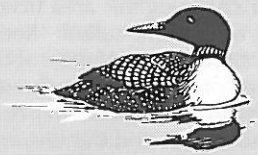




The Adirondack Council NEWSLETTER



to keep supporters informed of our activities

Vol. I

November 1977

No. 1

THANK YOU Supporters and Contributors

Since The Adirondack Council was formed in 1975, very few of the Council's supporters and contributors have been thanked. Although it is long overdue, we would like to take this opportunity to let you know we are most thankful and appreciative for the moral and financial support many of you have generously given. The Council could not exist without you and it is hoped that you can continue your support in the months ahead. As time goes on the issues that are resolved seem to be replaced by a greater number of new issues, and how many the Council can become involved in is partially dependent upon its financial status. Contributions should still be made out to: National Audubon Society-Adirondack Fund, and yes, they are tax deductible. Please send contributions to:

The Adirondack Council
Box 188
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

We hope also that you will communicate any ideas and suggestions you may have to help the Council better fulfill its mission.



New Appointments and Reorganization

At the May 25 meeting of the Council a resolution was adopted expressing deep respect and gratitude to Courtney Jones for his very successful role as past Chairman of the Council, and accepting with regret Courtney's decision to resign. With great energy and zeal Courtney's efforts have furthered the protection of the Adirondacks and have enhanced the quality of both public and private decisions affecting the Adirondack environment.

Courtney has been replaced by Harold A. Jerry, Jr., former Executive Director of the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks and presently a Commissioner for the Public Service Commission. Additionally, the Council has three new board members: Richard W. Lawrence, Jr., former Chairman of the Adirondack Park Agency; Clarence A. Petty, former Forest Preserve Specialist on the Adirondack Park Agency staff; and James Marshall, attorney, and Council member of the Wilderness Society. In August, The Adirondack Council appointed Gary A. Randorf as its first full-time, salaried, Executive Director. Gary, former natural resource planner and naturalist on the Adirondack Park Agency staff, now occupies the Council's new office in Elizabethtown.



A Giant Step Backward - Almost

The Harris/Stafford Bill (A. 1963 - S. 1569), a bill to abolish the Adirondack Park Agency, was passed by the Senate during the 1977 session. The present Agency would have been replaced by a

commission overweighted with local representation, including seven Park resident members that would be appointed by the Governor from a list compiled by the chairmen of the twelve Adirondack county legislative bodies. Upsetting the balance of the Agency in this manner would have clearly been unwarranted since approximately 38% of Adirondack Park land is state owned with an additional 37% owned by individuals or corporations residing outside the Adirondack Park blue line. To many, the bill would effectively destroy sound regional land use planning and regulation in the Adirondack Park because the new commission would also administer a much less restrictive body of controls.

Fortunately, Chairman Oliver Koppel of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, was determined that the bill would not get out of his committee for a full floor vote.

The major problem anticipated is that because of Senate passage the opponents of the Adirondack Park Agency will undoubtedly double their efforts in the hope of gaining a more decisive victory next year. Though some people doubt the opponents will be successful, it is a shame that so much energy is wasted each year by all factions in this recurring legislative battle, when the energy could be channeled into positive programs for the Adirondack Park and its people.

Please note the vote summary on page 4 to see how your Senator voted on the Harris/Stafford Bill. If your Senator voted yes perhaps you will join others of us who have expressed displeasure with such an irresponsible vote. Our legislators would do better to come up with ways and means to make the state's Adirondack program more palatable to Park residents by advancing such things as compatible economic development and real property tax reform.



Appointment Recommendations

It is essential that The Adirondack Council make timely recommendations when vacancies occur on the Adirondack Park Agency or on other bodies involved with Adirondack Park programs. In early summer '77, Chairman Harold Jerry and Courtney Jones corresponded with Secretary of State Mario Cuomo, recommending several qualified candidates to replace two Adirondack Park Agency members whose terms had expired. Later in the summer Messrs. Jerry and Jones met with Judith Hope, the Governor's Appointments Officer, to make specific recommendations for Park Agency appointments and also recommended a highly qualified individual to sit on the Governor's newly formed Real Property Tax Commission. As of this date the Governor has not yet acted to fill these positions.



A "Campground" and a New Classification Proposed for Lower Saranac Lake

In early summer of 1977, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) began to charge campers a fee to use campsites on the islands and shoreline of Lower Saranac Lake. Shortly

thereafter the DEC petitioned the Adirondack Park Agency to consider changing this area from Wild Forest to a more intensive use type area to be called "Recreation Area." At the time the DEC was already in violation of the State Land Master Plan by having placed picnic tables on the sites and by continuing to provide and maintain permanent fireplaces. Allegedly, DEC felt a change in classification and the levying of a fee were necessary to control the great number of campers using these sites (no statistics to prove this has been forthcoming), and to provide funds for the proper management and maintenance to the area.

The Adirondack Council has taken exception to this by reasoning that the character of the land and its use fits the Wild Forest definition if docks, fireplaces and picnic tables were to be removed. Campsites are now dispersed and should be kept primitive with movable fire rings (circle of stones) and without picnic tables. Studies by Anne LaBastille, APA member and wildlife ecologist, have shown that this generally fragile area can never accept a substantial increase in the number of sites and users without serious environmental degradation. Provision of sophisticated facilities may serve to attract additional users, exacerbating the problem the DEC is seeking to solve.

If a permit and fee system is necessary it can be imposed under the existing Wild Forest classification, although charging a fee to camp in this particular area should be discontinued until DEC addresses the whole question of the need and desirability of requiring users of the Forest Preserve to pay a fee.

On two occasions the Council has sent resolutions to Commissioner Berle of the DEC and Robert Flacke, Chairman of APA, urging the DEC to return this area to conformity with the Wild Forest provisions of the State Land Master Plan and to discontinue charging a fee.

In late September the Chairman and Executive Director of the Council again reiterated the Council's position on the Lower Saranac Lake situation at a conference on the State Land Master Plan, chaired by Commissioner Peter Paine of APA and Deputy Commissioner Theodore Hullar of the DEC. The Park Agency's summary comments on the conference state that "the concept of a new recreation area is not agreeable to those present. Our staff will explore the possibilities of changing existing intensive use areas to Wild Forest at certain DEC campsites."



A Visitor Information Plan for the Adirondack Park Meets With Controversy

During the summer of 1977, the Adirondack Highway Council, not to be confused with The Adirondack Council, produced a visitor information plan that proposes several Information Centers (small orientation facilities at or near the Park's perimeter that direct Adirondack Park visitors to the Park's natural and man-made attractions) and five, large Visitor Centers that are suggested to be located generally in the areas of Old Forge, Westport, Speculator, Lake George-Warrensburg, and Lake Clear. These large Centers are proposed to be large interpretive-type centers that many people have experienced in the National Park system.

A dispute has arisen. Although The Adirondack Council and all members of the Adirondack Highway Council, with the exception of the two DEC representatives, endorse a Lake Clear Visitor Center, the DEC thinks the Center should instead be located in the Town of North Elba in the vicinity of the Heart Lake Road and Route 73, the major gateway to the vastly overused High Peaks Wilderness. The DEC feels that people will continue to flock to this area no matter where this particular center is located, and if the center is located in the Heart Lake Road - Route 73 area, it will serve to educate people and disperse users to lesser-used areas. The Adirondack Council recognizes the educational value of such a location, but feels that despite the best educational efforts,

a Heart Lake Road location would provide an additional "honeypot," along with the nearby ski jump and other attractions of Lake Placid. More people would be drawn to use and abuse the trails emanating from the southern terminus of the Heart Lake Road at Adirondack Loj, leading to the top of Mount Marcy and other popular high peaks.

A resolution adopted by the Council at its August meeting has been communicated to DEC Commissioner Berle, opposing the Heart Lake Road site and urging that construction of the Lake George-Warrensburg Visitor Center be given the highest priority.



Executive Director Testifies at Assembly Hearing on Tourism

In Saranac Lake on September 13, State Assemblyman Matthew Murphy, Subcommittee Chairman on tourism of the Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry, and Economic Development, heard testimony on recent tourist promotion efforts and new directions for the state's tourist industry. The Adirondack Council's Executive Director, Gary Randorf, offered testimony, including the following points:

"The state should complement the regulatory Land Use and Development Plan with a scheme to insure that the tourist industry provides as much economic stability for the Adirondack region as possible ... How the Park is promoted is very important. More emphasis should be focused on the Park's unique, wild character ... It is essential that tourists are properly introduced to and familiarized with the Park's special wild, and sometimes fragile character. The desire to enjoy and treat the Park properly can and must be instilled in Park users ... Promotion of a honky-tonk atmosphere in the Adirondack Park may have short term value, but in the long run this approach will be detrimental because it will degrade the very special character that attracts people to the Adirondack Park ... If these (Park) values are articulated clearly and properly, additional people will want to come to this region to experience one of the last, large remaining wild areas in the eastern U.S. ... The region's economy will be boosted and many more people will be encouraged to wisely use and protect one of the finest places on earth."



Chairman Jerry Addresses The Adirondack Park Agency

On September 22 Harold Jerry addressed the Adirondack Park Agency members and some of the staff at their regular monthly meeting. It was a thorough and candid presentation, building on the speech that Mr. Jerry gave in the spring at Paul Schaefer's annual conference on the Adirondacks at Gore Mountain Inn. Called "The Fork in the Road," the talk included the following highlights:

"The Agency has been on the defensive almost entirely since its creation. It has not had time for perhaps the key thing that it should be doing, which is thinking about long range planning to bring about this viable, vibrant Adirondack Park ... We could have a much finer Park and a more wonderful wilderness. The next year or two will be critical and most critical of all will be the ultimate step taken or not taken by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Will Commissioner Berle be able to lead his department, trained for years to domesticate the woods, into its new role of explaining and defending the spiritual benefits of genuine

wilderness management in the Adirondack Park ... The time has come to start Park planning, the time has come to get the Agency out of its negative posture into a positive posture ... The Agency has got to concentrate on positive programs ... How about an economic study of the impact of the Park Agency on real estate values in the Adirondacks ... There is the real need for an evaluation by an outside observer of both the compliance with and effectiveness of conditions imposed by the Agency in permits already granted ... The Park Agency was created to protect and enhance the Adirondack Park. The emphasis throughout has been on the Park's inimitable natural resources and their preservation for generations to come. The Agency's primary concern is the Adirondack environment and this is what it must protect ... I have still another major worry about the Agency. I think it is surrendering too much of its authority to local government ... How about map amendments? How many have been made to decrease density? With the Park presently zoned for 1.5 million people—who will of course, destroy the Park—why have you granted strip zoning map amendments increasing the permitted density in several towns ... We are down to bedrock, so I call for a re-dedication of effective citizen groups, such as The Adirondack Council, the Environmental Planning Lobby, and the many others that are active around the Adirondacks, to fight the Agency's battles for it because the Agency can't fight its own battle. By the very nature of things, an entity under attack is suspect ... A third party can react and will carry more credence."



State Land Master Plan Conference

On September 23 a conference on the State Land Master Plan was held in Lake George, chaired jointly by Commissioner Peter Paine of the Adirondack Park Agency and Deputy Commissioner Theodore Hullar of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Among the approximately 25 participants, were the Chairman and Executive Director of The Adirondack Council. The conference focused primarily on reclassification of state lands and on proposed new categories of classification.

Mr. Jerry and Mr. Randorf made the following points:

1. The northern boundary of the West Canada Lake Wilderness, in the vicinity of Squaw Lake, should be moved northerly to Otter Brook and the South Branch of the Moose River. This would eliminate the gore of the Moose River Wild Forest Area that projects into the Wilderness and to cause to terminate the vehicular road at Otter Brook, which now runs all the way to the Indian River, illegally penetrating a Wild River corridor.
2. An Intensive Use campground should not be placed in the present, or any expanded, Mt. VanHoevenberg Intensive Use Area because of its adverse effect upon nearby private campgrounds. The State Land Master Plan states that campgrounds should not be situated where they will aggravate problems on land already subjected to or threatened by over-use. The Mt. VanHoevenberg area is adjacent to the excessively over-used High Peaks Wilderness.
3. The road to Crane Pond, in the Town of Schroon, should be moved westerly, as close to the boundary of the Primitive Area as possible. The road presently terminates at Crane Pond. According to the forest ranger responsible for the area, this has caused serious policing problems, including the illegal launching of motorboats. Depending upon where the new termination point of the road would be, all or part of the Primitive Area could logically become part of the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness.
4. The Adirondack Council strongly opposes a new category of state land that would create a "Recreation Area"

classification for Lower Saranac Lake. It should be kept as Wild Forest, with only primitive, dispersed sites provided.

The Adirondack Park Agency hopes to draft proposed amendments to the State Land Master Plan by Christmas time, at which time the same participants at the September 23 conference would reconvene for final review prior to consideration of the proposals by the Adirondack Park Agency members, and before the Agency seeks comment at public hearing (s).



The State Wins the First Round in "The Helms Case"

In the summer of 1973, as an early step towards implementation of the State Land Master Plan, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) prohibited motorized traffic on some 700 lakes and ponds in Wilderness, Primitive, and Canoe Areas. Although the Plan allows such traffic in emergencies, and for limited trail maintenance and the supply of interior ranger stations, it seeks at the same time to divert mechanized recreation and administrative activities to the over one million acres of less fragile state land in other classifications.

After the ban was announced, Herb Helms, a float plane pilot who carries sportsmen and other recreationists into back-country Adirondack lakes, filed suit against the DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency, claiming as a first cause of action that the State Land Master Plan was unconstitutional in its classification of Forest Preserve lands according to their ability to withstand use.

The Adirondack Council sought and was granted leave to intervene in the case, in support of the Plan, and in late May of 1977, after papers had been filed and oral arguments heard, a Supreme Court Justice ruled that as a matter of law the Plan was consistent with the "forever wild" provision of Article 14 of the state constitution.

A second cause of action in the Helms suit will go to trial, and the court will examine the history of efforts by the DEC to preserve and protect the forests, and to encourage their use by the public, through the construction of campgrounds, fire towers, truck trails, etc. Helms contends that these and a range of other activities are violations of Article 14, and the court will be asked to determine whether the timber cutting for them was in fact reasonable and what effect they have had upon the wild forest character of the Forest Preserve.

The outcome of this case can have a profound impact on the future of the public lands in the Adirondacks and Catskills. The Adirondack Council will continue to play an active role and will report all major developments in this newsletter.



The Adirondack Council

Box 188, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

A coalition of the National Audubon Society; The Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter; The Wilderness Society; The Natural Resources Defense Council; The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks; and other concerned organizations and individuals.

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1977 Senate Vote on the Harris-Stafford Bill

Following is a listing of how the Senators voted and the counties they represent. A yes (Y) vote is for the Harris-Stafford bill and is the wrong vote. A no vote (N) is against the bill and the correct vote. "A" is noted for those absent. "A-Ex." are those absent and officially excused by the Senate leadership.

Counties Represented	District	Name and Address	
Suffolk	1	Kenneth Lavalle, 6 Settlers Path, Pt. Jefferson 11777	RY
Suffolk	2	Bernard C. Smith, 167 Main St., Northport 11768	RA-Ex.
Suffolk	3	Caesar Trunzo, 105 Washington Ave., Brentwood 11717	RY
Nassau, Suffolk	4	Owen H. Johnson, 6 Learner St., W. Babylon 11704	RY
Nassau	5	Ralph J. Marino, 3 Lea Ct., Muttontown, Syosset 11791	RY
Nassau	6	John R. Dunne, 109 Fifthe St., Garden City 11530	RN
Nassau	7	John D. Caemmerer, 11 Post Ave., Williston Pk. 11596	RY
Nassau	8	Norman J. Levy, 299 Merrick Ave., S. Merrick 11566	RY
Nassau, Queens	9	Karen S. Burstein, 1015 Cedar Lane, Woodmere 15598	DA-Ex.
Queens	10	Sheldon Farber, 151 Enslow Pl., Kew Gardens 11415	DY
Queens	11	Frank Padavan, 84-48 Radner St., Jamaica 11432	RA
Queens	12	Jack E. Bronston, 184-37 Hovenden Rd., Jamaica 11432	DN
Queens	13	Emanuel R. Gold, 104-40 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills 11375	DN
Queens	14	Anthony V. Gazzara, 31-11 28th Rd., LIC 11102	DA
Queens, Kings	15	Martin J. Knorr, 61-46 Palmetto St., Ridgewood 11227	RY
Kings	16	Howard Babbush, 1330 E. 89th St., Brooklyn 11236	DN
Kings	17	Major R. Owens, 335 Wyona St., Brooklyn 11212	DA-Ex.
Kings	18	Thomas J. Bartosiewica, 142 Kent St., Brooklyn 11222	DN
Kings	19	Jeremiah B. Bloom, 3215 Ave. H, Brooklyn 11235	DA
Kings	20	Donald M. Halperin, 40 Girard St., Brooklyn 11235	DN
Kings	21	William T. Conklin, 7905 Colonial Rd., Brooklyn 11209	RY
Kings	22	Albert B. Lewis, 123 Bay 25 St., Brooklyn 11214	DN
Kings	23	Vander L. Beatty, 671 St. Johns Pl., Brooklyn 11216	DY
Richmond, New York	24	John J. Marchi, 79 Nixon Ave., Staten Island 10304	RN
New York, Kings	25	Carol Bellamy, 305 Henry St., Brooklyn 11201	DN
New York	26	Roy M. Goodman, 1035 5th Ave., New York 10028	RN
New York	27	Manfred Ohrenstein, 215 W. 90th St., New York 10024	DN
New York	28	Carl McCall, 180 Riverside Dr., New York 10027	DN
New York	29	Franz Leichter, 448 Riverside Dr., New York 10027	DN
New York, Bronx	30	Robert Garcia, 540 Concord Ave., Bronx 10454	DN
Bronx	31	Israel Ruiz, Jr., 1020 Grand Concourse, Bronx 10451	DY
Bronx	32	Joseph L. Galiber, 800 Concourse Village W., Bronx 10451	DY
Bronx	33	Abraham Bernstein, 660 Thwaites Pl., Bronx 10467	DA-Ex.
Bronx	34	John D. Calandra, 88 Beech Tree Lane, Bronx 10803	RN
Bronx, Westchester	35	John E. Flynn, 15 Huron Rd., Yonkers 10710	RY
Westchester	36	Joseph R. Pisani, 18 Fairview Pl., New Rochelle 10805	RY
Westchester	37	Bernard G. Gordon, 1420 Riverview Ave., Peekskill 10566	RY
Rockland, Westchester	38	Linda Winikow, 62 Sutin Pl., Spring Valley 10977	DN
Dutchess, Putnam, Columbia, Westchester	39	Jay P. Rolison, Jr., 150 Kingwood Pk., Poughkeepsie 12601	RY
Orange, Rockland, Ulster	40	Richard Schermerhorn, 12 Idlewild Pk. Dr., Cornwall 12520	RY
Rensselaer, Albany, Columbia, Saratoga	41	Joseph L. Bruno, RD 3, Box 319A, Bulson Rd., Troy 12180	RY
Greene, Albany	42	Howard C. Nolan, Jr., 7 Birch Hill Rd., Albany 12211	DA
Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren, Washington, St. Lawrence	43	Ronald B. Stafford, 14 Pleasant St., Peru 12972	RY
Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Schenectady, Saratoga	44	Hugh T. Farley, 2137 Niskayuna Dr., Schenectady 12309	RY
Jefferson, Oswego, Cayuga, St. Lawrence	45	H. Douglas Barclay, 7377 Bentley Rd., Pulaski 13142	RY
Lewis, Oneida, Herkimer	46	James H. Donovan, 9409 Elm St., Chadwicks 13319	RY
Broome, Chenango, Tioga	47	Warren M. Anderson, 34 Lathrop Ave., Binghamton 13905	RN
Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, Herkimer, Ulster	48	Edwyn E. Mason, P.O. Box 236, Main St., Hobart 13788	RY
Madison, Onondaga	49	Martin S. Auer, 809 Crawford Ave., Syracuse 13224	RY
Cortland, Cayuga, Onondaga	50	Tarky J. Lombardi, Jr., 99 Burlingame Rd., Syracuse 13203	RA-Ex.
Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins, Tioga	51	William T. Smith II, 3047 Olcott Rd., Big Flats 14814	RY
Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates, Monroe	52	Frederick W. Warder, 140 White Springs Rd., Geneva 14456	RY
Monroe	53	John D. Perry, 181 Lafayette Pkwy., Rochester 14625	DN
Monroe	54	Fred J. Eckert, 101 Sheri Ann Lane, Rochester 14626	RY
Erie	55	Joseph A. Tauriello, 713 Busti Ave., Buffalo 14213	DN
Erie	56	James D. Griffin, 420 Dorrance Ave., Buffalo 14218	DY
Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chataugua, Erie	57	Jess J. Present, 41 Chestnut St., Jamestown 14701	RY
Livingston, Wyoming, Erie	58	Dale M. Volker, 31 Darwin Dr., Depew 14043	RY
Genessee, Erie, Monroe	59	James T. McFarland, 21 Grosvenor Rd., Buffalo 14223	RY
Orleans, Niagara, Erie	60	Lloyd H. Paterson, 1234 87th St., Niagara Falls 14304	RY