





## NEWS IN AND ABOUT THE SIX-MILLION-ACRE ADIRONDACK PARK

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## Governor Cuomo Promotes Adirondack Tourism

### Indian Lake hosts the Adirondack Challenge

When Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the idea of the Adirondack Challenge during his State of the State speech in January, he did so tongue-in-cheek, presenting a slideshow of cartoon images of his political colleagues rafting down the Hudson River. Adirondackers were unsure

if the Governor actually intended to host a whitewater event in the Adirondacks. All doubt was put to rest July 21 and 22 when the Governor, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and an array of local elected officials and other leaders gathered for two days of activities meant to showcase the Adirondacks and promote tourism.

The Governor secured significant media coverage of the event, with journalists from throughout the state descending on the hamlet of Indian Lake in Hamilton County.

Most agree that the statewide publicity will serve to attract

visitors to new public lands and waters formerly owned by Finch, Pruyn & Co., and the Nature Conservancy. All of the attention will help gateway communities reap a financial benefit from the Hudson River Gorge and Essex Chain of Lakes purchases.



*Executive Director William C. Janeway thanks Governor Andrew Cuomo for helping promote the Adirondacks. Photo © Nancie Battaglia*

## President Obama Takes on Climate Change

### Calls for new standards to reduce carbon emissions

In June, President Barack Obama announced a broad, new set of initiatives to combat climate change. He directed the Environmental Protection Agency to develop greenhouse gas pollution standards for new and existing power plants nationwide. He also announced plans to improve federal standards for energy efficiency and to develop cleaner sources of energy for the future.

Since Congress is not ready to take the actions needed now, it is important for President Obama to lead the way in partnership with states like New York that have been hard hit by extreme weather events, and which share the President's commitment to taking action.

Climate change and atmospheric deposition (including acid rain) are negatively affecting the environment and economy of the Adirondack Park. Long term, climate-induced impacts will impede healthy forests from providing wood products and supporting jobs, dampen the North Country economy and foul clean water. Clean water is critical to attracting tourists and homeowners that are key to the Park's economy. Climate change is one of the primary reasons more invasive species are threatening the Adirondack Park's forests and lakes.

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Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff  
unless otherwise noted.



## Measurable Results Matter

### Adirondack Council actions produce conservation results

August 8 marked the 100th day since I started as the new Executive Director of the Adirondack Council. Thank you to all who provided support and suggestions. After meeting over 1,000 people who share the Adirondack Council's concerns and passion for the largest park in the continental United States at 100-plus locations across the Park, I offer some observations.

There is no other landscape in the world as unique and magnificent as the six-million-acre Adirondack Park. About 130,000 people live in the Park year-round and as many as 10 million people visit, including seasonal residents. After enjoying the Adirondacks for many years, I can't think of another landscape in the world that I would rather focus on protecting or another organization I would rather lead than the Adirondack Council.

The Council works in partnership with other organizations, communities, land trusts, scientists and government leaders. We don't just take a stand. We articulate principles, find balance and get results. We are a leader.

The Adirondack Council called for a large Wild Rivers/Hudson Gorge Wilderness, now supported by others and proposed by the State. The Council developed principles for evaluation of proposed Forest Preserve land exchanges, now embraced by the State and others (available on our website). The Council acquired and retired government-issued pollution allowances as part of a campaign to fight acid rain and combat climate change. The Council alerted the media about the Adirondack Park Agency's clear-cutting proposal, which subsequently has been dropped. And it was an Adirondack Council executive director who co-founded the Common Ground Alliance.

We are now building on the Council's success, using collaboration and balance, and producing measurable results for conservation. With others, we enhance the ecological integrity and wild, open-space character of the Park, embrace vibrant communities, and support private stewardship, clean water and clean air.

Thank you to members, donors, stakeholders, and community and government leaders for the warm welcome. After 100 days, it is clear that with your support the Council team produces measurable results critical to the future of the Adirondack Park and appreciated by a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Thank you for being part of that team. It's an honor to be the Council's new leader.

  
William C. Janeway  
Executive Director

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations.

We envision an Adirondack Park with clean water and air and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working farms and forests and vibrant local communities.

Go to our website – [www.AdirondackCouncil.org](http://www.AdirondackCouncil.org) – for more information.

## CAPITAL MATTERS: ALBANY

### Legislative Session Productive for Council

#### Bills now awaiting Governor's signature

This year's legislative session ended with a flurry of activity in June that will benefit the Adirondack Park. First, both houses passed a bill that would prohibit, within two years, the ownership of Eurasian boar. These animals, often kept on hunting preserves, can escape and cause extensive damage to farmland and forests in the Adirondacks and other parts of the state.

The legislature expanded the collection program for mercury-containing thermostats. These items are often removed during home renovations and about 99 percent are improperly discarded, which can lead to child-developmental issues and the contamination of water.

Both houses also passed a bill that will require food vendors doing business with the state to disclose how much of their food is grown or processed in New York. This reporting, it is hoped, will lead to an increased use of local food at state facilities, such as prisons and SUNY campuses.

### Adirondack Amendments on November Ballot

#### Council land swap principles embraced by Governor

In June, the Cuomo administration embraced the Council's six principles for Adirondack Land Exchanges (scan QR code) and enhanced two Adirondack constitutional amendments that the legislature subsequently approved, and which New Yorkers will be asked to vote on November 5.



The first is a clearing of contested title on property located in the hamlet of Raquette Lake in the town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. Known as Township 40, this title dispute has gone on for over 100 years with little hope of solution other than a constitutional amendment. This amendment would give clear title to about 200 occupants on roughly 1,000 acres of land. In return, the owners will have to pool resources and purchase land to give to the state that will provide a net benefit to the Forest Preserve.

The second land exchange amendment expands the Jay Mountain Wilderness and Taylor Pond Wild Forest with 1,507 acres being added to the Forest Preserve in exchange for up to 200 acres being mined by NYCO for wollastonite. This exchange offers a victory for wilderness while supporting a key local community employer in Lewis and Willsboro. The six new parcels of land contain better wildlife habitat, forests and recreational access opportunities than the area NYCO would mine, restore and return to the state. The new lands also protect more than two miles of Spruce Mill Brook, Derby Brook and the Boquet River.



*Above: The lands identified to come into the Forest Preserve as part of the NYCO exchange are adjacent to the Jay Mountain Wilderness. The Council expects these new lands to be added to the Wilderness area, further protecting the waters and forests in the region and providing new recreational access from the east to the open-rock mountain ridge that provides beautiful views of Lake Champlain and Vermont. Pictured: Council Conservation Director Rocci Aguirre.*

## ACTION UPDATE

### Thank you!

#### Public comments for classification

Thank you to everyone who attended a hearing or wrote letters to the Adirondack Park Agency and the Governor regarding the classification of the former Finch-Pruyn lands that were purchased by the Nature Conservancy, sold to the state and will now be added to the public Forest Preserve. Although motorized recreation enthusiasts significantly outnumbered Wilderness advocates at the public hearings, the environmental community was able to generate a significant number of letters in support of the Wilderness 1A proposal. This is the first in a series of classifications. Please stay tuned. The importance of your participation cannot be overstated.

Time does not always allow us to use the mail for our alerts.

Please be sure we have your current email so we can let you know when your comments are urgently needed.

Please send your email to [foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org)

Thank you!

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## CAPITAL MATTERS: ALBANY



Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.



*Since launching the Cool Park/Healthy Planet carbon retirement program, the Adirondack Council's members and supporters have retired 9,754 tons of credits that would otherwise be purchased by power plants and converted to carbon dioxide emissions. Proceeds from the retirement program help support the Council's advocacy efforts to strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and to create programs that will help communities become more resilient in adapting to climate change.*

## New Rules for RGGI

### Lower cap in emissions proposed

This summer, the Adirondack Council will participate in rulemaking that will set new standards for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a carbon allowance trading program designed to reduce climate-altering emissions. The proposed regulations are the culmination of a new agreement between the nine participating northeastern states that will lower the cap on greenhouse gas emissions for all carbon-emitting power producers. The new cap, set at 91 million tons for 2014, will decrease annually by 2.5 percent through the year 2020. This is much lower than the previous cap of 163 million tons.

As the only environmental group to participate directly in the auctions for allowances, the Adirondack Council permanently retires carbon allowances through our member-supported Cool Park/Healthy Planet program. To participate in the program, visit [AdirondackCouncil.org](http://AdirondackCouncil.org).



## Clarence Petty Interns

### Meet Sarah Perry and Jordan Giaconia



Sarah Perry was born and raised in Lake Placid and graduated from the Putney School in 2012. Sarah will be a sophomore at SUNY Purchase, where she is majoring in Film. Sarah is working in the

Council's Elizabethtown office on a film project called "Adirondack Stories" with our board member, Aaron Woolf. In her free time, Sarah loves rock climbing, horseback riding, ceramics, stained glass, movie making, and acting.



Jordan Giaconia, a resident of Lyme, CT, is currently working as the conservation intern in the Council's Elizabethtown office. Jordan will be a senior at the University of Connecticut where he majors in Environmental Studies. He is enjoying analyzing management plans, writing comment letters, and representing the Council at a variety of public hearings and conferences. When not working, Jordan spends his time kayaking, swimming, climbing, hiking, or simply basking in the natural splendor of the Adirondack Park.

## New APA Commissioners

### Feldman and Wilt confirmed by the Senate

The Adirondack Council was pleased with Governor Andrew Cuomo's end-of-session nominations of two new commissioners to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), Karen Feldman from Columbia County and Daniel Wilt of Hamilton County. The Governor also reappointed Arthur Lussi, William Thomas and current Board Chair Lani Ulrich.

Karen Feldman is known for staying true to science and the law, and shares a special interest in private land use with her partner, Thomas Williams, President of the Adirondack Landowners Association.

Daniel Wilt is a business owner and also serves on the Governor's North Country Regional Economic Development Council and the Town of Arietta's Zoning Board of Appeals.

The APA Board of Commissioners consists of 11 members: three state Agency commissioners and eight Governor-appointed commissioners. Of the eight appointees, five must be Park residents and three must come from outside the Park. Commissioners serve four-year terms, but may remain in their seat until a replacement has been appointed.

The Council has long called for bringing all commissioner appointments up-to-date, and is generally pleased with the progress made this year. The only disappointment was that commissioner Richard Booth of Ithaca was not reappointed. Booth, an expert in environmental law from Cornell University, has served the APA well and deserves a new term. He will continue to serve until reappointed and confirmed or replaced.

## IN AND ABOUT THE PARK



### Tupper Lake

#### New broadband network

The Development Authority of the North Country and Slic Network Solutions announced that the installation of a new fiber-optic telecommunications network has reached Tupper Lake. The hub at the Adirondack Wild Center will service businesses, institutions and residences when the network is completed.

### Newcomb

#### Common Ground Alliance

On July 18, more than 200 people gathered at Newcomb Central School for the seventh annual Common Ground Alliance of the Adirondacks meeting, making it the largest event so far. Participants included staff from Adirondack region non-profits, tourism groups, local and state governments as well as year-round and seasonal business owners and residents. Participants discussed how community planning, environmental projects and working in partnership with other unlikely stakeholders has advanced their community's economy and business outlook. Successes included tourism based on the Adirondack Forest Preserve, improvements in water quality, renewable energy programs, and community planning that connects downtowns to local backwoods trails.



Photo © K. McKeever APA

### Movie Theatre Communities

#### Go digital or go dark

Independent movie theatres throughout the Adirondacks must quickly upgrade to digital equipment or risk closing their doors. The Adirondack North Country Association is working with local theatres (AuSable Forks, Indian Lake, Lake Placid, Old Forge, Schroon Lake, and Tupper Lake - on the map in red •) to raise funds needed to keep these critical community assets thriving in the Adirondacks and also in Plattsburgh and South Glens Falls. Visit the website to learn more and watch a short film on the topic at [Adirondack.org](http://Adirondack.org).

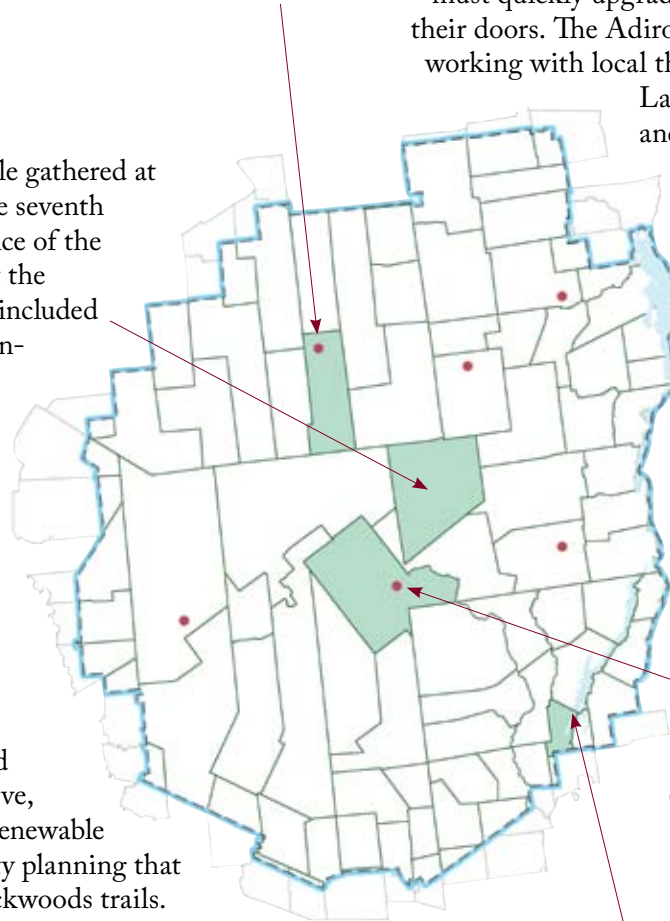


Photo © Nancie Battaglia

### Indian Lake

#### Governor's Adirondack Challenge

An invitational whitewater race, a flatwater competition and a race-day festival were all part of the Adirondack Challenge on July 21 and 22. See article on page 1.

### Lake George

#### Protecting water quality while upgrading road

The Department of Environmental Conservation will re-construct the Beach Road that leads to the Million-Dollar Beach on Lake George, using specific methods to protect the lake's water quality. A portion of the road will be paved with porous asphalt, and other storm-water management techniques will be used to prevent excess runoff.

#### Plan to combat invasive species

The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) approved a new Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan, making Lake George the first large Adirondack lake to require mandatory boat inspections. This is one step toward mitigating the ecological and economic impacts of invasive species. The LGPC will soon propose new regulations to carry out the details of the plan, hold a public comment period, and incorporate those comments into a final rule in time for the 2014 boating season.

## LANDS AND WATERS



Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

### Highest Court to Hear Appeal

New acid rain rule will further recovery

Earlier this summer, the U.S. Supreme Court decided to hear an appeal of a 2012 lower court ruling that nullified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). This rule promised deep cuts in acid rain-causing pollutants that are created in one state but drift into another. Oral arguments and a decision are due in the court's next term.

Before the CSAPR could be implemented, a lawsuit from several upwind states caused the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to throw out the rule. The Adirondack Council and other environmental organizations urged the EPA both to appeal the ruling and to begin development of a replacement rule, in case the appeal did not succeed. The EPA did both, and began stakeholder meetings in April on a replacement rule.

Most of the acid rain falling on the Adirondack Park today is the result of power plant emissions created in the Midwest and beyond. Pollution drifts here on prevailing winds before falling to the ground in the form of acid rain, snow, sleet, hail, or dry particles. Following the recent cuts in sulfur and nitrogen-based air pollution that were ordered by the EPA between 1995 and 2010, many (but not all) of the Park's water bodies are showing some signs of recovery. However, more cuts are needed to nurse the Park's remaining waters and forests back to health.

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is a member of



Thank you to Adirondack Council members who contribute through their EarthShare workplace giving campaigns. We appreciate your interest in protecting the Adirondack Park and your support for our conservation and advocacy efforts. Contact EarthShare today to talk about bringing EarthShare to *your* workplace! [info@earthshare.org](mailto:info@earthshare.org)

### Hearings on Classification of Former Finch Lands

Decision to be made in early fall

On July 2, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) completed the last of eight public hearings seeking input on the first classification package of the former Finch-Pruyn lands in Hamilton and Essex Counties. Purchased by the Nature Conservancy in 2007, the lands were sold to the state in 2012. Council staff attended all of the hearings, provided written and verbal comments and was a proponent for an enhanced Alternative 1A, Wilderness with access designation.

The hearings were well attended, underscoring the great interest this issue had across the state. Comments focused almost exclusively on Alternative 1A (predominantly Wilderness) and some version of Alternative 4 (Wild Forest). Wilderness advocates were nearly universal in their support of Alternative 1A, and focused their comments on how it met the requirements in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. They also stressed the land's ecological importance, the associated economic value of Wilderness to local communities, and responsible, limited motorized access.

Wild Forest advocates, including sportsmen, snowmobilers and citizens from surrounding communities, focused primarily on recreational uses, including motorized uses on the property and more public access using existing logging roads.

The APA has received roughly 3,600 written comments. Now, APA staff will analyze these comments and announce a recommended alternative in early fall. Visit our website to read our comments, view maps, learn about the classifications, and read press on the process.



*Above: Looking north over the Essex Chain of Lakes with the High Peaks in the distance. Gateway communities surround the new Forest Preserve lands.*

### Projects Benefit the Adirondack Park

Public access to new Forest Preserve

In June, Governor Cuomo announced that \$17 million in large-scale recreation improvement projects will begin this summer. Projects will include improvements to public campgrounds, day use areas, trails, and boat launches. The money will also support the facilitation of public access this summer to the former Finch lands as well as the Hudson River area between Newcomb and Indian Lake, and into the Essex Chain of Lakes in the fall.

About \$11 million is allocated for projects in Region 5 and about \$900,000 for Region 6 in the Adirondack Park. Much of the funding for this is coming from the state's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

## SUPPORT THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

### Adirondack Council Honors John and Margot Ernst

Gathering celebrates private land stewardship

The Adirondack Council presented John and Margot Ernst with the prestigious Conservationist of the Year Award for their conservation and non-profit leadership. The award was presented at the Council's annual Forever Wild Day celebration on July 13 at the SUNY-ESF Ranger School in Wanakena. Board Chair Ann Carmel presented the award saying, "Margot and John Ernst radiate a spirit of generosity and kindness that shines into every corner of the Adirondack Park. They have touched countless lives and inspired many to make that extra effort to build a community, an Adirondack Park and a world that is better than the one we have now."

In bestowing the award, the Council recognized a recent achievement, the Ernsts' donation to the people of New York of a conservation easement covering 12,000 acres surrounding Elk Lake Lodge in the High Peaks region of the Park. The donation means that the forests and waters around Elk Lake and Clear Pond, just southeast of the High Peaks Wilderness, will be protected forever from further development while it remains a private, tax-paying business and a local employer.

*Pictured above (L to R): Council Board Chair Ann Carmel, John and Margot Ernst, and Executive Director Willie Janeway.*



*Executive Director Willie Janeway greets Council supporters at his first Forever Wild Day, as members, friends, staff, and board members gather to honor John and Margot Ernst and celebrate private land stewardship in the Adirondack Park.*



### Wild Character Cap



Our new "Wild Character" cap is Earth colored and made of brushed cotton. The Velcro closure fits all sizes. The Council's loon logo is embroidered on the back. **\$15.00**

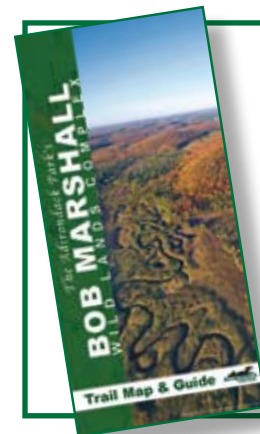


### 2014 Forever Wild Calendar

Featuring the Adirondack landscape photography of Carl Heilman II, the Adirondack Council's 2014 calendar brings you into the Park with Carl's breathtaking images. **\$13.00**



You can place an order for these and other products by calling the Adirondack Council at 1.877.873.2240 (toll-free) or ordering online at [www.AdirondackCouncil.org](http://www.AdirondackCouncil.org)  
*Proceeds from sales benefit Adirondack Park conservation.*



Still haven't gotten around to requesting your free Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex map? Give us a call 518.873.2240 or email us [info@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:info@adirondackcouncil.org) and then start planning your next exploration to one of the gateway communities and the wild lands surrounding them.



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

*Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness*

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## Results matter.

The Adirondack Council partners with other stakeholders, fights for wilderness and communities, and gets results that make a difference. The Adirondack Council is...

- the **first** Adirondack environmental organization to propose and advocate for a large Wild Rivers Wilderness, **resulting** in thousands of acres being proposed for Wilderness classification this fall;
- the **first** and only environmental organization to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auction, **resulting** in the permanent retirement of nearly 10,000 tons of carbon emission credits used by power plants to emit carbon;
- the **first** Adirondack environmental group to advocate for clean air legislation to reduce power plant emissions that cause acid rain, **resulting** in a 30-year improvement in Adirondack water quality;
- the **first** Adirondack environmental advocacy group to work closely with community leaders, **resulting** in the creation of the Common Ground Alliance and an integrated approach to addressing Adirondack issues.

Support the Council • Like our Facebook Page • Follow us on Twitter. Because **results matter.**

A special thanks to our Forever Wild Day sponsors: Adirondack Museum, Eastwood Litho, Inc., Integrated Marketing Services, Inc., The Lyme Timber Company, Open Space Institute, Pearsall Wealth Management at UBS, Queen City Printers, Tooher & Barone, LLP, Adirondack Creamery, Adirondack Dreams/The Heurich Company, Alpine Club of Canada-Montreal Section, Elk Lake Lodge, International Paper, Martindale Keysor & Co. CPAs, ES11 Web Development, William M. Finucane Law Office, Lost Pond Press, Steven A. Mannato, Bambu, Carrie Cups, Champlain Area Trails, Coleman, Bonnie Corse, Buck Supply & Distribution, Depot Theatre, Finch Paper LLC, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Hannaford, Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc., Loremans', Mountain Mugs, The North Face, Packbasket Adventures, Party Rentals, Pendragon Theatre, SCARPA, St. Lawrence Arts Council, Tough Traveler, Wanakena General Store.