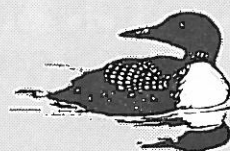




The Adirondack Council NEWSLETTER



Vol. 10

October 1986

No. 36

DRIVE LAUNCHED

REWARDS IN STORE FOR MEMBERS WHO RENEW IN HIGHER CATEGORY

Everyone wins when Council members renew in a higher membership category!

Thanks to a challenge grant from the Rockefeller Family Fund, every dollar by which you increase your membership (when your membership renewal comes due) will provide \$1.50 for the Council. For example, if you upgrade your dues category from \$22 to \$35, the Council earns an extra \$6.50; if you jump from \$50 to \$100, your membership will yield \$125.

That translates into more financial muscle in our intensifying efforts to protect and enhance your Adirondack Park.

For upgrading your membership, you will receive a personal bonus, too—a full-color poster of Gary Randorf's evocative photograph of a white pine silhouetted above the morning mist on Lake Lila. This photograph, shown here in black-and-white, may also be seen in color on the cover of the Council's brochure.

A CRUCIAL VOTE

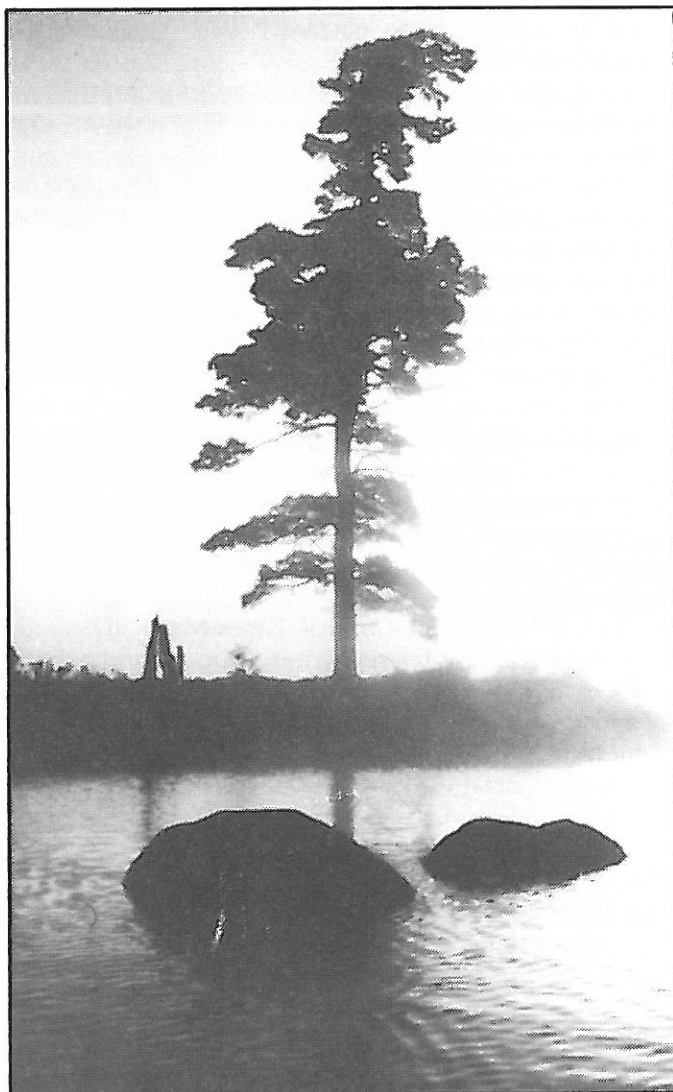
Passage of the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act—to appear on the November 4th ballot as Proposition One—is critical for the future of the Adirondack Park.

The bond act would raise \$1.45 billion, mostly for clean-up of hazardous wastes statewide. It would also allocate \$250 million for land acquisition, historic preservation, and urban parks.

The Adirondack Council last year helped persuade Governor Cuomo to include acquisition funds in the bond act proposal. The Council will be seeking \$125 million for Adirondack and Catskill Park acquisitions, including acquisition of conservation easements (development rights) on private lands to protect the overall open-space character of both parks.

But first the bond act must be approved by the State's voters. Please urge your friends and relatives, neighbors and colleagues, to VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION ONE.

As part of our membership-expansion campaign, each member is being urged to recruit a new member. Each new membership will produce 50% more income for the Council, due to the challenge grant. And each new member will receive the beautiful Randorf poster.



Gary Randorf

MEMBERS WHO UPGRADE will receive a wall poster with this exquisite Randorf photograph in full color.

JAMES MARSHALL

1896 - 1986

The Adirondack Park lost one of its staunchest and most effective champions with the death of James Marshall on August 11. His extraordinarily varied and productive life began 90 years ago, four years after the creation of the Adirondack Park.

A director of the Adirondack Council almost since its inception, Marshall was also a founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council and a longtime member of the governing council of The Wilderness Society, the leading national force for wilderness preservation that was founded primarily by Robert Marshall, James's brother.

Jim, like his brothers Bob and George, and his father Louis before them, was one of the century's foremost defenders of Article 14, the provision of the State Constitution that protects as "forever wild" the publicly-owned State Forest Preserve of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. A voluminous file in his office attests to his lifelong vigilance—the file is labelled WATCHDOG-ADIRONDACKS.

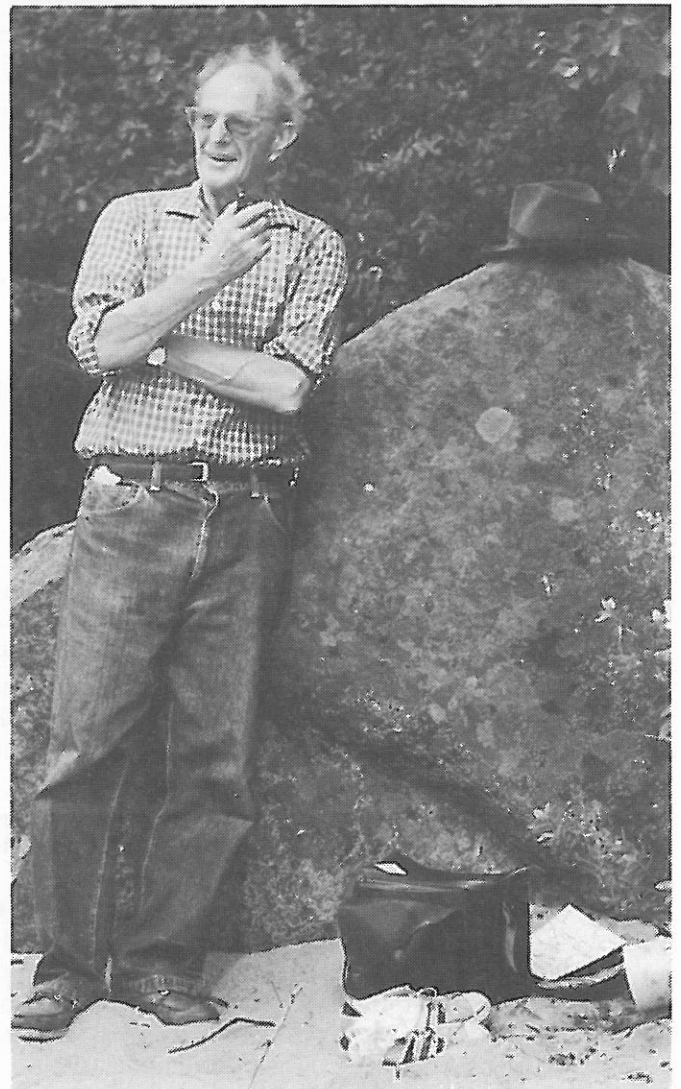
As an adviser to the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks, James Marshall wrote in 1970:

"The basic principle of Article 14 is conservation for posterity of areas as close to their primitive condition as is reasonably possible and areas which in time will restore themselves in ecological unity. This is the meaning of the "forever wild" provision . . . Any modification of [this] provision in the interest of silviculture, hunting, skiing, boating, snowmobiling or development of state institutions such as schools or hospitals must be outlawed. It is easy to destroy but impossible to recreate the phenomena of nature. Moreover, any weakening of the forever wild provision, the first application of wilderness conservation in America, would . . . threaten wilderness preservation in other parts of the country. New York has set a good example."

To the Adirondack Council, James Marshall brought his experience as a lawyer, writer, educator and political activist. He was the author of six books on political science and legal philosophy, as well as a novel and children's stories. He served as president of the New York City Board of Education, as a manager of Fiorello LaGuardia's first mayoral campaign, and as an adjunct professor at New York University. He pursued an active law career into his 90th year.

His love of nature dated from childhood summers spent at Knollwood, a turn-of-the-century Adirondack camp on the forested shores of Lower Saranac Lake. Some of his recollections of Knollwood, dictated in 1976, are reprinted on the opposite page.

Jim's wisdom, humor and unbending dedication to wilderness protection will be sorely missed by those of us lucky enough to have worked with him, and learned from him, in the cause of Adirondack conservation.



At Knollwood, summer, 1975

Eva Marshall



The Marshall Camp

Gary Randorf

Some Adirondack Reminiscences by James Marshall

However gay the times in New York City were, autumn, winter and spring existed as a long interlude between summers at Knollwood, on Lower Saranac Lake. We went there as soon as school ended and remained until a few days before it commenced. . . Knollwood life was at a level more vital, more real, more fun than any other life.

The Adirondacks, Knollwood, bound us as a family, giving to each of us a shared interest with every other member, regardless of age differences. We gained, too, the love of nature and a relation to it that permeated our lives and bonded our family more firmly.



Experience, and Herb Clark [the Marshall family guide] in particular, taught us about the woods, the mountains and the lakes. We got a sense of how man lived in a natural setting, how our distant ancestors survived and how American settlers made their way through forests and over waterways. Of course, this was not explicitly taught.

Herb Clark was one of the last and greatest of the Adirondack guides. He was a lean, lanky fellow, speedy in the woods, one of the fastest and most enduring rowers in the Adirondacks. He had a merry sense of humor, told great tales and sang his camp meeting songs and some of the French Canadian lumbermen's.

He taught us not only fishing but the craft of woodsmen. We learned to make camp, camp cookery, how to handle an ax, and how to travel through woods with compass, without trail or trail markers. He needed no maps himself. Herb taught us when it was safe and unsafe to be on a lake in a storm and how to handle a boat when the waves were high and the squalls were sudden. All four of us [Jim, Bob, George and their sister, Pootie] felt Herb to be our best friend and the greatest companion one could have.



Knollwood Gate

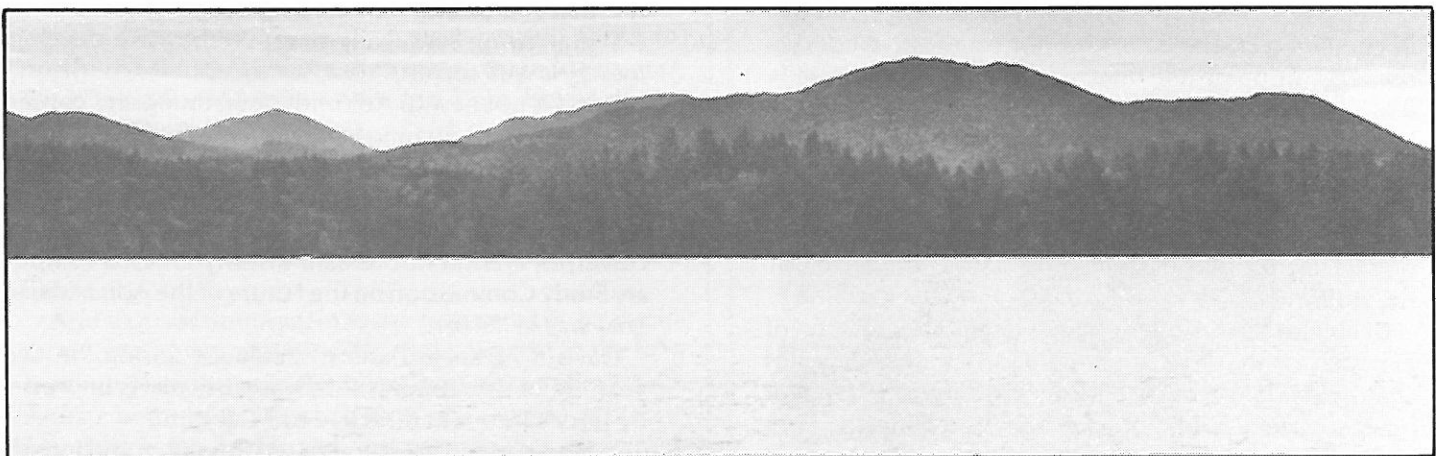
Gary Randorf

Many of my conservation friends have assumed that I was a mountain climber. Not so. I climbed perhaps half a dozen high peaks in the Adirondacks and some smaller mountains such as Ampersand, Blue and Owls Head with their own superb views of ponds and lakes. I got the reputation by association. For Bob and George were great mountaineers who, with our guide Herb Clark, were the first to ascend all 46 Adirondack peaks over 4,000 feet, one of which has recently been named for Bob. Pootie was a sturdy climber, going frequently with Bob and George and sometimes by herself.

I preferred walking through woods with no more than a couple of thousand feet to ascend. My greatest delight was fishing in the rivers and lakes of the Adirondacks and rowing the Adirondack guideboat my father had given me when I was nine.



Now that it takes me an hour to walk what used to consume no more than 25 minutes and I can row my guideboat no more than 20 minutes without tiring, I have lost much heart in Knollwood. It is not enough to be an observer. . . Knollwood, for all its beauty, is largely a place of the no-longer and the loving ghosts of no-longer people.



The view of Ampersand Mountain across Lower Saranac Lake

Gary Randorf

2020 VISION

A PRACTICAL VISIONARY PURSUES THE ULTIMATE ADIRONDACK PARK

George Davis, at 43 years old, has 2020 vision.

"So what?" you might ask. So do plenty of other people his age.

What is special about Davis's vision is that it applies to the Adirondack Park. And the 2020 represents not visual acuity but a time 34 years in the future. By that year, Davis hopes, the Adirondacks will be even wilder, the Forest Preserve less fragmented, public access far greater, and the Park's natural open-space permanently secured.

"In most parts of the world, the trend runs the other way," he observes. "As human development spreads, natural areas are shrinking and disappearing. But here in the Adirondacks we have the opportunity to leave an even better park for our grandchildren.

"Just think," says Davis, using one of his favorite phrases. "Just think. If we do the right thing now we can have twice as many wilderness canoe routes preserved and open to the public by 2020. We can permanently protect the undisturbed views from Adirondack roads. We can bring back the Canadian lynx, insure that the moose is successfully re-established, restore the golden eagle, and maybe even get the timber wolf back. We can keep our remaining pristine lakeshores in their natural state. We can create a new wilderness area containing significant boreal [northern-conifer] ecosystems. Just think . . ."

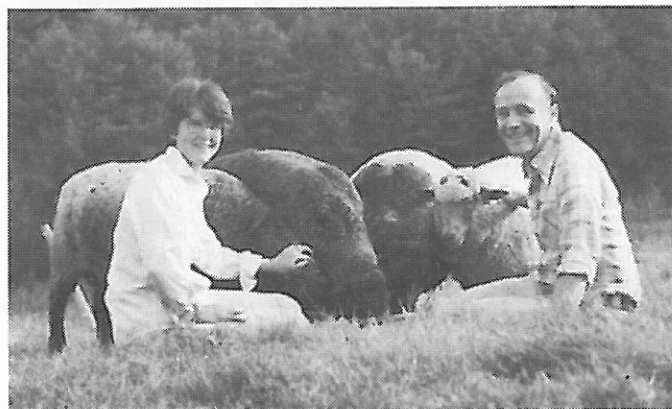
The eyes glisten, the ideas pour forth. George Davis is off and running.

Constant Assault

But this visionary does not reside in an ivory tower. Indeed, as program director for the Adirondack Council he spends much of his time on the nitty-gritty of protecting the Park against the constant assault on its natural integrity—the relentless "chipping away," as he describes it, that must be relentlessly resisted.

In a typical week, Davis may be busy identifying a good site for a handicapped-access trail (see page 7) . . . presenting to the Adirondack Park Agency a carefully-documented challenge to an intensive riverfront development proposal and then suggesting modifications that would make the project environmentally acceptable . . . protesting state-sanctioned logging on a new tract of Forest Preserve . . . questioning a zoning-map amendment that would encourage intensive "strip development" between two Adirondack villages . . . and publicizing the serious shortage of state forest rangers in the Adirondack Park.

Davis also directs the Council's detailed evaluation of the State of the Park, an annual report that identifies healthy or dangerous trends in the Adirondacks, that praises certain public officials for protecting the Park and criticizes others for poor stewardship and taking the short-term view.



George and Anita Davis with friends

Sarah Davis

The daily details of Park protection do not obscure Davis's vision of the ultimate Adirondack Park. In fact, the daily defensive actions add urgency to his mission. The ultimate park, in Davis's view, will be roughly half public and half privately-owned (compared to about 40% public now). Some key public tracts currently in a fragmented or isolated condition, surrounded and interspersed with private land, will be consolidated, thus permitting easier public access and better protection of natural ecosystems. The finest views from Adirondack roadways will, according to Davis, enjoy permanent protection through state-purchased conservation easements that will preclude structural development that could mar the natural scene.

Scenic Vistas Identified

"The Adirondack Park has some of the most beautiful, undisturbed roadsides anywhere," Davis says. "And most people see the park from the road. Yet most of what they see is privately owned. The Adirondack Park Agency identified 40 scenic roadside vistas in 1972. Nothing has been done yet to protect any of them. Easements are urgently needed. Easements will guarantee that the public interest in preserving the views—while allowing sensitively-sited, unobtrusive development—is well served."

Davis is not new to Adirondack planning and conservation. After graduating from the State College of Forestry at Syracuse, he worked as a ranger for the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado. Two years later he was lured to the Adirondacks by Harold A. Jerry, Jr., executive director of Governor Nelson Rockefeller's newly-created Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks. That was in 1968.

Davis, who served as staff ecologist during the two-year life of the Commission, was particularly impressed by Jerry's frequent directive to "Get out!"

"He told me: 'I want you out of this office and into the field two or three days every week of the year!'"

That's how Davis began to learn first-hand about the diversity of the Adirondack Park. It was the beginning of a process that continues today.

The Commission's final report, in which the young ecologist played a major role, sounded an alarm. Development pressures were mounting, it found. Yet land-use controls on the private lands were virtually non-existent. "If the Adirondacks are to be saved," the report emphasized, "time is of the essence."

Time has been of the essence for George Davis ever since. No admonition better describes his restless, relentless approach to saving the Adirondacks and the other natural areas he has been involved with.

The successor to the Study Commission was the NYS Adirondack Park Agency, for which Davis became planning director. In that capacity he was also chief staff architect for the most comprehensive zoning plan ever developed in the United States—"a land use and development plan" covering 3.7 million acres of private land in the Adirondack Park. A milestone in American conservation, the plan seeks to channel and limit development in the Park so as to protect the natural environment.

Holding Action

For Davis, however, the plan is merely a "holding action."

"The whole thing can be undermined by one unsympathetic governor and legislature," he explains. "And even as the plan now stands, it doesn't provide adequate protection for the lakes and roadsides of the Park. Overdevelopment is allowed—even encouraged—on private lakeshores, and strip development is inevitable along highways."

"Still," Davis concedes, "it's a lot better than nothing. And nothing is what we had before."

After completing the zoning plan, and directing a three-year study of Adirondack rivers that led to inclusion of 1,200 miles of pristine waterways in the state's new River System, Davis moved on. He left the Adirondacks to become executive director of The Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C., and he subsequently coordinated RARE II, a federal survey of wilderness lands in the national forest system. Then nostalgia set in.

"There are more spectacular mountains in Colorado," he says. "There are more numerous lakes and ponds in northern Minnesota, more dramatic rivers in Idaho, and there are still great forests here and there. But nowhere else are all of these elements so richly combined. This natural diversity distinguishes the Adirondack Park from any other place on earth."

A Park You Can Live In

Moreover, it is the one great American park you can live in.

And so it was home again to the Adirondacks, to an old farm that George and his wife, Anita, bought in the tiny hamlet of Wadhams in the Lake Champlain Valley. With Anita's help, he established a private trust to preserve key Adirondack lands and, just prior to that, he joined the Adirondack Council as its program director.

Thanks to a two-year grant from the W. Alton Jones Foundation, Inc. of Charlottesville, Va., Davis is now piecing together the most complete picture ever assembled of the Park's biological diversity—delineating life zones from lowland bog to upland alpine meadow, and identifying plant associations, wildlife habitat, and animal species to be fostered or restored.

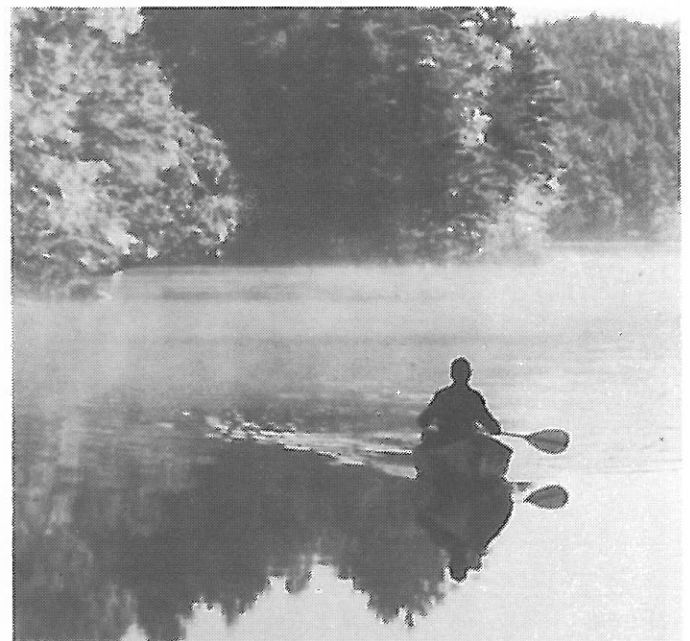
This is the first of six studies he intends to complete in time for the 1992 centennial celebration of the Adirondack Park. Next on his list are detailed reviews of the Park's Wilderness and Wild Forest areas, with an eye toward improvement and consolidation; then detailed reviews of river and road corridors that cry out for permanent safeguards; and finally a comprehensive study of Adirondack lakes and lakeshores—the most vulnerable resources, in Davis's opinion, in the Park.

Fulfilling The Promise

All this will be done under the rubric of "2020 VISION: Fulfilling the Promise of the Adirondack Park." Davis will draw on government and university data already available, on Adirondack experts ranging from Clarence Petty, Greenleaf Chase and Paul Schaefer to his former boss, Harold Jerry, and his former forestry professor, Dr. Ed Ketchledge.

Fondly recalling Jerry's order to "Get out!", Davis will also do as much field checking as time allows. Each study will contain 16-48 pages illustrated with maps and photographs, and each will help guide the State in making the right land purchases and easement acquisitions between now and the year 2020.

It's a big order. But probably nobody since Verplank Colvin, the visionary who first pursued the idea of an Adirondack Park five generations ago, is better suited to the task than this intense (some would even say "obsessed") conservationist from Wadhams with a long-range view of things.



Gary Randorf

Adirondack lakes: the most vulnerable resource

"NOT TO WORRY" CROONS DR. KULP

"The sulphur dioxide problem is solved," Dr. Lawrence Kulp told an assemblage of Adirondack Park Agency (APA) commissioners and staff toward the end of his two-hour presentation. He was the guest speaker at the APA's monthly meeting in August.

Kulp, a former vice president for Weyerhaeuser Corporation, is a Reagan Administration appointee who heads the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program set up by Congress in 1981. Kulp's message was essentially the administration's message: more study is needed before action can be taken.

But Kulp went a step farther. Even if no action is taken to control sulphur and nitrous emissions from industry and automobiles, he told the APA gathering, the problem will eventually solve itself as new technology comes on line.

Kulp also gave the impression that the Adirondacks is the only area seriously afflicted by acid rain, anyway. No reference was made in his lengthy presentation to studies by the National Academy of Sciences, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and President Reagan's own science advisers, indicating that acid rain is causing billions of dollars in damage nationwide to forests, fisheries, lakes, buildings and monuments.

Only Gary Randorf, executive director of the Adirondack Council, rose to challenge Kulp's assertions.

"I'd hate to be the patient and have you for my doctor," said Randorf, as quoted by the *Lake Placid News*. "You're saying that we'll know more in 1990. Then you'll be able to tell me why I died and what you could have done to save me."

Randorf stressed that **now** is the time to spend money on acid-rain controls before the disease becomes fatal.

Mike Storey, APA staff naturalist, later took issue with Kulp's views when talking with a reporter. Storey characterized Kulp's remarks as part of a "big stall."

"He says we won't know enough to act until 1990. That puts it into the second year of a new administration. It's simply a way to get the monkey off the back of the present administration. But the problem is not going to be solved until present legislation gets passed."

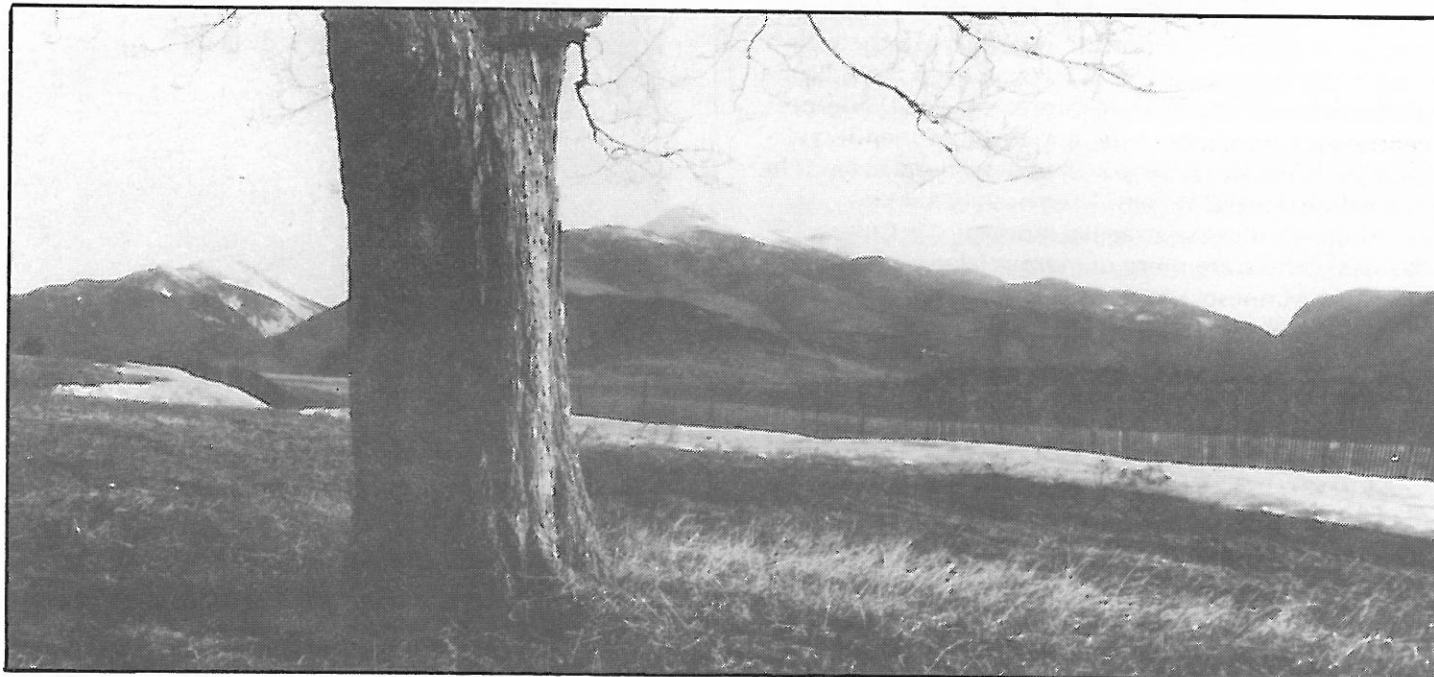
Tom Ulasewicz, APA executive director and longtime acid-rain activist, subsequently issued an 11-point rebuttal to Kulp. "I do not agree [with Kulp] that nothing is irreversible," Ulasewicz stated. "Whole ecological systems can be altered or lost. Replacement of a natural order can result in something far less desirable."

As editor Chris Wille recently observed in the newsletter of the National Audubon Society:

"The Reagan Administration and coal-fired utilities [a principal source of acid-rain pollution] have put myth after myth in front of public awareness and understanding. The debate has moved beyond the smokescreen and most members of Congress agree something must be done."

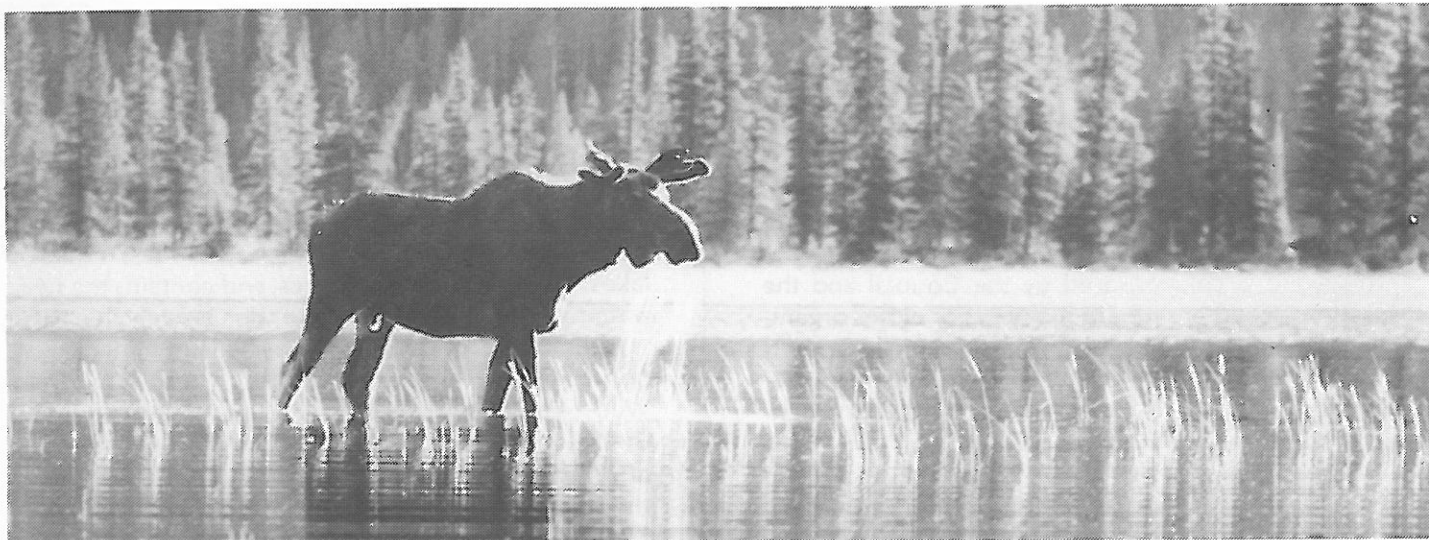
We are closer than ever to having federal legislation to curb acid rain. The emission-control bill failed to survive the last session of Congress but conservationists are ready to hit the ground running when Congress reconvenes in January. What's needed is a united front among those states suffering most from acid rain.

You can help by writing your U.S. Senator and Representative, urging them to coordinate action on acid rain with neighboring states. Coordination is the key to getting this long-overdue law enacted before more time and more natural resources are wasted.



Gary Randorf

MANY SCENIC HIGHWAY VIEWS cry out for permanent protection. See "2020 VISION" story on pages 4-5.



Gary Randorf

THE IDEAL ADIRONDACK PARK will have a healthy population of moose, lynx, golden eagles and other species that once thrived here. See "2020 VISION" story on pages 4-5.

WHEELCHAIR TRAIL PROPOSED

Though much of the land and lake surface of the Adirondack Park is accessible by motor vehicle, there are no trails specifically designed for wheelchairs. To begin to remedy this deficiency, the Adirondack Council has asked the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to include funds in its upcoming budget to allow construction of a handicapped-access trail to Rock Lake in Hamilton County.

In a letter to DEC Commissioner Henry G. Williams, the Council proposed that the existing half-mile trail from Route 28, in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest, be adapted for use by wheelchairs. The Council recommended that it also be converted to a self-guiding nature trail with number-coded pamphlets available at the trailhead.

After investigating a number of possible trails, the Council's program director, George Davis, found the Rock Lake site "ideal" for wheelchair use because it is centrally located in the Park, is entirely on a Forest Preserve unit designated Wild Forest (compared to the more restrictive Wilderness Areas), necessitates only minimal trail relocation and cutting, winds through an unusually diverse mix of hardwoods and conifers, and is long enough to provide natural serenity away from the sounds of civilization without being too long for wheelchair use.

"The destination point is a small, attractive lake set among low mountains," Davis informed Commissioner Williams. "A short boardwalk at the edge of the lake would enable wheelchair users to observe the shallow marsh and enjoy the excellent fishing the lake provides.

"I have seen such facilities in national parks in the United States as well as parks in Ireland, Great Britain and Switzerland," Davis reported. "Properly constructed, they have essentially no impact on the wildland environment. The key is designing the trail so that it lays gently on the landscape. The clearing should be minimal

and the trail should be surfaced with a natural material that is self-binding and easily compacted. It would appear that the wollastonite tailings used by road crews in much of Essex County will do nicely."

The Council will also work with the Governor's office and the State Legislature to insure that this first Adirondack wheelchair trail becomes a reality.

WE WERE DEAD WRONG!

In the last Newsletter we reported that Gary Randorf was the only living photographer aside from Eliot Porter to have his work exhibited at the Adirondack Museum.

"Correction due!" reported two readers.

At least one other photographer previously exhibited at the Museum is "very much alive", wrote Phyllis M. Weare of Luray, Virginia. "As part of the opening of the new transportation building in 1970, Jean K. Marsh had an exhibit of her nature photography displayed for the summer season."

And Marian K. Solleder of Greensboro, N.C. wrote:

"Jean Marsh was responsible for introducing me to the Adirondacks . . . first through her photography and then through visits in Blue Mountain Lake and trips to other areas. Jean is still an active professional photographer, is living in Maryland with her husband in the winter, and spends part of each summer at her home in Blue Mountain Lake.

"All good wishes to you for continuing success. The Adirondacks are, indeed, a prize worth preserving."

(Richard Linke is yet another very alive and very talented photographer whose work has been shown at the Museum.)

ROCK PERFORMANCE

"The Adirondack Mountains—Birth, Death and Resurrection."

That's the momentous title of a slide-illustrated lecture to be given by state geologist Yngvar Isachsen at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 2, in the main auditorium of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

The event is co-sponsored by the Council and the Museum. Tickets are free to members of either organization (the non-member charge is \$4). Council members may order up to four free tickets by writing: Membership Office, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., NYC 10024.

"Nobody *but nobody* makes Adirondack geology as exciting as he does," declared Gary Randorf, a devoted member of the Yngvar Isachsen Fan Club.

SPLENDID ACQUISITION

The State has purchased 16,228 acres that will allow consolidation of the Pepperbox and Five Ponds Wilderness Areas in the western Adirondacks.

The acquisition, long sought by the Adirondack Council, was announced by Governor Cuomo at the Council's annual dinner this summer. Known as Watson's East Triangle, the acreage includes numerous lakes, ponds, bogs and marshes, and contains the headwaters of the middle branch of the Oswegatchie River.

Cuomo also announced that he had just signed legislation adding 32 miles of Adirondack rivers to the State's Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System. Once in the System, a river can not be dammed or excessively developed. There are now 1238 miles of Adirondack rivers in the System; the Council has identified another 97 miles that also qualify for inclusion.



Gary Randorf



The Adirondack Council

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October 1986

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 concern organizations and individuals.

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