



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

SUMMER 2006

Dear Members and Friends,

When discussing our Adirondack weather these days, I have stopped using the term “global climate change” and started using “local climate change” which more appropriately conveys how this world-wide problem will have drastic impacts right here at home. In January, it was warm enough to tap sugar maples. April 2006 was the hottest April on record. This May was the wettest May ever.

These trends are worrisome. This past winter, it snowed later and melted earlier, leaving many Adirondack towns with severely diminished tourism income from snowmobiling, skiing and other winter sports. This spring, farmers had difficulty getting hay, corn and other vegetables into soggy fields and were concerned about enough dry days to allow bees to pollinate apple orchards. Fisheries scientists are reporting that many Adirondack lakes and ponds have summer temperatures in excess of 78 degrees Fahrenheit; too hot for our native brook trout to survive unless there are deep cold pockets somewhere in the water body. Some studies indicate that the Park will gradually lose its boreal forests and bogs, and emblematic trees such as the sugar maple, American beech and yellow birch, which will be lost to more southerly oaks and hickories – dimming our autumnal foliage displays.

The predictions of the 2001 New England Regional Overview prepared for the U.S. Global Change Research Program appear to be coming true, and we can expect a regional temperature increase of 6 -10 degrees Fahrenheit over this century. So what can we do?

The Adirondack Council continues to push for deep reductions in smokestack emissions of the greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide. As New York stakeholders, we are working toward the adoption of cap and trade rules defined by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, with the participation of the Northeastern States. (Please see the article on page 13.) We will also be identifying steps that we all can take at the individual, park-wide, state, and national levels to conserve energy, increase domestic renewable energy sources, and reduce overall air pollution.

Just as we did at the outset of our successful 30-year battle to stop acid rain, the Council is now embarking on a long-term effort to combat the serious threat that climate change is beginning to have on this very special place. With your support, we have made a difference in the past, and I hope we will be able to count on you in the future. Together we can fulfill our role as stewards of the Adirondacks and convey a protected Adirondack Park to future generations. Thank you.



Brian L. Houseal  
Executive Director

Cover: Whiteface Mountain is the site of a new effort undertaken by the Adirondack Council, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Audubon New York, the Olympic Regional Development Authority and a host of other environmental organizations, all of whom have joined forces to preserve the habitat of one of North America's rarest songbirds, the Bicknell's Thrush. See story on page 8. Photo by Carl Heilman II

Newsletter Photos by Adirondack Council Staff unless otherwise noted.

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## Where to Find Us

Main Office	Albany Office
P.O. Box D-2	342 Hamilton Street
103 Hand Ave.	First Floor
Elizabethtown, NY	Albany, NY 12210
12932	(518) 432-1770
(518) 873-2240	(800) 842-PARK
(877) 873-2240 toll free	

email: [info@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:info@adirondackcouncil.org)  
[www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org)

Newsletter design by Sheri Amsel



# Adirondack Council Outlines Park Priorities for Candidates

Over the last several months, Adirondack Council Board members and staff began meeting with candidates for office in this year's election, along with other interest groups and media representatives to share our vision for the future of the Adirondack Park. The Adirondack Council is non-partisan and does not endorse candidates. However, it is important that candidates understand the Council's mission and share our goals to preserve and protect the Park. The following is a portion of the message we are bringing to candidates and the media.

**Reduce Air Pollution:** While New York has taken great strides to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, pollutants that cause acid rain, much more needs to be done to reduce mercury and carbon dioxide levels. In May 2006, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced a draft regulation that will reduce emissions of mercury from New York's coal fired power plants. The Adirondack Council supports efforts to control mercury without the use of emissions trading, and will participate in the upcoming rulemaking process to improve upon the timeline for reductions.

New York is a participant in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to reduce carbon dioxide emissions related to global warming. A draft model rule that needs to be adopted by the seven member states was released in March 2006. The Adirondack Council submitted comments on the draft model rule. Once the model rule is adopted, New York must initiate its own rulemaking process to participate in the program, which begins in 2009.

The Adirondack Council also supports Legislative proposals currently under consideration that would further reduce the State's emission levels of all four of these pollutants.

**Improve Water Quality:** In 2005, the Adirondack Council embarked on the Adirondack Water Initiative to bring attention to declining water quality and work with elected officials to find practical solutions. Two major concerns are the impacts of invasive species and failing septic systems. The Invasive Species Task Force report, completed in November 2005, recommends a number of measures to help the State combat the invasives that are already here and to help prevent more from entering New York. We are also seeking \$10 million from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to help with education and eradication.

New York has also lagged behind other states in terms of inspection and upgrades of septic systems. The Adirondack Council has been working with legislative leaders on a plan to require inspections at the time of property transfer, along with providing funds necessary for any upgrades.

**Increase Open Space Protection:** The State should continue to protect Adirondack land in the future with an emphasis on consolidating Wilderness areas and protecting other fragile habitat and wild ecosystems. The EPF should be increased to \$300 million by 2009, with at least \$80-90 million for land protection.

The State's timberland tax abatement program should be updated to allow property owners to receive a local tax reduction to help preserve open space and wildlife habitat. The State should permanently and fully reimburse municipalities that lose tax revenue due to property tax abatements.

**Revitalize Local Communities:** In the Adirondack Park, stable, attractive hamlets draw development into towns and villages, not out into the more fragile countryside. But, housing stock is aging and electrical, water and sewage treatment infrastructure are inadequate. Affordable telecommunications and internet services are non-existent in most communities. Although some funding has become available through the Quality Communities program, more local planning resources and significant capital investment are needed.

**Reform Executive Agencies Within the Adirondack Park:** The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Act has not been substantially amended since it was passed in 1971. While the original protections afforded by the Act still remain, many of its weaknesses are being exploited. Stronger regulations are needed to protect shorelines, ridgelines, and restrict backcountry development. The Agency's Towers Policy must also be strengthened. The APA also needs more staffing to assist towns with local planning and to perform comprehensive planning for the Park. Additional enforcement personnel are also needed.

The Department of Environmental Conservation, which oversees the public lands of the Park, is divided into two different regions and each often have inconsistent styles of management and enforcement. The Council will advocate that DEC management in the Park be covered by a single region.



## Governor Proposes Strong Regulations for Power Plant Mercury Emissions

The Adirondack Council had been strongly urging the Governor and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to promulgate regulations to control emissions of mercury from the State's power plants for a number of years. At the end of May, the Adirondack Council was invited to join DEC Commissioner Denise Sheehan along the shore of the Great Sacandaga Lake as she announced Governor Pataki's new plan to curb mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

The new rules would require a 50-percent cut in mercury pollution (based on 2006 levels) by 2010. By 2015, the rules require a 90-percent reduction below current levels. Companies will be required to use a Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standard. That means power plant owners must employ all possible methods for reducing mercury pollution at their plants, not just the most readily available or least costly. This will reduce New York's emissions of mercury by over 1,400 pounds annually when fully implemented.

Perhaps the most important feature of the new regulations is the ban on trading of mercury pollution allowances. New York companies can't trade allowances with one another, nor can they agree to buy or sell the rights to mercury pollution with companies in other states. The current federal mercury control pro-

gram called the Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) would permit both interstate and intrastate trading of mercury allowances. The Council, along with every major environmental and public health organization in the U.S., is opposed to that program. The inadequacy of the federal program creates the need for states like New York to promulgate their own regulations to reduce mercury. In addition to not allowing trading, New York's program will also be superior because the reductions are deeper and sooner than the federal requirements.

The Adirondack Council supports the DEC's new mercury reduction proposal, as it would be effective in curbing the spread of mercury contamination in the State's waters and wildlife. The regulations will require deep cuts in mercury smokestack pollution from the massive, coal-fired plants in western New York and the Southern Tier. Other states should adopt regulations at least as stringent as the new rules announced by DEC.

The proposed regulations must be submitted to statewide public hearings and a comment period before they can become final. This program, along with similar efforts to reduce sulfur and nitrogen are expected to cost the average household electric customer less than a dollar per month combined.

Editorial  
The Lake George Mirror  
May 26, 2006

### Linking Federal Policies to Local Lakes

The Adirondacks are not so far from Washington as we sometimes think. The otherworldly cry of the loon that we hear on our lakes this time of year would appear to have little to do with policies made in the capital, but a locally-made documentary which premiered at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts on May 16 argues that such a connection does indeed exist. "Call of the Loon," written and produced by the staff of the Plattsburgh-based Mountain Lake PBS and narrated by the McNeil-Lehrer Report's Judy Woodruff, focuses upon the natural history of the common loon "as a vehicle for the tale of widespread mercury contamination in the northeastern United States," according to the film's producer and director, Anjalika Sharma. Building upon the research of the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program and scientists from Syracuse University and Maine's BioDiversity Institute, the film says 20% of all loons tested in the Adirondack Park are affected by mercury contamination. "This is a cause for concern because loon breed only once a year," said Sharma. Just before the documentary was being finished, New York State issued new advisories warning people to refrain from eating fish from twelve more Adirondack lakes. The Bush administration's approach to regulating mercury, which would let individual plants avoid clean ups by trading pollution credits, has come under fire from New York State's elected officials as well as environmental organizations like the Adirondack Council, which helped subsidize the costs of making "Call of the Loon."



*Mercury accumulates as it moves through the food chain. As consumers of larger fish, loons are especially susceptible to mercury poisoning. Scientists tracking mercury levels in loons and observing behavior have documented the impacts that mercury has on loons including impaired coordination and reduced reproduction. Photo credit: US Fish & Wildlife Service.*

Mercury is a highly toxic element that is also broken free from rock and soil by acidic water. Small amounts are also contained in the same smoke that causes acid rain. Mercury can collect in the body tissue of fish. This build-up of mercury has major health implications not only for fish, but also other species that consume them. Birds such as loons, ducks, eagles, and herons consume large quantities of fish. Mammals such as mink, otters, bears and people are also at risk.



## Vital Research Programs Sheltered from Political Winds

In the budget passed at the end of March, the Legislature included a provision which would have put two essential programs administered by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) into the State budget. This was an attempt by the Legislature to gain year-to-year control over the Authority's spending. But NYSEDA manages these programs for which multi-year funding of grants is crucial. Annual delays caused by budget debates could interrupt more than 20 years of continuously collected acid rain and mercury contamination research, as well as endanger plans to develop renewable energy systems.

However, Governor Pataki later vetoed the Legislative budget change that threatened the integrity of the two vital environmental programs. The Legislature was poised to override the Governor's veto, but the Adirondack Council, Citizens Campaign for the Environment and Audubon New York issued a joint statement calling for the veto to remain in place. State Senate Minority Leader David Paterson, along with several other Senators joined the Adirondack Council, Natural Resources Defense Council and other environmental and business interests in a press conference urging that an override vote not be taken. Soon after these actions, the NYS Legislature decided against any attempt to override the Governor's veto.

The groups asked the Legislature to leave the funding decisions for programs administered with the funding provided by the System Benefits Charge (SBC) and the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in the hands of NYSEDA. The Legislature wanted the money to go into the State's general fund where each year the Legislature would decide how and whether to spend it.

The SBC is a small fee on the electric bills of customers and is the source of funding for the State's Long-Term Monitoring Program for Evaluating Changes in Water Quality in Adirondack Lakes. Using the data collected by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (the Adirondack Council's 2006 Conservationist of the Year), this monitoring program has been a vital tool in assessing the impacts of clean air laws and regulations for over



Staff person from the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation collects samples for water testing.

20 years. Interruptions in collecting this data will call into question all of the state's research and make it that much harder to use the data to scientifically justify new regulations.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard, also a small fee on the electric bills was implemented by the Public Service Commission (PSC) to help achieve the goal to have 25 percent of New York's energy come from renewable sources by 2013. It is currently overseen by NYSEDA, PSC, and its citizens' advisory committee. Funding generated by the RPS is used to develop renewable energy technology throughout the State. The RPS and SBC provide stable and predictable funding – a critical factor underlying the success of these programs.

Two prominent statewide officials, Comptroller Alan Hevesi and Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, both issued statements calling the programs well-managed as they are currently operated. Spitzer also issued a statement calling on the Legislature to let the vetoes on the SBC and RPS stand.



The Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation was named the Adirondack Council's Conservationist of the Year for 2006 in recognition of their vital long-term research to identify the causes and impacts of acid rain. The staff (pictured) is based in Ray Brook and studies lake chemistry throughout the Adirondack Park. The award was presented at the Council's Annual Forever Wild dinner held at Great Camp Sagamore on July 8th.



The Adirondack Council honored retiring Congressman Sherwood Boehlert during the Council's Annual Forever Wild dinner festivities at Great Camp Sagamore on July 8th. Congressman Boehlert has been a champion for the natural resources of the Adirondack Park, working to reduce acid rain pollution, mercury emissions and carbon dioxide.

# Historic Increase in the Environmental Protection Fund

A deal to resolve remaining budget issues occurred on the last day of the legislative session, June 23rd. It was worth the wait for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) which will see a \$75 million increase over last year's record level.

In his Executive Budget unveiled in January, Governor Pataki proposed an increase in EPF funding to \$180 million, up from the previous year's \$150 million. This included an increase in the land acquisition category, which is used to purchase land in the Adirondack Park to protect open space and critical wildlife habitat. The Adirondack Council worked to increase funding in not only the land acquisition category, but also the land stewardship category, which is used to maintain State-owned land, and the quality communities category, which helps small municipalities plan for revitalization of hamlet and waterfront areas. The Council also supported two new categories added to the EPF for invasive species prevention and mitigation, and water quality improvement projects.

During budget negotiations in early spring, leaders and members of the Legislature, as well as the Governor, all stated that they would support a \$200 million EPF. Unfortunately, although all parties philosophically agreed on expanding the State's environmental funding, a deal was not reached before the budget deadline.

Instead, the EPF was left in limbo along with other unresolved budget issues. The other issues were points of major contention between the Legislature and the Governor, and the EPF was caught up in negotiations. The Adirondack Council worked with scores of other organizations across the state as part of a coalition called "Friends of New York's Environment." Through the coalition, about 200 organizations with diverse goals and missions join together to work for one goal – increasing environmental spending in New York State. The Council, including our members responding to an action alert, reached out to State officials to raise awareness about the importance of the EPF for ensuring the

ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park.

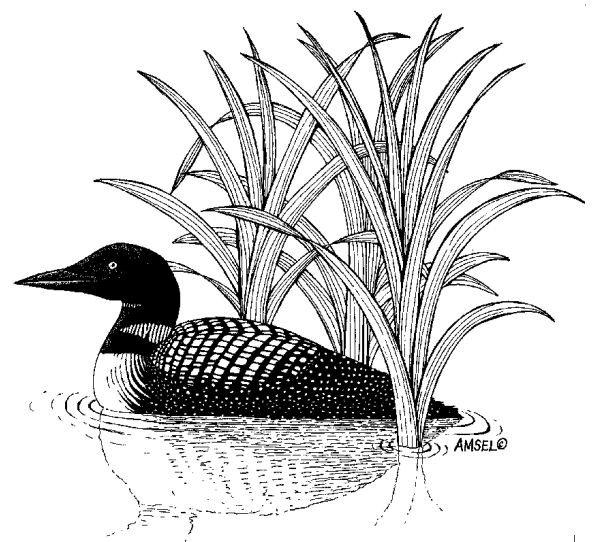
Fortunately, a deal was reached which not only funded the EPF, but increased funding beyond what the Council and the "Friends of New York's Environment" Coalition expected. The final EPF agreed upon by the Legislature and Governor was \$225 million, an increase of \$100 million from just two years ago. It included an all time high of \$50 million for land acquisition, and two new and important categories for invasive species (\$3.25 million) and water quality improvement (\$7 million).



Lows Lake primarily surrounded by Forest Preserve is part of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area in the heart of the Council's proposed Bob Marshall Great Wilderness. The State of New York recently purchased an additional 1,000 ft of shoreline using funds from the Environmental Protection Fund. Lows Lake's wilderness setting makes it a perfect location for non-motorized recreation.



Tony Pell, Brett Jordan, and Council Executive Director Brian Houseal enjoy conversation about the Adirondacks and the efforts of the Council at a spring reception in Boston hosted by Council member Ginger Lawrence.





# Adirondack Park Agency Under Attack

The New York State Senate, led by Adirondack Senator Betty Little, R-Queensbury, has been considering several pieces of legislation that would have a devastating effect on the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park if they became law.

One bill would strip the APA of its authority to enforce new regulations aimed at preventing overcrowding, water pollution and the permanent housing of recreational vehicles at the Park's 133 private campgrounds. It would explicitly prohibit the APA from promulgating or implementing any regulations or rule which is more stringent than the Department of Health's minimal standards. It would deem any such rule as being void.

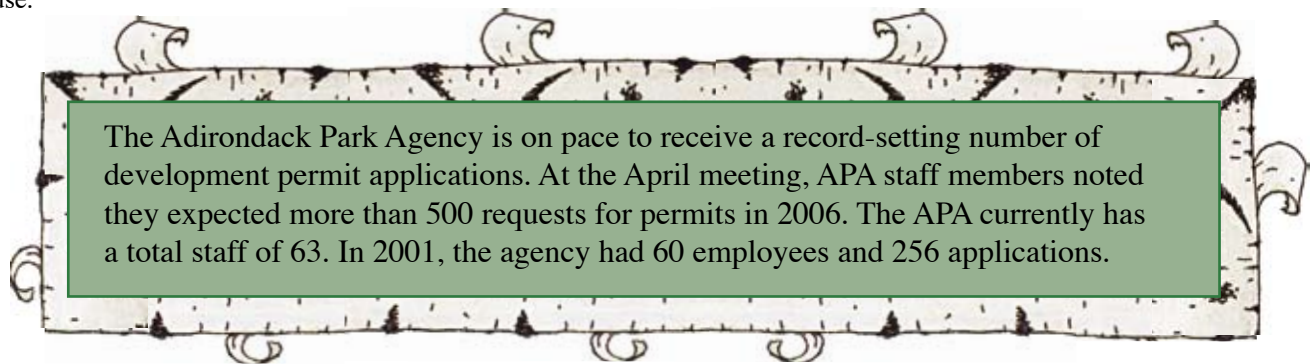
Another bill would turn over all of the development rights of land purchased by the State for open space in the Adirondacks to the local government of jurisdiction. These development rights could then be used by the municipality however they see fit. The legislation did not require the localities receiving the rights to have an APA-approved land use plan. Further, this type of transfer of the State's interest in land may be unconstitutional. Both this and the campground bill passed the full Senate after lengthy floor debates.

Yet another of Sen. Little's bills which passed through committee, but had not been acted upon by the full Senate as of this writing, was a bill which would require the APA or any other State permitting agency in the Park to take action on a permit within 30 days of a locality approving such project. This would create a situation where it would be impossible for the APA to hold hearings on a project, which can take several months to complete. This legislation would also affect the Departments of Health, Transportation and Environmental Conservation.

While all of these bills have companions in the State Assembly, to date none of these pieces of legislation have moved out of their respective committee of origin in that house.



*Improvements made to this RV parked at an Adirondack Park campground makes this seasonal campsite a permanent summer home.*



## New Conservation Tax Credit Approved



*The Adirondack Council worked with conservation partners to successfully advocate for a New York State property tax credit up to \$5,000 annually for landowners who protect their property with a conservation easement. With half of the Adirondack Park's lands in private ownership, this tax credit will help encourage landowners to keep large parcels intact to ensure the ecological integrity of their land long into the future. For more information, contact the Land Trust Alliance. [www.landtrustalliance.org](http://www.landtrustalliance.org).*



## Historic Partnership Creates Fund & Hope for Rare Songbird

What started as an argument over the details of the Olympic Regional Development Authority's (ORDA) plan for expansion at Whiteface Mountain Ski Center, near Lake Placid, has resulted in an historic partnership to save the very rare songbird threatened by the original development plan.

In 2003 and 2004, the Adirondack Council fought a plan to build a lodge on the top of Little Whiteface Mountain and to expand high-elevation ski trails at Whiteface, both of which would have had an impact on the habitat of Bicknell's Thrush.

At the Council's urging, ORDA agreed to drop the plan for the summit lodge, and said it would undertake a study of the bird's habitat on the mountain before any trail construction would begin. Now, the Council and ORDA have joined forces with a host of environmental organizations to create the Bicknell's Thrush Habitat Mitigation and Education Fund.

Joining in the creation and promotion of the fund along with ORDA and the Adirondack Council are the Adirondack Nature Conservancy, Audubon New York, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The plan includes educational displays and collection boxes at Whiteface Mountain to explain the need to preserve the Bicknell's Thrush summering range in New York and its winter range on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. Money collected there – as well as through individual efforts by the groups – will be used to preserve critical habitat on the Island of Hispaniola.

Bicknell's Thrush is one of North America's rarest songbirds. American and Canadian surveys indicate that the total population is between 21,000 and 52,000, and its habitat is at risk in both its summer and winter ranges. In the Adirondacks, the bird nests and raises offspring in stunted spruce and fir trees above 2,800 feet. The Adirondack Park provides a great protected habitat for the Bicknell's Thrush. Nearly all of the Park's mountaintops above

2,800 feet are part of the "Forever Wild" public Forest Preserve, where tree-cutting and development are banned. As a result, roughly 70,000 acres of mountaintop forest in the Adirondack Park supports a large population of Bicknell's Thrush each summer. Gov. George E. Pataki has declared all State-owned mountains above 2,800 feet to be Bird Conservation Areas, where the State will make an extra effort to protect vital habitat.

About 90 percent of the global population of Bicknell's Thrush winters on Hispaniola, which contains the nations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In Haiti, mountaintop forests are disappearing rapidly. While the Dominican Republic has established several national parks to protect portions of the birds' wintering grounds, other mountaintops remain vulnerable to deforestation and development. Together, the group will sponsor a fundraising and education effort centered at the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center. ORDA will erect educational displays about the bird and the fund. Although Whiteface is on the Forest Preserve, a constitutional amendment allows ORDA to operate the ski center.

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS), which has spearheaded studies of Bicknell's Thrush in the Dominican Republic and Haiti since 1994, originally proposed the idea of a winter habitat mitigation fund in its report to ORDA.

With this project, ORDA is nearing the end of its authorized trail expansions at Whiteface. A total of 25 miles of trails was authorized under the Constitutional Amendment that allowed the initial construction of the ski area. The new expansion would bring the actual total mileage to more than 24.

The specific structure and host agency of the Bicknell's Thrush Habitat Mitigation and Education Fund is still being determined. The details will follow on our website and in future publications, for those who wish to contribute.



Photo by T.B. Ryder/VINS



# Adirondack Club and Resort

Preserve Associates are proposing to develop the former Big Tupper Ski Area into the “Adirondack Club and Resort.” The development will cover 6,400 acres including the Oval Wood Dish (OWD) lands, existing ski slope, and local marina. Over 700 living units including more than 25 “great camp lots” of 50+ acres are planned, making the project one of the largest real estate development schemes ever to come before the Adirondack Park Agency for approval.

The Council firmly supports Tupper Lake’s desire to reopen the ski area, encourage economic development in the village, and maintain its working forests. But the Council, local leaders and other environmental groups believe that the project must be scaled down if it is to be approved. The Council’s principal concerns with the development include: fragmentation of the backcountry and disruption of wildlife habitat, potential decline in water quality, and visual impacts of upland development. The Council will request that the developers make the following changes:

- **Prevent backcountry fragmentation:** The great camp lots will fragment the OWD lands with additional roads and houses. Recent studies by the Wildlife Conservation Society list the negative impacts of rural sprawl in the Adirondacks and the need to reduce the cumulative impacts of these subdivisions across the entire Park. Acquiring lands or conservation easements on the OWD property would keep the backcountry intact and could permit the traditional hunting and fishing camps that generations of local residents have enjoyed.

- **Reduce upland development on the ski slope:** Over 700 residences are planned near the ski area on the steep slopes and shallow soils of Mt. Morris. This high number of units will require the removal of hundreds of acres of trees, increase soil erosion, and reduce water quality in nearby lakes. The units will be highly visible during both day and night for miles.

- **Lease the ski slope to ORDA:** The developer claims so many living units are needed to subsidize the operation of the ski slope, and unless the great camps lots are sold first, there will not be

enough funds to restore the slope and generate revenues for the extension of roads, water and sewage utilities. The Village and Town of Tupper Lake and our State Legislators could expand the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) mandate to manage the ski area under a long-term lease agreement. Just as ORDA subsidizes Whiteface and Gore, Tupper could be a third ORDA attraction, similar to the arrangement with the Town of Johnsbury, which leases the town-owned slopes adjacent to Gore to ORDA.

- **Preserve Associates should pay for “leapfrog development:”**

Other rural municipalities are dealing with similar developments as mountainside subdivisions spread around the Great Smokey Mountains National Park, Shenandoah National Forest and western parks in the U.S. Local communities are increasingly requiring developers to pay the full cost for additional water supplies, sewage treatment, roads, electricity, etc. without any public financing. Preserve Associates are negotiating with the Town regarding infrastructure bonds; this may expose Tupper Lake to future financial liabilities. Instead, the Town should require the developer to pay for needed infrastructure upgrades to protect existing residents from large tax increases which would be needed to pay for the project if it defaults.

- **Focus new development in the Village of Tupper Lake:**

Preserve Associates state that the proposed development will generate new business for the Village of Tupper Lake. Any further development should be focused closer to the Village, where infrastructure and services already exist, and proximity would provide more opportunity to support village businesses.

Simply stated, the Preserve Associates’ proposal is a real estate speculation scheme that will damage the ecological integrity and wild character of the Park. Tupper Lake has better options for reopening its ski area and attracting economic development to the Village than this project offers. Many North Country economic development organizations are capable of working in partnership with the town to upgrade local lodging, restaurants and community housing located in, and directly benefiting, Tupper Lake.



*South Bay of Lake Simond looking up at proposed project lands. The Adirondack Council is concerned about backcountry fragmentation, upland development, water quality, and wildlife impact. Photo by Gloria & Patrick Orton.*





# Village of Tupper Lake

**PROPOSED OPEN SPACE**  
 NO INTERIOR DEVELOPMENT  
 PROPOSED  
 APPROPRIATE RECREATIONAL  
 TRAILS UTILIZE EXISTING LOTS AND  
 RUNDOW WHERE POSSIBLE

**PROPOSED OPEN SPACE**  
 NO INTERIOR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED  
 APPROPRIATE RECREATIONAL TRAILS UTILIZE EXISTING LOTS AND RUNDOW WHERE POSSIBLE  
 REVISIONS: PLEASE SEE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**WILD AIR**  
 DETACHED SINGLE FAMILY HOMES  
 -LOT SIZES RANGING FROM 8 TO 9 ACRES  
 PROPOSED SITE ACCESS POINT

# Lake Simond

**QUILT CREEK COTTAGE**  
 COTTAGE BARRICADE IN APPROXIMATE  
 CENTER OF 10-ACRE DEVELOPMENT TO 4-ACRE ENVELOPE. WILL  
 LIMIT NUMBER OF POSSIBLE BUILDINGS.  
 RETAIN LST. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPER WILL BASED ON  
 ACCESS, UTILIZATION AND NATURAL FEATURES.  
 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IS RESTRICTED TO DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPEN  
 SPACE, RESTORATION AND FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN. PRESERVE  
 INTEGRITY AND CHARACTER OF EXISTING FOREST. PRESERVE  
 OPEN SPACE AND UTILIZE EXISTING OPEN SPACE WHERE POSSIBLE TO  
 MINIMIZE DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS.

**ORVIS SPORTING FACILITY**  
 ORVIS LODGE  
 SHOOTING SCHOOL  
 SHOOTING CLAY COURSE

**TOP RIDGE**  
 DETACHED SINGLE FAMILY HOMES  
 MOST BEHIND  
 1.5 TO 2 ACRES RANGING FROM 1.5 ACRES TO 2.5 ACRES  
 MUST PROVIDE OPEN VIEWS OF TUPPER LAKE AND  
 THE SURROUNDING ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS

**PINE KNOT**  
 CONTEMPORARY SINGLE HOMES

**THE CEDARS**  
 CONTEMPORARY SINGLE HOMES

**BU WITH BASE AREA AND LODGE COMPLEX**  
 AREA OF 10 ACRES AND 10 BUILDINGS IS BEING DESIGNATED AND  
 DESIGNED TO INCLUDE AN ADIRONDACK "BUNK CAMP"  
 EQUIPMENT OF INTERESTS INCLUDING CONNECTION WITH  
 CONVENTION CENTER  
 -FOUNDING DESIGNED TO BE VISITABLE PUBLIC  
 PRESERVE OPEN SPACE  
 PROPOSED PARKING AREA, TRAILS, PICKET LINE CIRCULAR  
 PROGRAM & BUNK CAMP  
 NEW BASE LODGE / CLUB HOUSE RESTAURANT  
 TRAIL, MULTIPLE TRAILS, TRAIL  
 AND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR, TRAIL, SERVICES

**JAMES ELLISON RESIDENCE**  
 IMPLANTATION POINT AND OFFICE  
 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  
 VISITING CENTER, AND 100 TRAILS  
 SPA SERVICES  
 ACCESS TO THE GREAT 100-ACRE TRAIL  
 TRAIL, TRAIL, TRAIL, TRAIL  
 TRAIL, TRAIL, TRAIL, TRAIL  
 TRAIL, TRAIL, TRAIL, TRAIL

**ECHO POINT**  
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## THE ADIRONDACK CLUB AN ORVIS SPORTING LIFESTYLE COMMUNITY

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### Master Plan

SCALE: 1"=1000'

DATE: Feb. 2006



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# Forest Habitat Connectivity

Vast contiguous forests once stretched across eastern North America, punctuated by lakes, wetlands, and crags generally allowing the myriad of creatures that evolved with forests to move about under safety of cover.

Sadly, much of these forests were cleared a century and more ago. Fortunately, many of them have partially grown back, to the benefit of once-extirpated species like the moose, fisher, and bald eagle. But now, many of these recovering forests are under siege from developers and liquidation loggers, who are rapidly fragmenting the forest matrix.

Habitat fragmentation has many harmful consequences, including diminishment of cover for species, invasion by exotic species, alteration of micro-climates, disruption of predator-prey relationships, and disturbance of hydrological cycles of water bodies.

Thanks to the foresight of New Yorkers before us, the Adirondack Park is blessed with a greater degree of habitat connectivity than any other region in eastern North America south of Canada. Roughly, the Park has about 2.5 million acres of core reserves (mostly State-owned Forest Preserve) partly buffered by about a half million acres of easement lands (most of which permit continued logging and associated roads but preclude development). However, much of the habitat connectivity we enjoy is in peril, as half of our Park lacks adequate protection from backcountry housing and road developments and motorized off-road vehicles. Only wildlands that are composed of tens of millions of acres in size can retain their ecological integrity over the long term if isolated from other natural areas. Unfortunately, the Adirondack Park, as presently constituted, is too broken apart from other wildlands.

The task of restoring and maintaining habitat connectivity

and ecological integrity in the Adirondacks is ultimately inseparable from protecting wild habitat across the larger Northern Appalachians/Acadia Ecoregion. This area spans from the Tug Hill Plateau across the Adirondacks to New England and Canada's Eastern Provinces to the Gaspé Peninsula.

In order to restore and maintain habitat connectivity throughout these regions, action is needed.

First, the Adirondack Park must have stronger protection on all of its open space. This includes fee acquisition for incorporation into the Forest Preserve; conservation easements with ecologically-minded language, such as broad no-cut buffers near water bodies; amending the Adirondack Park Agency Act to allow for more restrictive development measures on the 3 million acres of privately owned back-country in the Park.

Second, key wildlife movement corridors within the Park should be identified and protected. Protecting the key links may involve acquisitions and easements, but also underpasses and overpasses allowing wild animals to cross roads safely. On public lands where politically feasible and socially acceptable, partial or complete road closures may be necessary.

Finally, landscape linkages between the Adirondacks and wildlands outside the Park need to be identified and protected. These landscape linkages, are urgently needed as local, regional, and global climate change forces species to move upward in elevation or northward in latitude.

Just as Maine can anchor a wildlands network on the east, the Adirondack Park and Tug Hill Plateau can do so on the west; but such a viable network depends on much work to weave back together the biological fabric of our region. The Adirondack Council looks forward to meeting this challenge by working with fellow conservation organizations.



This map, adapted from *Two Countries One Forest (2CIF)* literature, shows key landscape linkages. Efforts are beginning to protect habitat connectivity across these linkages.



## Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Advances

In May, the Adirondack Council submitted comments on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Draft Model Rule, which is an integral step in protecting the Park's resources from severe changes in climate (see inside front cover). The Council is pleased to be working with Gov. George Pataki on the RGGI, which will be the first regional greenhouse gas reduction program in the United States.

In 2003, Governor Pataki invited governors from across the northeast to join in forming the RGGI. ([www.rggi.org](http://www.rggi.org)) The goal was to develop a trading system for carbon dioxide emissions, similar to the trading system currently in place for sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, in order to reduce emissions throughout the region. RGGI now has participation from seven northeastern states; Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont. Three other states, the District of Columbia, and two Canadian provinces are observing the process and considering future participation. In addition, Maryland lawmakers have passed legislation which will require their state to become a full participant in the process by 2007.

The goal of RGGI is not only to design a trading system for the northeast region, but to develop a system that could be expanded to other regions or nationwide. Work to ensure the RGGI will be implemented by the target date is progressing. The Draft Model Rule, which all states will use to implement the RGGI in their respective state, was released to the public in March 2006. The Adirondack Council submitted comments on the Draft Model Rule to the RGGI Staff Working Group during the public comment period. As a member of the statewide stakeholder process, the Adirondack Council will continue to encourage the Department of Environmental Conservation to move forward with the program and advocate for the deepest cuts on the shortest timelines possible. The program is calling for a 10 percent reduction of carbon emissions by 2019 from the current level. Once the Model Rule is adopted, which is expected to happen late summer 2006, each state's regulatory process will begin. During this process the public will be able to comment, and we will be urging our members to do so.

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## Dillon Park: Backcountry Destination for People with Disabilities

In April 2004, International Paper (IP) donated a 15,800-acre conservation easement to the State of New York in the Town of Long Lake. A portion of this property was opened in June of this year by IP and Paul Smith's College as the first area of its kind in the nation designed specifically for people with disabilities. John Dillon Park, named after the retired Chairman and CEO of IP, gives people with special needs an opportunity to enjoy a unique wildlands experience. Accessible trails, lean-tos and even solar collectors that can charge electric powered wheelchairs make it safe and convenient for people with disabilities to spend time in the woods. Paul Smith's College is responsible for the promotion, operation and maintenance of the park; and its students gain hands-on experience assisting people with disabilities.

Initially, the IP Foundation provided the college with a \$100,000 grant to support the planning and design of the facilities at John Dillon Park. Also, IP initiated a fundraising campaign to establish a \$1.5 million endowment for ongoing support of Paul Smith's operation at the park and \$1.5 million to complete the project.

For more information on John Dillon Park, please visit [www.johndillonpark.org](http://www.johndillonpark.org).



*Accessible lean-tos, as seen here, are a feature at Dillon Park that makes it easier for people with disabilities to enjoy a unique outdoors experience.*



*Council supporters toured New York galleries featuring Hudson River School painters and enjoyed a reception hosted by members Alyson and Douglas Schultz. The evening focused on the sublime beauty of the Adirondacks and the Council's efforts to protect historic scenic landscapes such as Pilot Knob, a favorite subject of artists and the proposed site for Nextel/Sprint's fake-pine tree cell tower.*

## American Beaver An Aquatic Keystone

The American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) is not only emblematic of our Adirondack forests and waters and the New York State mammal, this largest of the North American rodents is also crucial to ecological integrity across our region. Known by conservation biologists as a keystone species, or less poetically, as a strongly interactive species, the American Beaver creates ponds and openings in the forest that benefit insects, amphibians, birds, plants, and large mammals. As with other keystone species, the beaver wields an influence in its native ecosystems far out of proportion to its numbers.

Nonetheless, its numbers were once great. Before colonialization, an estimated 60 million beaver graced our continent, and punctuated our vibrant waterways from coast to coast. By the 1930s, beavers were nearly trapped into extinction. Since protective measures were put in place early in the 20th century and beaver were reintroduced, this master landscaper and builder has reclaimed much of its original range. Population numbers are probably still below natural levels so conservationists' and biologists' vigilance is still needed. When beavers are extirpated from an area, biological diversity, ecological integrity, and water storage and filtration are diminished.

Beavers are highly social mammals, generally living in family groups, or colonies. Kits may stay with their parents to help with the next year's young, but usually set out on their own around age two, seeking a new stretch of water. During dispersal, beavers are vulnerable to natural predators, such

as wolves, coyote, bobcat, and bears. Sadly, traveling beavers are also susceptible to the automobile as they try to cross roads in

search of new water courses.

The Adirondack Council, through our Water Initiative and our ongoing efforts to keep wildlands intact, is working to keep the Adirondack Park and the larger Northern Appalachian/Acadian Ecoregion a secure homeland for the beaver. The surest way to keep beavers safe is to keep large roadless areas intact. The Adirondack Council has advocated for beavers in various communi-

cations with State agencies, including our comments on the Split Rock Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, where we urged that beavers at Webb Royce Swamp be protected. We have also worked with the Northeast Wilderness Trust and Eddy Foundation to protect a key piece of land downstream of Webb Royce, where beavers may safely re-colonize the swamp.

For all of us who love the Adirondacks, a defining experience is to be sitting by a quiet pond or lake at sunset. A pair of loons paddles slowly by, occasionally accentuating the frogs' and

thrushes' chorus with that most famous of northern cries. Dragonflies dart about, taking many of the mosquitoes that would take us. As some large quadruped crunches hidden through the undergrowth toward the pond, a heron jumps aloft from the shallows, a burly beaver slaps its tail in warning, and you know this is a time to be cherished and a place to be saved.



*Beaver Lodge*



*American Beaver. Photo by Leonard Rue (Rue Enterprises).*



## APA Waves at Wind Power Test Tower

Disregarding the objections of the Adirondack Council, Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, its own staff and others, the Adirondack Park Agency Board of Commissioners in May gave a commercial developer permission for a second meteorological test tower at the top of Pete Gay Peak near North Creek, Warren County.

The company has been promoting a 10-turbine wind tower farm on Pete Gay, a 2,900-foot ridge next to Gore Mountain, for two years. During that time, they have been collecting wind data from a test tower. The Council and APA staff argued that the company should have enough data to be able to declare its final intentions for the site by now. Agency staff had recommended that the Commissioners either hold a public hearing or require the developers to disclose the details of the full development plan before issuing any more permits related to the project. The Commissioners refused to exercise this precaution.

The final project would involve clear cutting several acres of trees in an area that is considered habitat for the Bicknell's Thrush and Swainson's Thrush. Both are rare songbirds that nest and breed in the Adirondacks.

During the APA deliberations in May, Chairman Ross Whaley went so far as to propose that the applicant receive a permit for the new 100-foot tall meteorological tower without bringing the details before the Board of Commissioners. None of the other Commissioners agreed.

The Council supports the State's plans to develop alternative and renewable energy sources, including wind power, solar power and biomass. The Council has deep concerns, however, over the construction of commercial wind towers of any type on Adirondack mountain peaks, especially those containing habitat for rare, threatened and endangered wildlife.

At the same time, advances in turbine designs and increases in fossil fuel prices have made small, residence-based wind power options more attractive as an investment, while also making them less obtrusive in terms of noise, visibility and their potential impact on bats and birds. The Council will examine residential wind tower proposal in the Park on an individual basis to ensure that the project meets the APA tower policy and does not harm the aesthetic and natural resources of the Adirondacks.

## Constitutional Amendment to Prevent Habitat Destruction Passes Legislature

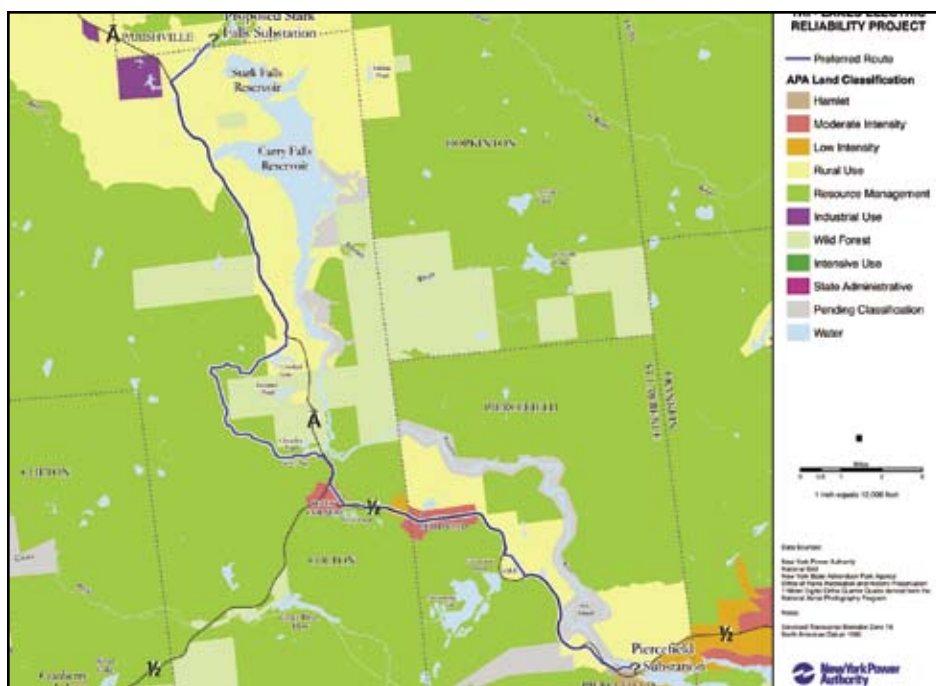
Against the advice of the Adirondack Council and others, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) gave the New York Power Authority (NYPA) a permit to construct a new power line in the western Adirondack Park in March 2006, without the benefit of a public hearing. The line, called the Tri-Lakes Reliability Project, would bring additional and more reliable power to the municipalities including Lake Placid and Tupper Lake through a new 46 kV line.

Fortunately, soon after they received the permit, NYPA officials agreed to meet with the groups to discuss an alternative which would keep the power line along the Route 56 road corridor, and avoid a "bump out" to route the line around Forest Preserve lands. This would have required extensive cutting and clearing of boreal habitat, the taking of private land, and impacting of wetlands. The meetings yielded a solution which would protect ecologically sensitive areas and allow the power line to be constructed.

The solution was a constitutional amendment which would authorize a "land swap" between National Grid (NYPA's corporate partner on the Tri-Lakes project) and New York State. National Grid will receive no more than six acres of Forest Preserve land to ensure the line follows Route 56. In exchange, the company will be required to give at least ten acres of land back to the Forest Preserve somewhere in St. Lawrence County. The amendment will mean not only a net benefit to the Forest Preserve due to an increase in acreage, but also protection of high quality boreal habitat and wetlands. The Council, NYPA and other groups met with Senator Betty Little and Assembly Environmental Conservation Chair Thomas

DiNapoli, both of whom agreed to sponsor the constitutional amendment in their respective houses. Since the agreement was reached close to the end of session, a great deal of work had to be done to ensure the amendment was passed. The Council worked to expand the coalition of organizations supporting the amendment. The hard work of the groups, NYPA, and the sponsors paid off. During the final days of the legislative session, the amendment passed in both houses.

As with all constitutional amendments, this measure will need to be passed once again next session, by a separately elected Legislature. Following second passage, the amendment will be put on the statewide ballot, where it will need to be approved by voters across New York.





*Kelly Lawrence, Tiverton McClintock, Zander Packard, and Eloise Lawrence were among the enthusiastic group of Council supporters to gather in Boston for discussion about the Adirondack Park and current advocacy and outreach efforts of the Adirondack Council.*



*Legislative Director Scott Lorey, left, and Legislative Associate Jessica Ottney, right, congratulate Kevin Wedrychowicz, center, this spring's Clarence Petty Intern working in the Council's Albany office. Kevin received the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany's Outstanding Internship Award presented by the Department of Political Science. Kevin was given this recognition for his research involving ATVs and mercury emissions while at the Adirondack Council.*



*Laurence Meltzer and Council Board Chair Tricia Winterer enjoy a visit during a Council event hosted by Alyson and Douglas Schultz in New York. The evening's activities and discussion focused on the cultural and historical value of Adirondack scenic landscapes, and the Adirondack Council's efforts to improve the Adirondack Park Agency's tower policy to ensure the least intrusive siting of communications towers in the Park.*



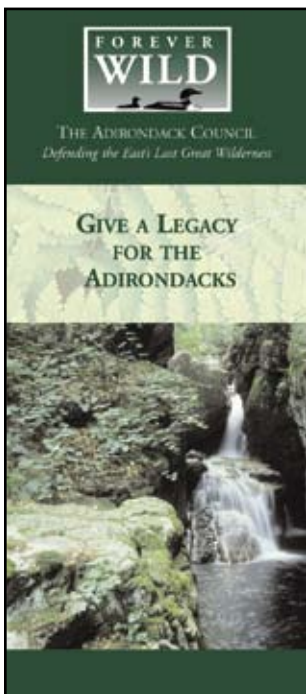
Thanks to our Forever Wild Partners for supporting our outreach efforts to inform residents and visitors about the Council's efforts to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park.

- Adirondack Farmers' Cooperative
- Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts
- Adirondack Living Show
- Adirondack Theatre Festival
- Arts Center/Old Forge
- Atea Ring Gallery
- Brant Lake Camp
- Camp Treetops
- Depot Theatre
- Elk Lake Lodge
- Essex Theatre Company
- Lake Placid Center for the Arts
- The Lodge on Lake Clear
- Minnbrook Conference Center
- Old Adirondack
- Pendragon Theatre
- Silver Bay Association
- Snowy Mountain Inn
- The Wawbeek Resort



## Council Intern Named Conservation Assistant

**E**rika Edgley joined the Council as a Conservation intern in March, 2006 and has been working with Conservation Director John Davis to research and monitor projects throughout the Park. As of July 1, 2006, Erika will join the Council as a Conservation Assistant and work with John Davis in a time when an unprecedented number of private land projects and public land management plans are being submitted for review and approval. She is a 6th generation Adirondacker who grew up on her family's potato farm in Lake Placid. Erika graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2005, earning a BA in Journalism with an emphasis in Photojournalism. Erika moved back to Lake Placid after completing school and worked as an editorial intern at ADIRONDACK LIFE magazine the following summer. Her passion for and explorations of the rivers, mountains and woods of the Adirondacks were the roots in her decision to move back east. Doing conservation work in the Adirondacks is particularly important to her since it is the place she has lived, learned from and loved all her life. Her hobbies include nordic skiing, biking, running, waterfall-swimming, playing with her dog, Hazel, and photography.



## Join the Adirondack Legacy Society

Any estate gift amount is greatly appreciated and benefits the Council. All estate gifts are pooled in our Forever Wild Fund, an operating endowment that is only used for special projects and extraordinary circumstances with approval from the Board of Directors. The impact of any gift will be magnified when combined with other bequests, creating a lasting legacy for Adirondack Park protection. You can continue your commitment to protecting the Adirondacks after your lifetime with a legacy gift. Your financial or legal advisor can guide you through the various options in order to make arrangements that consider your individual circumstances, your family needs and your charitable goals. When you provide the Council with a legacy gift, you can choose to be recognized as a member of the Council's Adirondack Legacy Society. For more information, contact Diane Fish, Director of Fund Development, 877-873-2240.



*A family of herons spotted in June nesting above the Chubb River in Lake Placid.*

## Meet The Council's Clarence Petty Interns!

This summer, three Clarence Petty Interns will represent the Council at events throughout the Park, and provide conservation and membership support in the Elizabethtown office.

Growing up in Piercfield, NY has made **Katie Buckley** appreciative of her natural surroundings and the opportunities the area offers. In May, she graduated from Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY, with degrees in Political Science and Business and Technology Management with a concentration in International Business. Katie is an avid snowboarder and enjoys many other outdoor activities such as swimming, wake boarding, biking, roller-blading, hiking, and just spending time outside, especially at her family's camp on the Raquette River. She is looking forward to spending her summer exploring more of the Adirondack Park and talking to residents about pertinent issues. In the fall she hopes to continue her career in the area of Environmental Policy.

**Julie McNamara** grew up in Chappaqua, NY. She graduated from Horace Greeley High School in 2005 and just completed her first year at Williams College, where she is considering a possible major in biology. As a frequent summer visitor to the Adirondack Park, Julie enjoys taking advantage of all it has to offer through her running, biking, and hiking. She is hoping that her internship this summer will help to both further educate herself as well as the public on the issues that are key to preserving the Park's natural wonders.

**David Renninger**, a native of Bryn Mawr, PA, just completed his junior year at Connecticut College with a major in English, focusing on Creative Writing. He enjoys soccer, squash and martial arts. David has spent every summer of his life in Lake Placid and hopes to learn more about conservation in the Adirondack Park through his Council internship. Becoming a 46'er is one of his life's goals. "The effort required to maintain the Adirondack Park has increased exponentially over the last decade especially, and now that I have the age and experience in life to understand what needs to be done, I revel in the opportunity to help preserve the place I have learned to love so much."

The Clarence Petty Internship Program offers college and post-graduate students an opportunity to work with Council staff in our Elizabethtown or Albany offices to gain first hand experience in the not-for-profit environmental field. In the past, students have provided research on conservation or policy issues, public outreach, and marketing and membership support. The timeframe and content of internships can be structured to meet student needs. A stipend is provided. Interested students should send a cover letter and resume to Susan Hughes by e-mail at [shughes@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:shughes@adirondackcouncil.org).

The Clarence Petty Internship Program is generously supported by the Henry Uihlein II and Mildred A. Uihlein Foundation, Carrie S. Camp Foundation, and the Eastman Charitable Foundation. In addition, donors are helping the Council build the Clarence Petty Internship Fund at the Adirondack Community Trust in order to provide long-term support for the internship program. For more information on contributing to the Clarence Petty Internship Fund, please contact Diane Fish at 877-873-2240 (toll-free) or [dfish@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:dfish@adirondackcouncil.org).



*Clarence Petty Interns David Renninger, Katie Buckley, and Julie McNamara.*

### Our Mission

The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. Founded in 1975, the Council is a privately funded, not-for-profit organization.

The Adirondack Council has proven itself again and again as the first line of defense for the Forever Wild Clause of the New York State Constitution, using strategies that include educating, advocating, monitoring and legal action.

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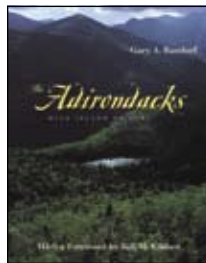
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We like to keep you informed about issues facing the Park. That is why  
 you receive Action Alerts, Updates from the Executive Director, as well  
 as special appeals throughout the year. We don't want you to receive  
 more mail than you wish so please let us know if you prefer to receive  
 only publications and one yearly renewal reminder. You can let us know  
 your preference by contacting us at [info@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:info@adirondackcouncil.org).

# Come see us at the Adirondack Living Show

**H**eld at the Lake George Forum in Lake George, NY on August 18, 19, and 20. 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-to's, 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!



## THE Adirondack Living SHOW™

*A celebration of camps, Adirondack art, & rustic living*

### Adirondack Council Expanding Electronic Communications

The Council is launching a variety of electronic communications in response to member requests, and to inform and engage our members more quickly and effectively. Adirondack Council E-News, Action Alerts requesting letters, fax and phone calls to policy makers, and brief updates on Park issues will all be options you can choose. Please help us get the most out of this new program by sending us your up-to-date e-mail address at [foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org).



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