

**Speech of Ellen Marshall Scholle**  
**Adirondack Council Forever Wild Day**  
**July 12, 2014**

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Thank you, Willie, and thank you to my family.

My love of the Adirondacks started with my grandfather, Louis Marshall, who, with five friends, bought property in Saranac Lake.

When I was 5 or 6 years old my grandfather took me for a walk in the woods. He pointed out the footprints of the deer, the hemlocks hanging heavy over our heads and the wildflowers, which my grandmother loved.

My father told me that as a boy in the Adirondacks, he and other children built a tent and played Indian. He was Chief Uncas, and his sister Ruth was Pocahantas.

Later, my dad, my uncle Bob, our friends and I climbed Big Slide, my first mountain. I remember the rocks in the stream and lunch on the top, then Bob, a great mountaineer and explorer, ran down Big Slide to meet one of his many girlfriends.

On my grandfather's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday many people congratulated him, among them one man congratulated him on cutting down trees. He must not have known that my grandfather was one of the first environmentalists. The last thing my grandfather would do is cut down a tree!

At the 1894 New York State constitutional convention my grandfather had inserted the provision that the lands of the state forest preserve should be kept forever wild.

When my uncle Bob visited us in our apartment in New York City, he would turn a somersault then take my brother Jon and me on piggyback rides around the apartment.

Bob and George and their Adirondack guide, Herb Clark, were the first 46ers and I hope that for them and all 46ers and of course my family that we can stop some of the building I have seen in the Adirondacks in my lifetime!

My father Jim Marshall and his family came to Knollwood the day school was over. He and his brothers made trails in the woods, exploring all Summer.

My father was on the Board of the Adirondack Council when it was formed in 1975. He was also a founder of NRDC and on the Board of the Wilderness Society, founded by his brother, Bob. My son Steve worked for the Council in 1979-1980 and my granddaughter Liza is on the board.

I climbed Marcy twice, once with my cousin Florence and later with my husband, Rod Scholle.

I'll end this with a story about Professor Albert Einstein, who for several summers was a neighbor of ours in the Adirondacks. He liked to go out alone in his sailboat carrying his fly swatter and his violin. One time, my brother Jon called from his sailboat, "Hey Professor, would you like to race?" Einstein said, "Yes, Yes" and they raced around a small island. My brother won.

This is a great honor for me and my family. Thank you again.