






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

INSIDE

-  Governor's Adirondack Vision
-  Pro-Adirondack Budget Proposals
-  Debating ATVs
-  APA Approves Subdivision
-  Celebrating 40 years of results

Preserving the Legacy

Protecting Forest Preserve resources for future generations

Nearly half of the Adirondack Park is comprised of lands owned by the people of New York State. This legacy of public lakes, streams and forests provide a healthy environment, recreational opportunities and a lifestyle people cherish.

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan guides the management or stewardship of the "Forever Wild" Forest Preserve. It classifies the public lands of the Adirondacks and gives them different levels of protection, with only the wildest and most sensitive classified as Wilderness. According to the Master Plan the state must first protect the Park's fragile environment, and then accommodate public recreation where it will do the least harm.

Whether enjoying an unbroken forest landscape from behind the wheel of a car, hiking through a remote wilderness area or riding from town to town on a snowmobile, the way we experience the Adirondacks is shaped by the Master Plan.



"IF THERE IS A UNIFYING THEME TO THE MASTER PLAN, IT IS THAT THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE LANDS WITHIN THE PARK MUST BE PARAMOUNT. HUMAN USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THOSE LANDS SHOULD BE PERMITTED AND ENCOURAGED, SO LONG AS THE RESOURCES... ARE NOT DEGRADED."

ADIRONDACK PARK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN, PAGE 1

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is considering changes to the Master Plan that are required in order to honor the January 2014 decision to protect close to 10,000 acres including the Essex Chain of Lakes as motor-free. One change would allow mountain bike use on dirt roads in the area, and another would accommodate a snowmobile trail on adjoining lands connecting the towns of Indian Lake and Newcomb.

While opening the Master Plan to amendments for the Essex Chain, the APA is considering other changes to the overall plan, some good, some not. The APA held listening sessions where citizens and organizations suggested a variety of options. Expanding backcountry skiing, allowing mountain bikes in more places, making recreation and economic impact a priority over environmental protections, adding places where all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) can be used, and allowing motors in more places are just some of the changes that could significantly change the Park.

The Adirondack Council looks forward to continued participation in the process of securing the amendments that are part of protecting the Essex Chain and Hudson Gorge as motor-free. We are encouraging the state to consider other changes carefully. We will respect all stakeholders' perspectives, defend the ecological integrity and wild character of the Forest Preserve, and seek to ensure that the Park and its communities benefit from the Park's public lands for generations to come. Visit our website for information on the Master Plan and the Council's recommendations.

Above: A skier enjoys the Raymond Brook Ski Trail in North Creek, Warren County.



Board of Directors

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

Directors Emeriti

Timothy L. Barnett	David Heidecorn
Richard Beamish	Gary F. Heurich
Etienne Boillot	Theodore L. Hullar, Ph.D.
Peter Borrelli	George R. Lamb
Jeff Bronheim	Douglas S. Luke
John P. Cahill	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	David Skovron
Edward D. Earl	James L. Sonneborn
Betty Eldridge	Lynette M. Stark
Christopher Elliman	Constance A. Tate
J. Edward Fowler	Thomas D. Thacher II
Barbara L. Glaser, Ed.D.	Patricia D. Winterer
Robert L. Hall, Ph.D.	Aaron Woolf
Sarah Collum Hatfield	Tony Zazula

Staff

Rocci Aguirre	J. A. Tyler Frakes
Julie Ball	Lisa M. Genier
Elaine Burke	Susan Hughes
Kevin Chlad	William C. Janeway
Diane Fish	John F. Sheehan
Noah Cadet Clarence Petty Intern	
Marin George Grant Conservation Fellow	

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
info@adirondackcouncil.org

Newsletter photos by Adirondack Council staff
unless otherwise noted.



A Successful Adirondack Park

Envisioning a way there

I met my friend David almost 30 years ago in the Adirondacks. He moved to Lake Placid and established a successful business. Besides being an excellent businessman, David was, and still is, an enthusiastic cross-country skier. While skiing on trails at Mt. Van Hoevenberg this winter, I saw David again.

“This is what brought my family to the Adirondacks, great skiing and an APA (Adirondack Park Agency) to keep the Adirondacks from being destroyed like so many other places across the country and around the world. It doesn’t get any better than this,” said David.

This is one of the reasons why the Adirondack Council team, with friends, works 365 days a year to realize a vision, an Adirondack Park where core wilderness areas are protected and surrounded by working forests, family farms and vibrant local communities. Success is when the APA is effective, and David and others enjoy the benefits of clean water, clean air and wilderness, while being able to live, work and raise a family here.

A vision for success is important. We oppose actions that threaten the vision of a sustainable Adirondacks. We are also proactive, and have a plan and priorities to move steadily toward success. One of our priorities is securing new funding for Adirondack wilderness and clean water. Another is to advance science-based reforms at the Adirondack Park Agency to ensure it has new tools to better protect the natural resources we love, and the sustainable communities we want to prosper.

This year, the Council is celebrating our 40th anniversary. Since 1975, we’ve secured results (and lost a few well-fought battles). We helped protect over one million Adirondack acres, beat back acid rain, witnessed the return of loons, eagles, moose, and bobcats, and have seen some communities benefit from expanding tourism. We will not rest on these and other accomplishments because that is not our nature, and because we can’t.

Why? Because the Adirondack Park is far from finished. We have opportunities for new wilderness and opportunities to develop world-class tourism infrastructure respectful of the Forever Wild legacy. There are also opportunities to attract a new diverse generation of people who can help us preserve this great public/private wild lands landscape. Thank you, on behalf of David, and future generations, for being part of this effort to realize success for the Adirondacks and for the world.


William C. Janeway
Executive Director

Above: Adirondack Council staff and friends enjoy an afternoon of skiing.

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.

CAPITAL MATTERS: ALBANY



Governor Presents his Adirondack Vision

2nd term agenda detailed

In January, Governor Andrew Cuomo presented his “Opportunity Agenda.” This includes an unprecedented number of Adirondack proposals important to protecting clean water and wildlife, preserving wilderness, and enhancing economic sustainability and vibrancy for communities:



The Council is pleased the Governor’s visioning document notes the positive contributions of “a nascent grassroots movement, where traditionally disparate factions in the Park are now working tirelessly in a spirit of common ground to bridge historic divides.” The Council is committed to helping grow this effective approach to finding innovative solutions for the Park.

Governor’s Plan Increases Adirondack Funding

Pro-Adirondack budget proposals

When Governor Andrew Cuomo presented his “Opportunity Agenda” on January 21st it included an executive budget proposal. Highlights of his proposal include:

- A \$10-million increase to the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), with funding added to all four Council priorities:
 - Open Space Protection - increase of \$3.85 million
 - State Land Stewardship - increase of \$1.15 million
 - Invasive Species - increase of \$1 million
 - Smart Growth - increase of \$200,000
- Funding to develop an Adirondack Invasive Species Strategy
- An additional 36 staff at the Department of Environmental Conservation
- Adirondack Park Agency budget increase of 3.5 percent

Budget Testimony Delivered

Grow the EPF; clean water funds sought

Executive Director William C. Janeway and Legislative Director Kevin Chlad testified on the Governor’s budget before the NYS Senate and Assembly Finance and Environmental Conservation Committees. They praised the pro-Adirondack elements of the Governor’s proposal and highlighted opportunities where the legislature could make improvements.

Suggested changes included increasing the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to \$200 million with growing real estate transfer tax revenue rather than sweeping green energy funds. The Council also highlighted the potential to help the Park’s communities by using a portion of the state’s \$5.4 billion in windfall settlement money for grants to pay for municipal clean water projects, and the need for reforms and staff at the Adirondack Park Agency. The Council will continue to push for a final budget that supports clean water, healthy wildlife and vibrant communities.

Please visit our website for Legislative Director Chlad’s full analysis on the Governor’s proposals.

Above (L - R): Adirondack Council Executive Director William C. Janeway and Legislative Director Kevin Chlad deliver testimony in January. Photo courtesy of the NYS Senate

Your Voice Needed

Help restore the EPF

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.

CAPITAL MATTERS: ALBANY



New Conservation Leaders

O'Mara and Englebright chosen

The NYS Senate and Assembly have chosen their new Environmental Conservation committee chairs. The Senate chair is Senator Thomas O'Mara (R-Big Flats) sponsor of the successful 2014 Invasive Species Prevention Act.



Assemblyman Steve Englebright (D-Setauket), a long-known environmental champion with a deep understanding of the Park, will head the Assembly Conservation Committee. The Council looks forward to working with these new leaders for the betterment of the Adirondack Park.



Debating ATVs

Forest Preserve protections a high priority

The Adirondack Council has spent the fall and early winter working with stakeholders with different views of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to identify potentially common goals. Illegal recreational use of ATVs on the Adirondack Forest Preserve continues to damage vegetation, destroy wetlands, threaten wildlife, and deter solitude seeking, non-motorized user groups. While the Council is opposed to ATV use on Forest Preserve lands, except for search and rescue purposes, we do not oppose the operation of ATVs on private land in the Park. The Council will continue to advocate for legislation that reforms ATV riding for the betterment of the Park's ecology and economy.

Preserving Views of Night Time Sky

New law will help wildlife

At the end of last year, the Governor signed into law, a bill supported by the Council that is designed to curb light pollution from state facilities and preserve dark night skies in the Adirondack Park and beyond. The state will now be required to use low-profile lighting whenever it installs or replaces light fixtures at its facilities. The new law will protect sensitive wildlife that rely on the darkness of night to navigate during migration and breeding.

Above: The night sky and silhouette of the High Peaks from Elk Lake, Essex County.
Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

Oil Trains Threaten Water and Communities

Urgent action needed to reduce risk

Trains are transporting millions of gallons of oil daily on old rail lines adjoining our Adirondack communities and Lake Champlain. The dangers from these oil trains to people, our environment and our health has been demonstrated by accidents across the country and in Canada. Under pressure from many, including the Adirondack Council, New York and federal officials have made proposals and claim to be taking action to protect us. The Council urges more action, less talk, before it's too late.

Clean Water & Safe Roads

Reducing the use of road salt

The Adirondack Council is co-chairing a working group with local government that includes a variety of stakeholders, scientists and advisors from the NYS Department of Transportation. We're tasked with producing a multi-year plan for further reductions in the use of salt to improve the protection of water, expensive infrastructure and public health, while maintaining safe roads.

Clarence Petty Intern

Meet Noah Cadet

Noah Cadet is a graduate of Williams College with a Bachelor's degree in Political Economy, focusing on socioeconomic development. Noah works in the Council's Albany office collecting and archiving Adirondack news clips, drafting and distributing memos to the state legislature, tracking legislation, and attending legislative committee meetings. In his spare time, Noah enjoys kayaking, skiing (both downhill and cross-country), playing soccer, traveling, and playing piano. The Council's internship program seeks to carry on the legacy of Adirondack conservation activist Clarence Petty (1904-2009).



IN AND ABOUT THE PARK



Molpus Purchases Lands

Lewis, St. Lawrence & Franklin counties



In December, Molpus Woodlands, a timberland investment and management company, purchased 112,238 acres from the Forestland Group making it the largest private landowner in the Adirondack Park with over 273,000 acres. Most of the company's new lands are protected from development by conservation easements, and are likely to remain in timber production.

The Council has urged Molpus to continue managing these lands under a third-party certified sustainable harvesting plan.

Forest Plans Open

Council will analyze

The state announced a review of over a half dozen Forest Preserve unit management plans to consider new recreational opportunities and natural resources protections. The following plans are up for review: (1) Meacham Lake Boat Launch, (2) Saranac Lakes Wild Forest, (3) Camp Santanoni Historic Area, (4) Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest, (5) Jessup River Wild Forest, (6) Black River Wild Forest, (7) Pepperbox Wilderness, and, (8) Grasse River Wild Forest.

Resource Protection Needed

Great South Woods planning

The Department of Environmental Conservation and SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry are conducting a complex planning effort focused on enhancing recreational opportunities in the two million acres of the Adirondack Park known as the Great South Woods. The Council has long encouraged "complex" planning, but is concerned that this effort has not addressed natural resource protection as an equal component of the plan, and that it is setting unrealistic expectations on recreational access and uses for this region.

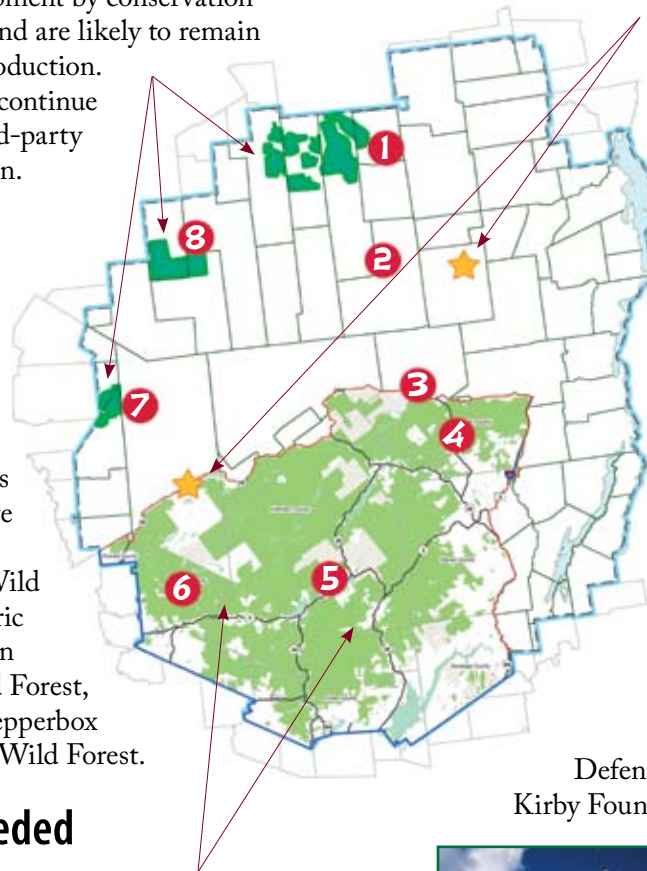
People and Nature Thriving Together

Lake Placid and Old Forge

The Council and artist Kevin Raines have organized a traveling exhibition of over 50 paintings and drawings that depict the natural beauty of the Adirondacks and myriad activities of people and families, artists and scientists, sportsmen and recreation enthusiasts experiencing the Adirondacks. Mr. Raines' work communicates the importance of Adirondack conservation and the integral

role of the human experience in protecting the environmental, cultural and economic assets of the Park. The first two exhibits will be at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts (June 19 opening reception – July 19) and View Arts Center in Old Forge (July 24 opening reception – Oct. 11).

Above: Kevin Raines' painting titled "Fir or Spruce?"



Acid Rain Roundtable

Positive steps forward

In October 2014, over 50 regional stakeholders, including scientists, policy experts and government officials, gathered to discuss the current state of acid rain impacts on the Adirondack Park. Co-hosted by the Council and Environmental

Defense Fund, with funding support by the Kirby Foundation, the roundtable focused on the

improvements that have been achieved over the past 40 years and the work that remains to further protect the Park from acid deposition. Themes from this gathering are expected to be topics at the International Acid Rain Conference this fall in Rochester, New York.

Left: Acid rain damage on Gothics.



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



Advocacy in Action

Voices for Park protection

We are committed to keeping you engaged and informed on important issues that may affect the water, wilderness and communities of the Adirondacks. The Council's comments regarding the recent issues listed below (and others) can be found on our website under [resources/public comments and bill memos](#).

Clean Power Plan Rule: Comments strongly supported the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to place limits on carbon pollution from more than 1,600 fossil-fuel burning electric power plants. The final standards of the plan are expected in June 2015.



Aquatic Invasives Management Plan: The Council reviewed and commented on the *Draft Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan* that details the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) actions to implement tighter controls on the spread and management of aquatic invasive species. While the Council supports the plan, we noted it failed to adequately address deficiencies in funding and staffing levels to implement the plan's recommendations.



Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor:

In comments, the Council reiterated our belief that regardless of use, the travel corridor needs to remain intact and urged the DEC and Department of Transportation to follow the Council's principles for management of the corridor.



APA Approves 1,100-acre Subdivision

Council and partners opposed

In December, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) approved a permit for a 24-lot subdivision on the former 1,100-acre Woodworth Lake Boy Scout Camp property. The Council and environmental partners unsuccessfully sought changes to the permit. The property has long been recommended for state protection. The approval demonstrates the need to update the APA's 40-year old rules and regulations, incorporating science-based, conservation design principles including clustering rather than dispersing new homes.

Like other recent large-scale projects approved by the APA, the Woodworth Lake development involves Resource Management lands, the most restrictive private land use classification within the Park. There is increasing pressure to build on these lands. Undeveloped lakes and unfragmented forests make them prime targets for developers.

Since the creation of the APA, the science of conservation landscape planning has grown in sophistication. Developments with a conservation design can protect ecologically sensitive areas from fragmentation and disturbance while fulfilling reasonable economic needs of a developer.

As with Woodworth Lake, many development projects claim to protect vast percentages of open space, but fail to evaluate the actual ecological value of the land. A comprehensive assessment of the environmental characteristics of the land should be completed to identify natural features, wildlife concerns and ecological benefits to guide location and scale of development to the least sensitive areas of the property.

As development pressure on backcountry lands continues to increase, the need for modern conservation planning is becoming more urgent. The APA and the Park would benefit from updated tools and new incentives as part of a science-based update to better protect clean water, wilderness, wildlife habitat, and the backcountry while fostering vibrant communities.

Above: A barred owl soaking up the winter sun in Elizabethtown, Essex County.

Grant Conservation Fellow

Meet Marin George

Thanks to generous donors, Eugene and Emily Grant, the Adirondack Council has hired their inaugural Conservation Fellow, Marin George. Having past experience working in wild lands, coupled with a Paul Smith's College degree in Natural Resources Sustainability, Marin joins the Council with a profound interest in growing as a conservation professional. She will be working with Conservation Director, Rocci Aguirre, gaining exposure to the entire suite of environmental policy issues impacting the six million-acre Adirondack Park while focusing on the preservation of wilderness.



SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL

Campaign to Secure the Future of the Adirondacks

Forever Wild Fund – insurance for action

To secure the future of the Adirondacks, the Council's consistent monitoring and engagement with government are critical. When diplomacy and public education are not enough to protect the Adirondacks, the Council must be prepared to act to safeguard the Adirondack Park for the future. The Council's Forever Wild Fund, a Board directed quasi-endowment, is insurance that we will always be ready and able to take action.



After adopting an ambitious 2014-2020 strategic plan, the Board of Directors committed to increasing the Forever Wild Fund, launching a campaign to raise \$3 million and increase the Fund to \$6 million. The increase will bolster the Council's annual operating resources and provide additional funds in the future (with Board approval) for extraordinary legal analysis and representation or to challenge unforeseen actions that threaten the Adirondack Park and require an immediate response.

We're well on our way! In January, we reached an initial goal of \$2.5 million with gifts from a small, generous group of Board members and Council supporters. This outpouring of enthusiasm represents a celebration of the Council's achievements and a commitment to our future projects and programs on behalf of the Adirondacks. We are so grateful and inspired.

Now, we are reaching out to all our members, donors and friends to help successfully reach our \$3 million goal by the Council's annual Forever Wild Day and celebration of our 40th anniversary on July 18th! Together we can help ensure that the Council is strong long into the future, helping us secure the future of the Adirondacks and build on the legacy of those that protected the Adirondacks before us.

Above (L-R): Campaign co-chairs and Adirondack Council Board Members Lee Keet, Ann E. Carmel & John Ernst.



What's Happening in the Park?

Follow our blog

Make sure you stay informed about the waters, wilderness, wildlife, and communities of the six-million acre Adirondack Park by following our In & About the Park Blog.



New Council Hats

Explore the Park in style

Proudly display your support for the Adirondack Council with our new hats featuring the loon logo on an embroidered patch. Available in forest green brushed cotton or putty/stone trucker. Get yours today by calling 877.873.2240 or visiting: shop.AdirondackCouncil.org

Price: \$15.00



Above (L to R): The Adirondack Council's Assistant Director of Fund Development Julie Ball and supporter Tonia Ness enjoy conversation at an event hosted by John and Margot Ernst in January.



Board Chair Ann E. Carmel thanks Mr. Grant for his generous support of Adirondack wilderness and the Adirondack Council. The Adirondack Council has established the Emily and Eugene Grant Conservation Fellowship.



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness

103 Hand Avenue, Suite 3

PO 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.

Celebrating 40 Years

Securing the Adirondacks – a national treasure

The Adirondack Council is celebrating our 40th anniversary this year! Thank YOU for being part of the Council. Together we can look back and count as our shared accomplishments critical successes to reduce acid rain emissions, improve water quality, support Park communities, expand wilderness, and strengthen private land protection. Now, we're inspired to look forward, knowing that we can build on the legacy of those that had the foresight to protect the Adirondack Park in 1892. Surrounding ourselves with organization and government partners as well as engaged members and citizens, the Council is focused on using our knowledge of the political process, respect for diverse views and fact-based advocacy to address the Park's 21st century challenges and opportunities. Together we will ensure that people and nature thrive together in the Adirondack Park, and that the Adirondacks are increasingly recognized as the national treasure we know and love.



Forever Wild Day 2015

Save the Date; Saturday, July 18, 2015

Join the Adirondack Council in Lake Placid on July 18th. Take in the spectacular views of the High Peaks from Heaven Hill Farm. Enjoy guided and self-guided activities on the 212-acre property under stewardship of the Henry Uihlein II and Mildred A. Uihlein Foundation. In addition to the Annual Members' Meeting, an Awards Lunch will honor our Conservationist of the Year and special guests in recognition of the Council's 40th anniversary. Visit AdirondackCouncil.org or call 1.877.873.2240 for more event information.

Below: Colden, Marcy and the High Peaks from Algonquin. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.

