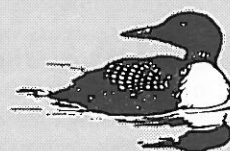




The Adirondack Council NEWSLETTER



to keep supporters informed of our activities

Vol. 10

January 1986

No. 33

COUNCIL URGES GOVERNOR TO SEEK NEW ADIRONDACK ACQUISITION FUNDS

The overriding long-term goal of the Adirondack Council is to protect the Adirondack Park permanently. This can be done if the State will purchase additional lands already identified by the Council—key woodlands, waterways, wetlands, and wildlife habitat—to round out the public forest preserve at half the total Park acreage. And it can be done if the State will also purchase from willing sellers the development rights (or “conservation easements”) on other critical private holdings.

A rare opportunity has now presented itself—and the Council has urged Governor Cuomo to assume leadership in protecting the Park forever.

“The Adirondack Council is pleased that you are committed to an Environmental Quality Bond Act in 1986,” the Council recently wrote to the Governor. “We firmly believe, however, that such a Bond Act should include funds for land and conservation easement acquisition as well as hazardous waste clean-up statewide.”

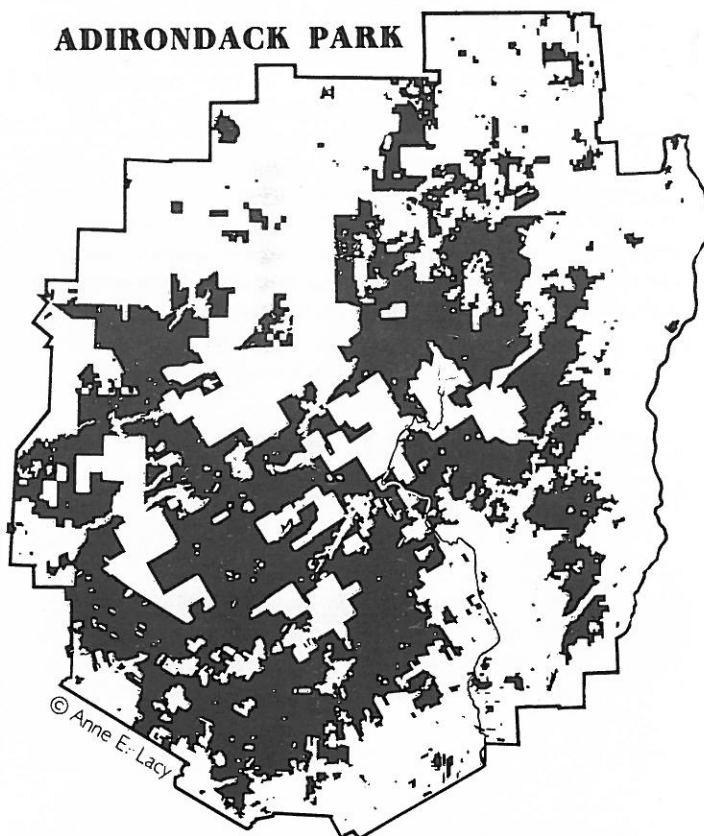
In addition to gubernatorial support, the Bond Act will require approval by the State Legislature and, in November, by the voters of New York State.

“The next decade will be a critical one for both the Forest Preserve and the Adirondack Park as a whole,” the Council continued. “Many large private land holdings are beginning to break up, a trend expected to accelerate in the next few years. Many land holdings that have important public benefits will be coming on the market...”

“Ready access to acquisition funds is particularly important. The Adirondack Council’s evaluation of the need and extent of funding necessary for acquisition within the Adirondack Park is partly based on the 1969-71 work of the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks. The Commission found that if 635,500 acres within the Park were **not** acquired by the State either in fee title (directly) or protected by rather stringent conservation easements, the Adirondack Park as it exists today would vanish within a generation. Of these 635,500 acres, less than 100,000 acres have been purchased to date.

“The Adirondack Council finds that \$100,000,000 is necessary to acquire approximately 500,000 acres of Adirondack Forest Preserve to round out the designated Wilderness Areas, create a new Wilderness Area within the low elevation boreal life zone (the only Adirondack life zone not adequately

ADIRONDACK PARK



The intermixture of publicly-owned Forest Preserve (black) and private land graphically illustrates the need for additional Forest Preserve acquisition.

represented in the existing Wilderness System), create a second Adirondack Canoe Area, protect the corridors of and provide better public access to Adirondack rivers within the State’s Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System, and consolidate existing tracts of Forest Preserve. Such an acquisition program will result in an Adirondack Park comprising 50 percent public and 50 percent private lands (compared to 40 percent public and 60 percent private today).

“The Adirondack Council also finds that \$200,000,000 will be

needed to acquire conservation easements (development rights) on approximately 2,000,000 acres within the Adirondack Park. These easements will protect the lands that the State Legislature has found to be critical to the preservation of open space in the Adirondacks.

"Visitors traveling the Park's highways generally believe that the incomparable natural beauty they see is secure and in State ownership. This is unfortunately an illusion. Only 11 percent of the highway corridors is publicly-owned Forest Preserve. The remaining 89 percent is subject to development. Conservation easements along the most scenic undeveloped roads within the Park would insure that today's beauty will remain.

"The Forest Preserve acquisition criteria for funds made available through the 1986 Environmental Bond Act should be:

- Rounding out Wilderness and Primitive Areas to ecologically coherent watershed boundaries or roads;
- Preservation of Wild, Scenic and Recreational River corridors and securing better public access to these rivers;
- Preservation of ecologically unique areas;
- Preservation of scenic vistas and scenic highway corridors;
- Providing public access to otherwise inaccessible Forest Preserve;
- Consolidation where private lands are totally surrounded by Forest Preserve.

At the time the NEWSLETTER went to press, Governor Cuomo had not yet delivered his January 8th State-of-the-State Message in which he was expected to include a specific proposal for Adirondack acquisition funds. The Council has urged the Governor to request \$300 million to essentially complete Adirondack acquisitions and preserve the Park in perpetuity.

REVIEW BOARD HONORS COUNCIL WITH COVETED "BLACK FLY AWARD"

The Adirondack Council has received the "Black Fly Award" from the Local Government Review Board, an organization of local officials and real-estate interests dedicated to abolishing the Adirondack Park Agency and its regional land-use controls. The Review Board also opposes Wilderness classification of state lands, state acquisition of conservation easements (development rights), and further expansion of the publicly-owned Adirondack Forest Preserve.

"We are deeply honored by the Review Board's belated recognition of our effectiveness," said Gary Randorf, the Council's Executive Director. "You may be sure we will do all in our power to continue to merit such recognition in the months and years ahead."

In a press release announcing the award, the Review Board singled out a recent Council study on Adirondack taxation as particularly deserving of their opprobrium. This study, summarized in our last NEWSLETTER, revealed that New York State pays an average of two-to-three times more in taxes on state lands (Forest Preserve) in the Adirondack Park than is paid by owners of comparable private lands in the Park.

The Review Board maintains that state ownership in the Adirondacks constitutes a "lock up of developable land" and thereby erodes the local tax base!!



NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR COUNCIL'S ANNUAL AWARDS

Do you know anyone—conservationist, entrepreneur, local official, government agency—who deserves special recognition from the Council?

Each year at its annual dinner in July, the Council confers awards on individuals and entities "whose actions exemplify the ideal of protecting the natural character of the Adirondack Park through preservation or compatible use of the Park's resources." The top honor goes to an "Outstanding Adirondack Conservationist." Other awards may be presented for exemplary commercial uses, forestry or construction practices, and government projects.

Please send nominations to Donna Beal, Adirondack Council, P.O. Box D-2, Elizabethtown, N. Y. 12932.

THANK YOU!

The Board of Directors and staff of the Adirondack Council wish to thank each one of you who gave so generously to our year-end appeal.

The challenges facing the Adirondacks are great, causing us to work harder and enlist more help than at any time in the past. We have never been more dependent on your dues and additional contributions.

For those of you who haven't gotten to it yet, we'd happily receive your year-end contribution in early 1986, the year that we hope is one of your best.

STATE FINALLY MOVES ON PARK INTERPRETATION; COLLEGE SITE CHOSEN FOR FIRST VISITOR CENTER

A new era has dawned in the Adirondacks with the designation of Paul Smith's College as the site of the Park's first Visitor Interpretive Center.

For far too long, the Adirondack Park has suffered from a split personality. On one hand, the Park has served for nearly a century as a national model of how a state can safeguard the best of its natural heritage. On the other hand, New York State has lagged way behind the federal and other state governments in its efforts to explain and describe the natural history, recreational opportunities, and management objectives of the Adirondack Park.

Most travelers still don't even realize *when* they have entered the Adirondack Park or what kind of park they are in. Most visitors, for example, have no conception of the Park's unique mixture of public and private lands. A common tale among Adirondack residents is the story of the tourist who arrives during the night and pitches his tent on someone's front lawn. When asked to camp elsewhere, the visitor responds indignantly: "This is a state park, isn't it?"

But the beginnings of enlightenment may be just around the corner. After years of prodding from the Adirondack Council and others, the State, under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, has chosen Paul Smith's College as the site of a full-scale Visitor Interpretive Center.

Paul Smith's is in the northern Adirondacks, about 15 miles northwest of Saranac Lake Village and 35 miles south of Malone. The site includes almost 3,000 acres, to be leased from the college for \$2 a year. The Center itself will cost \$4 million. Legislative approval for this appropriation is still needed—and expected.

The Center's staff and programs will explain the Park's geology and wildlife, its forest, plant and aquatic ecology. The

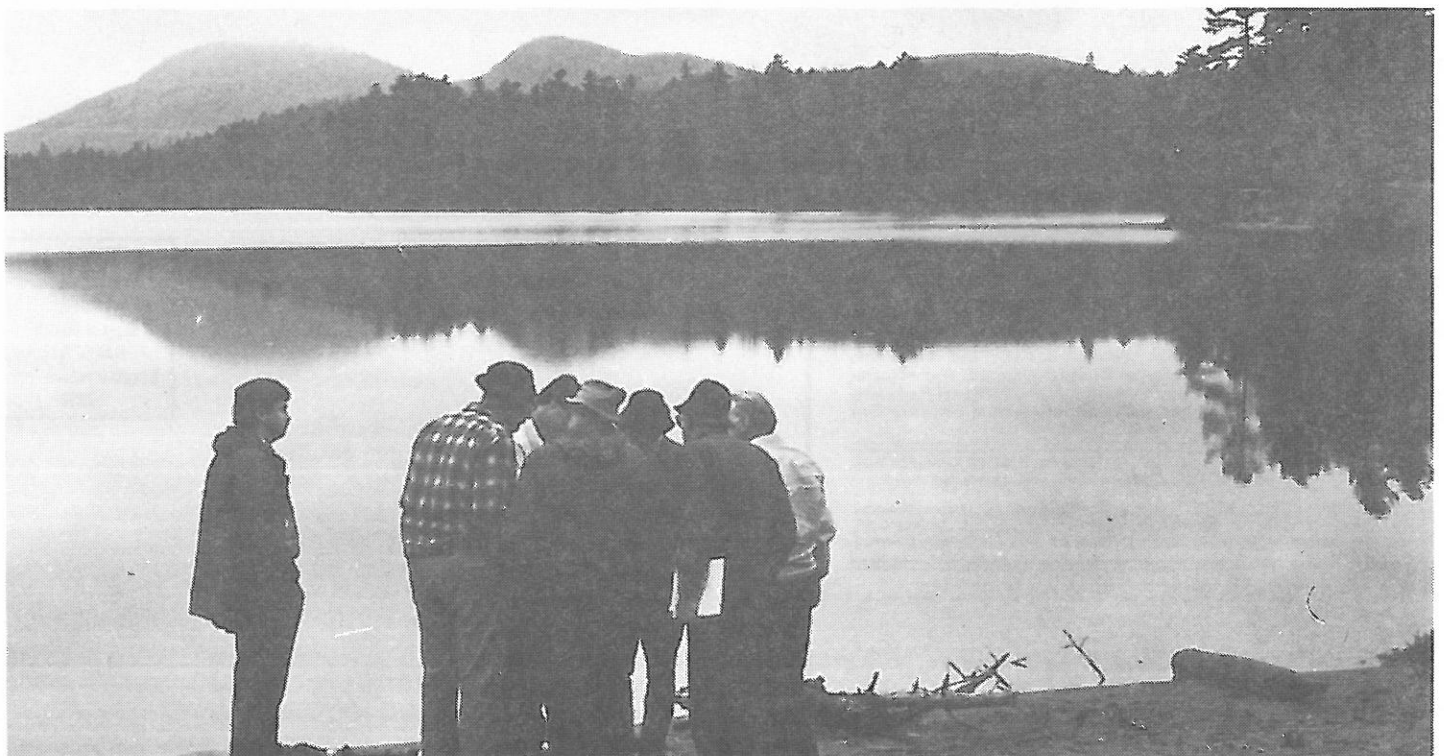
Center will highlight the Park's hiking and horse trails, trout streams, beaches, campsites, crafts and cultural attractions. A system of nature trails will be maintained at the Center; indoors will be housed a small theater, multi-media materials, classrooms, exhibit room, and book store.

"This Center must be on a par in quality, sophistication and sensitivity with the renowned Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake Village," observed Harold A. Jerry, Jr., a founding member of the Adirondack Council and lifelong proponent of nature interpretation in the Adirondack Park. "Nothing less will suffice."

According to the Adirondack Park Agency, which will staff and supervise the Center, summer programs will be geared mainly to tourists, while spring and fall activities will focus on school programs and natural history training for those involved in tourism. During the winter, the Center's staff will develop interpretive material for elsewhere in the Park—including some of the Park's 75 roadside pulloffs, 43 public campgrounds, and 65 boat launch sites. All told, the APA has identified some 1,400 natural and cultural features that need interpreting.

"That's probably too big an order for one Center," Jerry commented, "but at least we're moving in the right direction. Also to his credit, the Governor has proposed a parkwide system of satellite facilities to complement the major Interpretive Center."

The Council is encouraging the Governor and Legislature to locate the additional facilities at principal entrances to the Park, such as Interstate 87 at both south and north entries, Route 30 near Mayfield, Route 28 near Woodgate, Route 3 near Fine and also near Cadyville, and Route 30 near Duane.



On-site Huddle: State Officials Plan Visitor Interpretive Center

"CELEBRATION OF WILDNESS" TO REACH WIDER AUDIENCE

A professional sound track is now being added to the Council's widely-acclaimed slide show on the history and glories of the Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve. Copies will soon be available to schools and other groups for a modest rental fee.

The slide presentation, "Celebration of Wildness", runs 30 minutes. The only equipment needed for showing will be a Kodak carousel projector, cassette tape player, and viewing screen. The only charge for the slide-show package will be a shipping and handling fee of \$10.

For information contact the Adirondack Council, Elizabethtown, N.Y. 12932, 518-873-2240.

NEW APA PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHT PARK'S RESOURCES

The Adirondack Park Agency has produced a series of useful publications for which Chairman Herman "Woody" Cole and editor/writer Barbara McMartin deserve special credit.

The publications include "Citizen Guides" to Adirondack Wetlands, the Adirondack Forest Preserve, and Adirondack Community Planning. Two pamphlets—"The Adirondack Park" and "Developing a Business in the Adirondack Park"—are also available.

For further information contact the Adirondack Park Agency, P.O. Box 99, Ray Brook, N.Y. 12977.



The Adirondack Council

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

January 1986

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Gary A. Randorf PROGRAM DIRECTOR: George D. Davis
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: Richard Beamish ADMIN. ASST.: Donna Beal

OFFICERS:
Chairman Kim Elliman Vice Chairman . . . Frances Beinecke
Vice Chairman . . . Arthur M. Crocker Secretary Dean Cook
Treasurer Timothy L. Barnett

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Timothy L. Barnett	Marilyn M. DuBois	George R. Lamb
Frances Beinecke	Edward A. Earl	Richard W. Lawrence, Jr.
Peter A.A. Berle	Lynne T. Edgerton	James Marshall
Richard Booth	Kim Elliman	Frederick O'Neal
Thomas Cobb	John Ernst	Clarence A. Petty
Dean Cook	Barbara Glaser	Paul Schaefer
Arthur M. Crocker	William T. Hord	David Sive
James C. Dawson	Harold A. Jerry, Jr.	Francis B. Trudeau

Contributions are tax deductible

A copy of the last financial report filed with the New York Department of State may be obtained by writing: New York Department of State, Office of Charities Registration, Albany, NY 12231 or The Adirondack Council.

U.S. Postage
PAID
BULK RATE
PERMIT NO. 40
Elizabethtown, NY
12932