Celebrating the Centennial of the Adirondack Park, 1892-1992

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Dear Members and Friends,

As you read this newsletter, you will share our disappointment that strong measures for the future of the Park, the Environmental Trust Fund and the Adirondacks bill, died in the waning days of the legislative session. Despite support from Governor Cuomo, Speaker Weprin, the Assembly and many individual Senators, the Senate leadership chose to end negotiations on both measures as the legislature was about to shut down.

But there is a great deal more to the story than the Senate’s failure to act.

The Centennial of the Adirondack Park has seen an enormous effort by the Adirondack Council to raise awareness of the Park and mobilize support throughout New York State. Council members, activists, supporters, board and staff have worked together with other groups to demonstrate the commitment of New York citizens to the protection of our Adirondacks.

In January, at thirteen hearings around the state on the DEC Open Space Protection Plan, citizens from Long Island to Buffalo spoke out about the need to protect critical lands in the Adirondack Park. Since then, hundreds of people have come to see Gary Randorf’s photographs of the Park, as his Centennial photo show tours the State.

Dedicated Council activists have phoned and written their concerns to state officials. In fact, certain Senate staffers said that their state Senators had never heard so much opposition to a bill from constituents as they did on the bill to abolish the APA. Senate leadership staff acknowledged receiving hundreds of calls in support of Adirondack legislation.

Every major daily newspaper in the state endorsed the Trust Fund and the Adirondacks bill.

The Adirondack Council continues to promote Park protection on many fronts, with significant gains in recent months.

Niagara Mohawk agreed to the Council’s request to submit a master plan to the APA for its Hudson River lands in Hadley and Luzerne. It also completed a bargain sale of some of these lands for addition to the Forest Preserve.

The original proposal for a seven lot subdivision of the 51,000 acre Whitney estate was reduced to a three lot proposal after the Council and other groups intervened. Of the two lots sold, one will be under option to the Nature Conservancy for eventual sale to the state.

The Adirondack Park Agency asserted jurisdiction over significant portions of the Lassiter lands, despite the Georgia speculator’s attempt to exploit loopholes in the APA Act.

As the Centennial of the Forever Wild clause of the Constitution approaches, the Council continues to insist that canal lands within the Park be managed in conformance with this constitutional safeguard.

Most recently, the Department of Environmental Conservation, after the Council’s announcement of 1992 as the “Year of the Moose,” agreed to speed up its completion of the Environmental Impact Statement on reintroducing the moose to the Adirondacks.

As we celebrate the Centennial of the Park and our progress in protecting it, we should keep in mind that the governmental process in Albany won’t change overnight.

With your help, the Council will continue to demonstrate the overwhelming support for Park preservation that exists throughout the state. This effort must continue through November and beyond in order to realize the lasting protections that the Park deserves.

Jim Burke

Invest in the Future of the Park

The legacy of the wild Adirondacks we leave to our children and grandchildren depends upon what we do now. We need to plan for the Park’s future, for if we do not, its natural, wild character will be lost. We also need to nurture and instruct the next generation of advocates, who will continue the important work of preserving the Adirondacks.

You can help. Bequests to the Adirondack Council—the largest environmental group in New York State working as its sole mission to preserve the Adirondacks—help to permanently guarantee a future that is forever wild for this special place. Such gifts also help us establish financial stability, so that the Council remains able to respond quickly and powerfully when the Park is threatened, while developing long-term and innovative strategies to preserve the Adirondacks.

Gifts to the Adirondack Council through your will are not subject to federal estate taxes and the inheritance taxes of most states. Such gifts, or bequests, can take different forms. To receive information on how to make a planned gift or bequest to the Council, please write Anne Trachtenberg, the Adirondack Council, P.O. Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932-0640, or call: (518) 873-2240.

On the Cover: Lower Ausable Lake. Photo by Gary Randorf

The Adirondack Council
Legislative Roundup

Barging Ahead

The Adirondack Council has secured an agreement from the Legislature that is expected to end the Department of Transportation's abuse of certain Forest Preserve lands, protect a series of Adirondack lakeshores from development and open them to recreation for all New Yorkers.

On May 20, the Adirondack Council revealed shocking testimony to a joint state legislative hearing panel concerning decades of abuse of Adirondack Forest Preserve by DOT.

The Council presented a set of photographs showing that DOT had been allowing people to build homes and businesses on lands it manages inside the Adirondack Park — lands which were declared to be part of the Constitutionally protected Adirondack Forest Preserve in 1908.

The lands are part of the state's enormous Barge Canal System, stretching from Lake Champlain to Buffalo. The land in question surrounds several reservoirs in the southwest corner of the Park that were created in the early 1800s to ensure a constant water supply for the canals. The lakes remain in DOT's hands -- for now.

Upon the approval of the 1991 Constitutional Amendment allowing the development and leasing of lands along the canal system, the Council has secured agreements from the sponsors of the amendment and from the DOT and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to prohibit any leasing of Forever Wild Adirondack lands under the new plan and to ban development of them.

However, when the DOT refused the Council's request to turn these lands over to the DEC for management as Forest Preserve, the Council decided to find out why. The Council discovered DOT had been issuing permits to allow people to build and occupy homes and businesses on canal lands for as little as $17 per year.

The Council then discovered that the Attorney General had brought suit against at least three occupants of the Barge Canal lands to remove them and the structures since 1979. At the same time, DOT continued to issue permits, according to information DOT provided the Council.

Under the current plan, a survey will be done on all canal lands. No leasing will be allowed and any lands not needed for maintenance of the canal may be turned over to the DEC. All unlawful permits will be terminated.

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Assembly Passes Environmental Bills

Responding to concerns raised by the Adirondack Council and other environmental groups, the New York State Assembly passed two bills this session to advance protection of the Adirondack Park's natural character in the Park's Centennial Year.

The Assembly passed comprehensive legislation that would vastly improve land-use protections for undeveloped backcountry and lakeshores in the Adirondack Park.

The Assembly also approved a bill to create a $200 million Environmental Trust Fund which would have provided money for land conservation, recycling and landfill closures statewide.

Both bills passed with the approval of more than 100 of the Assembly's 150 members, including a significant number of minority party members.

While the Senate failed to act on either measure, it was the first significant Adirondack Park legislation taken up in 20 years. The land-use bill was sponsored by Assembly members Maurice Hinchey, Alexander "Pete" Grannis, Stephen Englebright and Assembly Speaker Saul Weprin.

The measure was a new bill that was derived from bills introduced previously by sponsors Hinchey and Grannis, but which also contained several new concepts and adaptations of proposals by Governor Mario Cuomo.

Among the significant innovations were:

* A homestead provision that would have ensured the right of every permanent resident-landowner to build a home and divide that land for family members.
* A farm and forest fund, paid for by fees primarily on seasonal residents and tourists that would go directly to towns in the Park to reduce property taxes.
* State assistance for local planning including a new expanded role for the Local Government Review Board.
* Improvement of septic systems regulations parkwide.

The Environmental Trust Fund legislation was also sponsored by Hinchey and in the Senate by Environmental Conservation Committee Chair Senator Owen Johnson. Heavy opposition by the soda and beer industry helped stall the measure in the Senate, and the Senate Republican majority conference failed to come to any satisfactory resolution of the trust fund in the waning hours of the legislative session.

The Senate's attempts to create an environmental fund without a penny for open space protection in the Adirondacks and Catskills was rejected by the Assembly.

The Council will continue to press for these legislative objectives throughout the coming year, including a special legislative session expected this summer, to ensure the Park receives the protection it deserves.
Forest Legacy Program Gains Funding

After a year of policy debates and budget battles, the federal Forest Legacy Program is moving forward in the Northern Forest Area. Thanks to the lobbying work of environmental advocates, including the Adirondack Council, New York will receive about $800,000 this year in federal matching funds to implement a series of Legacy pilot projects. Using these funds, conservation easements will be purchased from willing sellers who own forest resources of significant value to all New Yorkers. Since New York is without land protection funds for the first time in 30 years, Legacy is an especially important tool in our conservation arsenal.

The Adirondack Council sits on New York’s Forest Legacy subcommittee, which advises the state and the USDA Forest Service on Legacy projects. We are now working with New York’s Congressional delegates to ensure the continuation of this important program and to provide the funding it requires. Based upon an assessment of current needs, we are asking Congress to provide $25 million for Legacy projects in the Northern Forest states during 1993.

Council on Forest Lands Advisory Committee

The Adirondack Council has gained a seat on the 27-member New York Citizen Advisory Committee to the Northern Forest Lands Council (NFLC). The committee provides a formal structure for citizen participation and public input into the NFLC’s work.

The NFLC was created last year to protect the integrity of the region’s natural resources and cultural heritage by protecting working forest land from subdivision, as well as preserving forest products jobs.

In April, the NFLC submitted its work plan and a $1.4 million budget request to Congress. To implement its program in fiscal year ’93, the NFLC proposed activity in the following areas:

1. Continue to operate the Northern Forest Lands Council.
2. Continue to compile and analyze required natural and economic resource information throughout the Northern Forests.
3. Help support resource planning technical assistance in each of the four Northern Forest states (NY, VT, NH, and ME).
4. Continue policy research and develop recommendations in each of the following major areas:
   a. Property Taxes
   b. State/Federal Taxes
   c. Land Conversion
   d. Local Forest Based Economy
   e. Biological Resources
   f. Recreation/Tourism
   g. Public Conservation Strategies & Acquisition

Subcommittees have been assigned the task of dealing with the first five categories. An Adirondack Council staffer serves as an advisor to the Land Conversion Subcommittee. This group is working to determine the level of land conversion which has occurred in the Northern Forest since 1980 and the landowner motivation behind these conversions. They are also reviewing options for contingency plans to deal with large scale conversions such as the 100,000 acres of Adirondack land now offered for sale by Henry Lassiter, the bankrupt speculator from Georgia.

The Adirondack Council
Council's Activist Training Seminars a Success

Robert Kelly (center) receives 1992 Citizen Activist Award from staffers Cindy Monty and Daniel Plumley

What the Council began in Albany last fall, has now come full circle through the completion of our statewide activist training seminars. Initiated as part of our Statewide Activist Network Program which began in 1990, the seminars were held in Albany, Long Island and Rochester, culminating in an Adirondack Park Centennial Lobby Day on May 20 -- the anniversary of the Park's creation.

The seminars were jointly sponsored by the Adirondack Council, Adirondack Mountain Club, National Audubon Society, Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks and the Sierra Club. They were designed to educate active members on the process of advocating Park protection through letter-writing, media work and speaking directly with elected members of the State Assembly and Senate.

Activists involved in the training sessions were able to test their skills on May 20, 1992 when they descended on the State Capitol to urge lawmakers to pass protective Adirondack Park legislation and create an environmental trust fund. Even more important, activists worked together with members of several different organizations to build a stronger coalition of support for protecting the Adirondack Park.

Though the Senate failed to take action this session, the importance of well-trained advocates for Park protection was demonstrated by the Legislature's heightened awareness of the Park's needs. The Council intends to continue the training seminar series throughout the coming year.

Thank You to All Council Activists!

You were there when the Department of Environmental Conservation held hearings statewide on the State's Open Space Protection Plan. Council activists throughout the state proved that protecting critical lands in the Adirondack Park is a top priority.

You were there when we called upon you to urge legislators to defeat a bill that would abolish the Adirondack Park Agency. This legislation, despite sponsorship by the Senate's second most powerful legislator, was beaten back by fellow Republican senators because of your calls and letters.

You were there when the Council called upon you to write and telephone State policy makers urging them to enact strong legislation to protect the Adirondack Park. That legislation overwhelmingly passed the NY State Assembly.

You were there when the Council called upon you to pressure the NY State Senate to act on Adirondack legislation and the environmental trust fund. The Senate Majority leader received over 150 telephone calls per week prior to the end of the session urging him to act on Adirondack legislation. Council activists descended on Albany to remind their representatives of the Park's 100th Anniversary and the need to protect it.

Your Advocacy Can Protect The Park

Today, more than ever, the Adirondack Council needs members who are interested and eager to share their commitment to a truly protected Adirondack Park by joining our activist program. Signing up as a participant in the Statewide Activist Network Program links you with the issues facing the Park -- and other members, like yourself, who wish to carry their membership one step farther -- by actually involving you in the fight for Park protection.

Why is this important? Each new activist adds to our influence in the Adirondack Park, the state legislature and in Congress. With the additional clout which your voice can provide us as a member activist, our effort to gain true protection for the Adirondack Park is enhanced and strengthened.

What does this take? Part personal commitment and part personal time. You decide how much -- and when. We, as coordinators for the Statewide Activist Network provide information and direction to you on how best you can help the Park. Our activists take part by writing letters, calling for action from policy makers, and speaking out for the Park at public hearings. It's that simple.

How do I learn more? Just call the Council's Dan Plumley or Cindy Monty at (518) 873-2240 and we will send you more information on the Statewide Activist Network Program. Or, if you prefer, fill out the card enclosed in this newsletter and drop it in the mail.
Council Declares 1992

This year marks a milestone for Adirondack Park wildlife restoration efforts with the Park's largest native species coming one giant step closer to once again making its home within the Blue Line.

The path leading to reintroduction of the moose has been long and arduous.

When the Algonquin and Iroquois roamed the Adirondacks, before white settlers ventured into the vast region between the Hudson and St. Lawrence rivers, moose were abundant in the low-lying marshes and mossy climax forests of the northern and western portions of the Park.

But by the mid-1800s, clearcutting and settlement of the area had destroyed enormous sections of the moose's habitat. Overhunting and disease further diminished the population until all had fled or died by 1861.

Adirondack Wildlife Program

Over the past several years, a handful of moose have reintroduced themselves in the Park, migrating from Canada and the wilds of New England. For the past seven years, the Adirondack Wildlife Program (AWP) has been studying ways to return the moose to the Adirondack Park in a healthy, sustainable population. The Adirondack Council was happy to see the State Legislature finally approve funding for this important program on April 2.

During early-session budget negotiations, the Adirondack Wildlife Program’s funding was cut, but by late-March, efforts by the Council’s staff gained its return as well as authorization of some programs not funded last year. Last year's lack of funding came following a mid-summer freeze on spending imposed after the Council had successfully lobbied to gain money for the AWP. The Council expects this to be an annual battle -- but one well worth fighting.

Brain Worm

Operated by the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry (Syracuse), the Adirondack Wildlife Program has learned that the “brain worm disease” carried by whitetail deer is not the sure killer of moose it was once thought to be.

According to the program’s directors, moose had fallen prey to the disease before, but only after a number of other factors had worked in concert to weaken their defenses. In other New England states and in Canada, where moose and deer are found together, the disease has not caused significant problems.

Hearings

In July and August, the State Department of Environmental Conservation slated public hearings to gather input from residents of the Park and other regions to discuss potential conflicts and gauge public opinion on the moose’s return.

A Safe Haven

The Adirondack Council is pleased to note that the state has announced plans to investigate the creation of a 600,000-acre protected area, called the Oswegatchie Great Forest, in the west-central section of the Adirondack Park. A committee similar to the ones used by the DEC this fall to gather information for the Open Space Conservation Plan will suggest ways in which this area can be protected.

The Adirondack Council
‘Year of the Moose’

As long-term members will note, the Great Forest overlays the Council’s proposed 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness — a place where the moose, and possibly the cougar and wolf would have enough habitat, away from roads and homes, to once again survive in the Adirondack Park.

The Council is urging the DEC to work with the Adirondack Wildlife Program to reintroduce the moose and to use the already-protected sections of the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness as one starting point for the program. This would not only minimize the possibility of collisions with automobiles, but also would allow researchers to study moose in their new homes via an existing research field station near Cranberry Lake.

Adirondack Wildlife Program staff members have noted that the Canadian government can be of help in the reintroduction process, since AWP has already spent time studying the herd in Algonquin Park, Ontario, and Canada is interested in thinning the herd. Hunting is prohibited in Algonquin Park and one alternative to thin the herd would be to send moose to the Adirondacks.

DEC officials have reported that discussions with Canadian officials have yet to yield an agreement, but that talks will continue. If all goes well, the first radio-collared moose could be transported from Canada to the Adirondacks later this year.

Costs

While the DEC favors creating an entirely separate funding source for the moose reintroduction program, the Council believes funding for the moose restoration effort could come from the "Return a Gift to Wildlife" check-off on New York's income tax form.

To the Council, the impending return of the moose is yet another indication that protecting the natural resources of the Adirondack Park produces tangible and intangible benefits for all of us. By careful stewardship, we can regain the health and wilderness the region possessed more than a century ago.

The DEC is accepting comments on its moose reintroduction impact statement through Tuesday, September 1. Please write to the address below to express your support for returning this magnificent native species to the Adirondacks:

NYS DEC
Wildlife Resources Center
Delmar, NY 12054

Thank You!

Moose Facts

Size: Largest land animal in New York; mature bulls weigh more than 1,000 pounds and stand six feet or more at the shoulder; mature cows weigh about 1,000 pounds.

Color: Varies with age and season, with calves appearing brown or reddish and adults running the gamut from tan to black; cows have a small white patch around the tail.

Antlers: Bulls grow a new set each year. In younger bulls, antlers resemble a whitetail deer's but grow more palamate until the age of 8 to 13.

Climate/Adaptation: The moose is well suited to Adirondack climate, with a two-layered coat of an outer layer of coarse, hollow hair and an inner layer of wooly fur. Long legs allow freedom of movement in snow as deep three feet. Moose can run at nearly 35 miles per hour to escape predators and protect young.

Diet: Moose seek out the nutritious aquatic plants of wetlands, ponds and bogs common to areas such as the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. They prefer willow, aspen, birch, spruce, fir, maple, dogwood and other species found in the Park. Adult moose can consume up to 50 to 60 pounds of vegetation per day.
What's Happening . . .

Flight Watch

A decision is expected soon on a massive proposal to change the use and configuration of low-level military flight routes and operating areas in the Northeast, including the Adirondack Park. According to a study prepared by the Air National Guard, many areas within the Park could experience a 300% increase in low-level jet traffic if the plan is implemented.

For more than a year, the Adirondack Council has worked with Governor Cuomo’s Ad Hoc Committee on low-level flights to eliminate or minimize the serious adverse effects of these proposals. Other organizations and concerned citizens in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont have also voiced strong opposition to several aspects of the military’s plans that would affect their regions.

Air National Guard Units in Massachusetts and Connecticut are converting from A-10 aircraft to faster, louder F-16s. These conversions will in turn require larger blocks of low-level airspace in which to train. Proposed expansions of training areas include airspace in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. But it is unlikely that all these areas will be formed.

The Council fears that New York State will again be asked to assume the lion’s share of the military training burden. So, it is working closely with the New York Air National Guard to make the changes necessary to protect the Park’s sensitive wildlife, its millions of visitors, and the residents of the region who live beneath these flight paths.

At one point, the Air Force wanted to create two massive new training areas in the Park. Those plans have now been modified, but no less than nine wilderness areas would still be affected. A troubling aspect of current plans involves modification of an existing training area that overlies virtually the entire 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. If implemented, high-flying jets would be able to drop down to within 2,000 feet of the surface. Even at this height, noisy F-16s, F-15s and other military aircraft will shatter the tranquility the “Bob” was designed to provide.

The Council expects that the Air Force will continue to work with the Governor’s Committee in an effort to minimize any problems associated with airspace modifications in New York. The Council will strive to play a key role in this process.

Angry protests and signs like this one are used by small groups opposed to Park protection.
Council Gains Majority Opinion Against Georgia Land Speculator

In a struggle that began in 1988, the Adirondack Council gained a significant victory in July when the Adirondack Park Agency’s Legal Affairs Committee ruled that Georgia land speculator Henry Lassiter must submit plans and gain APA approval before subdividing lands in the Towns of Black Brook and Ausable.

This most recent Lassiter battle involved subdivision and development proposals on nearly 10,000 acres of the former Diamond International Corporation lands, of which Lassiter purchased 96,000 acres in 1988. Although the State of New York succeeded in protecting a portion of the land through fee-title and easement acquisitions, Lassiter continued to purchase Adirondack forest lands, acquiring upwards of 100,000 acres.

In February, the Council learned of Lassiter’s pending Chapter 11 bankruptcy and his desire to subdivide and sell all 100,000 acres of his forest land in the North Country -- including critical forest resource lands, undeveloped shoreline tracts and vital habitat for rare and threatened species.

Included in the lands proposed for subdivision was the rare pitch pine/heathen barren near Clintonville, home of two extremely rare species of winter moth.

The Adirondack Council notified the Adirondack Park Agency of its opposition to Lassiter’s attempts to skirt APA review of his proposed subdivisions by exploiting loopholes in the current APA law. The Agency agreed with the Council’s position and claimed review jurisdiction over most of the 10,000 acre tract being proposed for piecemeal subdivision. Lassiter appealed but the appeal was rejected.

The Council will now work to ensure that the Agency requires Lassiter to submit a comprehensive master plan for his holdings in the Park.

And Then There Were Three...

Last summer, the Council worked extensively with the Lake Placid-based grassroots group, Citizens for a Better Tomorrow, to help put an end to toxic aerial pesticide spraying to kill black flies in the Adirondack Park.

Now, only three towns in the Park (Dannemora, Chesterfield, and Ausable Forks) have elected to continue aerial pesticide spraying programs. The towns of Black Brook, Caroga Lake, Stratford and Bloomingdale have all elected this year to end the dangerous practice of spraying the petroleum-based pesticides on their lands and waters.

Many of these towns are exploring the alternative of using Bti, a biological treatment applied directly to streams that affects only black fly larvae. Other towns are examining the effects of allowing natural predators to control insect populations.

The Council will continue to work with concerned citizens and groups to help end the health-threatening practice of aerial pesticide spraying.

The Adirondack Council

Saving Wilderness in the High Peaks

“A wilderness area, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man - where man is but a visitor who does not remain.”

-- State Land Use Master Plan

What do you do when the wilderness area you are visiting becomes so popular that the civilization you are trying to escape seems to be following you in?

That’s the question the Adirondack Council is trying to help New York State answer in the Adirondack Park’s famous High Peaks Wilderness Area.

By participating in a citizen advisory committee on management of the High Peaks Wilderness Area, the Council and other organizations are moving the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) one step closer to managing this most-used resource to enhance true wilderness values. The citizens committee just completed its final report to the DEC. Now it’s up to the DEC to move forward towards true wilderness management in the High Peaks.

Much of the committee’s work dealt with managing the impact of more than 100,000 visitors to the High Peaks Wilderness Area each year. Without guidance, education, management and regulation, many of the unique aspects of a wilderness adventure in this world-renowned mountain territory will be diminished. And more importantly, valuable ecological resources, such as the rare tundra alpine-vegetated summits, can be lost or destroyed through ignorance and overuse.

The Council participated on both the User Management Subcommittee and Land Acquisition Subcommittees, and made recommendations for adoption of land protection goals both within and surrounding the High Peaks Wilderness Area (consistent with the Council’s 2020 VISION Research Series). The Council also suggested techniques to manage the flow of visitors to the High Peaks which will better protect the area’s unique ecology and the user’s wilderness experience.

Council members interested in protecting the beauty, solitude and ecological integrity of the High Peaks Wilderness Area are invited to notify Dan Plumley of the Council’s staff of their interest in participating in the DEC’s forthcoming Unit Management Plan hearing process.

With the continued stewardship of user groups, the state and the Adirondack Council, the ecology of the High Peaks and its unique, wilderness attributes, can be preserved for future generations.
Adirondack Council Honors Maurice Hinchey As Conservationist Of The Year

The Council presented its “Conservationist of the Year” award to New York State Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey (D-Saugerties) during its Annual Awards Dinner held in July at the Mirror Lake Inn, Lake Placid. Other award winners are listed below.

Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey (D-Saugerties) worked his way up through the political ranks. After serving in the Navy’s Seventh Fleet on board the Destroyer U.S.S. Marshall in the western Pacific, Hinchey returned to the Hudson Valley and worked in a cement plant for two years.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree in English and Political Science from SUNY New Paltz in 1968, supporting his education by working as a full-time toll collector for the New York State Thruway Authority. He received his Master’s degree in 1970.

Hinchey was elected to the Assembly in 1974. Under his leadership as Chair of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee (since 1979), the state has enacted significant environmental protection legislation, including measures which: control solid, toxic, and nuclear waste disposal; protect groundwater and wetlands; preserve open space; and promote balanced development and farm preservation. He has been a staunch supporter of improved protection for the Adirondacks and this year, his Park bill passed the Assembly by a wide margin, gaining the support of many Assembly minority party members.

Hinchey and his wife, Ilene, have two sons -- Maurice Scott and Josef -- and a daughter, Michelle Rebecca.

Park Heritage Award

Barbara McMartin is a communications consultant and author of numerous guidebooks (“Discover the Adirondacks” series) and articles about the Adirondacks. She has served as editor of Adirondac magazine and as a consultant to the Adirondack Council to write and produce Volume 3 of 2020 VISION, Fulfiling the Recreational Potential of the Adirondack Wild Forests. Most recently, she served as Chair of the Committee for the 1992 Adirondack Park Centennial and as a member of the Legislative Committee for the Centennial.

Corporate Conservation Award

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation worked with local governments, state agencies, and public interest groups, among others, to develop a comprehensive plan for its 2,400 acres of land in the Adirondack Park along the Hudson River between Hadley and Warrensburg. As part of the plan, NiMo will convey to a non-profit conservation organization an almost continuous 16-mile section of the Hudson River shoreline which will provide a diversity of recreational opportunities while protecting the scenic and natural character of the river.

Land Stewardship Award

Sherwood Boehlert (R-Utica) represents the 25th U.S. Congressional District in the House of Representatives. His participation in efforts to gain passage of the Forest Legacy bill proved pivotal to the legislation’s eventual approval by the House. He was also instrumental in ensuring New York State’s eligibility for federal funds that the Forest Legacy Act will provide for farm and forest land protection. His work in conjunction with the Council to help end acid precipitation led to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency extending an invitation to the Council to participate on its Acid Rain Advisory Committee.

Citizen Activist Award

Robert Kelly has been a tireless advocate for Adirondack Park protection as one of the Council’s first core activists. Bob, who now lives in Cazenovia with his wife Dorothy, was active in working for passage of the 1990 Environmental Quality Bond Act, has written letters to the editor of Syracuse-area newspapers on a variety of Adirondack issues, has distributed Council publications throughout central New York, has participated in activist training seminars, and has corresponded, telephoned, and met with State Senate and Assembly representatives on numerous occasions. Recently, he has been lobbying the Senate to enact Park protection legislation during the Centennial Year.

Communicator Award

Robert Hall served as a member of Governor Rockefeller’s Temporary Commission to Study the Future of the Adirondacks from 1969 to 1971. Throughout his career, he edited and published several newspapers and magazines, including the Warrensburg-Lake George News and The Conservationist. He was also a founder of Adirondack Life. Since 1976, he has lived with his family in Willsboro, writing editorials and articles for the Valley News of Elizabethtown and other publications. Two volumes of his essays on the Adirondacks have been published. A third, entitled Pages from an Adirondack History, commemorating the Centennial of the Park, was released in June.

The Adirondack Council
Environmental Federation of New York Launches Workplace Giving Campaign

The Adirondack Council is one of the founding members of the Environmental Federation of New York (EFNY), a coalition of 16 established groups working to conserve, restore, and manage New York State’s environment. Its national, state and regional member groups are cooperating to raise funds in public and private workplaces to educate groups and individuals about what they can do to help the environment. Workplace giving campaigns (payroll deductions) are an easy way for employees of public and private corporations to make a difference in protecting New York State’s environment. By spreading payroll deductions throughout the year, individuals can make a substantial contribution to New York’s environment. An employee’s donation to EFNY can be designated to the organization of his/her choice, like the Adirondack Council, or donations can be shared by all member groups.


If you would like more information about having EFNY participate in your employer’s workplace giving campaign, please contact Donna Beal at the Adirondack Council’s Elizabethtown office (518) 873-2240.

Members’ Gifts Matched By Employers

Employees of many organizations can now double or, in some cases, even triple the clout of their gifts toward preserving the wild, open spaces and waters of the Adirondack Park. Many organizations will match an employee’s gift to a qualifying charitable organization, some giving up to two dollars for every dollar donated by the employee. The employee is normally required to fill out and submit a brief application form (available at the employer’s business office) to obtain a matching gift, but the reward is well worth the time.

Below is a list of organizations that offer matching gifts to employee contributions to the Council. (One new and welcome addition to the list is General Electric.) We hope you will consider arranging for a matching gift the next time you make a contribution to the Council. It will help tremendously in our joint effort to ensure that the Adirondack Park 100 years from now remains as wild and beautiful as it is today. (If your organization is not listed below, please inquire about matching gifts to the Council with your employer’s business office.)

American Express Company
Arco
A.T.C.
Avon Products, Inc.
Becton Dickinson
Chase
Chemical Bank
Cigna Corp.
Citibank
Citicorp
Continental Bank
Corning
Cranston Fdn.
Digital Equipment Corp.
Equitable Life Insurance
General Electric
General Re Service Corp.
Gillette Co.
Harry Frank Guggenheim Fdn.
John Hancock
IBM Corp.
J.M. Fdn.
Fred James & Co.
LA Times Mirror
Lotus Development Corp.
Marine Midland Bank
McGraw Hill
Merrill Lynch
Mobil
MONY (Mutual Life Ins. of NY)
Morgan Guaranty Trust Co.
Morgan Bank, The
Philip Morris
Newsday
New York Telephone
PepsiCo, Inc.
Pfizer, Inc.
 Pitney Bowes
Power Technologies
Prospect Hill Fdn., Inc., The
Readers Digest
REF Fuel
Rockefeller Fdn.
Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc.
Security Pacific Fdn.
Sedgwick James
Shearson Lehman
Squibb Corp.
United Parcel Service
United Technologies
John Wiley & Son

Moved?

If you have moved or are planning to move in the near future, please drop us a line with your new address and phone number so we can continue to keep you informed about Adirondack Park issues through Newsletters, Action Alerts, and other special publications. You can simply fill out and send us the card found in the middle of this Newsletter to ensure that you continue to receive all of your Adirondack Council mailings.
Governor Mario M. Cuomo receives a copy of the Adirondack Council's Centennial Celebration Poster from artist Gary Randorf (center) and Council Chairman Peter Borrelli (right) at the Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake. Looking on between the Governor and Gary is Centennial Committee Chairwoman Barbara McMartin. Copies of the poster can be obtained by writing to the below address. The cost of the poster is $20. Proceeds will go toward furthering our work to preserve and protect the Park.