

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

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U.S. Supreme Court Ruling

A historic day for the Park's struggle against acid rain

On Tuesday, April 29, 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it was illegal for coal-fired power plants in the Midwest to cause acid rain in the Adirondacks. This ruling means that over the next few years, power plants in 28 states east of the Rocky Mountains will have to cut their smokestack emissions of sulfur- and nitrogen-based air pollution by roughly 70 percent, or until they stop causing air pollution problems in the states next to them.

These pollution cuts are expected to be deep enough to halt the continuing, day-to-day damage that has punished the soil and water of the Adirondack Park for decades. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency and American Lung Association estimate that when these cuts are fully realized, they will save the lives of 34,000 Americans each year who would have died of lung disease from breathing unhealthy air.

In the Adirondack Park, we will experience much cleaner air than we have for the past several decades, especially at high elevation, where smog and acid fog have harmed people, vegetation and wildlife. Visit AdirondackCouncil.org for more details on what the decision means for the Park.



Above: View from Hopkins Mountain. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

Steering the ATV debate

Protection of Forest Preserve a priority

This legislative session, the Adirondack Council focused on addressing threats from all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and finding solutions that better protect the Forest Preserve from ATV abuse. The Council worked with other groups to beat back an early proposal aimed at allowing the registration of bigger, heavier ATVs.

Advocacy efforts were also centered around legislation that would ban ATVs from the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves, the Albany Pine Bush, and the Long Island Pine Barrens, and create stricter penalties for violators.

The Council does not oppose the legal use of ATVs in appropriate ways such as farming or logging on private lands. We do oppose ATV use on the Forest Preserve, except in providing access to people with disabilities on designated roads, and for limited activities allowed by the State Land Master Plan, such as search and rescue.



Right: An ATV rider drives through a stream in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

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Members Matter

Your Voice, Your Adirondack Park

The future of your Adirondack Park depends on a smart, vocal Adirondack constituency. This includes you.

Your voice gets heard when you are one of many people the Adirondack Council represents. You have impact in the halls and private offices of government, at public meetings and when necessary, in the courts. Together, with partners, we educate and advocate for what is unique and globally special about your Adirondacks.

A hike I took this spring in the Adirondack Park's Champlain Valley was dominated by dozens of fragile wildflowers, from red trillium to Dutchman's breeches, plus young sugar maple trees and towering white pines. Birds sang in the trees and soared overhead. The view from the summit included Lake Champlain, the high peaks, farms, and forests. This landscape of waters, mountains, wildlife, and wilderness is full of life and sound. But nature can't speak to elected leaders. So we must.

Our elected leaders and government officials are now making decisions that will determine the future character and quality of your Adirondack Park forever. They decide if areas will be protected as Forever Wild, where and how development will occur, if motorized recreation will be permitted on state lands, and if public funds will be invested in combating invasive species.

As a member of the Adirondack Council and as a constituent who stands up for the Adirondacks, you speak to these decision makers. Your membership gives the Council's voice added impact. State leaders value the advice, comments and suggestions of Adirondack Council members, and our conservation, communications, advocacy, and legal teams. When we speak, decision makers listen.

Together, we are the voice for nature and a future Adirondack Park with clean water, large protected areas and vibrant hamlets. We've secured important additional wilderness management commitments in the last year, and a victory on acid rain, but there is much more to do. This is why your membership and support matter.


William C. Janeway
Executive Director

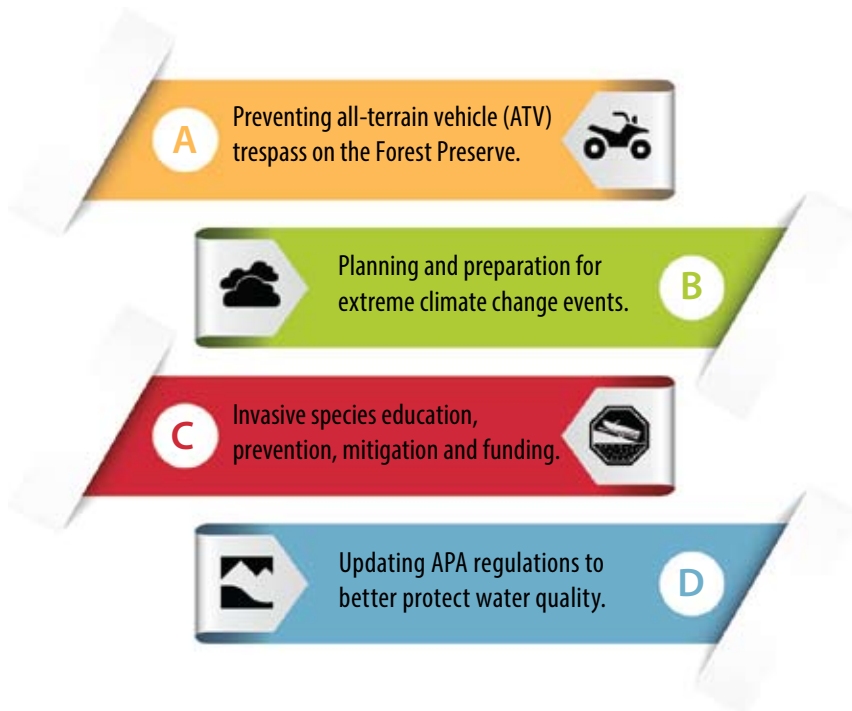
The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations.

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.

2014 Legislative Agenda

Four key areas for reform



Budget Provides Modest Restoration

Environmental funding still low

The New York State Legislature approved its fourth consecutive on-time budget on March 31. The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) saw a \$9-million increase, but beyond the EPF our environmental agencies did not receive any substantial funding increases. The Adirondack Council believes that more must be done to address shortcomings in the budget with regard to open space protection, invasive species, smart growth, state land stewardship, and agency funding.

Save The Date

2014 Common Ground Alliance (CGA) forum

The public is welcome to attend the eighth annual CGA forum being held in Long Lake on July 16. During this election year, one goal will be to develop a set of consensus issues to bring to potential candidates for public office. Please contact the Council for details.

Thanks to all our vocal supporters who urged policymakers to restore critical Adirondack environmental funding and oppose the expansion of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use on the protected lands of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Your engagement on these legislative issues has a tremendous impact.



Above: Adirondack Council Legislative Director Kevn Chlad, and Township 40 spokesperson Carolyn N. Gerdin, enjoyed the 2014 Capital Region Eco-Breakfast hosted by the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV).

Council Honored for Role in Prop 4

Watchful eye on NYCO amendment process

In March, the Adirondack Council was honored by the New York League of Conservation Voters for its leadership in coalition efforts to help the community of Raquette Lake win approval of a Constitutional Amendment that cleared up a century-old dispute over ownership of nearly 200 parcels of private land.

When voters approved the amendment (Prop 4) they granted clear titles of ownership to the families and institutions that had occupied the lands for decades. In exchange, the landowners agreed to pay into a fund to be used by the Town of Long Lake to acquire the 300-acre Marion River Carry parcel. The carry will be donated to the "Forever Wild" Adirondack Forest Preserve. This portage route is a vital recreational link between Raquette Lake and Blue Mountain Lake that could have been lost to development. The Open Space Institute has acquired and protected the parcel until the town can complete the transaction.

Meanwhile, state officials are working with NYCO Minerals to explore the mining potential of another parcel approved by the voters for a land swap last November (Prop 5). The Council has advised the officials that it expects them to abide by all laws and regulations governing the Forest Preserve during the exploration.

If the company finds that the 200-acre parcel contains enough wollastonite ore to justify expanding its current operation, it will give the public a minimum of 1,500 acres to be added to the adjacent Jay Mountain Wilderness Area. The 200 acres will return to the Forest Preserve after the company finishes mining operations.

IN AND ABOUT THE PARK

Essex, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga and Warren counties

More land for Forest Preserve

In March, Gov. Cuomo announced the purchase of 8,451 acres, located throughout five Adirondack counties, from the Nature Conservancy (TNC). All will be added to the “Forever Wild” Forest Preserve. The 14 new parcels (labeled and on the map in yellow) contain rivers, ponds, wildlife habitat, and trails. They offer exceptional recreational opportunities. The state will pay \$5.7 million from the Environmental Protection Fund for the land. The purchase is phase three in the state’s plan to acquire 69,000 acres of former Finch, Pruyn & Co. lands bought by TNC in 2007.

Right: The 3,820-acre Benson Road Tract in Fulton and Hamilton counties.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.



Lewis County

No environmental review completed for SNIRT run

In early April, the Council issued a letter to the Lewis County Board of Legislators requesting that the county conduct a formal environmental review of the SNIRT run pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act. The ATV rally that hosts roughly 3,000 riders is located just west of the Adirondack Park. The aftermath of the 11th annual run has shown once again that this event damages public and private lands, and invites illegal activities such as trespass. The Council will continue to seek adequate environmental safeguards for this event and resist expansion into the Park.

Fine

Wanakena footbridge destroyed

In January, the historic Wanakena footbridge succumbed to a severe ice-jam. The pedestrian suspension bridge, which spans the Oswegatchie River, has been a treasured community icon for more than a century. Reconstruction efforts are being organized by the Wanakena Historical Association. The Council supports the replacement of this historic structure.

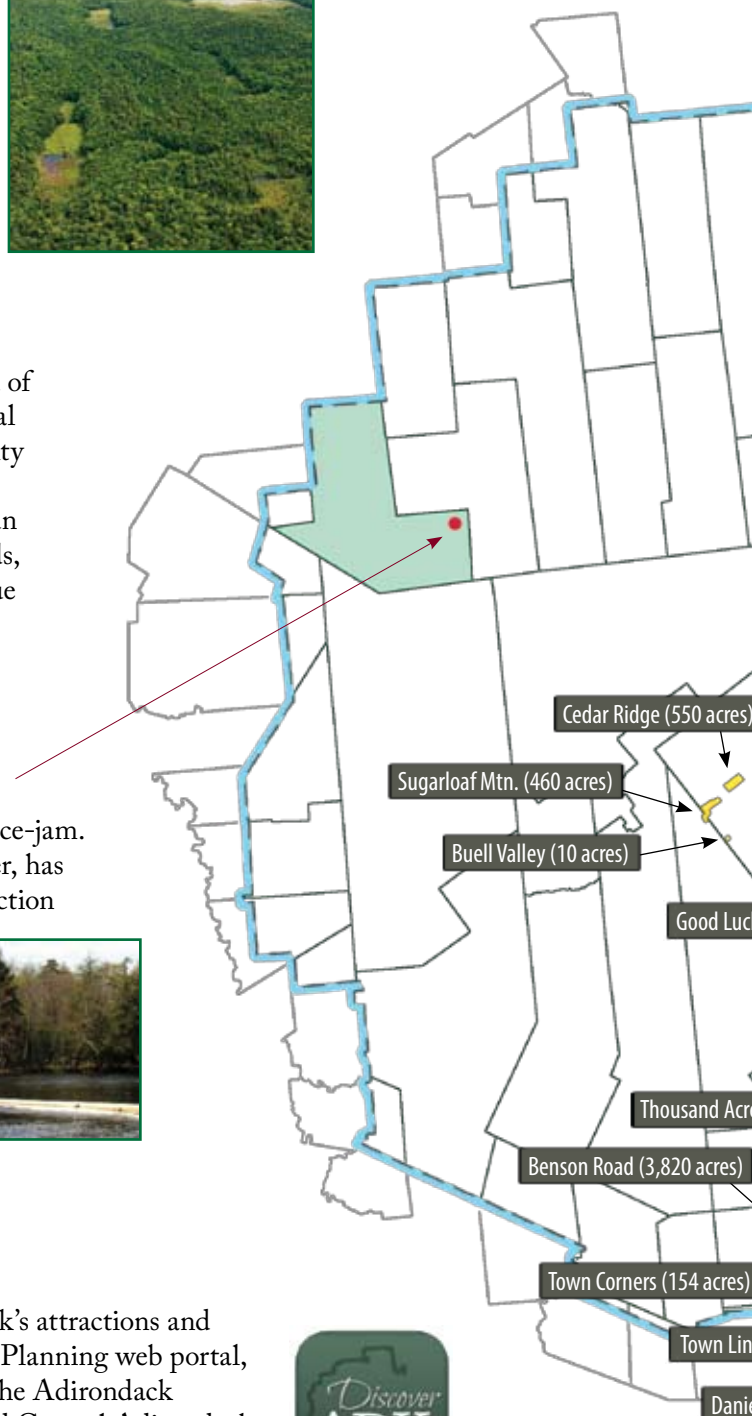
Photo courtesy of Allen Ditch, Wanakena Historical Association.



Adirondack Park on Your Smart Phone

Free mobile app showcases attractions

The *Discover the Adirondack Park* app provides information on the Park’s attractions and diverse recreational amenities and compliments the Adirondack Trip Planning web portal, VisitAdirondacks.com. The app was created in partnership between the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, Center for Economic Growth and Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century. Public input is encouraged to help add information that will improve user experience.





Tanker cars transporting crude oil bisect Lake Champlain and Wickham Marsh Wildlife Management Area in Port Kent, NY.

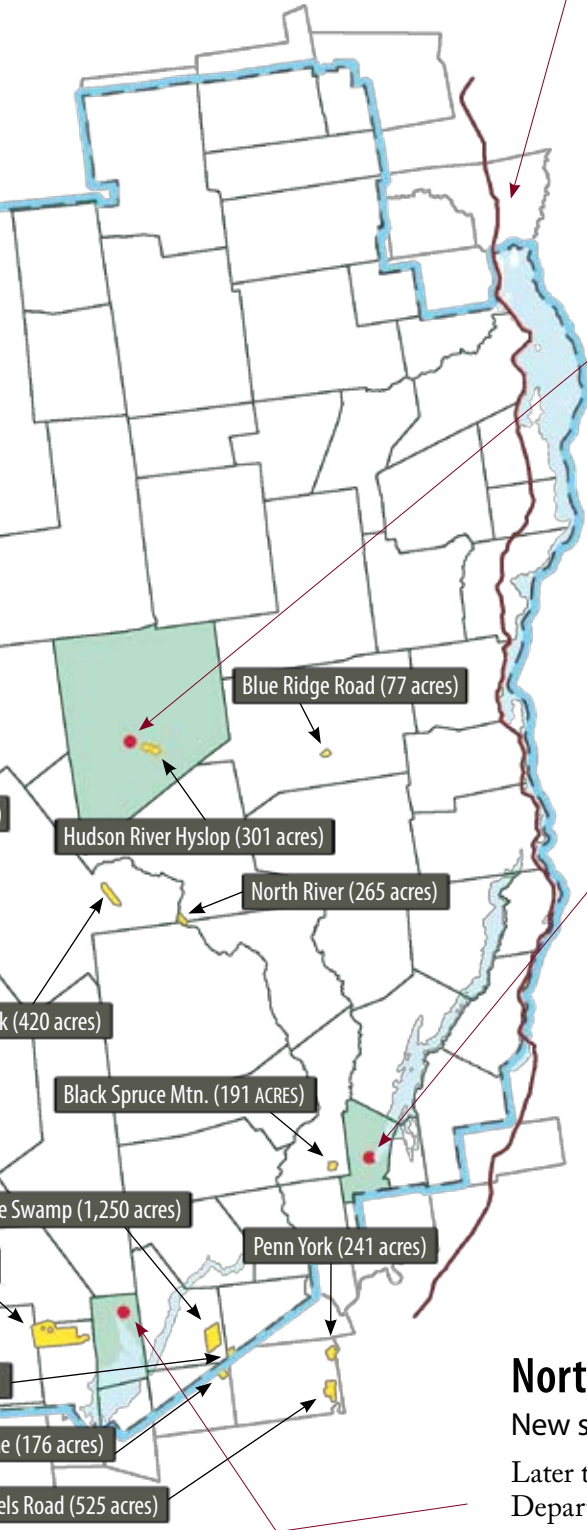
Champlain Valley

Crude oil trains present danger to the Park

Due to a vast increase in the amount of explosive crude oil being transported through the Adirondack Park via rail, the Adirondack Council has asked state and federal agencies to closely examine the potential hazards to Park communities and natural resources in the event of a derailment and/or spill.

Several trains per day carrying hundreds of tanker cars of crude oil use the Canadian Pacific Rail lines between Montreal and Albany (on the map in red ■) to ship oil to refineries. More than 120 cars per day pass through the Adirondack Park for roughly 100 miles, with each car carrying more than 33,000 gallons of oil.

The Council urged agencies to work with CP Rail to protect Park residents and Lake Champlain, as well as the Ausable, Saranac and Boquet rivers, as tracks run within a few feet of each. The Environmental Protection Agency responded by inviting the Council to participate in a planning effort they are undertaking to develop site-specific action plans to better protect areas in the Adirondacks through which those trains travel.



Newcomb

Adirondack Diversity Conference - August 16

Save the date for a *Diversity in the Adirondacks* symposium being held at SUNY/ESF's Adirondack Interpretive Center (AIC) in Newcomb. The symposium will focus on ways advocates can expose the Adirondack Park to diverse audiences throughout the state. Only by growing the interest and experience in the Adirondacks of people from demographics that mirror New York's population can we ensure there will be a strong constituency for the Park long into the future. For registration, questions and additional info contact the AIC at 518.582.2000, or email aic@esf.edu.

Lake George

Lawn fertilizer banned near waters

In April, the Lake George Town Board voted unanimously to prohibit the use of lawn fertilizers within 50 feet of any waterbody in the town. This was an amendment to the town's Fertilizer Restriction Law for the Lake George Park, which had originally banned lawn fertilizer application within three feet from waterbodies.

Floating classroom gets EPA award

The Lake George Association's Floating Classroom was presented a 2014 Environmental Quality Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in April. The Floating Classroom is a program that gives students the chance to learn about aquatic sciences by getting onto the water.



Photo courtesy of the Lake George Association.

Northampton

New starting point for Northville-Placid trail

Later this year, the Northville-Placid Trail will have a new starting point when the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) extends the wooded trail from Benson to Northville. The new trailhead, located at the Northville Waterfront Park, will keep hikers off the highway and allow for a more pleasant start to the hike. The DEC is also building a new parking lot and kiosk for the trailhead.

CONSERVATION MATTERS



Biomass – Good for the Park

If it's done right

In his 2014 State of the State address in January, Gov. Cuomo highlighted the Renewable Heat NY Initiative which seeks to increase the visibility and economic feasibility of advanced biomass heating systems. The Adirondack Council understands that biomass is a complex issue, but we are committed to working with other stakeholders to have sustainable, efficient and clean biomass in the Adirondack Park. Biomass must be produced from sustainably managed forests and be climate-smart, using available technology to achieve a net reduction in both fine particulate and carbon emissions. This will allow for greater energy independence and better climate protection, and support sustainable forest management on private lands in the Park.



Road Salt Conference

Water quality impacts to be addressed

On September 16, at Paul Smith's College, the Adirondack Council, AdkAction.org and the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) will host a conference to discuss the problem of ground water contamination from road salt use on state roads in the Adirondacks. This conference will continue to explore the linkages between the use of road salt and the growing levels of sodium and chloride in Adirondack lakes.

Road salt contamination is approaching acid and mercury deposition as a primary problem for water quality in the Adirondacks. The Council and its partners are working on engaging state agencies on strategies to mitigate the environmental impacts of road salt use.

Kushaqua Draft Recreation Management Plan

Council urges resource protection

In March, the Adirondack Council submitted comments to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on the Draft Recreation Management Plan for the Kushaqua Conservation Easement Tract located in the towns of Franklin and Brighton, Franklin County. Recreation Management Plans (RMPs) describe what and where specific recreational uses are allowed on privately owned easement lands and how they will be managed. The Kushaqua Tract includes many recreational uses, including hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use on a few logging roads.

In our comments, the Council stated that while ATVs may be allowed, the DEC is legally required to ensure that ATVs do not damage these lands or trespass on adjoining Forest Preserve. We also noted that the DEC needs adequate resources to ensure enforcement of all RMPs, so that these resources are not lost to inappropriate uses.

Above: Over 28,000 acres of the Sable Highlands Conservation Easement Lands, located in northern Adirondack Park, are open to public access for recreation.

Agencies Invite Public Comment

A voice for nature and future generations

When the public is invited to submit comments on government actions, the Adirondack Council is committed to participating in the process. We also count on you to contact policymakers when necessary. If you haven't already, please send us your email address.

You can view the Council's comments regarding the recent issues listed below (and others) on our website under [resources/public comments and bill memos](#).

Bear Pond Ranch zip line: Our comments submitted to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) on a proposed zip line project, south of Lake George, voiced concerns regarding visual aesthetics and stormwater impacts.



Black bear management plan: The Council opposed elements in the original draft DEC plan that would allow for currently banned methods of bear hunting like the use of dogs and bait.

General permit to replace utility poles in wetlands: The Council was generally supportive of the APA's general permit proposal, but suggested improvements to reduce the impacts to water quality, natural resources and wildlife.



SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL



In Memoriam

Robert Garrett (1937-2013)



The Adirondack Council was saddened by the death of Board Member Rob Garrett in March. As those who had the pleasure of spending time with him can attest, Rob was a kind and gracious person, a true gentleman. He joined the Council's Board of Directors in 2009 and was serving as Treasurer at the time of his death. Rob's great-grandparents came to the Paul Smith's Hotel in 1887 and purchased their property on Upper St. Regis Lake the following year. As he said in his Board

member biography, "We have been passionate Adirondackers ever since." We will miss Rob's gentle nature, easy smile and steadfast commitment to the Adirondacks. We will remember him with inspiration and appreciation.

2014 Outdoor Gear Raffle

Proceeds benefit Adirondack conservation

On Friday, July 25, 2014, the Adirondack Council will raffle outdoor gear and an Adirondack stay generously donated by The North Face, Gregory Mountain Products, Tough Traveler, Coleman, and The Inn at the Bridge.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

Ticket holders need not be present to win. For more information about raffle items and to purchase tickets visit AdirondackCouncil.org or call 1-877-873-2240.



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Proceeds from sales benefit Adirondack Park conservation.

Clarence Petty Interns

Meet Pine Roehrs and Cory Loomis



Pine Roehrs was the latest Clarence Petty Intern in the Council's Elizabethtown office. Pine is a graduate student in the Environmental Studies program at the University of Illinois, Springfield

concentrating on Sustainable Development and Policy. At the Council, Pine analyzed the issues associated with private land use, development, classification, and regulation in the Park. Pine enjoys skiing, hiking, traveling, and photography.

Cory Loomis is the Clarence Petty Intern working in the Council's Albany office. Cory is a first year Masters of Public Administration student at the University of Albany's Rockefeller College, focusing on



Nonprofit Management and Public Policy. At the Council, Cory prepares memos on legislation, attends legislative committee meetings, tracks legislation, and compiles Adirondack press articles. Cory enjoys baseball, camping, playing music, and performing stand-up comedy.

The Council's internship program seeks to carry on the legacy of Adirondack conservation activist Clarence Petty (1904-2009).



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness

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FOREVER WILD DAY

Saturday

July 12 2014

Noon - 2pm

ADIRONDACK HISTORY CENTER MUSEUM
ELIZABETHTOWN, NY



Join us in honoring:

**THE MARSHALL FAMILY
CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR**



**ADIRONDACK EXPLORER MAGAZINE
SPECIAL RECOGNITION**



As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the Adirondack Council's Board of Directors and staff are pleased to honor the Marshall Family with the Conservationist of the Year Award.

Louis and Florence Marshall resided in New York City but spent summers at Knollwood in Saranac Lake where their children James, Bob, George, and Ruth shared their parents' love for the Adirondacks. Since Louis Marshall authored Article XIV, New York State's "Forever Wild" clause, the family past and present, has been champions for wilderness protection.

The Council will also recognize the *Adirondack Explorer* magazine at our annual Forever Wild Day, for excellence in journalism and education that helps people understand, explore, protect, and celebrate the Adirondack Park.

Left: View from Hurricane Mountain. *Photo © Carl Heilman II / Wild Visions, Inc.*
Below (L-R): Marshall Family at Knollwood and wilderness preservationist Bob Marshall. *Photo courtesy of Liza Cowan*

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