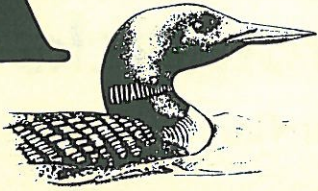


ADIRONDACK COUNCIL



LATE FALL 1989

NEWSLETTER

Commission Gets Preservation Message

The message came across loud and clear: ***we must move swiftly to save the Adirondack Park.***

Hundreds of citizens, many of them members of the Adirondack Council, stood up and spoke out for permanent protection of the Adirondack Park at a series of well-attended meetings throughout the State. The meetings were conducted by the Governor's Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century as part of an intensive, one-year study initiated at the urging of Council members and other Adirondack preservationists.

Following the final session on Long Island on November 2, the 14-member Commission and its staff of land-use experts went to work on recommendations to Governor Cuomo. The Commission's report, due April 1, will not come a moment too soon as speculators, subdividers and developers converge on the Adirondacks in increasing numbers. In a letter to the Commission (see pages 3-5), the Adirondack Council urged "prompt, bold, deci-

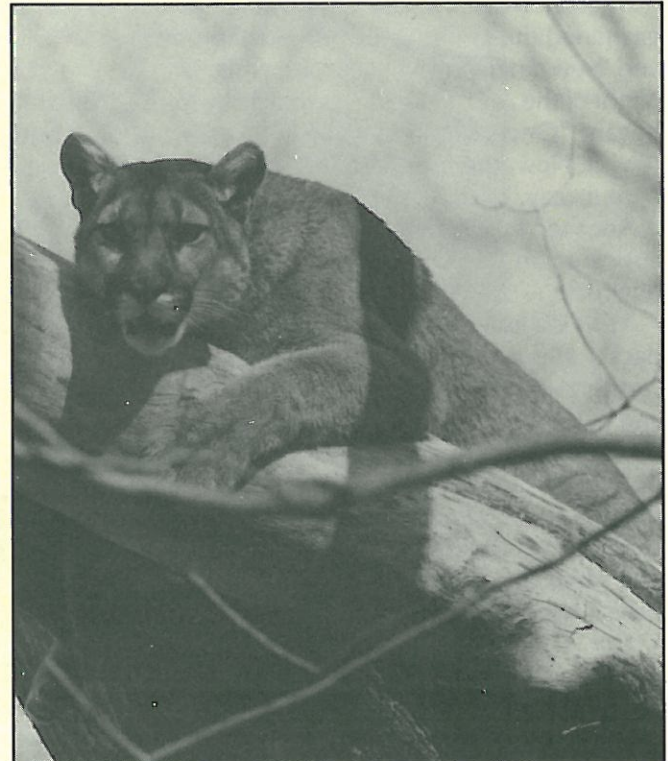
sive action" and outlined specific measures needed to preserve the park. (These and many other ideas surfaced repeatedly at the recent statewide meetings.)

If you attended a meeting or wrote a letter, many thanks! If the Commission has not yet heard your views, there is still time for you to weigh in. Please remember: the more letters the Commission receives, the more likely it is that the Governor and legislature will do what's needed to provide lasting, ironclad protection for the Adirondack Park.

WHAT YOU CAN STILL DO: Urge the Commission to project a vision of an Adirondack Park where land is treated as a resource to be preserved, not a commodity to be exploited. In your letter to the Commission you may want to mention one or more of the specific points outlined by the Council — or submit any other thoughts you may have. Write George D. Davis, Adirondack Commission, 2 City Square, Albany, NY 12207.



Leonard Lee Rue, III



Leonard Lee Rue, III

IT WON'T BE EASY BUT IT MIGHT JUST BE POSSIBLE — The Council has urged the Adirondack Commission to push for a 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness where wolves and maybe even mountain lions will once again roam free.

COMMENTARY

Spotlight On The Adirondacks

The Adirondack Park has been the focus of a great deal of national publicity this year, much of it prompted by the work — and the warnings — of the Adirondack Council.

In June, the *New York Times Magazine* carried a hard-hitting article on the Adirondack Park, including a cover photograph of an Adirondack stream and wooded mountain. Superimposed on this natural scene is a huge classified advertisement proclaiming: "FOR SALE. THOUSANDS OF PRISTINE ADIRONDACK ACRES. IDEAL FOR CONDOS, TOWN HOUSES AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT."

The article by James Howard Kunstler highlighted the threats to the park and the current campaign by preservationists to save it. Three Adirondack Council representatives were quoted. The month before, *American Way*, published by American Airlines, ran a long, thoughtful article on the Adirondacks, illustrated with 15 photographs. Writer Geoffrey Norman observed:

The Cutting Edge

"The mistakes and solutions that come out of the Adirondacks will, no doubt, apply increasingly to all parks — and to the remote, rural, wild places that remain in the country. It is one of the oldest parks in the nation, but it still lives on the cutting edge of America's evolving conception of its own natural heritage."

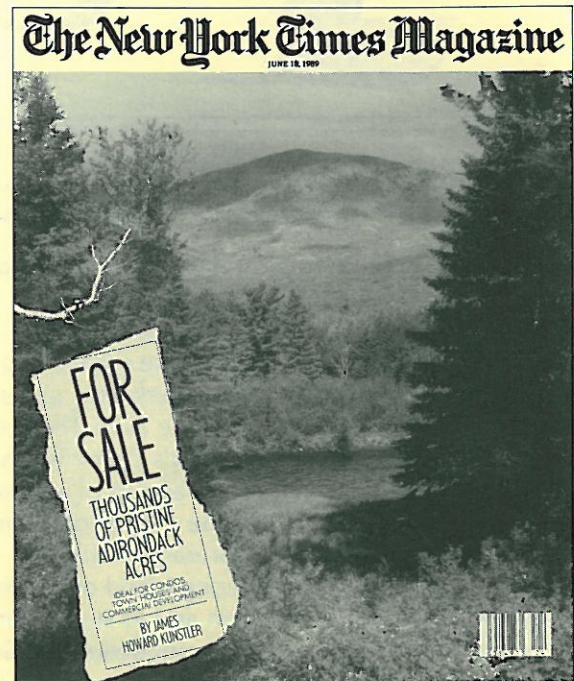
In July, the lead article in *Harrowsmith Magazine* examined the threat to the northern forests of New York and New England, with considerable attention to the plight of the Adirondacks. The article by John G. Mitchell began: "Once, outsiders came to the North Woods only to visit. Now, the forests are for sale, and the visitors are here to stay."

Another article by Mitchell ("Wild Island of Hope") appeared in the fall issue of *Wilderness Magazine*. It begins:

"This is a little story about a lot of country, the Adirondacks, and why they are special to people who feel strongly about wilderness, and how both the protected and the unsecured parts happen to be perched right now on the edge of something. It is the story, too, of a fragile opportunity to zip up what is arguably the biggest catch of the five-star, blue-ribbon boondocks anywhere north of the Florida Everglades and east of the Boundary Waters, all of it sitting like a jewel in the crown, right up there at the boreal edge of America's second most populous state."

Grandeur and Frailty

The September issue of Conde Nast's *Traveler* featured an article entitled "Forever Wild." "The Adirondacks are one of America's largest and most beautiful parks," the opening blurb reads. "Alex Shoumatoff evokes their grandeur — and warns of their frailty."



The writer quotes a Council spokesman on development threats, inadequate land-use controls, and the need for the State "to be there with its checkbook" when critical private holdings come on the market. Elsewhere in the article, Chairman "Woody" Cole of the Adirondack Park Agency describes threats to the "Adirondack outback" posed by foreign real-estate investors, Yuppie land speculators, and the arrival of bigtime corporate subdividers.

Adventures in Ecology

"Outfits like Patten Corporation and Properties of America are waltzing in and buying up big chunks, breaking 14,000 acres into 100- and 200-acre lots, which they disguise as 'recreational hunting camps' and 'adventures in ecology,'" Cole is quoted as saying. If this trend continues, he warns, "the open-space character of the park will be diminished until it is forever gone instead of forever wild."

A recent issue of *Country Living* was devoted entirely to the Adirondacks, and J. Crew is reportedly using an Adirondack theme for an upcoming catalog.

The downside of all this attention is that it will attract more people who regard "raw land" as a commodity rather than a resource. But the net gain could be considerable. Most of this publicity carries our conservation message far and wide. This means greater awareness of the threats to the Adirondacks, more preservation pressure on public officials and lawmakers, and the increasing likelihood we will succeed in securing lasting protection for the *entire* Adirondack Park.

Dick Beamish

Council to Commission: Think Park!

Following are excerpts from an Adirondack Council letter to the Governor's Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century.

Today the Adirondack Park is under siege by speculators, subdividers and developers. The park is afflicted by people-pressure that could not have been imagined before the Adirondack Northway (I-87) was completed in the 1960s.

Bulldozers clear new roadways into private forest lands in preparation for lot sales and second-home construction. New condominiums, townhouses and cottages rim lakeshores, wall out views of the water and shut off public access. Garish signs, honky-tonk attractions and fast-food franchises are transforming many Adirondack villages into Everywhere USA.

Once peaceful lakes are aswarm with overpowered speedboats. Ill-conceived government initiatives have brought a proliferation of prisons and disruptive, ear-shattering military training flights over sensitive wildlife and wilderness areas. High-priced townhouses and condo resorts cater to second-home owners who, in combination with land speculators, force out local people who can no longer cope with accelerating land costs and property taxes.

Yet we still have the opportunity here in the Adirondack Park to do things right — to show the rest of the world how the human species can co-exist in harmony with its natural environment.

The Adirondack Council urges you to advocate the following strategies for protecting and preserving the park:

Ownership Goal

The Commission should set a specific goal for optimum park size and public/private ownership mix — and identify how this goal can be achieved. To preserve the open-space character of the park, we urge you to advocate a halt to further subdivision and development on Resource Management and much of the Rural Use lands [the privately-owned open space] except for structures associated with forestry and agricultural uses.

Acquisition Policy

A state land acquisition policy should be adopted that includes clear priorities for rounding out the public Forest Preserve and for easement protection of the working landscape (forestry and farmlands). The State should be given the right of first refusal on all Resource Management and Rural Use land; along rivers, public roads and highways; and on undeveloped shoreline. The State should exercise the right of eminent domain when any private lands essential to the integrity of the Adirondack Park are threatened by subdivision or development.

(continued next page)



Alan Cedersstrom

ENTERING THE ADIRONDACK PARK FROM THE SOUTH ON NYS ROUTE 9

Adirondack Shorelines

All shorelines should be classified "critical environmental areas" subject to Adirondack Park Agency review. The number of new buildings allowed near shorelines should be reduced. All new buildings near shorelines should be sited, constructed, colored and vegetatively screened so as to be invisible from the water.

No new boathouses or airplane hangars should be allowed, and docks should be small and unobtrusive. Where subdivisions occur, shoreline should be commonly owned and preserved in its natural condition. New buildings should be clustered well back from the shoreline. The legal loopholes that allow all cabins in group camps to be converted into single family dwellings should be eliminated. A Wild, Scenic and Recreational Lake System should be established by law, patterned after the federal and state Rivers System which provides extra protection for outstanding natural waterways.

Adirondack Roadsides

All land along public roads and highways (villages included) should be classified as "critical environmental areas" requiring Adirondack Park Agency review. The APA should require all future development on scenic roadways to be hidden from the road — just as new buildings near lakeshores should not be visible from the water.

Adirondack Waterways

All navigable rivers and streams of the park should be re-opened to the public. Along with the right to navigate canoes and other small craft, the public should regain the right to portage on private property around dams, rapids, waterfalls and other obstacles.

Acquisition Funds

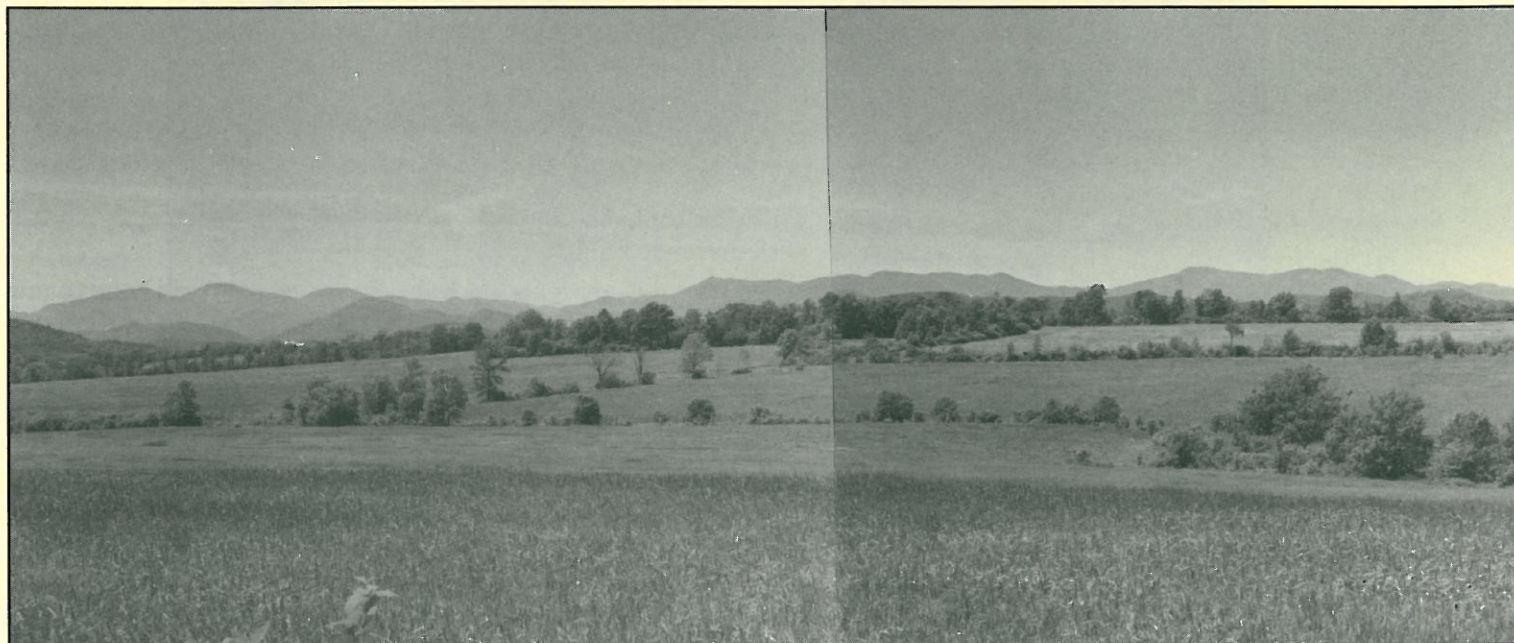
The State has run out of land acquisition funds. Unless these funds are quickly replenished, many critical private holdings could soon be lost to private exploiters. All avenues must be explored to insure a steady source of funds for essential additions to the public Forest Preserve and to acquire conservation easements (i.e., development rights) on key private lands. Such funds might be derived from real-estate taxes of various kinds, a gasoline tax, park entry fees, a bond act, private contributions, and from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund or a state equivalent.

Land Stewardship Act

A law must be enacted to reward private actions that help to preserve the park and penalize private actions that exploit and degrade the natural qualities of the region. For example, land speculation and subdivision diminishes the character of the park and should therefore be taxed. Conversely, a landowner who relinquishes development rights, or provides public recreational access, has acted in the public interest and should be rewarded with reduced property taxes and/or payment for conservation easements.

Noise Abatement

Noise of all kinds — on the ground and water and in the air — increasingly threatens the natural tranquility of the park. Decibel limits should be established for all motor vehicles including motorboats, motorcycles, snowmobiles, trucks, jet skis and motorized surfboards. The increasingly disruptive use of Adirondack airspace by private, commercial and military aircraft must also be addressed.



IN THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY NEAR WHALLONSBURG . . .

Forest Preserve Use Limits

It's time to institute a permit system limiting campers, hikers and canoers on the more popular and overused trails and waterways. Limits should be established for Mount Marcy, Lake Colden and Marcy Dam, Ampersand Mountain, Saint Regis Canoe Area, Raquette River and Oswegatchie River.

Bob Marshall Great Wilderness

This 408,000-acre wilderness area in the western Adirondacks, as proposed by the Adirondack Council, represents our last opportunity to preserve a roadless area large enough to support a restored population of wolves and possibly even cougars. It would also be a stronghold for moose and the vast majority of the park's mammals and birds. The State should move quickly to acquire the necessary private land (178,000 acres) from those willing sellers among the 22 landowners involved.

The Adirondack Council

People need jobs that come with development. That short-term concern, however, mustn't cloud the long-range vision of our park preservationists. They must concentrate not on the next four years, not on the next 25 years, but on the next century. Is the Governor's Commission with the visionary-like name really looking that far ahead? The Park has been here for New Yorkers for nearly 100 years and must remain. The biggest threat to its continued life will come if the APA forgets its purpose, or if the Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century obscures it.

Elizabethtown Valley News

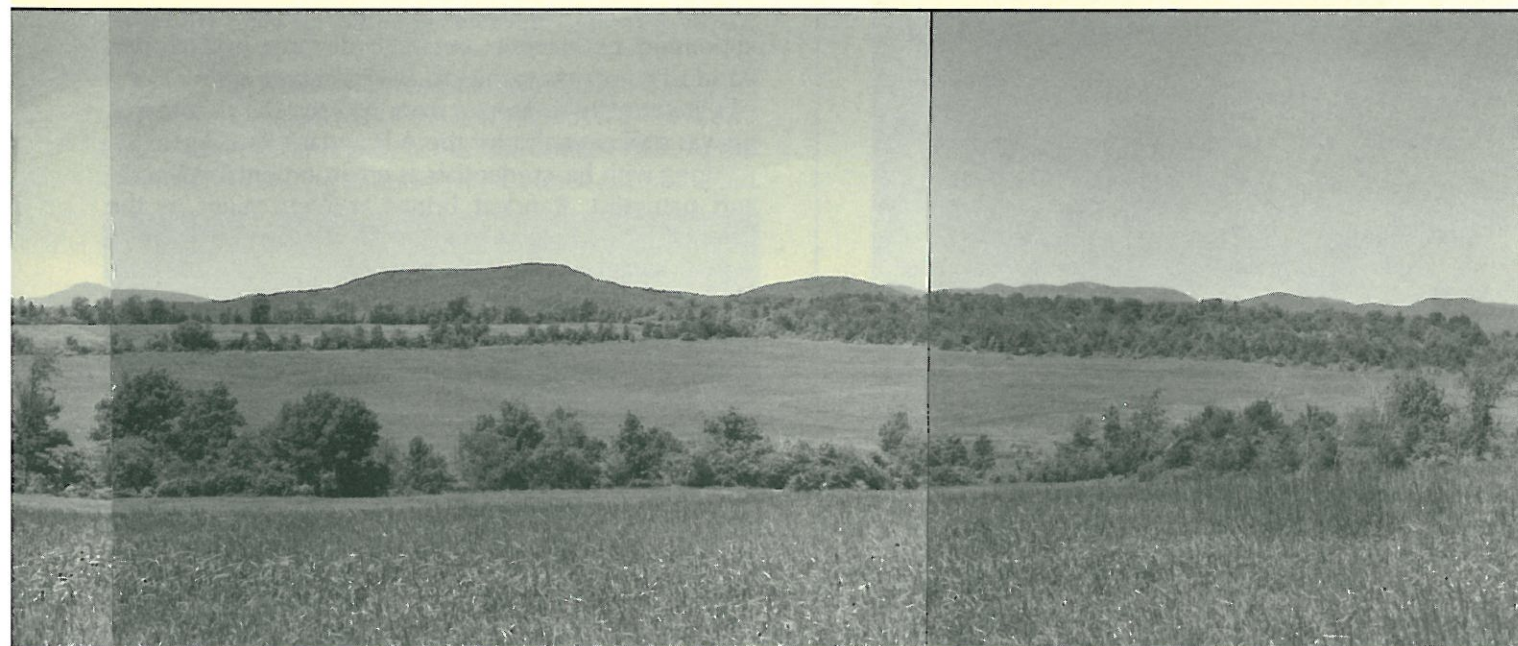
A THOUSAND CUTS



Michael Carr

By October of this year, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) had already received more than 500 development applications — and only about half of all Adirondack development projects are under APA jurisdiction.

"It's not just the big second-home and resort projects that can destroy the park," said Dan Plumley, who monitors such activities for the Council. "The accumulation over the years of two-lot subdivisions and single-family dwellings are every bit as lethal. Death by a thousand small cuts is no different from death by a big explosion."



... ONE OF MANY SCENIC VISTAS IN NEED OF PERMANENT PROTECTION

Chairwoman Named

"Think Globally, Act Locally" is the bumper sticker on Barbara Glaser's car.

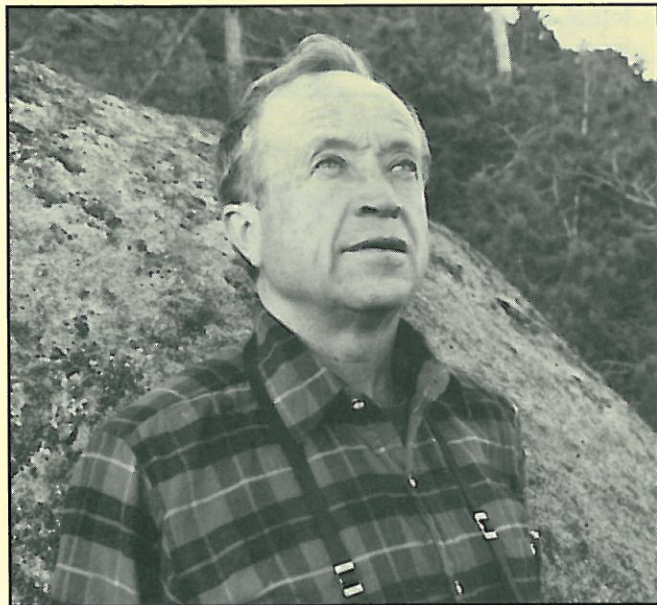
As a Saratoga resident, she has been "acting locally" on behalf of the Adirondack Park in her backyard since 1976, when she began working to preserve the Adirondacks as a member of the Council's board of directors. She's been involved even more intensely since last July, when she succeeded Kim Elliman as board chairman.

Glaser is a director of the Sagamore Conference Center (a creative re-adaptation of an Adirondack Great Camp) near Raquette Lake; co-founded the Saratoga Institute, which provides consulting services and curriculum development for schools, businesses and non-profit agencies; and co-founded the Saratoga chapter of Amnesty International. She has long been active with Capital District Hospice, which provides home-based help to dying patients and their families, and recently helped launch a hospice program in Saratoga.

Where did her environmental interests begin?

"In Minnesota, when I was 12 years old, my father gave me a book called *The Singing Wilderness* by Sigurd Olson," she said. "That did it. Of course, living in Minnesota I think you come by a land ethic naturally. Most people are only a generation or two from farming. And I grew up with woods and water, vacationing on Lake Superior and canoeing in the Boundary Waters."

"Those North Woods are a lot like ours," she added. "Except here we also have mountains."



John Sheehan

GARY RANDORF — New Executive Director



Gary Randorf

BARBARA GLASER — New Chairwoman



Director Appointed

The Council's nationwide talent search has ended at home.

Gary Randorf, who became acting director in July, was appointed permanent executive director in October. Randorf is not new to the job, having served as the Council's first executive director from 1977 to 1987. Before that he was staff naturalist for the Adirondack Park Agency.

Along with his credentials as environmental advocate and naturalist, Randorf brings another talent to the Council. He is a leading Adirondack photographer whose work appears on the covers and inside pages of *Adirondack Life* and in a host of other periodicals and books, including the famed *Adirondack Wildguide*. Twenty of his photographs are now on permanent display at the Council's new offices on Church St. in Elizabethtown.

Council members are encouraged to stop by, say hello, and see Gary's pictures when you're in the area.

"We abuse land because we view it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Aldo Leopold

ADIRONDACKS AS MODEL AND INSPIRATION

Wilderness Act Author Honored

"A wilderness is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION ACT, 1964

To honor the author and principal promoter of the National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964, a group of Adirondack preservationists gathered at a rustic cabin overlooking Crane Mountain on a sunny morning in early September. The man they had come to honor was Howard Zahniser, at the same family retreat where "Zahnie" had derived strength and inspiration during the eight-year battle to preserve wilderness areas throughout the country.

Alice, his widow, received a commemorative plaque from Paul Schaefer, the longtime friend who introduced the Zahnisers to the Adirondacks in 1946. Organized by the Council, the ceremony coincided with the 25th anniversary of the National Wilderness System.

Howard Zahniser, who died two months before the Wilderness Act was signed into law by President Johnson, had picked up the torch of wilderness preservation from Bob Marshall, the writer/explorer/mountain climber/public servant who summered in the Adirondacks and later conceived the idea of a national system of protected roadless areas.

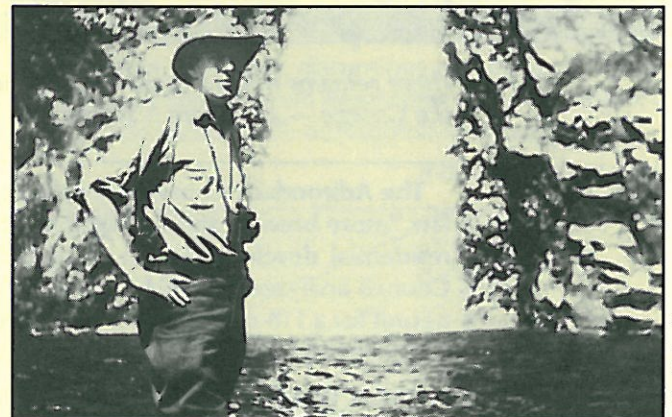
Marshall was the principal founder and prime mover behind the Wilderness Society in the late 1930s. Soon after Marshall's untimely death in 1939, Zahniser took over as the Society's director. Both men based their vision of a national wilderness system on the model established by New York State in 1885: the "forever wild" Adirondack Forest Preserve.

In 1935-36, Marshall inventoried every sizable roadless area in the United States. One of these was the Cranberry Lake-Beaver River region of the Adirondack Park. At the ceremony honoring Zahniser, the Council also launched



Gary Randorf

Alice Zahniser with Governor's Proclamation



Paul Schaefer

Howard Zahniser Wilderness Act Author

its campaign to establish a 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness that will embrace much of the same area Marshall identified over 50 years ago.

The nine-million-acre system of federal wilderness in 1964 has since grown to 90 million acres. And the notion of saving the last vestiges of undisturbed wild lands has led to similar actions by dozens of other nations, from Australia to the Soviet Union.

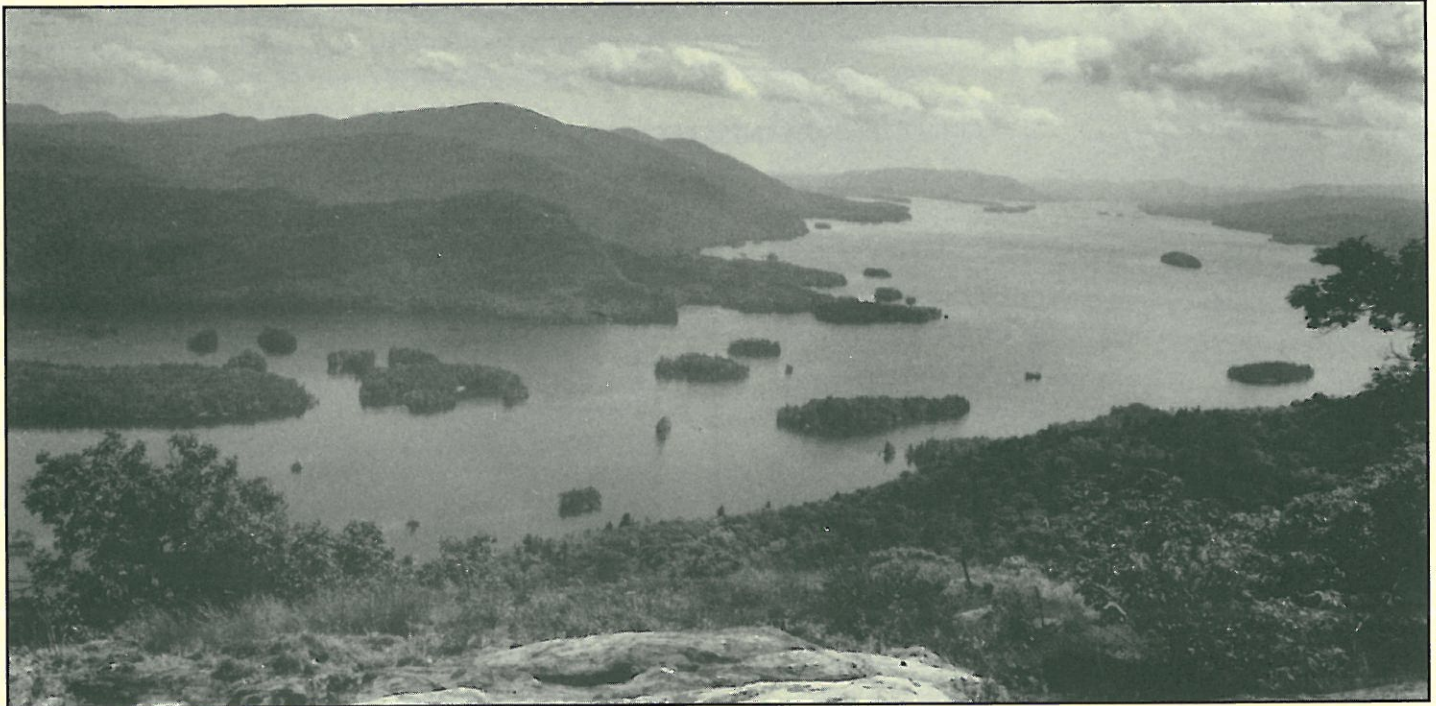
Governor Cuomo was represented at the Zahniser commemoration by Herman F. "Woody" Cole, chairman of the Adirondack Park Agency. Cole read a letter from the Governor to Alice Zahniser, which concluded:

"Our struggle to be worthy of visionaries like Howard Zahniser will continue. I look forward to the report of the Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century to articulate a vision for this magnificent region. We must continue the ethic to which Howard Zahniser was devoted, and we are inspired by his memory to do so today."



Gary Randorf

Paul Schaefer Reads Commemorative Plaque

COUNCIL EXHORTS APA**“Act Boldly To Curb Rampant Development”**

Paul Miller

“There remains much beauty and wildness beyond the sadly degraded southern half of Lake George — and there is still time to save it.”

The Adirondack Council has called on the park’s land-use regulator to interpret its law “more broadly and boldly” to stop the “cancer-like spread” of commercial and residential development. In the letter below to the Adirondack Park Agency, the Council analyzed the APA’s mandate and specifically petitioned the APA to deny a permit for a 118-unit condominium project near Lake George. On September 22, the APA commission voted to deny the project.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank the Adirondack Park Agency for taking a responsible stand and urge them to apply broad environmental standards to *all* projects under their jurisdiction. Write Robert C. Glennon, Executive Director, APA, Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977.

DEAR ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY:

The Adirondack Council hereby petitions you to deny a permit for the Federal Hill condominium project near Bolton Landing, whether it be 118 residential units as requested, or a scaled-down version of that proposal. Our request is based on the following considerations.

The Adirondack Park Agency was established by the people of New York State in 1971 in recognition that *unregulated* development would destroy the natural, open-space character that distinguishes the Adirondack Park from most other places on earth. It has become clear, since the enactment of the APA’s zoning and land-use controls in 1973, that *regulated* development, if not regulated properly, will also destroy the Adirondack Park.

The commercial and residential growth in the southern Lake George Basin is illustrative. Most observers will agree

that the southern half of Lake George, between Lake George Village and Bolton Landing, is now overdeveloped. The proliferation of motels, road signs, marinas, bars, restaurants, cabins and, more recently, lakeside and hillside condominiums, has transformed what was, only a few decades ago, one of America’s most beautiful natural areas.

There remains much beauty and wildness beyond the sadly degraded southern half of Lake George — and there is still time to save it. The Adirondack Park Agency must not allow northern Lake George and its environs to suffer the same *avoidable* fate as southern Lake George. To halt the cancer-like spread of inappropriate commercial and residential development, the APA needs now to draw a line and declare: “Enough is enough!”

Development Considerations

Your statute requires you to consider the “potential adverse impact” of a proposed development project “on the park’s natural, scenic, aesthetic, ecological, wildlife, historic, recreational or open-space resources.” If the development, or an accumulation of such developments, could significantly alter these resources, then you have the responsibility to prevent such development from occurring.

The Federal Hill condo project, and the plethora of similar projects that have preceded it, clearly constitute a major threat to the natural character of the Adirondack Park.

Impact on Nearby Uses

The APA Act requires you to consider the impact of this project on “nearby uses.” For example, you must weigh:

- The impact of dozens of condominium units to be constructed around a classic Adirondack golf course now registered as a national historic site;
- The impact of hundreds of additional motorboats that residents of these new condominium units will introduce onto a lake already overrun with an estimated 10,000 boats on a summer weekend;
- The impact of hundreds of additional automobiles on what is currently a peaceful country road, ideal for bicycling and leisurely sightseeing;
- The impact of additional new growth induced by the accumulation of such projects, including new gas stations, road signs, shopping centers, boat slips, bars and restaurants.

Burden on Local Government and Local Residents

The APA Act requires that “any burdens on the public in providing facilities and services made necessary by such development must also be taken into account.” The APA has not adequately examined this aspect of the Federal Hill proposal, even though local residents and local government officials have voiced their concerns.

Economic and Social Considerations

While the developer emphasizes the new jobs his project will provide, and the new tax revenues his project will produce for local coffers, the social and economic costs have not been adequately considered.

What is the impact of this and similar development on land values and property taxes? How many local residents will be forced to sell their land to developers because of rising land taxes? How many children of local residents will be able to afford their own decent housing here in the future?

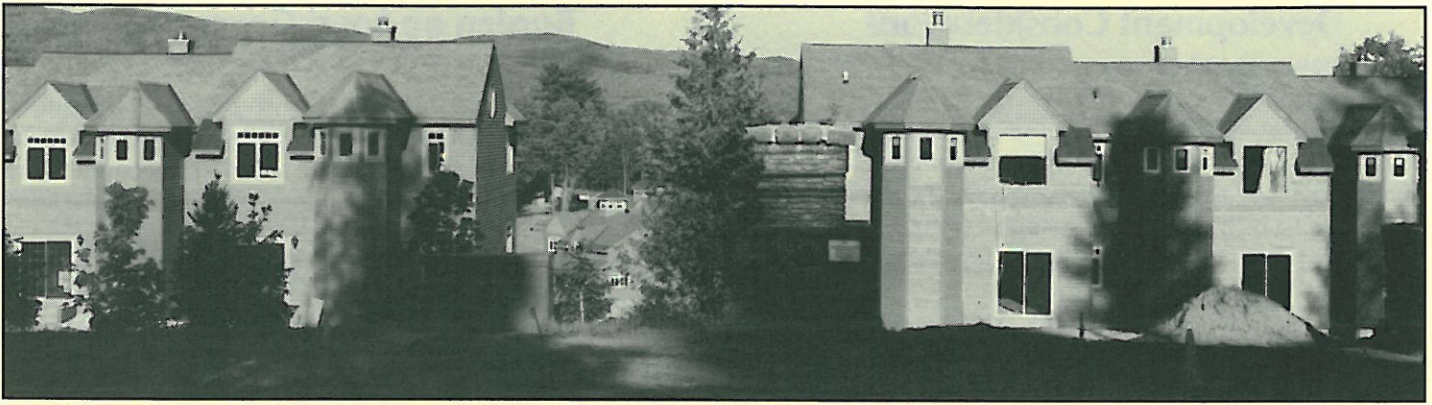
Of the new construction and maintenance jobs created by this and other comparable projects, how many jobs go to local residents in need of dependable, year-round employment? And how many of the new jobs, particularly the better jobs, go to those who are brought in from outside the Adirondack Park?

One need only look at neighboring Vermont to see the natural and economic disruptions caused by extensive resort and condominium development and the influx of new residents that such development has attracted.

(continued next page)



“It does not take an expert to recognize that the natural carrying capacity has been exceeded between Lake George Village and Bolton Landing.”



Alan Cederstrom

VIEW BLOCKED — Condos wall off Lake George from Rt. 9N.

Conflicting Rather than Complementary

The APA Act requires you to recognize the “complementary needs” of the State to preserve the park’s open-space character and provide for a strong economic base. The Federal Hill proposal, and other similar development that will continue to spread throughout the Lake George Basin if this project is approved, in no way “complements” the protective purpose of the law. Such projects are in conflict with, and detrimental to, the park’s natural character.

Carrying Capacity

Much has been said recently about the natural, physical “carrying capacity” of the Lake George Basin in terms of sewage treatment, stormwater runoff, nutrient loading, milfoil infestation, and coliform counts. The APA must now consider another kind of carrying capacity for Lake George and the rest of the Adirondack Park. This is the *scenic and aesthetic carrying capacity*. The question here is: “How much additional human activity in the Lake George Basin, and how much additional human domination of the land and water resources, will destroy the remaining wildness, beauty and serenity?”

It does not take an expert to recognize that the natural carrying capacity has been exceeded between Lake George Village and Bolton Landing. And it will soon be exceeded throughout the *entire* basin unless the APA takes a broader view of each and every development application over which it has jurisdiction.

Cumulative Impact

The APA needs to consider the cumulative impact of such development projects here and elsewhere in the Adirondack Park . . . to look at what has happened to southern Lake George in the past two decades . . . to take into account the accelerated pace of development in the past five years . . . and then picture what Lake George will look like, if present trends are allowed to continue, in the year 2000.

And then you must ask: “Is this an acceptable fate for what is still, in its northern half, one of the world’s most beautiful lakes?”

Think Park!

To cope with the accelerating threats to the natural integrity of Lake George and the rest of the Adirondack Park, we urge you to fulfill your protective mandate by interpreting your statute more broadly and boldly than you have in the past. Special action is needed to protect this special place. In other words: **THINK PARK!**

Condominiums now punctuate and wall off our coastline from Maine to Florida. Condos have domesticated wild lakeshores and mountainsides from North Carolina to New Hampshire. The Adirondack Park Agency must not allow such development to destroy the last great open-space sanctuary east of the Mississippi and north of the Everglades.

Gary Randorf
Executive Director



Alan Cederstrom

SHORELINE MARRED — The same condominium complex seen from the lake.

Leadley Continues To Assail "Bogus Claims"

At its annual dinner in July, the Council gave writer Jack Leadley, Jr. its "Outstanding Communicator Award" for rigorously questioning the alleged benefits of a 182-unit condominium project proposed for Speculator, NY. "I have had quite enough of people from other places telling me they have to change Speculator and my life for our own good," Leadley asserted in the Hamilton County News. "I like this village just the way it is."

Excerpts from a subsequent column appear below:

I think it's madness to work to attract development of anything other than tourism when we are already surrounded by developers licking their chops at the prospect of subdividing the Adirondacks, making a killing, and then being so rich they can afford to escape the mess they will have made here . . .

I've come to the belief that the Adirondacks can only provide a finite number of jobs. If you keep attracting more development because some people are out of work, it will have to end somewhere and there will still be people out of work. So what will you do then?

The Adirondacks is a special place and shouldn't be constantly subjected to more and more development. That can take place in areas that don't have this unique, fragile, natural beauty.

I worked in New York City for five and a half years before I realized I couldn't stand urban life and it would literally kill me if I didn't get out. I moved back to Speculator without a job prospect. But I eventually became editor of the *Hamilton County News*, as well as advertising representative, photographer and chief reporter. I had to do all that to make ends meet.



SKYWATCH ALERT

We need your help in building a record of military misuse and abuse of the Adirondack Park.

If you are disturbed by low-level military flights over the Adirondacks, please contact us with a description of the event, including time, place and — if you can do it — the type of plane involved. Call or write Eric Siy, Adirondack Council, Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932, 518-873-2240.

Please also complain directly to the Strategic Air Command (SAC), 1-800-876-5160. If possible, include such information about the plane(s) as: large or small, number of engines, fast or slow, noise impact, colors, direction of flight, activities of aircraft.

But don't be deterred if you can't provide all these details. What's important is letting us and SAC know of the time and place of the latest military-training disturbance.



When the unrelenting pace left me burned out, I wasn't too proud to work at the [local grocery store] . . . I would be ashamed if I had demanded my hometown be degraded by development so I could be a bit fussier about the job I deemed to accept.

No place has full employment. Those that are the closest to achieving it

also attract the most people looking for work. If we made the Adirondacks that type of place, the already rapid growth would quickly result in every scrap of private land being developed.

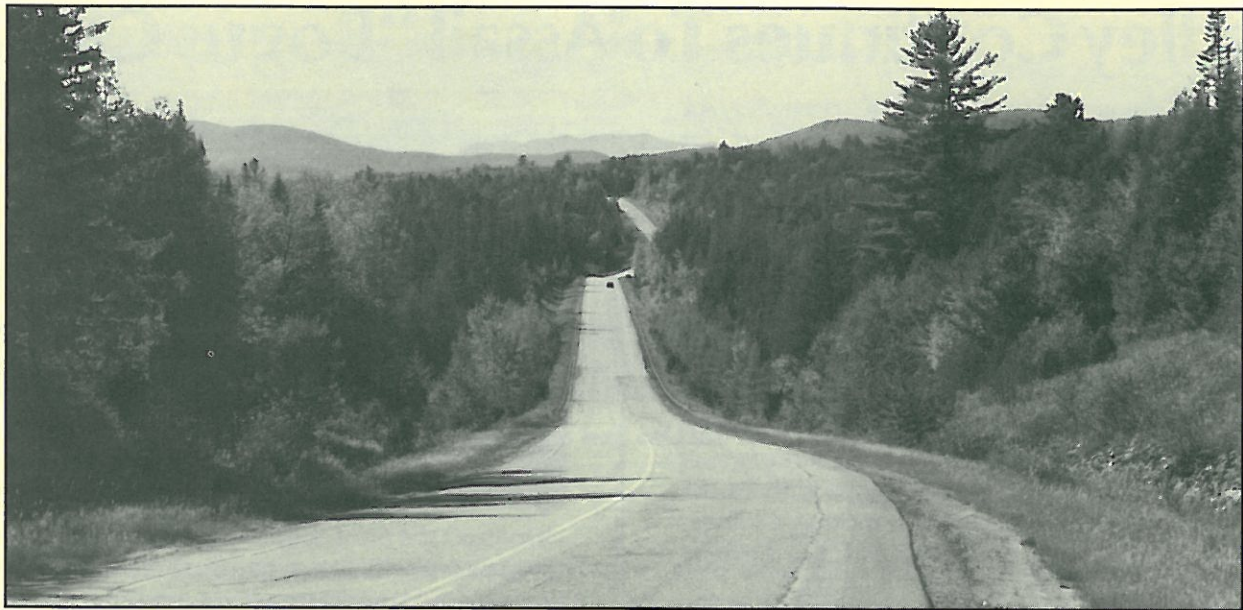
Harold Jerry [recipient of the Council's "Outstanding Conservationist Award"] said if everyone thought as I did, the Adirondack Park would be a wonderful place and his job would be a lot easier. I suspect more people think as I do than he may realize. I'm convinced that most people living here like the place as it is. Lots of them already say so. When the rest stop being mesmerized by bogus claims of lower taxes and better jobs "for our young people," it may become fashionable to speak out for protection of places like Speculator.



Wearing Different Hats



The Council's Dan Plumley (right) reviews bicycle routes with State Transportation Commissioner Franklin E. White. Whenever feasible, the Commissioner promised, his department will include wide bikable shoulders when rebuilding Adirondack highways.



Alan Cedestrom

THE BLUE RIDGE ROAD BETWEEN NORTH HUDSON AND NEWCOMB — One of many undisturbed Adirondack “travel corridors” in need of lasting protection. The Council is currently doing a photo-documentation of scenic roads and roadside vistas throughout the park.

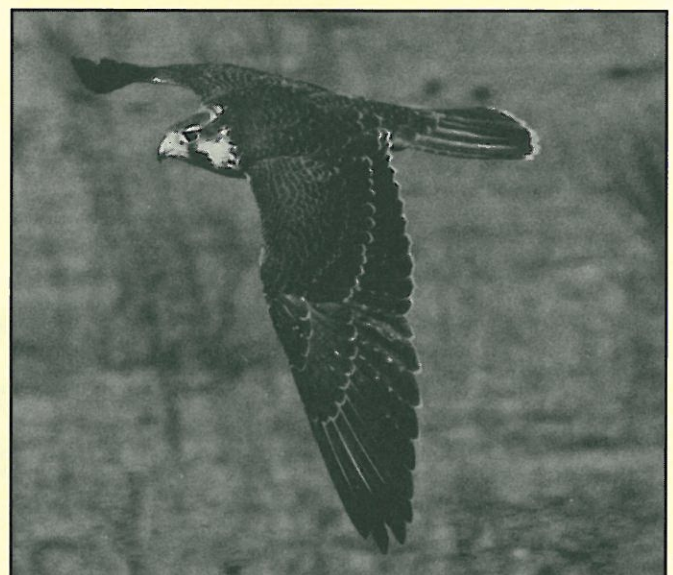
Wildlife Update

In a world where wildlife is losing out almost everywhere to a burgeoning human population, some notable progress is being made in the great natural sanctuary only several hours drive north of New York City. Four famous natives have recently returned to the Adirondacks, adding immeasurably — and wonderfully — to the quality of the wildness.



Peter Nye

Thanks to years of dogged restoration work by the Department of Environmental Conservation, five bald eagles fledged this year in three nests in Franklin County — the first productive Adirondack eagle nests in three decades.



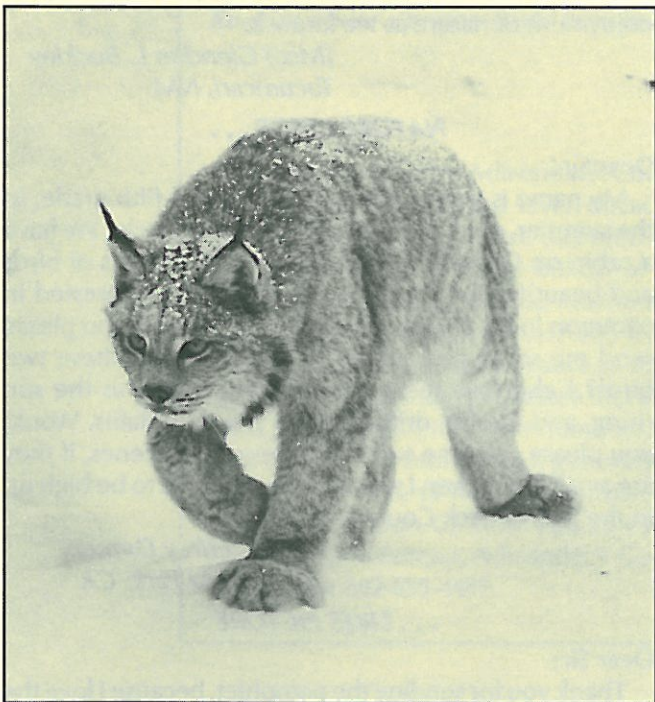
Mark Wilson

Five pairs of peregrine falcons produced 12 young this year in the Adirondacks in another successful restoration effort. Peregrines are the world's swiftest birds, diving at speeds of up to 200 mph.



Leonard Lee Rue, Jr.

A moose environmental impact statement? Yes, that's what the State has initiated — and if the results are positive, a full-scale reintroduction program will be launched. (Some 20 moose have already reintroduced themselves.)



Leonard Lee Rue, III

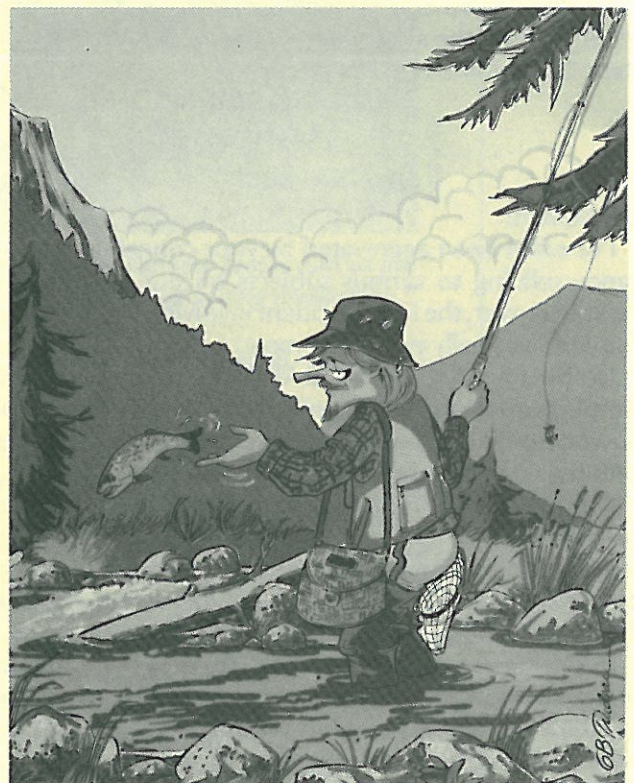
Of 18 Canadian lynx relocated from the Canadian Yukon starting last winter, 12 have survived their first year here. More releases are planned for 1990. The lynx project is run by the Adirondack Wildlife Program of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Report any sightings of adult bald eagles from April through July to Major Day, DEC, Ray Brook, NY 12977, 518-891-1370. Urge DEC Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling to keep up the good work on behalf of eagles, peregrines and moose (write him at 50 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY 12233). And support SUNY's Adirondack Wildlife Program in every way possible (for information write Adirondack Wildlife, Huntington Forest, Newcomb, NY 12852).

Back You Go! Special Poster Offer

ADIRONDACK
L • I • F • E



POSTER SALE BENEFITS COUNCIL

The specially-commissioned cover of Adirondack Life's 20th anniversary issue is available as a full-color poster measuring 22 x 35 inches — and artist Gary Trudeau is donating proceeds from the poster sale to the Adirondack Council. To order a poster send \$14.95 plus \$1.00 for shipping, to: DOONESBURY POSTER, Adirondack Life, Box 97, Jay, NY 12941.

Letters . . .

OFFENSIVE

Dear Mr. Randorf:

I just returned from a brief vacation and read your newsletter [Summer 1989]. Personally I find the newsletter offensive and this applies not only to the column by Mr. Leadley, Jr. [expressing opposition to a large condominium development proposed for his hometown of Speculator] but the response of the *Hamilton County News* and Pat Leadley.

While I too would like to keep the Adirondacks and its villages in their "natural state," some compromises in this 20th century will be necessary. The population is steadily growing and people need recreation areas. To close our eyes to this is to deal from ignorance. The life-long residents have suffered an economic slump since most timbering and mining moved West. They want their children to stay in the Adirondacks, but can they, if there are no jobs? They have rights, too.

I dislike the adversarial tone reproduced in this newsletter. If this is the atmosphere under which the Adirondack Council wants to operate, you can count me out.

*Dr. William V. Delaney, Jr.
Syracuse*

AGGRAVATED

Gentlemen:

I've often been aggravated by your conceit and arrogance relating to various subjects on our Adirondack Park. However, the latest incident involving the Air Force flyovers has finally prompted me to write.

No matter what schools or degrees or whatever you people include on your resumes, you are really a group of busybodies and self-appointed environmental vigilantes with the customary lack of common sense.

If the multitude of cars, trains, boats, snowmobiles, off-roaders and local airplanes (which produce many more decibels than military overflights) haven't already driven the various birds and beasts to distraction, I'm sure the five-second swoosh of a jet will not harm them.

In closing I would suggest there are tens of thousands of acres in the Adirondacks for those who wish to have (or just think about) the "wilderness experience." If you must have a project, go save a whale or something, but leave the park alone.

Anonymous

CRAZILY LOW

To the Adirondack Council:

I can't afford more right now, but this is for the "buzz" my wife and I got last weekend on the south side of Meacham Lake by two fighters — one crazily low, about 150 feet. This while trying to find some peace and quiet as we were about to canoe up the Osgood River.

Thanks for your efforts.

*Homer Mitchell
Potsdam, NY*

AERIAL INTRUSIONS

Dear Sirs:

As a retired Colonel of the Air Force, I find the protection of the Adirondacks a higher priority than the flight patterns currently used by the AF which impinge so negatively on the environment.

*Dr. Wayne R. Merrick
Meadville, PA*

SAVE IT!

Dear Sir:

You may wonder how a Southwesterner from New Mexico managed to respond to your appeal. By way of explanation — I am a "transplanted" up-state New Yorker, but still have deep roots in the Adirondacks. I was born in Glens Falls.

My grandparents, on my mother's side, were Mary and Joe Bryere, of Raquette Lake. They lived at, and ran as a summer hotel, the camp known as "Brightside." When last I was at the Adirondack Museum, at Blue Mtn. Lake, one entire room of Grandpa's handmade birch bedroom furniture was on display there. I was especially pleased to see his birch-twigs trimmed grandfather clock on display.

But lest this get too long, may I say simply that recent trips back to the Adirondacks have left me with mixed emotions. The old "Brightside" has been broken up into small parcels . . . the lakefront has been denuded . . . and the elevation behind the house has been lumbered off.

I'm with you folks! Put a stop to this usurping of the last vestiges of beauty remaining in upper New York. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. But likewise, once it's saved, we'll have it for all times. Future generations are entitled to the enjoyment of nature as we knew it.

*(Miss) Glendon L. Buckley
Tucumcari, NM*

NATURE LOVER . . .

Dear Sir:

My name is Jeffrey Ehmsen. I am in the fifth grade. In the summer, our family goes to the Adirondacks. We have a cabin on Canada Lake, and there are all sorts of birds and beautiful scenes. I have become very interested in common loons and great blue herons. Would you please send me some pictures and information on these two birds? I also love the beautiful scenes, such as the sun rising, and the fog drifting off of the mountains. Would you please send me some pictures of the scenes, if they are available? When I grow up, I would like to be high up in the Adirondack Council.

*Jeffrey Ehmsen
Villa Park, CA*

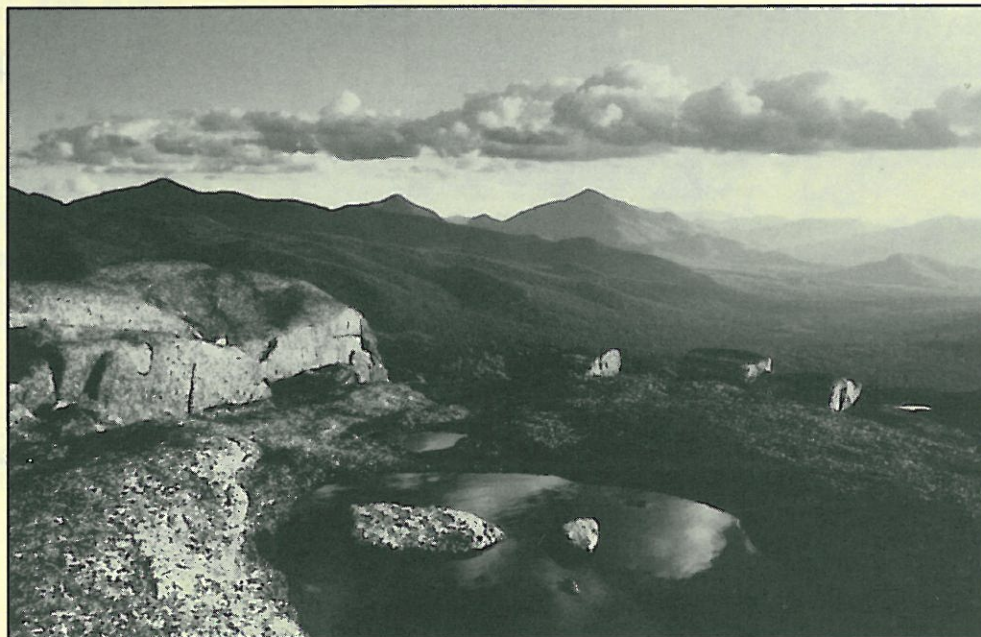
. . . LIKES PICTURE

Dear Sir:

Thank you for sending the pamphlet, because I love the picture [of Lake Lila] on the front. I also think that your stationery with the loons on the front is very nice. I have written to the place you suggested might have pictures of loons and herons.

*Jeffrey Ehmsen
Villa Park, CA*

An Enduring Legacy



Gary Randorf

"As we looked around us we realized that this was one of the few places east of the Rockies where a person could look over miles of territory without seeing civilization."

Bob Marshall, 1921

Your bequest to the Adirondack Council will help keep the Adirondack Park much as Bob Marshall saw it almost seven decades ago. By remembering the Council in your Will, you will be helping to insure that future generations will be able to hear the cry of a loon across a mountain lake, the bellow of a moose through the boreal forest, the cry of an eagle above a wild river. And maybe even the howl of a timber wolf and the snarl of a mountain lion in our proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness.

Your bequest will help to insure an expanded wilderness system and more public canoe routes. And it will help guarantee that a visitor to the park a hundred years from now (your great, great, grandchild?) can stand on an Adirondack mountaintop, as we can today, and look out over an undisturbed panorama of mountains, forests, streams and lakes — with no sign anywhere of human disturbance and development.

For information on how you can help provide an enduring natural legacy, please contact Lynne Poteau, Adirondack Council, Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932. Tel. 518-873-2240 or 802-655-4481.



EARLY WINTER — Photograph by Gary Randorf

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

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

A coalition of the National Audubon Society; 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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