



Adirondack Park Agency

Forest of Heroes Arboretum Honorees

(A) Greenleaf “Greenie” Chase was a well-respected Adirondack conservationist and naturalist. He began his career with New York State in the 1940s working for the Conservation Department in the Bureau of Game. Chase left the Conservation Department and served in the Army Medical Corps from 1943 to 1946. He served in France during World War II. Greenie was the APA’s first wildlife biologist working with the Agency from 1971 until his retirement in 1974. The Adirondack Nature Conservancy awarded its highest honor, the Oak Leaf, to Mr. Chase for his lifelong commitment to conservation.

(B) John Stock was a professional forester, property rights advocate, entrepreneur, writer, speaker, historian, and civic leader. Mr. Stock served on the Adirondack Park Agency Board from 1973-1987. He worked for the Litchfield Park Corporation for twenty-seven years. Mr. Stock published the book, Litchfield Park: Stories from an Adirondack Great Camp.

(C) Harold A. Jerry, Jr. was a lawyer and former Republican State Senator who was known for his devotion to the Adirondack Park and wilderness protections. Mr. Jerry was appointed by Gov. Mario Cuomo to the Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century. He worked tirelessly during this term on behalf of the Adirondacks. Mr. Jerry was also a long serving commission member of the New York State Public Service Commission.

(D) Breck and Barbara Chapin were long-time Saranac Lake residents who were instrumental in the establishment of the volunteer program at the Visitor Interpretive Centers. They championed the idea of the Native Species Butterfly House.

(E) Donald Hill was affectionately known as "Bunker" Hill to his family and many friends. For 30 years he worked as a licensed land surveyor for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency. Bunker was also a Project Review officer at the APA. He retired from APA in 1991. He was also well known for his two volumes of humorous books which he wrote and illustrated.

(F) Dr. Barbara McMartin was an author and active supporter of the Adirondack Park. She served as vice-president the Adirondack Mountain Club and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks. Dr. McMartin served on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s High Peaks Advisory Committee from 1974 to 1978 and the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee from 1979 to 2003. She chaired the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee from 1979 to 2003 and helped write many policies.

Dr. McMartin authored 25 books including guide books and Adirondack histories. Her books helped Adirondack enthusiasts to explore and discover the Park's many trails, habitats and communities.

(G) Peter Berle was strongly committed to environmental protection. He was an Environmental lawyer, New York State Assemblyman, Commissioner at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and President of the National Audubon Society. In the early 1970s, he founded Berle, Butzel & Kass, one of the first firms in the country devoted to the new field of environmental law. Mr. Berle took a particular interest in expanding state lands. In 1977, he oversaw the purchase of more than 9,000 acres including 11 of the highest peaks in the Adirondack Park. In 1989, Gov. Mario M. Cuomo named Mr. Berle as chairman of the Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21st Century, a multiyear effort that resulted in several important recommendations for the Adirondack Park.

(H) The Adirondack Park Agency Administrative Assistants through their professionalism are critically important to the Adirondack Park Agency. Their tireless dedication and support helps ensure timely decision making and that efficient state government operations are conducted by the Agency for Adirondack Park residents and visitors. Administrative Assistants are invaluable communicators often serving as the public's first point of contact. They marshal projects through Agency divisions ever mindful of project time clocks. Our Administrative Assistants truly are the glue that holds the Adirondack Park Agency together.

(I) Clarence Petty was an Adirondack Park ranger and later a liaison between the New York State Conservation Department (now DEC) and the State Legislature. An icon of the Adirondack Park, Mr. Petty in the late 1950s along with a colleague conducted a three-year survey of thousands of acres of Forest Preserve inside the Adirondack Park. He also paddled 1,300 miles of river and streams after Governor Nelson Rockefeller appointed him to the Temporary Commission Study Commission. The Commission's work led to the formation of the Adirondack Park Agency. His research was the foundation for the APA's State Land classification system and the NYS Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act designations inside the Adirondack Park. In 1975, Mr. Petty helped establish the Adirondack Council. He was the Council's first Executive Director. Clarence Petty loved what he fondly referred to as the "Dacks." Clarence Petty was a Navy pilot in the Pacific during World War II.

(J) Dr. Edwin Ketchledge, "Ketch" to those who knew him, was a botanist, teacher and founder of the Summit Steward Program, a two-decade initiative to educate hikers and provide protection to the vulnerable alpine plants at the highest summits in the Adirondack Park. He was a distinguished teaching professor in the environmental and forest biology programs at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Dr. Ketchledge worked in the Adirondacks for more than 40 years. He authored one of the essential Adirondack field guides, *Forests & Trees of the Adirondack High Peaks Region*, first published by Adirondack Mountain Club in 1967. His belief that people would take responsibility for protecting the meadows if they were

informed about them has been validated by the success of the Summit Steward program. Dr. Edwin Ketchledge was veteran of the 10th Mountain Division's Italy campaign.

(K) Richard Lawrence was a lawyer and a businessman in Elizabethtown who served as a member of the Temporary Study Commission appointed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, which ultimately made the recommendation to create the APA. In 1971, Gov. Rockefeller appointed Mr. Lawrence as the first chairman of the APA where he served with dedication and diligence until 1975. He saw the agency through its infancy, a crucial stormy period for shaping land use policy for the more than 9,000 square miles of public and private land inside the Adirondack Park. Chairman Lawrence was the APA's public face and calming voice during many acrimonious public meetings. Mr. Lawrence devoted his energy to a vast array of North Country community projects from founding the Essex County Historical Association to serving on the boards of the Elizabethtown Public Library, Crary Foundation, North Country Community College, New York State Historical Association, College Council of SUNY Plattsburgh, Adirondack Nature Conservancy, New York Parks and Conservation Association, Adirondack Council, and many others.

(L) Herman "Woody" Cole was appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo to Chairman of the APA Board in 1984. Chairman Cole served in that role until 1992. He previously served as NYS Department of State designee to the APA Board from 1976-1978. Chairman Cole recognized early in the formation of the APA that strong vibrant communities were critically important to the success of the Adirondack Park. He worked closely with organizations like ANCA to ensure community sustainability was factored into the Agency's decision making. Mr. Cole was very instrumental in overseeing the establishment of the Agency's former Visitor Interpretive Centers, which opened to the public in May of 1989. He took the lead in convincing state government to support the creation and operation of the VICs and devoted countless volunteer hours to ensure the success of the interpretive programs. In 1976, he was appointed liaison to the Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee and was also the Executive Director of the NYS Sports and Winter Olympics Commission for the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics, serving under then-Secretary of State Mario Cuomo.

(M) James and Kimberly Barney were tragically killed on July 24, 2014 in a car accident on NYS Route 86 in Ray Brook, NY in front of the Adirondack Park Agency building. Mr. Barney was born August 7, 1971 in Ogdensburg, NY. He graduated from Lisbon Central School in 1990 and received a Criminal Justice degree from SUNY Canton College. James worked as a police officer for the Norwood Police Department and later was a Corrections Officer at the Bear Hill Facility in Malone, NY. He loved the outdoors and spending time with his wife.

Kimberly was born in Massena, NY on September 18, 1975. She graduated from Parishville-Hopkinton Central School and received an associate degree from SUNY Canton. She worked at General Motors and later was employed at the St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services in Canton. Mrs. Barney's favorite pastime was

spending time with family. Mr. and Mrs. Barney were married on August 1, 2010 on Whiteface Mountain on a beautiful summer's day. They were surrounded by family and friends. May they rest in peace.

(N) Anne LaBastille was the author of the four-volume autobiography, "Woodswoman," which celebrated her adventures and inspired women across the nation to engage in the great outdoors. She served on the Adirondack Park Agency Board from 1975 to 1993 and often took staunch environmental positions during her seventeen years. She was a strong advocate for the creation of the Agency's Park Ecology Committee and was a pivotal force for the protection of wilderness. She authored 16 books, more than 150 articles for magazines like *National Geographic* and *Backpacker* and over two dozen scientific papers, including some of the first to point out the dangers of acid rain to the Adirondacks. She received awards from numerous organizations, such as the World Wildlife Club and the Explorers Club, as well as honorary college degrees. She was also a charter member of the New York State Outdoor Guides Association – one of the pioneering women who broke into the male dominated field at the time. Born in Montclair, N.J., on Nov. 20, 1933, Ms. LaBastille, received a bachelor's degree in conservation from Cornell, a master's in wildlife management from Colorado State University and a doctorate in wildlife ecology from Cornell. She passed away on July 1, 2011 at age seventy-seven after struggling with Alzheimer's disease.

(O) Peter Van de Water was chair of "Citizens to Save the Adirondack Park" (CSAP) which was established in the early 1970s before the APA. His organization was instrumental in defeating the Horizon Corporation's plan to build a large-scale subdivision in St. Lawrence County. Through his leadership and consensus building, CSAP helped sway public opinion in favor of the creation of the Adirondack Park Agency. At its peak, CSAP had 2,600 members who wrote letters, made phone calls and manned information booths at barbecues, parades and field days. Mr. Van de Water also was a significant contributor to annual conferences held at St. Lawrence University regarding issues facing the Adirondacks. His views were well thought out and respected by those with opposing ideas. He had a long career at St. Lawrence University serving as Director of Student Activities, Financial Aid, Admissions and Vice President of Student Affairs. In the years just prior to his passing, he was an avid spokesman for sustainability, pointing out the dangers of climate change and the advantages of alternative energy sources. Above all he had a great love of his family and friends. Mr. Van de Water was born in January 1937 and died peacefully at his home in Canton on April 30, 2014.

(P) John R. Collins, Jr. was appointed to the Adirondack Park Agency Board by Governor Mario Cuomo and served dutifully from 1984 -1995 including as Chairman from 1992-1995. Mr. Collins was a lifelong conservationist who profoundly cared about the preservation of the Forest Preserve and the well-being of Park communities. He had deep roots in the Adirondacks. His ancestors farmed in Chestertown and North Creek after emigrating from Ireland. His grandparents were caretakers at the Great Camp Sagamore for the Vanderbilt family and his parents ran the family resort, The Hedges in Blue Mountain Lake. Mr. Collins found working with children truly rewarding and taught fifth-grade at Long Lake Central School for 26 years, where he was beloved as "Mr. C." He strongly believed in service to one's community. Mr. Collins was on the staff and board of the Adirondack Museum. He served as Chairman of the Indian Lake Planning Board and was on the Indian Lake Central School Board. He was a trustee of the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts as well as the Northern Forest Center. He helped

found and was Board President for the Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks. Mr. Collins's love and concern for the Adirondacks was evident in what he said and what he did. Even those who disagreed with him respected his positions because he was a genuine Adirondacker. John Collins was born February 1, 1938 and passed away June 16, 2017.

(Q) George Canon was Newcomb Town Supervisor for 26 years and served multiple terms as Chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Canon's visionary leadership resulted in Newcomb securing one of the first APA Approved Local Land Use Programs. He was very influential in the State's decision to locate an APA Visitor Interpretive Center in Newcomb and preserve the historic Camp Santanoni. Mr. Canon served on the Department of Environmental Conservation Region 5 Open Space Committee. His position on State Land policy was well respected and helped shape many State Land Classification actions and Unit Management Plans. He was also very influential in encouraging New York State to stop the use of eminent domain to acquire Forest Preserve land. George Canon was Chairman and a long-serving Board Member of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board as well as a founding member and past president of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages. Throughout his life he pressed Governors and State Officials to pay more attention to the needs of Park residents. His wisdom, passion and determination to balance Adirondack land use policy with the needs of Park residents was an inspiration to all. George Canon will always be remembered as a fiery advocate on behalf of Adirondackers and one of the Adirondacks' greatest negotiators.

(R) Thomas Saehrig was an admired and respected senior staff member who began his 28-year career with the APA in 1992. Over the course of his career, his strong work ethic and uncanny ability to solve complex problems was instrumental in the successful implementation of transformational projects. Mr. Saehrig's portfolio included critical public infrastructure, mining operations, innovative shoreline stabilization projects and significant work in partnership with the Department of Transportation and the Olympic Regional Development Authority. He fervently worked with the DOT on the Champlain Bridge rebuild - an award-winning designed project that was completed on time and under budget. His contributions to the State's Travel Corridor planning efforts were immeasurable. Millions of people safely drive the Park's highways, enjoy scenic vistas, and learn about Adirondack Park history through projects in which he reviewed. Mr. Saehrig will always be remembered by his colleagues as a trusted mentor who selflessly gave of his time to help in whatever way he could.

(S) Frederick Monroe was Chester Town Supervisor for 24 years and served as Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors. Throughout his public service career, Mr. Monroe was known as a quiet, reserved man with a gentle nature who worked tirelessly to protect the land rights of the Adirondacks. His passion was driven by a strong desire for people of all perspectives to reach a fair and balanced compromise for Adirondack citizens and visitors. Fred Monroe was a decisive local government leader who quickly embraced innovative solutions such as implementing alternative energy systems within municipal operations and advocating for invasive species management. On behalf of all Adirondack residents, Fred dutifully served as Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Counsel then as its Executive Director from April 2005 till his retirement in 2018. During his tenure, Mr. Monroe defended private property rights, testified at congressional and State hearings, worked tirelessly to streamline State regulations, and was an effective representative for the Review Board at Agency Board

meetings. Fred Monroe steadfastly defended Adirondack traditions and culture through his spirited encouragement for reasonable access to the Forest Preserve and the preservation of historic structures. Mr. Monroe's well-reasoned and passionate speeches swayed many debates and ingrained his reputation as a "Gentleman Warrior."