

Me. Organizations: Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, National Audubon Society, National Parks & Conservation Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Wilderness Society

Adirondack Council

Spring 2001 Newsletter



Another 26,500 Acres of Job Marshall Great Wilderness Protected from Development!

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Spring 2001

Dear Members and Friends,

What a difference a decade can make. Ten years ago, the debate over the future of the Adirondack Park tended to center on the environment versus the economy. Many believed that the stagnant economy was the result of state purchases of land for the Forest Preserve and onerous land use regulations. Local officials bemoaned the high unemployment rate and blamed the Adirondack Park Agency. Conventional wisdom was that you could have a protected environment or a thriving economy, but not both.

Today we have a good deal more of both. The State of New York has purchased tens of thousands of acres for addition to the Forest Preserve and hundreds of thousands of acres have been protected by conservation easements. Yet, we have recently been experiencing some of the lowest unemployment rates in the Adirondacks in a generation. The Adirondack Park is living proof that environmental protection and economic stability doesn't have to be a trade-off. In fact, it is becoming more evident that protecting the wildlands of the Adirondacks is one of the critical factors in ensuring thriving communities in the Park.

We still have big challenges ahead, from solving the acid rain problem to enforcing environmental protection laws to planning for resource protection and recreation on the Forest Preserve. And as the population of the Park grows and demand increases for shoreline property, we must act to protect water quality and prevent sprawl through careful planning. We must also carefully assess where motorized recreation is appropriate, in order to preserve the solitude and biological diversity of the Park's wild lands.

While there is a great deal left to be accomplished in order to carry on the one hundred year commitment of New Yorkers to the Adirondack Park, citizens, policy makers and advocates should feel justifiably proud of the progress we've made in recent years toward making the Adirondack Park a world model for conservation and sustainable communities.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Burke
Executive Director

On the Cover

The Council's proposal to create a 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness in the west-central Adirondacks took another step toward completion recently, when the Nature Conservancy announced its plan to purchase 26,500 acres of land from International Paper Co. For the full story, see Page 10. Photo by Gary Randorf.

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Our Mission

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



New Limits on Clearcutting Proposed

NYS Assembly Environmental Conservation Chairman Richard Brodsky has proposed legislation to tighten the requirements for obtaining a clearcutting permit in the Adirondacks, while requiring better oversight by the Adirondack Park Agency.

The bill would reduce the threshold for APA jurisdiction from 25 acres to 3 acres. It would also require the property owner to perform a wildlife survey and file a multi-year timber harvesting plan for the entire property. The Adirondack Council supports these measures enthusiastically.

Clearcutting is a rarely used tool that has fallen out of favor in the Adirondack Park since the APA first regulated it in 1985. It is unsightly, can be devastating to wildlife and can cause rapid erosion, followed by water pollution.

Something happened recently to cause the Adirondack Council to take a fresh look at the state's policies and to advocate for changes in the law.

Last winter, the Adirondack Park Agency approved the most expansive clearcutting permit in its history. The Long Pond Timber company, based in Alabama, sought and received APA permission for a series of clearcuts totaling more than 300 acres.

In wetlands, the trees were to be cut while the ground was frozen. While four of the sites were in, or adjacent to, deer wintering yards, there was no attempt to minimize the impact on the herd. In addition, the APA failed to assess the cumulative

impact of all clearcuts on the tract, including recent clearcutting on adjacent lands. The APA did not take a property-wide account of all recent harvesting, nor did it require a multi-year harvesting plan. The Agency did not require a wildlife survey to gauge the disturbance clearcutting might cause, such as the loss of nests for ospreys and eagles.

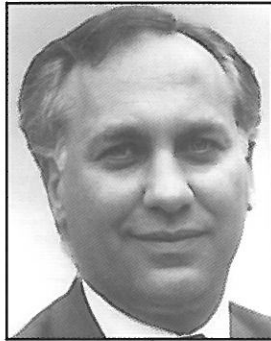
The people of New York purchased the development and recreational rights to the property through a \$1.7-million conservation easement in 1998.

In fact, if not for the last-minute intervention of the Adirondack Council's staff, the permit would have allowed cutting within 25 feet of streams. In addition, there would have been no requirement that the timber company ever report back to the APA with an assessment of whether the clearcutting had caused any environmental harm.

The Council has thoroughly discussed the matter of clearcuts on easement lands with the Dept. of Environmental Conservation, which oversees all state easements. DEC has agreed to use the 1999 Champion International easement as a model for future transactions. That easement prohibited the new owners from even seeking a clearcutting permit from the APA and placed strict limits on the amount of timber that could be harvested each year.

The proposed legislation would require state agencies to follow existing state policy. Last year, New York DEC announced that it had received "green certification" for its forest management of state-owned lands outside the Adirondacks. Assemblyman Brodsky's bill would apply the same management plan and wildlife survey requirements to clearcutting activity in the Adirondack Park.

The Council wants to ensure that the principles of sustainable forestry are implemented in Adirondack forests.



Brodsky

Cahill Moves Up, Erin Crotty Named New DEC Chief

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation Commissioner John P. Cahill -- winner of the Adirondack Council's 1999 Conservationist of the Year Award -- has been promoted to a position as Governor George E. Pataki's top political advisor.

Following Cahill's promotion, Executive Deputy Commissioner Gavin J. Donohue was appointed as Acting Commissioner. Donohue had spent a great deal of his time working on Adirondack issues as Commissioner Cahill's assistant. In February, Donohue announced he would be leaving to become Executive Director of the Independent Power Producers of New York, headquartered in Albany.

In March, Governor Pataki nominated former DEC staff counsel Erin Crotty as the new commissioner. Crotty rejoins DEC from a job with Plug Power, a fuel-cell development and manufacturing company in Albany.



Cahill, Crotty and Pataki in Pataki's ceremonial Red Room at the Capitol. Photo by John Sheehan.

While serving as an assistant to the commissioner at DEC, she helped to guide the implementation of the 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act. Crotty also helped to craft the Catskill Watershed Agreement -- a protection plan for lands surrounding New York City's drinking water reservoirs.

Cahill had served as DEC's top attorney from 1994 until he took the reins from Commissioner Michael Zagata, who resigned in 1996.

APA Progress on Enforcement is Slow

On February 14, the Adirondack Council released its second detailed critique in two years on the APA's enforcement program for those who violate land-use laws. The new 18-page report entitled "Falling Further Behind," is a reference to the ever-mounting stack of backlogged enforcement cases at the APA.

In its 1999-2000 report "After the Fact: The Truth About Environmental Enforcement in the Adirondack Park," the Council noted that the APA was struggling with thousands of unresolved violations of the Park's laws for development and land-use.

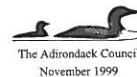
The new report picked up where "After the Fact" left off, showing that things had grown worse.

Over two years, the agency opened 411 cases and closed only 178. At the time of the report, the agency was still opening twice as many new cases as it was resolving. A new

After the Fact:

The Truth About Environmental Enforcement in the Adirondack Park

An Analysis of the Adirondack Park Agency's Enforcement Programs

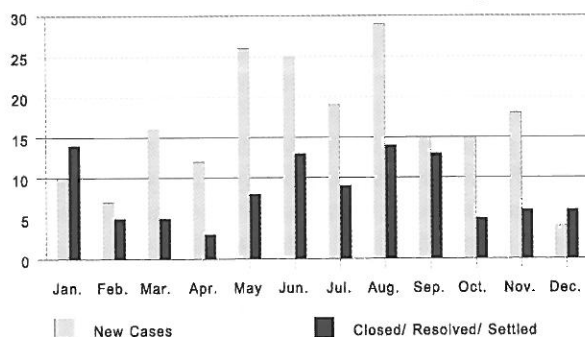


The Adirondack Council
November 1999

Adirondack Council report. In addition, they haven't even requested new legislation to strengthen their authority or to provide the regulatory tools they need to get the situation under control.

The report concluded that the Governor, Attorney General and APA Commission-

2000 APA Enforcement Backlog



enforcement attorney and additional field help have allowed the APA to resolve some of the older cases, the APA announced in March.

Both reports are available for free on the Council's website: www.adirondackcouncil.org.

The modest increases in staffing made by the Governor in the FY 2000 budget, while welcome, were not enough to turn the program around completely. The APA still needs more money for enforcement staff.

It also needs to reinstate the successful local planning assistance program -- to help towns and villages develop their own land-use codes -- and make use of its authority to collect fines before issuing an after-the-fact permit to those who violate the law. The Assembly's budget resolution calls for a compliance account into which APA-imposed fines would be placed and used by the agency for its programs. Currently all fines go to state budget's general fund.

The Park Agency is still awaiting action in the Legislature that would allow the agency to collect fees from developers. But the agency's own commissioners have done little to revise the APA's enforcement regulations since the last

ers must work together to solve these problems.

The Council will continue to encourage the Governor to increase staffing, while pressing the Legislature to provide additional funding and seeking further assistance from the Attorney General. His office handles legal action against land-use law violators who cannot come to agreement with the APA.

Over the past few months, the agency has made it clear that it considers enforcement reform to be necessary and commissioners have voted to make enforcement regulation reform an immediate priority.

Falling Further Behind:

The Truth About Environmental Enforcement in the Adirondack Park

A Progress Report on the Adirondack Park Agency's Enforcement Programs



The Adirondack Council
2001

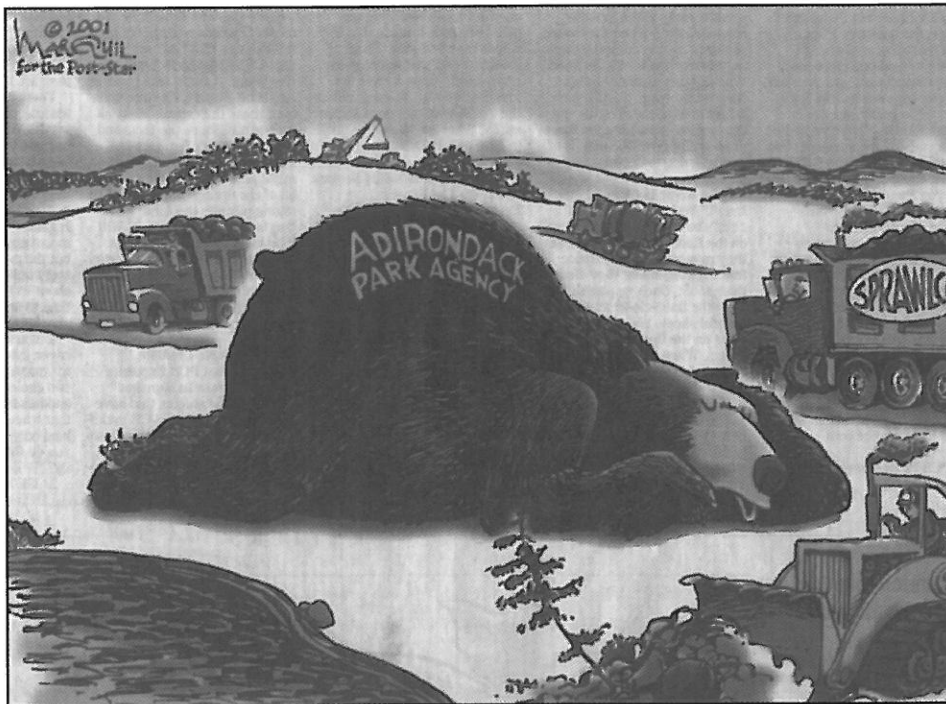
How To Obtain a Copy

Write: The Adirondack Council
PO Box D-2, Two Church Street
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Call: 1-800-842-PARK

Online: www.adirondackcouncil.org





Here's another view of the APA enforcement situation from the Post-Star of Glens Falls. This cartoon appeared in the February 25, 2001 Sunday edition. Reprinted with permission.

Council Opposes Limiting Public Comment on Park Agency Projects

The Adirondack Park Agency has rejected two proposed policies to severely limit public input on its decisions, after receiving strong objections from the Adirondack Council, the Local Government Review Board and others.

It was the second time in six months that the Council led the opposition to proposals before the Park Agency that would curb or censor public comment.

In an October 2000 proposal, the APA could have cut off all comment on matters coming before the board of commissioners three days prior to the start of each month's meeting. But the APA mails its agenda to the public only five business days before the meeting. Since it often takes the U.S. Postal Service two or more business days to reach addresses within the same county, the arrival of the APA packet and the deadline for comment could have been the same day.

The APA's agenda is dozens of pages long. The Council asked the APA how anyone could be expected to conceive, draft and send a letter on an important issue in the span of a couple of hours. The policy also didn't speak to the fact that, at past meetings, state agencies have mailed their own material late or simply delivered them to the APA with no public notice whatsoever.

In January, the APA's staff offered yet another plan, this time requiring anyone sending letters of objection to the APA to send copies to every other party involved in the case.

Even more objectionable was the creation of what was quickly dubbed by the press as a "censorship board." Any

comments received after the deadline could have to be approved by the APA's chief attorney and either the board chairman or the committee chairman before the rest of the commissioners would be allowed to see them.

To their credit, the commissioners decided to set the deadline at noon the day prior to the beginning of the APA monthly meeting. They also dropped the plan for the extra copies and for the censorship board.

Council Urges Governor to Fix Vacancy, Expired Terms

The Council has urged Governor Pataki to fill a lingering vacancy on the APA board of commissioners, and to resolve the fates of two commissioners whose terms have expired. The vacant seat is one of five reserved for Adirondack Park residents on the 11-member board.

Three seats are for out-of-park residents of New York, and the remaining three for state officials.

At press time, Katherine Roberts of Garrison and Frank Mezzano of Lake Pleasant were serving on expired terms and could be replaced at any time.

State Moving Swiftly on Unit Management Developing Site-Specific Rules for Each Area

Congratulations! Adirondack Council members came out in force for the January 2001 state wide meetings on proposed Unit Management Plans for the the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

At stake is the fate of dozens of separate Wilderness and Wild Forest areas in the Adirondacks. Overwhelmingly, those who spoke at the hearings asked for careful stewardship and restrictions on motorized vehicles.

In the fall of 1999, Gov. George E. Pataki announced that he had ordered the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to complete all 90-plus "Unit Management Plans" for areas of the Adirondack Park by 2004.

Unlike the broad classifications of "Wilderness Area," "Canoe Area" or "Wild Forest," which set standardized rules for every section of forest that falls into that class, Unit Management Plans set the on-the-ground, site-specific rules for each area within those broad classes. So the UMP for the Siamese Ponds Wildernesses, for example, will be different from the William C. Whitney Wilderness, depending on local features, amenities and environmental limitations.

How your favorite area of the Forest Preserve is treated for the next decade or so depends on what these plans say.

The 25 plans listed below are among the first to be considered and are under active development by DEC (for the latest update on the status of each area, see DEC's website, www.dec.state.ny.us and click the button for Lands and Forests):

Blue Mountain Lake Wild Forest: A new trail to Sabattis Mountain and whitewater rafting are among the changes expected.

Bog River Complex: An area along the Bog River, near the outlet of Lows Lake, in the Hitchens Pond Primitive Area, and within the Council's proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. Many people at the hearings asked to ban float planes here.

Boreal-Raquette River Wild Forest: In the towns of Colton and Hopkinton, St. Lawrence County, along the Raquette and Jordan Rivers, including rare spruce-fir forest habitat that makes up part of the Council's proposed Boreal Heritage Reserve. A proposed snowmobile bridge here drew opposition from those who don't want the rare habitat destroyed by those seeking access to former Champion International easement lands to the northeast.

Dix and Giant Mountain Wilderness Areas: DEC is

completing inventories of natural features and hopes to complete the UMP in July.

Ferris Lake Wild Forest: South of Route 8, west of the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area and west of Route 10, in the southwest Adirondacks.

Hudson Gorge Primitive Area: This part-public, part-private gorge is very popular with whitewater enthusiasts and anglers. DEC hopes to complete this plan by October.

Independence River Wild Forest: DEC may want to designate roads for all-terrain vehicle use and is working on plans with APA staff. This would require an environmental impact statement. DEC hopes to have a draft ready by fall.

Jessup River Wild Forest: Towns of Arietta and Lake Pleasant, Hamilton County.

The Council's main objectives in each Unit Management Plan review:

- DEC must ensure that all plans are consistent with Article 14 of the NYS Constitution, known as the Forever Wild clause, as well as the State Land Master Plan, and other existing state laws and DEC rules and regulations.
- DEC should seek only appropriate recreational opportunities in areas where those activities will not harm natural resources. The DEC should carefully restrict motor vehicle use to protect the environment and the back country solitude of the Forest Preserve for all recreational users.
- DEC must not designate any new snowmobile trails without first completing and implementing its snowmobile trail master plan for the entire Park.
- DEC must conduct thorough baseline natural resource assessments to identify rare and endangered species habitats, critical wildlife areas and other resources in need of special protection in each unit -- and ensure that these unique features are protected.

Lake Champlain Islands: DEC will work with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to protect "historical components."

Lake George Wild Forest: DEC intends to hire a contractor this summer to develop the plan and has issued requests for proposals.

Moose River Plains Wild Forest: Straddling Herkimer and Hamilton counties, this is one of the most popular recreation areas in the Park, especially with mountain bikers and hunters. Located between Route 28 and the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

Paul Smiths Easement: The draft recreation plan is undergoing internal DEC review.

Santa Clara Easement: A draft recreational plan for this former Champion International property in Franklin

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Plans, a

EC internal review.

ld Forest: Located in Franklin with popular lakes and waterways. es 3 and 30.

ld Forest: A planning team is in y has begun, but that is it.

ensive Use Area: This former re- following the removal of its build- years. It contains more than a mile 1 Lake and is well-suited to a camp- should require the state to begin es to the towns of Chester and s been avoiding for decades. It ate to close/reorganize its ill-sited, ging Eagle Bay campground (a few) and would end speculation about ite/commercial uses of the prop-

aker Mountain Wild Forest: A is in place, but the planning work not yet begun.

lit R Mountain Wild Forest: is working on inventories and rantive management recommenda- s."

amease Ponds Wilderness: Lo- d between the Hudson and undaga rivers and between the t Canada Lake Wilderness and ox Lake Wild Forest.

nderwhacker Wild Forest: Lo- d in western Essex County, near comb, in the center of the Park, this st is remote, but had been hit hard 1 illegal bulldozing for a snowmo-

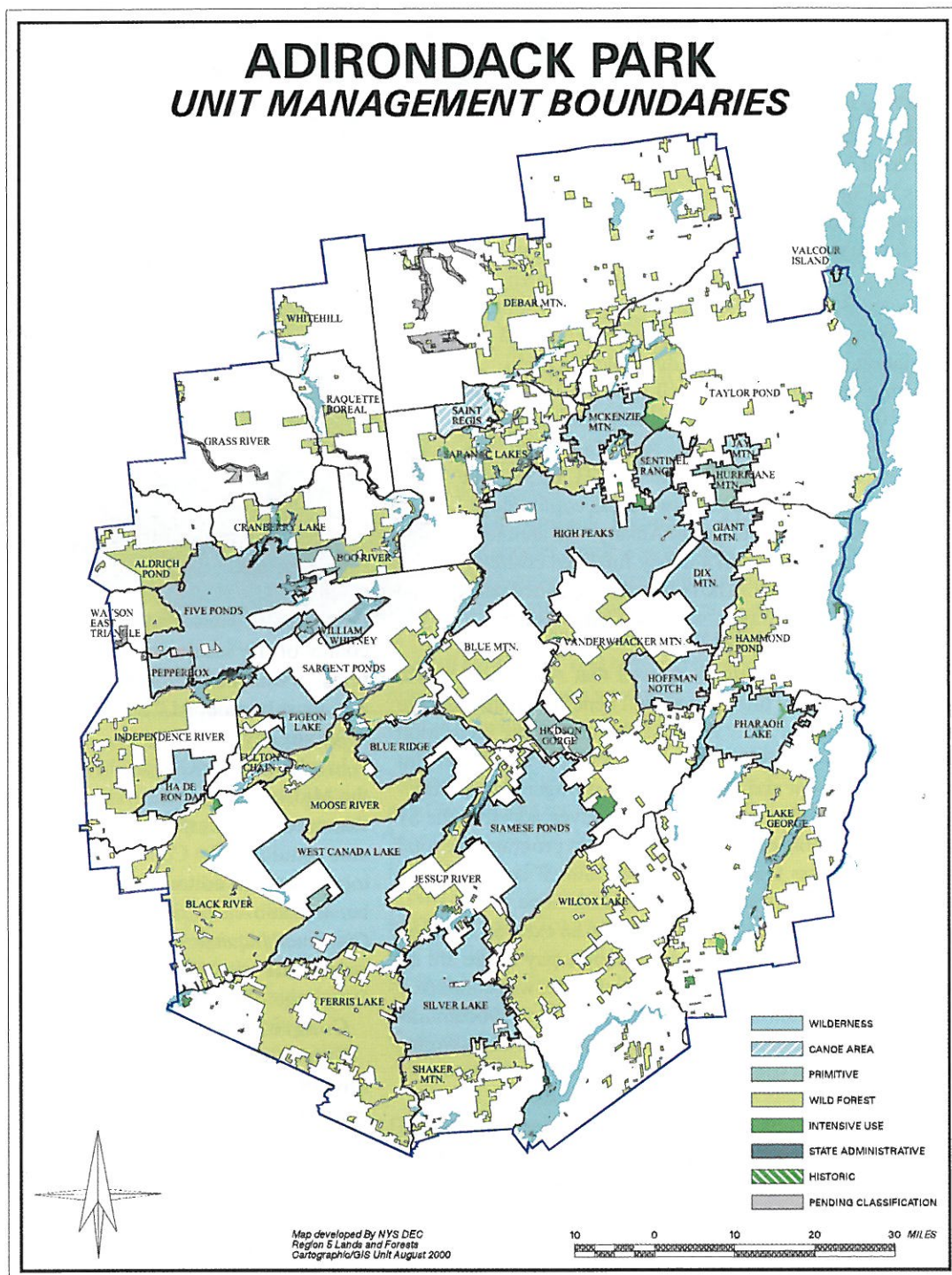
Forest: Part of the proposed Bob eness in Lewis County. DEC has etings.

Forest: Located where Hamilton, counties meet, it is just east of the ness, with the two separated by a

Wilderness: Town of Long Lake, s property contains several water rain brook trout and sensitive habi- pose. b Marshall Great Wilder-

Forest: Scoping has just begun.

Forest: Scoping has just begun.



Written comments are still being accepted for these areas.
You can make your views known by writing to Karyn Richards,
NYSDEC Region 5, Box 296, Ray Brook, NY 12977
(or email her at kbrichar@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

Please send a copy to the Adirondack Council at PO Box D-2,
Elizabethtown, NY 12932 (or email to adkcouncil@aol.com).

Acid Rain Legislation Progresses

The Adirondack Council continued to make progress on the acid rain front at the end of 2000 and the early part of 2001, as did our allies in Congress and state government:

House Bill Introduced

In January and February, U.S. Reps. John Sweeney, R-Clifton Park, John McHugh, R-Watertown, and Sherwood Boehlert, R-Utica, made good on their promise to introduce and push for the approval of acid rain legislation endorsed by the Adirondack Council.

During the first week of bill introductions in the House of Representatives in January, the trio (which has dubbed itself "New York's Acid Rain Team") introduced the *Acid Rain Control Act* (H.R.25). The following month, they slated two press conferences - one in Lake Placid and one in Albany -- to announce the legislation and unveil a newly finalized cost/benefit analysis of the bill. The Adirondack Council participated in both press conferences with the Congressmen.

Cost/Benefit Report

The cost/benefit analysis showed that Americans would reap more than \$60 billion in annual benefits by enacting the *Acid Rain Control Act*. The cost of enacting the legislation would be less than \$3.3 billion per year, for the 50-percent sulfur dioxide cut and the 70-percent nitrogen oxide reduction, both from electric power plants. Even added to the \$1 billion annual cost of the current acid rain program, the total would be far less than the \$6 billion annual cost Congress projected in 1990 for the current program alone.

In addition, national parks would reap an extra \$1.6 billion in annual revenue, once the vistas people pay to see are no longer obscured by sulfur haze. The analysis was conducted by the Clinton Administration at the request of subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. It was released in late January.

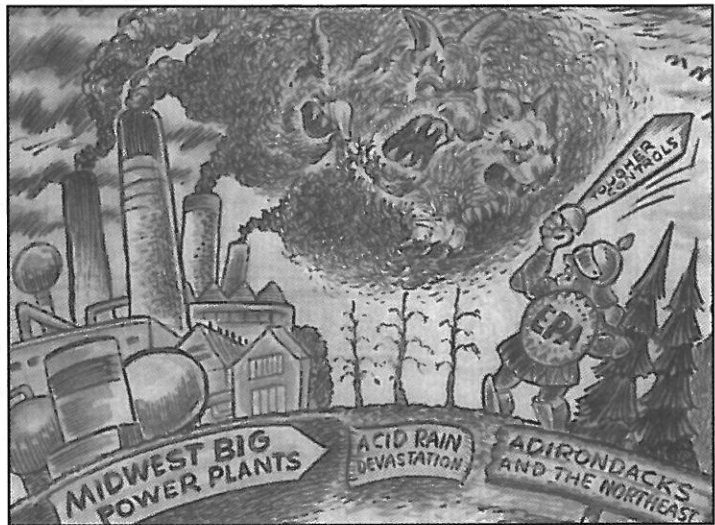
Senate Bill

In mid-March, U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton made good on their pledges from last year to fight for the acid rain legislation first proposed by Senator Moynihan. Clinton had declared the bill (S.588) her top environmental priority during her successful campaign for Moynihan's seat. Schumer declared he would reintroduce the bill during a press conference with the Adirondack Council in Lake Pleasant in December.

New Scientific Report

In late March, the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation issued a comprehensive report on the damage acid rain is causing across the Northeast. The report highlighted the latest research, showing ever increasing damage, spreading from the Adirondacks to Maine, down the entire Appalachian Mountain range and along the sheltered bays and estuaries of the Atlantic coast. The report reinforced the need for swift, deep cuts in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

Adirondack Council Executive Director Tim Burke was



Post-Star, Glens Falls, NY, January 21, 2001

quoted in the New York Times' and Associated Press's accounts of the study on March 26. "This is just one more brick in what has become a huge wall of evidence that acid rain must be stopped," he told the AP.

Advocacy Work

In addition, the Council has been working with media in the Midwest and in Washington, D.C. to reach an audience that needs to hear the details about acid rain and an affordable solution. The Council has worked with reporters, photographers and editors at major daily newspapers in a number of Ohio cities, including the *Columbus Dispatch*, the *Cincinnati Inquirer* and *Cincinnati Post*, *Akron Beacon-Journal* and *Cleveland Plaindealer*. All carried the stories on the front page. Three published extensive, multi-day series.

Congressional Attention

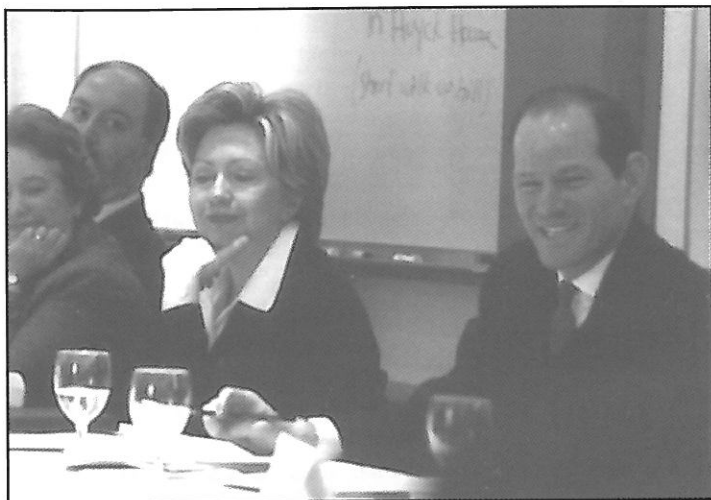
In early May, the Council teamed up with The Center for Environmental Information of Rochester and a group of other concerned organizations to host a major, two-day conference on acid rain in Washington, D.C., which concluded with a House Science Committee hearing on acid rain, chaired by Acid Rain Control Act co-sponsor Sherwood Boehlert, R-Utica.

Congressman Sweeney and Senator Schumer took turns as luncheon speakers for each day of the conference, while Senator Clinton closed the conference with an address just prior to the start of the House Science Committee meeting. All three renewed their commitment to pass acid rain legislation this year and called on those in attendance to press their Congressional reps for help. The conference was also co-sponsored by a host federal agencies and was attended by scientists and policymakers from 25 states.

The following week, the Council spoke with leaders of the Northern Forest Alliance, emphasizing the need to persuade Congress to pass acid rain legislation as it addresses issues such as ozone, global warming and mercury.



Attorney General Spitzer & Reporter Uncover Mystery Plaintiffs in Acid Rain Suit vs. State



Spitzer, right, with Sen. Hillary Clinton and the Council's John Sheehan, meet in Rensselaerville this spring.

In March, the Adirondack Council agreed to pay a "bounty" for information provided by NYS Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and a reporter from the Johnson Newspaper Corp., when the two identified some of the plaintiffs in a mysterious lawsuit aimed at overturning the state's newest acid rain law.

As you may have read in your local newspaper, the pair revealed that companies from Minnesota and Atlanta were among the out-of-staters behind an attempt to mount an anonymous legal challenge against the new law. The law is designed to prevent millions of tons of sulfur dioxide from out-of-state sources from falling on the Adirondacks.

Spitzer and reporter Paul Ertelt of Albany found that NRG Energy Corp., of St. Paul, and The Southern Company (through a subsidiary, Mirant) were two of several companies trying to repeal the legislation.

CAMG Files Suit

A cabal calling itself the Clean Air Markets Group (CAMG) filed a lawsuit last November against the State of New York and several state officials. The suit is an attempt to strike down the acid rain law. However, the group was so fearful of public scorn from the lawsuit, its attorneys refused to identify the plaintiffs by name.

In an attempt to discover CAMG's real identity, the Council offered a reward, or bounty, to anyone who could name them for us. The Council vowed to retire one federal sulfur dioxide pollution credit in the name of the successful sleuth. (Each credit is worth one ton of sulfur dioxide. The early May price for a credit was nearly \$200.)

New Law Is Unique

The law CAMG objects to is the first of its kind in the nation. It was designed to prevent New York utility companies from squandering the environmental benefits of

New York's strict clean air laws by selling pollution credits to Midwest polluters. New York's power plants are far cleaner than federal law requires. Consequently, they receive tens of thousands of unneeded pollution credits from the federal government each year. They are free to sell any credits they don't use.

Spitzer forced CAMG to reveal at least part of its membership by asking the U.S. District Court judge to dismiss the case because CAMG could never prove its members had been harmed if it refused to reveal their names.

Adirondack Reporter Also Wins Bounty

Reporter Ertelt was actually the first to reveal that The Southern Company was a litigant last November. Ertelt, whose work appears in such publications as the *Watertown Daily Times*, *Malone Telegram* and

Catskill Daily Mail, said he found the name of CAMG spokesman on The Southern's website. However, the Council was unable to confirm The Southern Co.'s involvement.

NYS Senate Environmental Conservation Chairman Carl Marcellino, R-Syosset, commended the Council and Attorney General Spitzer for uncloaking the "masked marauders." Marcellino and his Assembly counterpart Richard Brodsky, D-Scarsdale, sponsored the legislation.

NRG owns the state's two dirtiest coal-fired power plants in Dunkirk and Tonawanda, both near Buffalo. Both plants are the largest in-state contributors of acid rain to the Adirondacks. Together, they emit half of all the sulfur dioxide released by all New York power plants. The Southern Company's Mirant owns plants in the lower Hudson Valley.

Spitzer Testifies in DC

In April, Attorney General Spitzer traveled to Washington, D.C. for a hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, where he urged its members to reject a power company-led movement to repeal the law Spitzer has used to sue dirty power companies for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act.

The law requires any company that substantially rebuilds an old power plant, or increases its power output, to meet the same pollution standards that new plants must meet. Fines for violating the law range from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per day. Some of Spitzer's suits allege violations more than a decade old.

It was this threat of economic sanctions that brought some of the power companies to settlement talks. So far, Virginia Electric Power Co. and Cinergy, of Ohio, have agreed in principle to settlements that would require deep cuts in their sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions. The continued threat of legal action is also putting pressure on utility companies to negotiate new clean air standards in Congress.



Adirondack Nature Conservancy Executive Director Mike Carr explains his group's purchase of 26,500 acres from International Paper to the media. Photo by John Sheehan.

Bob Marshall Great Wilderness a Step Closer After IP/TNC Deal

The Council's proposal to create a 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness in the west-central Adirondacks took another step forward recently, when the Nature Conservancy announced its plan to purchase 26,500 acres of land from International Paper Co.

Governor George E. Pataki has already said he wants to purchase some or all of the lands from the Conservancy for addition to the Forest Preserve. The Conservancy is still deciding which lands it will sell to the state and which it will protect with conservation easements.

The Conservancy's purchase means that the total protected area of the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness is roughly 73 percent, or about 297,000 acres. That includes all lands protected by conservation easements.

More than 60 percent of the proposed area, is already public Forest Preserve,

protected as "forever wild" by the NYS Constitution.

The Council first proposed the creation of the wilderness in 1990.

The Conservancy's purchase from IP will include an 1,100-acre parcel at Bog Lake and Clear Pond on the Hamilton County/St. Lawrence County line, just north of Lake Lila. In addition, the Conservancy bought the 15,500-acre Shingle Shanty parcel, including Shingle Shanty Brook and Shingle Shanty Pond, just south of Lake Lila.

The Conservancy also purchased roughly 9,900 acres around Round Lake and Loon Pond, in the Town of Long Lake, near Little Tupper Lake. These lands, which contain uncommon plant communities, were first identified by the Adirondack Council in 1988 (2020 VISION: Volume I) as one of fewer than 35 sites that were biologically rich enough to merit special protection.

Land Sought in State & Federal Budgets

Now that the open space funding from the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996 is gone, the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) must be beefed-up to accomplish all of the state's open space protection projects on its own.

Governor George E. Pataki is proposing spending \$55 million on open space, with a record total of \$150 million in the EPF. The Senate has voted to add \$20

million to the EPF. The Assembly proposes open space spending of \$60.5 million. Unfortunately, the Governor also wants to pay state employees salaries from the EPF for the first time—something the Council opposes.

On the Federal side, the Council seeks increases for the Forest Legacy Program (from \$60 million to \$100 million/yr.) and for full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (\$450 million).

Johnsburg NY's First Town to Ban Jet Skis

The Town of Johnsburg, Warren County, recently became the first town in New York State to make use of a new law allowing restrictions on the use of personal watercraft -- also known by the brand name Jet Ski.

In April, the town board exercised its newfound right to ban the use of jet skis within 1,500 feet of the shoreline on all three major waterways in the town. They include Garnet Lake, Thirteenth Lake and a stretch of the Hudson River. Since two of the three are less than 3,000 feet wide, jet skis have been disallowed altogether.

On Garnet Lake, two-thirds of the shore is within the Town of Thurman, which would have to pass a similar law to effect a lakewide ban.

The town board passed the new local law unanimously, with no objections from those in attendance. Town Supervisor William Thomas said the community had been calling for the ban for some time, but such bans were illegal until the law took effect last October.

Jet skis can be heard at greater distances than most watercraft, and employ very inefficient engines that dump 20 percent or more of the gas/oil mixture they consume into the water unburned. Jet skis can also operate much closer to shore than boats with conventional propellers, where they come into conflict with swimmers, docks and shoreline wildlife.

The Adirondack Council and its member organizations (the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Citizens Campaign for the Environment and Audubon New York), as well as the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, Adirondack Mountain Club, Sierra Club and Environmental Advocates all urged the NYS Legislature to pass the jet ski law last summer. Senator Carl Marcellino, R-Syosset, and Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli, D-Great Neck, sponsored the law.

Governor Pataki invited Adirondack Council Executive Director Tim Burke to speak at the ceremony when the Governor signed the legislation on Long Island last September.



Board member Toby Thacher presents the Council's first "Angel of the Adirondacks" award to Sally Engelhard Pingree and the Charles Engelhard Foundation at the home of Ed Fowler, Board member, and his wife Carolyn Fowler in Washington, DC.



Council Executive Director Tim Burke speaks at a reception and presentation by author Bill McKibben at the Preyer family's home in Cambridge, MA on April 25.



Clockwise from front, Margot and John Ernst, Board members Etienne Boillot and Bob Hall, and Laurence Fong following Mike DiNunzio's slide show at New York City's Cosmopolitan Club on March 22.

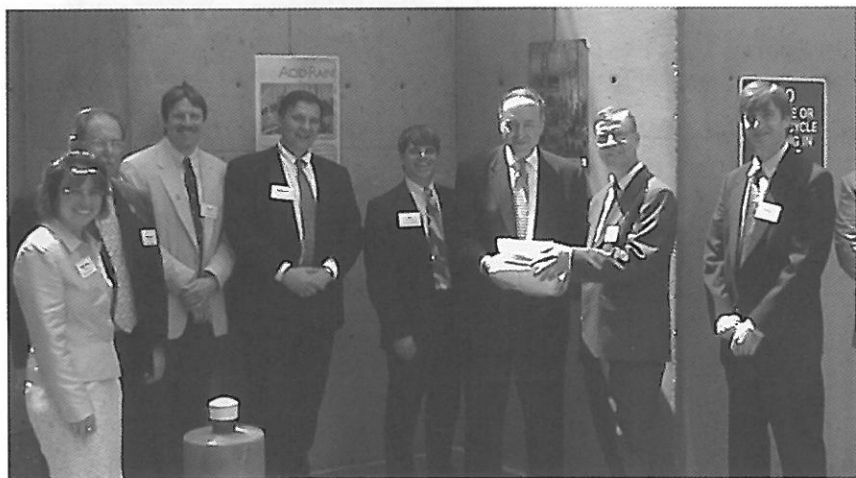
Gathering With Our Friends & Supporters

R to L, Gov. George Pataki shakes hands with Council Chairman David Skovron, John Ernst, far left, and board member Toby Thacher at a January gathering at the Ernsts' home.



Thumbs Up All Around in Keene

The Adirondack Council's 2000 State of the Park Report incorrectly identified the winner of a grant to remove the unsightly Keene town highway garage as the Adirondack Park Agency. Instead, it was Town Supervisor Tom Both and the Keene Town Board. The garage is on land that will become a town park. Nearby, roughly 140 acres of town land along the East Branch of the Ausable River will become part of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. In return, the town will receive a 12-acre parcel of Forest Preserve needed for cemetery expansion. The swap was approved by the state's voters in November 1995.



U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer receives petitions from NYers in favor of new acid rain legislation, at the Washington, DC conference in May.

Save the Date for the Annual Meeting

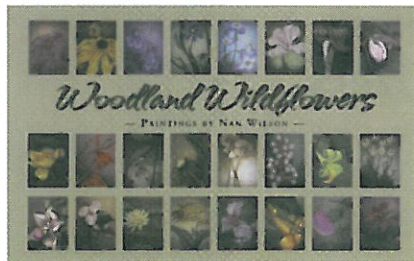
Saturday, July 14, 2001

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 1 P.M.
COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND AWARDS DINNER 5 P.M.**

Adirondack Council Senior Counselor Gary Randorf is hosting this year's annual meeting and awards dinner at his spectacular Champlain Valley farm in Whallonsburg, between the hamlets of Essex and Westport, NY.

For more information, please contact Elaine at the Council's Elizabethtown office by mail, or by phone at 518-873-2240, or via email at adkcouncil@aol.com.

Special Adirondack Council June Gathering in Saratoga



Join the Council for a Cocktail Reception, Gallery Talk and Tour
Thursday, June 7, 2001
Open Space Gallery
110 Spring Street
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
RSVP: 518-587-5554

6 to 8 p.m.

Featuring Adirondack artist Nan Wilson and her current show "Woodland Wildflowers." Hosted by Barbara Glaser and the Council Board of Directors.



The Adirondack Council
PO Box D-2, Two Church Street
Elizabethtown, NY 12932
518-873-2240

Activists Needed

Now more than ever, the Adirondack Council needs your help. We need people who are willing to get involved. We need people like you, who want to write letters or make phone calls to policy makers in the Park, in Albany and in Washington. We want people willing to attend public hearings and speak out on behalf of Park protection. How can you get involved? Join the Adirondack Council's Activist Network today. When you become an activist you'll receive Action Alerts in the mail, via email, or if you prefer, via phone calls on hot topics informing you on how you can help.

Just call us, send us a note or e-mail us today to become an activist. It's as easy as that.

Already an activist? The Adirondack Council is trying to gather activists' and members' email addresses in order to contact you more quickly and efficiently. Please email us today (adkcouncil@aol.com) so we can add your email address to our database. Thank you!

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