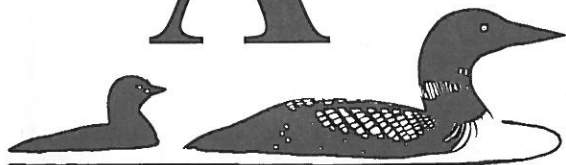


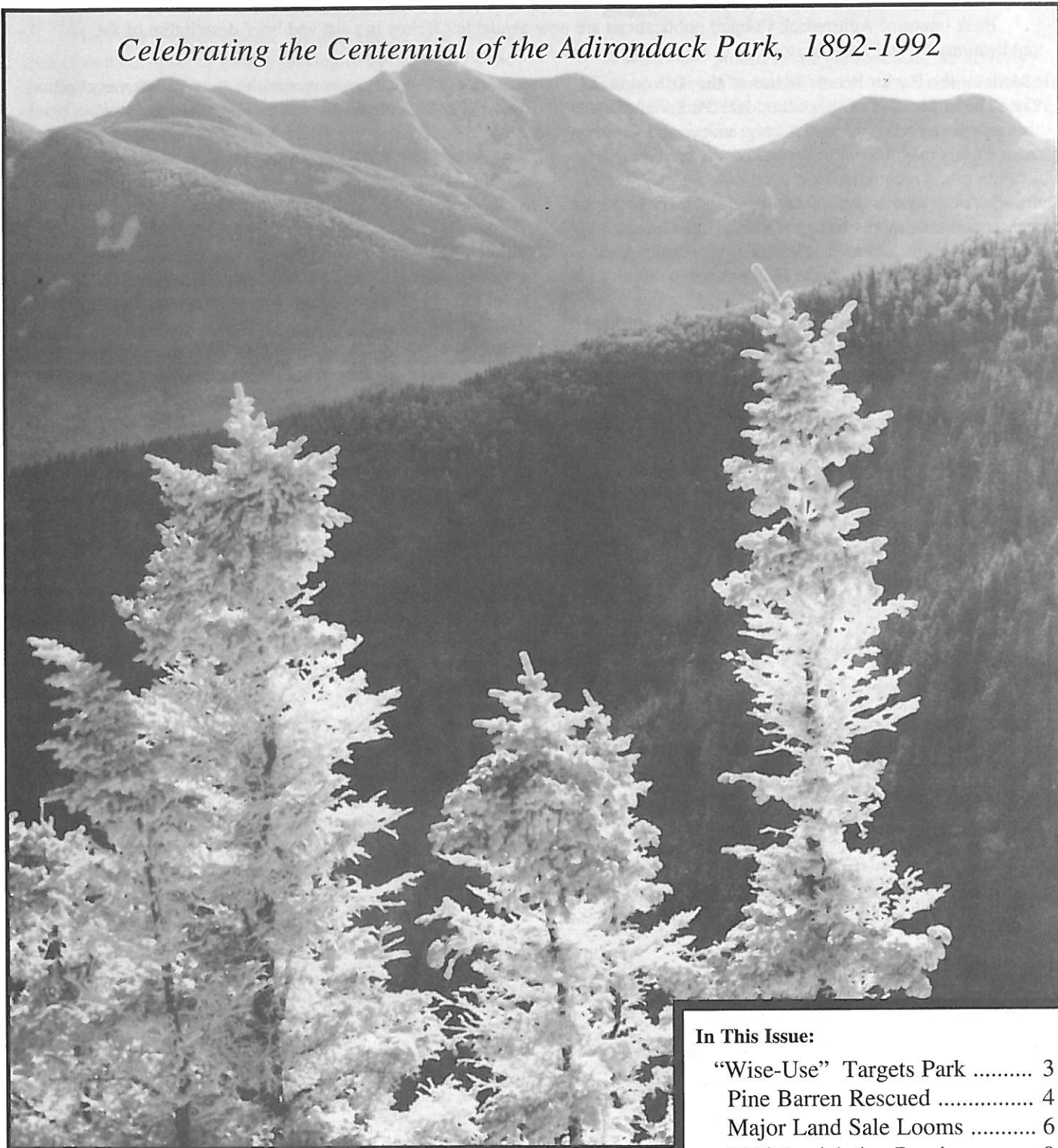
# ADIRONDACK COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER/WINTER 1992

Member Organizations: The Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, and National Parks and Conservation Association.

*Celebrating the Centennial of the Adirondack Park, 1892-1992*



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# Welcome New Members

For some of you, this is your first copy of the Adirondack Council's Newsletter. We hope you enjoy the informative articles and the up-to-the-minute reporting on issues which affect the Park's future.

Thank you for adding your voice to ours in the effort to preserve and protect the Adirondack Park for the future. If you have any questions or comments about the articles in this edition or about the Council's work, please feel free to drop us a line.

## Back Issues Available

Back issues of Adirondack Council publications are now available. Below is a list and brief description of the publications we still have in stock:

**Windows on the Park: Scenic Vistas of the Adirondacks** (1991) - The impression of the Adirondack Park that many visitors take home with them is of the grandeur and scenic splendor of this magnificent region. This picture-filled publication offers recommendations on how we can protect the Park's designated as well as non-designated scenic vistas through creative measures like conservation easements, interpretive signage, and application of performance standards for development near roads. (24 pages.)

**Managing Growth and Development in Unique, Natural Settings** (1991) - Proceedings from the Council's Fall 1990 conference which brought together renowned land use planners from throughout the United States (and even one from Great Britain) to share their experiences in planning for areas that have unique natural attributes. Discussion also focuses on how these land use experiences may be applied in the Adirondack Park. (20 pages, photos.)

**State of the Park: Adirondack Park Centennial Edition** (1992) - This special edition of our annual State of the Park report takes a look at the Park's future by examining its past. Areas covered include shorelines and water, wildlife,

preserving open space, communities in the wilderness and roadside and scenic areas. (16 pages, photos.)

**Newsletters (Fall 1991 & Summer 1992)** - Council's in-depth analysis of the issues affecting the Park. (12 pages each, photos.)

**2020 VISION series:** The Council's comprehensive public policy recommendations for the future of the Adirondack Park. Bound summary of all three volumes - \$10. Volume I (Biological Diversity: Saving All The Pieces) - Free (photo-copy). Volume II (Completing the Adirondack Wilderness System) - \$10. Volume III (Realizing The Recreational Potential Of Adirondack Wild Forests) - Special price - \$5.

**Also:** Copies of the Northern Forest Lands Alliance newsletter, **The Northern Forest Forum**, are available from the Council. The Council is an active participant in this effort to preserve working farms and forest lands throughout the Northeast.

**Please include a \$3 shipping and handling fee for each publication ordered.**

## Council To Be Featured In 1993 Environmental Almanac

The Adirondack Council will be one of 12 North American environmental organizations featured in the 1993 edition of the Information Please Environmental Almanac. The book, compiled by World Resources Institute and published by Houghton-Mifflin Company, includes state-by-state analyses of key environmental issues, expenditures on the environment, facts and rankings.

Of particular interest in the 1992 edition is the fact that New York State ranks dead last among all states in the category "Expenditures on Environmental and Natural Resources," with a paltry 0.59% of the total budget going toward maintenance of natural resources. New York also ranked near the bottom (46th) in dollars per person spent on natural resources at \$13.20.

## Moving?

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.

**On the cover:** Main Range from The Brothers (Gary Randorf).

# "Wise Use" Movement Moves Into The Park

*"We want to destroy the environmentalists by taking their money and their members."*

--Ron Arnold, who considers himself the chief ideologue for the "Wise Use" Movement.

"Wise Use." The name implies sound, well-planned use of renewable resources -- a balanced land-use approach to benefit the greatest number of people. But the reality is quite different.

The Wise Use Movement began in the western United States as a coalition of groups seeking to open up all public lands to any and all uses, including mining, logging, petroleum exploration, off-road vehicles and development. A large portion of the coalition's funding is derived from mining, petroleum and logging companies and supporters include the John Birch Society and supporters of political extremist Lyndon LaRouche.

These groups plan to let no one stand in the way of their mission: to weaken state and federal environmental laws. Recently, the movement declared "opening up" the Adirondacks a "top national priority." Groups with seemingly innocuous names like "The Sahara Club," "People for the West!," "Adirondack Solidarity Alliance," "Citizens Council on the Adirondacks," "Blue Line Council," "Property Rights Council of America" and "Adirondack Fairness Coalition" are, in reality, fronts for real estate, timber and other economic interests. Some of these groups are associated with the "Alliance for America," a national coalition of "Wise Use" groups with an Adirondacker on its steering committee.

The "Property Rights Council of America" is currently suing the Adirondack Council and the Adirondack Park Agency for \$50 million (a suit without legal or factual basis). Other strategies employed by "Wise Use" groups include:

- Intimidation and misinformation.
- Downplaying environmental risks.
- Claiming environmental crises are fabricated to give

the government control over natural resources.

- Equating environmentalism with communism.
- Preying on fears of "land grabs" to frighten landowners.
- Stifling open public debate and disrupting public hearings.

"Wise Use" groups in the Adirondacks are actively working to weaken measures that protect the natural character of the Park. For them, the goal is to profit from opening up pristine shoreline and backcountry areas to unplanned subdivision and speculation.

However, since the Adirondack economy is dependent upon open forest lands and undeveloped lakes for forest products and tourism, these groups will only succeed in "killing the goose that lays the golden eggs."

The Adirondack Council remains firmly committed to the idea of a Park in which people live in harmony with nature. Preserving the Park's open space character and pristine lakes is vital to this goal.

## Thank You

The Council's Adirondack Park Defense Campaign is a tremendous success -- thanks to you.

A Council representative called many of you in October to ask for your help in protecting the Adirondack Park in the face of the expanding efforts of the anti-environmental "Wise Use" Movement. Your response was overwhelming.

We can assure all who contributed to this special campaign, the Adirondack Council will make every penny count to maximize the impact of your Park protection gifts.



Gary Randorf

Governor Cuomo has directed law enforcement agencies in the North Country to make investigations into recent acts of vandalism and arson a top priority. (Left: The Adirondack Council offices. Right: APA Commissioner Anne LaBastille's barn.)



# Rare Pine Barren Rescued!

The Adirondack Council's public advocacy program paid huge dividends this summer when it led to a large donation from a Buffalo family, which saved the core of a globally significant pine barren in the Adirondack Park.

The gift came after the family (which wishes to remain anonymous) called the Adirondack Council expressing their desire to save land in the Adirondacks. The Council explained the impending doom of two rare nocturnal moth species and two rare plant species in the Clintonville Pine Barren due to the state's inability to buy conservation easements on this land from Georgia-based speculator Henry Lassiter.

Last year, when Lassiter began selling off lands he purchased in 1988 from Diamond International Corp., the Adirondack chapter of The Nature Conservancy/Adirondack Land Trust was worried that its 10-year effort to protect this barren was about to fall prey to a housing development.

At 1,100 acres, the barren is the most significant pitch pine/heath barren in the state. One moth species that lives here (*Lithophane lepida lepida*) is found nowhere else in the U.S. Another resident moth species is found nowhere else in New York. Two rare plants (prairie red root and Houghton's umbrella sedge) were also likely to disappear if the land was developed and the integrity of the barren was compromised.

In this case, state ownership was never an option. Pine barrens must burn periodically for the trees to reproduce and keep the barren alive. Since state ownership means "forever wild" constitutional protection, burning would be illegal. But such lands can be managed by an organization such as The Nature Conservancy and ensured a long, safe future.

The Adirondack Council led the effort to gain attention for this potential disaster and enlisted the help of the NYS

Museum's curator of entomology to explain the significance of his studies on the barren. The Associated Press and other major news organizations were intrigued by the story and it soon appeared in newspapers across the country.

With the donation, the Nature Conservancy/Land Trust bought back more than 200 acres of the pine barren's core and preserved a chance at survival for all four species -- at a time when negotiations with land owners were beginning to stall.

It was a perfect example of how the Adirondack Council's skills in research, education and public relations and the Conservancy's land conservation abilities can combine to solve a problem state government was ignoring -- and continues to ignore. With a quarter-million acres of land still up for sale in the Adirondack Park, the Council will continue to push for state funding for land protection.



*The Clintonville Pine Barren*

## Worth a Thousand Words

In late August at The Silver Bay Association, Lake George, the Adirondack Council was granted one of only two Outstanding Organization Park Centennial Awards by the Committee for the 1992 Adirondack Park Centennial for "promoting the Park's incredible beauty and natural resources, and to inspire viewers to work toward preservation of the unique character of the Park."

The award was presented in recognition of Gary Randorf's awe inspiring collection of 30 photographs of the Adirondack backcountry, which has been touring the state in celebration of the Park's 100th birthday.

Thanks to this exhibit, thousands of people who never hiked, canoed or climbed in the Adirondacks now understand why this Park must be protected.

It was most recently on display at Syracuse's Civic Center Lobby, closing there on October 21. The exhibit opens the second week of November at the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, then travels to the Central New York Community Arts Council, in Utica, opening there on or about December 1.

In early January, 1993 the show will be at the County Legislative Building in Plattsburgh and it may appear in Manhattan at a later date. Hundreds of people have marvelled at this exhibit as it has previously travelled to Jamestown, Watertown, Buffalo, Albany, Mumford (Rochester area), Newcomb and Oyster Bay.

We thank Professional Imaging of Eastman Kodak Company for helping to make this exhibit possible.

# Forest Legacy Funding Strengthened

## Program Preserves Forest Resources and Promotes Private Stewardship

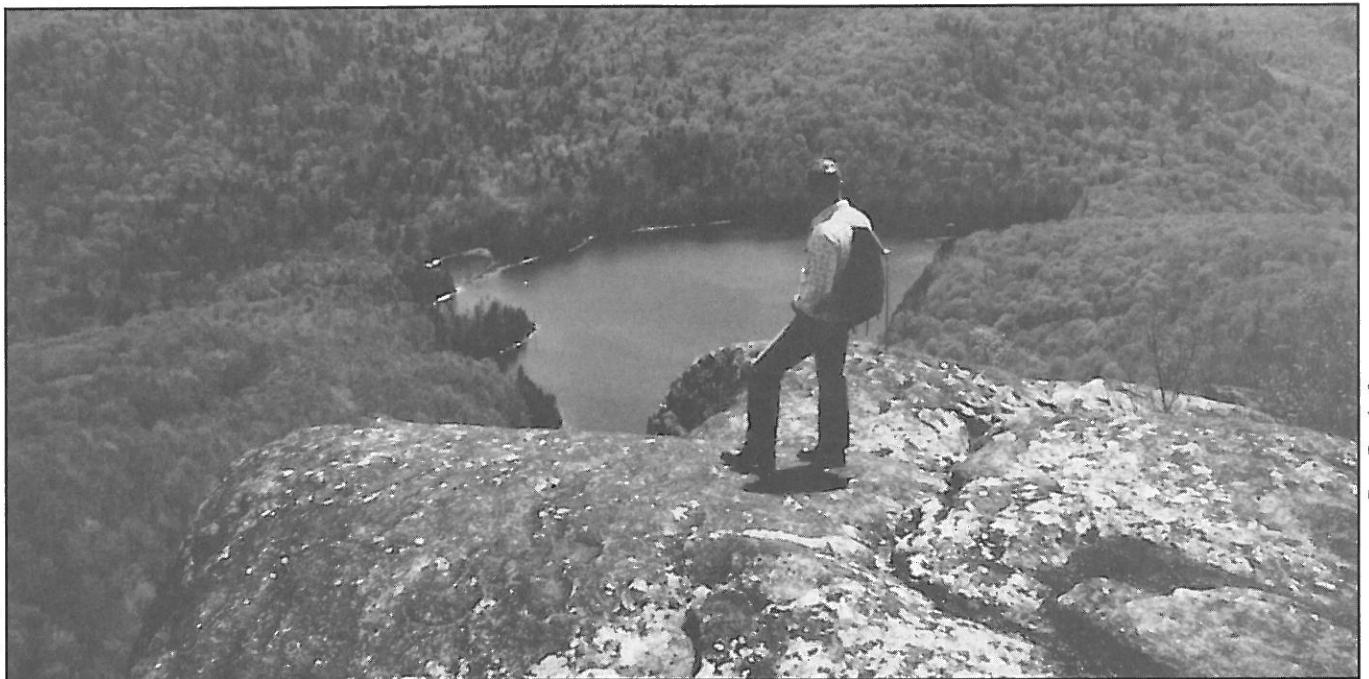
Funding for the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program was increased in the 1993 federal budget, due in part to the Council's actions supporting the program both in Washington, D.C. and at home.

Forest Legacy creates unique partnerships among the federal and state governments and individual landowners throughout the Northeast. The program seeks to protect critical forest resources which are threatened by conversion to other uses, largely through the purchase of conservation easements from willing sellers.

The House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees agreed to double the amount of funding to \$10

Promoting private land stewardship while enabling states like New York to achieve forest resource protection goals is a key facet of the program. The program emphasizes the use of conservation easements — voluntary negotiated agreements between the U.S. Forest Service, State environmental agencies and willing landowners who seek financial assistance in preserving and protecting private forest land resources.

At a time when many owners of large, forested tracts are placing their lands on the market, initiatives such as the Forest Legacy Program become ever more important. Adirondack lands are currently being placed on the market at an alarming rate (see related article on Pages 6-7).



Gary Randorf

*Unbroken forests are a chief reason why many people escape to the Adirondack Park.*

million for the Forest Legacy Program. Last year, during the program's start-up, it received a \$5 million appropriation on the recommendation of the Northern Forest Lands Study of 1990.

New York State, with the completion of its Open Space Protection Plan, is considering forest protection projects using the new Forest Legacy Program funds in the Taconic, Battenkill, Adirondack Park and Tug Hill regions.

The Council, and numerous organizations throughout the Northern Forest lands region of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York, worked with several key Congressmen and women over the past year to ensure continuation and enhancement of this innovative, two-year-old program.

The Council, as a member of the State Department of Environmental Conservation's Forest Legacy Advisory Committee, is working to ensure this program continues to protect working forest resources (and the vital in-park jobs which they provide) while protecting the unique, open space resources of the Adirondack Park.



# Longtime Good Neighbors

## Are We Losing the Working Forests of the Adirondack Park? Jobs and A Way of Life Are at Risk.

Over the past century, the privately owned "working" woodlands of the Adirondacks have provided a continuing flow of forest products that underpin a major sector of the region's economy. These woodlands also provide wildlife habitat, clean air and water, and diverse recreational opportunities for the general public. They largely define the open space character of the Park's private lands and have sustained untold numbers of residents for generations.

Fragmentation, development, or change in use of these lands would be a catastrophic blow to the economic and environmental stability of the Adirondack Park. Two recent events are cause for concern.

Speaking recently before a group of forest industry, environmental and economic professionals, the general manager of Champion International's regional timberland division said his company is now assessing its ownership of nearly 145,000 acres of Adirondack Park lands. Since this company is the third largest landowner in the Park, when Champion speaks, people listen. And what Champion said sent shockwaves through the community.

### Park Lands Considered "Non-Strategic"

Champion now considers about 95,000 of its Adirondack acres to be "non-strategic" lands. Apparently, the company does not need these forests as a source of raw material for its nearby mill and the cost of owning this land has become burdensome. Champion's manager stated he wouldn't object if the lands were sold to bankrupt the

purchase of forested property in the Southeast near another mill.

If this announcement was an anomaly, it wouldn't cause too much concern. But it follows closely on the heels of a similar development.

### Chlorine-Free Paper Pioneer In Trouble

Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper, recipient of the Council's Industrial Stewardship Award last year, has placed 20,000 acres of North Country land on the market. Five thousand of these acres lie within the Adirondack Park east of the Black River Valley, near the village of Old Forge. The remaining 15,000 acres form the core of the nearby Tug Hill forest, which is an integral part of the "woodshed" that provides timber for the Lyons Falls mill and other segments of the local forest-based economy.

The financial plight of Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper, which apparently precipitated their land sale, is particularly troubling for a number of reasons. Lyons Falls is the only mill in the nation which produces a paper product that is entirely chlorine-free. Chlorine is known to produce carcinogenic by-products when used to bleach paper pulp, and eliminating its use is a goal of the national environmental community.

Lyons Falls has also led the way in promoting exemplary stewardship of its woodlands. It recently concluded a precedent-setting conservation deal with the State and the



Gary Randorf

*The forest products industry in the Park provides jobs and keeps land in open space.*





Courtesy of Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper

*Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper is selling-off 20,000 acres of its Adirondack land to help make ends meet in a recession economy.*

Nature Conservancy, whereby 18,000 acres of private Park lands were opened to the public through an innovative swap of development and access rights for timber. Hundreds of families depend upon the Lyons Falls mill for their livelihoods. The company has been a longtime good neighbor in the Adirondack Park, like many other industrial forest owners who have located in and around its borders.

## Selling Out

The Champion and Lyons Falls land sales are not isolated incidents. Owners of more than 300,000 acres within the Adirondack Park have either placed their lands on the market or have indicated an interest in selling conservation easements. Some of them have been waiting patiently to sell to the state, but New York is without funds to buy land or easements.

Failure of the 1990 Environmental Bond Act at the polls two years ago, and lack of action by the State Senate last year to pass environmental trust fund legislation has turned opportunity into crisis. At a time when great strides could be made toward permanent protection of Park lands, the state is a mere bystander at the auction block.

In 1988, the Park's open space character was threatened by the sale of 96,000 acres of Adirondack land owned by Diamond International timber company to Georgia speculator Henry Lassiter. The Council responded quickly, prompting the state to buy back some of Lassiter's environmentally critical lands with 1986 Bond Act funds. But after making subsequent purchases, Lassiter now holds over 100,000 acres of Adirondack land – at least for now.

Earlier this year, Lassiter dumped all 100,000 of his Adirondack acres on the market. In addition, the last sizeable stretches of undeveloped shoreline on both Lake George and Lake Champlain are now offered for sale. And the 50,000-acre Whitney Estate, centerpiece of the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness, is under pressure as well.

Sale of large blocks of Adirondack forest land by industrial owners is a phenomenon that runs counter to traditional patterns and may signal a new trend in the Park. Over the past 20 years, the percentage of the Park's large private holdings (500 acres or more) owned by the forest industry has nearly doubled. Seven of the 10 largest land-owners in the Park are forest industry companies. The industry now controls about 54% of the 2 million acres owned by 564 large land owners.

## Looking To The Future

Working forests can only remain in production as long as they pay their way. If taxes are too high or market prices too low, the burden of ownership could become too heavy to bear, as it was for Lyons Falls. The 5,000 acres they are selling within the Park is being offered at about \$1,000 per acre. That's roughly four times the land's timber production value and virtually ensures that a buyer would purchase it for its development potential.

Using similar logic, it is predictable that Champion will be tempted to carve off "non-strategic" lakeshore and roadfront lots from its industrial core lands. If this happens, much of the forest may continue to "work" for a living, but the Park would be the loser. Undeveloped shorelines and scenic road corridors are critical to maintaining the character of the Park, and if lost, they will diminish it forever.

The Council is redoubling its efforts to secure funding for land conservation. We will also concentrate on working with legislators, community leaders, and with forest land owners to develop new strategies for stewardship in the Park. Some of the tools we will use to implement these strategies involve tax law changes at both state and federal levels. Our immediate concern is to stop the loss of working forests and the precious natural resources they contain. Without these lands, we cannot sustain either the natural or human communities of this great Park.

# Collins Takes APA Reins From Cole

The Adirondack Council welcomes John Collins as the new chairman of the Adirondack Park Agency.

He replaced Herman "Woody" Cole in early September, who has served as chairman since 1984, the year that Collins joined the APA board.

Collins, a fifth generation Adirondacker, cares about these mountains and the people who live among them. He is an educator by profession, having been an elementary school teacher at Long Lake Central School since 1972. He has also worked in local government, serving for a time as chairman of the Indian Lake Planning Board.



*Collins*

"With his background, Collins will be able to lead the APA in two significant areas: 1) Working with the staff to improve internal agency operations; and 2) Improving the working relationship between the APA and local governments," said Council Executive Director Timothy Burke.

Joe Rota, Executive Director of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, a group that until recently worked to abolish the APA, concurred. Said Rota, "Collins has been very cooperative and very open minded in the

relationships between the review board and the agency in the last two years."

While Collins works well with many diverse groups, he also safeguards the Park's natural treasures on the local scene. He helped organize and advocated for the environmentally conscious Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks.

Collins' family immigrated to the Adirondacks from Ireland in the 1840's. His family operated a resort in Blue Mountain Lake from 1922 to 1975. His grandfather worked for Adirondack magnates William West Durant and Alfred Vanderbilt.

The Adirondack Council wishes Woody Cole the best in his future endeavors. He has been a staunch advocate of dealing with acid rain and global warming on the local, state, national, and international levels. He was also indefatigable in his efforts to convince Governor Cuomo and the state legislature that the Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretive Centers were a necessary addition to the Park to promote better awareness and understanding of the Adirondacks.

The outstanding quality of the centers has proven his point well. Woody can often be found volunteering at the Paul Smiths Visitor Center. The Council will continue to push for better state funding of the centers, which now rely heavily on volunteer help.

## APA Budget Held Hostage

The Adirondack Council is leading a coalition of Park advocates to secure adequate funding for the Adirondack Park Agency in the upcoming Legislature. During the 1980's the number of permit applications to the Park Agency doubled while the number of Park Agency employees reviewing those applications stayed the same. This year's Agency budget is \$300,000 smaller than last year's.

"The fact is the State Legislature is not giving the Park Agency the resources it needs to do the job," said Timothy Burke, Executive Director of The Adirondack Council. "And the Governor's proposed budget does not include enough money to fill vacant jobs at the Agency."

The Agency's funding problems are so severe that Park Agency members decided to cancel two of its monthly meetings in order to save five thousand dollars. Unfortunately some of the same people who complain about the permit backlog at the Agency also support cutting its budget. In years past, the Adirondack Council has been the lone voice in Albany pushing for an adequate budget for the Agency. This year we will rally other groups and our members to convince the Governor and Legislature of the

necessity of funding for the Agency to help ensure more efficient and timely responses to permit applicants.

### Your Action Needed

**Your action is needed now to protect the state agency that protects the Park. Please write to Governor Cuomo in support of improved funding for the APA. Let the governor know that:**

- 1) The APA needs additional funding to fill positions that are now vacant.**
- 2) The APA should be allowed to help support itself by imposing permit application fees, as do a number of other state agencies.**
- 3) Additional funding should go to the APA to be used for local planning assistance.**

**Send your letter to:**

**Governor Mario M. Cuomo  
Executive Chamber, State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224**

**If possible, please send us a copy of your letter.**



# Is Weprin Bill the Basis For Adirondack Negotiation?

While the media attention focused on what actions the Governor would take on the Adirondacks during the Park's Centennial year, the New York State Assembly, led by Assembly Speaker Saul Weprin, was quietly putting together an innovative and effective proposal for the Adirondacks that balanced natural resource protection and the needs of Park residents.

In June, the Weprin (Hinchey, Grannis, Englebright) Bill passed the New York State Assembly by an overwhelming 104-35 margin. Despite the fact that protecting the Park traditionally has been a bipartisan issue, the bill was dismissed by legislators from the North Country as the 'Democratic Majority's Proposal' and portrayed by some as a political posture in support of the governor.

In fact, nineteen Republican Assemblymen broke with the North Country delegation and Assemblyman Chris Ortloff, to vote 'yes' with the majority.

The passage of the Assembly bill was not a prelude to the Governor's legislation, but rather a declaration by the Speaker of the Assembly that while he supported the goals reflected in the Governor's omnibus approach, the Assembly was going to take a different path -- one that hopefully would be more attractive to the other House of the State Legislature.

Below are some of the innovations contained in the Weprin Bill:

**Farm and Forest Fund** - The Weprin Bill would have created, for the first time, a permanent fund to help local governments cope with the loss in tax revenue when farmers and foresters take advantage of the tax shelters in existing law.

The millions of dollars that would flow to the North Country each year simply for preserving open space would come from fees imposed primarily on visitors and seasonal residents to the Park, fees almost identical to those already in place in the Lake George area.

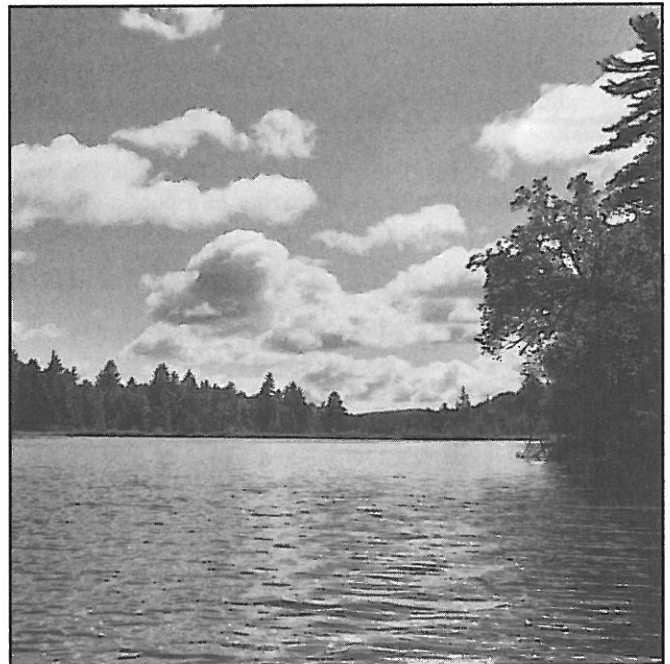
The money in the fund would go, no strings attached, to each and every local government that had working farms or forests and applied for the money.

**Residents Homestead Exemption** - One of the most dramatic features of the Weprin Bill was the Homestead Exemption. It stated that no matter how future land use rules are written, residents would be allowed to subdivide the family property to provide a home for their sons and daughters.

**Adirondack Park Agency** - The Weprin Bill also proposed to take action to improve the operation of the Adirondack Park Agency, in at least two ways:

First, it would allow the Agency to charge a fee for a permit, as do most other state agencies. The fee would be nominal for small projects and increase for larger developments. Most importantly, that money would go directly to the APA to pay for the staff the Agency needs to improve operations and efficiency. This would improve the staff's response time to applications.

The Agency would also be directed to put guidelines and policies into new regulations and performance standards that the public could rely upon.



*Better shoreline protection — a key element in the Weprin Bill.*

**Shorelines and Backcountry** - The Weprin Bill took a simple and direct approach to protecting the natural resources of the Park. The Bill would require the APA to do more to protect shorelines and would restrict future development in the most remote and undeveloped areas of the Park by restricting land uses to those that have traditionally occurred: farming, forestry, and recreation.

The Weprin Bill is certain to be discussed again by the Legislature during the 1993 session, which begins in January. The Council feels this bill is straightforward, easy to understand and balanced. It will provide a great basis for legislative action on the Adirondacks in 1993.

# Around the Park

## Park Bikeways Gain Helping Hand

The Adirondack Council is set to assist the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) and other interested organizations in the development of a master-plan for bicycling in the Adirondack Park. The effort is being spurred on by ANCA's receipt of a \$35,000 federal Scenic Byways Program grant — funding with which to evaluate and plan for improvement of the Adirondack Park's unparalleled bicycling opportunities.

The Council is a long-time proponent of cycling through promotion of bikeable road shoulders and scenic viewshed preservation. The Council spearheaded the bicycling masterplan effort through work with various private organizations and state agencies linked together as the North Country Transportation Corridor Group. Although funding was not available in 1989 for this worthwhile project, new funding under the Inter-Modal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA) through the federal Scenic Byways Program made the planning project possible.

In November, the Council will participate in the implementation of the study project with an eye toward involving the state and private individuals in enhancing scenic bicycle roadways within the Park. Expanding interest in mountain bicycling in the region will also be addressed. The Council hopes to see the planning study focus on methods to increase bicycle tourism in the Park and related "soft-tread" employment opportunities.



*The Council has urged the Department of Transportation to include wide, bikeable shoulders on Adirondack road projects.*

## Adirondack Documentary To Air In December

Through the support of our members, the Adirondack Council has become a major underwriter of a public television documentary celebrating the Centennial of the Adirondack Park.

**"Adirondack: Searching for Common Ground"** is currently in production at WCFE-TV in Plattsburgh and is expected to premiere on WCFE on Dec. 16. The station will make the program available to other public stations in New York within a month of that airing, and will offer it to the Public Broadcasting System for national distribution at PBS's discretion.

This Adirondack Park Centennial program is designed to retrace the history of the conservation movement that created the Adirondack Park and extract lessons for the 20th Century. While the Adirondack Council will not guide or control the content or production of the program, the Council

is proud to work with a station such as WCFE, whose dozens of specials on the Adirondacks have helped educate countless viewers on the beauty and importance of this region.

In 1858, philosopher and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson called a group of writers, artists and scientists from throughout New England to a month of sport and discourse on the problems of society in the Adirondack wilderness on the shore of Follensby Pond. By using the famous Philosophers' Camp as a symbolic and historic reference point, the program will examine the diverse forces that forged the Adirondack Park's identity and importance in today's world. (The state has an option to purchase Follensby Pond this year, an opportunity which may be lost if the State Legislature fails to provide funding.)

This Philosophers' Camp was a seminal moment in Adirondack history and helped define the value of wilderness in America, aside from the timber it could produce. The ideas expressed by Emerson and his guests helped to shape the attitudes which led to the creation of the Adirondack Park and the national parks systems.

By helping to make this information available to the public television audience, the Adirondack Council is enhancing its role as the leading Adirondack environmental and education organization.

Copies of the program will be available from WCFE after the Dec. 16 air date. For more information, write WCFE, One Sesame Street, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; or call (518) 563-9770.



*WCFE film crew embarks on a day's "work" on the documentary.*

photo provided

# Around the Park

## Moose Update

Public hearings were held around the state recently to gather input on the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) plans to reintroduce moose into the Adirondack Park after a 130-year absence.

While the Adirondack Council strongly supports efforts to reintroduce native wildlife species to the Adirondacks, concerns raised at public hearings made it clear that some people are worried about the cost and safety of such a program.

Rather than abandon the project, however, the Council has been working with the DEC and other organizations to address these concerns and reach a positive compromise that benefits both the Park's residents and the moose.

First, the program will not use a single cent of tax money. Voluntary contributions will be solicited from people throughout the state with a genuine interest in seeing moose returned. Second, the Council has asked the DEC to stress relocation of moose that wander into populated regions or linger near busy highways. This would ease the problem of moose wandering into auto traffic -- whether it's a moose

relocated by DEC or one that wanders into New York from Vermont or Canada.

"Moose are already wandering into the Adirondacks from overpopulated areas in New England and Canada, causing several auto accidents. An effective management plan will only help prevent further property damage or injury," said Council Executive Director Timothy Burke.

Just as importantly, the Council has requested that all of the returned and relocated moose be set free in the western portion of the Park, where vast roadless areas will provide a safe haven and stable habitat for moose populations. This area, as many Council members will recall, is the optimum location for the proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness, which would provide moose and other native species a permanently protected home.

For further information on the value of returning native species to the Park, consult the Council's "2020 VISION Volume One, Biological Diversity: Saving All the Pieces." (See page 2 for details on how to order this and other Adirondack Council publications.)

## National Media Focuses On Adirondack Issues

In the past year or so, the Adirondack Council's media effort to promote the Adirondack Park Centennial has increased awareness of Adirondack issues to new heights throughout New York State and the rest of the nation.

Those who tuned in for the June 21 (Father's Day) edition of **CBS News Sunday Morning** saw Adirondack Council board member Clarence Petty (age 87) talking with a reporter as Clarence rowed across an Adirondack lake in his guideboat, discussing shorefront development.

In September, **60 Minutes** focused briefly on the Park during a discussion of the anti-environmental "Wise-Use Movement" and its attacks on environmentalists around the country. This program also aired in England on the **BBC**.

Subscribers to **E Magazine** saw a similar topic discussed in the October edition, featuring the work the Adirondack Council is doing to counter the anti-environmentalists and gain more support for park protection.

Twice in the past few months, Adirondack Council staff members were quoted in the **Christian Science Monitor**: once on sustainable economies in the Park and once on the Council's efforts to help reintroduce the moose to the Adirondacks.

**Country Life (Harrowsmith)** devoted a portion of its latest edition to the Adirondack Council's land protection efforts as well as a major feature on an Adirondack town attempting to gain support for an environmental magnet school program.

Thanks to Adirondack Council staff members who toured the state in 1992 to discuss Park protection, **every major daily newspaper in the state** advocated stronger laws on land-use in the Park.

**Adirondack Life** readers know (from the Sept./Oct. edition) about the Council's lead role in obtaining passage of the first major piece of Adirondack legislation in the NYS Assembly in the past 20 years and the effort to draw the Senate to the bargaining table throughout the Legislative session in Albany.

And no matter where in the state you live, chances are good that your local television and radio station has broadcast the Council's **Adirondack Centennial Public Service Announcements**. The PSA's also made it to some cable systems and a home shopping network. The Council's main office in Elizabethtown has received hundreds of calls per month from viewers in New York (and many other states, Quebec and Ontario) seeking information or a membership.





*Assembly Speaker Saul Weprin (center) admires his new Adirondack Council Park Centennial Poster and Adirondack Wildguide presented him by Council Executive Director Timothy Burke (right). Copies of the poster are still available for \$20 each through the Council's Elizabethtown office.*

# **ADIRONDACK COUNCIL**

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*A coalition of The Wilderness Society; Natural Resources Defense Council; Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks; National Parks and Conservation Association; and other concerned organizations and individuals.*

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