



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

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## Land Agreements Will Forever Protect Adirondack Lands

Opportunities to protect critical habitat and expand wilderness recreation

Agreement has been reached between local towns, the Adirondack Nature Conservancy (ANC) and the state to move forward with the first steps to protect 58,000 acres as Forest Preserve of the 161,000 acres in the central and southern Adirondacks purchased from Finch Pruyn paper company by ANC in 2007. When added to the Forest Preserve, these lands will protect rare plant communities and provide spectacular new wilderness recreation opportunities.

In the northwestern Adirondacks, Rayonier forest products company purchased 53,800 acres of forest land earlier this year from Lassiter Properties. The company has been a willing seller of conservation easements in the past (51,000 acres in the Adirondacks in 2007). The Council is advocating for the state to purchase strong conservation easements on new Rayonier lands within the proposed 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness and 185,000-acre Boreal Heritage Reserve, advancing these proposals that will protect unique ecosystems and large roadless areas.

In May, Timbervest purchased more than 70,000 acres of forest in St. Lawrence County for \$29.2 million. With frontage on the Oswegatchie and Grass Rivers and other river and wetland features, these lands, too, have high conservation values. The Council has communicated with the state about priorities for acquisition and easements on these fragile boreal forest lands. We look forward to involving Adirondack Council members as public comments are invited on the future use of new Forest Preserve or easement lands.



Oswegatchie River

## Federal Appeals Court Dismantles Clean Air Rules

Action Needed Soon to Reissue Rule or Pass New Legislation

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in July struck down a crucial component of the federal government's rules that were designed to curb the Midwestern air pollution that damages Northeastern forests and lakes and causes lung disease.

By striking down the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), the US Court of Appeals has left all of the Northeastern states vulnerable to acid rain and fine particles of smoke that damage people's lungs. CAIR was our only hope that significant reductions would be made over the next decade in the Midwestern smokestack pollution that has killed Adirondack forests and fish, tainted our drinking water and poisoned our food and wildlife with mercury. With the rule struck from the books, New York needs quick action from the US Environmental Protection Agency to reissue the rule. Failing that, Congress must act right away to pass a bill that would require similar, or deeper, cuts in smokestack pollution. Expect an Action Alert from the Adirondack Council advising what you can do to help.

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Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff  
unless otherwise noted.



## A Future Without Winter or Trout

The earth's climate is rapidly changing and the actions of human societies are the primary cause. Climate change is a planetary crisis, and the Adirondacks are not immune to its impacts. Every ecosystem in the Adirondack Park will be affected, and most other ecological threats to the Adirondack Park will be compounded by climate change.

For the Adirondack Park, climate change will probably mean increased temperatures year round, including fewer days of snow cover in the winter and more rain in its place. These changes put at risk ecological processes, natural communities and native terrestrial and aquatic species. In particular, climate change increases the potential for the loss of both low and high boreal habitat, with the low-elevation boreal forests being in danger of receding into Canada, and the high-elevation boreal forests being lost to trees better suited for warmer climates. These forests are home to some of the state's most endangered species, such as the spruce grouse, gray jay, Bicknell's thrush, Swainson's thrush, insect-eating plants, etc. Changes are already being noted with Neotropical migratory bird breeding areas moving further north and earlier budding of flowering plants; a situation that can disrupt pollination of plants and feeding patterns of birds, insects and other species.

Cold water aquatic species are especially at risk. Many of these cold-blooded species are especially vulnerable during spawning and mating, so temperature fluctuations could affect population levels. Species of fish that are ecologically valuable and prized catches among anglers, including brook and lake trout and land-locked Atlantic salmon, could drastically decline or be lost altogether if climate change is severe. Warmer climate pests and pathogens — especially invasive species like the hemlock wooly adelgid — will make their way to the Adirondacks, which were once too cold to sustain them. Pests and pathogens will add to the growing stresses on native species. Species of flora and fauna may need to migrate northward or upward as the temperature increases. The sugar maple industry may very well no longer exist in New York within a few decades; agriculture may be disrupted by changing weather patterns; and recreation businesses based on winter snows will be affected.

There are many actions that citizens and state and federal governments can take to reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Adirondack Council's climate change advocacy plans include actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve energy, increase renewable energy sources, protect open space, and increase public awareness. Thank you for being part of our efforts and for doing your part to address this global problem that impacts the Adirondacks.

Brian L. Houseal, Executive Director

Go to our website — [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org) — for more information and updates on issues facing the Adirondack Park.

## MEMBERS IN ACTION

### ACTION UPDATE

#### Thank You for Letters on ATV Policy

Council continues to press for policy release

Thank you to members who wrote to Governor Paterson urging the release of the long-delayed state ATV policy. We continue to urge the state to follow through on its promise to issue the final policy.

“During each stay at Beaver River, we witness — daily — the ‘recreational’ environmental destruction that results from unregulated all-terrain vehicle (ATV) access to state land. State lands around Beaver River Station border Stillwater Reservoir, which is drawn down during the summer and fall to regulate the downstream flow of the Beaver and Black Rivers....I hope you’ll agree that this kind of activity has no place in any area that’s protected by our state Constitution as forever wild.”

*An excerpt from an Adirondack Council member’s letter to Governor Paterson and one of several photographs sent documenting ATV damage at the Stillwater Reservoir.*



#### Legislation Provides Financial Assistance for Alternative Energy Producers

Added incentive for businesses in the Park

A wide coalition of environmental groups and business owners joined together to secure state passage of legislation that will allow net metering for small producers of alternative energy. Adirondack Council member C. V. “Major” Bowes, owner of Covewood Lodge in Eagle Bay, joined the Adirondack Council to be sure that in addition to residential producers, small business owners would also be invited to participate. Net metering will allow unused energy generated by businesses to be sold back to the grid and credited toward future energy needs.



#### State Increases EPF

\$66.5 million for land acquisition

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters about the importance of the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and land protection in the Adirondacks. While some unexpended past resources from this dedicated fund were redirected to help pay for general fund obligations in spite of our best efforts, the EPF for 2008-09 was increased to an all-time high of \$255 million, with \$66.5 million for land protection.

#### Members Host Gathering for Park Enthusiasts

Thanks to John and Amanda Gotto for hosting a gathering of people in their area of New Jersey to talk about shared interests in the Adirondack Park and the issues the Adirondack Council is addressing. Small gatherings are one of the best ways for Adirondack Council staff to connect with people interested in advocacy for the Adirondack Park. If you’re interested in hosting a small group in your area for a discussion of Park issues, just let us know by contacting Membership Coordinator, Kathy Kelley in our Elizabethtown office: 877-873-2240 or [kkelley@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:kkelley@adirondackcouncil.org).



*L-R, Amanda Gotto, Kathy and Alan Pfeil, and Fund Development Director Diane Fish.*

## IN AND ABOUT THE PARK



### Property Tax Case

Council files an amicus brief

The Adirondack Council, in conjunction with local government officials, land owners, and other environmental organizations, has filed a “friend of the court” brief in an effort to safeguard state property tax payments on Forest Preserve lands. The case of *Dillenburg v. State of New York, et al* will be argued before the Appellate Division on September 15, 2008. Over \$70 million in property taxes are paid to Adirondack municipalities that contain state land within their boundaries.



### Czech Republic Conservationist Visits Elizabethtown

Council shares advocacy strategies

Tomas Ruzicka, pictured with his family, visited with Adirondack Council Director of Conservation John Davis in the Council’s Elizabethtown office to share ideas about conservation and citizen advocacy for protected areas. Tomas is the program director for the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation, the largest environmental foundation supporting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and communities in the Czech Republic.

### Tupper Lake Development in Negotiations

Mediation to continue through summer

The Adirondack Club and Resort project in Tupper Lake is being negotiated in mediation sessions with the developer, state agencies, environmental groups, citizens, and local government representatives. The confidential mediation under the supervision of a Department of Environmental Conservation judge will continue as long as there is progress toward agreement on key issues as outlined by the Adirondack Park Agency. The Adirondack Council and our legal counsel are participating in the mediation. We look forward to informing and involving Council members when the process returns to the public forum for further input and debate.



### Bacon Brothers Film Public Service Announcements

Messages urge Adirondack Park protection

Brothers Kevin and Michael Bacon volunteered their time to film a series of public service announcements (PSAs) for the Adirondack Council that invite viewers to go to [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org) for more information on acid rain, climate change, wildlife habitat, wilderness protection and several other environmental topics. WNET in Buffalo will produce the PSAs using footage from the PBS film, *THE ADIRONDACKS*. The film is a two-hour PBS documentary on the Adirondack Park created by WNET for a national audience. The Adirondack Council was one of the film’s underwriters. (DVDs are available at our website.) The PSAs will include music by the Bacon Brothers and music composed for the film by Michael Bacon. The PSAs are expected to begin airing this fall. For more about the Bacon Brothers music, visit their website at [www.baconbros.com](http://www.baconbros.com).



Photo by Betty Bacon

L-R, Kevin Bacon, Adirondack Council Trustee Sarah Collum Hatfield, Adirondack Council Communications Director John Sheehan, and Michael Bacon, following the filming of the public service announcements.

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

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**ADIRONDACK COUNCIL**  
*Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

### Message from the Chair:

Your Adirondack Council is fortunate to have ever-growing legions of loyal and supportive members who truly make the difference in giving us a collectively strong voice as well as the resources to protect this special place, the largest wilderness park in the lower 48 states. I appreciate the efforts of our members, both for their speaking out on behalf of the Park and for their financial support.



As I complete my first year as Board Chair, I am struck by the complexities of the stewardship of the Park. It is not a simple place, although the wilderness knows nothing of the complex solutions needed to protect it. Yes, we have age old dynamic tensions on development versus wilderness, but your Council staff has opened a productive and meaningful dialogue with town and community leaders throughout the Park. Do you know what happened? Face-to-face our differences with them aren't really all that significant. We agree on far more than we disagree on. That provides a basis for moving forward to tackle the tough issues of wilderness preservation as our most precious asset and the ultimate thing that sets us apart from the rest of the world, while at the same time pursuing new avenues for economic growth and healthier local communities. We are committed to this, our actions demonstrate our convictions for all to see and participate in our work.

The Council is financially healthy and thriving. We stand ready to march forward educating, influencing and litigating (if need be) on behalf of the Park. We face many challenges but have a wonderfully gifted and passionate Board and staff to get the job done. I am proud to be a part of this effort and as you read updates from the Council and visit our website, I know you will feel that way too.

Here are the specifics of our financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008:

The fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2008 was another financially successful one for the Adirondack Council. Revenue from contributions increased by 5% overall to \$1.4 million. The Adirondack Council's Forever Wild Fund provides additional resources for the Council's programs each year. In FY 2007-08, the Board of Directors approved \$220,000 in withdrawals from the Forever Wild Fund to support legal actions, special projects, and to provide regular operating support towards our total annual expenses of \$1.6 million.

Despite the above withdrawal, thanks to investment gains and to contributions, the Forever Wild Fund ended the current fiscal year at \$3 million, essentially flat for the last 12 months. The Board Investment Committee and the Council's financial advisor are regularly reviewing the Council's investments to maintain maximum value during this tenuous economic climate.

The Adirondack Council is fortunate to have received generous support from long-time supporters and many new members this fiscal year. The staff's careful use of contributions makes every dollar count toward effective conservation and advocacy programs to benefit the Adirondack Park. Thank you to everyone for making the Adirondack Council an effective and efficient organization.

Please feel free to contact the Council if you would like a copy of our most recent audited financial statement or other financial information. The Adirondack Council's IRS 990 can be viewed online at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

Respectfully,

Brian Ruder  
Board Chair

The mission of the ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the ADIRONDACK PARK.

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ANNUAL FUND GIFTS TO THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008

Listed below are Adirondack Council members who have given \$250 or more. **Thank you to all** of our passionate members who make up this organization. We appreciate all you do!

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Drs. Ihor and Barbara Zajac

*The Adirondack Council has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you discover an error, please contact us at 877-873-2240.*



#### **Gifts to the FOREVER WILD FUND**

##### **Actualized Bequests**

Estate of Eleanor A. Hoy  
Estate of Linda Stapley Makari

#### **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

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Loemans' Embroidery, Engraving &

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PAWS-PHOTO (James Craner)

Jamie Phillips

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Gifts to the **Clarence Petty Intern Fund** at  
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**CLARENCE PETTY INTERN SPONSORS**  
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L-R Nick Kelly, Eric Bouchard, Tim Lindberg, Anna Reynolds in Albany.

The Adirondack Council's **Clarence Petty Internship Program** — created in honor of Clarence Petty, a long-time state forester, environmental activist and Adirondack Council founder — provides students with practical experience as advocates for the Adirondack Park and environmental protection. Special gifts to the Annual Fund help the Council offer internship positions with stipends each year or contributions can be made to the Clarence Petty Intern Fund with the Adirondack Community Trust (ACT) to secure resources that will sustain the Clarence Petty Internship Program long into the future.



L-R Eric Bouchard, Nick Kelly, Maria Leonardi (with Gracie and Midnight) at Silver Bay.



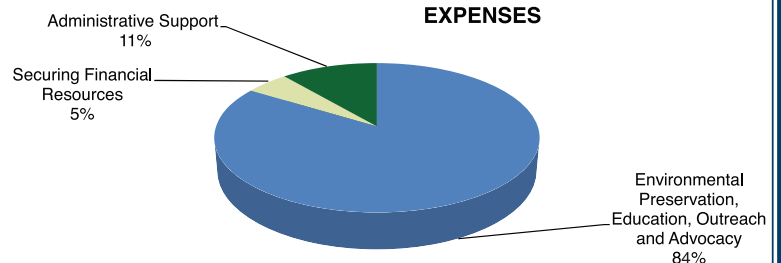
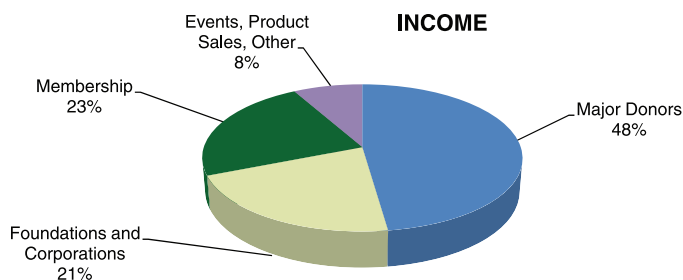
## ADIRONDACK COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2007-2008

WITH CITIZEN SUPPORT and a strong coalition of regional, state, and national organizations, the Adirondack Council's efforts resulted in policies and funding that will have a significant impact on the environmental health and wild character of the Adirondack Park.

- Development of a regional rule with northeast states that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change in the Adirondack Park.
- Successful advocacy to restore critical federal funding for acid rain monitoring and research.
- Legal action to limit accommodations for motorized recreation on public lands and rural roads.
- First passage of a Constitutional Amendment to allow a new 56 kV power line to use an existing road corridor, preventing an alternative route through ancient forest, avoiding eminent domain for local property owners, and ensuring a process that reinforces the constitutional protections for the Forest Preserve.
- Participation in the mediation process regarding the proposed 700-unit resort proposed for Tupper Lake, the largest project ever to come before the APA for consideration.
- Publication and distribution of *2020 Volume IV: Private Land Stewardship* and *Adirondack Waters: Resource at Risk*, promoting policy changes to encourage excellent private land stewardship and water quality.
- Increased Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for invasive species control, land acquisition and water quality improvement projects.
- Smart Growth grants of \$1 million for projects and community planning efforts within Adirondack municipalities.

### ANNUAL SUPPORT SUMMARY July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

The Adirondack Council does not accept government funding of any kind.





## ADIRONDACK FACTS AND FIGURES

### Fast Facts: Adirondack Waters

- ◆ Headwaters of five major basins: Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Black, St. Lawrence, and Mohawk Rivers
- ◆ 2,800 lakes and ponds
- ◆ 1,500 miles of rivers
- ◆ 30,000 miles of brooks and streams
- ◆ 1,000 miles of New York State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers

## Forever Wild in New York State

Not just words, Forever Wild is embedded in the Constitution

In 1894, a state constitutional convention boldly reinforced New York's popular "Forever Wild" law by adding it to the basic contract between government and the people — the NYS Constitution. Today, Article XIV, Section 1 protects 2.5 million acres of state-owned, public Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park and more than a million acres of the Catskill Park. It reads, "The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed, or destroyed."

There are times, however, when projects can only be completed on Forest Preserve lands or where exchanging private land for Forest Preserve lands is the most reasonable ecological solution. Because the Forest Preserve is constitutionally protected, amendments to Article XIV must be adopted to allow those projects to go forward.

Recent examples of constitutional amendments include a land exchange for the Raquette Lake water supply, and the new power transmission line in the Tupper Lake region. The power project awaits a required second passage by the legislature in 2009, but is proceeding under an agreement between the New York Power Authority and the Department of Environmental Conservation. While the constitutionality of the process is questionable (and could face legal action), the Adirondack Council supports the amendment that keeps the power line along the road corridor instead of the original route that would have cut through wetlands and old-growth forest. We will be calling on members, again, to urge second passage of the constitutional amendment in 2009.



Fisher. Photo © Jim Craner, www.paws-photo.com



## Add to Natural History Data on the Adirondacks

Observations of flora and fauna requested

The Making TRACKS Project is developing a permanent online collection of hiking trails across the U.S. with illustrated guides of common species to print out and take with you. The website invites you to input information about plants and animals you see on your favorite hikes in the Adirondacks or across the country. The site also provides resources for schools to make educational nature trails and use them to enhance science and environmental education. Launched by Adirondack author and illustrator, Sheri Amsel, many of the hikes that are currently on the site are in the Adirondack Park.



Baby Bobcat. Photo © Jim Craner, www.paws-photo.com

[foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org)

Please send us your email address and be sure to add [foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org) to your email address book, spam software white list, or mail system white list to help ensure that you receive emails from us and that your email software displays HTML and images properly.

## SEEN AND HEARD



The Adirondacks is a boreal area, and many of the boreal species, including moose, loons, gray jays and rusty blackbirds, are at the southern extent of their range. If climate change accelerates, as people are predicting, then moose will have a tough time.

*New York Times, May 28, 2008 Heidi Kretser, a scientist with the Wildlife Conservation Society in the Adirondacks.*

Outside of the park, there wasn't the full scope of awareness of the public/private nature of the Adirondack Park. I think that's always something people are surprised by or at least surprised they didn't know.

*John Grant, Chief Program Officer, WNED Buffalo remarking on screening responses to the film THE ADIRONDACKS.*

## Connecting Protected Lands Across the Landscape

Wildlife corridors and stream buffers critical in a changing climate

As part of our efforts on air pollution and climate change issues, the Adirondack Council is emphasizing protecting and restoring habitat connectivity as a key ingredient of adapting to climate change. The Council's advocacy has resulted in new habitat connectivity objectives written into upcoming reports from the northern New York's Open Space Committees. The reports articulate the importance of protecting stream buffers and wildlife corridors. Keeping waters cool and clean and providing ways for wildlife to move across a changing landscape will help animals adapt to a new climate. Goals and priority lands identified in the Open Space Conservation Plan guide state decisions about future land protection through acquisition or easements. The Adirondack Council is working with other conservation organizations to make habitat connectivity progress on the Split Rock Wildway, the Southern Lake Champlain Valley, the western Adirondacks to Tug Hill Plateau, and the Algonquin (Canada) to Adirondack connection.



These invasive pests and diseases have a damaging effect, not only on the environment but also the economy. One of the easiest and most common ways for these pests to spread is by the unintentional transportation of infested firewood. These regulations will combat that by reducing the accidental chauffeuring of these threats.

*Department of Environmental Commissioner Pete Grannis announcing new emergency regulations to stop the spread of invasive species that are decimating forests throughout the country. The new regulation can be viewed at [www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2359.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2359.html).*



*Invasive pests:*

*Left: Sirex Woodwasp*

*Center: Asian Longhorn Beetle*

*Right: Emerald Ash Borer*

*Photos courtesy New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

## SUPPORT THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL



### Adirondack Council Honored by Rockefeller College

Named outstanding internship site

Scott Lorey, Adirondack Council Legislative Director in Albany, was recently honored by the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy for Outstanding Internship Site Supervisor. Thanks to the generous support of Adirondack Council donors, the Clarence Petty Intern Program provides internships for college and graduate students interested in the environment, public policy, communications and not-for-profit management.

In addition to contributions for internship positions each year, gifts to the Adirondack Council's Clarence Petty Intern Fund at the Adirondack Community Trust will provide additional resources for program funding in the future. For more information on applying for a Clarence Petty Internship or to make a contribution to the program, please contact Susan Hughes at our Elizabethtown office: 518-873-2240 or [shughes@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:shughes@adirondackcouncil.org).



Former Clarence Petty Interns Allison Beals (L) and David Vona (R) join Scott Lorey to celebrate his recognition by Rockefeller College. David Vona nominated Scott and the Adirondack Council for the award.

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL  
2009 FOREVER WILD CALENDAR  
featuring the Adirondack landscape  
photography of Carl Heilman II. \$13



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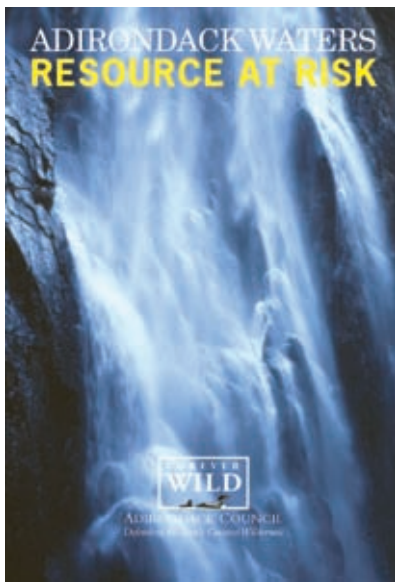
ADIRONDACK PARK MAP  
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Laminated Map: \$40  
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Proceeds from product sales benefit  
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### Matching Gifts

Does your employer match your charitable gifts?

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, check with your human resources department. Request a matching gift form and send it completed and signed along with your gift to the Adirondack Council. We will do the rest. The impact of your gift to the Adirondack Council may be doubled or possibly tripled! Some companies also match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses. Thank you for all your support.



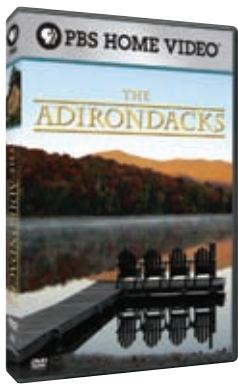
## New Adirondack Water Publication

Free to anyone concerned about water quality

The Adirondack Council recently published *Adirondack Waters: Resource at Risk*, a 28-page publication on the issues that affect water quality throughout the Adirondack Park. The publication outlines actions that citizens, governments and advocates can take to safeguard the incredible treasury of pure water in the Adirondacks. *Adirondack Waters* is not a recounting of our failures, but a blueprint for future success. It offers advice based on one unfaltering principle that must guide all of our actions: there is no new water. The publication **is available free** to government officials, lake associations, citizen activists, and anyone who wants to learn more about improving and protecting the water quality of the Adirondack Park. For print copies, please call the Adirondack Council at 877-873-2240 (toll-free). You can also view and download the publication from our website: [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org).

## THE ADIRONDACKS: A two-hour PBS film on the Park

Available from the Adirondack Council



Through the perspectives of several characters, this movie explores the history, seasonal landscape and current state of the Adirondack Park. It is the first Adirondack documentary recorded in high-definition video, making the most of the Park's majestic beauty and wildness for viewers who might never get a chance to visit. The movie was partly underwritten by the Adirondack Council and created by WNED-TV, PBS Buffalo. DVD \$24



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If you go, please come by and say hello.  
We would love to see you and thank you in person  
for being a member of the Adirondack Council.

For more information go to [www.adirondackliving.com](http://www.adirondackliving.com)

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## ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

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