

Council advocates ecosystem-based planning for wild lands

by Mary Peryea

The Bob Marshall Wild Land Complex is comprised of over a half million acres of public and private lands in the mid of the Adirondack Park. "The Bob" includes nearly 450 lakes and ponds, almost 70 miles of rivers classified as wild, scenic and recreational by New York State, and large boreal wetlands. In the heart of "The Bob" are some of the largest old-growth woodlands in the eastern United States.

Containing some 300,000 acres of roadless wilderness, The Bob is surrounded by 24 gateway communities, including, Tupper Lake, Long Lake, Piercefield and Cranberry Lake to the north and east, and Blue Mountain Lake, Old Forge, Woodgate and Brantingham to the south and west.

These gateway communities are the entry points for the largest wild lands complex in the eastern United States. An integrated approach to managing The Bob could facilitate an economic boom for these gateways. The connection of various trail networks and canoe routes could draw an influx of outdoor enthusiasts.

The Adirondack Council is advocating the creation of an ecosystem-based planning and management approach for The Bob and other wild lands complexes in the state. To that end, the council has been hosting a series of meetings with business owners in gateway communities, as well as officials from DEC and DOT, to gain a better understanding of issues involved in devising a comprehensive management

plan. The council held such a meeting at the Wild Center in Tupper Lake recently.

Ecosystem-based management principles include environmental components such as waterways, open spaces and wildlife, and human components, such as communities. Integrating the components can be problematic and can involve crossing jurisdictional lines, involving multiple user groups and stakeholders, and operating under a variety of policy frameworks.

These problems can begin to be solved by building a network of activists in neighboring communities. These people could compile and centralize information on the lands in question. This could include park information, food and lodging, and other information that could prompt longer stays in the area.

Another tactic would include standardizing signage along roads through the area. Signs could point the way to parking, trail, canoe routes, camping areas, scenic vistas and more, as well as providing interpretation of points of interest. Partnerships among agencies would be necessary in this instance.

Packaging of land complexes would also involve partnering among agencies and groups. Brochures and websites showing maps of attractions and services could be developed to entice travelers to the region.

The Adirondack Council applauded a recent presentation by the Department of Environmental Conservation to the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee in which the DEC unveiled an innovative approach that consolidates

contiguous forest preserve units into large units for planning purposes and focuses on creating new recreational activities and links to local communities.

The council will present the information it collects through this series of meetings to the DEC in support of the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee's interest in "looking at new, more cost effective and efficient ways to manage and plan large landscapes and that better reflect current principles and practices of conservation science and smart growth planning."

It has found that local communities need planning and marketing assistance and funds to develop as gateways and to incorporate the Forest Preserve as an asset to their economic growth.

The council has concluded that sustaining local economies, communities and the natural environment in the Adirondack Park will necessitate the rethinking of traditional approaches to managing complex, interrelated issues. Ecosystem-based management incorporates "entire ecosystems,

including human communities, to improve environmental quality, enhance community well-being and increase economic vitality." This approach "recognizes coupled social and ecological systems, integrates science and public perception and values into decision-making, and considers cumulative impacts of all actions."



To us, nonhealing wounds are wounds that haven't healed yet... but they will.

Healing hard-to-heal wounds is our specialty. We bring together the latest technology and the most caring staff of wound experts. Call us or ask your doctor for a referral and let us show you how to reclaim your life.

ADIRONDACK HEALTH

Leading care for a healthy community.

285 Old Lake Colby Road
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
(518) 897-2800

Green Team details activities to BOE

The high school Green Team gave a presentation on their activities to the school board at last Monday night's meeting.

Superintendent Seth McGowan introduced

members and their advisor Kathy Eldridge as leaders of the "green revolution" at the local high school.

Members presented a slide show of their activities, including locker

clean out and the Green Team store for used school supplies, teaching teachers about composting, the Youth Food Summit at SUNY Potsdam, the Adirondack Youth Climate Summit, art projects at LP Quinn and Terracycle.

A new campaign for the Green Team is "Flip the Switch" - reminding students to turn off the lights when they leave the restrooms.

The team presented Mr. McGowan with a Green Team t-shirt and passed fresh fruit as a snack for everyone at the meeting.

Board member Dan Mansfield commented on the influence the team has had on cafeteria offerings in district schools, such as the availability of more fresh fruits and vegetables and smoothies.

"With all the discussions we've had on food here, the Green Team brings it up," he said.

Mrs. Eldridge said, "I see an LP Quinn Green Team in the future. Our goal is to extend the green machine that's started here to the high school." She added that community outreach and education is also a goal for the team.

Board President Michael Dechene told the team they should do an exposition to the community at the spring concert or musical.

Mrs. Eldridge said the team would have an exhibit at the budget vote.

Board member Dan Mansfield commented that he is really impressed by the Green Team.

Board member Jane Whitmore said she echoed that comment. "The Green Team is phenomenal," she said.



The Green Team served fresh fruit to the school board at the May meeting.



Members of the sixth grade class at L.P. Quinn Elementary School were showing their collective "girl power" during the staging of the "Great American Bake Sale" under the eaves of Shaheen's Supermarket Saturday. The campaign is directed to stop world hunger, the girls told the Free Press photographer. These four kept traffic coming to their outdoor stand with shouts to passing motorists. From left were Alamanda King, Paulina Kwasniak, Alyssa Gaff and Allison Chamberlain.

APO plans Transit of Venus celebration

The Adirondack Public Observatory invites everyone to join them in the celebration of the Transit of Venus as it moves between the Earth and the Sun. Venus will pass in front of the Sun beginning at 6:03 pm EDT on June 5. The APO is planning two public events: The APO will host a lecture on June 4, and will have observing of

the transit - with telescopes and live video from NASA - on June 5. Both events are free and open to the public.

First, the lecture: What is the transit, and why is it important? These questions, and more, will be answered by Aileen O'Donoghue, Priest Associate Professor of Physics at St. Lawrence University, and APO board

member at a lecture at the Wild Center on Monday June 4, 7 pm.

Second, the Viewing: June 5, 5 pm until sunset: Transit Day! Telescopes will be set up at Little Wolf Beach to safely watch the transit until the sun sets. Several fun activities will be provided preceding the actual viewing. The APO cautions everyone that directly looking at the sun without eye protection can cause serious damage to your vision. The APO will also bring NASA's live video of the transit for projection on the large screen in the Flammer Theater of the Wild Center. This will permit continued viewing of the transit after the sun sets in Tupper Lake, and as an alternative for viewing in the event of cloudy weather.

This will be the last transit of Venus until 2117, so wish for clear skies!

VFW Post 3120
HAPPY HOUR
Monday thru Friday
4-7 pm
Drink Specials
& Snacks

North Star
Chemical Dependency Services
Prevention ~ Treatment ~ Recovery

(518) 891-2467

Help and hope
for individuals and families struggling
with gambling problems, substance abuse,
addiction and co-occurring issues.
If you need help or are concerned about a
loved one please call us today.

Offices in Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake & Malone

CITIZEN ADVOCATES, Inc.
NORTH STAR FAMILY OF SERVICES

Stone Products for Sale
Mitchell Stone Products LLC
Products Readily Available
#1 Stone
#2 Stone
3/8" Minus (Driveway Mix)
1" Minus
1 1/2" Minus (State Spec Item 4)
Culverts & Road Fabric
Pick Up or Delivery is Available
Call for prices and other products you may need

161 Main Street, Tupper Lake
518-359-7029

St. Louis Construction
Custom Adirondack Camps
Cedar Log Work
Additions
Interior Renovations
Kitchens & Baths
Garages - Decks
Masonry
Adk. Fireplaces
Sticky Stone - Painting
Roofs & All Types
of Siding

ALL WORK GUARANTEED
FULLY INSURED - FREE ESTIMATES
"Doing Business For Over 20 Years"

Robert St. Louis
82 LeBoeuf St., Tupper Lake

(518) 359-3240
Cell 354-1047

YOU GOTTA EAT!

Larkin's
Deli & Bakery
58 Main St. - 359-9000
-TAKE OUTS-
"homemade and delicious"
Theme Days
Breakfast, Lunch/Dinner Specials Reuben,
Philly Cheese, BLT's, Hamburgers
Soups, Scratch breads for sandwiches
Homemade Breakfast Crepes,
Pancakes, French Toast
Homemade
baked goods, breads & pastries
Opened at 4 a.m. weekdays
5 weekends/Close at 9 p.m.

Delivery 4-8 pm

Main Street Restaurant
79 Main St., Tupper Lake
Open 7 Days A Week- 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Homemade Soups & Daily Specials
Take-Outs Available
359-7449

Come on in...the food's great!