

STATE OF THE PARK 2012



THE ADIRONDACK PARK

The Adirondack Park is the largest park in the contiguous United States. It contains six million acres, covers one-fifth of New York State and is equal in size to neighboring Vermont. The Adirondack Park is nearly three times the size of Yellowstone National Park.

More than half of the Adirondack Park is private land, devoted principally to hamlets, forestry, agriculture and open-space recreation. The Park is home for 132,000 permanent and 110,000 seasonal residents, and hosts 10 million visitors yearly.

The remaining 45 percent of the Park is publicly owned Forest Preserve, protected as “Forever Wild” by the NYS Constitution since 1894. One million acres of these public lands are protected as Wilderness, where non-mechanized recreation may be enjoyed. The majority of the public land (more than 1.3 million acres) is Wild Forest, where motorized uses are permitted on designated waters, roads and trails.

Plants and wildlife abound in the Park. Old growth forests cover more than 100,000 acres of public land. The western and southern Adirondacks are gentle landscapes of hills, lakes, wetlands, ponds and streams. In the northeast are the High Peaks. Forty-three of them rise above 4,000 feet and 11 have alpine summits that rise above the timberline.

The Adirondacks include the headwaters of five major drainage basins. Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Black, St. Lawrence and Mohawk Rivers all draw water from the Adirondack Park. Within the Park are more than 2,800 lakes and ponds, and more than 1,500 miles of rivers, fed by an estimated 30,000 miles of brooks and streams.

Through public education and advocacy for the protection of the Park’s ecological integrity and wild character, the Adirondack Council advises public and private policymakers on ways to safeguard this last remaining great expanse of open space.



Map data provided by the Adirondack Park Agency.

STATE OF THE PARK 2012

A Review of Elected and Appointed Government Officials' Actions Affecting the Adirondack Park

Written and Edited by Adirondack Council Program Staff

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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.

To achieve our vision for the Park, we *educate* the public and policymakers; *advocate* for regulations, policies and funding to benefit the Park's environment and communities; *monitor* proposals, legislation and policies impacting the Park; and, *take legal action* to uphold constitutional protections and agency policies established to protect the Adirondack Park.



State of the Park 2012

Dear Adirondack Council Members and Friends,

With apologies to Charles Dickens, the past 12 months in the Adirondack Park were both the best of years and the worst of years.

At the end of summer 2011, tragedy struck the eastern Adirondacks in the form of Tropical Storm Irene. It wiped out roads, bridges, homes, and businesses from the Great Sacandaga Lake to the Ausable River, while leaving much of the western Adirondack Park unharmed. A stormy fall turned to a warm, nearly snowless winter; followed by a short, dry spring; and a hot, dry summer of 2012.

Following Irene, Governor Andrew Cuomo acted quickly to restore roads and bridges, helping residents, communities, and tourists get their lives back on track. In the process, however, damage was done to trout streams and rivers that will require great effort and substantial investments to repair.

In August 2012, Gov. Cuomo earned high praise when he announced he would make the largest purchase of new Forest Preserve in history. The 69,000 acres of forests, wild rivers, pristine lakes and waterfalls have been part of our list for the eventual completion of the Forest Preserve since 1988 (AdirondackCouncil.org/2020vision3.html).

At the end of June, the Legislature passed a law increasing the revenue stream into the Environmental Protection Fund for the first time in three years. But, as of the printing of this publication, the Governor had not yet signed that bill.

On the federal level, the Council celebrated the work of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in July. We presented our highest honor – Conservationist of the Year – to Administrator Lisa Jackson for her aggressive promotion of new clean air regulations.

Less than a month later, a mid-level federal appeals court struck down one of the EPA's best accomplishments, the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. While the Obama Administration is moving somewhat slower than we had hoped with regard to approving new regulations, they are also moving much faster than previous administrations and on more fronts, as this report shows.

Finally, thank you to all of our members and allies. Your moral and financial support have sustained the Adirondack Council through a long economic downturn and turmoil in state government. Because of you, the Council remains the strongest and most credible voice for conservation in the Adirondack Park.

Best Regards,

Diane W. Fish
Acting Executive Director

On the Cover: The Essex Chain of Lakes is just a portion of the 69,000 acres of former Finch-Pruyn & Co. lands that the state plans to acquire from the Nature Conservancy over the next five years. The Essex Chain has 11 lakes and ponds that, when purchased, will provide the public with a spectacular seven-mile canoe route. As of publication these lands have yet to be purchased by the state of New York and, therefore, remain closed to public access. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

THE GOVERNOR



Historic Addition to Forest Preserve

In August, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced he would purchase from the Nature Conservancy an amazing collection of lands and waters for the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The lands are a portion of the former holdings of Finch, Pruyn & Co., which owned 161,000 acres in more than 30 towns across the Park, and have been long-sought by the Adirondack Council for public ownership. First identified in the Council's 2020 VISION Volumes I and II (AdirondackCouncil.org/library), the purchase agreement will add some 69,000 acres to the "Forever Wild" Forest Preserve. Although it will be carried out over a period of years, it is the largest single addition since the Preserve was created in 1886.



Cuomo

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New Leader Chairs APA

Governor Cuomo chose an environmentally-oriented community development expert from Old Forge to chair the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) Board of Commissioners. Chair Lani Ulrich is also co-founder of the Common Ground Alliance, which brings together environmental and community officials to develop a common agenda for state and federal officials. She took the helm at the APA shortly after the resignation of previous chair Curt Stiles of Tupper Lake. Ulrich has been an APA Commissioner since 2004.



Ulrich

development expert from Old Forge to chair the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) Board of Commissioners. Chair Lani Ulrich is also co-founder of the Common



Clearing up Who Owns What, Where

The Governor's staff is working toward a constitutional amendment that would end a century-old title dispute over lands

around Raquette Lake, Hamilton County. More than 200 individuals have deeds granting them ownership of lands on which the state also has a legal claim. This amendment would resolve the disputed titles, and would require the parties to pool resources to purchase a parcel of equal or greater value to add to the Forest Preserve. This year, the Legislature passed the resolution and must pass it again in 2013 before it can be placed on the November ballot to be voted on by the public.



A Fine Choice for the APA

Governor Cuomo appointed St. Lawrence County's first representative on the Adirondack Park Agency Board of Commissioners when he chose Sherman Craig of Wanakena, Town of Fine, to take the seat vacated when Curt Stiles of Tupper Lake, Franklin County, resigned. Craig has shown himself to be an independent thinker with an interest in reforming the Agency's regulations to better protect the environment.



Craig

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NY Works for the North Country

In April, Governor Cuomo announced that \$5 million of the NY Works program funding would be directed to eight dam and flood control projects in and around the Adirondack Park. The projects include Upper and Lower Lows Dams, Palmer Lake Dam, Taylor Pond Dam, and Kingdom Road Dam.



Open Season on Streams

While understanding his desire to set people's minds at ease about the reconstruction of roads and bridges following Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, the Governor's sweeping statements about waiving all permit requirements

led to aggressive stream clearing and straightening by highway crews in Essex County. Sections of Johns Brook, Roaring Brook, and several other tributaries of the AuSable and Boquet rivers were severely damaged.



Commissioners' Terms Past Expiration Date

As of the completion of this publication, Governor Cuomo has not addressed the fact that five of the eight citizen commissioners of the Adirondack Park Agency were serving on expired terms. Commissioners with expired terms may continue to serve, but can be replaced at any time. Commissioners with definite terms can only be replaced for cause.



Up a Creek Without Paddles

In his last budget, the Governor neglected to add money for staff at the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation. The staff have tremendous workloads, and both agencies are showing signs of poor morale and lack of effectiveness, not because employees are unmotivated, but are overworked and overwhelmed. The most obvious areas of deterioration have come in environmental enforcement and invasive species controls.



Need More Green on REDCs

The Governor's Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) still have virtually no environmental representation, and continue to separate the Adirondack Park into three regions: North Country, Mohawk Valley, and Capital District. Sustainable economic development in the Park requires environmental sensitivity and development of coordinated marketing and economic growth strategies that treat the Park with an identity all its own. The state will squander the Adirondack Park's unique potential if it simply treats the Park as the nameless backwoods of three different regions of the state.

STATE LEGISLATURE

Both Houses

Slowing the Spread of Invasives

Senator Betty Little, R-Queensbury, and Assemblyman Robert Sweeney,



Little

D-Lindenhurst, took decisive action to help prevent the spread of some invasive species. The departments of Environmental Conservation and Agriculture and Markets

will have the ability to designate species as either prohibited or regulated and set penalties for those who transport, sell, or introduce prohibited invasive species. Second violations include a fine of at least \$250. Governor Cuomo signed the bill into law on July 24.

Reclaiming the EPF, One Nickel at a Time

The Legislature passed a bill that would add \$56 million to the Environmental



Sweeney

Protection Fund (EPF) over the next six years by taking a portion of the unclaimed bottle deposits that currently goes into the General Fund and directing it to the EPF. The EPF has remained stagnant for

the last three years at \$134 million after being \$255 million in 2008. The bill was sponsored by Environmental Conservation Committee Chairs Senator Mark Grisanti, R-Buffalo and Assemblyman Sweeney. As of the printing of this publication, the bill has yet to be sent to the Governor for his signature.

Solving a Century-old Problem

The Legislature gave its initial approval to a constitutional amendment that would resolve a century-old title dispute on 1,200 acres of land in an area called Township 40 in Raquette Lake, Hamilton

County. More than 200 residents have deeds for property on which the state also has claim of ownership. The constitutional amendment would allow for a swap of the contested land with new Forest Preserve paid for by the private residents of the property, which would clear up the title disputes. The amendment must be passed by the Legislature again in 2013 before it can appear on the statewide ballot next November. The bill was sponsored by Senator Little and Assemblyman Sweeney.

Better to Know When Waste Flows

Senator Grisanti and Assemblyman Sweeney worked together to pass the



Grisanti

“Sewage Pollution Right to Know Act.” The new law requires publicly owned sewage treatment plants to notify state and local authorities within a few hours of a discharge of untreated or partially

treated sewage. This includes those times when storm drains overflow and overwhelm a sanitary system, causing untreated sewage to escape the treatment plant. Public notification will also be required, especially in cases where public health is in jeopardy from a spill. The Governor signed this bill on August 9.

Perfect Becomes the Enemy of the Good

Both houses passed similar bills dealing with the mandatory recycling of older thermostats containing toxic mercury. While the Assembly’s bill would have been better in terms of removing more mercury from the waste stream, bills that are not exactly the same do not become law. That means another year of toxic mercury being landfilled. The Legislature needs to settle on a single bill that makes mercury-thermostat recycling more enforceable. The competing measures were sponsored by Senator Grisanti and Assemblyman Sweeney.

Senate

Turning Down the Volume on Road Costs

Senator Joe Griffo, R-Rome, convinced his house to pass a bill that would allow



Griffo

towns to designate roads with less than 400 vehicle trips a day as “low volume roads.” This will allow for reduced maintenance and associated costs on such roads, without compromising safety.

Such roads are common in the Park and current mandatory maintenance standards are expensive. The Assembly version, sponsored by Aileen Gunther, D-Forestburgh, did not pass.

Not a Taxing Situation

The Senate passed a bill sponsored by Senator Carl Marcellino, R-Syosset, that



Marcellino

would have made technical corrections to a conservation easement state tax credit that originally passed in 2006. The bill would apply the credit to all classifications of land

subject to an easement. Assemblyman Fred Thiele, I-Sag Harbor, carried the Assembly version that was held in the Ways and Means Committee.

Bigger Toys Mean Bigger Damage

Senator Patty Ritchie, R-Oswegatchie, led the Senate’s efforts to allow a new, larger class of all-terrain vehicles, so called “side-by-side” ATVs, to go anywhere smaller ATVs are currently allowed to go. These newer machines weigh up to 1,500 pounds when empty and can carry four passengers and cargo. Currently, only ATVs weighing 1,000 pounds or less can

be registered by the Department of Motor Vehicles. These larger machines can do more destruction to already damaged areas of private and public lands that suffer from ATV abuse. Assemblyman Bill Magee, D-Nelson, was the sponsor in the Assembly.

Oldies but Still Not Goodies

Senator Little persuaded her Senate colleagues to pass three pieces of legislation that have been around for a number of years which would create serious environmental problems throughout the Adirondack Park. They include limiting the DEC's ability to close roads that run through state land via the unit management process; creating a permit system to open up at least five Wilderness lakes for floatplane use by disabled veterans; and allowing campgrounds to keep RVs parked there permanently. The campground and floatplane bills were held by the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, while the DEC road bill was not considered by the Assembly at all.

Sounds Kind of Familiar, but...

Senator Little sponsored a bill, described as reforms of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Act, that Agency staff requested several years ago. While the bill proposed some procedural changes for subdivision and construction permits, they were not changes the Agency had originally proposed. The bill did not lengthen any of the deadlines by which the Agency must act after receiving a permit request. Nor did it grant the Agency the authority to deny a permit request without first holding a formal hearing, as the APA had requested. Oddly, the bill sought to remove a requirement that landowners file APA permits with the county clerk, which would have left municipalities and neighbors in the dark about development plans. Finally, the bill's new proposal for a transfer of development rights program was flawed and confusing. For some reason, the APA senior staff endorsed the bill anyway.

Assembly

Are We Getting Warmer?

Once again, the Assembly passed a bill sponsored by Assemblyman Sweeney to reduce the volume of carbon dioxide and other climate changing gases emitted in the state by 80-percent over the next 40 years. This bill is in line with the state's policy for dealing with climate change and is consistent with current scientific projections of cuts needed to reverse the trend we are currently experiencing. The Senate did not have a companion bill.

Sweeney Chops, Stacks, Burns Bad Bill

The Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, led by Assemblyman Sweeney, stopped a bill that would have allowed a constitutional amendment for New York residents to take dead, fallen timber from the Forest Preserve, as long as it is within 50 feet of the center line of a road. This would be an invitation for the theft of live trees from remote areas of the Preserve. Removing deadfall is bad for the environment, as dead and decaying trees are vital to the health of a forest. They return nutrients to the soil and provide homes for a variety of wildlife.

The Park's Defender

The Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, led by Assemblyman Sweeney, also stopped two more bills that would have had

negative effects on the environment in the Park. One bill held in committee would open up at least five Wilderness lakes to floatplanes and the other would have allowed RVs to be permanently parked in campgrounds. Both bills were sponsored by Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward.

No Oversized Loads

The Assembly Transportation Committee, lead by Chair David Gantt, D-Rochester, declined to take up a measure that would have allowed larger ATVs up to 1,500 pounds to be registered in New York. These larger machines would only add to the damage caused by the current models that can already weigh up to 1,000 pounds and easily trespass on public and private property.

No Thanks, We'll Pass

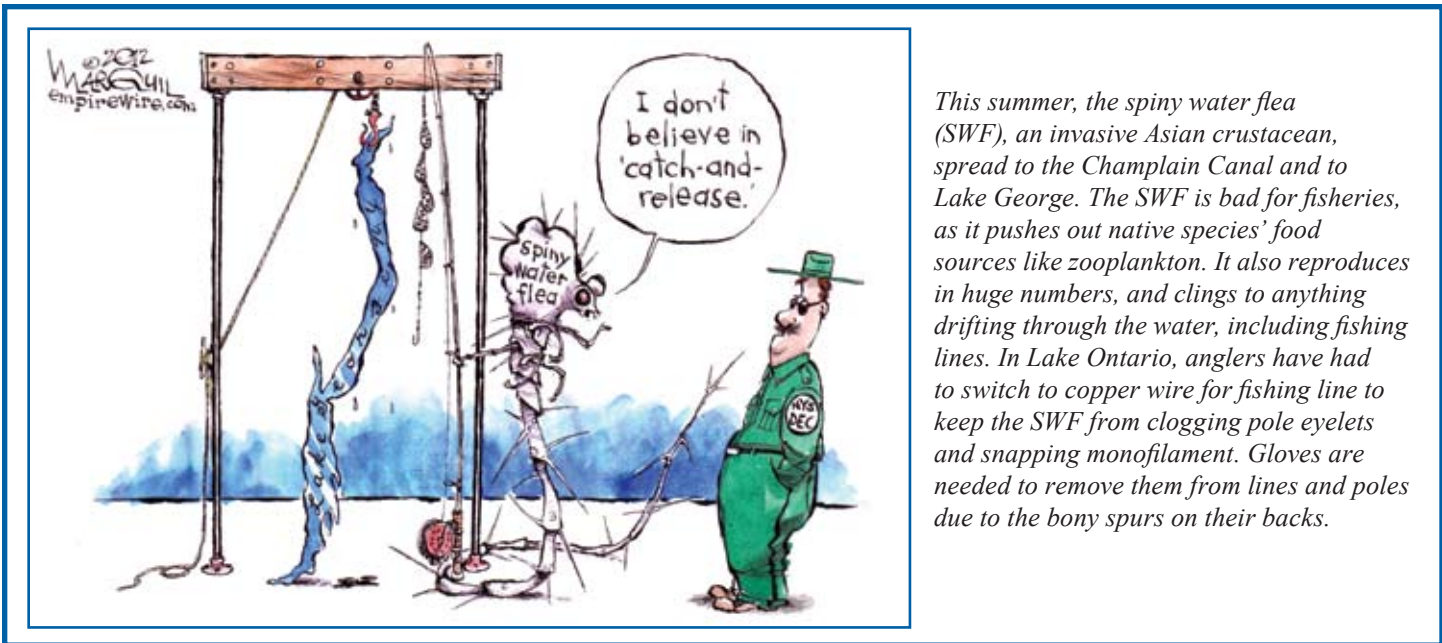
No member of the Assembly wanted to introduce a Senate bill, also backed by the Adirondack Park Agency, that was designed to make technical corrections to permit review, but would have created problems with transferring development rights and removing the requirement that permits be filed with county clerks. The bill did pass the Senate.



Gantt



After serving 10 years in the State Assembly, **Teresa Sayward** has decided not to seek re-election this fall. She represents the 113th Assembly District, which includes Hamilton, Warren, and parts of Essex and Saratoga Counties. During her tenure in the Assembly, Sayward made communities along Mirror Lake, the Sacandaga River, and Lake Placid eligible for waterfront revitalization funding from the Environmental Protection Fund. She also worked for the passage of Constitutional Amendments for a new water supply for Raquette Lake, a power line for Tupper Lake, and a resolution to the Township 40 title dispute in Raquette Lake. In addition, Sayward was a co-sponsor of a new law signed in July discouraging the spread of invasive species.



This summer, the spiny water flea (SWF), an invasive Asian crustacean, spread to the Champlain Canal and to Lake George. The SWF is bad for fisheries, as it pushes out native species' food sources like zooplankton. It also reproduces in huge numbers, and clings to anything drifting through the water, including fishing lines. In Lake Ontario, anglers have had to switch to copper wire for fishing line to keep the SWF from clogging pole eyelets and snapping monofilament. Gloves are needed to remove them from lines and poles due to the bony spurs on their backs.

COURTS

New Standards Stand Up

In July, the U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit upheld the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new standard for short-term exposure to sulfur dioxide, a serious lung irritant as well as a cause of acid rain. The EPA wants power plants to prevent emissions that cause ambient air quality to exceed an average of 75 parts per billion (ppb) of SO₂ over any one-hour period. Current standards are 140 ppb.

Lawsuit Really Just Hot Air

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Thomas McNamara of Albany County dismissed a lawsuit in June that sought to force New York to withdraw from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI is the nation's first government-mandated greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program. The lawsuit, brought by members of a group that denies the existence of climate change, sought to void New York's role in the 10-state regional program. The case was dismissed because the plaintiffs waited almost three years from the beginning of the program to file their case - too long,

according to the judge. The Adirondack Council submitted an affidavit in support of dismissal of the suit. The Council is the only environmental group to participate directly in the auctions for allowances. We permanently retire carbon allowances through our member-supported Cool Park/Healthy Planet program (details at AdirondackCouncil.org).

No Variance For You

In July, NYS Supreme Court Justice Hugh A. Gilbert decided that the Town of Greig, in Lewis County, was not obligated to give a property owner a permit or variance to allow a commercial operation in a residential neighborhood. The landowners had been trying for a decade to get permission for a commercial water business in Greig. When the town refused to issue a permit for a tanker-truck filling station, the landowners sought to build a pipeline from the Greig site, under the Black River to a neighboring town. Although the judge agreed with the landowners' contention that only state laws could regulate water use, he ruled the town still had a right to regulate land usage and prohibit a business in a residential area.

Town Wins Back Boat House Control

In June, the Appellate Division of the NYS Supreme Court upheld the Town of North Elba's jurisdiction over the construction and siting of boathouses on the shores of Lake Placid. The case revolved around boathouses built without local permits and the town's attempt to remove them for being constructed improperly. The decision reverses a previous ruling by Supreme Court Justice Richard Meyer of Essex County, who had ruled that the NYS Navigation Law pre-empts local land use laws. It also reverses the Appellate Division's prior ruling that Navigation law trumps local land use laws even on lakes whose shorelines are not entirely state-owned. The new decision is expected to set a precedent for regulating boathouses across the Adirondack Park.

Please Move a Little Faster

A federal judge in May ordered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue stricter standards by June for emissions of soot and fine particles from power plants, vehicles and industrial sources. U.S. District Court Judge Robert Wilkins of the District of Columbia

ordered the EPA to update soot and particle standards issued in 2006. In June, the EPA and the plaintiffs agreed to finalize the new rules by December.

Challenges Continue to Melt Away

In June, the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld the EPA's authority and the methods it used to establish standards for the emissions of greenhouse gases. In 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that greenhouse gases were a pollutant, opening the door for the EPA to set standards for emissions of carbon and other heat-trapping gases. When it did, those standards were immediately challenged. The ruling dismissed those challenges, stating that the EPA had used sound science to create its new regulations.

Split Decision on Acid Rain

In August, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit vacated the long-awaited EPA acid rain regulation known as the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. The rule would have required deep cuts in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide pollution from electric power plants east of the Rocky Mountains whose emissions

cause pollution in neighboring states. Two of three judges said the EPA exceeded its authority under the Clean Air Act when it determined how deeply upwind states would have to cut their power plant emissions. The 26-page dissenting opinion stated that the EPA was within its authority and that its actions would protect public health as Congress had intended. The Adirondack Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, and several other groups called on the Obama Administration to appeal the ruling.

Council Must Wait Until it's too Late

In January, the Appellate Division of the NYS Supreme Court dismissed the Adirondack Council's lawsuit against the state's plan to reroute snowmobile trails inside the Adirondack Park. The Council's suit alleges several specific violations of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and NYS Constitution's "Forever Wild" clause. The Council had also objected to vague language in the plan that allows new trails to be constructed virtually anywhere, regardless of the environmental consequences. The Court ruled that the plan has not caused any actual harm and that a lawsuit cannot proceed until such harm, like excessive tree cutting, has taken place.

Lake George Towns Lose Jurisdiction

In May, State Supreme Court Justice David Krogmann ruled that the Lake George Park Commission, a state regulatory agency, had an exclusive right to regulate docks and boathouses on Lake George, nullifying stricter local ordinances in the towns of Lake George, Bolton, Queensbury, Hague and others. The ruling allowed the construction of a set of docks rejected by the Town of Lake George, which had earlier received an approval from the Park Commission.

Still Choking Along

In October 2011, U.S. District Court Judge Terrence McVerry dismissed a lawsuit brought against the Homer City Station, a Pennsylvania power plant that allegedly made upgrades in the 1990s, but failed to install pollution controls. The company emits approximately 100,000 tons of sulfur dioxide annually. The judge ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York could not bring a nuisance violation, and that the statute of limitations had expired, even though the violations are ongoing.



GIVE AT THE OFFICE!

Take advantage of an easy and convenient way to support the Adirondack Council!

You can make a gift to the Adirondack Council by payroll contributions through EarthShare New York's workplace giving program at numerous private companies, many state and municipal government organizations, and in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), by selecting #22101 on your pledge form.

Contributions to EarthShare New York support a broad range of charities committed to protecting public health and our air, land, water and wildlife.

To find out more about how you and your workplace can support the Adirondack Council through an EarthShare of New York charitable giving campaign; visit their website at: earthsharenyc.org.

Thank you to Adirondack Council members who contribute through their EarthShare workplace giving campaigns. We appreciate your interest in protecting the Adirondack Park.



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



Don't Bring Invasives on Your Vacation

In September 2011, the Warren County Board of Supervisors voted nearly unanimously to pass a local law making it illegal to transport aquatic invasive species into a local water body, including Lake George. The law imposes a fine of up to \$5,000 and up to 15 days in jail for violators. It is the first county law of its kind in New York. The Adirondack Council will continue to press for a statewide law similar to this one.



Wood Chips vs. Oil... an Elementary Choice

In November 2011, AuSable Valley Central School District, Essex County, officially became one of just a few districts in the state to use a wood chip biomass heating system, instead of oil-burning boilers and furnaces. The new facility was unveiled at the AuSable Valley Middle/High School, where one of the district's two biomass boilers is located. The other is located at the Keeseville Elementary School. The facilities will save the district more than \$100,000 in fuel costs annually. The Edward-Knox School District, in Russell, St. Lawrence County, also uses a biomass heating system. All are helping the Adirondack Park improve its energy independence, reduce its carbon footprint, reduce air pollution, and increase local employment.



Tired of Paying for Destruction


In July, Lewis County Legislator Jerry King, R-West Leyden, told his fellow lawmakers that he was tired of using taxpayer money on lawsuits to defend expansions of the county's all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail and road network. He and four other legislators opposed a resolution that would have approved ATV access agreements with 17 private landowners and the village of Constableville. They said the resolution would not survive a legal challenge. The resolution was also opposed by Philip

Hathway, R-Harrisville; John Boyd, D-New Bremen; Paul Stanford, D-Watson; and Charles Fanning, R-Copenhagen. The resolution failed by a 5-5 vote.



Won't Go Down that Road or Trail

The town of Johnsburg, Warren County, rejected a plan to create an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail system incorporating local roads, following a boisterous public hearing in August. Local officials and some residents said they were concerned the expansion would cause damage to local roads, wetlands, and streams, both from routine use and trespass. They were also concerned about the safety of allowing off-road vehicles to share the roads with pedestrians, cars, and trucks. Many who spoke in favor of new ATV trails at the hearing were members of a Vermont ATV club.



Power of the Sun Shines on Chester

The Town of Chester, Warren County, saved its residents some money and the environment some air pollution by installing a bank of solar power energy cells at the town Municipal Center, the town highway garage, transfer station, recycling center complex, and the local health center. It is the first town in the Adirondack Park to convert to solar power as its main energy source.



Saving Money, Energy, and the Planet

The Towns of Moriah and Schroon are participating in the Community Energy Efficiency Management Project, a pilot project to help reduce their energy consumption and carbon footprint, while saving money and creating or retaining jobs. This project shows local officials how to inventory energy use in the community and write a plan to prioritize energy-saving opportunities. This project is funded through the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority and U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, and is co-implemented by

the Wild Center, Tupper Lake, and the Community Power Network of New York State, based in Olmstedville.



Already a Little Tight

In January, the Fulton County Planning Board rejected a proposal that would have added 13 trailer sites to the already overcrowded shoreline of Peck's Lake, in the towns of Johnstown and Bleeker. Local residents said the expansion would change the character of the shoreline which is already under great stress from the existing campground.



Choosing Poison Over Persistence

The town of Chester, Warren County, asked the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) for permission to use a chemical herbicide to kill Eurasian watermilfoil in Loon Lake in 2012. The request was put on hold, but Supervisor Fred Monroe said the town will ask again in 2013. In 2010, the APA approved the use of the herbicide triclopyr in Lake Luzerne, going against the advice of the Adirondack Council and others. APA staff held Chester's request saying they needed more time to further study the impact of the herbicide.



It's None of Your Business

Lewis County is refusing to release public information on the costs of building and maintaining nearly 50 miles of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails, despite Freedom of Information Law requests from residents. This comes at a time when the county continues to hold an annual SNIRT Run (snow/dirt) rally. The 2012 rally brought over 3,000 ATV riders to the trails, streams, and wetlands of the Tug Hill Plateau for a weekend in April. Because Lewis County also straddles the Adirondack Park border, some of that traffic spilled into the Brantingham Lake area too. Council observers took photos of law-breaking including trespass into off-limit areas and private property.

Tick, Tock, Tick, Tock...

The state's voters have been waiting five years for the Town of Long Lake to complete the land swap it promised when voters approved a constitutional amendment allowing the town to drill new, safe drinking water wells on the state-owned Adirondack Forest Preserve.

In exchange for the acre on which the wells were drilled in 2007, the town was supposed to buy and turn over to the state a forest parcel of 12 acres or more.

A Rose by Any Other Name

Last December, the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution

opposing the Adirondack Council's proposed Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex. The Board supported the concept of the Bob's mix of protected public lands with interspersed private lands, but would rather it be called the Oswegatchie Wildlands Complex.



ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

Not Perfect, but Better

In its January approval of permits for the proposed Adirondack Club and Resort (ACR) project in Tupper Lake, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) removed a number of objectionable features of the original plans for a 700-unit resort. The Agency persuaded the applicants to remove an outdoor shooting school and a highly visible ridgeline subdivision. The permits also restrict any future subdivision or development on the "great camp" properties located in Resource Management areas. The project still requires storm-water drainage permits from the Department of Environmental Conservation and sewage/septic permits from the Department of Health. At press time, the APA was facing a lawsuit brought by two environmental organizations and three Tupper Lake residents who said the APA should not have granted the permit, and alleged improper communications between the APA and the applicant.

Showing Some Teeth

After a protracted legal battle, the APA was finally victorious in its enforcement case with Lake Placid homeowners who were forced to demolish their partially built home that violated permit conditions. An August 2010 court decision ruled that Arthur and Margaret Spiegel must tear down their structure. However, when the house was still standing in June 2011, the APA returned to court seeking a contempt motion. Instead of facing a \$270,000 fine, the owners finally took the structure down in November 2011 prior to the court imposed December deadline.

New Gateway to the Final Frontier

In October 2011, the APA approved the first construction phase for a multi-telescope space observatory in Tupper Lake. The Adirondack Public Observatory is designed to be a scientific research station and an attraction for amateur astronomers and Park visitors. Phase one included construction of a 1,000-square-foot, wood-framed, roll-away-roof observatory structure and 27 parking spaces. The second phase, which will require another APA review, involves more parking spaces and a 19,000-square-foot structure to house a planetarium, museum, classrooms, and a gift shop.

Shorter Trip from Pasture to Plate

In June, the APA approved a new meat processing facility in the Ticonderoga Business Park. The Adirondack Meat Company plans to create the first USDA-certified meat processing facility in the Adirondack Park. Once operational, it will employ 12 full-time and two part-time employees. The facility will be a boon to local farmers who must send cattle long distances for processing before they can get to market. Local processing will reduce costs and fuel consumption, reducing the carbon footprint of meat grown and sold in the Park.

More Chemicals, More Questions

In 2012, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) held a request by the Town of Chester to use the herbicide triclopyr to kill Eurasian watermilfoil in Loon Lake. The APA staff said they needed more

information on the impacts the herbicide had in Lake Luzerne before approving its use in another lake. Luzerne remains the only Adirondack lake where herbicide use has been allowed.

Forty Years and No Tune Up

After approving the Adirondack Club and Resort project in January, it became painfully obvious that the APA is in need of a serious overhaul. One of the shortcomings in the process was the APA's failure to require an adequate wildlife survey of the 6,200-acre resort footprint. Instead the APA is allowing the applicant to wait until the project is underway to report back on the presence of species that might require special protection. Also, the Agency did not mandate the clustering of the development. The APA's outdated land-use code doesn't incorporate the latest scientific research on wildlife, forest health and water quality because it was created in 1971 and hasn't been updated since. It gives little guidance to its commissioners on how to incorporate science into their decisions.

Back to the Drawing Board

This past spring, the APA suggested legislation that would not have made any substantial improvements in how it operates and in some cases may have actually made things worse (see page 5). This bill was dramatically modified from the version first introduced in 2009. Many of the worthwhile provisions were removed.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Leading the Fight Against Air Pollution

In June, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) adopted new carbon dioxide emissions limits for power plants that are stricter than federal standards, and could make it virtually impossible to build a new coal-fired plant in the state. The new regulations went into effect on July 12 and will affect any new power plants with a generating capacity of at least 25 megawatts (MW), and existing facilities that increase their capacity by at least 25 MW.

Don't Spread Them Around

DEC Commissioner Joseph Martens is educating the public about the need to prevent the transport of invasive forest pests in firewood into the Adirondack Park. In August, his officers ticketed seven people at firewood checkpoints in Warren and Hamilton counties. Six of the tickets were issued at checkpoints near Exit 21 of the Northway, near Lake George. The other ticket was issued at a checkpoint on Route 30 near the border of Hamilton and Fulton counties. In all, about 7,000 vehicles were screened, and 31 had firewood. Violations included transporting wood from out of state, transporting wood from a quarantined area, and transporting untreated firewood more than 50 miles from its source.

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

In May, Commissioner Martens added two small, important parcels to the Forest Preserve at the south end of Lake Champlain. The 156-acre Chubbs Dock parcel in the Town of Dresden, in Washington County, contains one of the largest wetlands on Lake Champlain, 2,140 feet of shoreline, and 70 acres of swamp and marsh. It is also a vital

wildlife migration corridor linking the Adirondack Park to Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest. The Adirondack Nature Conservancy bought the property in November 2009 and donated it to the state. In addition, this spring Washington County transferred an adjoining 283-acre parcel on Maple Bend Island to the state. In sum, 439 acres were added to the Forest Preserve at no cost to state taxpayers. The state pays full local property taxes on all Forest Preserve.

Played Catch-Up With Clean-Up

Department officials in Albany and Region 5 in Ray Brook did their best to stem damage from unauthorized stream bulldozing by highway crews in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene in the fall of 2011. The severity of the storm damage and the DEC's generally short-staffed condition made their jobs a constant challenge. Commissioner Martens' staff vowed to undertake stream restoration in as many locations as possible, returning them to conditions that support aquatic life. The DEC should also undertake a public education campaign for town, county, and state highway crews.

Region 5 Gets a New Direction

Commissioner Martens appointed Robert Stegemann to become Region 5 Director for the department, overseeing public lands and waters in the eastern two-thirds of the Adirondack Park. Stegemann worked for International Paper Co. (IP) for 18 years, serving in a variety of positions. He also helped to create the 200-acre John Dillon Park in Long Lake, which is a fully accessible wilderness camping and recreation area for people with disabilities. DEC Region 5 includes Clinton, Franklin, Essex, Hamilton, Fulton, Saratoga, Warren and Washington counties.



Natural Choice for Resource Chief

Commissioner Martens appointed Kathleen Moser as his Assistant



Commissioner of Natural Resources in December 2011. Moser has worked in a number of capacities for various conservation organizations, including the Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund.

Burning the Credits

In January, DEC announced it was joining five other states in removing millions of unsold Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) allowances from the market. Because states had been given too many allowances, representing the right to emit a ton of carbon dioxide, many went unsold at the quarterly auctions. New York withdrew its unsold allowances, nearly 39 million, so that they could never be used by polluters. RGGI participants are currently examining ways to improve the program, including lowering the amount of allowances issued to each state.

It Isn't Worth Fighting

In June, Commissioner Martens decided not to appeal the August 2011 decision by State Supreme Court Justice Michael Lynch, who ruled Lows Lake should be managed as Wilderness. Lows Lake has a sordid history of classification issues. In 1987, the DEC was supposed to close Lows Lake to all motorized uses when the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan classified it as Wilderness. The DEC chose not to implement that classification and waited until 2003 to approve another plan to manage the lake as Wilderness. The 2003 plan immediately banned motorboats, but allowed floatplanes to remain until 2008. In April 2009, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) voted to extend the deadline again, this time until 2011. That September, the APA voted to

classify part of Lows Lake as Wilderness and part as Primitive. In October, it changed its mind once more, effectively rescinding all classifications for the lake and its shore.

Granting the Prevention of Fires

In October 2011, the DEC handed out a series of small “clean air grants” to communities that allowed them to curb residential yard waste burning and the air pollution it can cause. One grant went to the Town of Pinckney, Lewis County, to help the town buy a commercial wood chipper that provides residents a safer option for disposing branches and other tree waste. The town will offer free mulch and chips to local residents. In the town of Webb, Herkimer County, the grant went toward the purchase of a municipal leaf vacuum.

A Job Well Done Suddenly Undone

This spring, the DEC changed the 1999 conservation agreement it made when it purchased public recreation and development rights on 110,000 acres of timber-lands then owned by Champion International in Franklin, Herkimer, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. The DEC altered the easement to allow 208 private hunting cabins on land leased from Champion to remain indefinitely in exchange for new Forest Preserve lands. Under the original terms of the easement, the lessees were due to remove their cabins in 2014. Before this, the state had never renegotiated one of its conservation agreements on Adirondack forest lands with a subsequent owner.

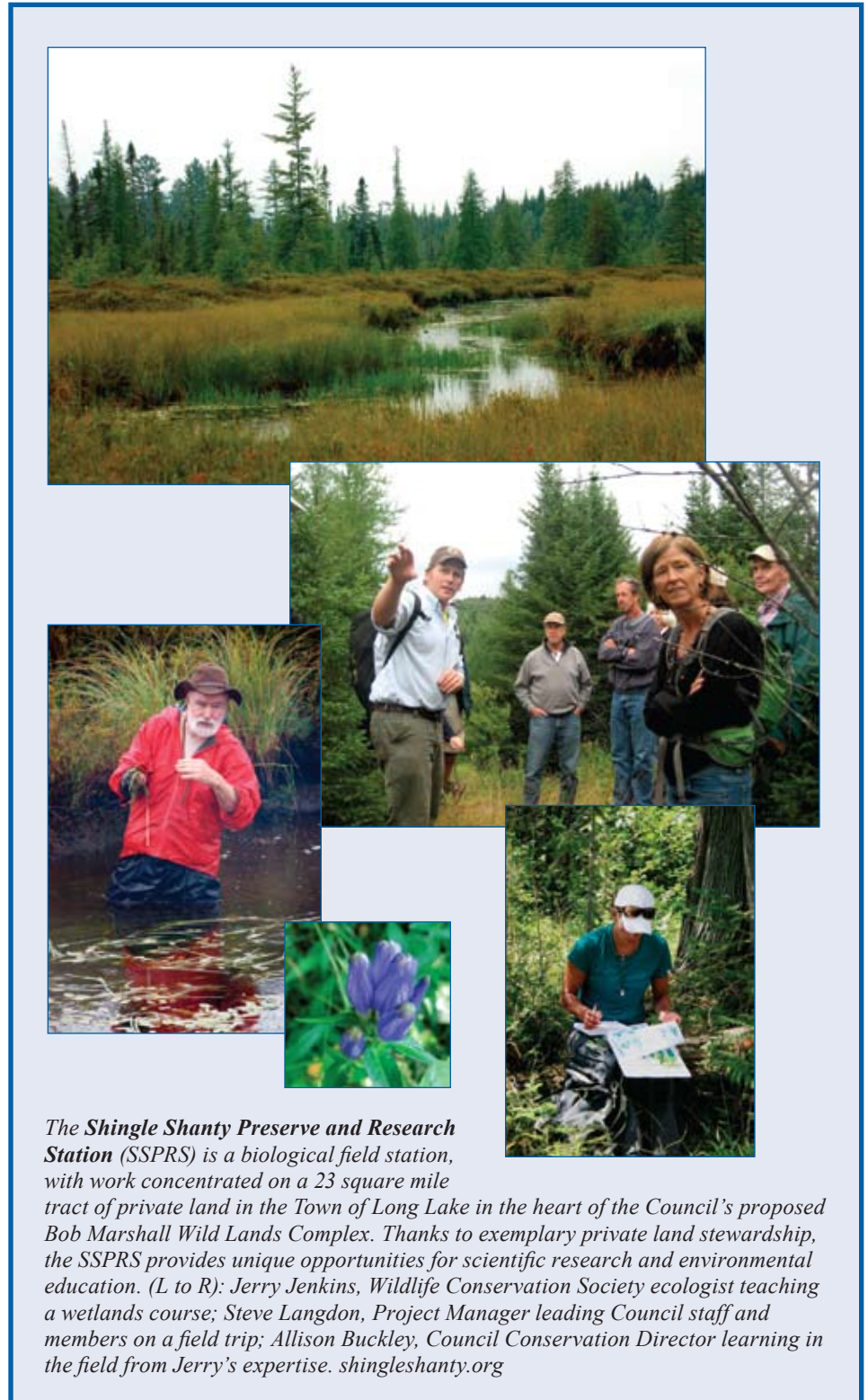
Bobcats May Need to Learn to Weave Too

In February, the DEC proposed doubling the length of the trapping season for bobcats, from about two months to about four months each year. The change was proposed to make it easier for the DEC’s limited personnel to manage hunting and trapping licenses more efficiently. Top predators such as bobcats should only be subjected to additional hunting and trapping to protect threatened communities or to carry out a valid conservation purpose. There is no evidence of bobcats overpopulating any portion of New York.

Plan Throttles Newest Forest Preserve

In August, when Commissioner Martens discussed the recent purchase of 69,000 acres from the Nature Conservancy to be added to the Forest Preserve, he should not have told the media that he planned to open new snowmobile trails on the two southern-most parcels of the property. The

Commissioner is free to state his opinion on the best use of these lands, but he alone cannot decide how those lands will be classified. Once the DEC recommends their plans for this property, the public has an opportunity to comment on them. In addition, the Adirondack Park Agency must review them before the Governor can finalize any decision.



*The **Shingle Shanty Preserve and Research Station (SSPRS)** is a biological field station, with work concentrated on a 23 square mile tract of private land in the Town of Long Lake in the heart of the Council’s proposed Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex. Thanks to exemplary private land stewardship, the SSPRS provides unique opportunities for scientific research and environmental education. (L to R): Jerry Jenkins, Wildlife Conservation Society ecologist teaching a wetlands course; Steve Langdon, Project Manager leading Council staff and members on a field trip; Allison Buckley, Council Conservation Director learning in the field from Jerry’s expertise. shingleshanty.org*

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mercury to Fall, by Law

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued new mercury emissions standards in December 2011, ordering a 90-percent cut from the nation's power plants. The new Mercury and Air Toxics Standard marks the first time the federal government has enforced limits on mercury, arsenic and other poisonous and carcinogenic chemicals emitted by burning fossil fuels. Mercury is a highly toxic metal that damages internal organs and nerve cells in humans and other mammals.

An En-gauging Effort

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer worked with the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission to restore 18 flood-warning stream gauges on major rivers in the Adirondack Park and in Vermont. The gauges were slated for closure this spring due to Congressional budget cuts to the U.S. Geological Survey, which operates them.



Schumer

The gauges track the rise and fall of major rivers, help to predict flooding and study fisheries and are used by boaters and anglers. Gauges along the Boquet and AuSable rivers in the Adirondack Park were among those due to close. Rep. Bill Owens, D-Plattsburgh, also helped to restore funding for the gauges.

An A-Paul-ing Idea Shot Down

Last November, the Senate voted 56-41 to stop a proposal that would have rendered void the EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. Such actions are allowed, but infrequent under the Senate's rules. Both Sens. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand voted against the measure, which was sponsored by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.



Gillibrand

Fighting for Land and Water

Sens. Schumer and Gillibrand, along with Reps. Owens and Chris Gibson, R-Kinderhook, all stepped up to support funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) this year. All four signed onto letters asking for increased money for this critical program. LWCF helps to fund parks and other open space programs throughout the country.



Gibson

Pro-Mercury Bill Defeated

In June, five Republican U.S. Senators courageously broke ranks with their party to defeat a bill proposed by Sen. James Inhofe, R-OK, that would have killed the Environmental Protection Agency's new mercury emissions standard for power plants. Opposing the bill were Sens. Lamar Alexander, of Tennessee; Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, of Maine; Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire; and, Scott Brown of Massachusetts. The bill fell four votes short of passing.

Goodnight Irene, Hello Streams

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) completed several remediation projects this summer on Adirondack streams that were damaged by Tropical Storm Irene in August of 2011, and then excavated by highway crews clearing debris and trying to improve drainage. The excavations created straight, deep channels in streams that had once had pools, boulders, ledges and other natural obstructions that slowed water flow. USFWS staff undertook a large restoration and erosion-control project on the East Branch of the AuSable River and in two sections of John's Brook in Keene Valley.

Possible Protection for Special Bird

In August, USFWS officials announced they were considering adding the Bicknell's Thrush to the federal Endangered Species list. A reclusive, mountain-top-dwelling songbird, Bicknell's Thrush breeds on the summits of Adirondack and Catskill peaks above 2,800 feet and in similar terrain in northern New England and Canada. The bird's winter home is the island of Hispanola, where deforestation threatens the bird's remaining habitat.

Inlet is Flush with Grants

In September, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided a crucial \$1.78-million Rural Development Grant to the Town of Inlet, Hamilton County, to help it install a new sewage treatment system. Inlet only has 400 residents but receives thousands of annual visitors to its hamlet and three state campgrounds. It is surrounded by steep mountain slopes and Fourth Lake. Its sandy soils do little to filter wastewater before it can reach the lake or underground water supplies. Inlet also received a \$1.74-million grant from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corp. for this project.

Acid Rain Lingers On

In its five-year update in January, the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (NAPAP) reminded Congress acid rain hasn't gone away just yet. The multi-agency federal panel reported that as of 2009, emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from power plants had declined by about two-thirds compared to levels in 1990. However, 30 percent of Adirondack Park lakes and ponds studied by the EPA between 2006 and 2008 were still receiving harmful levels of acid deposition, according to monitoring done by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation. The Adirondacks and other sensitive natural areas cannot fully recover their vitality without additional cuts in smokestack pollution.

Reps Reap Support for Farm Bill

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee chose Saranac Lake as one of only four locations nationwide for hearings on the Farm Bill, which



Owens

establishes federal farming policies, grants, and incentive programs for several years at a time. There are more than 200 farms in the Adirondack Park and local agriculture is increasingly important to the Park's economic

and environmental stability. Local representatives Owens and Gibson were instrumental in bringing the hearing to the Adirondack Park. The Farm Bill is still being debated in Washington, D.C.

Two-Year Delay is Not OK

The EPA proposed waiting two additional years to conduct its every-five-year review of its standard for fine particles of soot. Originally due to set new levels in October 2011, the EPA said it wanted to wait until August 2013 to set the standard. A lawsuit from New York, 10 other states, and several environmental groups resulted in a settlement that will require a final standard by this December. The standard will apply to power plants, automobiles, and some industrial smokestacks.

EPA Nixes New NAAQS

Despite urging from its own scientists and a group of outside experts, the EPA announced in March it was not ready to propose stricter National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that would

further curb acid rain and smog. The EPA was due to propose a new "secondary" standard aimed at protecting aquatic ecosystems and other natural resources. The primary NAAQS are aimed at protecting human health. The EPA chose to keep the secondary standard at the same level as the primary standard, essentially maintaining the status quo. Three national advocacy groups filed a lawsuit in June against the EPA's decision.

All Aboard the Crazy TRAIN

Last September, the House passed the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation (TRAIN) Act, which would roll back and prevent several clean air regulations recently finalized by the EPA dealing with acid rain and mercury emissions from power plants. The bill passed 249-169, largely along party lines. The Senate is not expected to consider the bill.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Playing Good Defense

In June, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman won a dismissal of a lawsuit intended to halt New York's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The lawsuit was brought in June 2011 by three New York-based business owners who said then-Governor



Schneiderman

George Pataki acted illegally when he signed on to RGGI without legislative permission. The judge ruled they waited too long to object. The Adirondack Council submitted an affidavit in support of the Attorney General's argument for dismissal of the suit. RGGI's goal is a 10-percent reduction in carbon emissions from power plants by 2018.

Helping the EPA to Help the Adirondacks

In March, the Attorney General joined 10 other states, the District of Columbia, and New York City in seeking permission to help defend the EPA's new mercury standards. In February, industry groups sued the EPA in federal court, challenging the standards it set for achieving a 90-percent reduction in mercury emissions from electric power plants. The rule requires the use of technology that is already widely used in New York and other Northeast states, but is not as common in many upwind states. The mercury cuts required by this rule are expected to result in reductions in other toxic metals, fine soot particles and acid rain. The suit is still pending.

It's the Little Things

Attorney General Schneiderman and attorneys general from 10 other states filed a federal lawsuit in February seeking to compel the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to adopt new standards for emissions of fine particulates of soot. The suit seeks to compel the Agency to update the rules for particles that were established in 1971. The EPA was supposed to have completed a new standard by October 2011, but had not. Fine particles of soot can cause and worsen lung diseases, and contribute to poor visibility and acid rain.

The Adirondack Council does not accept government or taxpayer funding of any kind. The Council's work is funded entirely by your private donations, strengthening our advocacy efforts.

OTHER AGENCIES

Rescued from the Rooftop

The NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) decided in January not to fund the creation of an interstate highway between Watertown and Plattsburgh, just north of the Adirondack Park, and instead invest in improvements to the existing U.S. Route 11 travel corridor. A new interstate across the top of the Park would prevent the migration of wildlife from Canada through the St. Lawrence Valley into the Adirondack Park, and vice versa.

New Maps Help Sensitive Areas

In November 2011, the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) agreed to incorporate the Adirondack Council's comprehensive plan for land and water conservation in the Adirondack Park into its digital mapping of sensitive natural areas. NYSERDA's new maps will be used to help state and federal officials avoid conservation areas when developing new sources of energy and power lines. The Council's 2020 VISION series shows how to protect biological diversity, create new Wilderness, improve outdoor recreation, and conserve private lands in the Park.

New Road to Clean Water

DOT officials worked this summer with the Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC), Warren County, and federal officials to construct a unique porous-pavement roadway on Beach Road in Lake George. The road allows stormwater to pass through the road surface rather than running across the top and into the lake. The roadway could become a model for pollution prevention projects on roads that skirt the edges of Adirondack lakes and rivers, as it allows sediment and road salt to settle out of storm runoff and snow melt before reaching the water.

EFC Helps Clean Inlet's Out Flow

In September, the NYS Environmental Facilities Corp. provided a crucial \$1.74-million grant to the Town of Inlet, Hamilton County, that helped Inlet install a new sewage treatment system. It will replace the septic tanks used by businesses and homes in the town's compact hamlet. Along with a \$1.78-million Rural Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inlet's 400 residents now can afford to maintain a state-of-the-art system that accommodates tens of thousands of annual visitors to the area.

DOT Agrees to Dig for Solution

In May, DOT officials agreed to test wells and study hydrology in Ledgers Corners, Town of Dannemora, where residents of 21 homes report their wells are contaminated with sodium, chloride and cyanide. Town officials fear the contamination was from the DOT's road salt shed which they said was built without a liner that could prevent salt water from seeping into the ground. DOT officials said they will provide bottled water for the affected residents during the testing.

Sharing the Road

In May, the DOT agreed to widen the shoulders of Route 86 between Saranac Lake and Lake Placid so they can accommodate bicyclists more readily. The move came as part of a repaving project that had already been scheduled. The changes were requested by local residents.



John Sheehan, the Adirondack Council's Director of Communications, speaks at a press conference in Inlet about their new sewage treatment system. Pictured (L to R): Bryan Clerkin, Acting State Director for U.S. Department of Agriculture, John Sheehan, AATV President Brian Towers and APA Chair Lani Ulrich.

Thank you to all our members for your activism and financial and moral support. As you can see from all the successes benefiting the Park over the last year, your involvement really does make a difference. Thank you for your continued support!

Wild About the Park



Meet Buster, your Adirondack Council guide.

Buster is cool, smart, and, of course, forever wild. He knows his way around these woods and waters.

Buster knows the history of the Adirondacks; he was born here, grew up here, and has been a guide here, just like his dad and granddad were. He knows all the good, bad and funny stories of the Adirondacks; the families, the legends, the towns and the wilds, from way back to now. And he knows the dangers to our Park, because it's his Park, too.

Buster's job is to keep us informed on issues, causes, facts, even fun. He wants to help us protect, defend and enjoy the East's greatest wilderness, because the Adirondacks are his home. He knows they're our home, too, and how much we love them.

Buster's passion is forever wild; preserving the waters, the woods, the air, the legends, the people, the land, the Park. Wildly cool and wildly intelligent, Buster is one of us.

Find out more: AdirondackCouncil.org

Wild things Happen in The Adirondacks



Note: This fall we're happy to introduce a good friend and the newest member of our Council team. Buster has a lot to say about the Park that he loves. Look for him in upcoming messages from the Council.

2012 AWARD WINNERS

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR US Environmental Protection Agency

The Adirondack Council presented the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the prestigious Conservationist of the Year Award for its success in protecting the Adirondacks from air pollution. The award was presented at the Council's annual Forever Wild Day celebration on July 14 at Asgaard Farm in Au Sable Forks. Accepting the award on behalf of the EPA was Region 2 Director of Clean Water, Joan Leary Matthews. The EPA championed several clean air measures this year designed to help the Adirondacks recover from acid rain. It also created the nation's first mercury emissions standards for power plants. *Pictured: Joan Leary Matthews.*



Council Honors Forest Rangers

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Adirondack Forest Rangers were honored at the Council's Forever Wild Day for their important work. Rangers are police officers, wildland firefighters, and wilderness first responders who are available day and night. They put their lives on the line to protect the public Forest Preserve lands, natural resources, and the people who use them. *Pictured (L to R): Ranger Scott van Laer, Director Joseph Zeglen, Capt. John Streiff, Capt. Drew Cavanagh.*

[Read remarks and view photos on our website at AdirondackCouncil.org.](http://AdirondackCouncil.org)



TIP OF THE HAT

Each year the Adirondack Council recognizes individuals and not-for-profit organizations whose work has advanced environmental protection and shown how nature and people can thrive together in the Adirondack Park. Those making contributions over the past year include:

The **Wildlife Conservation Society** and **Biodiversity Research Institute** completed a 10-year study of the homes, habits, and physical condition of the Adirondack Park's common loons. They found the population is growing, but is increasingly under stress from acid and mercury deposition. Learn more about this study, loon research, and these two organizations at briloon.org/adkloon and at wcsnorthamerica.com/WildPlaces/Adirondacks.aspx

Jim Herman and **Dave Mason** of Keene conducted a year-long series of workshops and surveys on behalf of the **Common Ground Alliance's Adirondack Futures Project**, working with more than 500 people who live in, work in, or just care about the Adirondack Park. They found a 90-percent-plus agreement that the most desirable and achievable future for the Park is one where the environment is well protected and commercial activity is compatible with healthy forests and waters. The Adirondack Council is a founding member of the Alliance.

The **Ausable River Association** and **Rivermede Farm** helped their neighbors in Essex County cope with damage to local streams caused by Tropical Storm Irene last August and by highway crews later on. They hosted joint workshops this summer for communities, municipal employees, and individuals on how to avoid damage and carry out river restoration.

Paul Smith's College recently completed the new Handsome Pond Trail at **John Dillon Park**, on State Route 30, just north of the hamlet of Long Lake, Hamilton County. Opened in 2005, John Dillon Park is a fully accessible wilderness recreation

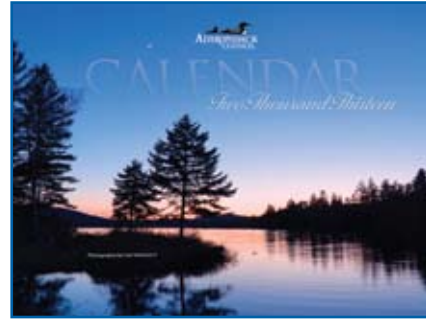
facility. The new 2.5 mile trail begins at the welcome center and ends at Handsome Pond, where there are two fully accessible lean-tos. Dillon Park is managed from mid-May through late-August by students, staff, and volunteers of Paul Smith's College. (johndillonpark.org)

LightHawk flight service has donated its time, pilots, and airplanes to the Adirondack Council's staff as they work out the details of the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex protection and promotion efforts with the 24 gateway communities that surround it. LightHawk is a group of more than 200 pilots who volunteer on behalf of environmental protection efforts around the country. (LightHawk.org)

A handful of Saranac Lake residents who knew the community needed a department store but didn't want a big box retailer, created a local not-for-profit organization to own and operate the **Saranac Lake Community Store**. The store opened in October 2011, allowing the community of 5,000 residents to avoid long trips to Plattsburgh or Malone for necessary items.

North Country Community College (NCCC) has created an Environmental Science degree program at the Saranac Lake campus and graduated its first majors in the spring of 2012. As its first research project, the program studied the Adirondack Park Agency's review of the Adirondack Club and Resort project in Tupper Lake. NCCC is operated by Essex and Franklin counties as part of the state university system.

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL 2013 FOREVER WILD CALENDAR



Featuring the Adirondack landscape photography of Carl Heilman II, the Adirondack Council's 2013 calendar brings you into the Park with Carl's breathtaking images. \$13

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

You make a difference when you:

- write letters or make calls to policymakers
- keep up-to-date on issues
- write letters to the editor of your local newspaper
- spread the word when action is needed
- join online discussions and speak up for the Park
- encourage family and friends to get involved

Sign up for our email updates at AdirondackCouncil.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter, so you'll be sure to know when your actions are needed to make a difference for the Adirondack Park.



Thank you!

The Adirondack Council offers a small collection of books and gifts to help raise the funds needed to advocate for the Adirondack Park every day. You can place an order by calling **877.873.2240 (toll-free)** or order online at AdirondackCouncil.org.

Do you have your FREE Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex Map?

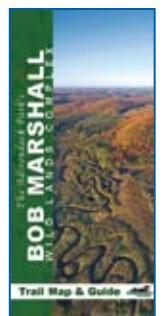


The Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex includes large core protected areas open to the public, conservation easement lands and large privately stewarded parcels in the western Adirondacks. The region provides habitat for diverse wildlife populations and some of the greatest water resources in the Park.

Twenty four gateway communities ring the Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex.

- ★ Each community offers a different set of routes to gain access to the interior lands and waters.
- ★ Each contains private businesses that offer accommodations, food, fuel, supplies and gear needed for what you will encounter inside The Bob.
- ★ Each community contains people who know these woods, can offer valuable advice, and often, can provide guide services.

The Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex map shows outdoor recreation, tourism information and natural history and is available **free**. Give us a call 877.873.2240 or email us at info@adirondackcouncil.org and then start planning your next exploration!



Water-proof and tear-proof map, 25 1/2" x 37 1/2", folds to 4 1/4" x 9 1/4".

BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER

Thank you to all of our members! Your contributions make it possible for the Adirondack Council to effectively advocate for the Adirondack Park every day.

Supporting the Adirondack Council's efforts on behalf of the Park is now easier and more cost-effective with our Sustaining Member program. A sustaining membership is a monthly contribution made automatically through your credit card or checking account. When you're a sustaining member, your membership is always active.

For more information give us a call 877.873.2240 (toll-free) or email us at info@adirondackcouncil.org. You can also view the information and download an authorization form via our website: AdirondackCouncil.org/sustainingmembership.html.



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Adirondack Council

The Adirondack Park is the largest park in the contiguous United States. Its wild, natural beauty is a sanctuary for wildlife and people in today's world. The Adirondack Council is the leading voice for Adirondack conservation. We are showing the world how people and nature can thrive together.

Not a member yet? Join us! AdirondackCouncil.org

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