

**THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL**  
*Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness*

MARCH 2007

Dear Adirondack Council Members and Friends,

It was gratifying to have Governor Spitzer mention climate change and smart growth as topics in his first State of the State address. Here in the Adirondack Park we are experiencing one of the warmest winters on record. And at the same time, we are fighting to stop a new wave of unchecked development, especially of second home subdivisions that are sprawling along the Park's waterfronts, scenic uplands, and back country.

To achieve the Council's vision of an Adirondack Park composed of large core wilderness areas surrounded by working forests and farms, and augmented by vibrant local communities, we've already started working with the new administration to undertake the comprehensive changes required to secure the future of the Park in a rapidly changing world.

First, we need to improve the governance and policies of the Adirondack Park Agency, the Department of Environmental Conservation and other state agencies to comprehensively confront the threats of air and water pollution, invasive species and inappropriate development, by incorporating ecosystem-based management principles into agency mandates. Local communities need technical assistance to plan for their futures by concentrating growth in revitalized village centers with energy efficient housing and businesses, broad-band telecommunications access, and improved water infrastructure. This effort will also reduce the pressures for sprawl in the Resource Management and Rural Use areas. Adirondack farms and wood products industries need new incentives to supply local markets with their products and to create new ventures into biomass and other renewable energy sources, while also protecting sensitive habitats.

I am optimistic about taking on the challenges outlined above, because of our new Governor's commitment as well as our recent work with leaders from local government, businesses, and environmental and economic development not-for-profits to create a common ground alliance focused on solutions that would benefit all interested parties. These leaders are ready to undertake smart growth strategies for the Adirondacks; our survival depends on nothing less.

You too, are important to the work of the Adirondack Council. As people who care about this very special place and its future, your participation and support will be invaluable to our efforts in the coming year. Thank you!

Best regards,



Brian L. Houseal

*The Raquette River, just south of Carry Falls Reservoir, in the Town of Colton as it looked in January of 2007. Letters from Adirondack Council members helped halt a plan to build a bridge near this site that would have allowed motorized traffic to destroy both the natural character and ecological health of this peaceful oasis. See story on 4.*

Newsletter Photos by Adirondack Council Staff unless otherwise noted.

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

Newsletter design by Sheri Amsel

## Council & Citizens Sue Lewis County Over Illegal Attempt to Allow ATVs

In October 2006 the Adirondack Council and five county residents filed suit against Lewis County in State Supreme Court in an effort to block the unlawful opening of County Reforestation Lands inside the Park to all-terrain vehicle (ATV) traffic.

Late in the summer of 2006, the Lewis County Legislature passed a local law to open dozens of parcels of county forest lands to all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use. A number of the parcels opened were inside the Adirondack Park. The Council has documented ATV trespass onto the Forest Preserve in many locations in the Park, most heavily in the western third including Lewis County. Several of the parcels opened to ATVs were adjacent to State Forest Preserve, where they are banned, and next to private homes, where they are unwelcome. Both public and private lands are vulnerable to trespass and poorly patrolled by law enforcement agencies.

Until this year, using an ATV on Lewis County's reforestation lands was illegal, and rightfully so. Areas where ATVs have been used have seen serious damage to multiuse trails and nearby wildlife habitats. Deep ruts made by tires, increased water pollution, and destruction of forest under-story are just some of the significant impacts ATVs cause.

Instead of keeping their ban on ATVs on reforestation lands and increasing enforcement (which was inadequate), the county gave up, and decided to simply legalize the ongoing illegal ATV trespass on these lands. The local law that allows ATVs on the reforestation lands does not include an adequate plan for enforcement. With illegal activity already ongoing in the area, the nearby and more sensitive Forest Preserve lands are at risk.

The county legislature made several legal missteps when approving the local law. Most importantly, they did not complete a formal environmental review before adopting the local law, which made their action negligent under State Environmental Conservation Law.

The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) requires that projects with significant environmental impacts be

studied before being approved. The Lewis County project could cause impacts including degraded water quality, habitat fragmentation and destruction, disruption of wildlife reproduction, and poor air quality. Instead of taking a hard look at the impacts that their local law would have on the environment, the county glossed over the issues and inaccurately stated that there would be no significant environmental effects.

Following the lawsuit by the Adirondack Council and local citizens, the county legislature held a short public hearing on a second local law, which was approved in an after-the-fact effort to fix the shortcomings of the first local law. The county hoped this would lead the court to dismiss the Council's complaint, since the first law was the subject of the Council's litigation.

However, the second hearing was no substitute for a full environmental review and the Council has since filed amended court papers continuing the lawsuit in light of this change. The Adirondack Council is represented by the Law Office of Marc Gerstman in this case, and arguments before the Court began in January. Until the case is decided, the county has agreed not to begin allowing ATVs on the reforestation lands.



*ATVs are already doing damage throughout the Adirondack Park.*

### Adirondack Council Board Welcomes Newest Director

The Adirondack Council is honored to welcome Jeff Donahue to the Board of Directors. Jeff is president and chief executive officer of Enterprise Community Investment, Inc. a national leader in affordable housing and community revitalization efforts. Jeff is looking forward to offering his expertise to the Council Board's deliberations and to doing his part to help protect the unique characteristics that make the Adirondacks so special. He and his wife Anne live in Maryland and Lake George.



## Council Members Help Protect Fragile Raquette Boreal Area

Congratulations are due to Adirondack Council members who took the time to write letters to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in October of 2006 which led to changes in the Raquette Boreal Unit Management Plan.

Thanks to the force of your arguments and your enthusiasm, the state is no longer calling for a bridge to carry motorized traffic into one of the Adirondack Park's rarest and most sensitive forests. In fact, DEC has announced that its new preference for the management of the area is to allow no motorized traffic at all. The announcement is a great improvement over DEC's original plan, which called for a major snowmobile route through the proposed Wilderness. Public reaction made all of the difference.

Thanks to your efforts, some of the Park's most vulnerable habitat will be better protected. The Boreal Forest east of Carry Falls Reservoir (the Jordan River basin) is home to moose, snowshoe hares, Canada lynx, spruce grouse (an endangered species), fishers, pine martens, hawk-owls, boreal chickadees, and

white-throated sparrows. Unusual plant species include carnivorous insect-eaters such as sundews and pitcher plants, as well as brilliant flowering plants such as painted trillium, Clintonia, and orchids. The forest is a dense mix of spruce and fir, with a blanket of moss covering the ground. It contains dozens of tiny ponds and wetlands.

In 1988, the Adirondack Council first proposed creating a 73,000-acre Boreal Wilderness just north of Tupper Lake and east of Carry Falls Reservoir. When complete, the Boreal Wilderness would be bound by the West Branch of the St. Regis River, the southern half of Carry Falls Reservoir, the Raquette River and Wolf Pond. It would encompass Jordan River and its entire watershed. It is the core of a 185,000-acre, low-elevation boreal forest that covers an area from Cranberry Lake in St. Lawrence County to Meacham Lake in Franklin County, on the north slope of the Adirondack Mountain range.

## Feds Probe "Bridge to Nowhere" Following Council's Complaint

The federal government has opened a formal inquiry into the apparent misuse of a taxpayer-funded Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) grant by the St. Lawrence Snowmobile Association and the Town of Colton, who intend to use it to build a snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle bridge across the Raquette River, near Carry Falls Reservoir. TEA-21 funds must be used to provide multi-use recreational opportunities along existing highway corridors.

In mid-December 2006, the Adirondack Council received a letter from the US Department of Transportation's (DOT) Inspector General, in response to a complaint the Council had made over the proposed use of the grant for a motorized vehicle bridge. The area that would be opened to new traffic by the construction of the bridge is a rare and fragile low-elevation boreal forest, where the Council has proposed the creation of a 73,000-acre Boreal Wilderness Area. Motorized vehicles are banned in Wilderness areas and the construction of a bridge would prevent the creation of any future Wilderness designation.

The \$1,000,000 grant came from a pool of funds set aside for the enhancement of existing roadways with new hiking and bike paths. The proposed bridge would be neither. Pamela Steele-Nelson, Chief of Complaint Center Operations for the USDOT

Inspector General's office, stated in her December 15 letter to the Council that she would begin a formal investigation into the apparent misuse of funds. Some of the money may already have been spent on preparations and consulting fees. The Council, and even some members of the Colton Town Board, had referred to the proposed bridge as the "Bridge to Nowhere," since it would not follow the Route 56 corridor and would not serve any useful purpose but lead only to a pristine forest, with no communities nearby.



*Snowmobile and all-terrain (ATV) vehicle advocates wanted to build a bridge near here to carry recreational vehicles across the river, to the reservoir's roadless western shore. There, standing between the bridge and the nearest snowmobile trail, is a unique and fragile, low-elevation boreal forest. Motorized traffic would harm wild plant and animal life on both sides of the reservoir. State officials at first agreed to the bridge plan, but changed their minds after being overwhelmed by negative responses, primarily from Adirondack Council members.*

In October 2006, the Adirondack Council published the first run of Phil Brown's new book on Bob Marshall -- one of the most influential Adirondack conservationists in American history. It was Bob's wish that New York State would protect and preserve the vast wilderness of the west-central Adirondacks that he explored as a youth in the 1920s. Although Bob passed away in 1939, his remarkable dream still lives ...

December 30, 2006  
 EDITORIAL OBSERVER

## If Eliot Spitzer Could Channel Bob Marshall

By ELEANOR RANDOLPH

New York Times  
 Editorial Page

Almost anybody who loves wandering in a quiet wood — minus the all-terrain vehicles or snowmobiles or cellphones — owes a lot of that uncommon silence to Bob Marshall, who helped create the Wilderness Society. Marshall, who died suddenly on a train trip across the country almost 70 years ago, was a United States forester who made Washington understand that woodlands were not simply large green opportunities for the logging industry. They were museums, he said, primeval woodlands to be preserved like ancient Greek treasures. He was so influential in making a nation stop, take a breath and save its forests that a million-acre wilderness is named for him in northwestern Montana.

Now, a group of Marshall's admirers back East are trying to name a smaller wilderness area after him in New York's Adirondack Park. While the park as a whole is protected from many kinds of development, only patches of it are granted the special status of wilderness. The Eastern Bob, as it regulars would undoubtedly call the area, would contain over 400,000 acres of uninterrupted nature. To stitch it all together, the state would have to buy up or protect 77,000 acres now open to logging, roadways and even some forms of development. But some upstate communities — where tourism caters to people who come from the congested world to see the natural one — are not yet sufficiently enthusiastic about the idea.

Gov. George Pataki, who did a good job of preserving land across New York, never managed to complete the Bob. (One critic has written that even the idea of a Bob in the western Adirondacks "causes me gastric problems.") That means environmentalists will have to persuade the new governor — a very urban Eliot Spitzer — not just to care about the outdoors but to share Bob Marshall's kind of passion for the deep woods and mountains of New York State.

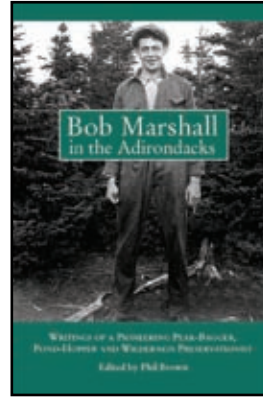
One thought: Start by introducing Mr. Spitzer to July 15, 1932. On that one day, Bob Marshall, who had been climbing the Adirondacks' higher peaks since he was a youth, marched out of his lodge at 3:30 a.m. Then he climbed (or bagged) 13 certified Adirondack peaks plus one slightly smaller mountain before he quit around 10 p.m.

Mr. Marshall did not hike up these mountains, according to witnesses. He ran up them, ascending over 13,000 feet in almost 19 breathless hours. Mr. Spitzer, who has promised to start revolutionizing Albany on Day One, can certainly recognize the impulse.

"He was not just a pair of legs; he was also a brain," Phil Brown, editor of Adirondack Explorer magazine, said recently, making it clear he was talking about the wilderness lover, not the incoming governor.

A wilderness named after Bob Marshall in New York would also help claim this famous naturalist as a native. Born in New York City in 1901, Marshall and his family spent summers near Saranac Lake.

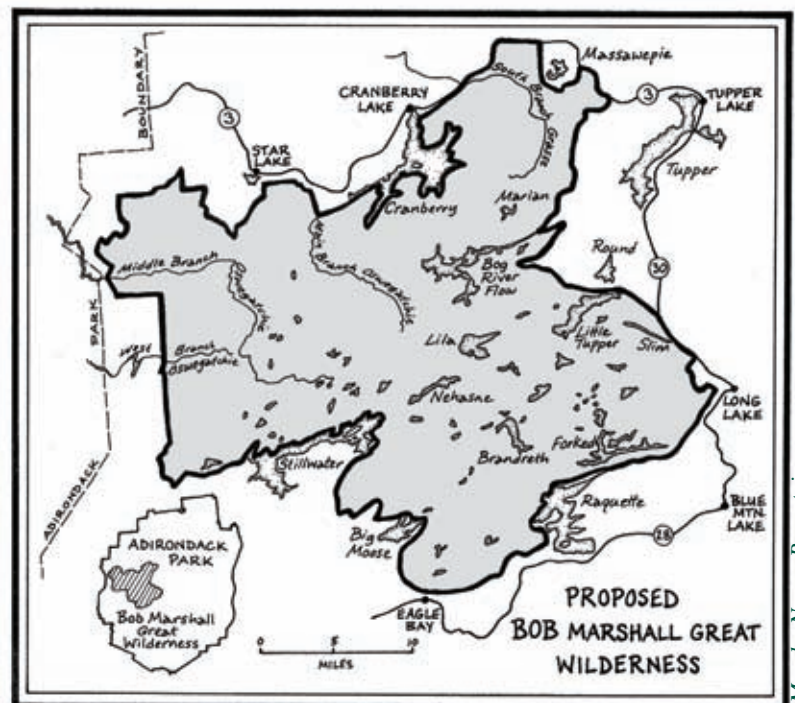
In "Bob Marshall in the Adirondacks," a book edited by Mr. Brown, we can see how Marshall expanded his Saranac experience to other interests. He liked data so much that he once calculated the average time it took the old lumberjacks in Idaho to eat (the average supper consumed only 13 minutes). He took notes on one evening with Albert Einstein at Saranac Lake in 1936. ("It's wonderful how many foolish things you must try in order to find one good idea," the great man is quoted as saying.) And his diaries of 30- to 40-mile hikes or racing up Adirondack mountains in winter now read like a challenge for today's hard-charging athletes.



He took on some of the biggest political adversaries of his day. Robert Moses wanted voters to allow the state to build cabins and other buildings in the Adirondack forest preserve in 1932. Mr. Moses almost always got his way. Not this time. Bob Marshall was among those who campaigned successfully that wilderness should stay wild.

Although they are decades apart, Mr. Spitzer and Mr. Marshall would seem to be a good spiritual match. Speed, raw intelligence, nervous intensity — the new governor should be the perfect one to establish a wilderness in Bob Marshall's name and in his home state.

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## Council Seeks Spitzer's Help in Fixing Park Agency Enforcement Woes

The Adirondack Council has called on Governor Eliot Spitzer to make much needed changes to the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) enforcement division, citing specific recommendations in its newly-released report, entitled *Swept Under the Rug*.

*Swept Under the Rug* is the Council's third formal report on the problems with enforcement of the land-use rules in the state's most sensitive environment. All have been critical of enforcement laxity at the APA. The first two reports documented a backlog of thousands of enforcement cases that had built up over more than 20 years.

Even though the Council's first two reports led to slight increases in personnel and spending on enforcement, many of the older cases were not closed properly. This appears to be an attempt to demonstrate progress by closing cases by any means and reducing the size of the backlog. It seems that very little was done to investigate complaints or even blatant violations before the cases were summarily closed and filed away. Far too many cases were closed with little or no attempt to resolve the land-use violations that led to the complaint, nor any attempt to impose a penalty on the violator.

The report contains a number of case studies, in which violations and the APA's response are detailed. Often the APA staff would have to soften its position in order to obtain a voluntary settlement, which is the extent of the Agency's authority in enforcement matters. The Council noted that the quality of the settlements reached and the effectiveness of the remedial actions ordered to address the violations were more important than the total number of cases the APA declared closed each year. Too few of the resolved cases involve a civil penalty, which is supposed to be included in all cases, as a deterrent.

The report documents the Agency's shortcomings, including its inability to force compliance or collect fines, except when a case is turned over to the NYS Attorney General's office for court action. It also notes that the enforcement program continues to limp along with only four officers to cover the 3.4 million acres of private land overseen by the Adirondack Park Agency – an area four times the size of Rhode Island.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection employs 60 enforcement officers in the Catskill watershed, which is one-fifth the size of the Adirondacks. That's 75 times the amount of coverage per square mile when compared to the Adirondack Park. APA's staff is so overburdened, they don't even seek out violators because they can't keep up with the cases that are reported by neighbors, or those that are discovered as part of a new permit request.

The Council also called on Attorney General Cuomo, whose

Environmental Protection Bureau assists the APA with court cases, to dedicate additional resources to help resolve cases. The Council will also work with the Legislature to improve the Park Agency's authority to bring violations to a just and speedy conclusion.

This report follows up on the Council's previous works, *After the Fact* (1999) and *Falling Further Behind* (2001), which resulted in the addition of two new staff and revisions to the Agency's enforcement regulations. All three reports are available online at [www.adirondackcouncil.org/reports2.html](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org/reports2.html).

The Adirondack Council laid out six recommendations for improving enforcement at the APA in *Swept Under the Rug*. They included:

- **Add new enforcement staff.** Two additional officers and two attorneys are desperately needed to handle the current caseload.
- **Revise enforcement laws and regulations.** Even after being updated in 2003, the regulations remain too weak and APA needs more power, some of which must come from the state legislature.
- **Restore state funding for local planning assistance.** Local planning will help reduce the workload of APA staff and give communities more autonomy over deciding what is appropriate in their locality.
- **The Attorney General should create an Adirondack Park enforcement team.** The AG's office must do more to assist the APA when violations are not quickly resolved. Only one case has been referred to the AG's office in the last two years.
- **APA Commissioners need to make enforcement a top priority.** The need for change must come from this level and support the staff in its efforts to make the system work better.
- **Give the APA the authority to collect fees and fines.** APA's sister agency DEC has these capabilities. When civil penalties are imposed in enforcement cases, the money goes to the state and does not stay at the Agency to help defray its costs.



### Thanks to our Forever Wild Partners for supporting our outreach and education efforts!

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# Environmental Groups Stand Together Against Tupper Lake Mega-Development Proposal

In December of last year, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) declared the application complete for the 700-unit Adirondack Club and Resort, which would be built on the slopes around Mount Morris, site of the long-closed Big Tupper Ski Center. This is the largest subdivision and development project ever handled by the 34-year-old agency. The determination of completeness came after the APA had already announced it would be holding a public informational hearing on the project.

The Council testified against the massive development proposal at the informal, but well attended, public hearing held by the APA at Tupper Lake High School in January. Informal hearings (also known as legislative hearings) are held by the APA when a project is controversial. While they are often a prelude to an adjudicatory hearing, the APA can complete its review after the informal hearing and approve the permit.

The Council urged the APA not to do this, stating that the size, design and scope of the project will cause profound environmental damage to the landscape and waters of the Town of Tupper Lake, while causing unknown economic hardships on the Village of Tupper Lake. The Council told the Agency that it felt there were substantial shortcomings in the permit application and urged the APA to call a formal, adjudicatory public hearing and to allow a full range of issues to be examined.

Such a hearing would allow the Council and other interested parties to bring evidence, submit expert testimony and cross examine the developer's witnesses in a hearing overseen by an administrative law judge. Tupper Lake's mayor and village Board made the same request. Without an adjudicatory hearing, the APA cannot legally alter or deny any permit for development.

Just before the legislative hearing, the Council organized a press conference at the NYS Capitol with a host of regional, state-wide and national environmental organizations, who called on the APA to hold a formal hearing and asked Governor Eliot Spitzer to instruct his agency to perform a thorough review. The Governor responded through a spokesman that he would.

At the same time, the Council ran a series of ads in local newspapers, explaining its position and calling on local residents to come to the Legislative hearing. Concurrently, two other organizations, along with three dozen local property owners, filed suit against the Town of Tupper Lake for what they termed an illegal zoning change that allowed the project application to proceed to



*Council Executive Director Brian Houseal leads the discussion at the Tupper Lake ACR Press Conference. Other presenters included from left to right: Marisa Tedesco, ADK; Bill Cooke, CCE; Peter Bauer, RCPA; and Dave Gibson, Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks.*

the APA without any preliminary environmental review.

To read the Adirondack Council's position on this project, please visit [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org). For a fuller review of the project and a map, see our Summer 2006 newsletter on our website. The Adirondack Council cited a series of significant problems with the current permit application in making its appeal to the APA's Commissioners to hold a formal hearing.

## Update

As this publication was going to print, the staff at the Adirondack Park Agency announced that they are recommending to the Board of Commissioners that the Adirondack Club and Resort project be sent to an adjudicatory hearing. When reviewing the project, APA staff found that there were many issues in the project application and other materials that needed further review.

Thanks to all the Council members who wrote to the APA urging that this project be sent to an adjudicatory hearing.



## Pataki Makes Last-Minute Appointments to APA's Board of Commissioners

In December 2006, Governor Pataki used the NYS Senate's final session of the year to make numerous appointments, including filling two vacancies on the Adirondack Park Agency Board of Commissioners. The Governor chose two elected local officials, who were confirmed without debate.

Appointed were Lake Pleasant Town Supervisor Frank Mezzano and Town of Johnsbury Supervisor Bill Thomas, who is also chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors. The Council is opposed to the appointment of any elected official to the APA board, because it places the appointee in the untenable position of having to serve two masters whose goals are often at odds. As chief financial officers of their respective municipalities, they may be asked to judge the merits of development projects that would increase local revenues, but also harm the environment.

Mezzano rejoins the APA board after a five-month break. First appointed in 1998, he served until June, when he stepped down at the conclusion of his second four-year term. In general, Mezzano has been a pro-development, anti-conservation voter on the APA board. On several occasions during his first two terms,

Mezzano declined to recuse himself from voting on APA applications for projects he supported as a town and county official.

Oddly, Mezzano's new appointment will last only until June. He was not given his old seat, but the one vacated last fall by Deanne Rehm of Bolton, whose term had not yet expired. Rehm left the APA complaining of haphazard decision-making.

Mezzano's old seat with a fresh four-year term was given instead to Bill Thomas of Johnsbury, who will serve through 2010. There are at least two major development projects in the works for the Town of Johnsbury that would require a permit from the Adirondack Park Agency. They include the Front Street Development project that would bring in new hotels and resort housing to the area around the North Creek Ski Bowl; and a 10-turbine wind power project proposed for Pete Gay ridge in North River.

The Governor directly appoints eight of the eleven positions on the APA Board of Commissioners. Of those, five must reside in the Park and three must reside outside the Park. The remaining three are the Secretary of State, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and Commissioner of Economic Development (all Governor appointments).



## Adirondack Community Housing Fund Created

In keeping with the Adirondack Council's desire to ensure that economic growth doesn't overwhelm small Adirondack communities, the Council is working with state and local officials to address the need for affordable housing for Park residents. Too often, rising home prices have pushed development further from villages and hamlet centers as people seek less expensive options. Aside from consuming open spaces and wildlife habitat, sprawling development leaves young families and those on fixed incomes isolated and unable to take advantage of municipal services.

In December 2006, Adirondack Council Executive Director Brian Houseal joined NYS Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, Essex County Housing Assistance Program Director Alan Hipps and NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal Commissioner Judith Calogero in Glens Falls to announce the creation of the Adirondack Community Housing Fund. The Fund was inaugurated with a \$1 million grant from the Senator's "member item" appropriations from the 2006-07 budget. The Council was pleased to participate in the creation of a fund that would help the Park's communities remain compact and vibrant, while discouraging haphazard new development on the outskirts of the towns and villages.

## APA's Judgment Falls to New Lowes

Following several weeks of verbal antagonism from local boosters in Ticonderoga, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) agreed to grant the first "hardship variance" in its 34-year history. Officials had expressed shock and dismay that the APA even wanted to review the project.

Ironically, the hardship variance didn't go to a struggling or locally owned business. Local officials instead went to bat for out-of-state, big-box retailer, Lowes. The APA had already granted a permit allowing Lowes to build its new 153,000-square foot retail center 53 feet tall. Lowes also triggered APA jurisdiction by building a portion of its facility in a wetland.

The limit on a single unit business sign outside a hamlet or village is 40 square feet (i.e., 5 feet by 8 feet). Lowes and its supporters complained that no one would be able to find the store, even though it is located on the main route into town, is adjacent to the new Wal-Mart, is five stories tall and will have another sign at the road entrance. Lowes' officials threatened that the store would not be built without the larger sign.

After criticizing local officials for their irresponsible comments, APA Commissioners approved a sign which is 245 square feet and illuminated, 16 times larger than APA's regulations allow. Commissioners did ask that the lights be shut off when the store is not open.



## New Global Warming Report

In October 2006, a new report on climate change was released by the Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment (NCIA), which is a collaborative effort between the Union of Concerned Scientists and a team of independent scientists who are studying the impacts of climate change on the Northeastern United States. The report, *Climate Change in the Northeast*, showed grave consequences for New York State. Climate change, according to the report, is unavoidable at this point.

The report predicts significant temperature increases by the end of this century: many cities will see a drastic increase in high heat days, where the temperature exceeds 90 or 100° F, which becomes a threat to human health; the winter snow season will be decreased by 25 to 50 percent as warming will bring far more rain than snow; sea level rise will change the shape of our nation, and impact our economies. For the Adirondacks, these changes could destroy local economies supported by winter sporting activities, threaten the Park's remaining agricultural industry, and cause the forest ecosystems to radically change by pushing out native species, while increasing the prevalence of exotic invasive species.

The silver lining in this telling new report is that the public and policy makers still have a choice about the extent of warming that will occur. Some of the impacts can be greatly mitigated if action to curb emissions of greenhouse gases is taken immediately. Efforts including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative will help reduce the destruction caused by a warming climate. To read the report, visit [www.northeastclimateimpacts.org](http://www.northeastclimateimpacts.org).

## What You Can Do to Help Stop Climate Change

As a part of the Orion grassroots network, the Adirondack Council is encouraging our members to participate in Step It Up 2007, which is a new organization working to highlight the need for action to stop climate change. Step It Up is planning events which will take place all over the country simultaneously on April 14, during a "National Day of Climate Action." Local rallies are being held to compel Congress to pass legislation to address climate change immediately by reducing carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent by 2050. Step It Up 2007 is spearheaded by Bill McKibben, the author of "The End of Nature" and speaker at the Adirondack Council's "Climate Change and the Future of the Adirondack Park" conference in 2002. More information about participating in or hosting an event near you can be found at [www.stepitup2007.org](http://www.stepitup2007.org).

## State Effort on Climate Change Moving Forward

The New York State-led effort to curb emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants in the Northeastern Region continues to progress. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) final Model Rule was adopted by all eight participating states in August 2006. Legislation was agreed on in April 2006 that requires Maryland to become a full participant in the process by June 30, 2007. The completion of the Model Rule marked the beginning of efforts in individual states to begin their own rulemaking processes in order to codify the agreement and put the program into place legally.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released its regulatory "pre-proposal" of the New York Rule to implement RGGI in the state in December 2006. A victory for the Adirondack Council, other environmental conservation organizations and consumer advocates was a provision of the pre-proposal that would auction 100 percent of the allowances under the new cap and trade program for carbon dioxide emissions. The program would be set up much like the successful trading program for acid rain pollutants, however instead of giving the power producers allowances for their pollution, RGGI would require that they buy them. The pre-proposal would direct the money generated from these sales into programs that further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or back to consumers to reduce the cost of the program.

Interested parties, including environmental organizations like the Adirondack Council, energy generators, and commodities brokers, among others, have commented to the DEC on the pre-proposal. The Council continues to provide feedback to DEC on the RGGI program, and will remain active during the New York State regulatory process.

## Council's Agenda for 2007 Legislative Session

The New York State Legislative Session for 2007 kicked off on January 3rd with Governor Spitzer's first State of the State address. During this session of the legislature, the Adirondack Council will continue its work advocating for policies that protect the Park's ecological integrity and wild character, while assisting local communities in remaining vibrant.

### Constitutional Amendments

Two constitutional amendments are high on the Adirondack Council's list of priorities. Both passed once during the previous legislative session, and need to be passed by the current, newly elected legislature a second time before they are able to be placed on the ballot for a voter referendum.

The first would allow Raquette Lake to site a well on Forest Preserve land for its potable water supply. In exchange for one acre of Forest Preserve land, the town will give twelve acres of land back to the Forest Preserve. This exchange will ensure the people living and visiting Raquette Lake will have clean drinking water, while becoming a net benefit to the Forest Preserve by adding more acreage than will be lost.

The second amendment would allow a major power transmission line sponsored by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to follow the road corridor along Route 56 in St. Lawrence County. The road actually cuts through the Forest Preserve, and NYPA was prepared to build along a route that would have cut through private lands and old-growth forest and wetlands to avoid the need for an amendment. Fortunately, NYPA agreed to work with the Council and other groups to keep the power line in the road corridor and avoid a great deal of ecological damage. In exchange for the land needed along Route 56 to site a new high voltage power line, National Grid, a project participant, will give land to the State elsewhere in St. Lawrence County to be incorporated into the Forest Preserve.

### The APA Act

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Act, the law that established the APA in the early 1970s has not been comprehensively updated since its passage. While the APA Act was one of the strongest land regulation policies at the time it was passed, it is now weaker than the land use regulations in other areas of the nation. The Council will advocate for reforms to the Act, which should include provisions to better prevent upland development, more adequately protect water quality, require "clustering" of development to protect habitat, codify and improve upon the existing APA "Towers Policy" into law, and require energy efficiency standards for new developments.

### NYS Invasive Species Task Force

The Council will also advocate for legislation to implement the recommendations of the New York State Invasive Species Task Force into a statewide program to eradicate and prevent the spread of invasive species. The Task Force report recommended the establishment of a program with dedicated staff, which would work to identify measures that could be taken through regulation or legislation that could prevent invasive species from being introduced into New York State, mitigate the spread of species from one area of the state to another, and eradicate invasive species where they exist. The Council is working to make sure that the Adirondack Park is considered a priority area in any legislation that is drafted to establish such a program.



*Then-Attorney General, now Governor Eliot Spitzer, receives a token of the Adirondack Council's esteem following his encouraging January 2003 speech to an annual gathering of Council supporters at the Manhattan home of John and Margot Ernst. Council trustee David Skovron, right, gave Spitzer one of the organization's limited edition prints by the late Adirondack nature artist Anne Lacy. It is a signed print of her renowned painting entitled "Mother Loon and Chick," which graces the cover of the Adirondack Wildguide and has been the inspiration for the Council's logo for three decades.*



*Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), recently elected to represent New York's 20th District, visited with constituents in Lake Placid in January. The Adirondack Council will work with Rep. Gillibrand and other federal policy makers to secure policies and funding that benefit the Adirondack Park.*

## Council Working for Increases in Funding to Protect the Adirondacks

Each year, the Adirondack Council works to ensure that the New York State budget provides adequate funding for programs that ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. This year, the Council will work to alert newly inaugurated Governor Spitzer and his administration about the importance of funding for programs that benefit the Park.

As part of the “Friends of New York’s Environment” coalition, a group of nearly 200 environmental, public health, and conservation organizations throughout the state, the Council is advocating for an increase in the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). This fund is used to purchase open space, maintain public facilities on state lands, assist communities with planning, combat invasive species, and protect water quality, among other things. Last year, the Coalition successfully advocated a \$75 million increase for the EPF, bringing the total fund to an all-time high of \$225 million. This year we are asking Governor Spitzer to increase the fund again, with a goal of reaching \$500 million by 2010.

In addition to the EPF increase, the Adirondack Council is advocating for an increase in the Adirondack Park Agency’s (APA) budget. The APA, which is responsible for overseeing

development on private land in the six-million-acre Park, has just 65 full time staff positions. The Council believes that staffing increases are necessary to ensure projects are reviewed thoroughly, as well as in a timely fashion to lessen the waiting time for private landowners. Additionally, the APA should have additional staff to undertake enforcement activities and assist communities with development of local land use plans. The staffing increase can be offset by including a permit application fee for the APA. Several hundred thousand dollars could be generated if developers were required to pay for a portion of the staff time they use, often for projects which are later abandoned.

The Council is also advocating for full reimbursement to Adirondack municipalities for tax revenue lost from the state’s timber tax abatement program. The program, which gives a sizeable tax break to landowners who commit to keeping their property as active timber land, is an important program for open space protection. In the last three state budgets, the Council successfully advocated partial reimbursement to municipalities that lost more than one percent of their tax base due to enrollment in the program. The state should increase the reimbursement so that no tax revenue is lost by any municipality in the Park.



## New York State Mercury Rule Finalized

In December of last year, the New York State Environmental Board approved the proposed state regulation to lower emissions of mercury from coal-fired power plants. This was the final step in enacting the rule, which was originally announced by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner in May 2006.

Mercury is a toxin released when fossil fuels, especially coal, are burned. Electrical generation facilities are one of the largest sources of mercury contamination in New York State and the nation. The Adirondack Park has been severely impacted by mercury contamination. For the last two years the New York State Department of Health has issued advisories directing children and women of childbearing age not to eat many species of fish caught in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks due to high levels of mercury in fish.

The Adirondack Council supported the regulation, which will lower emissions of mercury by approximately 50 percent from current levels by 2010 and by 90 percent by 2015. This rule, which will be implemented by DEC, will replace the inadequate Federal Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR). The Council opposed CAMR because it only provided modest cuts, and allowed trading of emissions allowances, which would have led to “hot spots,” or areas where contamination was concentrated. Thank you to our members who wrote to DEC asking that the rule not be weakened, as industry groups had sought to do.



*Brian Houseal, Adirondack Council Executive Director speaks about the ecological impacts of mercury in the Adirondack Park at a press conference on mercury. John Stouffer of the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter and Jason Babbie of New York Public Interest Research Group look on.*

# Council Joins Local Government and Park Groups to Present Common Agenda to New Governor

In October 2006, the Adirondack Council helped spearhead an alliance of more than 25 local leaders of nonprofit organizations, municipal governments, businesses, economic development, and environmental interests in the Adirondack Park to produce a *Blue Print for the Blue Line*, calling on the gubernatorial candidates to address their concerns about the future of the Park.

Their efforts to identify a common agenda focused on improving the economic viability of Park communities while conserving the environment. The intent of the alliance is to present strategies that will be critical to a sustainable future for the region.

The *Blue Print for the Blue Line* demonstrates that distinct groups can find common ground and innovative solutions that are good for the Adirondack environment, its communities and local economy. Some of the issues of concern raised by the alliance include climate change, invasive species, telecommunications needs, affordable housing, water and sewer infrastructure, and main street revitalization.

## Common Ground Alliance Members

Adirondack-Champlain Community Broadband Network • Adirondack Council • Adirondack Economic Development Corporation • Adirondack Daily Enterprise • Adirondack North Country Association • Audubon NY • Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century • Central Adirondack Association • Citizens Campaign for the Environment • Clifton-Fine Economic Development Corporation • Historic Saranac Lake • Holmes and Associates • Leading Edge • New York Rivers United • Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce • Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce • Saranac Lake Red Carpet Team • Sound Adirondack Growth Alliance • Town of Forestport Town Board • Town of Inlet • Town of Long Lake • Town of Ohio • Town of Salisbury • Town of Webb • Town of Wilmington • Tupper Lake Chamber of Commerce • Village of Tupper Lake • Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Programs • Wildwood Arts & Antiques in Tupper Lake



## New Adirondack Council Staff

**Katie Buckley**, from the Adirondack town of Piercefild, participated in our outreach effort during the summer of 2006 as a Clarence Petty Intern, traveling throughout the Park speaking to residents and visitors about the Park, current environmental issues, and the role of the Adirondack Council. A recent graduate of Clarkson University, Katie was eager to move to Albany, the State Capital, to learn more about the legislature and policy actions affecting the Park. With a degree in Political Science, Katie was hired as the Office Manager in the Adirondack Council's Albany office, providing support for the Government Relations and Communications programs.



*Albany Office Manager Katie Buckley*

## New Clarence Petty Interns

**Leah Nelson**, a recent graduate from St. Lawrence University with a major in Environmental Studies, is providing research and writing assistance in reviewing the state's public land management plans in our Elizabethtown office. A native of Middlebury, VT, Leah is staying with a local family in nearby Keene Valley and enjoying exploring the High Peaks in her free time.



*Elizabethtown Intern Leah Nelson*

**Brandon Hicks** is the Council's Clarence Petty intern working in our Albany office for the Legislative Session. He is a joint-degree student working at both Albany Law School and at Rockefeller College and will receive his J.D./M.P.A. this May. His professional goal is to get involved in the policy agenda surrounding global warming and other subjects related to climate change.

Born just outside of Washington, D.C., Brandon spent the first twenty-plus years living in and around the D.C. metropolitan area. He moved to the Catskill region to attend Bard College and fell in love with the area.



*Albany Intern Brandon Hicks*

Be sure to add:  
[foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org)  
to your address book.

## The East's Last Great Wilderness? Really?

The Council's slogan "Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness" recognizes the Adirondack Park for the great conservation story it is. The slogan is all too true.

New York's Adirondack Park has more designated wilderness than all of the New England states combined. New Hampshire's protected roadless areas are small; Vermont's are even smaller. Northern Maine is indeed largely uninhabited by people, but very little of it enjoys protection. Most of northern Maine is logged regularly. Labrador and northern Quebec do indeed have grand wildlands; but unfortunately, they, too, generally lack protection (and many of Quebec's wildlands have been inundated or otherwise harmed by hydro-power dams and associated development).

The Adirondack Council supports the restoration and protection of large interconnected wildlands, including designated Wilderness, reaching across our region. The Wild Forest and Wilderness Areas of the Adirondacks will fare much better in the long run if they are well-connected to wildlands to the west (Tughill Plateau), northwest (Algonquin Park), and east (Green Mountains and beyond into the White Mountains and northern Maine).

The Southeast also has significant wilderness areas, some designated, some de facto. Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee and the Everglades in Florida both have large roadless areas. Still, the Adirondack Park stands out as the best protected landscape in the eastern United States, and the landscape

with the greatest amount of land -- nearly three million acres -- strictly protected from logging and development (roughly 1.1 million acres designated Wilderness, 1.5 million acres Wild Forest, smaller amounts of Primitive Area and private preserves). In fact, the Adirondack Park is the largest protected temperate forest remaining in the northern hemisphere.

The Adirondack Council is part of efforts to expand protected areas throughout the Northeast collaborating with the Northern Forest Alliance, the Northern Forest Center and Algonquin to Adirondacks.



*Looking into Dix Mountain Wilderness from Giant Mountain Wilderness*

The Adirondack Council will host our annual members' meeting, outings and Forever Wild dinner at the Heurich Split Rock Farm in Essex, NY on Saturday, July 14, 2007. The Split Rock Farm is part of the Heurich Estate on the shore of Lake Champlain, another portion of which was purchased by New York State in 1993 and added to the Forest Preserve. Split Rock Wild Forest, now nearly 4000 acres in size, contains the highest mountain on Lake Champlain, three miles of undeveloped shoreline, magnificent palisades, habitat for the timber rattlesnake (a state-listed threatened species), and 80 percent of the Champlain Valley's 193 species of birds. Check our website for lodging suggestions, field trip opportunities and reservation information: [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org) or call us toll-free at 877-873-2240.

**Save the Date! July 14, 2007**

The Adirondack Council's Annual Membership Meeting and Forever Wild Dinner



## Snowmobile Plan Melts Away

In November 2006, Governor Pataki gave up on his goal to create a Comprehensive Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park.

He intended to revamp the trail system in the Park to protect the environment and to boost tourism by moving trails away from the interior of the Forest Preserve and use the freed-up mileage to create connections that linked villages and hamlets along main routes. (There is a cap of 848 miles on snowmobile trails on the Forest Preserve.)

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was leading the effort, but bogged down when conflicts arose over several issues, including:

- The state's official cap of 848 miles on the total length of snowmobile trails on the Forest Preserve, versus the desire by local officials to add mileage in their towns.
- A push by DEC and local government to widen trails, despite a regulatory limit of eight feet on trail width.
- A desire by snowmobile clubs and DEC to allow tracked groomers operated by club members on Forest Preserve snowmobile trails, although all motorized vehicles other than snowmobiles are illegal.
- A demand from snowmobile clubs and DEC that trails be smoothed to remove small obstacles, which conflicts with statutes that require DEC to ensure that snowmobile trails maintain the same character as a foot path.

The Adirondack Council and other organizations urged DEC to rethink its plan because, in all four instances noted above, it conflicted with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. The Master Plan carries the force of law. The Council and other environmental organizations said they would contest any attempt to amend the master plan to allow tracked groomers or other destructive management tools.

Earlier in 2006, DEC officials had attempted to persuade the Adirondack Park Agency that a new survey of snowmobile mileage on the Forest Preserve showed there were fewer than 841 miles of trails, leaving room for new trails. All previous

counts of Forest Preserve snowmobile trail mileage – by DEC and others – had shown more than 1,200 miles (about 350 miles too many under state law). DEC refused to release a map of its new estimate, and it remains unclear to the Council how this new conveniently low number was derived.

By November, DEC changed the title of the plan from “Comprehensive Snowmobile Plan” to a “Conceptual Snowmobile Plan” and announced that it would not attempt to submit the plan to the Adirondack Park Agency for a review of its compliance with the Master Plan. DEC even added a note to the front of the plan, stating that parts of it may conflict with the Master Plan. Without the APA's approval, the plan cannot be formally adopted by DEC. Its current status appears to be a guidance document which can be followed or ignored.

Recent state estimates of snowmobile trails in the Adirondack Park show approximately 1,200 miles on the Forest Preserve; another 2,800 to 3,000 miles on conservation easement lands and private property, or more than 4,000 total miles. There are slightly more than 5,000 miles of highways in the Adirondacks, including Interstate 87. There is a large and growing body of literature on the harmful ecological effects of roads and motorized off-road vehicles, but state officials seem to be ignoring it.



## The Rachel Carson Centennial Project

May 2007 marks the 100th birthday of Rachel Carson, naturalist, marine biologist, and writer whose book, *Silent Spring*, awakened the country to the dangers of pesticides in the early 1960s. To honor Rachel, considered by many to be the founder of the American environmental movement, plans are underway to launch the Rachel Carson Centennial Project in the Adirondacks this spring.

Just as Carson alerted people to the dangers of toxic, man-made chemicals, one goal of the project is to educate and call people to action to address the chemicals in our environment today which are contributing to global climate change and a host of other ills.

The project is set to begin on Mother's Day. A central component will be 2-3-day artists' residencies in Adirondack schools in which musicians, visual artists, and poets will lead children into an exploration of Rachel's life and the natural world. At the start of the residencies, Magpie (who released a CD dedicated to Rachel) will give a concert for all the schools involved. The residencies will close with a gathering at The Wild Center.

For more information or to get involved, please contact: Martha Swan, [mshwan@newcombcasd.org](mailto:mshwan@newcombcasd.org) or [mshwan@capital.net](mailto:mshwan@capital.net) 518-963-4618 home/582-2586 school or Paul Hai, [pshai@esf.edu](mailto:pshai@esf.edu)/518-582-4551, ext. 104.

# ADIRONDACK COUNCIL WATER INITIATIVE



## Accomplishments 2006

**Mercury:** Secured a major advocacy victory when Governor Pataki announced in May that New York will promulgate a regulation to cut mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 90 percent. This historic action will help restore the quality of water in the Adirondacks, protecting human health, Adirondack loons and other wildlife.

**Motors:** Joined with residents and other organizations to successfully advocate for a ban of jet skis on Augur Lake and motor boats from Lows Lake.

**Wetlands:** Helped to prevent the destruction of 95 separate wetlands that would have been destroyed to make way for a new power supply line from Stark Falls Reservoir in St. Lawrence County to the Village of Tupper Lake, Franklin County, by successfully advocating for a revised route for the power line along an existing travel corridor.

**Conservation:** Successfully advocated for water quality considerations in the draft 2006 Open Space Conservation Plan.

**Development:** Called on the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to stop development projects that would harm water quality and wildlife dependent on water bodies or wetlands.

**Regulations:** Worked with members of the state legislature to defeat a bill that would have stripped the APA of its authority to regulate the Park's 133 private campgrounds, all of which are located on rivers, lakes or ponds.

**Invasives:** Collaborated with local government, lake associations, agencies, and other organizations to develop the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan.

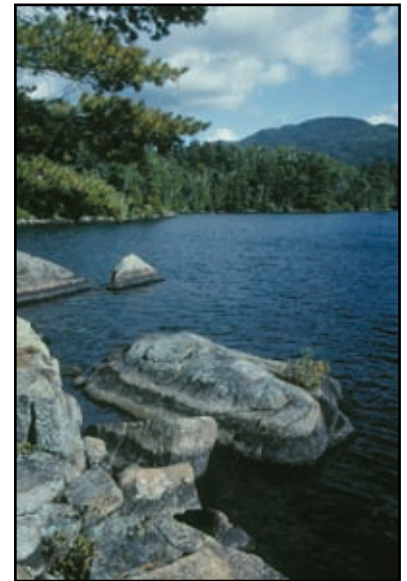
**Funding:** Successfully advocated for \$53 million in 2007 state funding for water projects, to fight invasive species and continue long-term acid rain and mercury monitoring programs.

**Sewage:** Helped the Town of Essex to secure a million-dollar state grant for the construction of a sewage treatment plant. This hamlet on Lake Champlain experienced a toxic cyanobacteria outbreak in its harbor.

**Grants:** Worked with a coalition of more than 100 other organizations to press the legislature and Governor for additional funding for the Clean Water/Drinking Water portion of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, seeking more than \$113 million for priority projects across the state. The Council will also work to leverage up to \$200 million in federal and local matching grants to supplement the state's spending plan.

**Acid Rain:** Provided input on a DEC plan to reduce acid rain pollutants in the water bodies of the western Adirondack Park.

**Wastewater:** Collaborated with local, state, and federal officials to call for increases in state and federal funding for wastewater treatment systems in the Park.



*Copperas Pond*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**5th Annual  
Adirondack Water Quality Conference  
Water Quality Through Local Planning  
August 20 and 21, 2007**

Hosted by Paul Smith's College

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## Creature Feature

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The deaths of at least six moose this year on Adirondack roads is a painful reminder that “the East’s Last Great Wilderness” is not wild enough. Even in the relatively sparsely settled and roaded Adirondack Park, road density is too high for wide-ranging animals like moose to be safe as they roam in search of food and mates. Moose lack reflectivity in their eyes, which makes car accidents with moose more likely than with other types of wildlife.

As a species, moose are at home in a cool, lush, wet land like the Adirondacks, and the prognosis for their recovery in the Park is good. The six or more lost to road kill this year – mostly males looking for mates during rutting season – come from a population now only at a few hundred in New York State but apparently at a point on the recovery curve where rapid population growth can be expected. No longer does the Adirondack moose herd consist only of a few lonely bachelors wandering around wondering why they left their more populated homes in Ontario or Vermont. Thriving as they do in wetlands during the summer, and spruce/fir forest in winter, and northern hardwoods intermittently, moose are poised to reclaim the Adirondack Park as a stronghold.

Moose have frequently been spotted in the Raquette-Boreal Forest, Perkins Clearing, the Jessup River area, Cedar River Flow, Honnedaga Lake, West Canada Lake region, Lake Desolation, Meecham Lake to Debar in Franklin County, the Saranac Lake-Bloomington area on Route 3, and most appropriately the Moose River Plains.

The moose was extirpated from the Adirondacks in the late 1860s as a result of new settlements, disrupted habitats and

hunting. Since the mid 1980s, moose have been making their way back to the Adirondacks from neighboring areas of Vermont, New Hampshire and Canada. As a part of their Adirondack Living Landscapes Program, the Wildlife Conservation Society in Saranac Lake is conducting an Adirondack Moose Survey to better understand the population distribution and trends of the Park’s moose inhabitants. For more information, see Wildlife Conservation Society’s website, <http://www.wcs.org/international/northamerica/Adirondacks>.

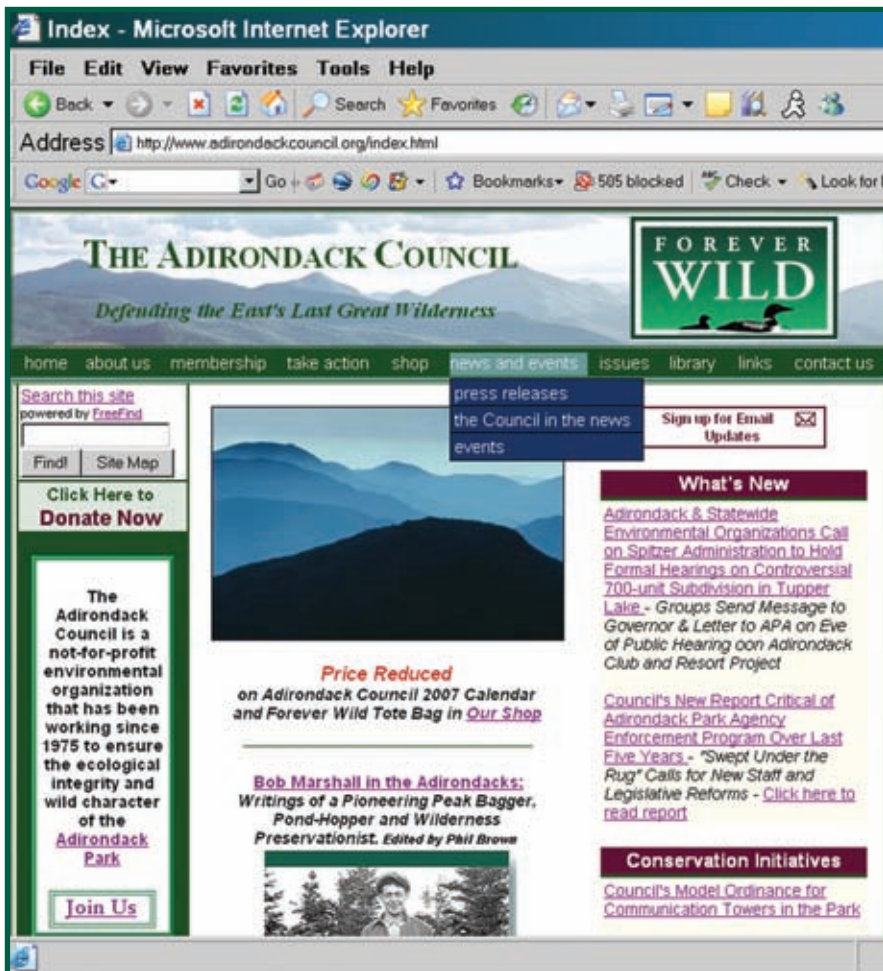
Recovery will raise important ecological and sociological questions: Would recovery of a large herbivore, the moose – with bulls weighing up to 1,400 pounds and eating up to 60 pounds per day of vegetation – without recovery of its primary predator, the wolf, disrupt regeneration of any native plants? Could coyotes, perhaps intermixed with wolf genes grow to fill the important top predators’ niche left vacant by eradication of wolves and cougars? Will human-induced climate change hinder or possibly even reverse moose recovery in the Northeast, as warmer temperatures and retreat of northern tree species create conditions more favorable to white-tailed deer than to moose? Would a larger deer population increase the moose’s susceptibility to the brainworm which causes Chronic Wasting Disease? Are Adirondack drivers willing to lower their speeds, or accept other limits on motor vehicle use in moose territory, during rutting season to accommodate the return of our largest post-Pleistocene native mammal?

In short, the return of the moose is reason to celebrate. The death of moose on roads is a reason to deliberate.



*Courtesy of US Fish and Wildlife*





## Visit the Adirondack Council Website

The Council's website offers information about the Adirondack Park, links to agencies and government officials, media coverage of the Council's efforts to protect the Park, a link to Adirondack news on public radio, and more. You can sign up for e-mail updates and use Good Search to donate to the Council every time you search the web. Visit our site often to keep up to date on the environmental issues facing the six-million-acre Adirondack Park. [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org).



*Patrick Sisti and Nina Schoch from the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program visit with Mark Bowie, photographer, and his wife Rushelle prior to Mark's presentation of his slideshow Adirondack Waters: Spirit of the Mountains, a companion to his new book of the same name. The free event was part of the Adirondack Council Water Initiative.*



## Come see us at the Adirondack Living Show...

At the Adirondack Sports Complex in Queensbury, NY on March 30th - April 1st. The Living Show is a Forever Wild Partner of the Adirondack Council, working with us to raise public awareness about the issues facing the Adirondack Park and the Adirondack Council's advocacy and outreach programs. The show is a celebration of camps, Adirondack art, and rustic living. With 160 exhibitors and crafts people offering a multitude of products and services including timber frames, canoes, lean-tos, art work, composting toilets and alternative energy, there is something for everyone. 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!

## New Charitable Giving Opportunity For Donors Age 70½ And Over

The new Pension Protection Act of 2006 amends the IRS code to allow tax-free contributions to charity from IRAs and Roth IRAs by individuals age 70½ and over. Charitable distributions of up to \$100,000 to a qualified charity may be made in the tax years 2006 and 2007 only. The transfer must be made directly from the IRA to the charity. If you plan on making a contribution from your IRA for charitable purposes in 2007, we hope you'll consider a gift to the Adirondack Council. Please contact Diane Fish at 877-873-2240 for information. For specific information about the provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, please consult your tax adviser or attorney.



*The Council's Director of Communications John Sheehan spends quality time with the speaker of the evening Eleanor Randolph, columnist and editorial writer with The New York Times. Eleanor entertained those present with stories about covering New York State politics for the Times.*



*Adirondack enthusiasts who are passionate about the Council's advocacy for wilderness and water, Board members Jeff Bronheim and Sarah Collum Hatfield with member Ethan Friedman at the Council's annual January gathering in NYC.*



*Board members Karen Meltzer and Ann Carmel were among a group of Council supporters enjoying each other's company at the home of John and Margot Ernst.*



*Adirondack loon spotted in Hong Kong. US Consul General to Hong Kong and Council member, James Cunningham, sports his Adirondack Council loon tie.*



# ADIRONDACK BOOKS AND MORE!

Proceeds benefit Adirondack Park conservation.



2007  
FOREVER WILD  
CALENDAR  
~~\$13~~  
\$6



**CLEAN AIR CERTIFICATE**  
For each gift of \$50, one ton of acid-rain-causing pollution is permanently retired. The recipient receives a clean air certificate in their name.



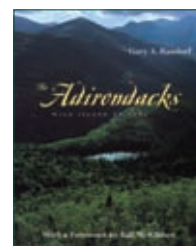
**THE ADIRONDACKS**  
*Photography and Introduction by Carl Heilman II*  
\$17



FOREVER WILD  
ORGANIC COTTON  
T-SHIRT  
S M L XL  
\$15



FOREVER WILD  
TOTE BAG  
~~\$12~~  
\$6

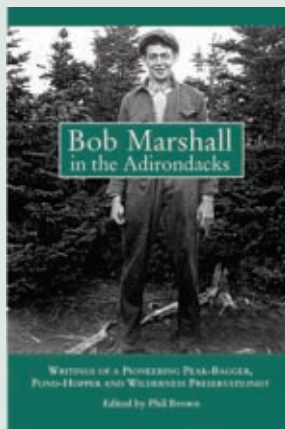


**THE ADIRONDACKS:**  
**WILD ISLAND OF HOPE**  
*Book by Gary Rando*  
\$23

**BOB MARSHALL IN THE ADIRONDACKS:**  
**Writings of a Pioneering Peak Bagger, Pond-Hopper and Wilderness Preservationist.**

**NEW!**

*Edited by Phil Brown*



*Bob Marshall in the Adirondacks* collects nearly forty writings about the Adirondacks by one of America's greatest champions of wilderness. Bob Marshall embodied the spirit of wilderness, and fought for wilderness protection throughout the United States. The writings include numerous accounts of his pioneering hikes in the High Peaks and of his explorations in the vast wild region south of Cranberry Lake, spirited defenses of the forever wild Forest Preserve, and a charming sketch of guide Herb Clark.

Hard cover, 6" x 9", 308 pages, photographs & maps. **\$25**

## It's easy to place an order!

Make your purchase on our secure website at [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org) OR download an order form and return in the enclosed envelope OR call toll-free **1.877.873.2240** M-F 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. (Visa or Mastercard)  
*Additional items are available on our website at [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org).*

## PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU PREFER

**Please complete the following and return in the envelope provided.** Your name and address are on the opposite side.

Is the amount of mail you receive from us too much? We like to keep you informed about issues facing the Park, that is why you receive Action Alerts, Updates from the Executive Director, as well as special appeals throughout the year. Let us know if you'd rather read the information online and receive one yearly renewal reminder.

- I prefer to receive a yearly renewal reminder and will read Adirondack Council news online via e-mail notices.
- I prefer to receive only publications by mail and one yearly renewal reminder.
- The amount of information I receive is just right.
- My e-mail address is \_\_\_\_\_

Please add [foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org) to your e-mail address book, "allowed sender" list or "whitelist." E-mail addresses are used solely by the Adirondack Council and are not exchanged.

- Please check if you do not want your name and address exchanged with any other organization.
- Please check if you do not wish to be called during future telephone campaigns.

*Thanks for your help!*



## Council Members' Letters Preserve Future of Bob Marshall & Boreal Wilderness Areas

Council members scored another public policy victory in the fall of 2006 when the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) revised the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan.

The draft plan proposed in the fall of 2005 was flawed by a serious omission. In an attempt to shorten a lengthy and complex document, a DEC official removed several sections from the plan and simplified several others. Among the items dropped were the state's plans to create the 73,000-acre Boreal Wilderness and a version of the Council-proposed 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness (referred to in the plan as the Oswegatchie Great Forest). Both plans were adopted in the state's first Open Space Plan in 1992 after the Adirondack Council proposed the areas as priorities for protection in 1990 in our 2020 VISION Volume II; Completing the Adirondack Wilderness System (online at [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org)).

While DEC officials said the removal of the two Wilderness plans didn't mean DEC was walking away from those proposals, Council members knew all too well that dropping them out of the plan could easily be interpreted as a lack of public interest by future administrations. In a plan that contains more than 500 pages of details on future land acquisition needs, vague reference to the two Wilderness plans would not be enough to ensure their protection.

After receiving a blizzard of public comments requesting the reinstatement of the Wilderness proposals, DEC did so and sent it to Gov. George Pataki for his signature. Pataki signed it in November 2006. Many thanks to all who wrote to DEC!



### THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

*Defending the East's Last Great Wilderness*

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