Winter **2010**



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

INSIDE

- Opportunity in the economic crisis
- Advocacy for wilderness, water and air
- Easement action needed in 2010
- Honoring friend Clarence Petty

National Honor Given to the Adirondack Council

Advocacy for acid rain monitoring recognized



L to R: Scott Lorey, Legislative Director and John Sheehan, Director of Communications accept the NAPD award in October.

During the 2009 Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) in Saratoga Springs, the Adirondack Council was acknowledged for its ongoing efforts to increase federal funding for acid rain data collection programs. The NADP is a 30-year-old network of over 250 precipitation monitor sites from across the country that collects vital data on acid rain and other air pollution.

Since 1975, the Council has led the fight to reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants and to help the public and policymakers understand the connection between power plant emissions in the Midwest and the degradation of the

waters, forests, soils and animal life in the six-million-acre Adirondack Park. The Council's science-based advocacy depends on the work of scientists like those collecting the raw data at the NADP locations. Your willingness to consistently keep the issue of acid rain on the minds of policymakers makes a difference – for the researchers and for the Adirondack Park. Thank you.

Snowmobile Management Guide Flawed

Plan widens trails, expands motorized grooming

At the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) November meeting the state agency approved new guidelines presented by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding the location, construction and grooming of snowmobile trails on the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

The guidelines would create a new class of wider snowmobile trails known as "Community Connector" trails. Unfortunately, the guidelines violate the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) by increasing trail width to 9 feet wide (12 feet in curves) and allowing mechanical groomers. The DEC's plan also fails to meet the goal, long supported by the Council, to remove snowmobile trails from the interior of the Forest Preserve and re-locate them along travel corridors between communities. The Adirondack Council has filed legal papers calling on the state to amend the SLMP before moving forward with the new snowmobile trail designation and grooming procedures.



The Vanderwacker Wild Forest in the central Adirondacks contains sensitive habitat that will be disrupted by a new class of snowmobile trails.

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Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff



A Crisis is a Terrible Thing to Waste

The economic impacts of the so-called Great Recession continue to be felt throughout New York State and the Adirondacks. The state's estimated budget deficit for 2010 will be close to \$8 billion. Governor Paterson's call for across-the-board cuts in agency operating budgets will severely restrict the operations of the Department of Environmental Conservation and Adirondack Park Agency, the two agencies responsible for land use planning and regulation for one fifth of New York's lands and waters, the six-million-acre Adirondack Park. With government sector employment in the Adirondacks averaging 40 percent of all jobs, and in some counties as high as 60 percent, the fiscal crisis will have potentially devastating impacts on many local communities.

The pain of this economic downturn has many people looking for scapegoats to blame for their woes. On a daily basis, local activists, town officials and state legislators are heating up anti-environmental, anti-APA and anti-Forest Preserve rhetoric. There are demands to weaken the APA's ability to review development projects, and to prohibit any state funds being used for additional land acquisition for the Forest Preserve. The state legislature has again raided the Environmental Protection Fund to pay for current operations instead of using this dedicated fund for environmental projects and community planning. The Governor has also "borrowed" \$90 million from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auction proceeds instead of using those funds for their agreed upon purpose of creating 'green' jobs and developing renewable energy sources to confront the effects of climate change.

All this bad news could become depressing, but at the Adirondack Council, we see opportunities ahead. As someone said recently, "A crisis is a terrible thing to waste." At a recent meeting of the Council's Board of Directors where we reviewed our strategic objectives, there was a strong consensus that the game-changer for the Adirondack Park is to restructure its governance and policy framework to better protect the environment and support local communities and their future economic viability. Today, the delivery of social services, local planning, and management of the Park's natural resources are fragmented, ineffective and too costly. The Council is committed to working with willing communities, local leaders and government agencies to make the big transformational changes needed to ensure that the Park's environment and the people who live and visit it have a better future.

Your ideas and support are essential to achieve our goals. Unlike many other non-profit organizations in the Adirondack Park, the Council depends solely on private donations and does not accept any government funds. As a result of your faithful support, we have remained strong during this economic crisis. In the coming year, we will need to be yet stronger as government agency budgets are weakened and the anti-environment chorus increases. And as we embark on a transformational effort to correct fundamental flaws in the governance of the Park, we will need you and your advocacy voices more than ever.

Brian L. Houseal, Executive Director

Go to our website – www.AdirondackCouncil.org – for more information and updates on issues facing the Adirondack Park.

MEMBERS IN ACTION

ACTION UPDATE

Thank you for taking action

Your letters helped secure environmental funding and Wilderness designation

Over and over again policymakers tell us that your personal notes through the regular mail or policymaker's websites make a difference. The personal nature of your comments (rather than a pre-packaged e-mail letter) carries the most weight. So thank you to those who responded to our most recent Action Alerts.

In December, New York approved a deficit reduction plan to address the \$3.2 billion gap in the 2009-2010 budget. Your letters made a difference! Of the \$222 million in the EPF, legislators removed only \$10 million, much smaller than previous raids. Within the context of New York's political and economic crisis this is a victory worth celebrating, ensuring the distribution of promised funding for water quality improvement, land protection, and community revitalization. This issue will come around again with the 2010-2011 budget negotiations. The Council will be calling on policymakers to meet the EPF agreed upon target of \$300 million and to establish a program to re-pay the \$500 million borrowed from the EPF over the past decade. Your input will be important, so when you see the Action Alert in the mail or your e-mail, please take a few minutes to write to policymakers. Thank you!

In another important effort, Council members weighed in on the proposed land classifications in the Lows Lake/Five Ponds Wilderness area. In November, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) approved the proposed land classification package. Several parcels south of Lows Lake will be added to the Five Ponds Wilderness, while land around Hitchins Pond, several roads and Lows Upper Dam will be added to the newly created Eastern Five Ponds Primitive Area. Land near Lows Lower Dam will be added to the Round Pond Wilderness. As hoped, these new classifications move the area closer to the goal of creating a wilderness canoe route and the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness complex. For various reasons, including potential legal challenges, the waters and lake bed have not been classified as originally proposed. The Council supported this decision and is now urging the state to develop a system that will provide stronger and clearer protections for the Park's most valued resource - water. The Governor approved the land classification in January.

Pictured above: Deer Pond and Lows Lake, looking east from inside the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. Lands around Lows Lake will be protected as Wilderness thanks to their recent reclassification. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

Acid Rain and Mercury

Action still needed

Throughout the summer and fall, Adirondack Council provided members with postcards and urged you to write letters asking Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to push for an amendment to the federal climate change bill that would address the pollutants that cause acid rain and contaminate our lakes with mercury. Unfortunately, the Environment and Public Works Committee (where Senator Gillibrand holds a seat) passed the climate bill out of the committee with no amendments in an effort to keep the bill moving forward, hoping to secure federal legislation before the December United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. There is a strong possibility that a "stand alone" bill to address acid rain and mercury could be introduced in 2010 by Senator Tom Carper, D-Delaware. The Adirondack Council will be asking you to wield your pen and e-mail messages to urge Congress to pass legislation to address acid rain and mercury pollution in the new year, either as a part of the amended climate bill or as separate legislation.



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (NY-D) speaks with Brian Houseal, Adirondack Council Executive Director, at the Adirondack Museum following a panel discussion on federal clean air legislation.

IN AND ABOUT THE PARK

Adirondack Carnivore

Bobcats thrive in the Park

The bobcat is found throughout the Adirondacks with preferred habitat at lower to middle elevations that have forests, fields and swamps with a mix of vegetation. Short, soft multi-colored fur with dark spots and streaks, prominent ears that may have short black tufts of fur on the tips, and a short tail (less than 8 inches) are characteristic features of the bobcat. Mostly carnivorous, the bobcat will feed mainly on smaller mammals such as snowshoe hares, moles, voles, mice, squirrels, beavers, and woodchucks.

The bobcat above was captured on a motion sensitive trail camera in Lake Placid.

Photo © Larry Master, masterimages.org



92,000-Acre Easement

State action needed

In March 2009, ATP Timberland Invest of Denmark purchased 92,000 acres of protected Adirondack forestland from the Adirondack Nature Conservancy. As part of the purchase negotiations, and part of the larger deal to conserve 161,000 acres including more than 65,000 of Forest Preserve, the state conceptually agreed to purchase a conservation easement on these former Finch, Pruyn and Co. paper company lands. ATP agreed to the easement, the practice of sustainable forestry and a 20-year contract to provide pulp for the Finch paper mill in Glens Falls. The Council is urging the Department of Environmental Conservation to complete the conservation easement purchase in 2010. The easement will permanently remove development rights from the property and allow the state to manage the easement for environmental protection and public recreation.

Constitutional Amendment Passes

Win-Win provides power and Forest Preserve addition

In November 2009, state voters approved a New York State Constitutional Amendment authorizing a land swap involving the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Constitutional Amendment will allow the state to swap six acres of current Adirondack Forest Preserve on the shoulder of NYS Route 56 in the Town of Colton, St. Lawrence County, for 43 acres of land owned by National Grid along the South Branch of the Grasse River, also in St. Lawrence County. The Grasse River parcel will become part of the protected Adirondack Forest Preserve. The six roadside acres will be owned by the power company National Grid. The amendment allows the power company to legally connect Tupper Lake to a back-up power supply. The original plan included a detour away from the existing road corridor that would have carved a new road into old-growth and boreal forest - some of the state's rarest wildlife habitat. Now that the voters have approved the amendment, the NYS Legislature must pass yet another bill, spelling out the specifics of the land swap and completing the transfers.

"A locally crucial amendment passed on Election Day, thanks in part to John Sheehan's sense of responsibility... [He] took it upon himself to set out on a statewide mission to explain the issue so that when voters stepped into the booth, they would know what they were deciding."

The Press-Republican (Plattsburgh, NY) in a November editorial dedicated to praising Adirondack Council Director of Communications John Sheehan's commitment to the Adirondacks and his efforts to educate the public about the Constitutional Amendment. You can read the full editorial at www.AdirondackCouncil.org/Long_trek.pdf

What's Happening in Tupper Lake?

Citizens take the lead in ski hill rehab

The proposed Adirondack Club and Resort project in Tupper Lake remains "active," but there has been no significant change since the developer opted to end mediation in July 2009. The developer is working with his design team to address the 10 issues identified by the Adirondack Park Agency for resolution through an adjudicatory hearing process. Unless the applicant is able to satisfactorily resolve the issues before hand, the Council expects to participate in an adjudicatory hearing beginning in March. This is a court-style legal process to provide APA Commissioners with full, factual information before they deny or approve a project. In the meantime, a local citizens group (ARISE) organized to raise money and make repairs, successfully opening part of Big Tupper Ski Area this winter.

ADIRONDACK WATERS

Adirondack Delegation Asks for Help Battling Invasives

Federal funding needed to expand mitigation efforts

The Adirondack Council was part of a local delegation that traveled to Washington, D.C. in December to seek assistance in battling Eurasian watermilfoil in the Adirondack Park. The delegation visited the offices of all Park Congressional representatives to raise awareness about the threat of invasive aquatic species, the cost to mitigate infected lakes, the techniques that are used, and the need for federal funding to support invasive species control efforts in the Adirondacks. Establishing programs on all infected lakes will cost an estimated \$35 million over a seven-year period. The group also explained how over 300 jobs would result from this funding and that spin-off companies would likely be formed.

In addition to mitigation funds, the Council continues to urge state action that will educate the public about the transport of invasive species and institute fines that will encourage boat owners to conduct a thorough inspection before launching boats into Adirondack waters. Adirondack Assemblymember Teresa Sayward, R-Willsboro, has introduced this legislation in Albany.



The Adirondack invasive species delegation to Washington, D.C. included (L-R) Lee Keet, Adirondack Council Board member and Chairman of ADK Action; Marsha Stanley, ADK Action and Upper Saranac Lake Association; Dan Kelting, Director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College; Brian Houseal, Adirondack Council Executive Director; Ross Whaley, ADK Action and Senior Advisor to the Adirondack Landowners Association.



Adirondack Water Quality

Legislators urged to do more

In October, Adirondack Council Legislative Associate Alanah Keddell testified before the New York Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation at its Clean Water Hearing. The Council's testimony urged the committee to address issues that threaten the water resources of the Adirondacks including failing septic systems, outdated or non-existent municipal sewage treatment plants, the lack of laws addressing water diversion and extraction, and poor application and storage practices for road salt. All of these issues were detailed, along with potential solutions for each problem. To see a copy of Alanah's testimony and find out the latest on water issues in the Park, please visit our website.



The ABC program Focus Earth traveled to the Adirondacks to film a segment on the coal industry and its contribution to acid rain that continues to damage the waters, forests, soils, and wildlife in the Adirondack Park. In one filming session at Covewood Lodge on Big Moose Lake, ABC News producer Angela Ellis interviewed Adirondack Council Director of Communications John Sheehan and lodge owner C.V. "Major" Bowes about the need to further reduce power plant emissions that cause acid rain.

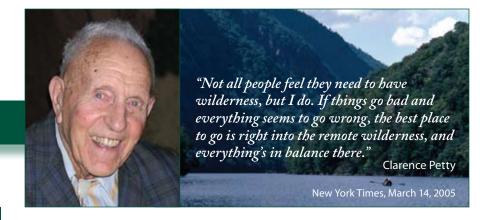
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IN MEMORIAM



I Loved Clarence Petty

Pure and simple, I just loved him

I first met Clarence when at age 26, I joined the board of the Adirondack Council. Over the years we became friends, sharing hikes, stories, visits, projects, and as on my last visit with him in November, pumpkin pie.

He was passionate about wilderness, conservation and the Adirondacks.

He was born and raised in the Adirondacks; he had been a guide, a pilot, a flight instructor, and a pioneer in the early efforts to establish a plan for the park and in later efforts to strengthen and preserve it. He intimately knew the Park, having walked or flown over more of it than any other person alive.

He had opinions about things. He did his homework, and he was tireless in expressing information and ideas about any issue he cared deeply about. Living as long as he did, he often was the go-to person to ask about the history of places, issues and people. Ask any senior DEC staff how many letters they have from Clarence in their files! And when Clarence spoke, people listened.

Clarence was a member of over 100 conservation organizations all over the country. He believed in supporting the people and the organizations that are doing the work on the ground. And he really read their newsletters and annual reports, responding to their "action alert" requests on his trusty old typewriter. Yes, Clarence, to the end of his life, wrote his extensive correspondence on his typewriter!

He cared about education, something he credited to his mother. And he was adamant about finding ways to have young people get out into the wilderness and know it first hand. "You gotta get them out into the woods" he would say. I, as Founding Director of Great Camp Sagamore, shared that passion with him.

The last thing I did as I left the Adirondack Council Board after 20 years was to establish the Clarence Petty Internship Fund in honor of his commitment to growing future generations of experienced Adirondack advocates.

And the first one to make a contribution to that fund was Clarence.

Now, as I approach 60, I still find myself wanting to be like Clarence when I grow up.

Barbara Glaser

Clarence Petty

1905-2009

The Adirondack Council mourns the death of founding director Clarence Petty, 104, and celebrates a life that took him from humble beginnings in a cabin on the Adirondack Forest Preserve through a succession of illustrious careers, to the status of living legend among Adirondack environmental activists and wilderness preservationists everywhere.

Over a lifetime that began just as Theodore Roosevelt was entering his second term as President, Petty served as a golf caddy, outdoor guide, caretaker, Navy pilot, state forester, flight instructor, advisor to government planning bodies, pilot to Gov. Averell Harriman, cartographer of the Adirondack Park's Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System, trustee of several not-for-profit organizations, founding trustee of the Adirondack Council (1975) and namesake of the Clarence Petty Internship Program at the Adirondack Council (2002) and the Clarence Petty Internship Fund at the Adirondack Community Trust (2002).

His amazing life story is recounted with care in Chris Angus' 2002 biography *The Extraordinary Adirondack Journey of Clarence Petty* (265 pgs., Syracuse University Press).

Clarence was a good friend and the greatest of all the environmental advocates to have worked in this Park. He was only a dozen years younger than the Adirondack Park itself. You could say that he and the Park grew up together. He knew every lake and pond, every patch of woods, every mountain and trail, and he cared about them all. More importantly, he inspired others to care about them as well.

Clarence outlived so many of the old guard of Adirondack conservationists, it seemed that he would outlive us all. Although we are saddened by the loss of his advice and friendship, we know his spirit, his example and the legion of new activists he has inspired will carry on his legacy for generations to come.



Left: Barbara Glaser and Clarence Petty (front) with former Council interns Chris LaBarge (L) and Jaime Ethier (R) celebrate the launch of the Clarence Petty Internship Program and Fund.

CLARENCE PETTY 1905 - 2009

Remembering Clarence

A legacy of inspiration to protect the Adirondacks

Clarence Petty had retired at least once by the time I met him in 1974. As an undergraduate intern with the Adirondack Park Agency, I had the incredible good fortune to accompany him as he completed his post-retirement inventory of over 1,000 miles of Adirondack rivers and streams

for classification under New York's Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act. Having already canoed all navigable stretches, Clarence at that point was bushwhacking along the alder-choked banks of each remaining headwater stream. As a young Outward Bound graduate with a passion for wilderness adventure, I was embarrassed at how hard I had to work to keep up with a



L to R: Clarence with Gary Randorf and Greenie Chase. Photo by Nancy Morton Trautmann

69-year-old. (It helped a bit to learn that he had spent the previous three years getting in shape while surveying over 10,000 acres of Adirondack wilderness, primarily on foot, to identify areas most in need of protection.)

Far better than the physical challenge of keeping up with Clarence was the chance to learn from him how to read the woods. Scars on a tree trunk took on new meaning as the claw marks of bear cubs, and mysterious tracks on a remote stream bank told the story of otters at play. My greatest inspiration, however, came from hikes that we took just for fun. On a weekend hike with Clarence, Greenie Chase and Gary Randorf, I remember musing about their lifelong love of the Adirondack wilderness and passionate dedication to preserving it in the midst of long-standing challenges and imminent threats. In my subsequent environmental education career, I frequently have thought back to such conversations and pondered how to instill these same values in today's youth.

The week before Clarence died, a friend asked what types of financial contributions bring me the most personal satisfaction. Without hesitation, I replied that I donate with joy to a scholarship fund in honor of a 104-year-old friend who has inspired me for the past 35 years. Now that Clarence is gone, I invite anyone looking for a way to honor his amazing life to join me in building the fund that each year enables student interns to work with the Adirondack Council. What better way to inspire others to follow his lead?

Nancy Morton Trautmann



Clarence Petty - 1974
Photo by Nancy Morton Trautmann



Clarence takes a moment to discuss Park issues with Assemblyman Richard Brodsky during a Council event honoring Clarence's lifetime achievements as an advocate for the Adirondacks.



Interns Peter Hyson (L) and Andrew Clopman (R) with Clarence Petty.

Contributions in Clarence's honor can be made by using the enclosed envelope, calling our office in Elizabethtown (877.873.2240 toll-free) or through our website. Please make checks payable as follows: Adirondack Council – ACT Clarence Petty Internship Fund (CPIF).



Adirondack Council

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Come join us at Hohmeyer's Lake Clear Lodge in Lake Clear, NY on July 10, 2010 for the Adirondack Council's annual Forever Wild Day.

Check out our website this spring for details about activities and lodging.

Carbon Reduction Certificate

Reduce your carbon footprint!



The Adirondack Council's *Cool Park/Healthy Planet* program retires three tons of carbon emissions from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auction when supporters make a contribution of \$25. During the holiday season the program received a boost from local media

coverage and the article in the New York Times, "For Caring Consumers, the Gift of Carbon Dioxide," on December 25, 2009. Since the inception of the program in December 2008, the Council has permanently retired 6,506 tons of carbon trading credits. Included along with the certificate documenting the serial numbers of the credits retired, contributors receive the Sopris Foundation Carbon Counter to encourage individuals to also make personal carbon reductions in their daily lives. While climate change and carbon reductions require global action, we hope that the Cool Park/ Healthy Planet program will help inspire individual action and help educate the public about the impacts of climate change, the need for policy changes, and the mitigation efforts that could help protect the sensitive wildlife and ecosystems of the Adirondack Park. Thank you to our many supporters who have participated in the program. Learn more about RGGI and the carbon reduction program on our website at www.AdirondackCouncil.org.

The Adirondack Council offers a small collection of products to help raise the funds needed to advocate for the Adirondack Park every day.



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Patagonia Fleece Vest

Double-faced polyester fleece (87% recycled). Reduced Patagonia pricing to benefit non-profits. Women's has feminine contouring and contemporary styling. Note: Women's run small-order next size up. \$60

Adirondack Council logo embroidered below collar on back.

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