

# The Adirondack Council NEWSLETTER



JUNE 1988

## A COUNTY VICTORY

Calling waste incineration "resource destruction and not resource recovery," Dr. Paul Connett helped to sway the Essex County Board of Supervisors with a discourse on the dangers of incinerator ash and the benefits of waste reduction.

Following his talk, the Board voted against allowing hazardous ash to be buried at a landfill site in the Town of Lewis in the eastern Adirondacks. The vote also disassociated Essex County from a proposed three-county incineration project which has been questioned by the Council and other environmental groups.

Connett was the Council's "star witness" at the hearing. His participation was arranged by Dan Plumley, the Council's Park Specialist, and it proved crucial.

"We heard lots of people giving us second, third and fourth-hand information," said one of the supervisors after the vote. "But this was straight from someone who knows what he's talking about."

A chemistry professor at St. Lawrence University, Connett is founder of Work on Waste USA, an organization dedicated to reducing waste through less profligate packaging, household separation of refuse, reuse and recycling, composting, toxic removal, and selective burial.



## A TOWN VICTORY

In a victory for the Council and other Adirondack environmentalists, the Town of North Elba (including Lake Placid Village) has voted to discontinue the aerial spraying of Dibrom-14, a dangerous organophosphate pesticide traditionally used in the Adirondacks to kill blackflies. Starting next year, the Town will use Bti, a biological control that has proved more lethal against blackflies and is apparently not harmful to human beings, birds, bees, and other living things.

In voting to halt chemical spraying, the Board cited a large volume of mail opposing use of the pesticide, including letters from Adirondack Council members who responded to a call for mail in our last newsletter. North Elba is the 10th Adirondack town to switch from Dibrom to Bti.

## LAND RUSH BUILDS

*Impressed by the profits to be made in subdividing farms and woodlands, some former salesmen for Patten Corporation set up their own land company, Properties of America (POA). POA has now announced plans to open an office in Lake Placid and give Patten a run for its money in the Adirondacks. Like Patten (see page 6), POA has been sending letters to landowners throughout the Park in their search for mountain, valley and lakeshore acreage that may be ripe for subdivision.*

*The letter below is typical.*

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Audino:

We are interested in purchasing land, with or without houses or outbuildings, in the Westport area.

Properties of America, Inc., is a well-established company known for its environmentally responsible work. We can pay cash for your land, or if you prefer, we can do terms with you. Above all, we make every effort to meet your needs. For example, if you want to keep your house and some acreage, or if you want to sell just a portion of your land, we will purchase the remainder.

Please understand that we are offering to purchase your property, not to list it for sale. We are not real estate brokers; we act as principals in all transactions.

Paul J. Armitage  
Associate Acquisitions Representative



Barbara McMartin

**ADIRONDACK ALLIGATOR?**



# ACQUISITION PLAN UNVEILED

The Adirondack Council has released a map pinpointing 300,000 acres of top-priority land acquisitions in the Adirondack park. To secure the wild character of these and adjacent public lands for future generations, the Council is urging the Department of Environmental Conservation to move full-speed ahead in negotiating with landowners for direct purchase (fee title) or conservation easements.

Lands purchased outright will become part of the "forever wild" Forest Preserve, which currently makes up about 40% of the Park. Lands secured by conservation easement will continue in private ownership but with their open-space character intact and future public purchase still a possibility.

The Council's map delineates "ten priority areas" along with dozens of other key private tracts whose survival as wild, undeveloped backcountry is essential to maintaining the natural condition of the entire Adirondack Park.

**Potential Bob Marshall Great Wilderness:** Still relatively unscathed by civilization, this portion of the west-central Adirondacks could become the largest and wildest designated Wilderness north of Florida's Everglades and east of Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area. By consolidating existing Forest Preserve with other wild tracts, the State can create a Wilderness of nearly 400,000 acres, including one holding of 50,000 acres which, with its myriad lakes and streams, could also be another Adirondack Canoe Area.

**Southern High Peaks:** Some 25,000 acres including the spectacular Boreas Ponds, Henderson Lake, and Preston Ponds; extensive acreage along the Opalescent River controlling the approach to Allen Mountain; and the east side of the Santanoni Range.

**Hudson Headwaters:** Two miles of the southern rim of the fabled Hudson Gorge and its Blue Ledges, OK Slip Falls (highest falls in New York State), and the eight miles of wild Hudson above the Gorge.

**Boreal Preserve:** Some 75,000 acres of the rare Canadian Life Zone of low elevation spruce forests and sphagnum bogs, ideal habitat for such species as moose (now slowly returning) and spruce grouse (now endangered in the Adirondacks).

**Champlain Valley:** The mountains, woodlands and farms of the Lake Champlain Valley form some of the most scenic landscapes in the country. Better protection and better public access are needed as development pressures increase.

**Bloomingdale Bog—Adirondack Vista:** This site includes the incomparable view from Route 86 of Whiteface Mountain, the McKenzie Range, and the High Peaks — with the classic Bloomingdale Bog in the foreground.

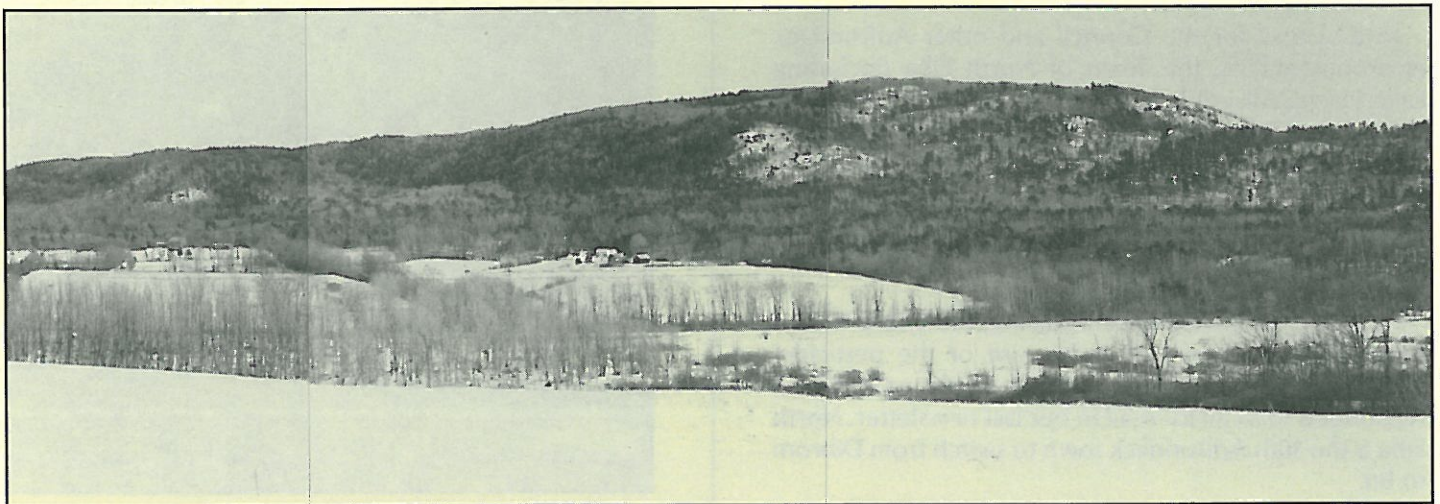
**High Peaks Vista:** The view of Indian Pass, McIntyre Range, Mount Colden and Mount Marcy, from Route 73 south of Lake Placid.

**Silver Lake Wilderness:** Private inholdings in this Wilderness Area in the southern Adirondacks must be acquired to insure the integrity of the whole ecosystem.

**Blue Ridge Road:** The views from this county road from North Hudson to Long Lake are among the finest in the Park. Easement acquisition is the key to preserving this unique roadway whose immediate surroundings are largely in private ownership.

**Diameter and Pinnacle:** An outstanding geologic and biologic sampling at the south end of Lake Champlain including the Pinnacle Ridge and its 700-foot cliffs, with rock outcrops, talus and ledges that offer denning sites for small mammals and reptiles, as well as habitat for ravens, vultures, and possibly peregrine falcons and golden eagles.

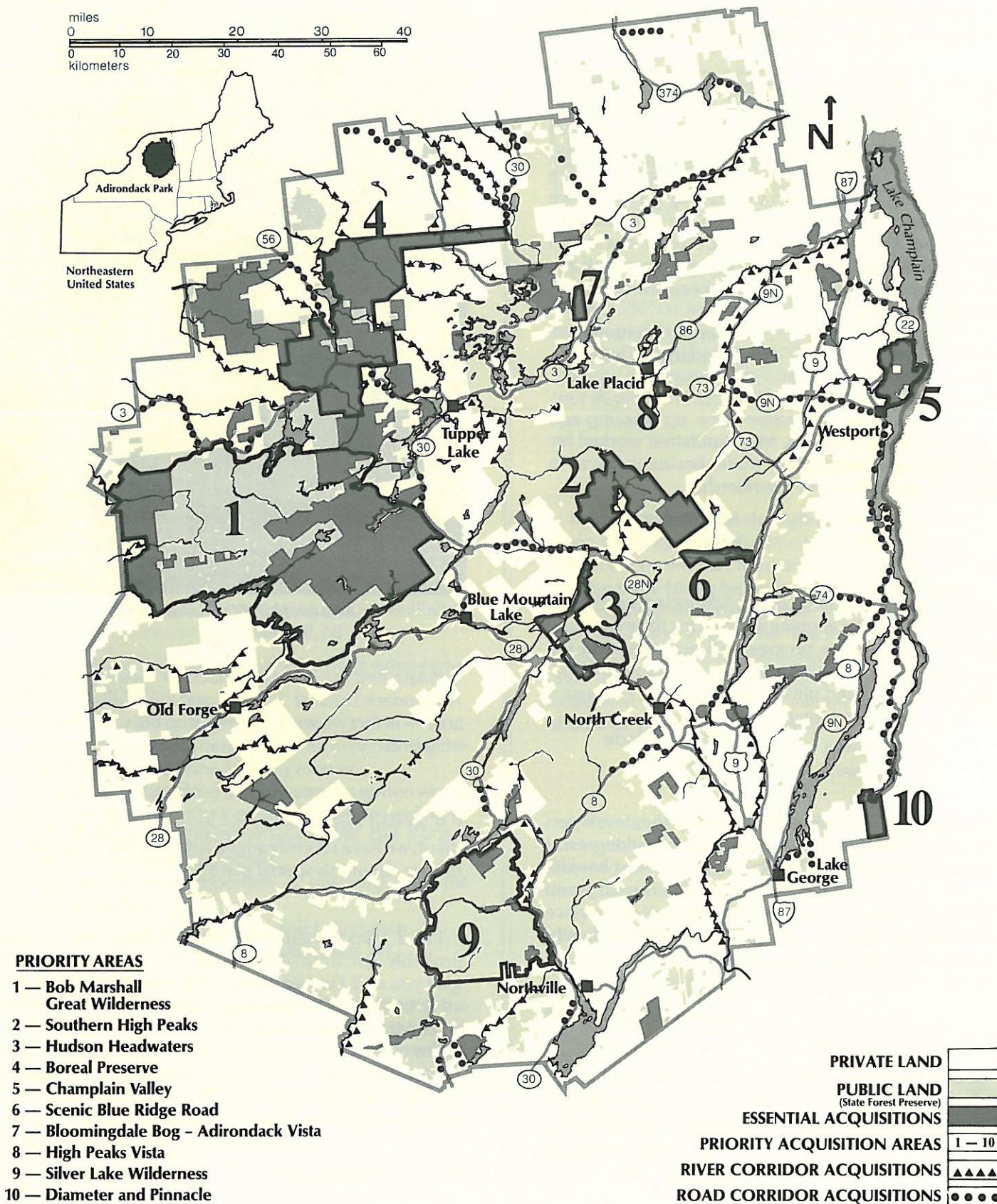
*Please write to Commissioner Thomas C. Jorling, urging him to act immediately on these recommendations. Address: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233.*



A TOP PRIORITY — SPLIT ROCK RANGE, LAKE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY



# THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACQUISITION PLAN FOR THE ADIRONDACK PARK MAY 1988





**AS MEMBERSHIP SURGES . . .****LETTERS INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE**

*The Adirondack Council's membership has expanded from 3,000 in January 1987, to 7,500 in May 1988. Many of the written comments from new members have moved and inspired us. Some excerpts appear below:*

I had put off sending in my membership dues until the other day when I was out walking with my nine year old niece. She began asking how we could save the hill behind our house and all the other mountains from having houses and lights put on them. She then asked if there would be trees around when she grew up and could we (adults) please do something to keep the trees and animals for her to always have around her. It was then I realized what I had put off wasn't going to be put off any longer. Hopefully this will help to keep the trees and animals for Melissa.

Lynn A. Osterberg  
Olmstedville, NY

My grandfather and father grew up working and playing in the Adirondacks. My grandfather worked for years lumbering throughout those beautiful lands. In their memory I submit my membership.

Mrs. Ruth B. Truax  
Massena, NY

I grew up in the foothills of the Adirondacks and spent many of my years vacationing and touring the woods and mountainsides. I hope progress will not take away the beauty of this area and that it will remain "Forever Wild."

I am 87 years old and still visit every summer — it is such a joy to go back every year.

Mildred LaPorte  
Paramus, NJ

Please enter my membership and stop the developers who are encroaching on the Adirondack wilderness. I wish to obtain copies of Gary Randorf's excellent booklet "Beside the Stilled Waters" for our environmental group TREEWATCH. We are hosting an international conference next summer on forest decline and I would like to distribute your booklet to the invited participants.

Phillip Norton  
Mooers Forks, NY 12959

At one time we owned property in the Adirondacks and we still visit the area once a year. It is very dear to us and holds many memories. Keep up your good work.

Lois L. Howe  
Salamanca, NY



**MOUNTAINTOP MARRIAGE**

Please find the enclosed check for membership in the Adirondack Council. My husband and I adore this great area — in fact we were married atop Big Crow Mountain in Keene.

Diane Gorodnitzki  
Sagaponack, NY

P.S. As you can see from the enclosed baby announcement, we have recently added a new person to the world to care about this special place.

I'm a transplanted New Yorker whose address you probably got from *Adirondack Life* subscriptions. I'm glad you did! I've been amazed at how much land I saw advertised in that magazine; I didn't realize how many acres are in private hands.

I'm currently a graduate student in Botany at the University of Kansas. Even though I've grown to love the prairies out here (what's left of them) I still feel a commitment to the Adirondacks and Catskills.

Carol Kuhn  
Lawrence, KS



I am particularly interested in extending public access to Adirondack canoe routes.

John C. Cheney  
Buffalo

I've been a visitor to the Adirondack Park since I was about 10 or 11 years old — hunting, fishing, camping, canoe trips, sightseeing, etc. At 71, I still visit two or three times a year at least. Do your best to keep the beautiful roadside vistas as well as the pristine areas.

Arthur L. Comstock  
Schenectady, NY

Please enroll me as a member. Our law firm would be glad to provide *pro bono* services to the extent we can. The Park must be consolidated and preserved — expanded if possible.

Please let me know if we can help. We don't have a lot of time but if many do a little, I'm sure greed will not prevail.

Niagara Falls, NY  
(Name Withheld by Editor)

Enclosed please find my check for an individual membership enrollment. Living in New Jersey, I know all too well the detrimental effects of these self-serving developers! I belong to several environmental groups, but this program strikes me as extra special. I have never been to the Adirondacks and may never get there, but it matters very much to me that it remain undisturbed.

Virginia Nardone-Belfiglio  
Caldwell, NJ

P.S. I passed the literature you sent me on to others who might want to join up.

Our family has always been interested in preserving the Adirondacks for everyone to enjoy forever.

Through the years travel on the water has gotten worse all through the Adirondack region. We are struggling to have a speed-noise-and-lower-propulsion law for the Fulton Chain of Lakes and others.

I believe this is as important as obtaining land for preservation.

Rolf E. Brynlsen  
Old Forge, NY

Having spent 65 summers in a secluded section of the Park, I am happy to contribute a small amount to help preserve the status quo, or swing it in the right direction. King Roger's statements [reference to Roger Jakubowski and *Adirondack Life* article, "The Man Who Would Be King"] scare me to death. I am afraid there are many people who share his point of view.

William Forrest Lee, Jr.  
Glens Falls, NY

I regret I am unable to give more to the Park's preservation. I pray God will multiply this, that it may be used wherever it is needed.

Shirley Purifoy  
Blasdell, NY

P.S. I enjoyed the literature, showed it to others, and am giving it to a conservation club in hopes that they donate.

Please enroll my wife and me as members of your organization. While all of the Adirondacks are of great importance, we are primarily concerned with Lake George, particularly the northern end. As property owners on the lake, we are concerned that many towns are willing to compromise the environment in the name of ill-conceived economics.

Jeff Birch  
Staten Island, NY

Since 1947 my wife and I have enjoyed the wildness and beauty of the Adirondack Park. While on vacation our children learned how to live "close to the earth," to prime a pump, to properly trim a lamp wick, and how to enjoy (not destroy) the natural beauty that only "forever wild" can provide.

Don Huth  
Morris Plains, NJ

Being a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club and a subscriber to *Adirondack Life*, I have been following recent events that have taken place in the park and I believe more has to be done to curb development.

I became a 46'er last summer and that makes me appreciate all the more what "the mountains" are (as we locals call the park). I could not imagine driving along the Blue Ridge Road and seeing any kind of development beginning to take place. To me, this road is sacred and should be preserved as is, forever!

Edward Stone  
Oswego, NY

I have a great love for the Adirondacks along with strong family connections there. My great grandfather Ben Muncil was very involved in the building of several large camps in the early 1900s.

I would like to become a member of the Adirondack Council and become as active as possible in the preservation effort. Please send me any materials that would deepen my understanding and appreciation of your work in this area.

Mary Muncil-Getz  
Durham, NH

Thank you for the good work you are doing. It is indeed so necessary to protect and preserve this beautiful area where we live.

Dora Mueller  
Schroon Lake, NY



## LAKE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY

# PRESERVATION VERSUS DEVELOPMENT

*For most of its length, the eastern boundary of the Adirondack Park runs down the middle of Lake Champlain, the sixth largest fresh-waterbody in the United States and — without a doubt — one of the most naturally-beautiful lakes in the world. But now Lake Champlain and its pastoral valley are beginning to feel some of the development pressure exerted by fast-growing Burlington on the Vermont side. The Adirondack Council has identified portions of the Champlain Valley as among the highest priorities for public acquisition and preservation, including state purchase of conservation easements that will help to perpetuate farming and provide public access to mountains and lakeshore.*

*Two letters relating to the future of the lake and its valley are reprinted on this page — one from a Council member to the Governor, the other from Patten Corporation to local landowners.*

### A PLEA FOR PRESERVATION

Dear Governor Cuomo:

My family resides and farms in the Champlain Valley. We have seen firsthand the burgeoning real-estate speculation which is endangering the scenic qualities of our community as well as pricing some of the last and most beautiful vestiges of Adirondack farmland out of the reach of farm families. We recommend that immediate action be taken to purchase forest lands threatened by development, and to purchase conservation easements on the scenic farmlands of the Champlain Valley.

The purchase of such easements can help control development of the Park's few remaining pockets of agricultural activity and keep farmland prices accessible to farm families.

The Adirondack Park is testament to the foresight of previous generations, and an "amenity" which enriches the lives of all New Yorkers. But it is under attack by real estate speculators such as the Patten Corporation, which is building a new regional headquarters in Lake Placid and is aggressively purchasing and subdividing prime Adirondack lands.

We appreciate your support of meaningful land use planning in the Adirondacks and your land acquisition efforts to date. We urge you and DEC Commissioner Jorling to recognize the necessity for even greater efforts to protect the Park both for the sake of residents such as ourselves and for all the people of New York State.

Robert J. Hammerslag  
Whallonsburg, NY

### A CHRISTMAS GREETING

Dear Property Owner:

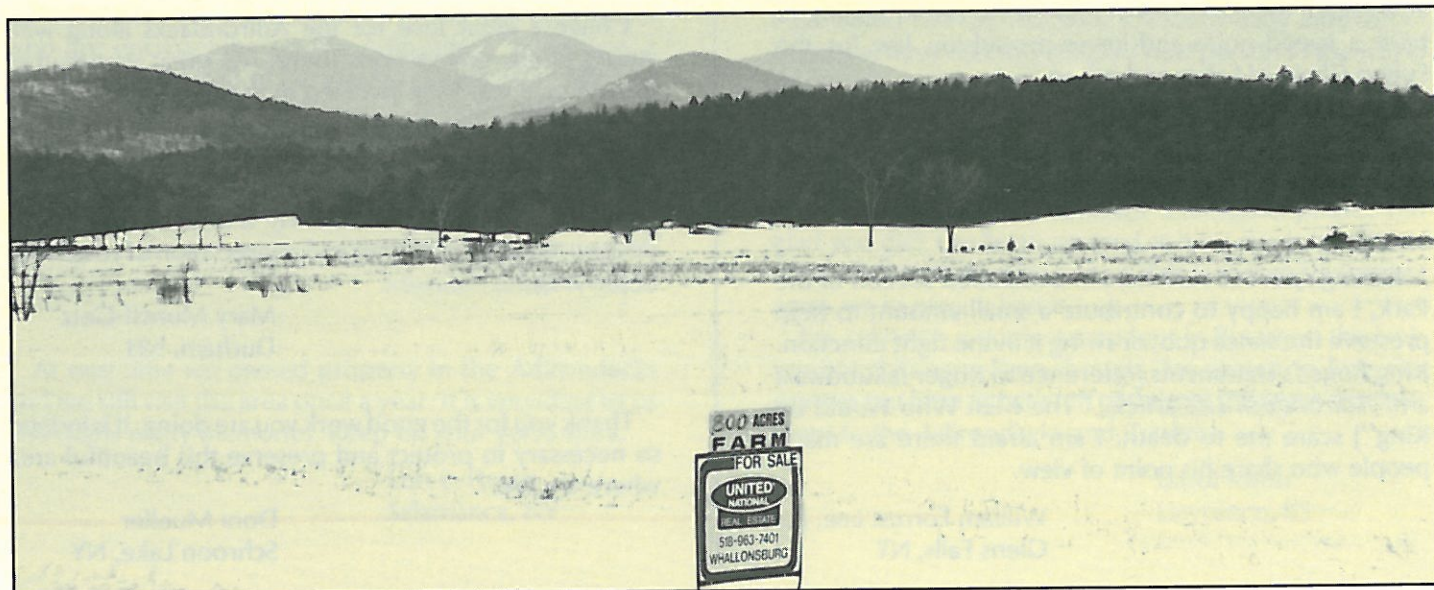
I am currently interested in making a number of land purchases (of 20 acres or more) in your area. I represent a professional organization with the ability to pay cash or, if you prefer, "terms" structured to suit your needs.

My main interest is recreation,\* i.e., hunting, fishing and camping; therefore, land can be either open or wooded. If you are interested in selling all, or a portion of your property, please fill out the enclosed reply card or give me a call.

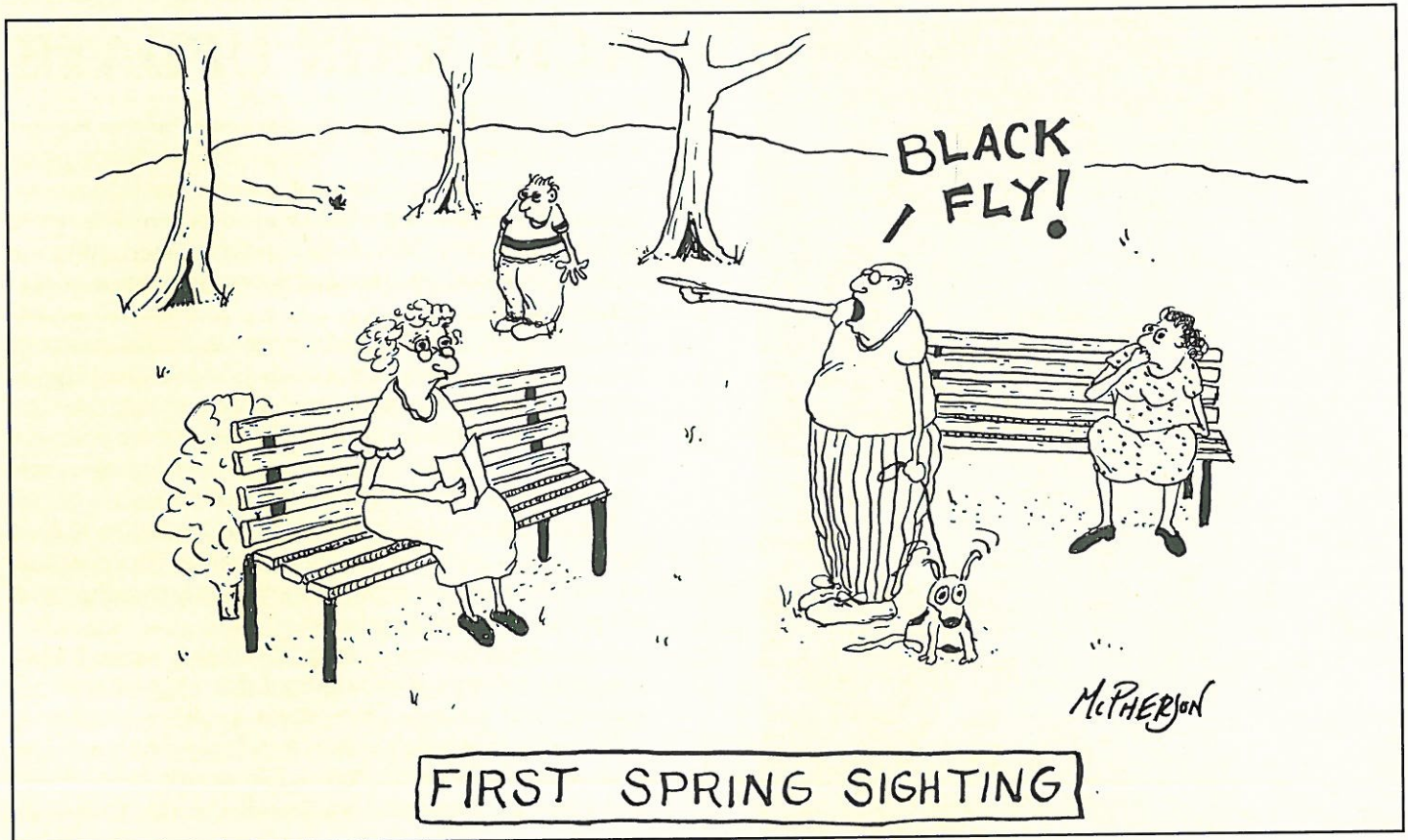
I will pay a \$1000 finders fee for information on any property which results in a purchase. If you have any knowledge of any other properties that may be for sale, please call me collect.

Daniel M. Christmas  
Patten Corporation Northeast

**\*Editor's Note: Patten's sole interest is subdivision and quick sale.**







Courtesy of Yankee Magazine

## LAKE GEORGE

# THE QUEEN IN A QUANDARY

*Lake George, the "Queen of American lakes," has in recent years been overrun by fast, noisy motorboats. The "Queen" is in a quandary — and the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) has been authorized by the State to do something about it.*

*Following are excerpts from the Council's statement on LGPC's newly-proposed regulations dealing with noise, speed and other problems besetting Lake George.*

For too long, Lake George has served as a 32-mile raceway for motorboats. Imposing a speed limit of 45 mph (day) and 25 mph (night), as LGPC has recommended, is a modest step toward dealing with the motorized chaos afflicting the lake.

A noise limit of 86 decibels at 100 feet from the source, as proposed by LGPC, is another step in the right direction, but only a baby step. 86 decibels is the noise level of typical city traffic. The Council believes that an 80-decibel limit on motorboat noise, while far from perfect, is preferable.

It is estimated that Lake George is now the beleaguered host to some 10,000 boats on a summer weekend, many of them motorized. Whatever LGPC can do to *reduce* this motorboat traffic will also be a step in the right direction.

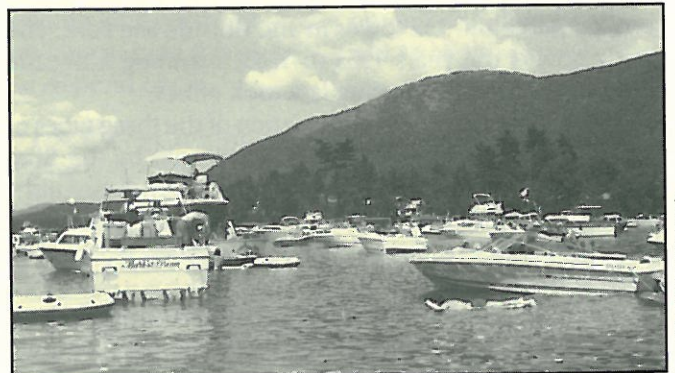
A common practice for Lake George property owners is to sublet their private dock space to other motorboat-ers, thereby adding to the overload of vehicular traffic on

the lake. LGPC has proposed to regulate this practice by requiring registration, and by charging fees, for what are essentially mini-marinas.

The Council supports such regulations only if they lead to the reduction and eventual elimination of this inappropriate, exploitive use of Lake George.

In sum, we support all steps by LGPC to reduce the speed, noise and intensity of motorboat traffic along with any other measures that will help to preserve and restore the natural character of this loveliest of Adirondack lakes.

Charles M. Clusen, Executive Director  
The Adirondack Council



**BOATING OVERUSE — Sandy Bay on Lake George**

Glens Falls Chronicle





Barbara McMartin

**JIMMY CREEK FALLS**

## LAND VALUES UP

Ever since the Adirondack Park Agency's regional zoning plan was enacted in 1973, opponents have insisted that these land-use regulations are depressing property values and damaging the property-tax base on which Adirondack communities depend.

In the past two years, these arguments have been heard less often. That's because wild forest land, situated in the most restrictive APA zoning category, has jumped in value. Now a study has been released that provides the most solid evidence to date that the state-imposed zoning controls have had little impact, one way or another, on Adirondack land values and property taxes.

The report was prepared by the State Board of Equalization and Assessment. Headed by Peter Wissel, EQBA's research team examined sales data from 4,300 unimproved parcels in 132 towns in and outside the Park. The study covers the years 1963 to 1983, spanning a decade before and after the zoning law took effect.

"Since 1973, the value appreciation of the three types of towns in the study — inside the Park, split by the Blue Line, and outside the Park — are virtually indistinguishable," the researchers found. "The town tax bases inside the Park cannot be statistically distinguished from those outside the Blue Line."

The most significant influence on Adirondack land values, the report concluded, are "national economic trends, including the health of the recreation and forest industries, and interest rates."

## ACID RAIN UPDATE

Last year a federal study, produced by the Reagan Administration under the "National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program," downplayed the damage caused by acid rain in the Adirondacks and elsewhere. The report claimed that only 10% of Adirondack waterbodies are critically acidified, and much of this could be attributed to natural causes.

As for sulfur dioxide, the principal industrial source of acid rain, the director of the study told an assemblage of Adirondack Park Agency commissioners in 1986 that "the sulfur dioxide problem is solved." No expensive pollution controls are needed, he said. As new technology comes on line, the problem will eventually disappear.

Those reassurances came from Dr. Lawrence Kulp, a former vice president for Weyerhaeuser Corporation, whose paper mills contribute significantly to sulfur dioxide pollution in the Northwest.

Kulp's replacement as study director is James Mahoney, who recently acknowledged that his predecessor's findings are flawed. One major problem, Mahoney admitted, is that Kulp's researchers looked only at larger lakes in the Adirondack Park, while ignoring the smaller and generally more acid waterbodies under 10 acres in size.

Meanwhile, a more realistic appraisal is nearing completion. The Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation has found that 25% of the 1,247 lakes it analyzed are too acidic to support fish and another 50% are "endangered" because of their incapacity to neutralize acid.

The Adirondack Lakes Survey is a joint venture of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and some of the State's electric utility companies. Their report, which will compare acid levels for 1988 and 1983, is due out in September.

## NEW DIRECTIONS

George D. Davis has left the staff of the Adirondack Council to launch — with his wife, Anita — a consulting firm devoted to land-use policy and wildlife conservation.

Their first client is the Adirondack Council, for whom George is preparing a report on the biological diversity of the Adirondack Park. To be released this summer, the report will include a series of acquisition recommendations to help guide the State in preserving the region's special flora and fauna.

Davis began his career as an Adirondack preservationist in 1968, as staff ecologist for the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks. Since 1982 he has been program director and resident visionary for the Council, and has twice served as acting executive director.

"As George and Anita assume a more national and even global focus in their work," said Kim Elliman, the Council's chairman, "it is heartening to know they will be headquartered just a few miles down the road, and still very much with us in our mission."



# INTERPRETIVE CENTERS GEARING UP

The Adirondack Park may soon catch up with our national parks — and in some ways surpass them — so far as park interpretation goes.

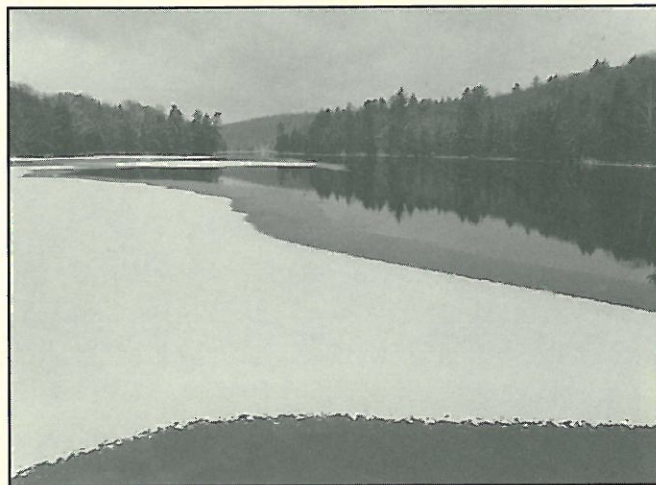
A main Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC) near Paul Smiths and a smaller “satellite center” near Newcomb are scheduled for completion next year. When they’re open for business, a visitor will be able to step up to a state-of-the-art screen and ask the computer for information about where to go skiing, hiking, boating, biking, camping, hunting or fishing. Or he can find out about restaurants, lodging, shops and other tourist accommodations in every corner of the park.

“It will serve as a kind of chamber of commerce for an area the size of Vermont,” said VIC planner Gary Randorf. “It will also interpret the natural history of the park to visitors, and it will tell them where they can pursue their favorite form of outdoor recreation.”

Randorf, who was executive director for the Adirondack Council before joining the state’s Adirondack Park Agency to help launch the VIC program, has been assigned the job of skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, and photographing hundreds of miles of backcountry trails, many of which will figure in the information-retrieval program.

“Well, somebody has to do it,” says Randorf, with a happy smile. Back in the office, he is also helping to develop “story lines” or themes for the VIC displays.

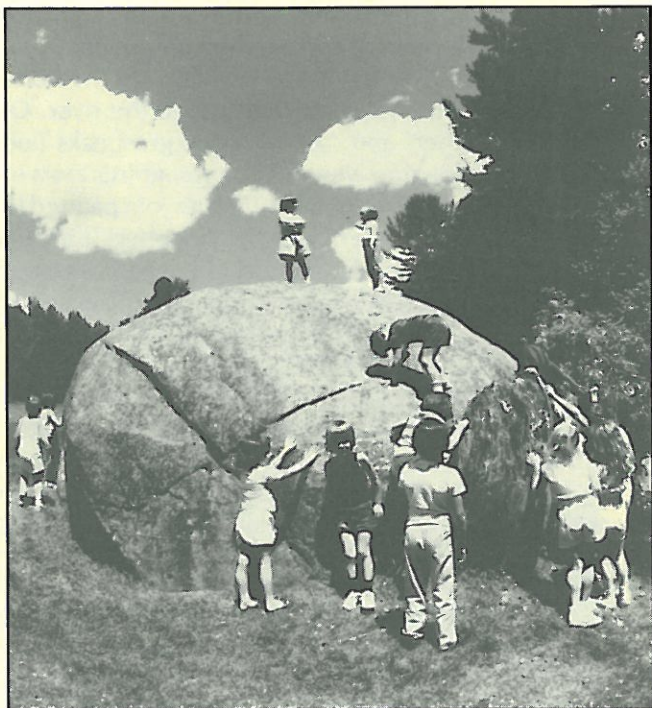
For more than a decade, the Adirondack Council had urged the State to launch a visitors’ interpretive program for the park. Two years ago the Legislature appropriated funds for this purpose.



Gary Randorf

**RICH LAKE — SITE OF “SATELLITE” CENTER**

## There Is No Better Way To Preserve The Park's Wildness And Natural Beauty Than By Remembering The Adirondack Council In Your Will



Gary Randorf

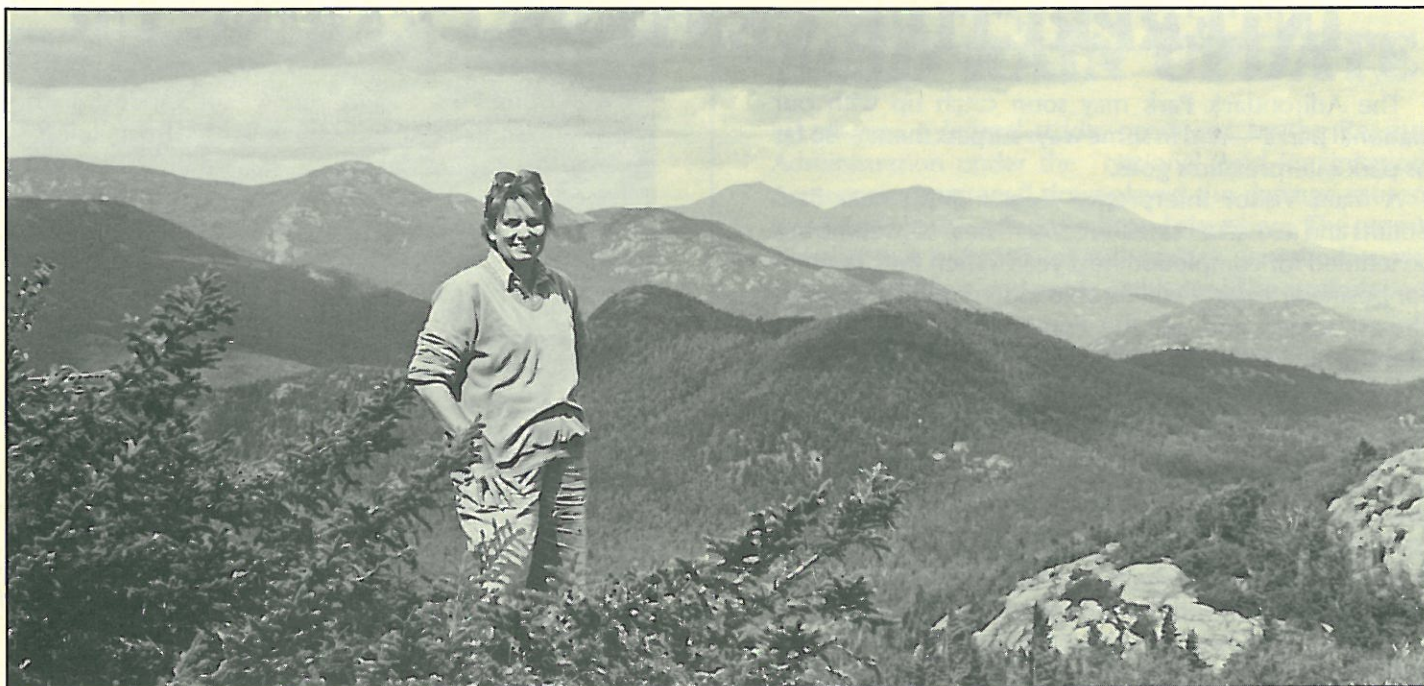
Your bequest of money or property will give long-term sustenance to the Adirondack Council in its efforts to preserve forever the natural beauty and biological diversity of the Adirondack Park. Your bequest will help to insure that future generations will have a chance to hear the cry of a loon and the call of a moose; to enjoy an expanded system of wilderness canoeing; and to look out from a mountain summit over a natural rather than a developed world.

Your bequest will also benefit the communities of wildlife and plant life — the other living things with which we share this planet — whose health and survival depend on us.

For further information about making a bequest, please contact Donna Beal, Administrator, Adirondack Council, Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY, 12932. Tel. 518-873-2240.







Dennis Conroy

AUTHOR BARBARA McMARTIN ON NIPPLETOP MOUNTAIN

## NEW GUIDEBOOKS COVER THE PARK

An aim of the Adirondack Council is to disperse recreational activity from a few overused areas to many of the lovely, little-known places throughout the Park.

Nobody is doing more for the cause of dispersion than Barbara McMartin. Under the aegis of Backcountry Publications in Woodstock, Vermont, McMartin and her team of researchers have produced a series of "Discover the Adirondacks" guidebooks that will, when the last of them comes off the presses next year, cover the entire Adirondack Park.

Thumbing through the maps, pictures and enticing descriptions in the eight or so "Discover" guides already published, readers are likely to experience conflicting emotions. One is a feeling of exhilaration — there are so many trails and bushwacks and waterways out there! The other emotion is despair. Unless you are a Barbara McMartin, it would take at least five lifetimes to thoroughly explore this largest of American parks outside Alaska.

Over the last few years, McMartin and company have turned out guidebooks for the Central, South Central, Southern, Southeastern, Southwestern, Northeastern, and Eastern Adirondacks. Soon to come are West Central, Northern, High Peaks and Northwest.

### Spare-Time Pursuits

So what does Barbara McMartin do in her spare time? For one thing, as its previous editor she turned *Adirondack*, the regular publication of the Adirondack Mountain Club, into an important magazine covering the full range of Adirondack conservation issues. She also produced a series of "Citizen Guides" for and about the Adirondack Park Agency, explaining in clear language and with equally clear graphics the Agency's complex mission.

In her "Discover" books, McMartin guides readers to

easy walks as well as more demanding excursions — and in the process dispels an old myth that wilderness enjoyment is only for the physically "elite" who zip up and down mountains hauling 80-pound packs. Here's an excerpt from *Discover The Southern Adirondacks*:

"Hamilton County is fortunate in having several long canoeable waterways with high starting elevations, some of which are the most accessible in the Adirondacks. The favorite flat water trip is along the West Branch of the Sacandaga as it meanders northward through a wide meadow with views of surrounding mountains . . .

"The entire river is a haven for birds. In the northern flows, marsh hawks perch right above the river. Olive-sided fly-catchers and rose-breasted grosbeaks flock in the trees beside the river and hummingbirds mass in the flowers below. Red admiral butterflies join painted ladies and tortoise shell butterflies in the fields beside the banks. Even if you are not adept at recognizing butterflies, you will enjoy the dragon and bottle flies flashing every iridescent shade imaginable as they light on your canoe."

### One Of The Easiest Bogs

Then there's the short hike to Chubb Lake and "one of the easiest bogs to reach and explore in the southern Adirondacks . . .

"The quaking bog itself, which lies mostly on the east and north sides of the lake, is composed of thick layers of sphagnum moss upon which grow wild cranberries; bog rosemary; two insectivorous plants, the pitcher plant and sundew; and two native orchids, the grass pink and rose pogonia. Perhaps you will spot a small grey butterfly, the bog copper, which is found only in swamps. Chubb Lake has both yellow and purple bladderwort, pale blue lobelia, bog wool, and the fairylike stalks of swamp candles.



The swamp borders house a profusion of woody plants such as bog rosemary, sheep laurel, tamarack, and swamp maples . . .

"Wear rubber boots or old sneakers and plan on getting wet if you choose to challenge the support of the layers of sphagnum in an attempt to reach the tiny bog plants. Do walk carefully so as not to disturb them or step through a hole in the bog. And do not forget a camera and a wildflower identification book."

Here are snatches from "Pillsbury Mountain — 9 miles roundtrip, vertical rise 1,887 feet":

"The hike to Pillsbury Mountain firetower is long and challenging. The view from the summit is considered by many to be the most exciting of any of the Adirondack firetowers . . .

"Inaccessibility has always enhanced the romantic aura surrounding the West Canadas, but the exploits of one of the region's former inhabitants, the trapper French Louie, have added spice to that image. French Louie's trap lines were strung between the lakes of the region, circling the interior wilds. He knew every fishing hole in the wilderness and harvested hundreds of deer, bear, martin, beaver, mink, and otter skins.

"Each year, using part of the route you will follow on your trek to Pillsbury Mountain, he walked from his home on West Lake or from his shanty on Whitney Lake to Newton Corners, now Speculator, pulling a sled piled high with skins. These he exchanged for money, which in turn was exchanged for the whiskey that fueled some of the north woods' most notorious drinking bouts . . .

"A little more climbing brings you to the summit, which you cross on a narrow rock ridge, spotting the tower after some two hours and fifty minutes of hiking . . . Due north lies Wakely, and to its left, Manbury and Little Moose mountains rise above portions of the Cedar Lakes. Both mountains have open rock slides . . .



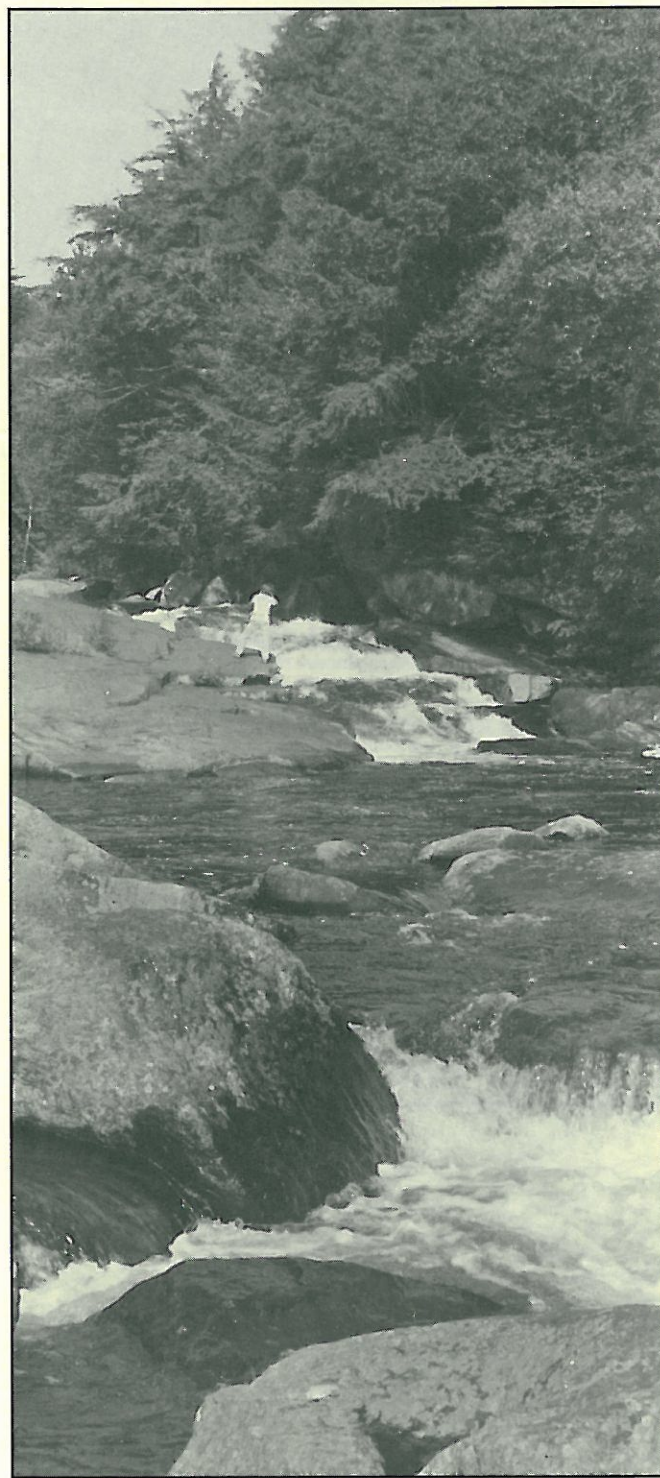
Barbara McMartin

**WEST BRANCH OF THE SACANDAGA RIVER**

"To the right of Snowy, over the north end of Indian Lake, stretches one of the most exciting views in the Adirondacks. The eastern High Peaks, 50 miles distant, are clearly visible above the lowland valleys of Indian Lake and the Boreas River."

The description continues, and the reader may continue to ask himself: "What am I doing in *here* when those mountains and views are out *there*?"

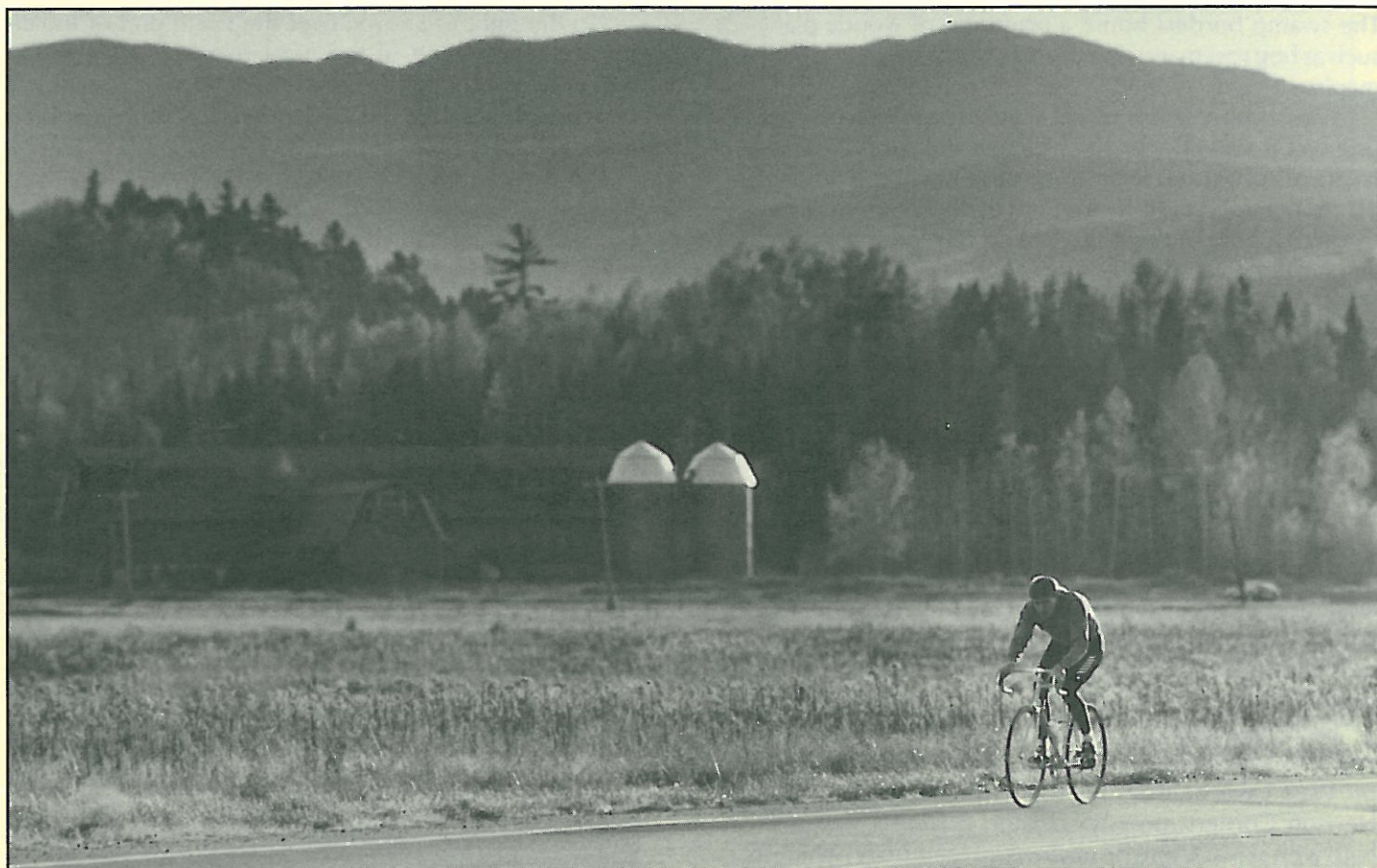
For information on the "Discover" series write or call Backcountry Publications, Box 175, Woodstock, VT 05091, 802-457-1049.



Barbara McMartin

**FLUME ON BLACK RIVER**





Nancie Battaglia



## The Adirondack Council

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



*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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