

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

INSIDE

- 6,200 Acres Added to Preserve
- State Budget Good for Adirondacks
- Increase in Invasives Funding
- International Acid Rain Conference
- Forever Wild Day July 18, 2015

State Buys 6,200-acre High Peaks Property

Council and elected officials praise latest addition to Forest Preserve

In May, the Adirondack Council praised Gov. Andrew Cuomo's purchase of 6,200 acres of sensitive and biologically rich former timberlands, lakes and rivers from the Nature Conservancy for \$4.2 million using the Environmental Protection Fund.

These lands, known as the MacIntyre East property, are adjacent to the High Peaks Wilderness and conservation easements lands, located in the towns of Newcomb, Keene and North Hudson, Essex County. This area will provide new paddling and fishing opportunities on more than five miles of the Hudson River, and includes upland forests, a red maple floodplain, a spruce fir swamp and other wetlands, and habitat for a variety of birds, mammals and fish.

The announcement also drew praise from state and local government officials including Senator Betty Little (R-Queensbury); Assemblyman Dan Stec (R-Queensbury); Essex County Board of Supervisors Chairman Randy Douglas; Town of Newcomb Supervisor George Canon; Town of North Hudson Supervisor Ron Moore; and, Town of Keene Supervisor William Ferebee.

"THE MACINTYRE EAST TRACT WILL BE AN UNFORGETTABLE DRAW FOR OUTDOOR RECREATIONALISTS EAGER TO EXPLORE THE SOUTHERN HIGH PEAKS REGION. WORKING TOGETHER, OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ARE DOING A VERY GOOD JOB OF FINDING A BALANCE OF ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION AND RECREATIONAL ACCESS IMPORTANT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORTIVE OF OUR TOURISM-DEPENDENT ADIRONDACK ECONOMY."

*NYS STATE SENATOR BETTY LITTLE
(R-QUEENSBURY)*



The Adirondack Council will advocate for most of the MacIntyre East parcel, the MacIntyre West parcel (5,770 acres), along with the Casey Brook tract (1,587 acres) to be managed as motor-free additions to the High Peaks Wilderness Area, which is the Adirondack Park's premiere mountain climbing and hiking destination. However, the eastern side of the High Peaks is very heavily used and these parcels could expand the Wilderness to the south and improve access to Allen Mountain.

Above: The MacIntyre East parcel will offer new opportunities for paddlers on five miles of the Hudson River, seven miles of the Opalescent River, Sanford Lake, and Upper Twin and LeClair brooks. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.



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Seeking Common Ground

Thank you, Randy

Shortly after I became Executive Director in May 2013, Supervisor Randy Douglas gave the Adirondack Council a tour of his Adirondack town that was hit by three record floods in less than ten years. Randy showed courage in an era when some try to score political points by questioning good science and criticizing agencies charged with protecting clean water, wildlife and wilderness. He detailed how the Adirondack Council could help his community build a better and more resilient Adirondack Park.

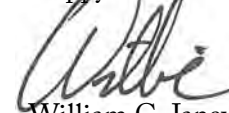
Randy surprised the Adirondacks this year when he announced he would be resigning his positions as supervisor of the Town of Jay, Chair of the Essex County Board of Supervisors and President-elect of the State Association of Counties.

There are 102 towns and villages in the six-million-acre Adirondack Park and I have had the privilege of meeting many local elected leaders. These individuals recognize what is special and globally unique about the Adirondacks. They are also committed to helping families, businesses, and communities thrive. The tensions we as Park advocates and elected leaders or government employees sometimes experience and try to sensitively manage are mixed with a shared interest in common sense solutions to practical problems.

As one example, Randy, many local communities, the Adirondack Council, and the Common Ground Alliance agree on the need for new state funds for clean water and wastewater, especially for small, rural communities. We all need clean water for public health, fish, wildlife, and business. Read elsewhere in this newsletter about our successful advocacy with partners for funding, including a new \$200-million clean water infrastructure grant program available to Adirondack communities.

Thank you, Randy Douglas, for having the courage and conviction to work with the Adirondack Council and be an effective advocate for all your constituents. And, thank you to all who support and engage with the Adirondack Council as we work to preserve the ecological integrity and wild forest character of the Adirondacks, including the Park's legacy of wilderness and communities.

Happy trails,



William C. Janeway
Executive Director

Above: Executive Director Willie Janeway thanks the outgoing Town of Jay Supervisor Randy Douglas. Photo courtesy of Denton Publications.

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



Approved State Budget Helps Adirondacks

Great results help wilderness and communities; more still needed

The Council worked with numerous coalitions, the Governor's office and the Legislature for a state budget that will help clean our water and air, protect wildlife and support local communities. A special thank you to the Council's members and supporters whose persistent outreach to policymakers helped yield major budget victories. Highlights include:



- Creation of the NYS Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Act, a **\$200 million, three-year plan** that will pay for matching grants to communities for local drinking water and wastewater treatment projects.



- A **\$1 billion public/private fund** for investment in broadband projects to help service the state's and the Park's rural communities.



- An **additional 36 Department of Environmental Conservation staff** for oil spill response, wildlife habitat protection and a new academy for Forest Rangers and Environmental Conservation Officers.



- A **funding increase of \$15 million** to help communities deal with a spill, fire or explosion from an oil train derailment making the total \$40 million.



- A **\$1.15 million** increase to Invasive Species Control Programs for a total of \$5.85 million with **\$1 million dedicated** for a new Adirondack Park-wide Invasive Species Prevention strategy.



- A **\$15 million increase** to the Environmental Protection Fund, bringing the total fund to \$177 million.
 - A **\$4.9 million increase** for Open Space Land Acquisition - total \$26.5 million
 - An **increase of \$1.15 million** for State Land Stewardship - total \$18.5 million
 - Farmland Protection **increased by \$1 million** – total \$15 million
 - A **\$200,000 increase** for Smart Growth Community Planning Grants – total \$600,000

Above (L-R): Congressman Paul Tonko (D - Amsterdam), Mayor of Albany Kathy Sheehan, and Executive Director Willie Janeway discuss water infrastructure needs.

RGGI Raided

Transfers money to general fund

Unfortunately, \$41 million in proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds have been moved to the state's general fund. The Adirondack Council partnered with others in expressing our disappointment with this transfer, citing the impact the program has had in reducing power plant emissions while creating clean energy jobs.

Focus on Legislative Priorities


More work before the end of session

Following a strong budget push, the remainder of the 2015 Legislative Session will be spent advocating for bills that will better the Park's water, wildlife and communities. The Council is focused on:

- *Adirondack Park Agency reform* to better protect the backcountry, encourage sustainable development and require clustering of buildings to minimize wildlife impact.
- *Reforms to Timber Tax Abatement Programs* by amending the NYS Real Property Law 480/480a to better protect forest lands, open space, wildlife, and communities.
- *Implementing legislation for constitutional amendments* previously approved by voters to ensure they uphold the Council's principles and vision for the Park.
- *Reforms to all-terrain vehicle riding policies* to better protect the Forest Preserve and quality of life for Park residents.
- *Banning microbeads*, tiny pieces of plastic used in personal care products that end up in Adirondack waters.
- *Removing mercury and banning toxic chemicals* from products that can leak into the environment and impact wildlife and public health.

More Boat Washing

Park-wide invasives decontamination

A new regional program created through an agreement between Gov. Cuomo and 53 stakeholder groups and the Adirondack Council to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species will establish several boat washing stations around the Park (shown as  on map). They will be located in South Colton, Cadyville, Ray Brook, Inlet, Alder Creek, Speculator, Northville, Chateaugay, Paul Smiths, and Tupper Lake.



Right: DEC Commissioner Joe Martens (on the right) at a state boat launch facility.

Dredging contaminates from Lake Flower

Village of Saranac Lake, Town of Harrietstown

The Department of Environmental Conservation will excavate a 76,000-square-foot area to remove coal-tar-contaminated sediment from Pontiac Bay located in Lake Flower in the Village of Saranac Lake, Town of Harrietstown. This contamination is from the former Saranac Lake Gas Company's plant which closed in the 1940s. The work will be done over two seasons, from September to November, to minimize impact on the tourist season.



Right: Pontiac Bay from the Lake Flower Boat Launch site.

Council Inspects SNIRT Run

Sees impact first-hand

On April 18, the Adirondack Council visited with Lewis County officials, local residents and event attendees at the 12th annual SNIRT Run to inspect environmental and community impacts associated with the event. This annual fundraiser, run by a local snowmobile club, hosts roughly 3,000 all-terrain vehicles (ATV). In the past, this event has been plagued by public and private trespass, air and water quality issues and safety and liability concerns. The Council will continue to monitor this event and urge state-wide reforms to ATV riding that better protect the Forest Preserve and quality of life for Park residents and support rider education and compliance. Above: Lewis County Sheriff on duty at the SNIRT Run.

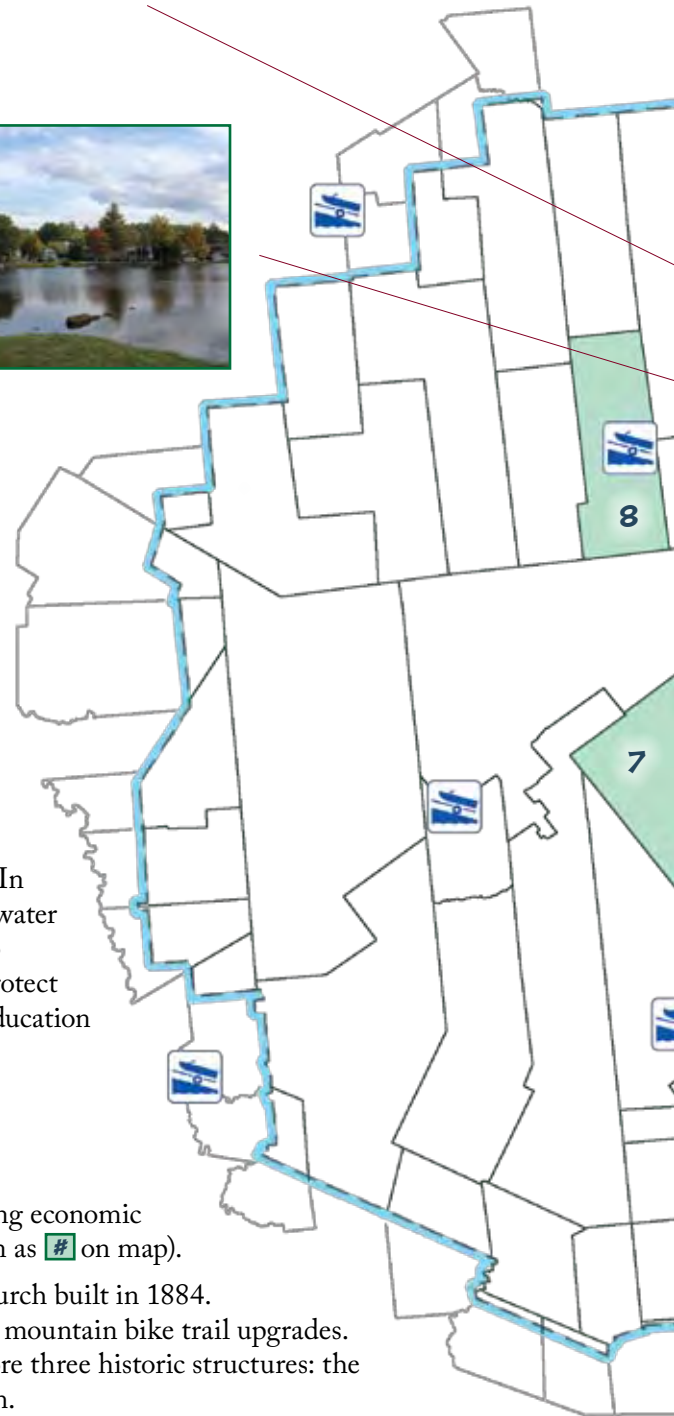


Smart Growth Help Communities

Grants totaling \$443,000 awarded

In April, Gov. Cuomo announced eight Smart Growth Grants that will bring economic benefits and improve the quality of life for Park residents and visitors (shown as  on map).

1. Town of Duane: A grant of \$74,029 to repair the historic Duane Church built in 1884.
2. The towns of North Elba, Lewis and Willsboro: A \$74,948 grant for mountain bike trail upgrades.
3. The towns of Willsboro, Essex and Moriah: A \$39,902 grant to restore three historic structures: the Adsit Cabin, the Boquet School House and the Iron Center Museum.
4. Town of Moriah, Village of Port Henry: Awarded \$24,000 to preserve the historic village.
5. Town of Bolton: A \$68,000 grant to construct a parking facility to unify the town's public service centers.
6. Town of Johnsbury: A \$37,121 grant for improvements to the North Creek Ski Bowl trails.
7. Town of Indian Lake: A grant of \$75,000 was awarded to the Adirondack Historical Association and the town to create a new exhibition at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake.
8. The Town and Village of Tupper Lake: A grant of \$50,000 to improve the community's "curb appeal."





Attempts to Limit Risks from Crude Oil Transport

State and Federal actions to date are not enough

In May, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced a new rule that establishes new safety standards and a schedule to retrofit and improve older railroad tanker cars as part of an effort to make it safer to transport crude oil by rail. New York State has increased inspections, funding for emergency response training, and increased the state Comptroller's spill response fund from \$15 million to \$40 million. Currently, trains carry roughly 3.5 million gallons of crude oil from Canada to Albany through 100 miles of the Adirondack Park along the edge of Lake Champlain and near multiple Park communities (shown as ■ on map). The Council has and will continue to advocate for smarter energy policies and better protections for water, wildlife and people.

Left: Train transporting crude oil in Port Kent, NY, Essex County.

Snowmobile Trail Route Controversy

Debate over Polaris Bridge



At the May Adirondack Park Agency (APA) meeting, after reviewing concerns from the Council and others, the APA pulled for later consideration a controversial proposed snowmobile trail (shown as •• on map) that would have used the Polaris bridge. The Council did not object to advancing the

rest of the snowmobile community connector trail plan (shown as •• on map).

Left: The Polaris Bridge crossing over the Hudson River.

Potential Impacts of Hydro Project Reviewed

Town of Moriah

The Council is submitting comments and suggestions to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding a proposal to build an underground hydro-electric pump storage system in an old iron mine in the Town of Moriah, Essex County. If properly designed and maintained, these systems can have few environmental impacts and help the host community. However, the Council is concerned about potential impacts the project may have on the environment and local bat populations.

State Purchases 6,200 Acres Near High Peaks

Newcomb, Keene and North Hudson

In May, the state purchased 6,200 acres, known as MacIntyre East, from the Nature Conservancy (shown as ■ on map). The Council wants this biologically rich parcel to be managed as motor-free as it has unique habitat for a wide variety of mammals, birds and fish. The lands also offer new, non-motorized public recreational opportunities. (See article on front page.)

Complex Planning for Essex Lakes Advances

Council supports access with improved protections

The Council submitted comments to the Department of Environmental Conservation on the Essex Chain of Lakes Complex draft scoping document, which is the precursor to the actual management plan for the area. The plan will, as the Council urged, detail recreational use and resource protection actions for a "complex" of adjoining and interconnected state-owned lands and waters.

Left: The Essex Chain of Lakes. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.



CONSERVATION MATTERS



New Wildlife Plan for Fisher

Positive plan for recovering weasel

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently released its Draft Fisher Management Plan for public comment. The Council largely supports the plan, as it has some good proposals for fisher populations, like shortening the trapping season in the Adirondack Park from 46 days to 22 days. However, the Council believes the plan has gaps in scientific data on fisher habitat ranges and suggests more research be done to refine the DEC's management efforts. The Council and the DEC agree that public education and outreach will be critical in protecting, managing and enjoying fishers into the future.

Above: A young fisher in captivity.

Photo courtesy of Larry Master, masterimages.org

Acid Rain Conference Set

Save the date: October 19 to 23

The International Acid Rain Conference, a science and policy conference held every five years, will be in New York for the first time when it comes to Rochester for a week in October. This year's conference, titled *Successes Achieved and the Challenges Ahead*, will discuss the progress made over the past three decades to reduce acid rain causing pollution.

The Adirondack Council is a co-sponsor of the conference and will host the panel discussion on Public Policy by invitation of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). The NADP operates a network of hundreds of air-quality monitoring stations across the United States that are essential to track environmental progress made from emissions cuts. Scan the QR code to learn more about the conference.



Aerial Monitoring

Conservation Director Rocci Aguirre gets a bird's eye view of the Adirondacks

Former Adirondack Council Executive Director Gary Randorf was fond of saying, "you need to be out in the Park exploring and getting to know the landscape intimately in order to know why this special place is so worth protecting."

At over 6-million acres, the Adirondack Park covers more area than our neighboring state of Vermont. Given the size of the Park and the distances and rugged nature of the land, sometimes it's necessary to fly over the landscape to fully comprehend it. Aerial monitoring allows observers to quickly recognize the cumulative impacts that are hard to gauge from the ground, so it is an important component of our work.

This spring, prior to leaf out, Executive Director Willie Janeway and I spent half a day flying over the Park to see the impacts of forestry on private lands under conservation easements and look at the newly purchased MacIntyre tracts and the stunning Boreas Ponds tract.

Starting in Lake Placid, Wille and I flew east over the Jay Mountain Wilderness to inspect the NYCO mine site and the exploratory drilling activities that had taken place over the winter. We then headed north and west over to look at the working timber lands of the Sable Highlands, Santa Clara Tract and Kushaqua Tract conservation easements. From there, we went southwest towards the Five Ponds Wilderness Area to view private inholdings within the Forest Preserve before flying back towards the MacIntyre and Boreas tracts and on to Lake Placid via Keene Valley.

With over 350 pictures and multiple GPS waypoints, the flight was invaluable in helping us see how these pieces of the Adirondack puzzle fit together and documenting issues of concern or special places to revisit on the ground. Most striking was the sense of wildness and the sheer volume of open space that makes the Adirondack Park such an amazing landscape to live and work in.



Conservation Director
Rocci Aguirre



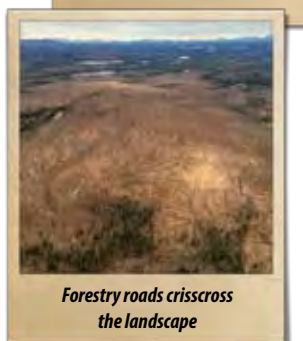
Boreas Ponds and the
High Peaks, Essex County



NYCO Mines, Town of Lewis



Patchwork clear-cutting



Forestry roads crisscross
the landscape

SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL

Training Conservation Advocates

Endowing the Clarence Petty Intern program

The work of preserving and advocating for the Adirondack Park takes more than one generation.

The Adirondack Council considers it a responsibility (and a joy) to help train and educate the next generation of conservation leaders for the Adirondack Park and the world. Each year, the Council hosts interns in both our Albany and Elizabethtown offices. The program is named for Clarence Petty, an Adirondack-born conservation leader who was an inspiration to many who care about protecting the Park during his 104 years.

Former Council Board Chair Barbara Glaser established the Clarence Petty Intern Fund endowment at the Adirondack Foundation to honor Clarence and sustain the Council's program, ensuring that young people would go on to become the next generation of staff, board members and supporters of the Adirondack Council and other conservation organizations. And indeed they have.

When you receive a letter from Barbara later this month, please consider making a contribution. With your help, the Council will build on the legacy of our conservation heroes, creating a team of Adirondack advocates for the next generation.



Above (L-R): Past Clarence Petty interns, Jordan Giaconia, Anna Sapak and current intern Noah Cadet.

Campaign for the Forever Wild Fund

Will you help us reach the \$3 million goal?

To ensure we can meet our ambitious goals and always be ready and able to take action to safeguard the Park for the future, the Council launched a campaign in 2014 to raise \$3 million for the Forever Wild Fund, our quasi-endowment. With less than \$250,000 to go, we're almost there, thanks to the Council Board and leadership donors whose enthusiasm and generosity have been inspiring and critical to the campaign effort. We hope all Council supporters will participate in the campaign and help us reach our \$3 million goal by making a contribution to the Clarence Petty Intern Fund (see above). All donations received before July 10th will be listed in the campaign report for the Council's 40th anniversary Forever Wild Day celebration on July 18th. Thank you!



Above: Students in the SUNY Potsdam Environment & Society class retired 36 tons' worth of carbon pollution this spring when they raised \$300 to purchase Carbon Retirement Certificates from the Adirondack Council. Council Communications Director John Sheehan visited their class to thank them and Professor Sullivan-Catlin for their efforts, and to explain why the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is so important to the health and future of the Adirondack Park. Photo courtesy of Professor Sullivan-Catlin

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 1.877.873.2240 or visiting: shop.AdirondackCouncil.org.

Price: \$15.00



EarthShare New York

Workplace giving supports conservation

Support the Adirondack Council by making payroll contributions through EarthShare New York's workplace giving program at numerous private companies, many state and municipal government organizations and in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), by selecting #22101 on your pledge form.



To find out more about how you and your workplace can support the Adirondack Council through an EarthShare of New York charitable giving campaign, please visit: earthsharenyc.org.



ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

Defending the East's Greatest Wilderness

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JOIN US ~ CELEBRATING 40 YEARS ~ 1975-2015



FOREVER WILD DAY
Saturday, July 18, 2015



HEAVEN HILL FARM
Lake Placid, NY

This year's Forever Wild Day will take place at beautiful Heaven Hill Farm overlooking the majestic Adirondack High Peaks in Lake Placid, NY. The day includes a celebration of the Adirondack Council's 40th anniversary, the annual membership meeting and awards lunch, optional outings, and time to share your love of the Adirondacks with friends and fellow conservation advocates.

Heaven Hill Farm is the former farm and home of Henry Uihlein II, a successful businessman, Jersey cow breeder, philanthropist, and sports organizer. At just under 1,000 acres, the estate was incorporated as the Henry Uihlein II and Mildred A. Uihlein Foundation and continues the Uihlein's tradition of generosity and support of many organizations and aspiring athletes. The Farmhouse is currently used as a meeting facility for not-for-profit organizations.



Heaven Hill Farmhouse. Photo courtesy of John Eldridge, jnelldridge@gmail.com

For additional event information, including reservations, event schedule and guided outings, please visit AdirondackCouncil.org or contact Elaine Burke at 1.877.873.2240 or eburke@adirondackcouncil.org.

Above: Mount Marcy, Colden, Algonquin & Indian Pass from the Plains of Abraham along the Adirondack Loj road in Lake Placid.

Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions Inc.



Thank you to Host Committee members and Event Sponsors for supporting Forever Wild Day in honor of past Adirondack Council Board Chairs for their years of leadership.

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Above: The Adirondack High Peaks from Heaven Hill Farmhouse.
Photo courtesy of John Eldridge, jnelldridge@gmail.com