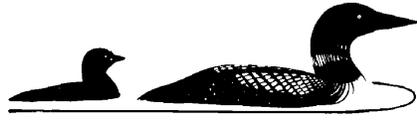


# The Adirondack Council





AUGUST 2002

Dear Members and Friends,

It is an honor to be the new Executive Director of the Adirondack Council. My new job affords me the opportunity to work with an experienced and energetic staff, as well as our supportive board and membership to achieve the Council's mission. I also look forward to working with private land owners, the forest industries, local community leaders, and our government representatives.

During the years that I worked to protect large remaining natural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Adirondacks provided us with the best possible conservation model due to its dynamic blend of public and private lands and many local communities and organizations dedicated to the balance between protection and compatible uses.

Still, the Adirondacks are in danger of destruction from a "killer threat" — acid rain. It is frightening to know that 500 of the 2,800 lakes and ponds of the Adirondacks are biologically dead from the impacts of acid rain, its forests are slowly withering and now science demonstrates acid rain is killing the symbol of the Adirondacks — the loon.

Many thought that the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 had solved the problem. Unfortunately, they did not.

The Council's leadership has rekindled the national debate on acid rain. Recent visits to the Park by President Bush and Senator Clinton, both of whom spoke about the need for effective legislation, and Senator Jeffords's recent bill are clear evidence that our political leaders are listening. Now, we want real action to halt the devastating effects of acid rain on the Park's natural ecosystems and the quality of life in Adirondack communities.

The Council will reach out to community and environmental leaders within the region and well beyond its borders to address acid rain and other threats through its *Pure Waters Initiative*. We will also hold a scientific conference on climate change this fall. The Council will additionally continue to advocate for the establishment of the 408,000-acre Bob Marshall Great Wilderness in the western Adirondacks, the largest wetland complex in the east. To that end, we helped secure \$76 million in open space acquisition funding statewide from this year's \$250 million NYS Environmental Protection Fund.

Finally — a note of congratulations to Gary Randorf, the first director of the Adirondack Council, on the publication of his spectacular new book, *The Adirondacks: Wild Island of Hope*.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Adirondack Council's efforts to preserve this "Wild Island of Hope" for all of us! I look forward to serving you over the coming years.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Houseal  
Executive Director

On the Cover

On Treadway Mountain, Pharoah Lake Wilderness. One of the 100 photos found in Gary Randorf's new book, *The Adirondacks: Wild Island of Hope*. Remaining photos by Adirondack Council staff.

## Board of Directors

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Elaine Burke	Radmila P. Miletich
Michael G. DiNunzio	Joseph M. Moore
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## Where to Find Us

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

## Our Mission

The Adirondack Council is an 18,000 member, privately funded, not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural and human communities of the Adirondack Park through research, education, advocacy and legal action.

Newsletter design by Sheri Amsel

## Success at Last! Council Helps Save Loons from Lead Poisoning

With the ardent support of members, the Adirondack Council worked with hunting and fishing groups and conservation organizations to ban statewide the sale of certain lead fishing sinkers that are responsible for one in every four loon deaths in the Adirondack Park.

As a result of our media and advocacy campaigns, and the hard work of our activists, the bill was adopted very early in this year's legislative session and was signed into law by Gov. George Pataki in May. The bill goes into effect May 8, 2004.

There is a two-year public education period before the ban takes effect, to give retailers time to change their stock. In the meantime, anglers can make an impact on the survival rate of nesting bird populations by making a voluntary switch to non-lead alternatives. There are many options already on the market. None of them is substantially more expensive than lead.

In March, just as trout season was about to open, the Council worked with member organization Audubon New York to promote a lead sinker exchange program in the Adirondacks. This summer, anglers who visited Elk Lake Lodge received free nontoxic sinkers when they turned in their old lead sinkers.

The Council also worked with the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program to promote a similar exchange program, aimed at retailers in the Park. More than 50 locations offered free sinker exchanges this summer.

The bill was sponsored by Sen. Carl Marcellino, R-Oyster Bay, and Assemblyman Steven Englebright, D-Setauket. It was also co-sponsored in the Assembly by Environmental Conservation Chairman Thomas DiNapoli, D-Great Neck.

The Adirondack Council worked with the NYS Conservation Council, which represents hunting and fishing clubs statewide, to urge legislators to act on banning the sale of small lead sinkers.



### Loons Poisoned by Mercury in Acidic Waters

A multi-year study of the health of New York's loon populations shows that roughly 17 percent of all loons have unsafe mercury levels in their blood and feathers. Like fish taken from Adirondack waters by the NYS Health Department, the study showed a strong correlation between acidified water bodies and mercury contamination. Fish are the staple of loon's diets. For a description of the study's findings go to the Biodiversity Research Institute's website ([www.briloon.org](http://www.briloon.org)).

The Adirondack Council has been urging Congress to pass legislation that would curb the power plant smokestack pollution that causes acid rain, much of which also contains mercury. In the Adirondacks, airborne mercury combines with mercury that is chemically released from lake sediments and rocks by acidic water, multiplying the contamination danger. This organic mercury is absorbed by the bodies of fish and animals that eat fish, including humans, interrupting organ function and reproduction, and damaging the nervous system.

Similar studies in New England have shown widespread contamination in loons and fish. Maine had the highest contamination rate for loons, at 20 percent.

## Council Pure Waters Initiative Progresses

Here's a rundown of the latest legislative initiatives the Council is working toward in its Pure Waters Initiative. We will be contacting activists as citizen actions are needed on these policies. For more information, contact the Albany office at: 518-432-1770.

**Stronger Land-Use Controls:** A comprehensive bill that would include: new requirements for clustering new development away from surface waters; increasing shoreline setback requirements; restricting the removal of shoreline vegetation; requiring the inspection of all septic systems, and repair of faulty ones, when any house within 200 feet of a shoreline is sold. (A.464, Brodsky).

**Septic Systems:** Would require the inspection of new septic systems upon installation and inspection of existing systems every 10 years. Would set up a revolving loan fund to assist with repair and replacement costs. (S.6206-a, Marcellino/A.11554, DiNapoli).

A second bill would provide financial help to individuals and businesses for septic system upgrades where current systems are causing water pollution, and would require the state to develop new septic system standards (A.3424-b, Magee). A similar, but not identical, bill passed the Senate (S.5249, Balboni).

**Buffer Zones:** Would require the state to establish buffer zones around water bodies and river corridors, requiring that any activity within the zone that is likely to cause water pollution would be subject to a permit, and the applicant would need to explain how pollution will be avoided. (S.7098-a, Marcellino).

**Steep Slopes:** Would require a variance for any disturbance of soil on steep slopes near

water bodies, placing the onus on the permit seeker to show how runoff will be mitigated. (S.6210-a, Marcellino).

**Exotic Species:** Would require the state to post warning signs on waters about invasive, non-native plant and animal species. Boaters would be instructed on how to clean their vessels to avoid spreading unwanted species to additional waters. The signs would be placed at all waters with state boat launches. (A.11437, DiNapoli; S.7407, Stafford).

**Road Salt:** Would require improvements in the way road salt supplies are stored, handled and delivered to icy roads, in an effort to reduce the amount used and minimize the impacts on nearby surface waters and underlying groundwater. (A.11673, DiNapoli, Ortloff).



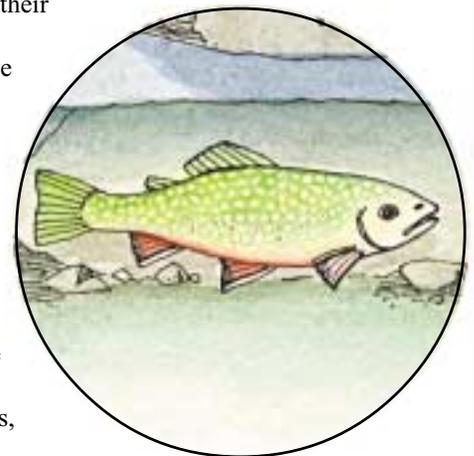
*Twin Pond, Dix Mountain Wilderness*

### Local Lake Protection Efforts

In 2000, the Adirondack Council worked hard to persuade the NYS Legislature to pass a law giving towns and other localities the authority to regulate the use of personal watercraft (jet skis) within their borders. That work is still paying rich dividends.

The Warren County town of Johnsbury was the first to act. Bans on jet skis have also been enacted in the Park towns of Brighton, Franklin County; Chester, Warren County; and Webb, Herkimer County. Inlet and other communities along the Fulton Chain of Lakes are working on a new local law to match Webb's and the Town of North Elba recently banned jet skis on its portion of Lake Placid. This spring, the Village of Lake George declared a moratorium on all new jet ski rentals, tour boats and commercial dock spaces, after receiving a deluge of requests for tour boat permits in the already busy south basin.

Taking control of high-speed, high-polluting watercraft requires only the passage of a local ordinance, preceded by sufficient public notice. Jet skis can leave 30 percent or more of their fuel in the water, unburned. Communities across the Adirondacks have dealt with complaints over unruly, unsafe behavior by jet ski users, not to mention damage to wildlife habitat.



## Jeffords Moves Clean Air Bill, Bush & Clinton Push Acid Rain Solution

The Council made significant advances in its acid rain initiatives this spring and summer, working in a nonpartisan approach with several key figures to curb the damage caused by smokestack pollution.

In April, President George W. Bush became the first President in history to address the nation about acid rain while visiting the Adirondack Park. In June, a key US Senate committee passed its first acid rain legislation in 12 years. And in July, Hillary Clinton became the first US Senator to visit the Sagamore Great Camp, where she too held a press conference on acid rain.

The Council played a role in all three events, extending the invitations and hosting the visits of President Bush and Senator Clinton, while urging Senator James Jeffords of Vermont to press ahead with his legislation.

The Council's efforts have propelled new activity in Washington, DC:

- Millions of Americans learned through national media coverage that the Adirondack acid rain problem has not gone away.
- The House Commerce Committee held a series of hearings on the Clean Air Act for the first time in 12 years.
- Major utility companies in the South and Midwest acknowledged publicly that they would support new legislation to curb sulfur and nitrogen pollution.
- Chairman Jeffords won the support of his Environment and Public Works Committee on June 27 for the *Clean Power Act*. It was the first clean air legislation approved by any Congressional committee since the Clean Air Act was amended by Congress and President George H.W. Bush in 1990. Prior to the vote, the Council worked with Senator Clinton to amend the Jeffords bill, adding a provision requiring that the US Environmental Protection Agency order even deeper cuts in emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides than required by the specific language of the bill, if the Park's lakes and rivers are not yet showing signs of recovery.

The *Clean Power Act* would require deep cuts in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from electric power plants, the two main components of acid rain and smog. In addition, it would impose strict limits on emissions of mercury and carbon dioxide from those same power companies. Like the *Acid Rain Control Act*, sponsored by most of New York's Congressional delegation

as well as Senators Schumer and Clinton, Jeffords's bill would employ a cap-and-trade program for reducing pollution quickly and inexpensively.

Both the Bush and Jeffords bills have a special provision in their cap-and-trade programs that would place regional restrictions on the purchase and sale of allowances. This would ensure that plants upwind of sensitive areas, such as the Adirondacks, would see the deepest cuts.

All three bills would fix a shortcoming in the Clean Air Act that has allowed nitrogen pollution to cause substantial damage to Adirondack ecosystems. Currently, the Clean Air Act only requires nitrogen oxide controls from May to September, in an effort to curb smog, which only forms in warm weather. But nitrogen oxides are a major component of acid rain too. They build up in the snow each winter and are not absorbed by the frozen ground or dormant trees. Each spring, massive doses of nitric acid run into lakes and streams, causing "acid shock." For several weeks each spring, the number of Adirondack streams and rivers that are too acidic to support native life more than doubles, from 28 percent to 58 percent.

Overall, the cuts and pollution trading program proposed by Jeffords are very similar to the acid rain provisions in President George W. Bush's *Clear Skies Act*, but Jeffords's legislation requires the sulfur pollution cuts to occur more quickly.

Both the Jeffords *Clean Power Act* and the Bush *Clear Skies Act* would make changes to the current restrictions on power plant modifications (known as New Source Review). The *Clean Power Act* would mandate new pollution controls after 40 years for any power plant. *Clear Skies* would allow power plant owners to make changes to their plants as long as they comply with certain specific conditions. The Council will not support any NSR changes that result in increased smokestack emissions affecting the Adirondacks.

The Council supports federal legislation that is strong enough to end the damage acid rain is causing. Each of the three bills under consideration would accomplish that before the end of the decade. The Council will continue its work in Washington to ensure that the cuts needed to stop acid rain are not negotiated away during the process of moving any of the three bills through Congress.



Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton meets with Adirondack Council Executive Director Brian L. Houseal, Tamera Luzzatto, the Senator's Chief of Staff, and Bernard C. Melewski at a private meeting at Sagamore Great Camp on July 9.

## Funds Secured for Natural History Museum

The Adirondack Council worked closely with Assem. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, and Sen. Ronald Stafford to pass a bill that would allow the not-for-profit Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks to receive help from the State Dormitory Authority in constructing and outfitting the museum. Its board hopes to begin construction in 2003 in Tupper Lake.

The bill would allow the museum to tap the authority's expertise in dealing with contractors and to use its bond powers during future construction and expansion. Director Betsy Lowe says the museum is more than halfway toward its goal of raising \$20 million. It will contain live exhibits of the Park's flora and fauna, with a special emphasis on hands-on research. The museum is expected to boost the economy of Tupper Lake and to educate residents and visitors alike about the special natural wonders of the Adirondack Park.



## Adirondack Council Board Members Elected

We acknowledge with great appreciation the contributions of Dean Cook, Barbara Glaser, Ernie LaPrairie, Toby Thacher, and George Lamb, who completed their Board terms this year. Their support of the Council has been invaluable. The following are the Council's new Directors:

**Cecilia Mathews** first came to the Adirondacks in the early 1960s, when her parents bought a beautiful old "camp" on Blue Mountain Lake, and she has spent every summer there since. She and her husband Michael live in Princeton, NJ, where they have raised three sons. Among her various commitments to community organizations, Cecilia is working with Corner House in Princeton, a municipal agency helping to provide substance abuse treatment and education for adolescents and young adults.



Cecilia Mathews

**Katharine Preston** brings her professional experience in ministry and the environmental field to the Council as she returns to the board after a term-limit mandated year off. She previously served on the Board for fifteen years. Katharine enjoys time in the Adirondacks and is passionate about giving back to this region—one that is particularly precious to her — working with the Council to protect the Park's environmental integrity.



Katharine Preston

**Curt Welling**, officially "returning" to his position as a Director, has not taken a moment's rest from Council commitments. As a dedicated volunteer, Curt continued his work with Council during his term off serving as Co-Chair for the Council's current Capital Campaign for the Forever Wild Fund. He will continue to share the leadership role for this important effort as he joins the Board for another three-year term. Curt lives in Connecticut and Lake Clear, N.Y.



Curt Welling

**Tony Zazula** lives in Blue Mountain Lake and New York City, where he is co-owner and founding partner of the restaurant Montrachet. He is an active outdoor enthusiast in addition to his interests in food, wine, art and architecture. Tony is actively involved in various organizations that enhance the communities and environment of the Park.



Tony Zazula

## Spring Benefit at Montrachet

Celebrating the Adirondack Park and the spirit of lower Manhattan, the Council in April held a benefit dinner at the highly acclaimed French restaurant Montrachet in TriBeCa. Many new friends learned about the Council's mission while enjoying a food and wine tasting menu. Council board member Tony Zazula, co-owner of Montrachet, made the evening possible.



*One of the benefit sponsors, Launny Steffens, far left, enjoys dinner with his invited guests.*

# Building a Forever Wild Future

Preserving a special place as vast and diverse as the six-million-acre Adirondack Park is a long-term endeavor. To ensure that the Park of the future is as healthy a mix of wilderness, wild lands, open space and communities as it is today, the Adirondack Council launched its Campaign for the Forever Wild Fund in Summer 2000. The Council has received 52 gifts and pledges to date, with a total raised and pledged of \$3.07 million toward the \$5.8 million goal.

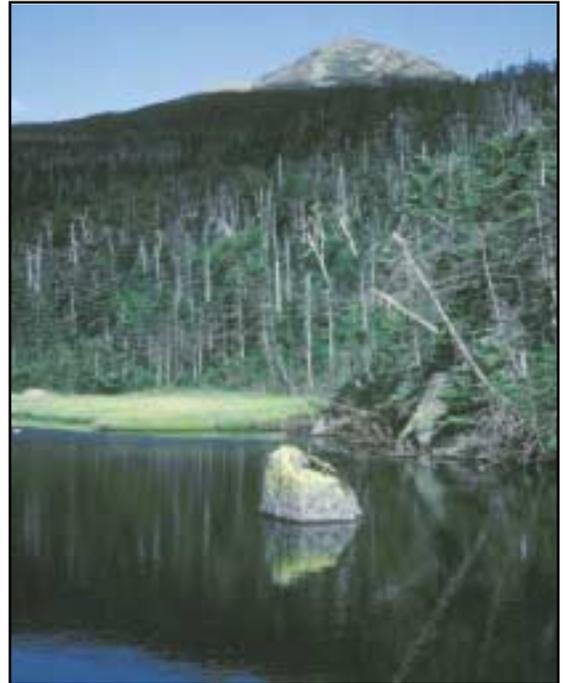
The Campaign Co-Chairs are Council Board members John Ernst, Curt Welling and Tricia Winterer. Campaign contributions will be used to set up Action Funds, as well as long-term funds managed for future needs by the Board. Funds will be used for Advocacy for Wilderness (\$1.9 million); Planning and Education (\$1.6 million); and Vigilance and Defense of the Adirondacks (\$2.3 million).

Programs are already underway through this Fund, including the Pure Waters Initiative. This is a national plan to stop acid rain and protect the waters and wildlife of the Adirondacks from shoreline over-development and recreational overuse.

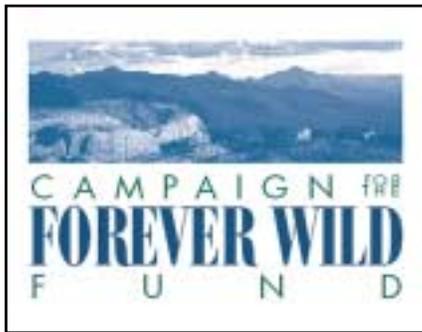
## People often ask: What is the difference between the Annual Fund and the Campaign for the Forever Wild Fund?

The annual fund is critical to the Adirondack Council's daily operating expenses. These are yearly expenditures to cover programs, newsletters, research, equipment, and other organizational costs.

The Campaign for the Forever Wild Fund is for longer-term plans, both for multi-year programs beyond the scope of our everyday activities, and for reserve funds to cover emergent or unanticipated needs.



*Lake Tear of the Clouds, near the summit of Mt. Marcy in the Adirondack High Peaks, marks the start of the Hudson River, and is among hundreds of critically acidified bodies of water in the Adirondack Park.*



*All friends of the Council are asked to continue their support of the Annual Fund and make an additional capital commitment to the Campaign for the Forever Wild Fund.*

## A LEGACY OF FOREVER WILD

In addition to your membership dues and annual gifts to make our programs possible, please consider providing for the Council in your estate planning. These gifts offer tax and financial benefits while supplying important resources so that the Council can ensure that we leave a legacy of a forever wild Adirondacks to our children and grandchildren.

Gift opportunities include:

- A bequest to the Adirondack Council in your will.
- Designating the Council as beneficiary of an insurance policy, pension fund or IRA.
- Structuring a planned gift that provides income to both the donor and the Council during the donor's lifetime.
- Establishing a fund in the memory of your spouse or other family members or a friend.

*The Adirondack Council recommends that you consult an attorney to prepare or revise your estate plans.*

*For more information about gifts to the Adirondack Council, write, call or email:*

Anne Trachtenberg  
The Adirondack Council  
P.O. Box D-2  
Elizabethtown, NY 12932  
518-873-2240 email: [atrachtenberg@adirondackcouncil.org](mailto:atrachtenberg@adirondackcouncil.org)

## Forest Preserve Bureau Reestablished

With the enthusiastic support of the Adirondack Council, Environmental Conservation Commissioner Erin Crotty has reestablished a Bureau of Forest Preserve Protection and Management. The bureau will oversee all DEC actions on the public lands of the Adirondack and Catskill parks, to ensure that they are consistent with the NYS Constitution's "forever wild" clause.

Since the elimination of the original Forest Preserve bureau in 1995, there have been many lapses in DEC oversight of motorized activities in the preserve, leading to a host of legal and environmental problems. The Council expects that by staffing a bureau dedicated to the Forest Preserve, DEC will be renewing its commitment to protecting the Park's unique natural resources and will eventually earn back the public's trust. The new bureau will quickly face challenges, as an Adirondack Council investigation has revealed.

In a recent trip to the Silver Lake Wilderness Area in preparation for review of the upcoming state management plan, a Council staff member witnessed signs of serious environmental degradation from illegal motorized traffic.

Traveling into the protected Wilderness by way of West River Road out of Wells, the staff member expected the road to

end at the unit boundary with the typical boulder barrier. To our surprise, the road continued beyond the wilderness boundary without any signs indicating "Wilderness Area" or "motorized use prohibited."

Further investigation revealed an extensive network of truck trails branching off from the road into the unit beyond the signs. These truck trails apparently receive a high level of use. Furthermore, it is evident from the tire tracks that vehicles drive directly into the unit and camp at the many inappropriate campsites. The campsites have been trampled, trees have been stripped clean of branches, and the makeshift fire-pits were laden with trash.

The Council wrote a letter to the newly formed Bureau of Forest Preserve Protection and Management, saying we were disturbed that no apparent measures have been taken to stop this blatant mistreatment of the Forest Preserve. Enclosing photographs of the damage, the Council insisted that this degradation of the Forest Preserve cannot be allowed to continue. We urged the DEC to barricade the road at the wilderness boundary, as required by state law, as soon as possible.



## New Director Started July 1

The Adirondack Council's new executive director, Brian Houseal, who began on July 1, has spent his career working with people in natural settings, helping them plan for the protection of wilderness, parks and wildlife, and building stronger local communities.

Brian was Vice President and Director of The Nature Conservancy's Mexico program. He is a regional planner and landscape architect with extensive environmental experience. He moved to the Adirondacks with his wife Katherine in June. Their sons, Ian and Patrick, live in Maine and Colorado, respectively.

Bernard C. Melewski, who had been acting executive director since the departure of Timothy J. Burke, will remain as counsel. Burke served as the Council's top staff member from May 1991 through his retirement in July 2001.

Houseal received his bachelors degree from Colgate University, in Hamilton, NY, and a masters degree in regional planning from Syracuse University. He also holds a masters in landscape architecture from the State University College of

Environmental Science and Forestry, in Syracuse.

Since 1987, Houseal has worked in various positions with The Nature Conservancy's international conservation programs, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. He has been regional director of its Mexico and Central America Program, and director of stewardship for Latin America, where he designed and managed the Parks in Peril Program, safeguarding more than 60 million acres of parks and reserves in Latin America and the Caribbean. He worked with local residents as partners, ensuring that the programs would continue long-term.

Houseal is the Council's fourth full-time executive director since its founding in 1975.

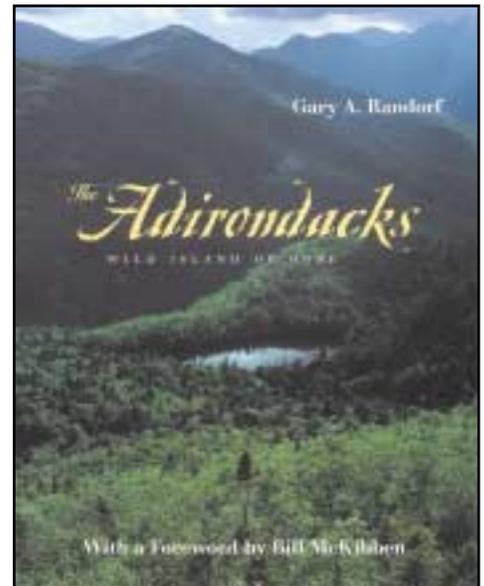


Brian Houseal

## Gary Randorf Photo & History Book on Adirondacks Now Available

Gary Randorf's book, *The Adirondacks: Wild Island of Hope* can be purchased at book sellers throughout the Adirondack Park and the Northeast.

You can also purchase a copy through the Adirondack Council by calling 1-877-873-2240, toll-free.



## Clarence Petty Intern Fund Established

Barbara Glaser made a surprise and welcome announcement at the Adirondack Council's Awards Dinner on July 13 that she was creating the Clarence Petty Intern Fund, in honor of Clarence's extraordinary contributions to the Adirondack Park and the Adirondack Council. Barbara handed Clarence a check for \$10,000 from the Nordlys Foundation to begin building this fund, which will be managed with the Council's Forever Wild Fund. The Council will seek additional donors to this Fund, and use the interest generated to sponsor internships for both the Albany and Elizabethtown offices, in order to continue to attract and train new generations of environmental advocates.

Last year's talented group of interns were Lani Cramer and Mike Matthews from State University at Albany, and Shawn Weed, attending State University at Oneonta, at the Council's Albany office. We were lucky to have Haley Johnson from Lake Placid, who is attending Bates College, as an intern at the Elizabethtown office.

Students interested in internships should contact the Council as soon as possible. Shown here standing behind Barbara and Clarence are (L-R) Chris LaBarge and Jaime Ethier, staff members who were former interns.

## In Memorium, Anne Lacy Trevor

Anne E. Lacy Trevor, whose Adirondack illustrations have inspired countless people to gain a greater appreciation of the Park's natural wonders, passed away on June 9 after a long illness. Anne, 50, was married to John B. Trevor II of Lake Placid. She was a kind and generous soul, a good friend to the staff of the Adirondack Council and a conservationist who employed her superb artistic talents to teach the wonders of nature.

She came to the Adirondacks in 1981 to illustrate and design the *Adirondack Wildguide*, which was written by the Council's Director of Research and Education Michael G. DiNunzio.

Anne created paintings and illustrations for the Central Park Conservancy of New York City, Adirondack Life magazine, Fort Ticonderoga and the Essex County Adirondack Garden Club. She also illustrated several books, including Dr. Philip Kopper's *The Wild Edge*, Dr. Eugene Ogden's *Field Guide to Northern Ferns* and Curt Stager's *Notes From the Northern Forest*. Anne received the Council's Park Educator Award in July, 1998. Anne will be sorely missed and fondly remembered.



## Northway Emergency Phones

Thanks to cooperation between the Adirondack Council and the state agencies involved, the most remote section of the Adirondack Northway will soon have a new, more reliable emergency phone system, designed not to harm the Park's scenic beauty.

When the New York State Police and the Department of Transportation proposed to replace the 64 radio-based, motorist-aid call boxes with a new cell phone-based system, the Council became concerned over the details of the plan.

Emergency phones are a vital service on the Northway's loneliest stretches. But the Northway corridor is a major gateway to the Park — one that once received an award as "America's Most Scenic Highway."

Currently, the phones are located every two miles along Interstate 87 (The Northway), between Exits 26 and 35. They are placed directly opposite one another, just off the shoulder of the north- and south-bound lanes, to discourage stranded motorists from crossing the highway on foot to reach a closer phone. But the phones are not working.

In 2001, the State Police unveiled a plan that involved siting two new cell towers at each call box site (up to 66 towers). Each tower would be 38 feet tall. While the automatic threshold for APA jurisdiction over structures begins at 40 feet, the project also includes a change in use for state lands. Such changes always require an APA permit.

Representatives for the project were asked at a public information meeting why two towers were necessary at each site, instead of one tower serving both phones. The State Police indicated that the contractor wanted to make tower space available to up to eight cell-service providers. The Council pointed out that preserving the Park's scenic value was more important than

providing cell phone companies with additional revenue opportunities.

After receiving comments from the Council and others, the State Police and DOT modified the proposal to include only 33 antennae poles, rather than 66, or one for each pair of phones.

Look for a preview of the new system this summer. The state plans to erect three mock antennae and ground equipment, with screening, to allow for further assessment of the visual impacts of the project. This impact test will last into the fall, to assess visibility after the leaves are gone. The Council will continue to closely monitor this project and discuss options with the State Police and DOT.



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## Council Works with Sportsmen's Club to Minimize New Project's Development Impacts

The Adirondack Council worked with the owners of a large parcel of land in the northwestern corner of the Park this spring to minimize damage to open space and wildlife habitat at a recreational hunting and fishing cabin colony.

The application was filed by the Diamond Sportsmen's Club in the towns of Parishville and Colton, in St. Lawrence County. The Diamond Sportsmen (many of whom were members of the former Barney Pond Club) purchased the 3,300 acres that they previously leased.

All cabins would be built on piers and, as such, would be temporary structures. The club, to its credit, wanted to keep the land under one ownership, avoiding a more traditional "subdivision into lots," which would have resulted in deed conveyances, multiple landowners and potentially greater fragmentation of open lands.

The land includes Resource Management and Rural Use areas — the two most restrictive classifications.

The Council's major concerns to be resolved with the project included: intrusion of new development into undeveloped backcountry areas; inadequate setbacks and vegetative buffers around wetlands and water bodies; the recreational use impacts

and carrying capacity of the property; timber management planning; the statutory mandate to keep cabins in relatively small clusters; and, the overall scale of the project.

The discussions resulted in the removal of eight proposed cabin clusters (38 cabins) from the application — many of which were in one of the areas of contiguous open space on the property — and removal of several cabins from the most remote, backcountry lands. Once these clusters were removed, more than 80 percent of the land remained in open space. Vegetative cutting restrictions were added within 300 feet of Barney Pond or 50 feet from wetlands associated with the pond, whichever is greater. Cutting restrictions are also in place within 200 feet of streams on the property or 50 feet from wetlands associated with the streams, whichever is greater.

The applicant also agreed to undertake a timber management plan and a natural resource inventory, and agreed to monitor members' use of the property so that recreational use impacts could be gauged.

In June, the Adirondack Park Agency approved the application.

Council Board member Richard Reinhold and his wife, Beth Grossman, hosted a presentation by Dr. Nina Schoch, Program Director of the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program. Dr. Schoch spoke about the natural history of loons and Council staff summarized the Council's work benefiting loons, including water quality protection and advocating for the state law outlawing poisonous lead fishing sinkers.

*Pictured: Council member Katie Poole and David Skovron, Board Chair.*



*Lauren Malone, Una Creedon-Carey (front) and Bob McLean (back) enjoy a snack break by the water during the Council's June birding field trip to Bloomingdale Bog.*



[www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org)

The Council's home page ([www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org)) is now more attractive and easier to use, and contains up-to-the-minute information on the Council's efforts to protect and enhance the Adirondack Park. At your fingertips are the latest Council press releases, action alerts and special reports. The site currently contains a comparison of acid rain proposals currently pending in Congress and links to other sources of information.

We have also updated our email services, and all staff members can be reached by using the "Contact Us" button on the web site.

## Help us update your membership information

Please answer the following, tear off this page (your name and address are on the opposite side) and return in the envelope provided.

- Occasionally, the Council makes its membership list available to other organizations whose information we believe may be of interest to you. This is a matter of mutual support and practical economy. Exchanging our list with other reputable charitable organizations is the most effective way to find new supporters. We hope you agree, but if you do not want your name used in this fashion, please let us know by checking the box below.

Please do not rent or exchange my name with any other organization.

- We are collecting e-mail addresses to communicate more effectively with our members and be able to renew memberships on-line. If this is something that interests you please indicate below.

I am interested in receiving Council updates and renewal information on-line.

My e-mail address is \_\_\_\_\_

- Your name and address are in our records as they appear on the mailing label on the back cover of this newsletter. If you would like to make any corrections, please indicate the changes next to the label.

*Thanks for your assistance in updating our records!*



Celebrate the passing of the loon bill with us!

Thanks to your contributions, letters and support, our success in passing the lead sinker bill will make a significant difference in protecting our treasured Adirondack loons. In honor of this recent victory, wear your new Adirondack Council baseball-style field cap. It features the "Northern Helldiver," symbol of the North Country and the Adirondack Council. This tan and sage cap is made in the USA of 100% cotton. To order your cap, send \$18 (\$15 + \$3 Postage and Handling) along with the form below to: The Adirondack Council, PO Box D-2, Elizabethtown, NY 12932.

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ hat(s) to: Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make your check payable to: **The Adirondack Council**  
Visa/MC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Sign Me Up!

You can count on me to protect our nation's magnificent Adirondack Park for future generations. Enclosed is my gift to save endangered wildlife and preserve irreplaceable habitat in this priceless American resource.

\$25 \$35\* \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **The Adirondack Council** and return with this form.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Your contribution is tax-deductible except for the \$16.95 retail value of the Wildguide or the \$20 retail value of the Poster/Map.

\*For your gift of \$35 or more, you'll receive full membership in The Adirondack Council — plus your FREE deluxe 160-page Adirondack Wildguide or Poster/Map!

Please send: \_\_\_ Adirondack Wildguide \_\_\_ Council Poster/Map \_\_\_ Nothing — use entire gift for Council's work

### Like what you're reading? Not a member yet? Join the Adirondack Council today!

When you join the Adirondack Council, you become a part of our spirited group of individuals that fight for the freedom of the wild. You also receive: • The State of the Park report: the latest scoop on what elected officials have done for the Park • The Adirondack Council newsletter: the issues, people and trends in the Park • An invitation to our Adirondack Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner: an opportunity to meet other people who share your concerns and appreciation of the Park • Exclusive updates on Park-related issues • Special activist alerts on breaking issues • Free access to our member information services • Satisfaction in doing your part to make this earth a better place!



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