

Fall
2017



Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness



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

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Council Joins Suit to Enforce Clean Air Act

Pollution controls must be turned on

In October, the Adirondack Council joined with the State of Maryland and a coalition of environmental and health organizations in suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for failing to protect public health from smog and acid rain and not responding to a petition for action.

Air pollution generated by Midwest coal-fired power plants is carried for hundreds of miles by prevailing winds. Some falls to the ground as acid rain and soot, and in the summertime the pollution remains a gas – such as ozone (smog) – and harms the lungs of people and wildlife. Under the “good neighbor provision” of the Clean Air Act, the EPA is supposed to order the 36 dirtiest Midwest power plants to turn on additional, summertime-only pollution control equipment. These pollution controls are already installed and, if running, would save lives and prevent environmental damage.

Co-plaintiffs include the Environmental Defense Fund, the Environmental Integrity Project, the Maryland Environmental Health Network, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Sierra Club, and WE ACT for Environmental Justice.



Decaying conifers are a reminder of the effects of acid rain in the Adirondacks.

New Boreas Ponds Proposal

Wilderness at risk

The success of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s investment in Adirondack Wilderness, the Boreas Ponds and vibrant communities, to “leave it even better than before for our children,” is threatened by proposals to compromise world-class protections for this national treasure.

There are proposals for new public motorized and mechanized recreational uses near, on and around the Boreas Ponds threatening the sensitive ecology and the future wilderness character of these remote former Finch-Pruyn/Nature Conservancy lands.

The Governor’s Adirondack Park Agency (APA) indicated they would soon make a final recommendation. If the APA follows the science, the law, public opinion, and the state’s progressive conservation tradition, the Adirondack Council stands ready to applaud. Wilderness and communities win if the Governor listens to the 12 editorials that supported the compromise advocated for by the Council, the BeWildNY coalition and other partners. The Adirondacks can be a beacon of hope for the country. It’s more important now than ever that you let your opinion be heard. Please go to AdirondackCouncil.org/takeaction today to send a letter to Governor Cuomo! Thank you!



(T-B): Boreas Ponds and Deputy Director Diane Fish and Eddie Walsh of Tahawus Trails LLC conducting field work.

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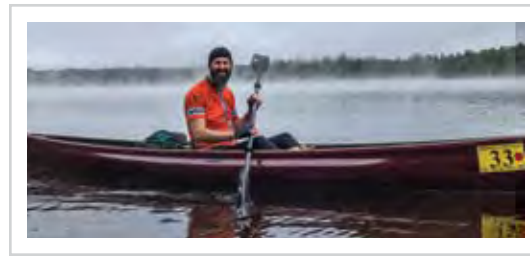
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Bernard Melewski, Esq.



Navigating Troubled Waters

Dear Supporters of the Adirondacks,

This fall I checked something off my bucket list by paddling and carrying a solo canoe 90 miles from Old Forge to Saranac Lake.

The “90 miler” is known as the “Adirondack Canoe Classic.” 600 paddlers and hundreds of boats compete in what is usually a three-day race. I paddled from Old Forge to Blue Mountain Lake, from Long Lake to near Tupper Lake, and from Upper Saranac Lake to Lake Flower in “downtown” Saranac Lake.

On the traverse I saw great Adirondack conservation successes you helped make real including protected Wilderness, clean water, rebounding loon populations, and important community revitalization projects. I didn’t set records, but it was fun.

Brian and Grace MacDonald of Mac’s Canoe Livery and the Adirondack Watershed Alliance organize the event. (This was the 31st year.) They do a great job with support from many sponsors, state agency staff and volunteers.

You and the Adirondack Council have been an integral part of conservation victories across this Adirondack landscape, as have many partners. Without donors, members, and collaborators from across the country and the globe and without leadership from New York elected leaders including two Governor Cuomos, New York State would not be the national progressive leader it is today. The Adirondacks would not be what they are today.

Great conservation victories and Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s successes in the Adirondacks are now threatened by dangerous Trump administration rollbacks of acid rain protections. State agency proposals for more intensive and motorized recreational uses, a private railroad junkyard plan, and non-wilderness proposals for the Boreas Ponds are some of the additional threats to the Governor’s success.

We need to preserve the Adirondacks now more than ever. With your support we will navigate past these challenges and preserve forever the ecological integrity, wild character, wilderness, and communities of this national treasure.

Thank you,


William C. Janeway
Executive Director

Above: Executive Director William Janeway participates in the the 90-miler.
Photo courtesy © Nancie Battaglia

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations.

We envision an Adirondack Park with clean water and air and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working farms and forests and vibrant local communities.

CAPITAL MATTERS: ALBANY



Above: (L-R) Assemblymen Steve Englebright, D-Setauket, Billy Jones, D-Chateaugay, and Dan Stec (R-Queensbury). In August, Assemblyman Englebright, who chairs the NYS Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation, joined the Adirondack Council and partners for a tour of the Adirondack Park. The Chairman met with scientists, landowners, local elected officials, and many Adirondack stakeholders to discuss water quality and proposed legislation that would amend the Adirondack Park Agency Act to improve design requirements for large, backcountry development plans in the Adirondacks.

Adirondack Acid Rain Program on Chopping Block

Clean water and air progress threatened

Following an announcement by the Trump administration that it would cut the budget of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 31 percent, U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Willsboro, pledged to work to restore proposed cuts to the EPA’s budget for acid rain research and monitoring.

Critical funding funding for the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corp’s lake chemistry testing and air monitoring comes from the EPA. These programs provide the scientific data needed to show whether emissions controls for acid rain, fine particles and smog rules are actually working. U.S. Reps. Carolyn Maloney, D-Manhattan, Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, and John Faso, R-Kinderhook, also said they would fight for the EPA’s acid rain budget.

The budget passed by the House of Representatives in September contained a 16-percent cut to the EPA’s Science and Technology budget, from which the acid rain research is funded. The current budget and debt ceiling agreement is due to expire at the end of 2017.



Rep. Stefanik meets with Adirondack Lakes Survey Corp staff.

NY Helps Form Climate Alliance

Goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

In response to the Trump administration’s decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change, Governors Andrew Cuomo, Jay Inslee of Washington and Jerry Brown of California created the United States Climate Alliance.

This bi-partisan coalition of states is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Members of the coalition include Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode



Island, Vermont, and Virginia. Coordinated state and regional action can ensure that the United States continues to contribute to the global effort to address climate change. New York also participates in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a mandatory carbon reduction program for power plants in nine Northeast states. State leadership on climate and clean air may help inspire national action.

State Mulls New Emissions Rules for Small Sources

Air quality at stake

The NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) held three stakeholder meetings in July to gather input on its plan for tightening compliance rules for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

DEC officials said they want to reduce the allowable levels of fine particles from commercial and institutional boilers and furnaces, especially those burning wood. Wood is becoming more popular as a fuel at schools and businesses. While it has some advantages over fossil fuels for the local economy, it can create more particle pollution when burned.

State regulations for small stationary sources have not been updated in decades. Air quality in Adirondack communities is often poor between midnight and dawn in winter, as inefficient wood stoves and boilers get choked down and smolder.

After the stakeholder sessions, the DEC said it would develop a new regulatory plan and announce a proposed rule soon. The rule would then be subject to public input using the state’s standard rulemaking procedures.



CONSERVATION MATTERS



Leave No Trace Principles

Outdoor ethics minimize human impact

As we enjoy recreational activities in the woods and water of the Adirondacks, and elsewhere, it is important to be a good steward of places we visit. Below are seven best practices that can be followed to help limit human impacts, protect our natural resources and respect the experience of others.



1. **Plan ahead and prepare** - research your destination, know the regulations and pack for the expected weather.



2. **Travel and camp on durable surfaces** - use established trails and campsites and avoid sensitive areas.



3. **Dispose of waste properly** - pack it in, pack it out. Deposit human waste in a 6"- 8" deep hole away from trails, camp and water.



4. **Leave what you find** - leave natural objects as they are found and preserve cultural/historical structures and artifacts



5. **Minimize campfire impacts** - establish fires where permitted, keep fires small and burn all wood and coal to ash.



6. **Respect wildlife** - observe wildlife through a camera or binoculars, never feed and avoid encounters during mating and nesting.



7. **Be considerate of other visitors** - Respect the experience of others, yield to other trail users, avoid loud voices and noises, and manage your pets.

The Future of New York Trout

DEC trout stream management evaluated

For over 30 years DEC has generally managed trout streams across the state for a desired catch rate, or the number of fish caught per hour, as the overall management objective. The Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking (CROTS) program has long worked on the assumption that anglers preferred to catch (and keep) as many fish as possible and DEC stocking and management practices reflected this belief. But over the decades, angler perspectives have slowly shifted to place increased emphasis on catch-and-release efforts, and more anglers are willing to catch fewer fish if the ones they catch are larger and wilder fish than the generic 8" "silver bullets" hatchery fish that are the mainstay of DEC's stocking program.

In a sign of proactive management, DEC is currently hosting state-wide public informational hearings on possible revisions to the trout stream program that would update stocking objectives and management techniques. The core purpose of these meetings is for DEC to get a better sense of how angler philosophies have changed and what the average fisherperson values. Given that in 2016, DEC stocked over 440 streams across the state, this effort is substantial and could have long ranging impacts on the types of fish and more importantly, the types of fishing opportunities that are available to the general public.



A brown trout from the West Branch of the AuSable River.

In Region 5 and 6, which encompass the whole Adirondack Park, DEC trout stream management takes on even more important implications. As impacts from climate change begin to grow and waterbodies and streams begin to noticeably warm, the Adirondacks become a vital refuge for the Eastern brook trout. Brook trout are notoriously fickle fish that have a very low tolerance for waters above 65 degrees and tend to be easily displaced or eaten by other more aggressive trout such as brown and rainbow trout. The Adirondack's offer one of the last great places for brook trout to thrive in the cold water habitats that they need.

As we look to a warming future, DEC should be commended for their efforts to reevaluate their trout stream management program. It is up to all of us to remind them of the need for stronger ecological protections for wild and native fish populations, particularly heritage strain brook trout in the Adirondacks.

SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL

In Memoriam

Joanne Waldron Dwyer (1934-2017)

Former Adirondack Council Board Member Joanne Waldron Dwyer passed away on Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, at Morristown Memorial Hospital after a long illness. She was 83.

Joanne spent her early years living in Saranac Lake, where she acquired her love for the Great Woods. After her father completed his treatment for tuberculosis, the family returned to New Jersey and took up residence in Montclair, New Jersey. She had a passion for chemistry and nurtured hundreds of students through the rigors of the chemistry lab at the College of New Rochelle. Over the years, she embarked on hiking trips; conquered several bouts with cancer, two knee replacements, and a fractured neck; and volunteered on many boards. Her heart remained always in the Adirondacks and after the death of her husband Arthur, she purchased a home on Green Pond near Saranac Lake to which she enjoyed a very "active" retirement.

The Adirondack Council was truly blessed by nearly three decades of her loyal support and infinite wisdom. She will be sorely missed.



Support Adirondack Conservation

Purchase calendars, hats, playing cards, and more!

Proceeds from the sale of Adirondack products help us advocate for water, wilderness, wildlife and communities of the Adirondacks everyday! Place an order today at AdirondackCouncil.org or call toll-free 1.877.873.2240.



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL HATS

Vintage Cotton: Two-tone hat available in charcoal-silver, navy-white & dark green-white with adjustable fabric backstrap/buckle.

Vintage Trucker/Mesh: two-tone hat available in navy-ivory, dark green-ivory, putty-stone with adjustable plastic backstrap.

Price: \$18.00



2018 FOREVER WILD CALENDAR

Featuring the Adirondack landscape photography of Carl Heilman II.

Price: \$13.00



ADIRONDACK PLAYING CARDS

Enjoy the scenic beauty of the Adirondack peaks, lakes, wildlife, and iconic locations.

Price: \$9.00



"THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND VALUES OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL IN THE FIGHT TO PREVENT BACK SLIDING ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT REDUCE ACID RAIN, TO CONTINUE FUNDING FOR ACID RAIN RESEARCH, AND TO ADVOCATE FOR NEW PROGRAMS THAT WILL ALLOW IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF OUR AIR, WATERS AND FORESTS IN THE ADIRONDACKS AND BEYOND."

Fred Krupp, EDF President



SIGN THE PETITION!

Combat Acid Rain in the Adirondacks!

The proposed rollbacks of environmental laws and regulations threaten the progress we have made over the past two decades in limiting acid rain-causing pollution in the Adirondacks and elsewhere. Gutting public health and environmental programs aimed at ensuring pollution reductions and monitoring progress is unacceptable!

I support the strengthening (not abandoning) of our policies to protect the Adirondack Park from acid rain.

Signature _____

Email _____

Please detach and return in the enclosed envelope.
Thank You!

IN AND ABOUT THE PARK

More Motorized Recreation Proposed

Future Raquette-Jordan Boreas Wilderness at Risk

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has released a draft amendment to the Raquette-Jordan Boreal Primitive Area (RJBPA) Unit Management Plan that will allow for the construction of a road between two isolated conservation easement areas in a remote northwest area of the Park. Construction of this 1.25 mile “connector” road will allow motor vehicle access for the first time to thousands of acres of remote private lands. The Council identified the RJBPA in our 2020 VISION reports as being a prime candidate for reclassification to a Wilderness Area. We remain concerned that increased motorized use to access these remote and sensitive lands and waters may result in impact threatened spruce grouse habitat and weaken the wild forest character of the Park.



Female Spruce Grouse. Photo courtesy Larry Master, masterimages.org.

Conservation Easement Recreation Plan Developed

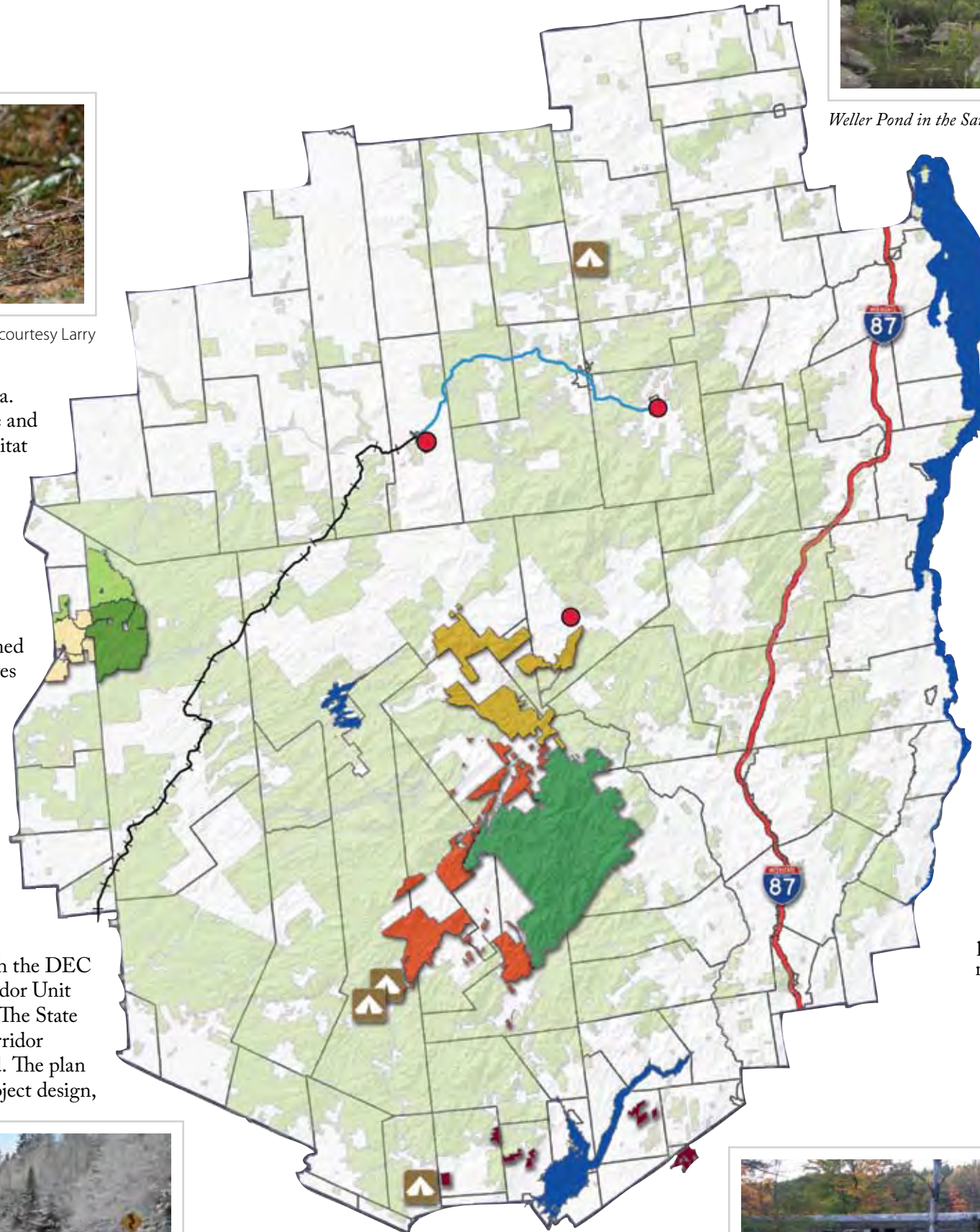
Long Lake

In July, the DEC released its Draft Cedarlands Conservation Easement Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the ~4,900-acre Boy Scout-owned property in Long Lake. The Council strongly supports this RMP as it gives due consideration to the natural resources of the tract, voluntarily limits high impact motorized recreation like snowmobiling and prioritizes recreational access for persons with disabilities. Also, the terms of the conservation easement do not allow for public ATV use on the property. Cedarlands is one of the few large-scale private lands under conservation easement in the Adirondack Park that is not primarily a working forest easement.

Management Plan for Travel Corridors Released

Highways in the Park

Recently, the Department of Transportation (DOT), in collaboration with the DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency, released its Draft Generic Travel Corridor Unit Management Plan for State Highway Corridors in the Adirondack Park. The State Land Master Plan classifies highways within the Park as unique travel corridor units whose natural and physical resources must be assessed and protected. The plan provides guidance for the DOT on sustainable management practices, project design, maintenance activities, vegetative management, and highway operations such as mowing and snow control. The Council supports the release of this plan and encourages additional efforts to identify and manage invasive species, road salt impacts, wildlife corridors, the Adirondack Sign Law, road side utilities, viewsheds, and parking along popular trailheads.



Weller Pond in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest.

Saranac Lake Wild Forest

Draft management plan released

In June, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released its draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the 94,000-acre Saranac Lakes Wild Forest (SLWF), a fragmented unit that consistently receives a high degree of human use. The Council submitted comments supporting the majority of the management actions within the draft UMP including proposed motor restrictions, campsite closures and relocations and fisheries management. However, the Council reiterated ongoing concerns about additional natural resources considerations and carrying capacity issues that needed to be addressed. The draft UMP is lacking required technical inventories and analysis to reflect the current state of the unit, current carrying capacity studies, invasive species control methods for sensitive waterways, and opportunities to expand non-mechanized recreation opportunities.

Two Invasive Species Threaten Forests

Lake George and Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties



(T-B): Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Emerald Ash Borer. Photos courtesy of NYIS.

Recently, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was found on Prospect Mountain in Lake George and Emerald Ash Borers (EAB) were discovered on tribal lands outside the Park in Franklin County. The treatment for HWA includes injections of the tree with two insecticides to control the current infestation and provide for longer-term prevention. The Department of Environmental Conservation treated 218 trees within a 250 ft. buffer around the original infestation. The EAB were discovered by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in northern Franklin County. Ash borers attack all ash species - white, black and green - in the Adirondacks and spread easily, predominantly by transporting contaminated firewood. Unlike HWA, whose northern range is currently restricted by cold temperatures, the climatic range of the ash borer includes northeastern North America. EAB control efforts are limited to cutting and removing infested trees and tend to be ineffective against large-scale infestations.

Proposed Railcar Junkyard a Scenic Blight

North Creek - Tahawus

Iowa Pacific Holdings, LLC is proposing to use a portion of its line in Warren County to store junked, decaying railroad cars inside the Adirondack Park near some of the wildest stretches of the Hudson River between North Creek and the hamlet of Tahawus in Essex County. This proposal threatens the scenic beauty and wild character of the Adirondack Forest Preserve and the success of the Adirondack Park as a tourism destination.





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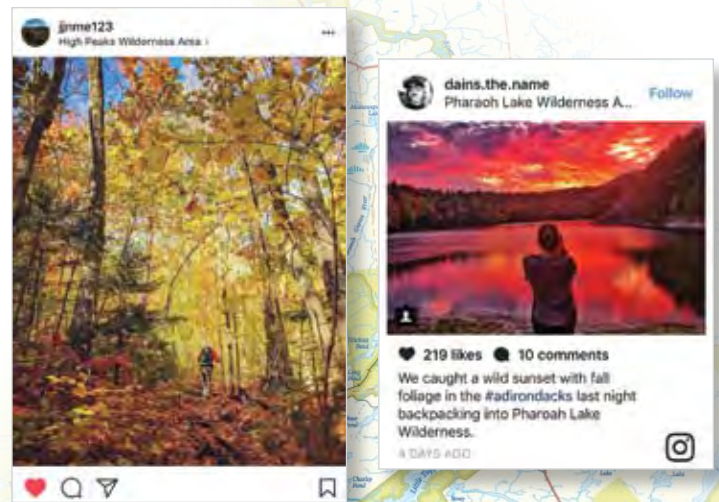
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ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Are we loving the Adirondack Forest Preserve to death? Recent years have brought remarkable achievements to the Adirondack Park. We have seen significant additions to the Forest Preserve, including the priceless Boreas Ponds Tract and the Essex Chain of Lakes. And, there has been a striking increase in public interest in vigorous outdoor recreation in the Park, bringing more visitors wanting to explore our global treasure. They also help the vibrancy of Adirondack local communities by buying goods and services there.

Affection and attention, however, are a mixed blessing. A new challenge is managing these successes in a way that protects the wild character and ecological integrity of the Park, while allowing people to enjoy its clean air, pure waters and unspoiled forested landscapes.

The carrying capacity of trails, summits, campsites, swimming holes, water courses, and other destination points is not infinite. Too much use, or the wrong kinds of uses, or poorly managed uses can degrade the very natural features and resources that are attracting the users to visit and enjoy them.

The Adirondack Council has always been an advocate for intelligent policies and adequate means to govern the State's care and custody of the public, open space resources of the Forest Preserve and for optimizing world class recreational opportunities there. But, as we look at today's circumstances, we are feeling a great need for a serious update in the understanding of how increased quantity of public lands and conservation easements, greater and more intensive human uses, new invasive species, climate change, fiscal austerity, scientific advances, and even social media have made many existing public land management practices and traditions no longer appropriate. And, with a new understanding must come the development and application of modernized and state-of-the art management planning, strategies, and techniques.

This is the topic to which the Council is now turning more focused attention. This will not be an easy job. It will not be an inexpensive one. It will not be without controversy and conflict. But it is driven by our mission and essential to safeguarding our wild, biodiverse, and beautiful public spaces. It is also the outgrowth of the many successes the Council has achieved with the generous help of its members and supporters.

The growth in membership and revenue this year has given us increased capacity to continue to build the strength and influence of our Council and enhance its ability to conduct our important work. Thank you for making this possible.

We greatly appreciate your support and invite your continued participation in the Council's endeavors. This is a collaborative effort. We can never stop our advocacy, large landscape planning, and conservation work if we want to preserve the Adirondack Park as a model of people and the natural environment thriving together.

With gratitude,

Robert J. Kafin
Board Chair

The mission of the ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations.

ALL CHARITABLE GIVING TO THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Listed below are individuals, foundations, and corporations that have given gifts of \$250 or more to the Adirondack Council's operating fund and/or the quasi-endowed Forever Wild Fund (in bold). The operating fund is critical to our daily advocacy. In addition, this year's special projects within the operating fund included initiatives for clean water, Cool Farm/Healthy Park micro grants, Adirondack Diversity Initiative, and the Clarence Petty Intern program. The Forever Wild Fund strengthens the Council's programs and ability to be proactive in our mission to protect the Adirondack Park and provides a strong financial footing for the future. Two Council funds managed by the Adirondack Foundation are also a part of the Forever Wild Fund. The commitment of ALL Council members and donors to a wild and resilient Park makes the Adirondack Council the largest, most effective advocacy organization working on behalf of New York's six-million-acre Adirondack Park. Thank you for caring about the Adirondacks!

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(Gifts of \$50,000+)

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We are grateful to the following members who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy of their support for the Adirondack Park by including the Adirondack Council in their estate plans.

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* deceased friend of the Council

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Often, there are people who touch our lives in a meaningful way and we look to honor or remember them in an equally special way. We are honored to share the names of these special people and those who chose to recognize them.

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CHARITY NAVIGATOR 4-STAR CHARITY

The Adirondack Council's sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars -- a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. The Council is also one of just 17% of organizations earning a 4-star rating for 3 consecutive years. We hope the Adirondack Council's top rating gives you even more confidence that your hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly on behalf of the Adirondack Park.



SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS SUMMARY

Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

OPERATING SUPPORT & REVENUE

Investment Income
(available under 5% spending policy)

12%

Contributions:
(Individual, Foundation,
& Corporate)

85%

\$2,027,098

Special Events, Sales,
Other Income

3%

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program: Environmental
Preservation, Education,
Outreach and Advocacy

82%

Fundraising &
Membership

4%

\$1,937,118

Administrative
Support

14%

Note: the Adirondack Council does not accept government funding of any kind.

In addition to contributions for operating support, gifts totaling \$397,807 were donated to the Adirondack Council's Forever Wild Fund in FY17 (July 1 - June 30). Net assets at year-end of Fiscal Year 2017 stood at \$6,308,281 up from \$5,612,950 at year-end of the previous fiscal year.

You can view the Adirondack Council's IRS 990 at www.guidestar.org. A complete audit financial statement can be obtained by calling the Adirondack Council at 877-873-2240 or through the office of the New York State Attorney General.



Public Lands
Invasive Species
Wildlife
Loons
Article XIV
Vibrant Communities
Farms & Forests
Mountains
Hiking
Adirondack Park
Common Ground Alliance
Wilderness
Clemence Petty Internship
Mountain Biking
Kayaking
Environmental Protection Fund
Primitive Wild Forest
Alpine
Constitutional Convention
Climate Change
Rivers
Bogs
Canoe Area
Pollution
Wetlands
Cool Farms/Healthy Park
Boreas Ponds
ATVs
Diversity
Private Lands
Ecological Integrity
2 Million Acres
Conservation
Leadership & Government
Wild Character
Trails
Lakes
Forest Preserve
Partners
Forever Wild
High Peaks

