

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

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New Executive Director

Meet William C. "Willie" Janeway, the Council's new Executive Director

The Adirondack Council is pleased to introduce our new Executive Director William C. "Willie" Janeway. Willie officially started on May 1st.

He took the helm from Diane Fish, who had a successful seven-month stint as Acting Executive Director. She will remain with the organization and continue to serve as Deputy Director.



Since 2007, Willie has been the Region 3 Director for the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Hudson Valley/Catskill Region and helped advance Governor Cuomo's economic and environmental protection agenda. Prior to DEC, he was the Director of Government Relations for the Nature Conservancy in New York State.

Willie graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1985 with a degree in Economics and Environmental Studies. He served as trails coordinator and director of

North Country operations for the Adirondack Mountain Club (1985-1994); Executive Director for the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (1994-2000); and, Governor Pataki's Executive Director of the Hudson River Greenway (2000-2001).

Willie is an Adirondack 46er, having climbed the 46 High Peaks, and won the Adirondack Life "Adirondacker Award" for his work building partnerships and protecting the Adirondacks.

April Forest Preserve Additions

Highest waterfall, water quality protection

In April, Governor Cuomo announced the purchase of 9,300 acres of land in the Adirondack Park. This purchase from the Nature Conservancy is the second phase of the acquisition plan the Governor announced last year for the lands formerly owned by the Finch-Pruyn Company. Several parcels are included in this purchase, some being very ecologically-significant. For example, the OK Slip Falls tract in Hamilton County includes the Park's highest waterfall, and the Ice Meadow tract in Warren County has spring ice-jams that create a unique alpine ecosystem in which at least five endangered plant species can be found.

Also in April, the state purchased over 2,460 acres from the Lake George Land Conservancy. This will help protect the water quality of Lake George, and ensure the area remains a tourist destination. This purchase includes the 1,900-acre Cat and Thomas Mountains parcel, which encompasses 65 percent of the land around the drinking water supply of the Town of Bolton (Warren County).

OK Slips Falls in Hamilton County, the Park's highest waterfall, creates an environment for a unique array of plants, and will surely be a new destination for nature enthusiasts, photographers and others looking for a distinctive outdoor experience.



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Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff
unless otherwise noted.



Adirondack Wilderness Matters

For the environment, communities and you

Adirondack Wilderness matters. Wilderness protects clean water and clean air, preserves the Adirondack Park's ecological integrity and wild character, and helps to sustain vibrant Adirondack communities. Ten million people a year say so by visiting the largest park in the contiguous United States -- what I consider the most important park in the world.

It matters too that you are a friend of the Adirondacks, and a supporter of the Adirondack Council. Only with your help can we carry out the education, advocacy, monitoring and (when necessary) legal actions that are critical to protecting the Adirondack Park. Your support makes possible the beneficial relationship between Wilderness and communities that makes this park unique. Your assistance means a continuing tradition of public and private ownership and stewardship for forest and farmland across this great park.

This summer, the Council will be working with conservation partners and communities, protecting Wilderness and supporting the Common Ground Alliance we helped start. We will be idealistic when possible, practical when necessary, and strategic at all times.

Please read about our successes and continuing projects in this newsletter and on our website. Stay connected. Help us celebrate the latest state land protection announcements, new efforts to combat invasive species, and new sustainability plans and funding. And follow our leadership in opposing Adirondack Park Agency consideration of unhelpful proposals -- including one that threatened to expedite approval of large-scale, clear-cutting in the Park.

It is my honor and a privilege to become the new Adirondack Council Executive Director and to move my family back to the Park. I wish to thank the Board for asking me to join the team, work with them and lead the organization ahead. I thank the staff for all they have done and will do.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has made a commitment to the Adirondacks, and you have too. Thank you for your generous support. Adirondack Wilderness matters, and you do too.

William C. Janeway
Executive Director

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

We envision an Adirondack Park with clean water and air and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working farms and forests and vibrant local communities.

Go to our website – www.AdirondackCouncil.org – for more information.

CAPITAL MATTERS: ALBANY



Photo © Larry Master, masterimages.org

Adirondack Legislative Priorities

A key budget victory

A \$19-million increase for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) was in the budget approved by Governor Cuomo. The EPF is used to fund many programs, including land acquisition, invasive species mitigation and prevention, and community revitalization. This increase was an Adirondack Council priority.

Another bill that was part of the recent Earth Day Lobby Day agenda is the Climate Protection Act, which requires the Department of Environmental Conservation to enforce an 80 percent reduction in the emissions that lead to climate change by the year 2050. It would apply economy-wide, not just to certain industries.

Transferable development rights legislation for the Adirondacks is being considered by the Council and local government partners. The bill would provide a process for transferring building rights from large backcountry parcels, allowing increased building density in specified areas closer to hamlet centers.

Also, two Constitutional Amendments are being considered for second passage by the Legislature. If passed again, they will be presented to the voters on the November ballot. The first would allow clear title to contested property in Raquette Lake (Township 40) and create a fund to replace the land with new Forest Preserve. The second would allow NYCO Minerals to swap land with the Forest Preserve to continue and expand its mining operation in the town of Lewis.

The Adirondack Park Visits Albany

Expo for lawmakers a success

April 29 marked the first Adirondack Day at the State Capitol complex, as a broad coalition of Adirondack organizations, institutions and businesses put their works on display. The result was a delightful day for members of the NYS Legislature, the Governor, and their respective staff members at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. Thousands of people sampled Adirondack food and beverages; spoke with regional advocates for education and environmental protection; met

local government officials; shared a story or two with river rafters and guides; and, celebrated the history, culture and architecture that make the Adirondack Park so wonderful.



Adirondack Council staff at Adirondack Day in Albany.

ACTION UPDATE

Thanks for Your Help!

Bobcat comment letters

Thank you to all who wrote the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to express concern over its proposal to lengthen the trapping season for bobcats. The DEC has not made a final decision on this proposal. We will keep you posted.

It is very important for policymakers to hear from you on important issues like this, to show them you care about the Adirondack Park and its future.

New Forest Preserve classifications

Be on the look-out for information on submitting public comment by July 19th regarding how the state will manage the newly acquired Forest Preserve lands. Your help will be incredibly important to make sure that this land is protected.

Your input does make a difference!

Thank you.

Diane Fish, Deputy Director



This spring and summer, we will be urging you to participate in key policy decisions regarding Constitutional Amendments and land classifications. Your voice WILL make a difference. Please watch the mail and your email alerts. **If you're not sure we have your up-to-date email, please send it to foreverwild@adirondackcouncil.org.**

Any questions? Don't hesitate to contact the Council staff. Thank you!

TOGETHER WE'LL MAKE WILDERNESS



Essex Chain of Lakes Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

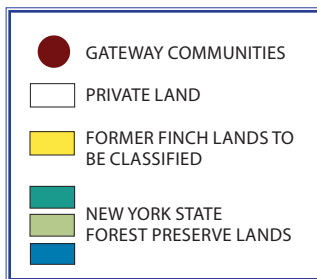
Your Voice Can Make the Difference

Forest Preserve classification process

With the state's December 2012 purchase from the Nature Conservancy of the Essex Chain of Lakes and the Indian River and OK Slip Falls tracts this spring, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is beginning the classification process for these lands. This process will determine how these lands will be used and managed in the future.

Under the Adirondack State Land Master Plan, whenever the state purchases land and adds it to the Forest Preserve, the lands must be classified according to seven categories: Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe, Wild Forest, State Administrative, Historic, or Intensive Use. These lands are, by law, to be classified according to their physical and biological characteristics and capacity to withstand use.

The APA will hold a series of public hearings and have a public comment period so people can suggest how these lands should be classified. After the public comment period is over, the APA will analyze all of the comments received, and make a classification recommendation to the Governor who will make the final decision. The Governor could receive the APA's recommendation as early as August 2013. The impacts of the decision will last well beyond our lifetimes, if not forever.



New York State recently purchased over 27,000 acres of lands and waters for the Adirondack Forest Preserve. These former Finch Paper tracts were previously acquired by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 2007, as part of a 161,000-acre conservation project in the Park. The new Forest Preserve lands must now be classified to determine how these lands will be used and managed. The Council is urging the most Wilderness as possible, along with very limited motorized access to three specific sites.



The classification alternatives

At its May meeting, the APA announced several classification alternatives that will be considered, most of which include a significant new Hudson River Wilderness area – reflecting the Council’s long-held vision for a Wild Rivers Wilderness in this region.

Alternatives for the rest of the lands to be classified range from Wilderness, with the strongest natural resource protection, to Wild Forest where ATVs and other motorized recreational use could be allowed. “Canoe” and “Primitive” classifications are in-between options. Alternatives 1-A and 1-B include the most Wilderness.

Together we have an opportunity to make sure the Governor’s team makes the right choice - Wilderness with Access - a Wild Rivers Wilderness. As detailed in comments posted on our website, the Adirondack Council is focused on APA alternatives 1-A and 1-B to maximize Wilderness and protection of this area, consistent with creating public access and protecting the Essex Chain of Lakes and the Hudson River corridor from the negative impacts of motorized recreational use. Very limited motorized access in three locations could be accepted. The fragile lakes and rivers, fisheries, forests and wildlife habitat deserve protection. The people of the state of New York, the new owners of this land, deserve nothing less.

This is where you come in!

The APA **just** announced the dates, times and location of the public hearings and the deadline for your comment letters (July 19th). The Adirondack Council asks you to stay involved, weigh in, and **help ensure that as much of the new public land as possible receives the Wilderness designation they deserve**, while detailing where motorized access should and should not be allowed. The Adirondack Council will post suggested comments on our website. With your support we can continue the campaign for a new Wild River (Hudson/Essex Lakes) Wilderness, a legacy for all future New Yorkers.

Make sure we have your email

We will be sending you an Action Alert soon, urging Council members to comment and attend public hearings during the classification process. **Please be sure we have your updated email address** so we can contact you quickly and inexpensively. **Your voice can make the difference!** Thank you.

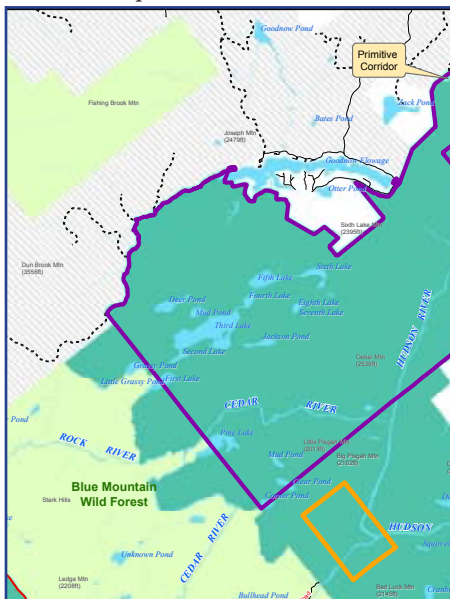


Wilderness will protect water quality and provide recreational opportunities.

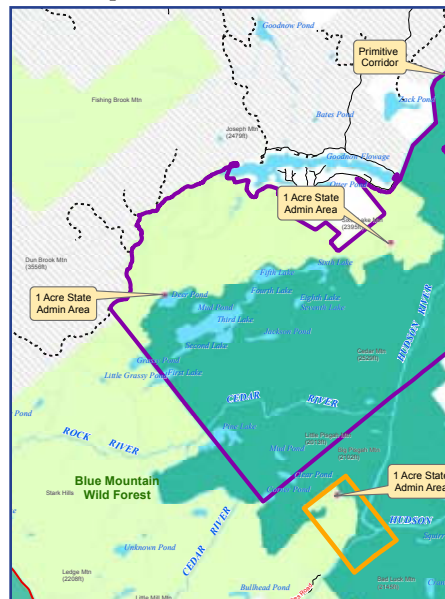


There is a risk that ATVs could be permitted on designated roads in Wild Forest lands on the Forest Preserve.

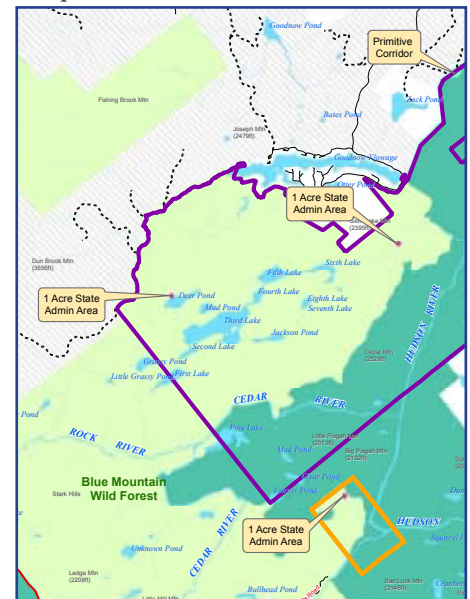
Map 1B: Most Wilderness



Map 1A: Wilderness with access



Map 4A: Most Wild Forest / motorized use



The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) maps above show several of the alternatives for the classification of the former Finch lands purchased from the Nature Conservancy for the Forest Preserve. The maps at left and center show the two alternatives with the most Wilderness and the map on the right shows the alternative that has Wild Forest as the primary classification category. The purple border shows the Essex Chain of Lakes tract and the orange border outlines the Indian River tract, the two recent state purchases. You can visit the Council website to view all the APA classification alternatives and the full Draft Environmental Impact Statement that describes the alternatives, classification guidelines, and environmental considerations. Just go to AdirondackCouncil.org and search for “Finch.”

FORESTS AND WATERS



Fighting Acid Rain

NYS Attorney General calls for action

In April, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman filed a brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to reinstate federal rules designed to curb the out-of-state air pollution that causes acid rain in the Adirondack Park.

Schneiderman acted in concert with colleagues from 10 states and the mayors of five cities in the Northeast. All asked the court to reinstate the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. That rule was struck down by the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in August 2012.

The rule would require a 73-percent reduction in power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide and a 54-percent cut in power plant emissions of nitrogen oxides, by the end of 2014. Cuts would occur in 28 states upwind of the Adirondack Park, from the Rocky Mountains to the East Coast.

Although the Cross-State Rule was designed to better protect human health, it will also protect the environment. The same pollutants that cause harmful soot and smog also cause acid rain. Acid rain damages plants and aquatic life by causing chemical reactions in soil and water that release heavy metals, including mercury and aluminum. Forests, lakes and ponds throughout the Adirondack Park have been damaged.



More Clear-cutting Opposed

Coalition proposed alternatives

In January, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) considered a proposed General Permit (GP) that would allow the clear-cutting of more than 24 acres of trees on private land (currently the threshold for requiring a permit). The GP would not provide the opportunity for public comment, limit the size of a clear-cut, or require the APA Commissioners' approval.

Due to the overwhelming response that the APA received from our membership and other concerned citizens and organizations, the permit was withdrawn from the agenda. Numerous stakeholders, including the Adirondack Council, were invited to a meeting to provide input. The Adirondack Council and a coalition of environmental groups have called for the Agency to pursue comprehensive regulatory reforms in place of the proposed General Permit. The Council supports regulatory changes that would prevent poor forestry practices such as high-grading, and fines for those who seek to avoid jurisdiction by keeping clear-cuts under 25 acres.



SUNY Potsdam students raised money this spring to permanently reduce the carbon emissions from Northeast power plants through the Adirondack Council's Cool Park/Healthy Planet Program. (Visit AdirondackCouncil.org for more information.) Shown with the students are Professor Heather Sullivan-Catlin (far left) and Adirondack Council Director of Communications John Sheehan (far right).

Council Hires New Conservation Director

Committed advocate, coalition builder, outdoorsman

In March, Raul "Rocci" Aguirre joined the Adirondack Council's staff as the new Director of Conservation. Rocci graduated from SUNY Cortland in 1995 with two bachelor's degrees in History and Outdoor Recreation. He also holds a master's degree in Resource Management and Conservation from Antioch University of New England in Keene, N.H.

Rocci has held a variety of key conservation positions with organizations around the Northeast, including the Senior Conservation Projects Manager with the Monadnock Conservancy of Keene, N.H., the Director of Land Protection for the Finger Lakes Land Trust in Ithaca, N.Y., and Catskill Conservation Coordinator for Trout Unlimited in Roscoe, N.Y. He is an avid outdoorsman and a former licensed fly fishing guide.



Rocci Aguirre

SUPPORT THE ADIRONDACK COUNCIL



2013 Outdoor Gear and Lodging Raffle

Thirteen chances to win on July 26th

The Adirondack Council will raffle off outdoor gear and an Adirondack stay generously donated by The North Face, Coleman, SCARPA, Tough Traveler, and Packbasket Adventures. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The drawing will be held on Friday, July 26, 2013 at the Council's office in Elizabethtown, NY at 12:30 pm (EST). Ticket holders need not be present to win.



Each ticket will provide opportunities to win one of thirteen items: Hiking Boots/Shoes (3), Borealis Daypack (2), Quad Lantern (2), Portable Propane Grill, 50 qt. Cooler, Odyssey Daypack, Pinto Bottle Carrier, Water Sprite Bottle Carrier, and a one night's stay and breakfast for two at Packbasket Adventures Lodge, Wanakena, NY.



For more information about the raffle items and to purchase tickets visit www.AdirondackCouncil.org or call 1.877.873.2240.

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Thank You for Your Support

Every contribution makes a difference

With every contribution and purchase of a gift, a carbon certificate, or a raffle ticket, you help the Adirondack Council raise the funds we need to put conservation staff in the field, produce effective media coverage about Park issues, and advocate with policymakers every day. Your gift, together with thousands of others, provides strong and effective advocacy for the Adirondacks. Thank you!

Adirondack Legacy Society

Estate gifts protect the Park for future generations

Become part of the Adirondack Legacy Society by planning an estate gift to the Adirondack Council. You can ensure the natural heritage of the Adirondacks will be protected for future generations. By naming the Adirondack Council in your will or as a beneficiary of life insurance or unused retirement assets, your generosity will create a lasting legacy for Adirondack Park protection. An estate gift of any amount is greatly appreciated. All estate gifts are pooled in the Council's Forever Wild Fund and used only with approval from the Board of Directors. 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. For more information, contact Diane Fish, Deputy Director, 1.877.873.2240 ext. 106.

Our new wildlife note cards feature eight images by Conservation Biologist/Photographer Larry Master (masterimages.org). Images include the American Bullfrog, Great Gray Owl, Moose, North American River Otter, Bohemian Waxwing, Bobcat, Wood Duck and the Northern Shrike. \$8.00

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY POSTER



Designed and illustrated by Adirondack Illustrator, Sheri Amsel, the Champlain Valley Poster is a map and visual guide to the region's recreational and ecological treasures. The map highlights 50 hiking trails, public fishing and small boat launch accesses, public parks, dirt roads and scenic paved roads for biking, and farmers' markets and farm stands. It also includes an illustrated look at six natural communities with key species that help make the Champlain Valley such a rich biological treasure. 24" x 37" **Unlaminated: \$12.00 Laminated: \$20.00**

You can place an order for these and other products by calling the Adirondack Council at 1.877.873.2240 (toll-free) or ordering online at

www.AdirondackCouncil.org

Proceeds from sales benefit Adirondack Park conservation.



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

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Come join us at the Ranger School in Wanakena on July 13, 2013 for the Adirondack Council's Forever Wild Day

- Hike Cathedral Rock to see great views of the area.
- Take a guided tour of the Ranger School Arboretum.
- Learn the history of Wanakena from local historians.
- Explore the trails or forest roads of the Ranger School's James F. Dunbar Memorial Forest by foot or bicycle.
- Take a self-guided tour of the hamlet of Wanakena.
- Paddle the winding Oswegatchie River.
- Visit the classic Wanakena General Store.
- Celebrate the Conservationists of the Year, John and Margot Ernst, for their exemplary private land stewardship.

Visit www.AdirondackCouncil.org for details about activities,
lunch reservations and lodging.



Sand Lake in the Five Ponds Wilderness at the heart of the Council's proposed Bob Marshall Wild Lands Complex, is a vast roadless area with 408,000 acres of public and private land, 25 gateway communities, 441 lakes and ponds, 400+ miles of hiking trails and 71 miles of Wild, Scenic and Recreational rivers. Photo © Carl Heilman II / Wild Visions, Inc.

As we head to press with this Spring newsletter, plans are in high gear for our annual Forever Wild Day. The Adirondack Council gratefully acknowledges the following businesses, organizations and individuals who are generous sponsors of the event.

- Adirondack Museum
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 - Integrated Marketing
 - Open Space Institute
 - Pearsall Wealth Management at UBS
 - Queen City Printers
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 - Depot Theatre
 - Finch Paper LLC
 - Mountain Mugs
 - Packbasket Adventures
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 - Pendragon Theatre
 - SCARPA
 - St. Lawrence County Arts Council
 - The North Face
 - Tough Traveler
 - Wanakena General Store
- (list incomplete)