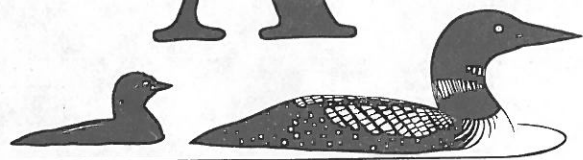
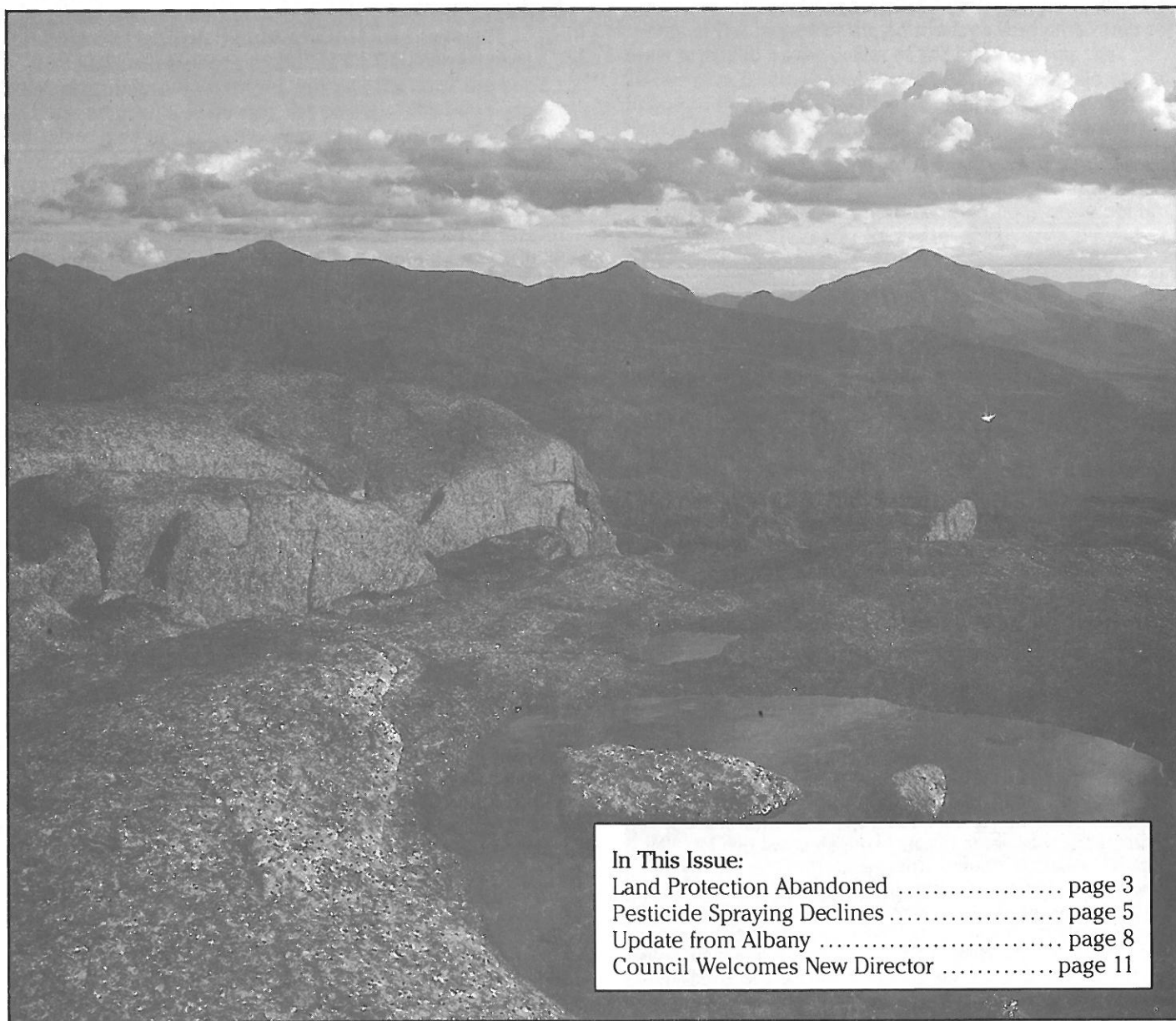


# ADIRONDACK COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER/JULY 1991



**In This Issue:**

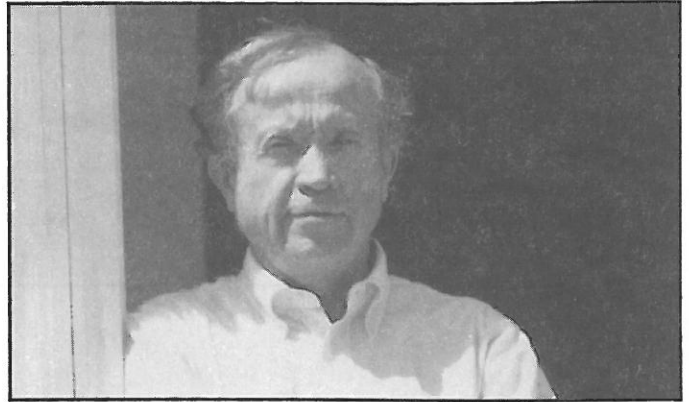
- Land Protection Abandoned ..... page 3
- Pesticide Spraying Declines ..... page 5
- Update from Albany ..... page 8
- Council Welcomes New Director ..... page 11

# COUNCIL KICKS-OFF PARK CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

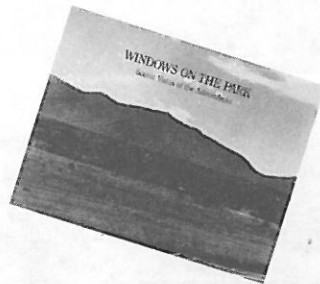
The Adirondack Council began celebration of the Adirondack Park Centennial on May 21, the first day of the Park's 100th year, with a sneak preview of Gary Randorf's Adirondack photo exhibit. The preview, consisting of 15 of Gary's photos, was held at the official opening of the Council's new Albany office.

The full Centennial Photo Exhibit, featuring 30 of Gary's most beautiful Adirondack shots, will be displayed in major cities around New York State beginning this summer. It will run through 1992, the Park's 100th anniversary year.

The new Council office in Albany was opened to help facilitate the expanded role the Council now plays with the State Legislature and other state agencies. Members who have questions or comments about the Council's legislative efforts are encouraged to write to Bernard Melewski, 353 Hamilton St., Albany, NY 12210.



*Senior Counselor Gary Randorf's Centennial Photo Exhibit will tour New York State in celebration of the Adirondack Park's 100th anniversary.*



## NEW COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Proceedings from the Council's fall 1990 conference, "Managing Growth and Development in Unique Natural Settings: An International Perspective", are now available upon request to all Council members.

The conference featured discussions by planners from both sides of the Atlantic on the struggle not

only to create a sustainable economy, but also to protect the vast natural treasures of the Adirondacks—its soaring mountains, deep forests, lakes and streams, wildlife, and biological diversity.

The Council would like to extend its appreciation to the Underhill Foundation for co-sponsoring the fall conference and publishing the proceedings. Copies of the proceedings can be obtained by calling or writing to the Council's Elizabethtown office.

Also, all members will soon receive a report which examines the need to protect the beautiful panoramic vistas and road corridors of the Park, titled "Windows on the Park: Scenic Vistas of the Adirondacks". The Council gratefully acknowledges the gift from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, which made this paper possible.

Both publications represent important advances in the Council's research, education, and policy analysis efforts.

## Sorry About That

The Council recently sent an urgent Special Bulletin ("Wilderness In Danger") to our members as well as the New York State members of the Natural Resources Defense Council, National Parks and Conservation Association, and The Wilderness Society regarding the subdivision threats to our proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness and Boreal Wilderness.

Because of the urgent nature of this Special Bulletin and the tight timeframe in which we were working, we were forced to forego our normal "merge/purge" function, which eliminates duplicate names and addresses that appear on two or more organizations' lists. The result was that some members received additional copies of the mailing.

For those who shared their copies of the Special Bulletin with interested friends or colleagues, we'd like to say "thank you" for furthering our efforts to preserve and protect the Adirondack Park.

## On the Cover

Pictured on the cover is the view from atop Cascade Mountain, one of 30 photos featured in the Council's Adirondack Park Centennial Photo Exhibit. Photographer: Gary Randorf.

## About the Paper

The paper on which this newsletter is printed is 100% recycled (10% post-consumer, 40% de-inked stock), produced with sodium hydrosulphite and hydrogen peroxide. No elemental chlorine is used in the de-inking process. The company which produces the paper has informed us that 65% post-consumer, 80% de-inked stock produced with no chlorine will be available in the near future.

# LAND PROTECTION PROJECTS ABANDONED BY THE STATE

Earlier this year, Adirondack Council members received a bulletin entitled "After the Bond Act: What We Stand to Lose in the Adirondack Park Without New Land Protection Funds." The bulletin depicted nine open space parcels, many of which are currently on the market and deserve state protection either through outright purchase or through the purchase of conservation easements from willing sellers.

What we didn't note, however, is the behind-the-scenes damage dealt to landowners and conservation groups alike when the 1990 Environmental Quality Bond Act failed and the state ran out of money for further land protection.

## The Morgan Property

One of the most troubling examples of what happens when the state's best-laid plans go awry is the state's abandonment of the Adirondack Land Trust (ALT) after the group secured for the state a rare, mile-long stretch of undeveloped land on the shoreline of Lake George.

The ALT paid millions of dollars for the Morgan property, planning to hold it for a few months until the bond act was approved. Following the defeat of the bond act, the state land-protection coffers were empty.

Committed to crushing mortgage payments, the ALT has now hired a fund raiser to help relieve the organization's financial burden while the state scrambles to unwind this fiscal Gordian knot.

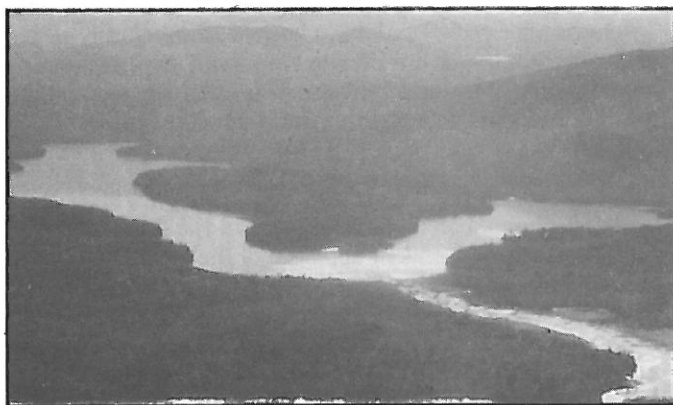


*The Morgan Property.*

## Follensby Pond

Another signed-and-sealed deal that was never delivered was the state's attempted purchase of the magnificent Follensby Pond property in southern Franklin County. Surrounded by state-owned wilderness and wild forest, as well as private forest lands, Follensby Pond was the site of the renowned Philosopher's Camp of the late 19th Century.

The 14,000-acre tract would provide access to the Raquette River as well as the pond itself—a dream for sportsmen, campers, canoers, history buffs, and for anyone interested in the creation of a 75,000-acre Raquette River Wild Forest. The deal was penned, but state money never materialized.



*Follensby Pond.*

## Lower Raquette River

One of the largest of the Adirondack land protection deals scrapped by the defeat of the bond act was the 20,000-acre International Paper Co. (IP) parcel along the Raquette River at the southern border of the proposed Boreal Wilderness in St. Lawrence and Franklin counties.

This land protection agreement between IP and the state was nearly completed when the bond act failed. It would have provided a magnificent 22 miles of canoeing and fishing access to the Raquette—the state's second-longest river.

## What We're Doing

With the superb (and much-appreciated) letter-writing help of its members since January, the Council has been pressing Governor Mario Cuomo and state legislators to create a land protection category in the state budget, funded by a steady stream of state revenue rather than by borrowing. While our members' letters were successful in convincing the Governor to include a land fund in his environmental package, it is unclear what the legislature will do this year, especially given the state's fiscal woes. It may again be necessary to direct letters toward legislative leaders. The Council will contact members as soon as your action is needed to continue pressing for this all-important land protection legislation.



*Lower Raquette River.*



# ON THE HOMEFRONT

Adirondack Council staff have been working closely with residents throughout the Park to help them solve environmental problems of local concern. This effort has won praise from the residents and environmentalists alike.

## Property Taxes

As you may already know, New York State pays taxes to local governments on all lands it owns in the Adirondack Park. A recent independent appraisal of the property values showed that the state had been overpaying some localities for years.

Because of the state's current financial woes, the Governor requested a change in existing law to allow the state to decrease payments to localities to their new lower assessed values—a move that would have devastated local economies throughout the Park. Rather than drastically reducing its payments to towns immediately, the Council has called upon the state to decrease the payments gradually, thereby softening the budget-busting impact on local governments. This stance appears to have convinced Governor Cuomo not to proceed with the immediate reductions.

The Council's stance won immediate praise from town supervisors around the Park, including words of appreciation from the Local Government Review Board during a spring radio interview.

## State Boat Rentals

The Council publicly opposed any expansion of the state Department of Environmental Conservation's plans to continue opening state-run boat rental businesses in campgrounds throughout the Park.

The Council noted that many private Adirondack businesspeople rely on the tourism economy to support their families and called upon the state to recruit new private enterprise in under-served camping areas.

## Essex County Landfill

The Council has worked for more than a decade with local residents and members of the Essex County Board of Supervisors to find a suitable location and design for a county-wide landfill.

For a variety of reasons that have little to do with environmental impacts, the county supervisors chose a location in the sparsely populated Town of Lewis, directly over a principal aquifer which sprawls beneath the communities of Lewis, Elizabethtown, Westport, Wadhams, and New Russia.

Since the county board had refused to secure an alternate site, and since the state laws in effect when the county sought its construction permit did not take aquifers into consideration, the Council recommended a sophisticated testing system to detect any failures of the plastic liners, as well as other pollution-curbing devices. These systems have been installed.

More recently, Town of Lewis residents have protested the proposed dump site, filed suit against the county, held rallies and worked alongside the Council presenting testimony against the use of the Lewis site for raw garbage. While it remains unclear what decision the county will make on the location, the Council is attempting to bring together the Adirondack Park Agency, Department of Environmental Conservation, county officials and local residents to discuss alternatives. Such a meeting would be precedent-setting.

## Pesticide Use

See article on Page 5 concerning the Council's work to help wipe out aerial pesticide spraying in the Adirondack Park in time for the 1992 Centennial.

## New NYCO Mine

Council staff members have submitted testimony and discussed with the officers of NYCO Minerals Inc., Willsboro, the company's proposal to gain a land use map amendment from the Adirondack Park Agency for its proposed new wollastonite mine in the Town of Lewis. Wollastonite is a material used primarily as a safe substitute for asbestos and as an ingredient in various ceramics, paints, plastics, and cements.

NYCO has requested a map amendment from the Adirondack Park Agency that would result in a downzoning of the proposed Lewis site from the "resource management" classification to "industrial use". The change would make mining operations on the land a primary use rather than a secondary use, subjecting the company to a less rigorous APA review.

The Council feels the land should not be rezoned, since mines are allowed even in the most restrictively zoned areas of the Park. By maintaining the land's current (and correct) "resource management" classification, the Adirondack Park Agency would have a much greater role in deciding whether activities on the NYCO land would be compatible with residences and other land uses on adjoining properties, while remaining mindful of the employment NYCO provides in northern Essex County.

## Summer Outreach

This summer, Council staff members will be available to discuss Adirondack issues at lake association and property owner group meetings throughout the Park. Program features include a brief slide show about the Park and the Council's work to preserve and protect it, followed by an open discussion on the complex issues surrounding the Park's future.

If you are involved with or know of a group that would be interested in having a Council speaker attend an upcoming summer meeting, contact Joe Moore at the Council's Elizabethtown office (518-873-2240).

Causes irreversible eye and skin damage. This pesticide is toxic to fish, aquatic invertebrates, and wildlife. Do not apply directly to water or wetlands.

—Warning label on the pesticide, Dibrom-14.

"We were in the middle of Fourth Lake at Gull Rock. This was at least...600 feet from the northern-most point of land, and we were still heavily sprayed (with pesticides from a plane). My two oldest sons' eyes burned so badly that they were forced to jump off into the water to stop the pain. In the boat, we started to cough. Over the next couple of days our

throats were sore and the boys had red, running and sore eyes as well. The boat's windshield was covered with an oily substance, which must have been the carrier used with the Dibrom-14.

—From a letter sent to the Supervisor of the Town of Webb.

## COUNCIL, RESIDENTS WORK TO RID PARK OF AERIAL PESTICIDE SPRAYING

Loaded with Dibrom 14, planes from the Duflo Chemical Spray Company once again dropped lethal payloads over the fields, lakes, and forests of several Adirondack towns this spring, killing not only the intended mosquitoes and black flies, but also many "non-target" species including birds, fish, and bees during this all-too-familiar annual aerial poisoning ritual.

But thanks to the efforts of the Council, Citizens for a Better Tomorrow, and other grass roots groups, the use of aerial spraying to control pests is on the decline.

We have worked closely with many local and state government agencies as well as grass roots groups throughout the Park, convincing policy makers that there are safer and saner ways to control black flies and mosquitoes than aerial pesticide spraying.

One alternative for controlling black flies without the toxic consequences associated with Dibrom spraying is the biological agent, *Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis* (Bti). Bti is applied directly to streams where black flies hatch and affects the larval growth of targeted species only.

Several Adirondack towns that, in previous years, had sprayed toxic pesticides from the air (carried on equally toxic droplets of kerosene) are now saying "NO" to aerial spraying. Because of the combined efforts of the Council, the Lake Placid-based Citizens for a Better Tomorrow, and several committed grass roots citizen organizations, the number of towns choosing to "control" pests via this dangerous, health-threatening practice has dropped dramatically, from 20 requesting to spray last year to only five this spring.

The Council will continue to work to bring an end to the aerial poisoning of the Adirondack Park's natural resources. We will work to convince the final few towns still using this dangerous practice to choose safer, healthier alternatives.



The Lake Placid News (5/29/91)

## SPOTLIGHT ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN

In June, New York's Environmental Conservation Commissioner Thomas Jorling appointed Mike DiNunzio, the Council's Director of Research and Education, to the Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain Management Programs (CAC). Mike is one of 14 Committee members from New York who serve along with an equal number of colleagues from Vermont.

The CAC is also serving in an advisory capacity to the Lake Champlain Management Conference that was convened this spring. Dr. James A. Dawson, a professor at SUNY Plattsburgh and an Adirondack Council Board Member, has been appointed to the 31-member Management Conference.

In his letter appointing Mike to the Advisory Committee, Commissioner Jorling noted that the effort will allow New York and its Champlain-basin neighbors a chance to enhance cooperation in providing for the lake's needs by expanding existing programs and developing demonstration projects in a variety of fields.

Included in the list of areas the Citizens Advisory Committee will study are:

- **General Recommendations** concerning comprehensive planning; public education, outreach and participation; and research priorities.
- **Water Quality** issues, including toxics, eutrophication, nonpoint source pollution from agricultural and urban/suburban runoff, sedimentation, and water quality monitoring.
- **Fish and Wildlife** concerns, such as walleye and salmon/trout fisheries management, and natural community inventories.
- **Lake Biological Pollution** from nuisance aquatic plants and zebra mussels.

- **Lake and Land Use** issues, such as wetland and shoreline protection, and recreation management.
- **Cultural Heritage** protection.
- **Economic Future** of lake basin communities, including strategies for preserving economic vitality.
- **Database Development** of an integrated basin-wide computerized information system.

"The Lake Champlain Basin occupies nearly one-quarter of the total acreage of the Adirondack Park, and is a cornerstone of the region's recreational, cultural, historic, and natural heritage," DiNunzio said. "The Adirondack Council will bring a unique regional perspective to the Committee, which no other organization can duplicate."



Credit: Gary Randorf

*Unprotected shoreline on the western shore of Lake Champlain.*

## COUNCIL PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN STATE'S OPEN SPACE PLANNING

New York State has committed to the production of a statewide Open Space Conservation Plan.

A 1990 amendment to the State Environmental Conservation Law reaffirmed the need to "provide for the conservation, protection, and preservation of open space, natural, historic and cultural resources and the enhancement of recreational opportunities." That same legislation provided for the development of a State Land Acquisition Plan to guide the selection of projects for future open space protection.

Regional land advisory committees were jointly appointed by the State and local governments in each of the nine administrative regions of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Barbara Glaser, Adirondack Council Chairwoman, was appointed to the Region 5 Advisory Committee, which covers about two thirds of the Adirondack Park.

Acting on behalf of Barbara, Council staffer Mike DiNunzio has been an active participant in the Region 5 deliberations. "Until recently," Mike said, "our committee appeared deadlocked over key issues. We seem to be mak-

ing progress on resolving these issues, and I am confident that Region 5 will eventually make a significant contribution to the State Plan."

The first recommendations of the advisory committees are contained in a preliminary draft of the Open Space Conservation Plan. According to that document, "The regional committees... have provided valuable advice on policies, projects and priorities for protection of lands in their areas." It went on to state that the preliminary draft "...is intended as a starting point for broad public discussion of open space protection policies, programs and recommendations for the future."

The State is now in the process of reviewing Regional Advisory Committee recommendations and will soon provide the committees with written comments for further discussion and public review. A draft Open Space Plan and generic environmental impact statement will then be prepared for statewide public hearings later this year. The Plan and the accompanying impact statement will be finalized and submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1992.



# COUNCIL LEADS NEW YORK STATE EFFORT TO SAVE THE NORTHERN FOREST LANDS

*The Northern Forest occupies a special place in the hearts of Americans all over the nation. It is a biological resource, home for nearly a million people, a recreational resource and an important part of the economies of the region and nation.*

Northern Forest Land Study  
April, 1990

With concern growing in 1988 over rampant speculation and subdivision of the Northeast's last remaining great forest tracts (including the Adirondack Park), Congress directed the U.S. Forest Service to assess the region's resources and to project the trend of ownership change and its likely impacts.

The Forest Service was also asked to suggest strategies to protect the integrity of the region's natural resources as well as its cultural heritage.

After nearly two years of research, the Forest Service released its Northern Forest Lands Study in April, 1990. The report identified the study area and discussed new land protection strategies. The National Forest Lands cover a 26-million-acre area, including parts of northern New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

The Forest Service report suggested a number of conservation strategies including public acquisition of land and the purchase of conservation easements on private property from willing sellers as well as local and state land use planning. Also suggested were new regulations and economic development plans for local communities. Proposed incentives to participating landowners included tax credits, short-term conservation easements, and elimination of the capital gains tax on land sold for conservation purposes.

## The Northern Forest Lands Council

The Governors of each of the Northern Forest Lands (NFL) states (New York, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire) appointed three people to work with the Forest Service to prepare the NFL Study and promote a four-point plan for state and federal action. The plan calls on the federal government to:

- establish a Northern Forest Lands Council for another four years;
- provide matching federal funds to the state in support of resource inventory research and mapping;
- provide \$25 million per year from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the four states over four years to purchase easements or title to high-priority lands threatened by incompatible uses; and
- establish additional financial incentives for keeping land open and forests productive.

The NFL Council now meets nearly every month in various locations throughout northern New England and New York.

## Northern Forest Lands Alliance

Working with about 20 other conservation organizations, the Adirondack Council helped to form a coalition known as the Northern Forest Lands Alliance. The Adirondack Council is currently the only regional organization focusing exclusively on Adirondack matters within the Alliance. Together, we share ideas and develop common strategies for assisting the NFL Council in its work.

## Forest Legacy Act

As part of the 1990 Farm Bill, Congress established the Forest Legacy Program to protect environmentally sensitive forest areas from conversion to non-forest use. The program authorizes federal funding for conservation easements and other land conservation mechanisms to be purchased from willing sellers. In light of New York's fiscal crisis and lack of land protection funds, the Forest Legacy Program offers a ray of hope in an otherwise bleak landscape.

Input to the Forest Legacy Program is provided by a Forest Stewardship Committee in each state. Adirondack Council staffer Mike DiNunzio has been appointed to the New York State Forest Stewardship Committee. These committees will help develop criteria for identifying lands for protection and for recommending specific parcels for protection through conservation easements or fee acquisition.

According to DiNunzio, "The Adirondack Council is widely recognized as the leading environmental organization working for long-term protection of public and private lands in the Adirondack Park. The research we performed in producing our *2020 Vision* series has prepared us well for the task at hand. Now we must ensure that the Legacy program receives the federal and state funding necessary to complete the 'demonstration project' in the Adirondacks this year."

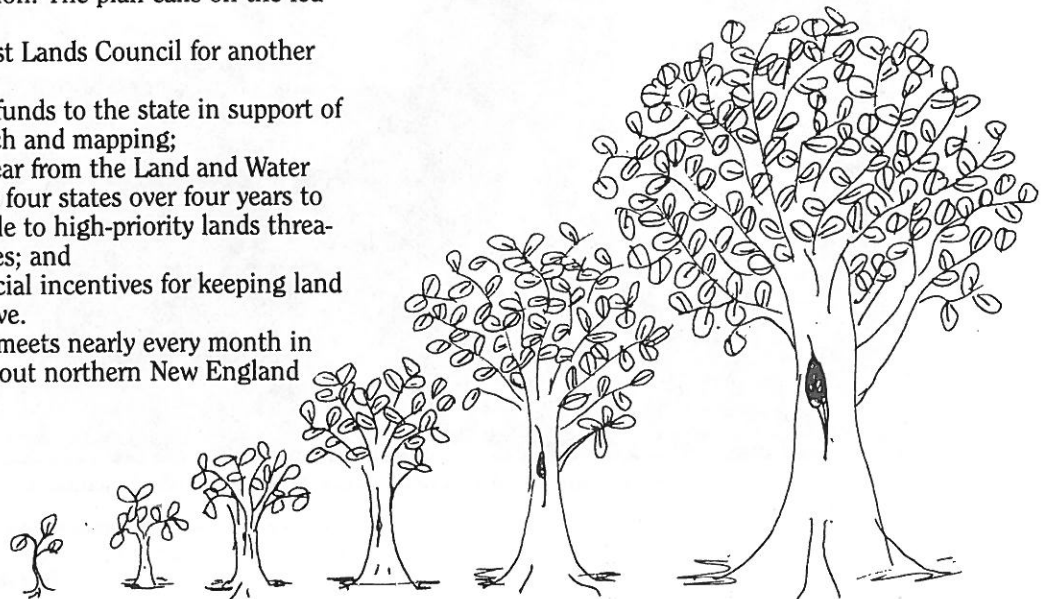


Illustration by Kelly Rouden

## ALBANY BRIEFS

### Earth Day Was Last Year

Legislative leaders closed down the 1991 session in Albany without committing any funds to protect the Adirondack Park. The Adirondack Council, and other environmental groups across the state, are seeking the creation of a dedicated state environmental fund not only for future land protection efforts, but also for new municipal parks and local recycling and historic preservation programs statewide. **ALL FUNDS FOR THESE PROGRAMS WERE ELIMINATED.**

### Cuomo Gets His Wish

Governor Cuomo proposed a dedicated environmental fund early in the legislative session but failed to provide even a category for land protection. Under fire from environmental groups for proposing millions in his budget for snow-making and nothing for natural resource protection, the Governor created a category in his bill that was literally called "other", in which land protection efforts might fall. In the Governor's fund proposal, the "other" category would not receive any state money for at least a year.

### They Hate The "T" Word

Urged on by the State Business Council and other interest groups to "bite the bullet" and cut services to balance the budget, Senate and Assembly leadership ruled out broad business taxes early in the game. Assembly Speaker Mel Miller further declared the Governor's effort to recover unclaimed beverage container deposits to be "dead on arrival" and he derided the other revenue proposals as "twinkie

taxes". That was before all the cards were on the table. The extraordinary gap in the state budget between revenues and spending continued to widen as Democrats and Republicans fought pitched rhetorical battles in the press over the merits of "cutting the fat" and "hitting the fat cats".

### On Wisconsin

Environmental groups worked diligently to find a revenue source to supplant the Governor's discredited sources of funds, and soon developed a proposal for a gross receipts tax based on the "Wisconsin" model of a sliding scale of "environmental fees" on all businesses. The Fee would range from \$250 to \$2500 dollars per year based on the size of the business. Businesses grossing less than \$1 million per year would be exempt from fee.

Funds from the "Wisconsin" fee would go to general fund relief in the first few years and then would gradually flow into a dedicated environmental fund. Businesses grossing less than \$1 million per year would be exempt from the fee.

A coalition of bottlers and packagers joined municipal government associations in support of the environmentalists and "Wisconsin". Again, the state's largest business lobby worked hard to defeat the tax, but offered nothing but draconian cuts in both state services and aid to localities as an alternative.

Among the detractors of the "Wisconsin" tax was the International Paper Company (IP). Oddly, IP opposed "Wisconsin" even though it stood to profit from the sale of



Andrew Saunders, Adirondack Wildlife Program

*A program to reintroduce the moose, a species once native to the Adirondacks, could be jeopardized by state funding cuts.*



some of its Adirondack lands to the State. The sale of over 20,000 acres of IP land to New York State was under negotiation when the bond act went down.

#### "Any Port In A Storm"

Desperate to close the Budget before spring borrowing began and staring the impending fiscal collapse of New York City in the face, Big Business had driven the legislative leadership into a corner. They could not reach agreement without new revenues but had already rejected unclaimed deposits, a gasoline tax, a packaging tax, a staggered environmental fee on business receipts, a personal income tax surcharge and a host of combinations of other so-called "nuisance taxes". In the end, behind closed doors, they opted to significantly raise taxes on petroleum and natural gas.

Some companies were burned by the switch to energy taxes. By some estimates, International Paper was saddled with an annual energy tax increase hundreds of times greater than the \$2500 "Wisconsin" fee it would have paid the state. (See Editor's Note below.)

#### "Policy, What Policy?"

Just one year after the hoopla surrounding the 20th anniversary of Earth Day and on the eve of the Centennial of the Adirondack Park, the New York State Legislature killed state funding for: forest and farm land protection, hiking trails, historic preservation projects, and all local recycling programs, drinking water protection programs and future municipal parks.

At the same time, the Senate and Assembly distorted ten years of state energy planning by taxing most heavily the one fossil fuel that traditionally burns most cleanly (natural gas) and exempting the fuel which has typically been the dirtiest (coal) from new taxes altogether.

#### What The Legislature Giveth...

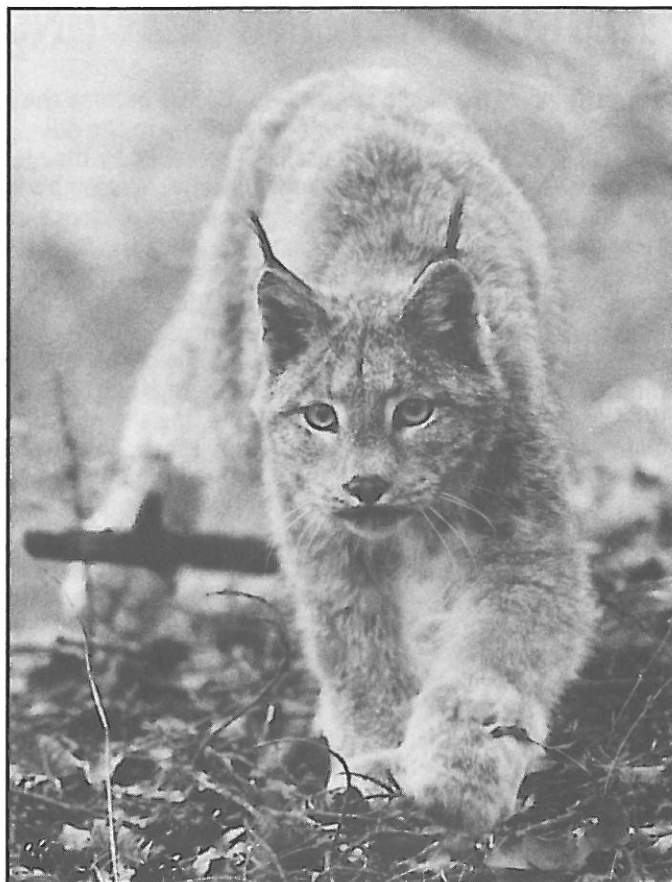
...Governor Cuomo taketh away. At least in the case of the State University of New York's Adirondack Wildlife Program.

The \$280,000 that was to fund the successful program that has restored Canada lynx to the Adirondack High Peaks region has fallen victim to the Governor's budget cuts. The Legislature had restored the program's funding in its latest version of the budget but the item was vetoed by Governor Cuomo, who cut all legislative additions to his budget.

The Council has been the leading Adirondack organization working to restore funding to this worthwhile program and will continue efforts to insure the future success of restoring extirpated species to the Adirondacks.

#### ...And Taketh Away

In addition to nearly \$300,000 in cuts proposed by Governor Cuomo, the Legislature has lopped-off an additional nine percent from the beleaguered Adirondack Park Agency's budget, leaving the overburdened, under-funded agency facing cuts in programs, unfilled vacancies, and even layoffs.



Len Lee Rue III.

*The Adirondack Wildlife Program, which has been successful in reintroducing the Canada lynx to the Park, has lost its entire \$280,000 budget to cuts.*

#### Now What?

As the Legislature approached the summer recess, the chairmen of the Senate and Assembly Environmental Conservation Committees, Senator Owen Johnson and Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey, introduced new legislation that would establish an Environmental Trust Fund from existing revenue sources. However, this new fund would not go into effect until 1992.

Existing excise taxes on beer, soda, and lubricating oil would be directed into the fund, totalling over \$90 million annually. The Governor would be directed to appropriate the funds available in his annual budget, giving the Legislature an opportunity to review environmental priorities each year.

The proposed Environmental Trust Act (A. 7613, S. 6166) has been endorsed by major environmental organizations, the City of New York, and the New York State Conference of Mayors. At the time of this printing, with only days left in the session before summer recess, it was unclear whether action was possible before lawmakers return in the fall.

**Editor's Note:** In the last days of the legislative session, energy tax provisions were altered so that the tax burden on the timber industry was substantially lessened.

# ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY APPROVES NEWCOMB PLAN

The Town of Newcomb (Essex County) has become the eleventh of 93 towns lying wholly or partially in the Adirondack Park to have its land use plan approved by the Adirondack Park Agency and adopted locally. Newcomb's is the first complete local program approved by the Agency in more than six years.

The plan approval insures Newcomb the right to review all projects designated as Class B in the Adirondack Park Agency Act and to review shoreline variances.

The largely undeveloped town in the heart of the Adirondacks encompasses much of the southern High Peaks Wilderness area and includes miles of pristine shoreline and ponds owned by the timber company Finch, Pruyn, and Company, Inc. (see map). Since the development value of Finch, Pruyn's land holdings far exceeds the timber value of the land, the Council's concerns are centered around the possible breakup, sale, and subdivision of these backcountry and shorefront lands.

The Council supported Newcomb's efforts to develop an Agency-approved land use plan, but was disappointed that the town did not take the opportunity to amend the land use map.

"Amending the map would have provided an opportunity to reclassify a number of parcels—some of which need stronger protection and some on which controls might be loosened," said Council Director of Park Protection, Dan Plumley.

The Council also felt the plan should include the following:

- A clear statement of the joint intention of the APA and

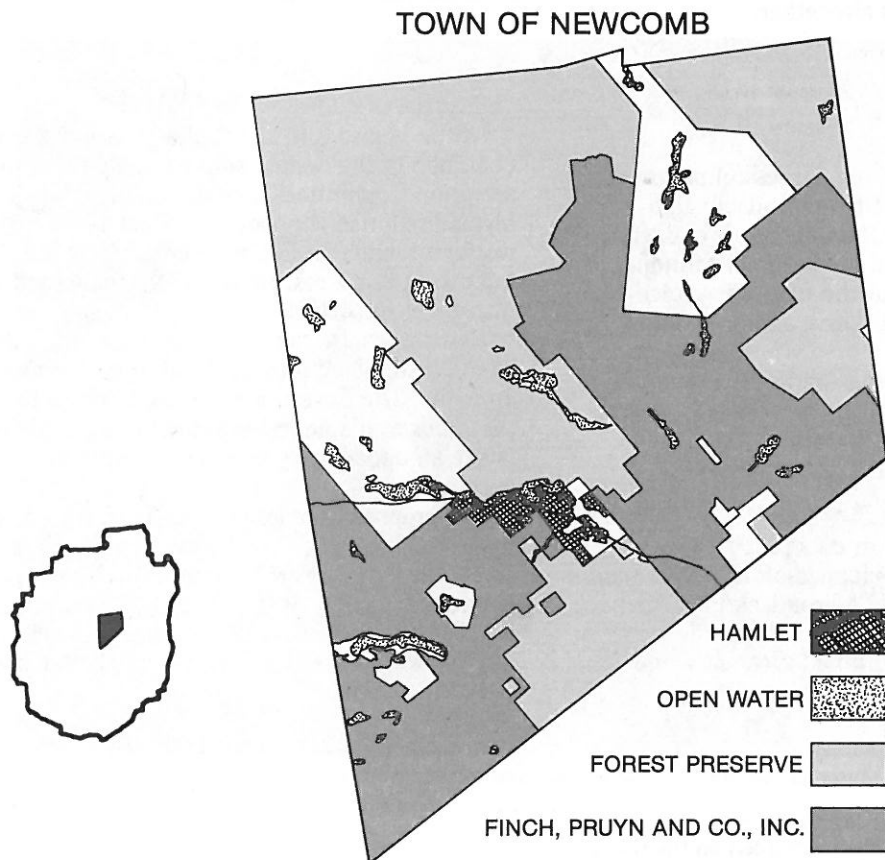
Newcomb to prevent the break-up and development of "working forest" lands.

- A ban on subdivision of pristine lakeshores and a provision to require that new developments be clustered and set back from shorelines.
- Regulations on the size and type of signs displayed along roadsides to prevent clutter.
- A provision for greater protection along the Boreas Road and County Road 2B by designating them as critical environmental areas, giving the APA authority to rule upon development plans.

"The forest lands now used in timber production should stay that way to protect the environment and jobs," said Plumley. "UNdeveloped shorelines are an increasingly rare and critically-important part of the Adirondack landscape. They currently receive minimal protection under APA law and need to be conserved. As for the roadsides, Newcomb is lucky in that it has avoided the billboard and neon look of some Adirondack communities. It's scenic beauty should be cherished and protected."

Currently, there are only five towns working to gain APA approval of local land use plans. According to the APA, several other towns that were working on plans with the Agency were stymied by recent state funding cuts.

The Council applauds the efforts of Adirondack towns seeking to "take control of their own destinies" by gaining Agency approval of their local land use plans and thereby gaining review of about one-half of the projects that currently require an APA permit.



## PERSEVERENCE UNDER PRESSURE

After two successful years as chairwoman of the Adirondack Council Board of Directors, Barbara Glaser will step down at the July 13 Annual Meeting, to be held at the Sagamore Institute on Raquette Lake.

Glaser guided the Council during the state's release of the report of the Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century, a huge expansion of the membership and professional staff, and an all-out push by real estate interests for unrestrained development in the Park's backcountry and shoreline areas.

"Barbara presided over the board at a time when the Adirondacks were going through a strife-ridden debate and when the Council itself was going through a transition just as large," said nine-year board veteran and former chairman Kim Elliman.

"She had a very diverse group of board members and the Council was under a phenomenal degree of fire (over the Adirondack debate)," said five-year board member Katharine Preston. "She has always been a very caring person and sensitive to the needs of individuals. She managed it all and brought us all out the other end of the tunnel."

"Those two years she served must have seemed like six or eight," said new board member David Skovron.

Other board members agreed, adding that there were strong reasons for her success.

"I never knew anybody who worked as hard as Barbara," said fourteen-year board veteran Harold Jerry. "For her, it was an act of love. She gave us everything she had. Her rapport with the staff was superb."

"She has a real knack for bringing diverse elements and people together to accomplish what was necessary," Skovron added.

"She always gave us an opportunity to voice our opinions and gave us the time we needed to study and debate thorny issues," said Constance Tate, who joined the board five years ago.

"She always had an agenda and kept everyone involved and on the move," said four-year board member Norm Van Valkenburgh. "She always made you feel like you belonged."

Both Stephen Allinger and fellow new board member Ernie LaPrairie noted that it was Glaser's leadership which drew them to the organization.

"I've always been impressed with her backbone—and her kindness," Allinger said.

"I knew what the Council was about before I joined," LaPrairie noted. "But it was her commitment that made me want to be a board member. She'll be a hard act to follow."

Glaser is an eleven-year veteran of the board and will remain a director. A new chairman will be elected at the July 13 meeting.

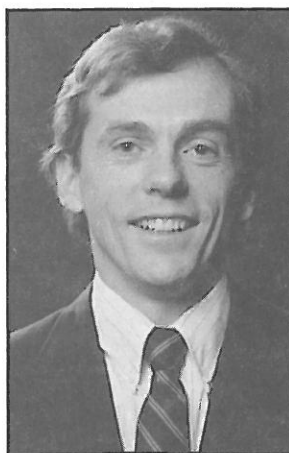


*Barbara Glaser*

## COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Adirondack Council is pleased to announce the arrival of new Executive Director, Timothy J. Burke. Burke comes to the Council after serving for two years as Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

"I'm a person with strong environmental values, but also a person who's interested in forming a consensus. I'm more interested in getting things done than getting into ideological debates," said Burke, 43, who took over the Executive Director position in May from Bernard C. Melewski, the Council's Legislative Director who acted as the interim Executive Director over the past six months.



*Timothy Burke*

Burke was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in 1984 where he served until resigning in 1989 after his appointment to the post of Commissioner of Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation by Democratic Governor Madeleine Kunin. He was reappointed to the DEC post in 1991 by Republican Governor Richard A. Snelling.

When offered the Executive Director position with the Council, Burke said, "I was so impressed by the organization and the opportunity to live and work in the Adirondacks that I decided to accept."

Burke, his wife, Mary Butler Burke, and their two children, Eliza, 16, and Devin, 9, have moved to the Town of Westport in the Adirondacks.

"Given my experience with land use issues in Vermont, the mission of the Adirondack Council and the goal of protecting the Adirondack Park are both exciting and challenging," Burke said.

When not at work, Burke enjoys "mainly outdoor interests—canoeing, hiking, and spending time with my family getting to know the Park."






The Council's Director of Park Protection, Dan Plumley, accepts accolades from U.S. Representative Sherwood Boehlert for his legislative efforts to reduce acid precipitation. The upstate New York Congressman was instrumental in realizing Dan's appointment to one of only three seats held

by the environmental community on the Environmental Protection Agency's Acid Rain Advisory Committee and has been a leader for the past decade in the effort to gain passage of legislation to control acid rain.

# ADIRONDACK COUNCIL



(518) 873-2240  
Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

*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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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Timothy J. Burke  
**PROGRAM:** Michael G. DiNunzio  
                     Daniel Plumley  
**DEVELOPMENT:** Anne Trachtenberg  
**LEGISLATIVE:** Bernard C. Melewski  
                     **SENIOR COUNSELOR:** Gary Randorf  
                     **COMMUNICATIONS:** John F. Sheehan  
                     **ADMINISTRATOR:** Donna M. Beal  
                     **MEMBERSHIP:** Joseph Moore

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**OFFICERS:**  
 Chairwoman ..... Barbara Glaser    Vice Chairman ..... Kim Elliman  
 Vice Chairman ... Thomas D. Thacher II    Secretary ..... Dean L. Cook, D.M.D.  
 Treasurer ..... John L. Ernst

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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