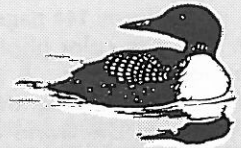




The Adirondack Council NEWSLETTER



to keep supporters informed of our activities

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES NEW FOREST PRESERVE ACQUISITION POLICY

In a dramatic and ringing reaffirmation of the sanctity of New York State's Forest Preserve, Governor Mario M. Cuomo has pledged his administration to a more aggressive forest preserve acquisition policy based on criteria long championed by the Adirondack Council. In a speech delivered at the Forest Preserve Centennial Dinner in Albany on May 15, the Governor said **"We will continue this policy of acquiring new forest lands as aggressively as possible, making important and intelligent additions to the preserve. At my direction, Commissioner Williams is already engaged in negotiations to acquire additional parcels that will celebrate this centennial in the best way possible--that is, by protecting fragile resource areas, by acquiring ecologically coherent watersheds, and by expanding public ownership of recreational waterways."**

This policy should ensure that the acquisition criteria given the most emphasis in the last few years, consolidation and access, will take on lesser importance. The State will emphasize criteria that will ensure that the public acquires those lands most important to the integrity of the forest preserve. The public interest is far better served by acquiring fragile resource areas, expanding wilderness areas to include complete watersheds, and acquiring corridors along the state's designated wild, scenic and recreation rivers than by acquiring parcels that accomplish little but to straighten boundary lines or provide additional access to areas often accessible elsewhere.

The Adirondack Council applauds this new policy direction and will work closely with the State to help implement it. Mindful of past policy, the Council is concerned that the Department of Environmental Conservation will not speedily implement this new policy. Forest preserve acquisitions made in 1985 will be rated by these new acquisition criteria in our annual State of the Park report to be issued in February.

In addition to announcing new forest preserve acquisition criteria, the Governor was eloquent in describing the far-sightedness of the creators of the forest preserve and in defining the obligation we have to build upon the marvelous legacy given us.

"If the New Yorkers of 1885 had been willing to forget about us--about their descendants--they could have had more for themselves. More exports. More raw materials. More land for development. The worst consequences wouldn't have come for another generation, not in their lifetime.

"But they thought of themselves as something more than the creatures of a single moment, concerned only with their own comfort, whatever the future costs, costs they'd never have to pay.

"They thought of us...in a magnificent way.

"Without regard to party or political labels, without regard for whether they lived in cities or on farms, whether they were industrialists or immigrants, they joined together to set these lands aside, to pronounce them 'forever wild'.

"And when that law didn't seem strong enough, when it seemed that an even more stringent declaration of purpose was needed, they wrote it in stone.

"They wrote it into our constitution, declared with an eloquent directness and simplicity that 'the lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands.'

"The people of New York have kept faith with that declaration. What began in 1885 as 715,000 acres, today encompasses over 2,750,000 acres, the largest and most securely protected wilderness area in the entire Eastern United States.

"Within the preserve are mountains and streams and lakes, virgin timber lands and the headwaters of the Hudson, and almost all of the 1300 miles of our state's Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System.

"It's a legacy without a price...

"The bottom line is this: The wilderness areas of this State are not a disposable resource, to be consumed and discarded.

"They must be preserved. Forever.

"And wherever it is possible and reasonable they must be expanded."



1985 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

It is very discouraging to report that in this, the year of the forest preserve centennial, the New York State Legislature passed no Adirondack legislation of import. Once again, the state Senate stonewalled legislation to add 129 miles of Adirondack rivers to the state's system of Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers. The Senate also failed to even consider the "dual standard" bill that would give the Adirondack Park Agency authority over major development proposed by state agencies in the Adirondack Park.

Since the state Senate has been the principal roadblock to practically all legislation proposed to protect or enhance the Adirondack Park over the past several years, it would seem appropriate for Council members to write or call their state Senator, now home from Albany, and pointedly ask him or her why the Senate fails to regard the Adirondack Park as the previous resource to the people of the state that it is.

LOON BOOK AVAILABLE

A magnificent 144 page book, **Loon Magic**, cram packed with exquisite color photographs is now available from the Adirondack Council.

Loon Magic is a delightful journey through the romance and the reality of the world of loons. In creating **Loon Magic**, author Tom Klein has bravely scaled a mountain of technical research data and thoroughly humanized it by skillfully blending it with wit and wisdom based on his many years of personal observation. The result is a dynamic loon portrait filled with warmth and humor.

Members wishing a copy of **Loon Magic** should send a check for \$39.95 to the Adirondack Council, P.O. Box D-2, Elizabethtown, New York 12932. Books will be sent immediately.



PUBLIC HEARINGS SET FOR STAND LAND PLAN REVISION

The Adirondack Park Agency has scheduled two public hearings for individual citizens to express their views on the need for revisions to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. The State Land Master Plan guides the management and administration of the 2.4 million acres of forest preserve within the Adirondack Park.

The Agency is not proposing any major revisions to the Mater Plan. The Adirondack Council supports that position in general but would emphasize specific points (see April NEWSLETTER). In general, we support the Agency's proposed revisions and are especially pleased with the proposal to redesignate the Jay Mountain Primitive Area as Wilderness and the proposal to limit the use of all-terrain vehicles in the forest preserve to roads. The Council believes that the Agency should reconsider its ill-conceived provision allowing continued float plane use on Whitney Lake in the West Canada Lake Wilderness. The Agency's proposed revisions for the management of the Mt. VanHoevenberg Winter Recreation Area do not differentiate between the land under permanent lease to the state for non-wild forest activities and the forest preserve land in the area. As now written, the proposed language could be read to allow unconstitutional uses of forest preserve land in this area. The Council is also disappointed that the Agency is proposing to allow the St. Regis Mountain cabin and telephone line to remain for an indefinite period even though they are clearly non-conforming uses within the St. Regis Canoe Area. The Council concurs with the Agency recommendation to let the St. Regis fire tower remain for the time being but believes that the cabin and telephone line detract significantly from the feeling of isolation many users seek.

Your letters and/or appearance at the upcoming public hearings are urged. The Adirondack Park Agency needs to be reminded that widespread public support exists for a strict interpretation of the constitution as it applies to forest preserve and for particularly strict preservation of the designated wilderness, primitive and canoe areas. Letters can be sent to Herman F. Cole, Jr., Chairman, Adirondack Park Agency, P.O. Box 99, Ray Brook, New York 12977. The public hearings will be as follows:

Monday, August 12 7:00 p.m.	Tuesday, August 13 2:00 p.m.
Hearing Room C	Adirondack Park Agency
Legislative Office Building	Ray Brook, New York
Empire State Plaza	
Albany, New York	

CELEBRATION OF WILDNESS

Gary Randorf

As a family of young Mallard ducks swam by the dock at Silver Bay on Lake George, I was reminded that they too are part of the next generation. I had just finished presenting the Council's new slide show, **CELEBRATION OF WILDNESS**, to hundreds of receptive folks at the National Audubon Society National Convention. My final words connected with the passing flotilla--"the greatest challenge, and opportunity, is to preserve forever this special Adirondack landscape, this celebration of wildness. In this we must prevail. For here is a legacy that rightfully belongs to all of us...including generations yet to come."

What a reception **CELEBRATION** has had! In New York 600 enthusiastic people saw it at the American Museum of Natural History, and since that time 17 more showings have been requested. We are proud of our contribution to the forest preserve centennial.

CELEBRATION, a history and celebration of the Adirondack Park and Forest Preserve, will likely be usable for some time to come as it was intentionally planned to serve well beyond this centennial year. That is why we think it is so essential to produce a synchronized taped soundtrack for it so it can be used to the fullest.

Let me please remind you that our Mid-year Appeal solicited funds for this purpose and for other of the Council's educational programs. If you haven't yet contributed to that appeal, we hope you will consider doing so.

We recognize that a sense of urgency is what moves people to send dollars. Let me tell you there is a sense of urgency to reach more people through educational and interpretive programs and materials to build more support for the Adirondack Park and its great diversity of landscapes, and its diverse recreational, natural and cultural resources. And we cannot rest in our efforts to keep the public informed about the impact of acid precipitation in the Adirondacks and the absolutely essential need for federal legislation to require reductions in the pollutants that are causing this calamity.

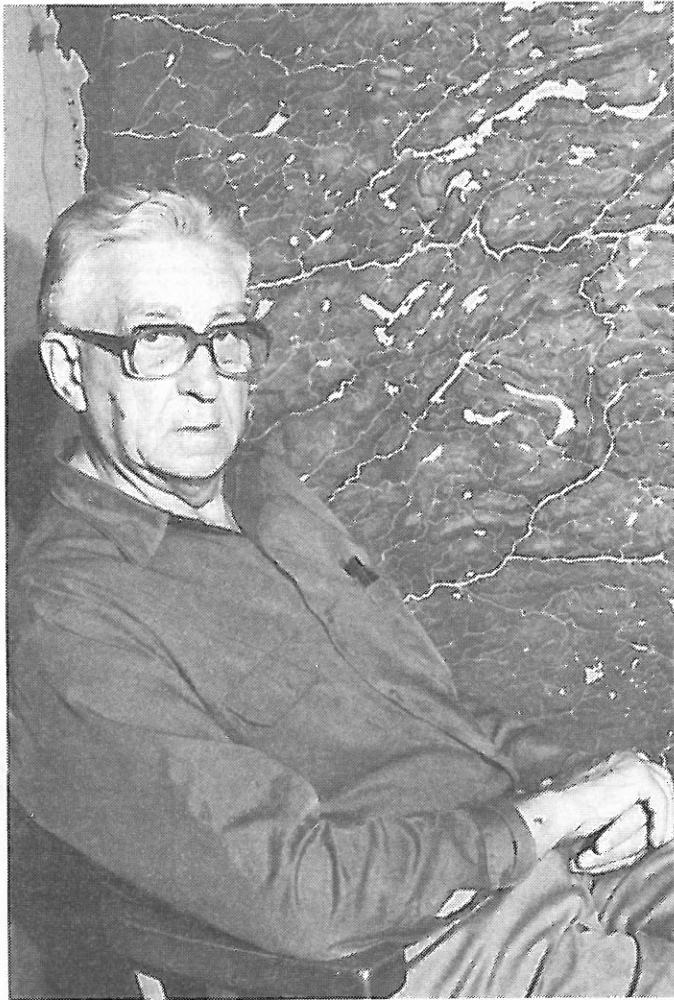
Another growing concern is a movement by some groups and individuals to open up the designated wilderness areas to motorized vehicles. Their arguments are sometimes convincing to the uninformed. If they were to ever get their way through legal action or otherwise, the Adirondack Park and its users would lose something of unique value.

We hope you will have the opportunity to see **CELEBRATION OF WILDNESS** if you have not already done so. And if you or anyone else in your area could make arrangements for showing **CELEBRATION** to a large assembly of people, particularly if they are not yet informed in Park matters, please contact me at the Adirondack Council's Elizabethtown office.

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS; PAUL SCHAEFER CITED AS "OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST"

The Adirondack Council conferred awards on the "Outstanding Adirondack Conservationist" and five others "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 awards were presented by Chairwoman Frances G. Beinecke at the Council's annual dinner at the Westport (NY) Yacht Club on Lake Champlain.

Paul Schaefer received the Council's outstanding conservationist award for 1985, a beautiful hand carved loon donated by Pat Fais of Larchmont, New York. A resident of Schenectady and North Creek, Schaefer has been a leader in the movement to protect the Adirondack Park for most of this century.



Described by the Council as "the John Muir of the Adirondacks", Schaefer has devoted most of his free time, and much of the time he might otherwise have been employed as a professional builder, to writing, speaking, lobbying, organizing, film-making and generally working to preserve the natural values of the Adirondack Park. He has been at the forefront of every significant Adirondack conservation battle over the course of three generations. Schaefer is perhaps best known for leading the successful decade-long fight, in the late 1940's and early 1950's, against the proposed Panther Mountain Dam on the Moose River and a host of other similar plans to block free-flowing Adirondack rivers and flood state-owned Adirondack Forest Preserve.

The **Exemplary State Government Action** award went to **Thomas E. Brown, Director of Region 6 (Watertown) of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**, for the unit management plans, prepared under his direction by Scott and David Gray, for the Pepperbox and Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness Areas and the Independence River Wild Forest Area, in the western portion of the Adirondack Park. These plans combine expert field studies of the physical and biological resources with practical guidelines for protecting the ecological integrity of these Forest Preserve units in the decades to come.

The **Exemplary Local Government Action** award was presented to **Mary Ellen Keith, Supervisor of the Town of Franklin**, for pioneering the use of a selectively-applied biological agent for blackfly control in the Adirondack Park. This marks a dramatic departure from the traditional, indiscriminate spraying of chemical pesticides. The biological control, a bacterial larvicide called Bti, is applied manually to specific stream sites. Killing selectively, and thus sparing beneficial insects, Bti is proving to be a safer and more effective device than Dibrom-14, the chemical poison previously used for this purpose.

The **Exemplary Commercial Use** award was given to the four young entrepreneurs who founded the **Raquette River Bike and Boat Company of Tupper Lake**. Carrying on the tradition of the Adirondack guides of an earlier era, the partners in this new enterprise--**Carol Kennedy, Rob Frenette, Nancy Fishbein and Rob Gillis**--conduct summer and fall wilderness tours in Adirondack guideboats of their own making. They also organize and lead bicycle tours, capitalizing on the fact that the Adirondack Park offers some of the finest recreational cycling in the eastern United States.

The **Exemplary Forest Practice** award went to two independent timber harvesters who work in Clinton and Essex Counties. **Robert Butts** of Peru and **Roger Belzile** of Willsboro were cited for the environmental sensitivity that has typified their logging activities. Both operators have adhered to the highest standards of multiple-use, sustained-yield forestry. In their separate and diverse operations, both have taken special care to protect soil and water resources, avoid erosion, protect wildlife habitat, and leave healthy residual stands and clean logging sites behind them.

An award for **Volunteer of the Year** was presented to **Virginia Davis** of Elizabethtown. Mrs. Davis was cited for the many hours and good work performed for the Council in preparing numerous mailings over the past several years.

After these awards were presented, Chairwoman Beinecke introduced the new Chairman of the Adirondack Council for the upcoming year, Kim Elliman. Mr. Elliman is a real estate and investment advisor who resides in New York City but who spends every moment he can at his Adirondack camp in Franklin County. Mr. Elliman then thanked Frances Beinecke for her five years of leadership and hard work as Chairwoman of the Council. As a token of the Council's appreciation, Ms. Beinecke was presented with a beautifully framed, limited edition loon print entitled "Echoes of the North".

Other officers elected at the Council's annual meeting which preceded the dinner included Frances Beinecke and Arthur M. Crocker as Vice-Chairmen, Timothy L. Barnett as Treasurer and Dean Cook as Secretary. Newly elected Directors are Dr. Francis Trudeau of Saranac Lake and Frederick O'Neal, a former member of the Adirondack Study Commission, of New York City.

COMPROMISE REACHED ON CATHEAD MOUNTAIN TOWER

Following several days of testimony and cross-examination at an administrative hearing, the issue of building a tower for improved police communication was settled in compromise. The Adirondack Council, Adirondack Park Agency and New York State Division of State Police were parties to the hearing regarding development on the summit of Cathead Mountain that threatened the Silver Lake Wilderness.

Early in the year the Division of State Police applied to the Adirondack Park Agency for a permit to construct a 140 foot tower and a 39 foot power generating windmill on the summit of Cathead Mountain, a private inholding within the Silver Lake Wilderness. The Adirondack Council immediately objected citing the substantial adverse impact such facilities would have on the wilderness resource and the state police's failure to adequately consider alternative sites and facilities. As a result, the APA ordered a public hearing at which the Council introduced evidence demonstrating the deleterious impact on wilderness while acknowledging the need for an improved communications system for safety reasons. With all parties cooperating to minimize impacts and improve police communications, they agreed an alternative facility would accomplish this. The Division of State Police could add a 40 foot antenna to the 58 foot fire tower already located on the summit of Cathead Mountain instead of constructing an entirely new 140 foot tower. The 39 foot wind energy system was agreed to be the best source of power for the Cathead communication facility.

The Adirondack Council is very pleased with the cooperation and concern evinced by the Adirondack Park Agency and the Division of State Police which resulted in fruitful negotiations and the compromise solution.



ATV POLICY IN THE ADIRONDACK PARK

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are becoming commonplace in the Adirondack Park and throughout the country. Increasingly, these recreational vehicles are viewed as extremely hazardous, according to statistics compiled by the Consumer Safety Bureau. What's more, they frequently trespass into areas otherwise closed to motor vehicles, such as designated wilderness, and onto private lands without permission.

The State of New York is scrambling to put together a coherent statewide policy regarding the use of all-terrain vehicles. Many localities have already passed ordinances banning ATVs in much of their jurisdiction. The Adirondack Park Agency has appointed a Citizen's Task Force, on which the Adirondack Council serves, to recommend ATV policy for the Adirondack Park. Although the Task Force has not yet completed its final recommendations, its draft recommendations would limit ATV use in the forest preserve to permit them only on roads open to other wheeled vehicles, but not snowmobile trails. The Task Force's recommendations also include safety standards, noise control requirements, and a prohibition on ATV use on private lands without the owner's written permission carried by the operator.

At its March 13 Board Meeting, the Adirondack Council passed the following resolution regarding all-terrain vehicles: *Whereas all-terrain vehicles are increasing in their popularity, and whereas all-terrain vehicles can be hazardous, and whereas when used on steep or wet areas all-terrain vehicles can cause plant, soil and water damage, and whereas the noise of all-terrain vehicles can have a devastating impact on users of the Adirondack Park who are seeking solitude and peace and quiet, and whereas the state is presently considering the proper regulations for the use of all-terrain vehicles, now be it therefore resolved that the Adirondack Council (1) opposes the use of all-terrain vehicles anywhere within the Adirondack Park unless they are registered with the state and meet specific noise and safety standards, (2) opposes the use of all-terrain vehicles anywhere on forest preserve except on roads where other wheeled motor vehicles are allowed, and (3) opposes the use of all-terrain vehicles in any of the identified wetlands within the Adirondack Park.*



The Adirondack Council

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July 1985

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.

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