist, author and local legend Pete Klein (center) led Council members on a hike to Echo Cliffs on Panther Mountain and a beautiful view of Piseco Lake.



NOTE CARDS



Our new note cards feature the common loon, symbol of the wilderness. Photographs by Carl Heilman (right) and Diane Fish (above, left) and drawings by Sheri Amsel (above, right) and Anne E. Lacy (left). Packages include two of each card. **\$8.00**

WATER BOTTLES



These 20 oz. stainless steel water bottles are printed in the Adirondacks by Mountain Mugs and feature photographs by award-winning photographer Carl Heilman II. You can choose between a photo of loons or High Peaks. **\$20.00**

You can place an order for these and other products by calling the Adirondack Council at 1.877.873.2240 (toll-free) or order online at www.AdirondackCouncil.org

Proceeds from sales benefit Adirondack Park conservation.



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

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Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program Receives Honors

Conservationist of the Year

The Adirondack Council presented the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) with the prestigious Conservationist of the Year award at the Council's annual Forever Wild Day celebration on July 9th at the Irondequoit Inn on Piseco Lake.

To commemorate the award, APIPP Director Hilary Smith received a museum-quality hand-carved common loon created by Robert Padden, a seasonal resident of Inlet and friend of the late Dr. Robert Poe who carved the Council's loon award for many years. The Forever Wild Day celebration included a lunch of local foods, the annual members' meeting, outings, and information on local history and invasives. Featured speaker and Council Board member Dr. Charles Canham, a Ph.D. forest ecologist with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, shared his research results on climate change, forest biodiversity and invasive plants.



Brian Houseal, Adirondack Council Executive Director, Hilary Smith, Director of APIPP, Brandon Quirion, APIPP, Brian Ruder, Adirondack Council Chair Emeritus, at the Irondequoit Inn in Piseco.



Dr. Charlie Canham spoke to Council members about his research on climate change and forest biodiversity.



To see photos from Forever Wild Day you can use your smart phone to scan the QR code or visit our website - www.AdirondackCouncil.org.