

The Adirondack Council



In a victory for pure waters, the Council protected Lake George from toxic chemicals. See story page 11. Photo by Carl Heilman II

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2003



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Dear Members and Friends,

As I complete the mid-way mark in my first year as Executive Director of the Adirondack Council, it is a great pleasure to send you this newsletter. With your support, the Council's team has achieved some remarkable results over the past six months: a decision by the Adirondack Park Agency to deny a permit for the use of a chemical herbicide on an invasive aquatic plant in the pure waters of Lake George due to its potential impacts on protected plants and drinking water; and, a legal settlement with the APA to protect remote areas and water quality when single family homes are converted to bed and breakfast tourist accommodations. Due to your long-term commitment to end acid rain, I am very optimistic that in this session, the US Congress will pass effective legislation to amend the Clean Air Act. Perhaps most significantly, I am proud that your support has ensured that the Wilderness character of the Lows Lake/Bog River complex will be improved with the recent approval of a new Forest Preserve Management Plan for this sector of the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness.

My first six months have been an important period of "listening and learning" — from local residents, forest products companies, government representatives, other conservation organizations, and you, our supporters. One lesson that I have learned is that, in contrast to other places in the western hemisphere where our family lived in tiny outposts of civilization surrounded by vast unaltered natural areas, the Adirondack Park is the reverse — it is an "Outpost Wilderness" — surrounded by the vast, highly altered landscapes of the northeastern United States. The unique aspects of the contiguous forests, intact watersheds and ecological vitality of the Adirondacks are worth fighting for — especially as we experience the encroachment of roads, subdivisions and strip malls over so many of the other landscapes that were once much more natural in character.

One of the growing threats to the Forever Wild character of the Adirondacks is access by motorized vehicles, especially all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles, into many wild areas of the Park. As an example, the Town of Horicon recently declared all current and former town roads open to ATV traffic, even those within the Forest Preserve. The Council is advocating for a comprehensive snowmobile plan for the Park, but as I write, there are new roads, trails and bridges being proposed that would increase destructive motorized use in some of the most wild and fragile areas of the Park.

Concerned about increasing motorized access by ATVs, I recently asked for some guidance from Clarence Petty, a founder of the Adirondack Council and one of the most knowledgeable people on the backcountry of the Adirondacks. Clarence, 97, was plain-spoken on the matter: "If it's a vehicle and it has a motor, it ought to be on the road, or along the road corridors. [ATVs] have no place in the wild areas. If you want to get there, walk." Pretty good advice. Actually, it's the Council's position, thanks to the leadership of Clarence and others like him who are dedicated to the battle of saving our remaining wilderness areas.

The Council's mission to protect and enhance the Forever Wild character of this wonderful place has stretched from past generations to ours. We have a responsibility to pass the natural heritage of the Park to future generations in even better shape than it is today. Your vision, energy and continued support are essential to this task. The joy of knowing that this Outpost Wilderness exists also gives hope that other places in our world may be saved and restored by similar efforts.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Houseal
Executive Director

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Our Mission

The Adirondack Council is an 18,000 member, privately funded, not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural and human communities of the Adirondack Park through research, education, advocacy and legal action.

Newsletter design by Sheri Amsel

Hancock Timber to Sell Entire Adirondack Holdings

The Adirondack Council is working with state officials and other conservation organizations to protect nearly 94,000 acres of land in the northern and western Adirondacks that was thrown on to the open market by its owner in early March.

The announcement comes as the state is struggling with budget shortfalls and is contemplating additional cuts to the Environmental Protection Fund — the state’s only source of capital project funding for open space protection. (See “Council Fights to Protect Land Fund,” on Page 10.) Much of the land is already listed as a priority in the state’s Open Space Conservation Plan, and is eligible for EPF funding this year.

The Hancock Timber Resources Group, a division of John Hancock Insurance, has announced it would offer all 93,911 acres it owns in the Adirondack Park for sale at a May 21 auction.

In all, Hancock is selling 212,314 acres of land in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Some of those lands are adjacent to Mt. Katahdin Iron Works in Maine and Umbagog Lake, at the headwaters of the Connecticut River in New Hampshire. Both areas have been identified by the Northern Forest Alliance as forests in need of permanent protection. It was unclear at press time what those states intended to do.

Hancock’s New York lands are broken into two major holdings. One, consisting of roughly 72,000 acres, is north and east of Cranberry Lake and was formerly owned by Yorkshire Timber. The other 21,000 acres are west and south of Old Forge, in three parcels. The land was once owned by Lyons Falls Pulp & Paper, whose mill in Lyonsdale closed in the mid-1990s, as the company went out of business. Together, the lands include:

- Long stretches of the North and Middle branches of the Grass River, and a portion of the South Branch, in the St. Lawrence County towns of Colton, Clifton, Clare and Piercefield.
- More than a mile of shoreline on the Moose River and a tributary, near the junction of Oneida, Lewis and Herkimer counties.
- The northern half of North Lake in the Town of Ohio, Herkimer County and streams that form the headwaters to the Black River.
- Tens of thousands of acres of productive timberland and a network of roads used for mechanical harvesting.

In the Adirondacks, there are at least 10,000 acres of prime river frontage on the Grass that should be purchased outright by the state and set aside for the Forest Preserve. The Council first asked the state to do this in 1990, in Volume III of our 2020 VISION research series, entitled “Maximizing the Recreational Potential of Wild Forests.” 2020 VISION is the Council’s detailed plan for completing the Forest Preserve and preserving the wild land values of the Park’s private lands.

The rivers are not only navigable, but contain some challenging whitewater and good fishing. They meander through a

Call or Send Letters to the Commissioner

Contact NYS Environmental Conservation Commissioner Erin Crotty and urge her to:

1. Purchase the rivers, shorelines, wetlands and other biologically important lands, and
2. Protect the entire ownership from fragmentation through conservation easements (on the 52,000 unprotected acres) that allow sustainable timber harvesting by a private landowner, but not subdivision and development.

Environmental Conservation Commissioner Erin Crotty
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233
518-402-8540

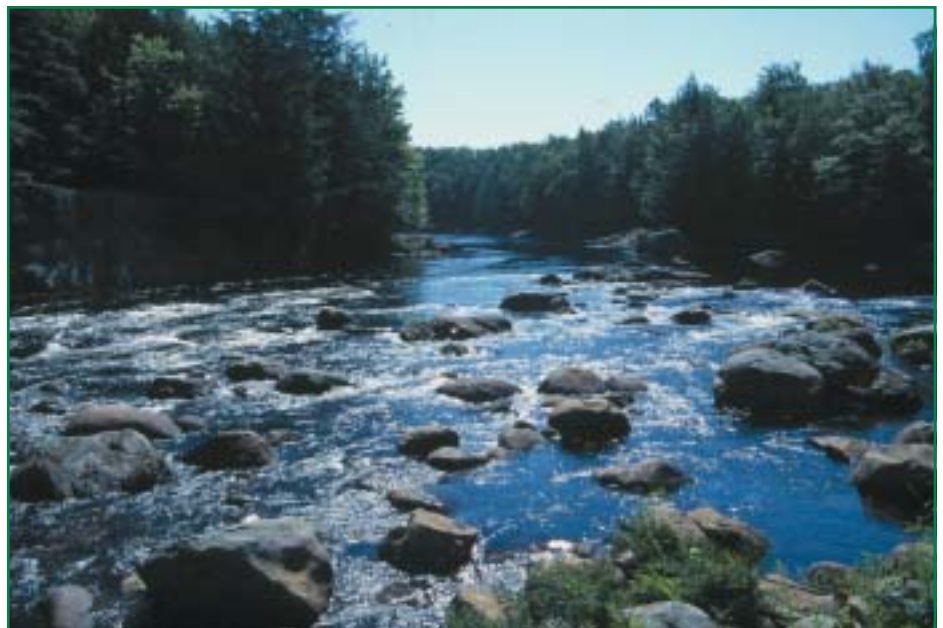
gently sloped landscapes that would be attractive to residential and commercial developers. They have been closed to the public for more than 100 years.

All three branches of the Grass are classified as either Wild or Scenic in the state’s Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program. The designation offers some measure of protection against development on the immediate shore, but will not protect the entirety of the river corridors from fragmentation, new roads and structures.

Due to the scarcity of Forest Preserve in this area of the Park, the rivers would make an outstanding addition to the Park’s public recreational offerings. However, a biological and recreational inventory may show that much more than just the river corridors deserves to become Forest Preserve.

The land along the South Branch of the Grass is adjacent to

(Story continued on page 14)



The Moose River. The Adirondack Council is a strong advocate for sustainable working forests. This summer, the Council will publish the fourth volume of its 2020 VISION, focusing on private land stewardship. Photo by Gary Randorf.

Climate Change Conference a Huge Success

In September, the Council hosted with the Wildlife Conservation Society a climate change conference to explore the implications of global warming in the Adirondacks and to identify areas for further research and actions.

The conference marked the beginning of a process involving citizens, tourism representatives, business people and local governments investigating the potential impact of global climate change on the ecology, economy and quality of life in the Adirondack Park. More than 100 environmentalists, local officials and park residents participated at Great Camp Sagamore in Raquette Lake.

Attendees were treated to a keynote address by author Bill McKibben (*The End of Nature*), as well as a talk on public policy options by NYS Environmental Conservation Commissioner Erin Crotty. James Mahoney, Deputy Director of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, assessed the political landscape, while Prof. Barry Rock of the University of New Hampshire led discussions of his findings regarding temperature changes across the Northeast. Rock found some of the most dramatic rises emerging in the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain areas, and that rises were especially sharp in times of widespread deforestation.

Workshops included forestry experts, who addressed the impact of climate change and other environmental stresses on the region's private and public forests. Tourism officials, such as James McKenna director of the Lake Placid/Essex County Visitor's Bureau, and business owners talked about the possible changes to the region's open space-based economy. Conference leader (and Council board member) Bill Weber of the Wildlife Conservation Society moderated the discussions.

Council staff continues to meet with tourism groups and local government representatives building coalitions to study and plan for climate changes in the Adirondacks.



Long-time Adirondack Council trustee Clarence Petty (right) congratulates Richard Lefebvre of Caroga Lake at the Council's 2002 Climate Change Conference. Lefebvre had just announced he would retire as Chairman of the Adirondack Park Agency in November 2002. Photo by Kim Smith Dedam, Denton Publications.

New State Acid Rain Regs to be Approved

As this newsletter was going to press, the Adirondack Council's recent efforts to curb acid rain-causing pollution coming from New York power plants were expected to come to fruition, with the approval of new regulations on March 26 by the State Environmental Review Board.

The review board's approval is the final regulatory hurdle that must be cleared before the regulations can go into effect. The regulations were first proposed by Gov. George Pataki in October 1999. Intense lobbying by power companies slowed the approval process.

The regulations will require New York's power plants to curb their emission of sulfur dioxide by 50 percent, and nitrogen oxides by 70 percent, beyond federal requirements. The rule is identical to the Acid Deposition Control Act, a federal acid rain bill penned by former US Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-NY.



Acid precipitation has taken its toll on New York's finest buildings and monuments. Here, the limestone facade of the NYS Capitol's north side is literally melting away. This shield, and the Port of Albany scene it once depicted, are barely distinguishable, less than a century after the building's construction. A multi-million-dollar rehabilitation project continues on the capitol's exterior. Photos by Gary Randorf.

Congress Poised to Act on Acid Rain

For the first time since the Adirondack Council began pushing for an effective national acid rain program in the late 1970s, Congress appears ready to amend the Clean Air Act in a way that will finally halt the scourge of acid rain.

At the same time, Congress appears ready to make progress on controlling Global Climate Change. It is likely that Congress will debate both issues and create a bill that addresses sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury — to control acid rain — and seeks reductions in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, as well.

The Council is determined to work with both Republican and Democratic leaders in Washington, DC, to craft the best clean air legislation possible. **Thanks to the unflagging efforts of the Council's activists, general membership and staff, we are proud to report the following: Every bill introduced in Congress that addresses sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides contains emissions cuts sufficient to stop acid rain.**

All would address serious shortcomings in the federal Clean Air Act, which have prevented substantial progress on stopping acid rain damage. They include:

Sulfur dioxide. According to a recent federal study, the 50-percent cuts in sulfur dioxide pollution from power plants, required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, have helped reduce acid rain, but not far enough. Another 50- to 70-percent cut is needed.

Nitrogen oxides. The Clean Air Act's nitrogen control program is aimed at smog only, not acid rain, so controls are ordered only in the summer (smog requires hot weather). But nitrogen pollution falls on the Adirondacks all year, in the form of rain, snow, sleet, fog, smog and dust. Nitrogen build-up in winter snows causes acid shock every spring, as the snows melt,

making thousands of miles of rivers, brooks and streams — and hundreds of lakes and ponds — poisonous to their native life for a month or more. We need year-round controls.

Mercury. The US Environmental Protection Agency is not required to act on mercury until 2004. Even then, controls may be phased in, delaying meaningful reductions even longer. Three major bills have been introduced:

- The Clear Skies Initiative, sponsored by Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., the new chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and by Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman, was highlighted by President Bush in his Earth Day 2002 visit to the Adirondacks. The bill would cut sulfur and nitrogen enough by 2008 to stop acid rain damage in the Adirondacks and elsewhere. A second phase of cuts would accelerate the rate of recovery. Those cuts would be completed in 2018. It would also require mercury reductions of nearly 70 percent.

- The Acid Rain Control Act, sponsored by US Reps. John Sweeney, R-Clifton Park, and John McHugh, R-Watertown, contains cuts in all three pollutants equal to those proposed by the President. Phase one would also be completed by 2008. Phase two would be complete by 2012, about five years earlier.

- The Clean Power Act, proposed by Sen. James Jeffords, I-Vermont, would end acid rain damage by 2009 by completing all of the cuts in one five-year phase. Jeffords requires deeper mercury cuts and would require carbon-dioxide cuts similar to those outlined in the Kyoto Protocol. Last year, as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee (when Democrats held the majority), Jeffords was able to squeeze his bill out of the committee on a 10-9 vote, but was unable to advance it further.



Mount Mitchell, in North Carolina, is the tallest peak on the East Coast. Its high-elevation spruce and fir forests are suffering the same type of acid rain damage seen on mountaintops throughout the Adirondacks. The latest federal reports confirm that acid rain-related changes in soil chemistry have caused this damage to spread to every mountain range from Maine to Georgia, as well as the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains and several ranges on the Pacific Coast. Photo by Gary Randorf.

Damage Warrants ATV Ban on Forest Preserve

The Adirondack Council is working with the Department of Environmental Conservation to limit the impact of all-terrain vehicle use on the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

At the same time, the Council and Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) will work with the Legislature to enact a law banning their use on all public lands in the Adirondack and Catskill parks.

DEC is due to release a new policy on ATV use for all public lands in the state this spring. The Council, CCE and other organizations have formally requested that DEC use its adminis-

trative powers to ban ATVs on all roads in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves.

Whether the ban takes the form of a state law or DEC policy, the only exceptions would be for individuals with “disabled access” permits on certain designated roads, for DEC personnel reacting to emergencies and for law enforcement personnel with permission to use such vehicles on the Forest Preserve.

Recently, DEC has faced public criticism due to conflicting policies on the use of all-terrain vehicles, established by the directors of DEC Region 5 (eastern Adirondacks/Lake Champlain) and Region 6 (western Adirondacks/Tug Hill).

Region 5 Director Stuart Buchanan has declined to authorize the public use of ATVs on roads within the Forest Preserve in his region. Conversely, Region 6 Director Sandra LeBarron has allowed ATVs to use certain designated roads on public lands. Many of those roads have been heavily damaged by ATV use, especially during muddy conditions.

In other cases, ATV riders have left the designated public roadways, damaging trails and fragile forest areas in the interior. DEC does not have adequate enforcement personnel in either region to police ATV use.

Last summer, the Warren County Town of Horicon declared all town roads and former town roads, even those within the Forest Preserve, to be open to ATV traffic. DEC Commissioner Erin Crotty, through the Attorney General, wisely sued the town in an attempt to re-close the roads to ATVs. Both the state Vehicle & Traffic Code and the State Land Master Plan clearly support the DEC Commissioner’s right to close any Forest Preserve road to motorized traffic.

The Council supports the DEC Commissioner’s lawsuit against the Town of Horicon.



A bill sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph D. Morelle, D-Rochester, would allow law enforcement officers the right to impound the ATVs of riders who disobey certain laws, including riding in off-limits areas of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The trail damage and scarred pathways above, found in the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest, are proof enough of the need for tougher enforcement. But the problem is much more widespread. The bill stalled in committee last year, but the Council will continue to strive for its passage in 2003. Photo by Jaime A. Ethier.

Power Boats Gone, Planes Going From Lows Lake

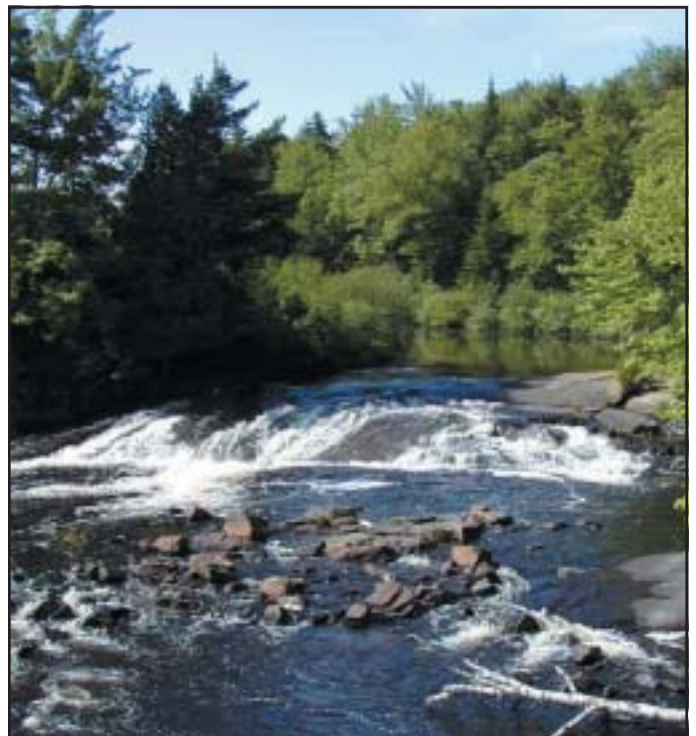
Your advocacy for Wilderness has once again gained results. In February, the Department of Environmental Conservation and Adirondack Park Agency agreed to ban the public use of motorboats and phase-out the use of float planes in the Bog River/Lows Lake complex.

This 36,100-acre forest includes the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest, Lows Lake Primitive Area, Hitchins Pond Primitive Area and the Conifer Easement Lands in Franklin, Hamilton, and St. Lawrence Counties.

The draft plan proposes to phase out float plane use of Lows Lake over a 5 year period — a compromise between those who wanted them to stay and those who wanted them banned immediately.

Lows Lake and the Bog River are located on the border of St. Lawrence and Hamilton counties, between Cranberry Lake and Lake Lila, and are near the center of the 408,000-acre area proposed by the Adirondack Council to become the Bob Marshall Great Wilderness.

For years, paddlers and other quiet users of the Bog River/Lows Lake region have come into conflict with commercial seaplane operators who fly their clients into the area’s remote public campsites. The planes will be allowed to operate in the area until 2007, when they will be banned. The ban on public use of motorized boats went into effect in January.



Bog River. Photo by Kevin Prickett.

Military Plans to Increase Training Over Park

The Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing, stationed at Syracuse, wants to change the routes and zones used by military aviators who practice low-level flights over the Adirondacks and Tug Hill, then drop bombs at the Fort Drum range, just west of the Adirondack Park.

Many of the proposed training zones and flight paths are centered just a few hundred feet above the ground in the Adirondack Park, including protected Wilderness Areas and people's homes.

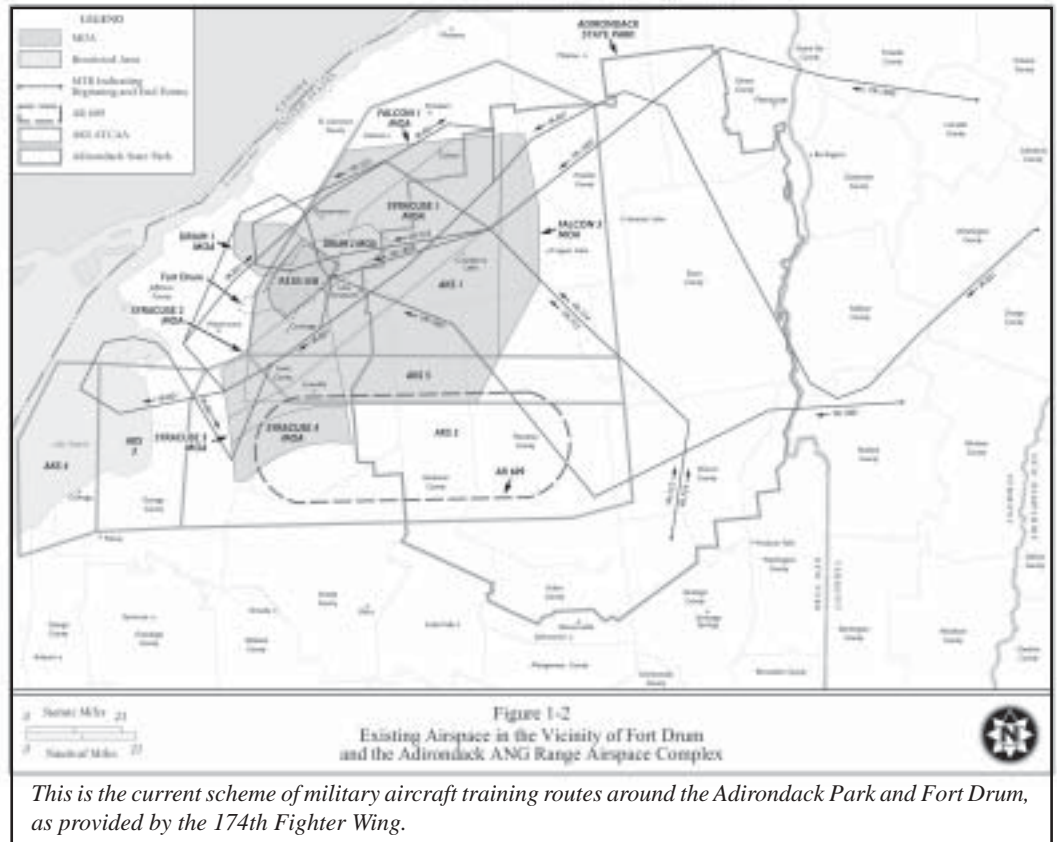
For more than a decade, the Council has been a member of a productive Governor-appointed panel that was established to sort out conflicts between military use and environmental protection. The Air Force, Air National Guard and Army have learned more about protecting the special qualities of the Park, while still finding plenty of room for pilot training. All three branches use the bombing range.

While only preliminary plans are available from the Air National Guard (ANG), which oversees the training areas and bombing range, it is clear that the changes could have a long-term impact on the Park's natural resources. The Council has formally requested a full Environmental Impact Statement.

The Council is also interested in exploring alternatives to expanding the use of the Fort Drum range, as New York carries a disproportionately large share of the airspace and training

burden in the Northeast.

Finally, the ANG proposal doesn't consider impacts to Wilderness solitude, wildlife habitat and home values. The Council believes that the Adirondack Park and its Wilderness Areas deserve the same protection as National Parks and Wilderness Areas, where near-tree-top flights are limited to protect fragile wildlife habitat and ensure solitude. For example, over federal wilderness, such flights must remain at 2,000 feet above the ground or higher. Some proposals call for flights as low as 100 feet above Adirondack Wilderness Areas.



Bob Marshall Book Available Again

"The People's Forest," a book written by Wilderness Society co-founder and Adirondack environmental activist Bob Marshall, has been re-released by University of Iowa Press.

First published in 1933, the book details Marshall's thoughts and discoveries on the need to reform the Depression-era logging industry. More importantly, Marshall offers in his book some of the earliest and most profound arguments in favor of

preserving Wilderness.

Marshall's family home on Lower Saranac Lake afforded him plenty of time to explore the Park. He first identified the west-central Adirondacks as the largest and most diverse wilderness in the eastern United States. This led to the Adirondack Council's 1989 proposal to create a 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness in that area. The 264-page book is published in soft cover for \$14.95.



~ UPDATE ~

Our new Campaign for the Forever Wild Fund total is \$4,424,183. Thank you to all who have joined in to help build the Forever Wild Fund which the Adirondack Council uses to protect the lands and waters of the Adirondacks for present and future generations.

If you would like to support the Adirondack Council's long-term financial independence from local, state or federal government funding and to help us be prepared to fight against immediate threats to the "Forever Wild" clause of the New York State constitution, please contact:

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The Adirondack Council
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Elizabethtown, NY 12932
1-877-873-2240 (toll free)
atrachtenberg@adirondackcouncil.org



Photo by Anne Trachtenberg.

Distinguished Jurist & Community Volunteer Joins Council

Evan A. Davis joined the Council's Board of Directors in September 2002, bringing with him a wealth of legal expertise and a tradition of community service.



He is currently a partner with Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton in New York City. He was President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York from 2000 to 2002. He clerked for Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart; was general counsel to the New York City Budget Bureau, and the Chief of the Consumer Protection Bureau; worked with the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee as the Watergate Task Force Leader in 1974; and served as counsel to Governor Mario M. Cuomo from 1985 to 1990.

Evan Davis has served as a trustee of Columbia University, and has been active with Resources for Children with Special Needs, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and the Museum of the Hudson Highland. He is a member of the American Law Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Evan, his wife Mary, and three young daughters live in New York City, and have a home in the Lake Champlain Valley town of Westport, where they spend as much time as possible.

The Council is happy to accept donations of modern computer equipment. If you have equipment that you would like to donate, please call Joe Moore toll-free at 1-877-873-2240. We are seeking Pentium III class computers and better (desktop, laptop or notebook) as well as laser and inkjet printers. All equipment donations to the Council are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



"Chairs on the Deck"

A Love for the Adirondacks Lives On

Preston Ewing (1906-1992) was a New York painter and photographer who built his own cabin on Long Lake where he painted prolifically every summer and fall. His daughter, Council member Linda Schulman, generously donated a portion of the proceeds from the sale of a retrospective of his work last year. We are grateful to Ms. Schulman not only for her contribution, but also for helping to spread the word about the Adirondack Council through displays of our materials and publications at the exhibit of her father's work. In particular, sharing her father's appreciation of the natural world can help us all experience the beauty of this special place we wish to preserve. Some of Preston Ewing's paintings can be seen at the Long Lake Art Show in the Town Hall on July 21-26, 2003.



Guest speaker New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, far right, flanked by Council Executive Director Brian Houseal, expressed his thanks for the work of private organizations such as the Adirondack Council, whom he said "do most of the heavy lifting" in the struggle to protect the environment. Also, pictured: Dan Gersen, Peter Lehner, Tricia Winterer and Eleanor Townsend. Photo by Anne Trachtenberg.



Party hosts John and Margot Ernst are surprised by tokens of appreciation from the Adirondack Council. Photo by Anne Trachtenberg.

A LEGACY OF FOREVER WILD

In addition to your membership dues and annual gifts to make our programs possible, please consider providing for the Council in your estate planning. These gifts offer tax and financial benefits while supplying important resources so the Council can ensure that we leave a legacy of a forever wild Adirondacks to our children and grandchildren.

Gift opportunities include:

- A bequest to the Adirondack Council in your will.
- Designating the Council as beneficiary of an insurance policy, pension fund or IRA.
- Structuring a planned gift that provides income to both the donor and the Council during the donor's lifetime.
- Establishing a fund in the memory of your spouse or other family members, or friend.

The Adirondack Council recommends that you consult an attorney to prepare or revise your estate plans.

For more information about gifts to the Adirondack Council, write, or call:

Anne Trachtenberg
 The Adirondack Council
 P.O. Box D-2
 Elizabethtown, NY 12932
 877-873-2240 (toll free)

Please make your check payable to:
 The Adirondack Council



Photo by Anne Trachtenberg.



(R-L) Stephen Schaible, Ruth Skovron and Daron Builta enjoy a few moments of conversation at the Ernsts' cocktail party. Photo by Julie Ball.



David Skovron, the Adirondack Council's Board Chair, presents Eliot Spitzer with an Anne Lacy loon print. Photo by Anne Trachtenberg.



Council Works to Keep Land Fund Safe

The Adirondack Council and a coalition of environmental organizations is fighting against proposed cuts to the state's Environmental Protection Fund that would drain its resources and damage its integrity as a capital projects trust fund.

Gov. George E. Pataki's proposal for the 2003-04 Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) would provide \$125 million for environmental capital projects, including \$30 million for open space protection.

The open space account of the EPF has provided funding to protect such environmental and recreational treasures as the 15,000-acre William C. Whitney Wilderness and the 12,500-acre Bog Lake/Clear Pond Project (International Paper).

The total appropriation would be about the same as the 2002-03 budget, with some exceptions. The total amount available for land acquisition would drop from \$38 million to \$30 million. The governor also proposed adding the salaries of 95 state employees to the list of items that can be paid for with EPF funds. Since the EPF was created to deal with capital projects, not day-to-day state expenses, the Governor would have to persuade the Legislature to change the law that established the EPF in 1993. The Council is opposed to such a change. The NYS Assembly has prevented such a change in past years.

In addition, the Governor's proposal calls for the removal of \$10 million from the EPF's accumulated reserves in the current fiscal year, and another \$10 million in the 2003-04 budget, to help balance the overall state budget (on top of the \$235-million "loan" removed from the EPF's reserves last year).

The Governor's proposal also calls for \$33 million in new EPF expenses for projects and facilities that have traditionally been paid for through the state budget's general fund.

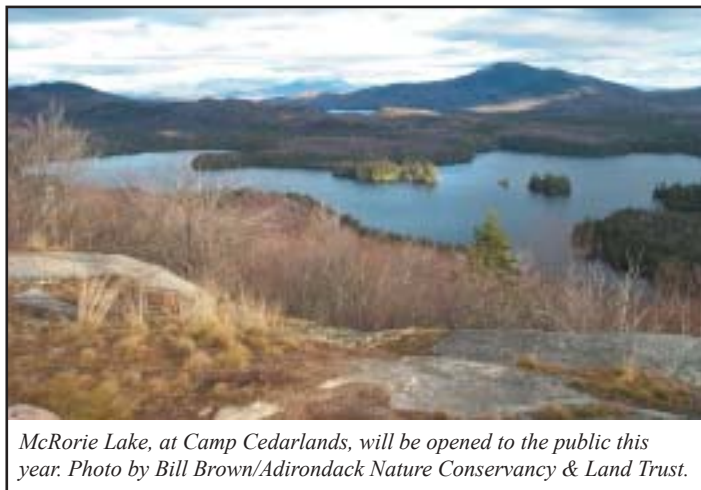
The Council has issued an Action Alert on this topic. For information on how to send a message to the Governor and Legislature, go to our website at www.adirondackcouncil.org.

View From Fort Ti Protected

The historic Carillon Point property on Lake Champlain has been purchased by the non-profit Open Space Institute to protect views from Fort Ticonderoga and important migratory bird habitat. The project, an excellent example of private stewardship in the Adirondacks, was a long-term goal of Robert (Robin) L. Pell. Pell, a strong supporter of the Adirondack Council, passed away in early February.

The 28-acre property is directly across the LaChute River delta from the fort. It includes 4,200 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Lake Champlain. The purchase of the parcel by the Open Space Institute will guard the southerly view of the fort from development, and in a special arrangement, will remain on the local property tax rolls.

The acquisition was made with a grant from the Gift for the Future of Lake George program of Deborah Clarke Mars and Valerie Anne Mars.



McRorie Lake, at Camp Cedarlands, will be opened to the public this year. Photo by Bill Brown/Adirondack Nature Conservancy & Land Trust.

McRorie Lake and 5,000 Acres Protected

The Adirondack Nature Conservancy, New York State and a local Boy Scout troop joined forces this winter to permanently protect 5,000 acres of land and a lake in northern Hamilton County, known as Camp Cedarlands.

In December, New York State purchased a conservation easement from the Conservancy over the entire 5,000-acre Scout camp, protecting the parcel from development and opening it to public recreation for 10 months of each year. The Scouts will have it to themselves in July and August.

Like many Scout troops, the owners of Camp Cedarlands were having trouble maintaining such a large and valuable reservation. They were interested in selling the development rights to the land. Meanwhile, a developer offered to buy the entire parcel for a major residential subdivision.

The public will gain access to lands, from September to June each year, that have been held privately for a century. The deal also opens 400-acre McRorie Lake to public access for the first time in five generations.

Trails, boat launches and parking facilities are expected to be open late in 2003.

Council Lawsuit Forces APA Rule Change

The Adirondack Council won an important settlement in January from the Adirondack Park Agency, in a lawsuit aimed at protecting water quality, river corridors and the integrity of the APA's land-use plan. The Council had objected to the agency's decision to stop requiring permits for converting homes into bed and breakfast tourist accommodations in the most remote and fragile areas of the Park.

The Council's concerns centered on the inadequacy of residential septic systems when homes are converted to tourist accommodations and on increased human activity in the Park's most remote areas. Septic pollution is one of the main targets of the Council's Pure Waters Initiative.

In its settlement with the Council, the Park Agency formally recognized that it must require a permit from those seeking to convert homes to bed and breakfast inns, in two specific areas of the Park. The first is land classified as "resource management," which consist mostly of unbroken commercial forests and large private estates, usually far from communities. The second is shoreline lands within the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System.

The Council supports the APA's effort to bolster the Park's small-scale tourist accommodations. The Council objected to only a portion of the rule change — where it affected the Park's least developed areas. The Council argued that the Legislature had required the APA to protect these two areas from a proliferation of inappropriate commercial tourist operations.

Council Persuades APA to Deny Chemical Herbicide Permit

In January, the Adirondack Council persuaded the Adirondack Park Agency that it should reject an applicant's request to dump chemical herbicides into the potable waters of Lake George.

The applicant (the Lake George Park Commission) wanted to poison Eurasian Watermilfoil in Lake George, despite evidence that the unwanted plant was declining on its own and that the herbicide would surely kill vital native plants, as well as rare and threatened species.

The APA Board of Commissioners voted 8-1 to accept a recommendation from its staff to deny the project. The Regulatory Affairs Committee had voted unanimously to do the same. The Agency cited 16 specific reasons why the project violated the NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act.

In sum, the LGPC failed to show that there was a compelling social, economic or other benefit that would justify dumping a chemical herbicide into the pure waters of Lake George. Despite weeks of testimony from their experts, the commission didn't provide the legal justification for a permit.

The Council found expert witnesses and hired an attorney with experience in both pesticides and Adirondack wetlands laws. The Council had several reasons for opposing the permit application. First, we were concerned that fluridone has the potential to kill almost any green plant, not just milfoil. The herbicide would also kill the beneficial native plants — including some on the state's Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species list. Native plants help keep the lake clean and clear, and provide unique habitat for aquatic life.

Second, the lake serves as a drinking water supply for many lakeshore homes and businesses. Third, the Adirondack Park

Park & Environmental Staffs Face Cuts

In the face of a slumping statewide economy, the Adirondack Council is once again fighting to maintain sufficient staffing and funding levels at the Adirondack Park Agency and Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

Gov. George E. Pataki's 2003-04 budget proposal contains cuts for every state agency and nearly every state program. While the APA and DEC fared better than many other agencies, both are facing cuts that could harm their effectiveness.

In the months ahead, as the budget is debated by the Legislature, the Council will work to keep both agencies from suffering losses that will hurt the Park's environment.

Under the Pataki plan, the APA's personnel would be reduced from a fully staffed level of 64 employees to 59. While the agency's operating budget would remain static, five positions left vacant by retirements will not be refilled, amounting to a staff reduction of about 7 percent. Included in the cuts is the position of director of the APA's two visitor centers, in Newcomb and Paul Smiths.

The budget also calls for 234 cuts at the Department of Environmental Conservation, with the Governor deciding not to refill a number of DEC vacancies caused by early retirement. The Bureau of Lands and Forests was especially hard hit with retirements. DEC's workforce would drop to 3,301 if the budget is approved as written.

contains 2,800 lakes and ponds, and the Council was concerned about setting a precedent that would allow the use of the chemical throughout the Park.

The Council, while not entirely opposed to the use of chemicals, sees them as only a last resort, when all non-toxic methods have failed. The Council wants to ensure that any exotic species remedy is tailored to local conditions, and doesn't do more harm to aquatic life than good.



A multi-deck tour boat carrying hundreds of passengers has no trouble entering, circling and departing from Paradise Bay, one of the four sites where a local group wanted permission to apply a chemical herbicide, claiming that exotic plant growth had all but halted recreation. Photo by John Sheehan

Council's Founding Leader Retires, Leaves Lasting Legacy of Park Protection

After 26 years of dedication to the Adirondack Council, Gary A. Randorf has decided to retire. His intelligence, wit, gentle humor and leadership will be greatly missed, although we wish him well in his next adventure.

Randorf joined the Council's staff in August, 1977 after working at the Adirondack Park Agency, where he was responsible for charting the Park's Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System, along with his close friends and colleagues, Clarence Petty and the late Greenleaf Chase.

He continued as staff leader until 1987 (excluding a one-year sabbatical in 1983), presiding over a period of rapid membership and staff growth. In 1987, he returned briefly to the APA, where he oversaw the design of educational and interpretive programs and assisted with the development of the trails systems, at the Park Agency's two official Visitor Interpretive Centers at Paul Smiths and Newcomb.

He again returned to lead the Council staff in 1989, serving for another year. In 1991, Randorf assumed the part-time role of senior counselor to the Council's staff.

Randorf was one of the first American environmentalists to sound the alarm on acid rain in the 1970s. His work identifying and documenting the problem with local activists and our neighbors in Canada created the momentum for New York's first acid rain law in 1985, as well as the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

In the 1980s and early 1990s, Randorf argued effectively against the use of chemical pesticides, applied by crop duster airplanes, to kill blackflies and mosquitoes in the Park. He persuaded the NYS Health Department to stop funding such projects, noting that the chemicals were harming humans, fish, bees and other "non-target" species.

In 1983, he helped to create the modern "conservation easement" by urging the NYS Legislature to pass a law allowing the state to protect open space by buying just the development rights and/or recreational rights on productive private timber lands — a far less expensive option than buying lands outright and adding them to the Forest Preserve. Unlike Forest Preserve, easement lands remain private property and can be sustainably harvested. Both



are protected forever from development. Most state easements also provide public access to the land.

In 1986, he began the Council's successful 18-year fight against the use of chemical herbicides to kill unwanted plants in Lake George and other Adirondack waters.

In an effort to make the Park more attractive to visitors and more economically viable, Randorf worked with the state and federal governments, as well as private organizations, to help establish a bike path around Lake Champlain and to require the state to create bikeable shoulders when it reconstructed state highways in the Park.

A tireless advocate for Wilderness and the Council's ambassador to the world, Randorf traveled throughout North America, Norway, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere, representing the Adirondacks and sharing information with people managing parks around the world.

In 1992, Eastman Kodak celebrated the Adirondack Park's 100th birthday by commissioning a "Forever Wild" large-format traveling exhibit of Randorf's work that toured the Northeast for several years.

For a quarter of a century, his magnificent landscape photographs brought the beauty of the Adirondack backcountry to tens of thousands of readers each year on the covers and pages of the *Adirondack Wildguide*, as well as the Adirondack Council's newsletters, annual State of the Park reports and special publications. His latest achievement is his new book, *The Adirondacks: Wild Island of Hope*, which is now available in book stores throughout the Northeast. See back cover for ordering information.



Whimsical re-creation of one of Gary's photographs, prepared by Council staff member Kathy Kelley.

First Clarence Petty Intern at Work

Nathan Marks, a masters student at the State University at Albany, was chosen in January as the Adirondack Council's first intern under the newly established Clarence Petty Intern Fund.



Marks, who grew up in Margaretville, New York, is no stranger to the Adirondack Park. Many of his family members reside in Tupper Lake and his affinity for the Adirondacks and its preservation were welcomed at the Council.

Prior to joining the Council, Marks received his bachelor's degree in Communications at Ithaca College. Following that, he moved to Virginia Beach, where he worked

in Marketing and Public Relations. Marks is assigned to the Council's Albany office, where he is assisting both the government relations and communications staff.

The Clarence Petty Intern Fund was created in July 2002 in honor of the long-time Council board member and environmental activist whose work as a state forester and naturalist facilitated the creation of, among other accomplishments, the Adirondack Wilderness System, the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System, the Adirondack Park Agency, the State Land Master Plan and the Adirondack Council's Forever Wild Fund. The fund is dedicated to providing students with practical, educational experience as an advocate for the Park and environmental protection.

Petty, 97, lives in Coreys, Franklin County. He received the Council's first Conservationist of the Year Award in 1984 and continues to serve on the Council's advisory board. A new book "The Adirondack Adventures of Clarence Petty," was published in 2002 by author Chris Angus and Syracuse University Press.

To apply for a position with internship program, send a resume and cover letter to the Clarence Petty Internship Program, c/o The Adirondack Council, 342 Hamilton Street, Albany, NY 12210.

Those interested in making a donation to the Clarence Petty Internship Fund should contact Anne Trachtenberg, toll free, at 1-877-873-2240.



School Kids Fight Acid Rain

Kolly Baldwin's freshman earth science students at Chazy High School learned that conservation begins in their own backyards this winter, as they raised enough money to buy and retire several tons of acid rain-causing smokestack pollution.

Over a four-week period in February and March, 46 students donated their own savings toward the goal of buying up and retiring sulfur dioxide "pollution allowances" issued to power companies by the federal government. Every allowance is worth the right to emit one ton of sulfur dioxide. Anyone can buy or sell them.

The Adirondack Council's Clean Air Certificate program allows people to buy and retire allowances for \$50 each, or less than half of the current market value.

Baldwin said she had set a goal of raising about \$100, enough for two Clean Air Certificates. She was amazed to find that the students — without assistance from the school or their parents — raised enough to retire five tons. The Council will send a speaker to the school to present the students with the Clean Air Certificates this spring.

For more information about the Clean Air Certificate program (a part of the Council's Pure Waters Initiative), go to our website at www.adirondackcouncil.org. Schools and other groups interested in raising money to purchase Clean Air Certificates can call the Acid Rain Hotline at 1-800-842-PARK.

Attention Activists: A New Way to Contact Us

Your hard work in communicating a conservation message to local, state and federal policymakers is vital to our mission. But we don't want to waste a moment of your time. If you have a question about an Action Alert or if you need to inform us of fast-breaking news, there's a new email address made specifically for you, the Adirondack Council Activist. Get direct, fast access to our staff and updated information at activists@adirondackcouncil.org.

Council Helps Protect Local Sawmills

On the economic development front, the Council assisted in an effort to protect the viability of small-scale wood products businesses in the Park by joining local actions to amend the state building code in early December, 2002.

The Council worked directly with the Adirondack North Country Association, which also coordinated letters from local government officials and a rally of north country sawmill operators in early December.

The NYS Department of State's Codes Council adopted a uniform international building code in 2002 that would have banned the use of rough-cut lumber in any building requiring a local building permit. Under the new code, only grade-stamped dimension lumber (ie., smooth sided, kiln dried two-by-fours) would have been allowed as building materials. Most of the several hundred small sawmill operations in the Adirondack Park said they couldn't afford to pay government-sanctioned inspectors to certify the grade.

In addition, many older Adirondack homes, camps and outbuildings were constructed using rough-cut timbers. Owners would have been unable to match existing building frames if rough-cut lumber was outlawed.



A classic Adirondack lumber sawmill, just south of the hamlet of Elizabethtown, Essex County. Photo by Jaime A. Ethier.

Council Supports Local Tax Relief

In February, the Council worked to improve local economic conditions by asking the state to lift a property tax burden off the shoulders of Adirondack municipalities.

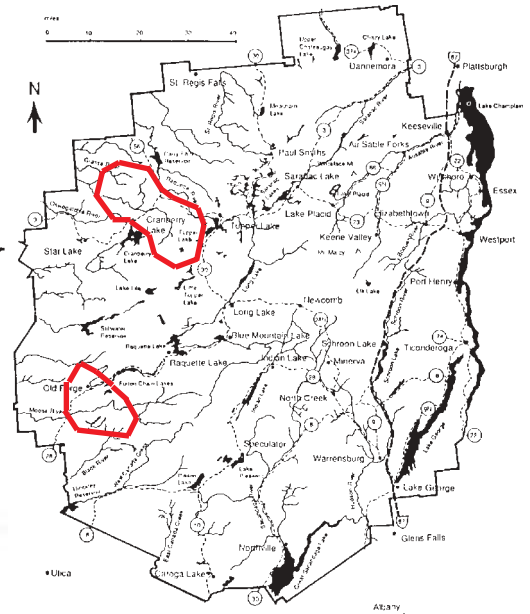
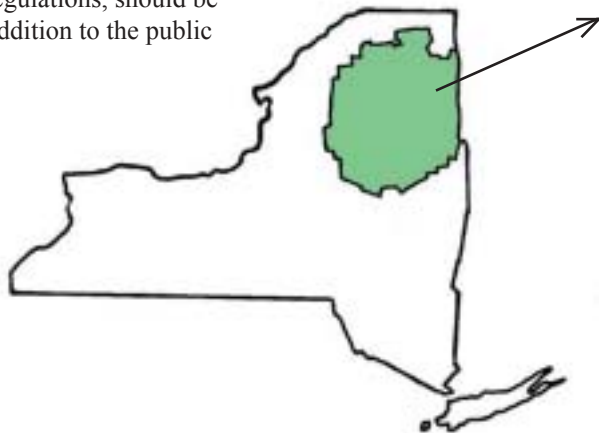
The Council testified at a Senate hearing that the state should reimburse local governments for the price of property tax abatements of 80 percent or more granted by the state to timberland owners who agree not to develop their lands. Currently, local governments must make up the shortfalls caused by the state abatements. The cost exceeds \$3 million per year.

...HANCOCK *Story continued from page 3*

the lands of Champion International that were protected by state purchase just three years ago. There is good potential for linking trails and reconnecting wildlife habitat that would otherwise remain fragmented by roads, subdivisions and development.

Hancock has been a good steward of these lands. But only 20,000 acres of these 72,000 northern acres are protected by a conservation easement. That means, even if all of the lands were located in areas of the Park with the most restrictive zoning, a builder would be entitled to create 1,209 new lots (of 43 acres each) on those lands.

The southern parcels are already protected from development and subdivision by a conservation easement. But lands along the shoreline, which are difficult to commercially harvest due to water-quality regulations, should be considered for purchase and addition to the public Forest Preserve, as well.



Sharing Through Earth Share

“How far away is the Adirondacks?” “Can I take some of these posters back to my teacher?” “This acid rain video is great - can I have one to show my sister?”

In September of 2002, these are some of the enthusiastic questions Adirondack Council staff members Julie Ball and Kathy Kelley fielded at an Earth Share New York donor thank you event at the Central Park Zoo. They talked about the Council and its role in the Adirondack Park, and gave out hundreds of acid rain publications and posters to employees and their families that support Earth Share of New York.

Earth Share is a workplace giving program that makes it possible for environmentally conscious businesses and employees to support their favorite regional and national environmental groups through a charitable giving drive.

Through Earth Share, employees can choose a one-time gift or payroll deduction plan. Even one dollar a paycheck can help clean up our air, waters and forests! These contributions help every day to preserve and protect our environment – locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

More and more businesses find that their employees appreciate environmental giving options alongside United Way and other approved charities. Earth Share NY now participates in campaigns at hundreds of government and corporate workplaces. These include the federal government’s Combined Federal Campaign (CFC); American Airlines; Dell; American Express; Pitney Bowes; Aveda; Sears; and many more.

If you would like to learn more about how you can introduce an Earth Share charitable giving option to your workplace, please call Anne Trachtenberg at 1-877-873-2240, email at atrachtenberg@adirondackcouncil.org, or go to the Earth Share website at www.earthshare.org for more information.



Staff members Julie Ball and Kathy Kelley are ready to answer questions and distribute information to Earth Share employees — a workplace giving program.

Forever Wild Meeting and Dinner Set for Lake Placid

Every summer, we like to meet the people who are the core of the Adirondack Council – our members, friends and supporters. It’s especially encouraging to see families grow over the years, with young people learning about the environment and the Adirondacks from their parents and grandparents!

Our Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner will take place at the Lake Placid Resort’s Golf House Restaurant on Saturday, July 12, 2003. Members are invited to attend the meeting in the afternoon and stay with us into the evening for dinner. Tickets for the dinner start at \$50. Reservations will be required. The annual membership meeting is free to Adirondack Council members and guests.

It’s Great to Speak with You

Thank you to all members who responded to last fall’s telephone fundraising campaign!

Our annual calling campaign helps us to raise a significant portion of the funds needed to meet special challenges and opportunities in Adirondack Park protection each year. It also gives us the opportunity to hear your concerns about current issues and opportunities in the Park.

Your gifts are used judiciously. Every year, the NYS Attorney General’s Charities Bureau issues a report on all charity telephone fundraising conducted in New York State. The “Pennies for Charity” report, issued in December, presented data from 588 telemarketing campaigns conducted in 2001. This report is prepared to show the public how much of their contributions solicited by telemarketers directly supports charitable programs rather than overhead or administrative costs.

The Adirondack Council placed in the top 5 percent of the 588 registered not-for-profit organizations in retaining the highest amount of money raised for program expenditures. Thank you for taking the time to talk with us and for fulfilling your pledge to the Council. In turn, we pledge to do our absolute best on behalf of this great Adirondack Park.

Don't Miss Out On What Everyone's Talking About...

THE ADIRONDACKS....Wild Island of Hope \$23

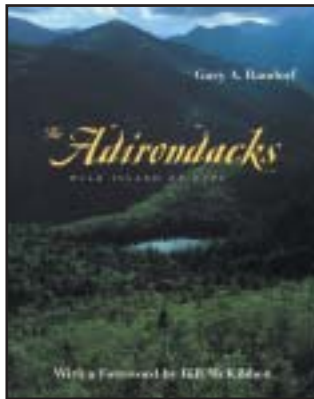
By Gary Randorf

224 pages, 100 color photographs.

"I've gotten such pleasure out of reading *The Adirondacks: Wild Island of Hope*. Through the photos and the text, you have captured this special place." – Frances Beinecke

"The [book] captures the Adirondacks and their history, the challenges facing the park, and the wonderful experiences it offers. Your own voice comes through so clearly that sometimes I felt you were reading aloud to me." – Patricia Winterer

"Gary A. Randorf captures not only the look of the Adirondacks, but also the feel." – Neal Burdick



View photos from Gary's book at www.adirondackcouncil.org

And if you really want to take a walk on the wild side, order...

"Forever Wild" Adirondack Council Caps and Tote Bags
Featuring the Adirondack Loon - the "Northern Helldiver"
– the very symbol of wilderness!

Both cap & tote bag are made of 100% cotton.

The tan & sage cap is proudly made in the USA.

Tote measures 15.5" tall x 19" wide with comfortable 22" cotton web carrying handles.



\$15 per cap
\$12 per tote bag



Sales benefit Adirondack Park conservation.

To order — Complete the form below and return to:

The Adirondack Council PO Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932, Or call toll-free 1-877-873-2240

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*For orders:

\$12.00 to \$30.00 add \$3.00

\$31.00 to \$60.00 add \$6.00

\$61.00 to \$90.00 add \$9.00

Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.

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E-Newsletter: Now, if you prefer, you can read the Adirondack Council newsletter online. You get the same newsletter, sooner, and the Council saves money for its environmental programs that it would have spent on printing and mail. Just drop us an email at info@adirondackcouncil.org and we'll send you an email alert each time the newest newsletter is available on our website.



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