

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

### INSIDE

-  Beyond Debate
-  2014 Legislative Session
-  Valuing Land
-  In and About the Park

## Members Victorious on Land Classification

### Motor-free areas to be created

Adirondack Council members won a significant victory for the Adirondack Park's wild character in mid-December, when Governor Cuomo announced he would sign a land classification plan that will create 34,000 acres of motor-free Forest Preserve in and around the Essex Chain of Lakes, Hudson Gorge and OK Slip Falls. These lands were recently purchased from the Nature Conservancy, which bought them from Finch, Pruyn & Co. in 2007.

These Forever Wild lands and waters are located in Essex and Hamilton counties, including parts of the Towns of Indian Lake, Minerva and Newcomb. They have been closed to public recreation for more than 100 years.

---

**THEY ARE AMONG THE MOST BIOLOGICALLY RICH AND ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE LANDS AND WATERS EVER ADDED TO THE PARK'S PUBLIC HOLDINGS.**

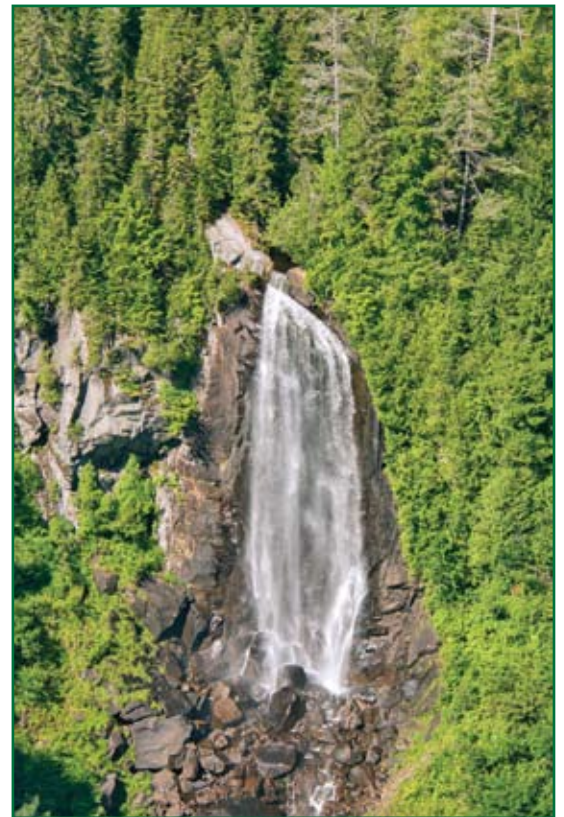
---

One of the motor-free areas would be composed of approximately 10,000 acres surrounding and including the Essex Chain of Lakes, which will become a Primitive Area. The other would protect the Hudson River Gorge with the creation of the new 24,000-acre Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area.

This classification plan, recommended by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), will keep these lands and waters free from the pollution and the invasive species that motorized recreation would bring. It also ensures that the five surrounding towns can forever enjoy the economic benefits of these waters and lands through new tourism.

The Adirondack Council was disappointed that the plan includes a corridor between the two motor-free areas where a snowmobile trail could be established. The Council and other environmental organizations had wanted the state to combine both areas into a single Wilderness Area. However, the route chosen for a new snowmobile trail was selected based on conservation science, as it follows existing gravel roads and avoids wetlands. It is well away from the Essex Lakes and most of the route is a mile or so from the Hudson River.

Automobile access would be allowed up to the edges of the new Essex Chain and Hudson Gorge motor-free areas, but not inside. The plan also includes a single road from the north into a lake in the Essex Chain, only for those with disabled-access permits. Float planes will be allowed on First and Pine Lakes, via a previous agreement between the towns and the Nature Conservancy.



*OK Slip Falls is one of the Adirondack Park's tallest waterfalls dropping approximately 250 feet.*

Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

## Board of Directors

|                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ann E. Carmel<br>Chair            | Lee Keet<br>Daniel L. Kelting, Ph.D. |
| Kevin Arquit<br>Vice-Chair        | Lawrence Master, Ph.D.               |
| Virginia M. Lawrence<br>Secretary | James B. McKenna                     |
| Robert Garrett<br>Treasurer       | Sarah J. Meyland                     |
| Michael A. Bettmann, M.D.         | Sherry Nemmers                       |
| David Bronston                    | Meredith Prime                       |
| Liza Cowan                        | Richard L. Reinhold                  |
| John L. Ernst                     | Daniel J. Ryterband                  |
| Ethan Friedman                    | Laurel Sherwood                      |
| Sarah Collum Hatfield             | David Skovron                        |
| Sheila M. Hutt                    | Jason Stoltz                         |
|                                   | Joel H. Treisman                     |
|                                   | Curtis R. Welling                    |
|                                   | Aaron Woolf                          |

## Directors Emeriti

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Timothy L. Barnett       | David Heidecorn           |
| Richard Beamish          | Gary F. Heurich           |
| Etienne Boillot          | Theodore L. Hullar, Ph.D. |
| Peter Borrelli           | Robert J. Kafin           |
| Jeff Bronheim            | George R. Lamb            |
| John P. Cahill           | Douglas S. Luke           |
| Charles D. Canham, Ph.D. | Cecilia A. Mathews        |
| Alison Hudnut Clarkson   | Karen Meltzer             |
| Tom Cobb                 | Scott L. Paterson         |
| Dr. Dean L. Cook         | James S. Phillips         |
| Evan A. Davis            | Avery Rockefeller III     |
| George D. Davis          | Brian Ruder               |
| James C. Dawson          | John K. Ryder, Jr.        |
| Jeff Donahue             | Ellen Marshall Scholle    |
| Joanne Waldron Dwyer     | James L. Sonneborn        |
| Edward D. Earl           | Lynette M. Stark          |
| Betty Eldridge           | Constance A. Tate         |
| Christopher Elliman      | Thomas D. Thacher II      |
| J. Edward Fowler         | Patricia D. Winterer      |
| Barbara L. Glaser, Ed.D. | Tony Zazula               |
| Robert L. Hall, Ph.D.    |                           |

## Staff

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| William C. Janeway<br>Executive Director | Michele Drozd      |
| Rocci Aguirre                            | Diane Fish         |
| Lilli Anson                              | J. A. Tyler Frakes |
| Julie Ball                               | Lisa M. Genier     |
| Elaine Burke                             | Susan Hughes       |
| Kevin Chlad                              | John F. Sheehan    |

## Clarence Petty Intern

Billy Martin

## Where to Find Us

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Main Office             | Albany Office       |
| PO Box D-2              | 342 Hamilton Street |
| 103 Hand Ave., Suite 3  | Albany, NY 12210    |
| Elizabethtown, NY 12932 | 518.432.1770        |
| 518.873.2240            |                     |

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

Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff  
unless otherwise noted.



## Beyond Debate

### A Tipping Point

Passionate debates about the future of the Adirondacks are common and good. They remind us just how many people care about the Adirondack Park and its future. The Adirondack Council engages in these public discussions, but we go far beyond that in an effort to achieve the best conservation goals possible for the Park. That means holding to our core principles, respecting stakeholders with other opinions and collaborating to achieve conservation results.

There is no better example than the decisions made in December, when the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) recommended that the state manage as Wilderness 34,000 acres of Forest Preserve, including the Essex Chain of Lakes and the Hudson River Gorge. Some 23 years ago, the Adirondack Council proposed a Wild Rivers Wilderness for this area. Now, after much debate, those lands and waters the Council wanted protected will be motor-free.

Also last year, voters approved a constitutional amendment the Adirondack Council and our partners had long worked on and supported. After 110 years of debate and conflict over property on Raquette Lake, title disputes are being settled, and new lands are being protected at Marion River Carry as a result of this amendment.

In conservation, as in many things, it is possible to succeed by finding new ways to help others realize victory at the same time. For example, we can advance environmental priorities while also promoting community development and public health goals. The key is to recognize people and communities as permanent and desirable parts of the Adirondack Park's landscape.

Gridlock rules in Washington. Until recently Albany was considered one of the most dysfunctional capitals in the country. But, there are signs that the Adirondacks may have reached a tipping point. Certain local leaders and environmentalists have found that when they collaborate to address common threats, everyone can win.

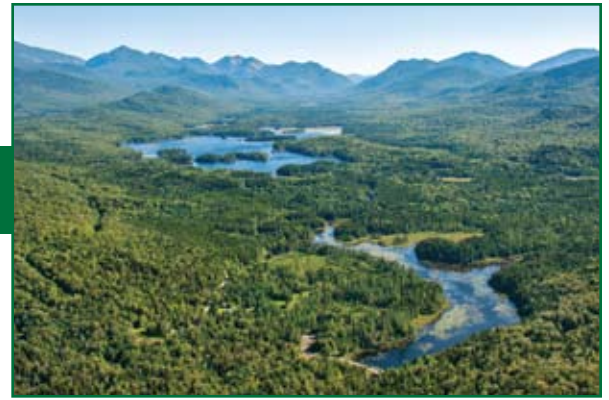
The Adirondack Council uses science, the law and an understanding of political decision-making to communicate the Park's needs for clean water, open space and sustainable communities. We applaud policymakers when they do well, and offer constructive criticism when they fall short. Future generations will thank those who not only debate, but who embrace ongoing success, and to keep the Adirondacks forever wild for everyone.

  
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](http://www.AdirondackCouncil.org) – for more information.



## New Legislative Session Underway

Council working for larger EPF; other Park priorities

As the 2014 New York State Legislative Session began, the Adirondack Council partnered with a coalition of over 125 organizations to call for the Governor and Legislature to increase the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to \$200 million. The EPF has been an essential source of funding for the last 20 years that has protected wild lands, supported smart growth planning in communities, and helped fight aquatic invasive species.



The Council is also working on a list of priorities that will clean the Park's water and air, protect wild lands and help the Adirondack economy in the process. We are pushing for Adirondack Park Agency Act reforms to incentivize economic growth in communities and protect the backcountry from development; partnering with other organizations to better protect our waters and lands from the threat of invasive species and increased all-terrain vehicle use; and, working towards legislation that increases community resiliency in response to climate change.

## FCC Proposal Could Undermine APA

Siting of towers in question

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed a rule that would allow modifications to communication towers, including height increases, without any local and state review. The new rule, which was buried in the Middle Class Tax Relief Act of 2012, would override the Adirondack Park Agency and its towers policy, which has done an excellent job of protecting the scenic beauty and ecology of the Adirondacks when siting towers in the Park. The Adirondack Council invited partners to call for this proposed rule to be amended to protect the rights of state and local governments in determining the best locations for their communication towers.

## Governor Signs Two Bills into Law

One helps local farms; other stems mercury contamination

In December, Governor Cuomo signed two bills into law that will benefit the Adirondacks. The Mercury Thermostat Collection Program Law will require thermostat manufacturers to establish a collection program to recycle at least 15 percent of the thermostats that are removed from service annually. Countless thermostats containing mercury are tossed into landfills every year. Mercury is toxic. It causes birth defects in people and wildlife.

The New York Food Metrics Law will require the state to monitor how much New York-grown food is acquired through food contracts for state agencies and facilities. This information will help support New York farms, contribute to our local economy, protect farmland, and limit carbon emissions related to trucking food long distances. The Council and other groups lobbied hard to pass these two bills with support and engagement from our members.

## ACTION UPDATE

### Your Voice Counts

Gray Wolf comment letters

Thank you to all who wrote the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and howled about a proposal that would remove the Gray Wolf from the list of threatened and endangered species. The loss of federal protection for these magnificent creatures could prevent populations from naturally returning to the Adirondacks, a place they once roamed.

Expressing your support for keystone species, like the Gray Wolf, reminds federal policymakers you care about the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park.

Help restore the EPF, fight invasives

Be on the watch for an opportunity to ask state policymakers to restore the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Your voice will help boost funding for important EPF programs that protect land and encourage stewardship, mitigate and prevent the spread of invasive species, and promote smart growth in our communities.

*Above: Boreas Ponds Looking North Toward the High Peaks*  
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.



## LANDS AND WATERS



## Adirondack Amendments

Few and far between

The November election of 2013 was a big one for the Adirondack Park with passage of two Constitutional Amendments. Proposition 4 settled a longstanding dispute between the state and private landowners over the ownership of certain parcels of land in Raquette Lake, Town of Long Lake. Proposition 5 will expand the Forest Preserve, temporarily swapping a 200-acre parcel of the Jay Mountain Wilderness with NYCO Minerals in exchange for funding to add 1,507 or more acres to the Forest Preserve.

Over two million votes were cast on each amendment and New Yorkers approved both. The Adirondack Council was, with local advocates, a leader on Proposition 4, which enjoyed universal support among Adirondack environmental groups and local government. The Council thanks and congratulates all who helped secure this victory, resulting in a positive resolution of a conflict that had persisted for over 110 years.



Proposition 5 was controversial and after dividing many traditional allies and friends, passed by a margin of just over 130,000 votes. It may be a while before we see another proposed amendment to Article XIV and that isn't a bad thing. Amendments should be few and far between, and each must meet the Council's criteria, criteria also embraced by the State. Moving forward at both sites, in Lewis and Long Lake, we expect all legal requirements to be met, with no short cuts.

## The Value of Adirondack Open Space

Balancing interests in a lived-in park

Perhaps nothing is more subjective than how a person finds value in the landscape around them. In the Adirondacks, decisions about the landscape are rarely simple or easy. One person may see a river and focus on the health of the fish, yet another may see the constant threat of flooding and damaged infrastructure. Finding balance between these views is seldom easy, even when people share many of the same concerns, values and priorities.

For the Adirondack Council, much of our work involves sifting through these types of complex and often competing values when we evaluate projects and issues. The recent passing of Proposition 5 regarding the NYCO land swap is one such issue that highlights how complicated this work can be. Ultimately, the addition of 1,500 acres to the Forest Preserve met the Council's criteria for these types of land swaps. We believe this agreement will have a far greater positive impact than a negative one.

The Council was not blind to the ecological and aesthetic character of the forest on the parcel that NYCO would receive to expand its current mine. However, we also recognized the incredible ecological importance of the addition of four high-quality brook trout streams. Miles of trout and salmon spawning grounds, intact wetlands and vernal pools are only a short list of the ecological richness these new lands offer.

Because the Adirondack Park is a unique mix of public and private lands, our mission and strategic planning dictate that our decision-making address a broad set of priorities in addition to ecological elements. These other elements such as community vibrancy and the value of working lands are what set the Council apart and underscore our commitment to the Park as an international model for collaborative conservation of Adirondack lands and waters.

*Left: Raquette Lake in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County, NY  
Photo: Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.*

## Promoting Small-Scale Agriculture

Wild for local food

The past several years has seen increased growth in farmers' markets and community supported agriculture. The Council has partnered with the non-profit, Adirondack Harvest to promote the environmental and economic benefits of small-scale agriculture and local food by developing an educational banner for schools. Grant support for the project has been provided by International Paper's environmental education program. An illustration from the banner can be seen above. Visit the Council's website or scan the QR code to view and print a banner.



## IN AND ABOUT THE PARK



### Saranac Lake & Lake Placid

#### Farm-fresh food pledge

The Adirondack Farm to School Initiative is working with area school districts and communities to improve the local food system. Importing local, farm-fresh food to school cafeterias and classrooms while offering educational activities, such as school gardens and culinary classes, are some of the initiative's goals. To date, Saranac Lake and Lake Placid school districts have pledged to provide students more local, farm-grown foods.

### Indian Lake, Minerva & Newcomb

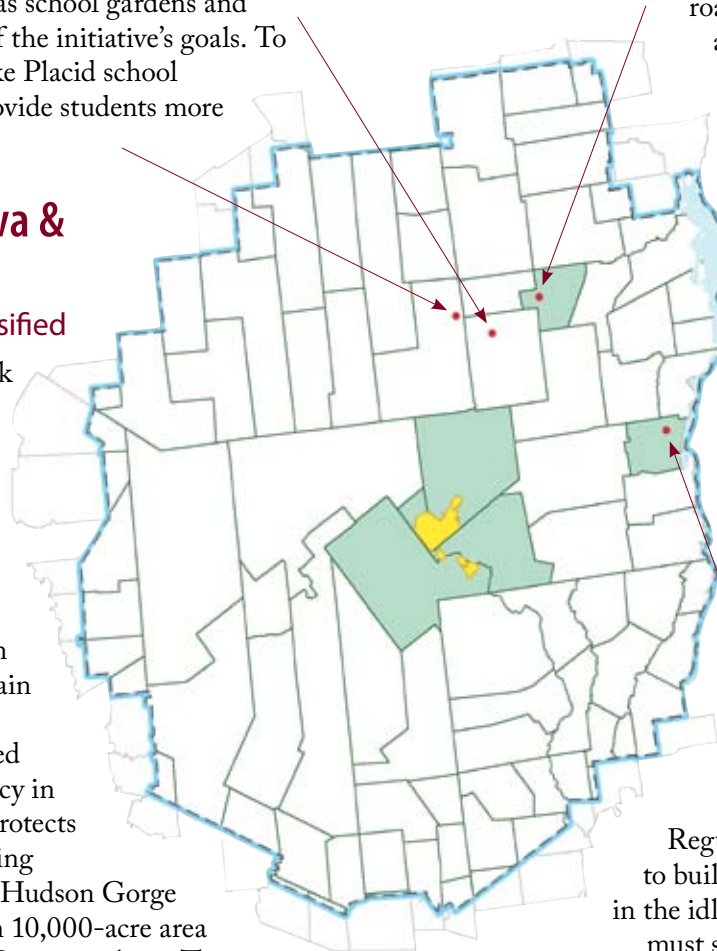
#### New Forest Preserve classified

In late 2013, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) formally recommended the classification of newly purchased Forest Preserve (on the map in yellow) in the towns of Indian Lake, Minerva and Newcomb. The classification plan included the Essex Chain of Lakes, OK Slip Falls and Indian River tracts purchased from the Nature Conservancy in December 2012. The plan protects motor-free areas encompassing 34,000 acres, a 24,447-acre Hudson Gorge Wilderness and a more than 10,000-acre area including the Essex Chain Primitive Area. The decision was applauded by numerous stakeholders for achieving new wilderness protection.



*Confluence of the Hudson and Indian Rivers*

Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.



### Wilmington

#### Whiteface highway repairs planned

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the state will provide \$12 million from the NY Works program to make repairs along the Whiteface Mountain Veterans' Memorial Highway in Wilmington. This eight-mile road provides a way for tourists, bicyclists, and skiers to reach the top of Whiteface Mountain. Repairs will include the toll house at the road's base and the castle near the summit. Construction is expected this spring. The Council will monitor the project in an effort to minimize the impact on the surrounding Forest Preserve.



*Whiteface Mountain*

Photo © Larry Master, masterimages.org

### Moriah

#### Mineville electric project

Albany Engineering Corp. submitted a final permit application to the Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC) in January to build an underground hydro-electric project in the idle iron mines in Mineville. The company must show the FERC that the project will not harm the environment or public health. Both the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have told FERC that the project must be designed to protect bats and their habitats in the mines. New York has lost 98 percent of its bat population over the last few years due to White Nose Syndrome. The \$250-million project could produce as much as 260 megawatts of electricity during periods of peak hours.



*Eastern Small-footed Myotis (Myotis leibii)*

Photo © Larry Master, masterimages.org



## CONSERVATION MATTERS



### The Gray Wolf

Apex predator of America's wildlands

Gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) were historically found across North America but the species was driven to the brink of extinction during the mid-20th century. The largest member of the canid family, wolves weigh up to 120 pounds and can reach speeds up to 40 mph.


Gray Wolf predation increases food for other scavengers within an ecosystem while improving the fitness of deer and moose populations by targeting sick, elderly and diseased animals.



As one of the first species to gain protection under the Endangered Species Act, the Gray Wolf population has significantly rebounded but has yet to establish a viable population in the Northeast and in many other areas within its former range, including the Adirondacks. At this time, the species still requires monitoring, management and protection.

*Right: The APA's Preferred Alternative classifying the Essex Chain of Lakes, OK Slip Falls and Indian River tracts. The plan will establish five new Forest Preserve units, including the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area, the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area, the OK Slip Pond Primitive Area, the Pine Lake Primitive Area and the Polaris Mountain Primitive Area.*

Map courtesy Adirondack Park Agency

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Primitive   |  |
| Wilderness  |  |
| Wild Forest |  |

### Members Successful on Clear-Cutting Issue

Will be called upon to help with regulatory reforms

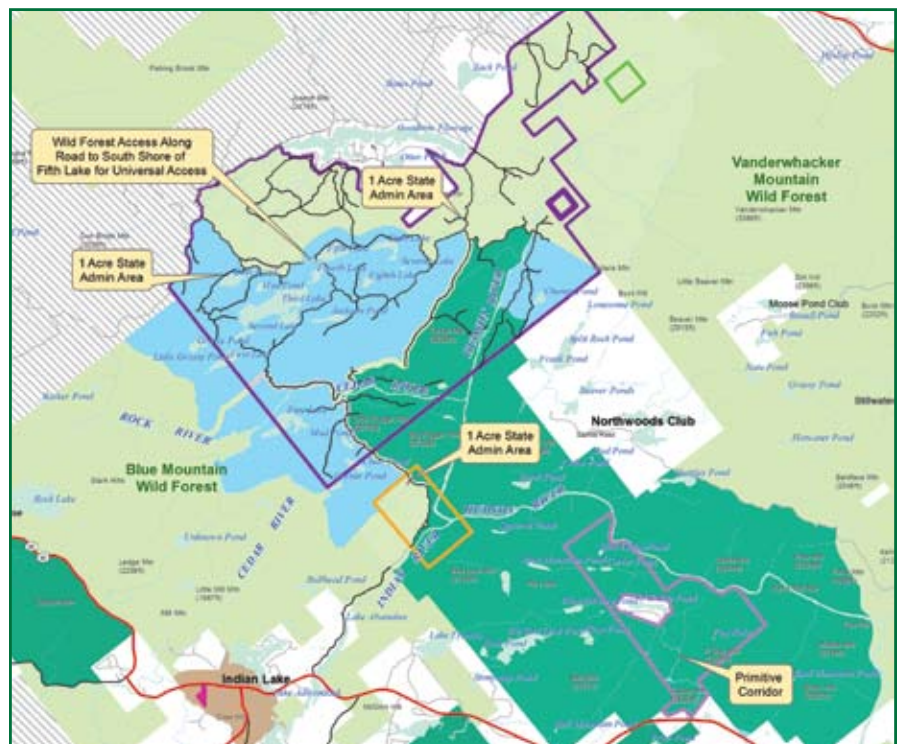
In recent years, Adirondack Council members' letters and emails helped to discourage the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) from approving a poorly structured General Permit for clear-cutting. This would have allowed commercial timberland owners to clear-cut their properties without a formal review of the harvesting plans or any opportunity for public input. General permits would never expire.

This year, Council members will again be called upon to urge the APA to modernize its regulations for timber harvesting, without sacrificing environmental protections. The APA's 1970s-era forestry regulations are outdated and don't reflect the latest science or the international economics of forestry management. There is an opportunity to update these regulations to better promote sustainable forestry and responsible private forest management in the Park.

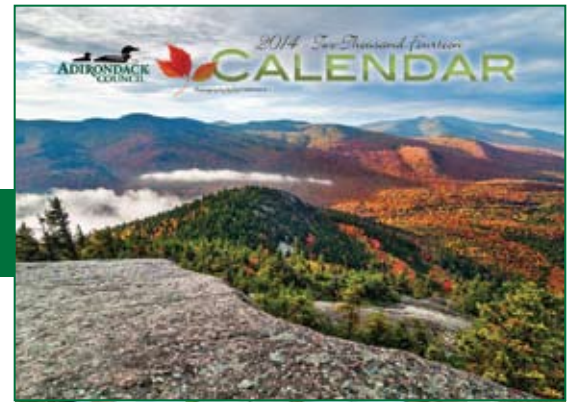
The APA has slated a regulatory roundtable discussion between timberland owners and environmental advocates for the end of January 2014.

*Above: Residents of the Arctic, Snowy Owls (*Bubo scandiacticus*), are being seen in unusually high numbers this winter from Newfoundland through the Northeast states. The largest owl in North America, Snowy Owl sightings typically occur in large open areas, such as airports, fields, and wetlands, where they hunt for rodents and small waterfowl.*

Gray Wolf and Snowy Owl Photos © Larry Master, masterimages.org



## OLD FRIENDS AND NEW FACES



## Adirondack Council Gathering

Wild Character Award Recipients



A January gathering generously hosted by John and Margot Ernst brought together long-time friends and new supporters of the Council. New York State Senator Liz Krueger (D-Manhattan) was the special guest speaker and one of three recipients of our impromptu Wild Character Award for contributions to the Adirondack Park. The Senator was presented with one of the Council's wild character hats. Former Adirondack Park Agency Commissioner Cecil Wray and long-time supporter Eugene Grant were also cheered for their conservation contributions.

Pictured (L to R): Cecil Wray, Tricia Winterer, Eugene Grant, William Janeway - Executive Director, Ann Carmel - Board Chair, and State Sen. Liz Krueger

## 2014 Forever Wild Calendar

Featuring the Adirondack landscape photography of Carl Heilman II, the Adirondack Council's 2014 calendar brings you into the Park with Carl's breathtaking images. \$13.00

**ON SALE - \$7.00** (supply limited)

Place an order for a calendar or other products by calling the Adirondack Council at 1.877.873.2240 (toll-free) or ordering online at [www.AdirondackCouncil.org](http://www.AdirondackCouncil.org)

*Proceeds from sales benefit Adirondack Park conservation.*

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is a member of



CFC #22101

Thank you to Adirondack Council members who contribute through their EarthShare workplace giving campaigns. We appreciate your interest in protecting the Adirondack Park and your support for our conservation and advocacy efforts.

Contact EarthShare today to talk about bringing EarthShare to **your** workplace! [info@earthshare.org](mailto:info@earthshare.org)

## Clarence Petty Intern

Meet Billy Martin



Billy is a graduate of Paul Smith's College of Arts and Sciences with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management and Policy. Last fall, he worked with Council staff creating maps identifying sensitive areas that helped persuade state officials to keep the Essex Chain and Hudson Gorge motor-free. He also participated in public hearings, drafted comment letters and represented the Council at stakeholder meetings.

In his free time, Billy enjoys hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing with his dog Aldo. Billy hopes to remain in the conservation field inspiring healthful, sustainable lifestyles that emphasize the importance of people and place.

For information on the Council's Clarence Petty Internship Program please visit our website at [AdirondackCouncil.org](http://AdirondackCouncil.org).

## New Staff Member

Meet Michele Drozd



Michele joined the Council staff in 2013 as the Membership/Communications Assistant and works with the fund development and communications teams in daily operations, member support and social media outreach.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Michele graduated from Alfred University with a degree in Fine Art/Ceramics and spent the following 10 years living and working in the southern

Adirondacks as a professional artist and innkeeper.

Michele first came to the Adirondacks in 2002 for a ceramics residency in Keene, and is thrilled to finally return to the High Peaks region. Michele and her husband now live in, and continually renovate, a 1830s farm house in Elizabethtown. They enjoy hiking, biking, and skiing in the Adirondacks, or travelling in some remote location around the world.





## ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

*Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness*

103 Hand Avenue, Suite 3  
P.O. Box D-2  
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Syracuse, NY  
Permit No. 994

*Printed on Mohawk Options recycled paper (100% post-consumer content) in a facility that is certified 100% wind powered.*



### 2014 Forever Wild Day

Saturday, July 12, 2014

Adirondack History Center Museum  
Elizabethtown, NY

Plan a trip to Elizabethtown, Essex County, on July 12 for the Adirondack Council's annual Forever Wild Day celebration. This year's event is being held at the Adirondack History Center Museum, directly across the street from the Council's main office. Free admission to the museum will allow you to explore its lovely Colonial Garden and restored six-story Adirondack Fire Observation Tower. Elizabethtown is the ideal destination for outdoor activities or exploring the amenities the small town offers.

Visit [AdirondackCouncil.org](http://AdirondackCouncil.org) or call 1.877.873.2240 for more event information.

*Photo: Fire Tower on Hurricane Mountain near Elizabethtown, NY*

## Results Matter

Working with partner organizations, elected officials and YOU, the Council's successful advocacy results in policies, decisions and funding that benefit the Adirondack Park. The Council moves beyond debate to get tangible results. Thank you for joining us and making a difference for the Adirondack Park.

✓ Stopped a clear-cutting general permit and got the Adirondack Park Agency to agree to updating regulations related to private forest management.

✓ Achieved Legislative passage of bills to strengthen the local food economy and reduce mercury pollution.

✓ Secured victory for scenic vistas and public safety. Cell towers built and substantially invisible.

✓ Attained the first increase in the Environmental Protection Fund in six years, including \$18 million for land protection.

✓ Won the Governor's support for 34,000-acre motor-free areas, the Hudson Gorge Wilderness and Essex Chain of Lakes Primitive Area.