

Adirondack Park Agency

2003 Annual Report



Recognizing 30 years of commitment to the Adirondack Park.

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an introduction

THROUGHOUT THE THIRTY YEARS of its history, the Adirondack Park Agency has had the good fortune to benefit from the skills and commitment of countless individuals, ranging from its board members, staff, and subcontractors to the valued members of local and area communities. As we celebrate our thirty years of history in this year's annual report we'd like to say "thanks" to these individuals whose passion and commitment to the Adirondack Park have made possible the progress we've achieved in protecting this vast and beautiful land. ■ ■ ■ With that end in mind, you'll notice this year we've changed the look of our annual report. In addition to reading about our progress this past year, we hope you enjoy reading the profiles of three current projects demonstrating the commitment made every day by Agency staff and Park residents. We think you'll agree the Agency could not do its job without this support.

Left: Agency staff on the shores of Windfall Pond attending the 30th Anniversary Retreat. From left: Sunita Halasz, Brian Grisi, Sue Parker, Emily Tyner, Jennifer Carlo, Ariel Diggory, Walt Linck, Leigh Walrath, Ray Curran, John Barge, and Milt Adams.



The newly relocated commemorative stone donated by Finch, Pruyn and Co., Inc. leads visitors along a path with four wayside exhibits at Site Four of the interpretive exhibits in North River.

Left: Site Four wayside exhibit area, showing the relocated memorial stone and the newly landscaped exhibit area utilizing native plants; Right: (from left to right) exhibit areas on Sites One, Two and Three.



partnering with communities

THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY IS COMMITTED to helping Park communities help themselves. This happens in a variety of ways, providing technical assistance, advice and financial grants, among other activities. In every instance, the Agency's degree of success in being of help is directly linked to how well it is able to develop and nurture partnerships and build trust and cooperation at the local level. A shining example of how well this has worked exists in the Town of Johnsburg and its North Creek and North River communities.



I've long felt the four riverside rest stops between North Creek and North River offered a great opportunity for the Agency to join hands with a local community in converting an existing resource into linked interpretive exhibits available for everyone to enjoy...residents and Park visitors alike.

—ED HOOD, Assistant Director
Adirondack Park Planning



the hudson river interpretive exhibits

Without a doubt the Adirondack Park is one of the most beautiful and diverse natural environments in the United States. Natural and scenic amenities combine with a rich history and a variety of recreational attractions to create almost unlimited education and recreation potential for its 12 million annual visitors.

The Greater Upper Hudson River Watershed is approximately 1.7 million acres in size, covering almost one-third of the surface area of New York's six million acre Adirondack Park. The mighty Hudson River has its beginnings at Lake Tear of the Clouds in the High Peaks region near the Town of Newcomb before it begins its long descent to New York City and the Atlantic Ocean. The river is an asset of unmeasurable historic influence and value to the long term health and wellbeing of New York State.

THE VISION

In the five-mile stretch of the NYS Route 28 Central Adirondack Trail Scenic Byway between North Creek and North River, the Hudson River clings to the road corridor, offering the traveler unlimited opportunities to enjoy the river's spectacular landscape. Four roadside pulloffs exist along this stretch of highway, providing opportunities for views and access to the river.

In this scenario lay a wonderful, untapped opportunity to tell the past and present story of the Hudson River. The Agency envisioned developing the four roadside pulloffs into linked interpretive-educational exhibits featuring information on the

history of the area, available recreational opportunities, cultural events, and local and regional ecology.

The idea was to have each of the four sites highlight a different theme of the story about the river, its current and historic value, and its importance to the region and New York State. Visitors stopping at each site would view the information there and be encouraged to move on to the next site to learn more of the river's story.

The Agency saw this project as an opportunity to interpret an under-valued area of the Park and convey practical and useful information to the traveling public. The exhibits offer the opportunity to promote other activities in the area including cross country skiing, rafting, mountain biking, camping, sightseeing and train rides.

THE PLAN

To bring the project to reality, the Agency structured a partnership of local, regional and other state agencies, working with funds it obtained from the NYS Scenic Byways Program. A dedicated group was pulled together, led by the Agency and including the Town of Johnsburg, local community groups and citizens, the NYS Department of Transportation, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Warren County Parks and Recreation Department, consultants Tevlin + Clarke, area citizens, and Jack Diamond and the Green Team.

Each site presented unique challenges. On Site Two the primary objective was to create a safe and accessible exhibit area where scenic views of the river could be enjoyed while visitors explore the interpretive theme of the site—the Hudson River habitat.

Taking advantage of the site's seclusion, a welcoming area was created by consultants Kathiann Tevlin and Michael Clarke using native plantings supplied by Schroon Falls Farm Gardens & Nursery. By using low-

profile exhibit bases, Tevlin + Clarke developed a site plan allowing for simultaneous viewing of the river while reading the text of the three interpretive panels.

In this image, the site landscape is being leveled with the addition of layers of gravel and high quality soil to keep the planned native plantings healthy.



Johnsburg's rich history will be highlighted with our bicentennial celebration in 2005. The scenic byway program has shown our residents and visitors to our area how much the Hudson River adds to that history.

From recreation to commerce to ecology, the Hudson has been a catalyst to our community. I am very pleased the Park Agency applied for this grant on our behalf. Consultants Tevlin & Clarke have shown a great interest in getting factual displays in place and work well with the community. State agencies were instrumental also in making this happen. DEC, DOT and APA all worked to create a new major tourist attraction in our community.

—BILL THOMAS

The most essential part of this equation was the Town of Johnsburg, under the guidance and leadership of Town Supervisor, Bill Thomas. Committing the talents of Town staff and area residents, and matching contributions in labor and materials, the Town of Johnsburg embraced the Agency's vision and committed themselves to the success of the project. It stands as a great example of how local residents bought into the idea and stood side by side with the Agency and its team to bring the project to reality.

THE RESULT

Eighteen months of hard work and cooperation paid off in a project the Town has proudly taken to heart and serves as an inspiration to other communities of how local government, teaming with the Agency and others, can improve their community, promote their local economy, and at the same time help share in the responsibility for protecting the Adirondack Park.

Town of Johnsburg staff Bruce Updike, Skip Goodspeed, Jim French and Larry Cook hard at work surfacing the newly laid gravel at Site One, in preparation for the installation of two exhibit bases and bench.

Access to the river and picnicking facilities at these sites make them great locations for family picnics.



BACKGROUND

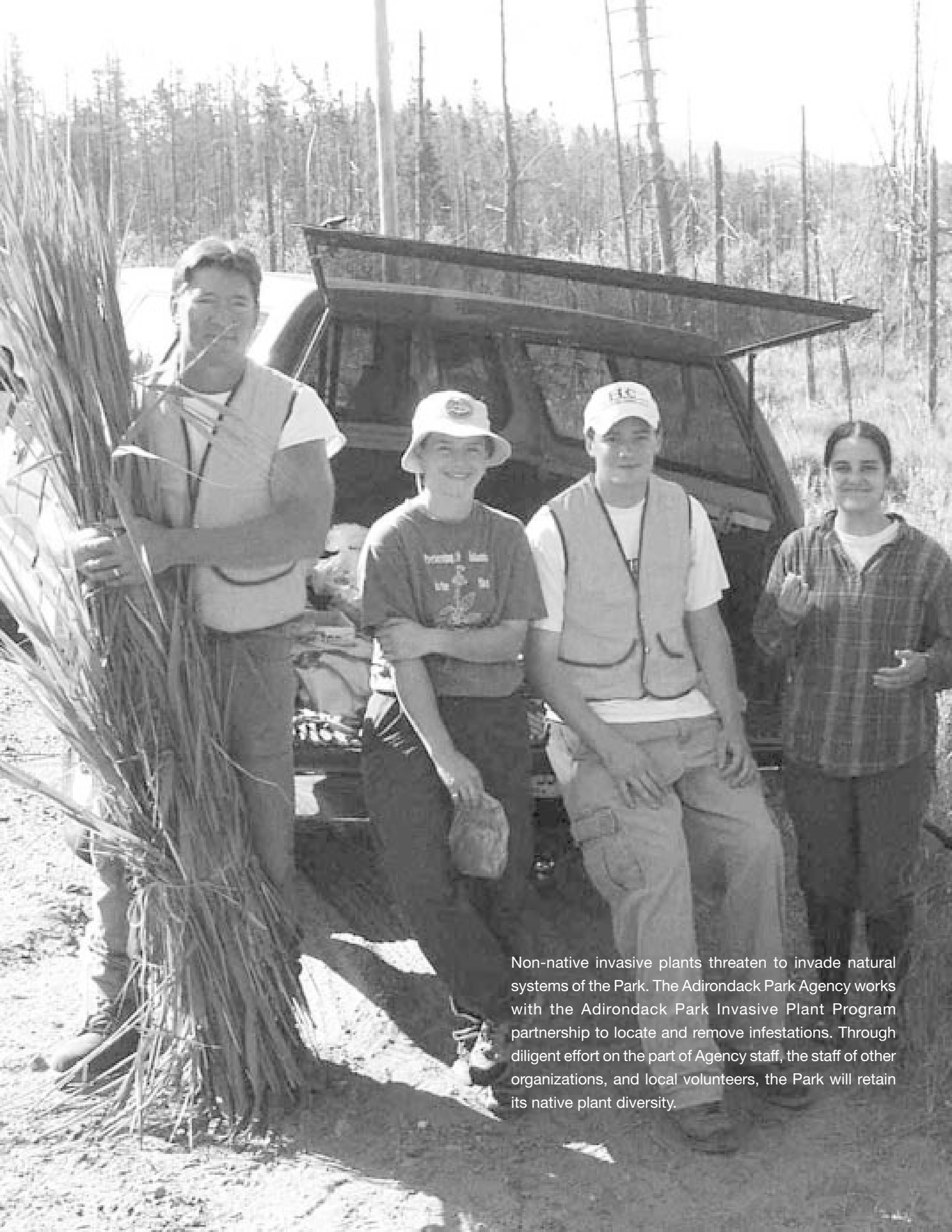
As the river winds its way south some 50 miles to North River and North Creek, it begins to closely parallel the road offering spectacular views and easy access for recreation. Historically, the river's proximity to the early roads attracted settlers to this region to harvest timber and mine garnet. The river answered the need of how to get logs to market.

As it runs by North River and North Creek, the river is the site of the oldest, continuous whitewater canoe and kayak race in the country, the Hudson River Whitewater Derby. Each May for the past 45 years, tens of thousands of people have flocked to the North River/North Creek area to participate in and view these races.

As the area opened up to more settlers, it also offered the opportunity to cater to tourists and guide sportsmen. Later in the 1800s, the railroad became available to help move products to meet growing tourism interest in the Adirondacks and became a strategic element in the country's efforts to meet its wartime needs for materials from mines such as Tahawus.



Project team members Larry Cook and Milda Burns mug for a shot at Site Four, where the memorial stone donated by Finch Pruyn to the men who worked the river was moved to its new place of honor as part of the site's interpretive theme celebrating the lives of loggers and river runners.



Non-native invasive plants threaten to invade natural systems of the Park. The Adirondack Park Agency works with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program partnership to locate and remove infestations. Through diligent effort on the part of Agency staff, the staff of other organizations, and local volunteers, the Park will retain its native plant diversity.

*Left: (from left to right) Steven Flint, Leslie Karasin, Peter Smith and Sumita Halasz
“phrag whacking” at wetlands along NYS
Route 86 in Ray Brook.*

stewardship for the environment

In 1973, the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan was set in place to protect the “open space resources” of the Park. Important elements were wetlands and diverse ecosystems, deer wintering areas, habitats of endangered species and key wildlife habitats. Today, with the advancement of the Park’s character and an increase in the awareness of ecology needs within the Park, the agenda for protection has changed. In addition to concerns about loss of species diversity, we are concerned with quality of life, eliminating invasive species, and finding ways to better communicate with each other.



Dan Fitts welcomes all to the unveiling of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program's website (www.adkinvasives.com) and is joined by program partners from left to right at the table, DEC Region 5 Director Stu Buchanan, DEC Region 6 Director Sandy LeBarron, DOT Region 7 Director, Carey Babyak, Mike Carr, Executive Director, Adirondack Nature Conservancy, and Dr. John Mills, President, Paul Smith's College.

Project Merging and Coordinator Position Transition
 In spring 2003, the Adirondack Park Terrestrial Invasive Plant Project and Aquatic Invasive Plant Project combined their efforts under the umbrella organizational name of the 'Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP).'

Upon the expiration of a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, on October 1, 2003 both the aquatic and terrestrial invasive plant projects continued under the direction of a program coordinator position funded and supervised by The Adirondack Nature Conservancy in Keene Valley. The program coordinator will serve a 12-month contract and implement a work plan of tasks and deliverables extracted from the larger guidelines developed by the partner organizations and presented in the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Action Plan.

Invasion of non-native plant and animal species is one of the top threats to the ecology of the Adirondacks. Because of the mostly intact forest of the core of the Adirondacks, many pests have not gained a foothold, but the threat of invasive species is increasing with the growth of human populations, global trade and disturbance of the environment. Effectively dealing with the problem of invasive species presents a significant conservation challenge, both biologically and politically. Stopping potentially invasive species before they spread into and throughout the Adirondacks is the best option for long-term protection.



APIPP partners and volunteers carry the important message of invasive plant prevention, early detection and rapid response across the Park. Through monitoring and mapping and encouraging community awareness, APIPP volunteers are playing a significant role in preventing the spread of invasive species.

—HILARY OLES, APIPP Coordinator

invasive species

The Terrestrial Invasive Plant Project (TIIPP) has been inventorying terrestrial invasive plant sites since 1998 and implementing control methods since 2000.

In 2001 the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Adirondack Nature Conservancy (ANC) entered into an agreement to collaborate in this effort and to inventory invasive plant species along highways in the Adirondack Park.

To date, TIIPP has confirmed the presence of terrestrial invasive plant species at 174 sites within the “Core Project Area,” which generally is the central Adirondacks. Manual and herbicidal controls were undertaken on 95 of these sites. Certified Pesticide Applicators from DOT staff implemented herbicide controls and the partner organizations and volunteers physically removed plants from these sites.

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, recognized the environmental significance of the program with an Environmental Excellence Award in 2001.

The Aquatic Plant Project
A complementary aquatic Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)

was also initiated in 2001 when the Adirondack Park Agency and partner organizations including DEC, ANC, Paul Smiths College, and the Franklin County Network of Shoreline Associations, submitted a proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to institute a centralized framework for aquatic invasive plant monitoring and educational outreach in the Adirondack Park over a two-year period. Funding was awarded to the APA in support of this baseline project.

During 2002, 46 volunteers monitored 54 waters and confirmed the presence of Eurasian water milfoil in 15 of those waters. Information from other plant monitoring groups raises the number of waters containing one or more aquatic invasive plant species to 41. In 2003, 66 volunteers monitored 68 waters, and survey efforts located five additional lakes infected with aquatic invasive plants.

The success of the program is the fostering of volunteerism and the sharing of technical expertise. For example, in 2003 eighty-four participants attended one of three volunteer monitoring training sessions in aquatic plant identification and survey methods.

Serving information to the Public
APIPP has developed a website (www.adkinvasives.com) to disseminate information identifying invasive

plant species, their current locations and the problems they cause; to inform citizens about local monitoring efforts and additional regional resources; and to provide landowners with legal, effective options for invasive plant management. APIPP web pages for the aquatic invasive plant project have been on-line since January 2003. The web pages for the terrestrial invasive plant project will soon be on-line.

Conclusion
Along with its partners and volunteers, this program is a success because of the support received from the volunteers and continued collaboration from the involvement of new partners. The Adirondack Park Agency will continue its efforts to monitor, identify, and provide information to the public on invasive aquatic plants. The program has momentum, continued support, and looking to the future, has great expectations to successfully address this major threat to the Park’s ecology.

Below: The Invasive Plant Task Force (from left to right)—Bill Brown (Adirondack Nature Conservancy), John Falge (DOT-Region 7), Ken Kogut (DEC-Region 5), Craig Cheeseman (Adirondack Nature Conservancy), Dan Spada (APA), Ed Frantz (DOT-region 2), Sean Connin (APA), Dr. John Mills (President, Paul Smiths College).





Map flat files at the NYS Adirondack Park Agency. Today, using GIS, map information is stored more efficiently on the computer, can be accessed readily by the user, and precisely overlaid with other map information to aid decision-making.

Left: John Barge and Sunita Halasz review a map from the Agency's flat file library of Adirondack Park maps.

a resource for the community

The Adirondacks were once “lands unknown.” Explorer/cartographers like Verplanck Colvin and Seneca Ray Stoddard were some of the first to chart the wilderness and provide a reference for others to follow. In the spirit of these notable men, the Agency has been committed to a high standard of quality map information since its beginning. From the first mylar overlays used to create the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map to the computerized Geographic Information Systems we use today, maps have formed the basis of our guidance in regional land use planning.



Sunita Halasz explains geographic information systems at the Agency to Cornell University's Hubert H. Humphry Scholars from around the world.

When the concept of an Adirondack Park Agency began to take shape, one of the most important considerations in creating a viable regional planning agency was good maps. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the staff of the Temporary Study Commission, and later the Agency, assembled a collection of maps covering the entire Park. Much of the information contained in the maps was based on first-hand knowledge of the land. These maps provided the Agency with a detailed region-wide perspective of the natural resources of the Park and their ability to support varying levels of development. The group of individuals that assembled these maps set a standard for high-quality map information that continues today.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN MAP

Those first maps, assembled by the pioneer staff, contained information on different themes: sensitive biological resources, terrain, existing development and communities. Each map theme was on its own sheet of transparent plastic, and when all the sheets were combined together, it created a picture of where sensitive resources overlapped each other. The more sensitive resources were classified as Rural Use and Resource Management and assigned lower development densities. Where there were fewer sensitive resources or existing development, the area was classified as Hamlet, Moderate and Low Intensity and given a higher development density. This, then, is how the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map was created.

MAP STORAGE AT THE AGENCY

The first maps were rolled up and stored in "pigeon hole" racks which made organization and map preservation difficult. It was a great improvement when the Agency installed file drawers allowing the maps to be stored flat and organized by quadrangle. Today most of our maps are available in digital form and are stored on computer servers.

EARLY INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

The Agency has been involved in a number of innovative projects in partnership with local governments and other State and federal agencies, including the Essex County Forest Feasibility Study which was a Resource, Conservation and Development project with Essex County, the Soil Conservation Service, and the NYS College of Environmental Science and Forestry. These groups worked together to use available map information to identify lands with the highest potential for timber harvest.

These projects and the partnerships that were developed helped to bring mapping in the Adirondacks to the level that exists today.

It is an absolute privilege to be part of the Agency's rich mapping legacy. With GIS we are painting a digital picture of the Park that will be priceless for future generations.

—SUNITA HALASZ, Environmental Program Specialist I



Information about getting a copy of the Shared Geographic Information CD ROM is available on the Agency's web page at www.apa.state.ny.us.



geographic information systems

In the 1980s and '90s, the Adirondack Park Agency began using digital map information, bringing the Adirondacks to the forefront of mapping technology.

Earth Resource Data Analysis System (ERDAS) - The First GIS. The Adirondack Park Agency was the first workplace installation of the GIS software, ERDAS, in the world. There was one installation of ERDAS prior to the Agency's, for educational use at the University of Georgia in Athens. ERDAS is software that is used to analyze vegetation cover types from satellite imagery. In 1979-1981, the Agency worked with ERDAS to prepare a forest cover map and detect changes in the forest over time. The results of that project were presented in a paper co-authored by Ray Curran and John Banta and presented at a NASA conference in 1982.

Lookup System. As any new GIS user knows, the learning curve is steep. Digital map information is so valuable, however, it was imperative to make it available to all Agency staff. With the help of the resources of the Center for Technology in Government, Agency staff solved the problem by developing an easy-to-use GIS Lookup System available through each staff member's desktop computer. It is used daily at the Agency and is directly responsible for the reduced time it takes to get a jurisdictional determination, issue a permit or resolve an enforcement matter.

Internet Mapping Service. The Agency developed a web GIS application in ArcIMS (Internet Map Server) allowing individuals all over the world to access the Park-wide APA Land Classification data layer compiled from this project. The web address of this site is www.maphost.com/adirondacks. A variety of Adirondack stakeholders, including realtors, lawyers, and surveyors, have said that the site is very useful. The website is one of four sites featured on New York State's Web Banner "Map-NY" button.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-funded projects. Since 1995, the Adirondack Park Agency has received grants from the EPA's State Wetlands Protection Program to create digital maps of wetlands and watersheds at a scale of 1:24,000. Through this program, over 70% of the Park has been digitally mapped up to this point. The data has been used to aid in project review, to help landowners understand their property better, and for numerous scientific studies at local universities.

Shared Adirondack Park Geographic Information CD-ROM. In 2001, Agency staff realized that the volume of digital data available from the Agency had reached a point where it could be compiled into one large digital library for ease of distribution. Thus was born the *Shared Adirondack Park Geographic Information CD-ROM*. This two-CD set contains over 50 geographic natural and cultural

resource data layers from eleven State and federal agencies. Since its release in July 2001, the Agency has distributed over 500 copies of the *Shared GIS CD*. Much of the high start-up cost of a GIS originates with data development. The *Shared GIS CD* gives new users, especially local governments with financial challenges, the advantage of an instant, comprehensive database for the Park. Feedback from users has been extremely positive and enthusiastic.

Adirondack GIS Users Group. The creation of the *Shared GIS CD* had many benefits. In addition to serving as a focal point of GIS training sessions, it has led to the creation of the Adirondack GIS Users Group (www.adkgis.org), a partnership of State, local, not-for-profit, and for-profit organizations. The Adirondack GIS Users Group is a forum for sharing data, providing assistance/training, sharing new research projects and ideas, and keeping the Park's GIS community updated. In 2002, the group held training workshops for DEC Forest Preserve planners, local code enforcement officers, and at Local Government Day and the Adirondack Research Consortium meetings. In 2003, the group held meetings to discuss GIS in natural resource planning, emergency management, tourism promotion, and K-12 education. Another meeting is planned for March 2004 specifically focused on GIS applications for local governments.

Agency staff often refer to the land use and development plan map as the "APLUDP map," the colors of which represent private and state land use classifications. This map is the basis of all Agency land use decisions.

Adirondack GIS Users Group at November 2003 meeting at Plattsburgh State University.



foundations—reflections on 2003

IMPROVING PERMIT TIMELINESS, reducing the enforcement case backlog, and improving internal and external communications are the three management priorities driven by the Agency's Strategic Plan. The day-to-day work of the Agency's divisions is geared toward accomplishing these objectives and is described in the next section. Organizationally, this work is the foundation of the Agency's ability to carry out its mission and provide the opportunity to pursue the partnerships and collaborations described in the previous section.



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from the **governor**

Dear Friends:

What an honor it was for me to keynote the 30th Anniversary Conference on the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan in Lake Placid last October. The conference focused on the themes of environment, economy, and people of the Park. It also gave us an opportunity to salute three great friends - Clarence Petty, John Dillon and Ron Stafford – for their life-long contributions and dedication to the Park's resources and the people.

While the conference reflected on the past, we also looked forward thirty years into the future. I have asked Chairman Whaley to lead the Agency in its deliberations of these ideas to develop a series of recommendations for future opportunities which make the most sense for moving forward. I look forward to learning of the Agency's progress on this initiative.

The positive atmosphere of mutual respect and dialogue is evidence of collaboration between government and those who care about the Park. This evidence certainly reinforces that we are on the right track in the management of the Park's resources. I hope all share in my commitment to continue the positive momentum as we look to the future, a future that I see as very bright.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. E. Pataki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George E. Pataki



about the **board**

Ross S. Whaley was appointed Chairman of the Agency on September 16, 2003. Dr. Whaley is the past president of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse and previously served as an economist with the U.S. Forest Service.

James C. Frenette retired from the Agency in May of 2003. He was first appointed in July of 1992 and served the Agency in a variety of positions and committee chairmanships. In December of 2002, Governor Pataki named Jim Chairman on an interim basis, a post he held until his retirement. Jim will be remembered for his love of his home town of Tupper Lake and his tireless advocacy for the Park's residents and local governments.

James T. Townsend was appointed by Governor Pataki as Chairman on an interim basis from May through September of 2003. Jim was first appointed to the Board in June of 1999. He has served the Agency in a variety of capacities including leading the Agency's ongoing rule revision process. Jim enjoys his second home in North River at every occasion and is an "Adirondack 46er."



William Kissel
Essex County



Frank Mezzano
Hamilton County



Deanne Rehm
Warren County



Katherine O. Roberts
Putnam County



James T. Townsend
Monroe County



Cecil Wray
New York County



Erin Crotty, Commissioner
Department of Environmental
Conservation



Charles Gargano, Commissioner
Department of Economic
Development



Randy Daniels
Secretary of State



C. Randall Beach, Designee
Department of Economic Development



Stuart Buchanan, Designee
Department of Environmental
Conservation



Richard L. Hoffman, Designee
Department of State

The Agency Board: Standing left to right: Commissioner James T. Townsend, Commissioner Cecil Wray, Commissioner Frank Mezzano, DEC Designee Stuart Buchanan. Seated left to right: Commissioner William Kissel, Commissioner Katherine O. Roberts, Chairman Dr. Ross S. Whaley, Commissioner Deanne Rehm, and DED Designee Randall C. Beach. DOS Designee Richard L. Hoffman is missing from the photo. Photo taken February 2004.

*Reconfirmations
The Agency was pleased in 2003 that Governor Pataki reappointed, and the Senate confirmed, the following Agency Members to new terms:
Cecil Wray, New York County, term expires 6/30/06
Deanne Rehm, Warren County, term expires 6/30/07*



Dear Friends:

First of all, let me thank Jim Frenette and Jim Townsend for serving the Agency as Interim Chairmen for most of 2003. Through their individual styles and talents, each provided caring and innovative leadership to the agency and its stewardship mission. We thank them.

I was certainly honored to be asked by Governor Pataki to serve as Adirondack Park Agency Chairman. As I have stated to many of you, my three goals as Chairman are: to obey the law, to treat people with courtesy and respect, and to work toward making the Adirondack Park a model for sustainable development worldwide. At best, this model will include protected natural environments, viable communities and vital economies.

As we look back over the past thirty years, it is gratifying to see where the Agency stands today. The past leadership at the Agency has certainly left us in a very good position to accomplish our important mission. It is now our responsibility to build on that legacy and work towards the Adirondack Park continuing to be that special place envisioned by the people of the State in general as well as the residents of the Park.

I am excited about the future and what it holds for us all. I feel very fortunate to be part of it and am eager to move on to the next chapter of the Park's story.

Sincerely,

Ross S. Whaley, *Chairman*



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to share the Adirondack Park Agency's 2003 Annual Report. In it, we feature some great stories of successful projects fostered by Agency initiative and implemented through collaborations and partnerships to accomplish wonderful things for the Adirondack Park. You will learn about these projects, the inspiration behind them, and the people that made them successful.

It was certainly a busy and successful year by all measures as the Agency continued to make progress on its strategic plan. The Agency also embarked on an ambitious renovation of its Ray Brook Headquarters which will make us accessible to people of all abilities and improve services to the public.

The year was highlighted by the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Adirondack Park Agency Act. Many great ideas were generated and friendships renewed.

It was a pleasure for me to be part of this historic year and I look forward to the opportunities we see in 2004 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Fitts, *Executive Director*



30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

(May 22-1973 – May 22, 2003)
The Agency marked the 30th Anniversary of the Adirondack Park Agency Act with a year-long celebration which reflected on the first 30 years of its implementation and focused on looking forward 30 years into the future.

The celebration kicked off in May with former Executive Director Dick Persico speaking to the Agency about his experiences with respect to drafting the original legislation. The fascinating piece of history contained in his remarks can be found on the Agency’s web page at www.apa.state.ny.us.

Dick’s rich historical perspectives were shared with the Agency’s newer staff at a retreat in the summer, graciously held at the property of Paul Dooling and Sandy Danusi. In addition to sharing these perspectives, Dr. Ross S. Whaley spoke to staff about the importance of the Adirondack Park and the work of the Adirondack Park Agency from the global perspective. This opportunity to share the Agency’s rich history and the broader global perspectives was certainly a success by all measures.

The highlight of the celebration was a fall conference held in Lake Placid, New York, which was sponsored by the Government Law Center at Albany Law School and the New York State Bar Association Environmental Law Section. Governor Pataki addressed the conference, declaring October 2, 2003 Adirondack Park Day and recognizing three special individuals for their contributions to the Adirondack Park. Clarence Petty was recognized for his contributions to the environment. In his acceptance, Clarence spoke of the Forest Preserve as being the “engine” that drives the Adirondack Park.

John Dillon, Chairman and CEO of International Paper, was recognized for his contributions to the Park’s economy. Mr. Dillon talked about the importance of sustainable forests. Finally, Governor Pataki recognized Senator Ron Stafford for his tireless advocacy on behalf of the people of the Park. Senator Stafford urged people to “listen” to each other.

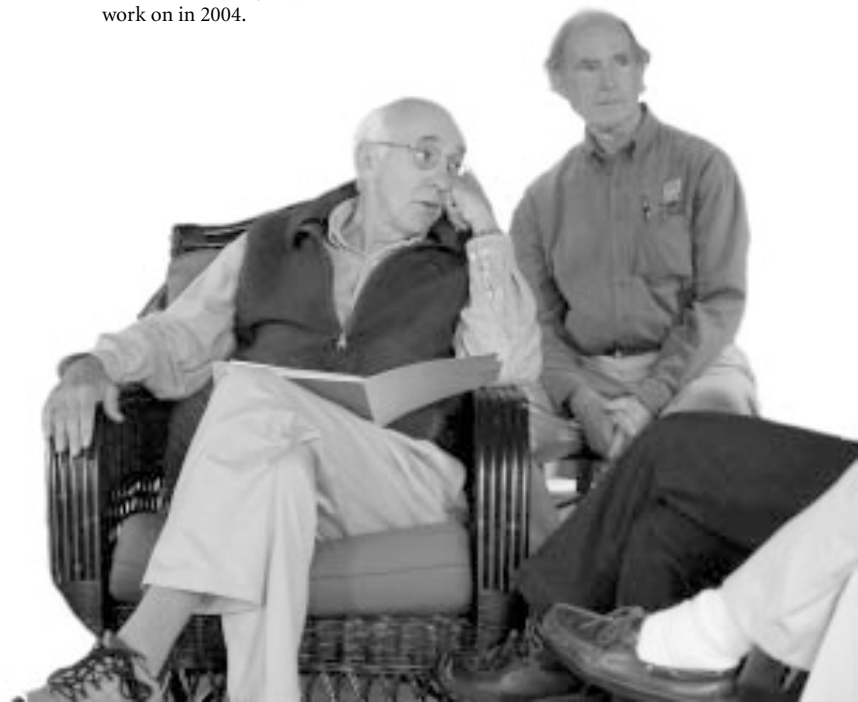
The conference featured the APA Act itself with expert individual and panel presentations that focused on how the Act relates to the conference themes of “people, economy and the environment.” More details on these presentations can be found on the Agency’s web page.

This was a very successful conference. Those in attendance came away with an understanding that a very clear spirit of collaboration exists amongst all stakeholders. Attendees were united in a clear call for more collaboration on Adirondack Park issues. The Agency listened to a number of very useful ideas for regulatory and legislative changes. These ideas could potentially improve the way in which the Agency does business.

Overall, the Agency’s 30th Anniversary celebration was a success. All involved had opportunity to share in the Agency’s rich history and offer ideas for its future. Since October, the executive staff has diligently reviewed presentation materials and notes in an effort to develop a series of action items which the Agency committees will work on in 2004.

From left: Clarence Petty with Governor Pataki at the 30th Anniversary Conference at Lake Placid; Retired State Senator Ronald B. Stafford with Governor Pataki at the 30th Anniversary Conference at Lake Placid; John Dillon, retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of International Paper, with Governor Pataki at the 30th Anniversary Conference at Lake Placid; Dick Persico shares his historical perspectives on the drafting of the APA Act at an Agency Meeting at the Paul Smiths VIC.

Chairman Ross Whaley with Paul Dooling speaking at staff retreat at Windfall Pond.





Left: Jim Connolly and Mark Sengenberger at the 30th Anniversary Conference at Lake Placid; Center: Colleen Parker and Mark Sengenberger at Ray Brook Headquarters; Right: Ariel Diggory introduces the new Paul Smiths VIC Trail Map to the Agency at Ray Brook.

REGULATORY PROGRAMS

The Regulatory Programs Division is responsible for the review, recommendation, and determination of all project permit applications subject to Agency jurisdiction. This division considered a diverse variety of regional projects during the year including subdivision of land, major public utility uses, industrial uses, commercial uses, forestry uses, public and semi-public buildings and single family dwellings. The Division also considered State agency projects and projects involving wetlands and shoreline restriction variances.

In 2003, 304 applications were received and 323 permits, orders and variances were issued. Most of the applications received came from Essex, Warren and Franklin counties.

Examples of important or interesting projects reviewed and acted upon by the Agency this year include the following:

The Agency denied a wetlands permit to the Lake George Park Commission and Office of General Services for a demonstration project for control of Eurasian water milfoil involving application of the aquatic herbicide SONAR in selected sites in Lake George. This decision was based on the lack of any clear consensus by scientific experts who testified during the public hearing process.

In the Town of North Elba, the Henry and Mildred Uihlein Foundation and Cornell University were granted approval for the Uihlein Foundation to convey a 592±-acre parcel of land known as Heaven Hill Farm to National Sports Academy (NSA). NSA proposes to relocate its school campus to this site.

In the Town of Chesterfield, the Essex County IDA/Town of Chesterfield were granted approval for the Chesterfield Commerce Park Phase I, a large-scale planned development for new industrial and commercial uses.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation received a permit for an integrated, long-term sea lamprey control program for Lake Champlain including the treatment of six rivers/streams and four deltas in the Adirondack Park.

In Newcomb, the Open Space Conservancy Inc. (OSC) and NL Industries Inc. were granted a permit for a two-phase, large-scale project. The first phase involved the subdivision of an 11,273-acre tract of land by NL Industries to convey 9,646 acres of land to OSC and retain 1,627 acres of land around its former mining complex. The second phase will involve the subdivision of the 9,646 acres into a 6,300±-acre lot to be conveyed to the State for inclusion in the Forest Preserve, a 2,900±-acre lot to be privately held for sustainable forestry purposes, a 100- to 400-acre lot surrounding structures associated with the former settlement of Adirondac to be privately held, and a 50±-acre parcel containing a preexisting house to be privately held. Agency approval was granted only for the first phase at this time.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation/Fort Ticonderoga Association received a permit to reconstruct and expand an existing boat launch facility on Lake Champlain. The project includes a new overflow parking lot, a sanitary pump-out, expanded parking area, and replacement of the existing seawall and launch ramp.

LEGAL

The Agency's four staff attorneys, Counsel and Associate Counsel continue to provide legal services and advice for all aspects of the Agency's business. The Division also managed a number of matters involving litigation.

The public's first point of contact with the Agency is often a letter or phone call handled by Legal staff in the Jurisdictional Inquiry Office at the Agency. The Agency received 1,021 formal written inquiries in 2003, and almost 7,400 informal phone contacts. With the support of Agency GIS technology and RASS staff assistance with wetland questions, written response times in 2003 generally averaged six days.

Regulatory revision continued to advance a next round of regulatory updates intended to improve the clarity and consistency of the Agency's Rules and Regulations. Specific proposals are expected to move forward for public discussion and review in 2004.

The first goal of the Enforcement Office is to prevent violations through public education and close coordination with local municipal officials. Where violations have occurred, the four enforcement officers are responsible for the identification and resolution of violations, with the primary objective of requiring the repair of environmental damage and bringing project sites into compliance with regulatory standards. In 2003, 246 potential violations were reported and 330 enforcement cases were resolved. A total of 770 old enforcement cases were closed administratively.

Legal staff in the Jurisdictional Inquiry Office at the Agency received 1,021 formal written inquiries in 2003, and almost 7,400 informal phone contacts.

Left: Joe Martens, President of the Open Space Institute, speaks to the Agency at the Newcomb Town Park. Rick Weber is pictured in the background; Right: Chairman Whaley introduces himself to "Charleston" at the Town of Newcomb Town Park.



RESOURCE ANALYSIS

In 2003, the Agency's Resource Analysis and Scientific Services (RASS) Division continued to provide excellent oversight to the technical and scientific activities of the Agency. With its varied qualifications and areas of expertise, staff assisted in educational endeavors and contributed to Agency progress in all program areas including the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Project Review

Staff assisted in the review of more than a dozen complex projects which involved multiple areas of expertise. Examples include NYCO Minerals, Diamond Sportsmen's Club, Lake George storm water treatment, the use of Sonar in Lake George, and the National Sports Academy Campus. Staff also assisted in developing written advice, general permits and best management practices. RASS staff worked on more than 372 active projects in 2003, up 50% from 2002.

Education and Outreach

While providing assistance internally to other divisions within the Agency, RASS staff are continually involved in sharing information with citizens, researchers and organizations in the Park. Some of these

activities include continued work with the Aquatic Invasives Program, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Users Group, and support to the interpretive programs:

Wetland Delineations

Providing accurate and expedient wetlands delineations for landowners is a priority RASS function. In 2003, staff conducted 267 timely field trips to delineate wetlands.

Beyond the environmental and public health benefits of wetland protection this public service has inestimable Agency public outreach benefits. The wetlands delineator is often the first Agency representative that people actually meet. During these visits citizens are provided relevant information about Agency regulations and permitting, as well as the crucial role wetlands serve in environmental protection.

Federal EPA Wetland Protection Grant

In 2003, the Agency was awarded \$179,000 grant for a project entitled "A Bio-Assessment Method for the Ausable-Boquet Watersheds." This grant enabled the Agency to develop new mapped wetlands, watersheds and detailed soils information which will be vital to the protection of the Ausable-Boquet watershed. This project will yield valuable resource protection information with respect to this river corridor and the Lake Champlain Valley.

PARK PLANNING

Significant initiatives undertaken in 2003 include:

Scenic Byway Project Implementation

During the year 2003, the Agency made continued progress on the implementation of its numerous scenic byway projects in the Park. Over the past several years, the Agency has been awarded some \$2 million in scenic byway funds for fourteen projects pursuant to the Federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

Two of the Agency's scenic byway projects were successfully completed in 2003. These include:

- Northwest Foothills Interpretive Guidebook, the first of two model visitor guides for the NYS Route 3 Olympic Trail Scenic Byway;
- Upper Hudson River Interpretive Exhibits, Town of Johnsburg, an integrated series of roadside exhibits between North Creek and North River designed to interpret the history and importance of the Hudson River.

Additionally, work is well underway on several other projects. A detailed inventory and assessment of Route 73 trailhead parking area safety issues and problems was completed in 2003 which will, in 2004, be followed by the implementation of structural and non-structural improvements. The Hamlet Visitor Improvements and Marcy Field Interpretive and Recreational Facility Improvements projects in the Town of

While providing assistance internally to other divisions within the Agency, RASS staff are continually involved in sharing information with citizens, researchers and organizations in the Park.



Henry Savarie and Sue Parker at the 30th Anniversary Conference at Lake Placid



The Agency consulted with DEC on 22 proposals for the development of access opportunities for persons with disabilities.



Keene are also moving closer to implementation; both are expected to be complete by the end of 2004. Construction of the new town highway garage, part of the Marcy Field project, was initiated in the Fall of 2003; the garage is expected to be complete in March 2004.

Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map

The Planning Division has the responsibility for maintaining and keeping up to date the official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map. In 2003, the Agency printed the 30th Anniversary edition of the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map.

Adirondack Park Shaded Relief Map

The Planning Division took the lead on developing a topographic relief map of the Park that will be used by the Adirondack Park Institute as a fundraising tool to help support educational programs at the VICs.

Records Management

Planning staff supervise the Agency's records management program. In addition to participating in the Northern New York Records Management Group, staff continues to oversee the conversion of Agency paper records to microfilm and CD, coordinate storage of Agency records, direct the electronic transfer of records and implement the Agency's new records archive.



Left: (in the foreground, left to right) Commissioners Deanne Rehm, Frank Mezzano and Jim Townsend at the Hamilton County Outreach in the Town of Webb; Center: George Canon (AATV) leads discussion on Local Government Day; Right: John Quinn, Henry Savarie and Dan Fitts planting a white spruce tree, in honor of the late John Stock, Agency Member from 1973 to 1987.

State Lands

The Agency is working with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on an initiative to complete all outstanding unit management plans within the Adirondack Park. The process requires an analysis of an area's resources and public use to develop management actions which protect the wild character of the Forest Preserve while providing appropriate public recreational opportunities. Highlights of the Agency's work in 2003 include:

- Approval of the Bog River Complex, Dix Mountain and Giant Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plans
- Several unit management plan and campground amendments
- The development and adoption of an APA/DEC Memorandum of Understanding regarding the implementation of the State Land Master Plan

In addition, the Agency consulted with the Department on proposed project activities for 43 distinct units and 22 proposals for the development of access opportunities for persons with disabilities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local land use decisions impact the Adirondack economy and environment as much as the Agency's work. In this sense, the task of land use management is a shared responsibility, with the Agency learning from the experience of communities about many vital community issues. Local Government Services continued to provide support to and learn from Adirondack communities during 2003.

The Agency heard presentations on comprehensive plans by Bolton, Lake George, North Elba, Hague, Chester and Inlet.

The Agency began work with the Town of Chester on a local land use plan which goes before the Agency for approval in 2004.

In an effort to promote education and understanding of Agency programs and local perspectives on issues, the Agency participated in a number of popular outreach programs including Local Government Day and co-sponsored workshops with the Department of State.

The Agency also continued its very popular "APA 101" which explains the basics of APA jurisdiction to local government officials, real estate marketers, bankers, and other interested public.



Dan Spada at work doing what he does best.



INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

The year 2003 was another productive year at the two Adirondack Park Agency Visitor Interpretive Centers (VICs), located in Paul Smiths and Newcomb. The Interpretive Programs Division solidified its partnership with the Adirondack community as the VICs continued to provide excellent service to more than 97,000 visitors.

Accomplishments

VIC staff completed the first-ever Strategic Plan for the Interpretive Programs Division. The Division also developed management plans for VIC properties and set management goals for 2003-04. Finally, a program evaluation system was developed and used as the basis for interpretive program offerings for the coming year at both centers.

On May 3, the Newcomb VIC hosted the "Celebration of the Life of R. W. Sage, Jr." and formally dedicated a future trail named in his memory which will begin to be constructed in 2004 and will connect the VIC with the Santanoni historic area in the future.

The Paul Smiths VIC dedicated the new Whispering Pines Amphitheater on June 10 with the Salmon River Elementary School students who named the structure; celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Native Species Butterfly House on July 19; and opened about 2 miles of new backcountry trails on September 12.

The Division took the lead in the formation of the Adirondack Collaborative Ecological Educators (ACEE), which includes the Agency, Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks, Adirondack Mountain Club, Wildlife Conservation Society and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The group's purpose is to foster cooperation between group members to improve the efforts of all.

Let's hear it for the volunteers, without them we would not be as successful! The VIC volunteers assist in many areas both on and off the Centers' properties. In 2003, 3,346 volunteer hours were donated at Paul Smiths, and 852 at Newcomb. In addition, inmate crews from the Department of Correctional Services facilities at Camp Gabriels in Brighton and the Moriah Shock Camp provided invaluable assistance to maintenance staff at both facilities, including 4,600 hours at Paul Smiths.

Longtime volunteer trail guide Richard Finegan passed away on December 27, 2003. His easy manner, subtle humor and understanding of the ways of the woods made him a favorite with visitors who had the pleasure of his company on the Paul Smiths VIC trails. His memory will live in our hearts.

ECONOMIC

In 2003, the Agency continued to work in partnership toward the goal of building a sustainable economy throughout the Adirondack Park. During the year, the Agency's Economic Services Unit served as a planning resource for communities interested in economic improvement and to project sponsors seeking information about the Agency's regulatory programs. There has been ongoing consultation between staff, elected officials and economic developers on creating sustainable economic development strategies in many Park communities. The Economic Services Unit worked diligently with project sponsors ensuring that business development proposals are consistent with these strategies.

The Agency's Economic Affairs Committee continued to build understanding of the dynamics of the region's economy by focusing in 2003 on tourism and its relationship to the retail and service sectors and on regional agriculture. In addition, the Committee discussed the potential long term impact of climate change on the Park's economy and local governments as well as the topic of how economic and fiscal impact issues are considered in the course of project review.

Left: Brenda Sage, Dan Fitts, George Canon, Supervisor, Town of Newcomb and Bill Porter, Director of ESF's Adirondack Ecological Station in Newcomb at the Dick Sage Memorial Trail Dedication held at the Newcomb VIC; Center: Dan Fitts, Paul Smiths College President George Miller, Chairman Jim Townsend, and Paul Smiths Facility Manager Mike Brennan at the dedication of the new backcountry trail system at the Paul Smiths VIC; Right: Ariel Diggory, Naturalist at the Paul Smiths VIC, stands on the front walk of the Paul Smiths VIC after the heavy snow storms in December 2003.

Let's hear it for the volunteers, without them we would not be as successful! In 2003, 3,346 volunteer hours were donated at the Paul Smiths VIC and 852 at the Newcomb VIC.



Left: Governor Pataki with Newcomb VIC Facility Manager Rynda McCray at the 30th Anniversary Conference at Lake Placid; Center: Alexia Hain stands on rubble from an early phase of Ray Brook Headquarters renovations; Right: The entrance to the newly renovated Ray Brook Headquarters.

*Appropriated Funds 2003-2004
Total Operating Funds:
\$4,177,000*

*Local Government
Review Board:
\$50,000*

*Staffing Level for 2003:
59 permanent staff*

ADMINISTRATION

The Agency's Administrative Unit is responsible for all budgeting, personnel, and the building's physical upkeep and maintenance. In addition to all daily matters related to the operation of a \$4 million New York State agency with three facilities, 59 permanent employees, and several seasonal staff, the Administrative Unit continues work on several significant initiatives. These include overseeing the health and safety issues, reasonable access-related improvements to the Agency's headquarters located in Ray Brook, the ever-increasing use of computer technologies in all Agency functions, and monitoring all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NYS Scenic Byways funded projects.

AGENCY BUDGET

The Adirondack Park Agency operates three facilities: its headquarters in Ray Brook and the two Visitor Interpretive Centers in Paul Smiths, Franklin County, and Newcomb, Essex County. In addition to the funds necessary to operate these facilities and pay its staff, the Agency's budget contains a \$50,000 appropriation for the ongoing operation of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

The Agency's budget further contains authorization to receive funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for ongoing wetland characterization projects in the Park's major river basins, and Scenic Byway Funds, both described herein. In addition, the Agency receives funding for two Green Thumb staff at the Ray Brook offices.

WORKLOAD STATISTICS

<i>Project Review</i>	<i>Total</i>
Applications received	304
Permits issued	323
 <i>Jurisdictional Inquiry Office</i>	 <i>Total Inquiries</i>
Written jurisdictional inquiries	1,021 received, 1,019 responded to, 12-day average response
Telephone inquiries	7,321
Wetland delineations	268 completed in an average of 6 days after request
Enforcement cases	246 potential violations reported, 330 resolved, 770 closed administratively
 <i>Map Amendments</i>	 <i>Total Amendments</i>
Technical	9 amendments (22 areas totaling 739.3 acres)
Landowner	1 amendment denied (165 acres)
 <i>Visitor Interpretive Centers (VIC)</i>	 <i>Total Visitors</i>
Paul Smiths Visitors	74,699
Newcomb Visitors	22,600
 <i>VIC On-site Programs—Group/School</i>	 <i>Total Attendance</i>
Paul Smiths	23,021
Newcomb	4,770
 <i>VIC—Outreach Programs</i>	 <i>Total Attendance</i>
Paul Smiths	559
Newcomb	1,849



Jim Hotaling addresses the Agency Board upon the occasion of his retirement



CHANGING FACES

Jim Hotaling, Chief of Local Government Services, retired in March of 2003. Jim established a strong working relationship with Adirondack Park communities and was a leader on local planning issues both in the Park and with a number of State and national organizations. Jim will be remembered for many things including his “matrix” approach to problem solving and will certainly be missed.

Victoria Hristovski, Public Information Director, and Sean Connin, Freshwater Resource Analyst, both left the Agency in 2003 to pursue new and exciting opportunities that developed in their personal lives.

Keith McKeever joined the Agency as Public Information Director. Keith comes to the Agency from the Governor’s Office of Small Cities where he assisted local governments in implementing community development block grant projects around the State. Keith holds a degree in Environmental Science from Plattsburgh State University and will be assisting the Agency with public information and local government projects.

The Newcomb VIC welcomed *Mary Tisi* to its seasonal staff in March. Mary loves the outdoors and learning new information every day. She and her husband, Mike, live in Newcomb.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Agency continues to make progress and find improvement in its Strategic Plan through three specific management priorities: improve permit timeliness, reduce the enforcement backlog, and improve internal and external communications.

With respect to permit timeliness, Regulatory Programs staff continue to look for improvement in management strategies and procedures while improving the quality of the documents and forms which are used in the project review process. The Regulatory Programs Division is developing a library of information and guidelines to streamline the permit process. This will ensure that sound environmental protection coincides with timely permit review. These and other improvements are part of an ongoing effort to constantly evaluate the permit issuance process and seek the best way to get the job done.

Progress was also made with respect to the enforcement backlog. As of December 2003, 375 enforcement cases are open - a drastic reduction in case load over that reported only a few short years ago. This has been accomplished by examining all aspects of the enforcement process and finding ways to resolve matters which serve the Agency’s enforcement mandates with respect to resource protection and responsibilities and expectations of the public involved.

The internal and external goals of the Agency are rooted in a clear desire to provide a better understanding of the process and procedures of the Agency to the public

while endeavoring to better understand the perception and needs of the public that the Agency serves. This goal was highlighted in the early stages of a Workforce Training Grant funded through the Governor’s Office of Employee Relations. It provided opportunity for focus groups to provide input on the Agency’s communication needs and identified specific training opportunities to address them. Several initiatives designed to accomplish this were launched in 2003. These include:

- internal staff training in such areas as writing skills and customer service;
- the development of a comprehensive public outreach plan to more systematically provide information and share technical training with the public, to be launched in 2004;
- development of a local government services pilot project designed to take a hard look at the Agency’s local government program and develop recommendations for improvement.

Left: Sean Connin and Victoria Hristovski bid Dan Fitts and the Adirondack Park Agency farewell at a going away party in Lake Placid; Center: Joann Reed of JSR Enterprises works with Agency staff on the development of a public outreach training program at a retreat in Lake Placid; Right: Chairman Whaley welcomes Public Information Officer Keith McKeever.



Left: (from left) Joe Rota and Frank Mezzano pictured with 2003 Earth Day Awardees, Lloyd Moore, George Canon, Dick Lefebvre, and Chris Westbrook. Chairman Frenette is pictured far right; Right: Construction workers prepare foundation for new conference room at Ray Brook headquarters.

After nearly two years of work, the Agency launched its new and improved web site in June. The new site features a host of information assets targeted to both general and specific users. Use of the site has doubled to some 40,000 visits per month.

Check it out at www.apa.state.ny.us

AGENCY AWARDS

An important aspect of accomplishing a great deal of work is celebrating success. In this spirit, the Agency presented several awards and recognitions throughout the year. Some of the highlights of these awards are listed below.

The Agency recognized DOT Region 7 Director Carey Babyak and his Region 7 staff led by Beth Thesier for the fabrication of new Adirondack Park entrance signs. The Park is truly enhanced by this good work.

The Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board formally recognized past Board Member and Chairman Jim Frenette as "Communicator of the Year" and Henry Savarie, Senior Natural Resource Planner in the Planning Division, with the "APA Professionalism Award" at their annual awards meeting held in Long Lake.

The Agency's secretarial staff were honored for their hard work on Administrative Professionals Day. They are: Debbie Lester, Sue Van Wormer, Mary Reardon, Pat Kimpton, Nancy Heath, Bettjane Forrester, Tracy Frechette, Theresa LeBaron, Laurie Bullis, Joanne MacDowell and Kathy Jennings.

EARTH DAY AWARDS

Earth Day Awards were presented by Chairman Jim Frenette to Lloyd Moore, Chairman, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board; George Canon, Supervisor, Town of Newcomb; Dick Lefebvre, retired board member and Agency Chairman; Chris Westbrook, President, Clifton/Fine Economic Development Corporation and Director, ESF Ranger School in Wanakena; Hilary Oles, Invasive Plant Program.

Past Agency board member and Tupper Lake native, John Stock, was honored for his many accomplishments at the Agency with the planting of a memorial tree on Arbor Day. This tree will become part of the Agency's new "Adirondack Arboretum" on its Ray Brook Headquarters grounds.

Jim Frenette and Jim Townsend were recognized and saluted by the Agency for serving as Agency Chairmen in the interim period between the retirement of Dick Lefebvre in 2002 and the appointment of Dr. Ross S. Whaley in September 2003.

Sue Beck and Joan Payne of Adirondack Discovery, were recognized for their fine work in educational programming and wishing Joan well in her retirement.

BUILDING RENOVATIONS

In 2003, the Agency celebrated the 50th birthday of the old log cabin in Ray Brook that is the Agency's headquarters.

Renovations to the headquarters began in March. The project includes a new 100-person conference room and lobby area with an elevator, new entrance ramp and bathrooms, which will make the Agency fully accessible to people of all abilities. A new stand-alone garage, to be known as the George R. Farrell Maintenance Center, will house all automotive, woodworking and maintenance activities and will correct long-standing health and safety issues. Finally, the project will address building code issues, outdoor landscaping including the new Adirondack Arboretum, and provide opportunity for office space reorganization. Anticipated project completion is February 2004.

NEW AGENCY WEB SITE

www.apa.state.ny.us

After nearly two years of work, the Agency launched its new and improved web site in June. The new site features a host of information assets targeted to both general and specific users. Visitors to the site will find it easier to access information, forms, maps, documents, and other materials and gain access to a number of related sites. Since its launch in June, visits to the site have doubled, averaging 40,000/month.



ADIRONDACK PARK INSTITUTE
The Adirondack Park Institute, Inc. (API) is a New York State not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It was founded in 1989 by a statewide constituency of private citizens interested in raising money to provide environmentally focused educational curricula and resources to our communities through the VICs.

API is the private funding vehicle for program development and resource enhancement at both the VICs. The funding comes from two principal sources: the general public in the form of API memberships and donations, and grants from corporate sponsors and foundations.

The API's mission is to give children and their parents tools to answer their own questions and learn how to think about caring for the environment around them. The API's goal for the future is to continue to promote and facilitate funding for the ever-changing and developing programs offered at the VICs.

Officers and Executive Director

President, Col. Robert C. Lilly, USAF (Retired); Secretary, Mary E. Lyle; Treasurer, Herman F. Cole, Jr. (stepped down from the Board in 2003); Assistant Treasurer, George H. Canon; Vice President, Development/Membership, Charles F. Monzeglio, Jr.; Executive Director, Linda J. Bennett

ADIRONDACK PARK LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW BOARD
Section 803-a of the Adirondack Park Agency Act provides for the establishment of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board. As provided by law, the purpose of the Review Board is to advise and assist the Agency in carrying out its mission. The Agency enjoys a strong working relationship with the Review Board through open discussion and dialogue focused on local government perspectives.

Agency Members and staff regularly attend the Review Board meetings which are held monthly throughout the Adirondack Park. At the monthly Adirondack Park Agency meetings, Review Board staff plays a prominent and active role in all deliberations. The Agency's efforts to achieve balanced decision making are greatly enhanced by this dialogue.

In keeping with his commitment to foster a strong working relationship with the communities of the Adirondack Park, Governor Pataki includes \$50,000 in operating funds for the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board in the Agency's budget.

Chairman and Staff

Chairman, Lloyd Moore, St. Lawrence County; Executive Director, Joseph T. Rota; Counsel, John C. McDonald; Secretary, Carol A. Monroe

Left: Joe Rota, Lloyd Moore, and Carol Monroe at Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Meeting at Long Lake; Center: Henry Savarie and Henry Eykelhoff confer on matters of mutual interest at Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Meeting at Long Lake. At the meeting Henry Savarie was awarded the 2003 APA Professionalism Award by the Review Board; Right: Chairman Jim Frenette is presented the 2003 Adirondack Park Citizens Award by the Review Board

The Adirondack Park Institute's mission is to give children and their parents tools to answer their own questions and learn how to think about caring for the environment around them.

staff roster

Administration

Daniel T. Fitts, Executive Director
Deborah A. Lester, Secretary to Executive Director
Stephen M. Erman, Special Assistant-Economic Affairs
Keith P. McKeever, Public Information Director
Judith A. Smith, Head Clerk
Robert P. Kreider, Sr. Computer Programmer/Analyst
Patrick R. Farrell, General Mechanic
Susan A. Carey, Calculations Clerk 2
Lauretta H. Bullis, Keyboard Specialist 1 (Receptionist)
Bettijane Forrester, Keyboard Specialist 1
Howard Baker, Green Thumb
Cheri Phillips, Green Thumb

Regulatory Programs

Mark E. Sengenberger, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs
Holly E. Kneeshaw, Assistant Director, Regulatory Programs
Theresa A. LeBaron, Secretary 1
Tracy J. Frechette, Keyboard Specialist 1
John L. Quinn, Environmental Program Specialist 3
George V. Outcalt, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Colleen C. Parker, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Thomas E. Saehrig, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Michael P. Hannon, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Suzanne B. McSherry, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Virginia Yamrick, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Jennifer Carlo, Special Assistant

Legal

John S. Banta, Counsel
Barbara A. Rottier, Associate Counsel
Mary L. Reardon, Keyboard Specialist 1
Susan Van Wormer, Keyboard Specialist 1
Ellen Egan George, Senior Attorney
Mitchell Goroski, Senior Attorney
Richard R. Terry, Senior Attorney
Paul Van Cott, Senior Attorney
Brian M. Ford, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Rita G. Quinn, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Leigh R. Walrath, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Susan H. Parker, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Donald D. Smith, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Edward S. Snizek, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Emily M. Tyner, Environmental Program Specialist 1

Resource Analysis & Scientific Services

Raymond P. Curran, Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis
Shaun LaLonde, Soil and Water Engineering Specialist
Brian F. Grisi, Associate Project Analyst, Forest Resources
Daniel M. Spada, Associate Project Analyst, Biological Resources
Mark Rooks, Biologist 1 (Ecology)
Sunita Halasz, Environmental Program Specialist 1

Planning

James E. Connolly, Deputy Director, Planning
Edward J. Hood, Assistant Director, Planning
Patricia A. Kimpton, Secretary 1
Nancy M. Heath, Principal Clerk
Henry A. Savarie, Senior Natural Resource Planner
Richard E. Weber III, Supervisor, AP Regional Planning
John W. Barge, Mapping Technologist 2
Walter W. Linck, Project Assistant (State Land Planning)

Many thanks in the development of this report
for the work of Mrs. Eleanor F. Brown of
Schenectady, New York and Ms. Kathi Tevlin of
In the Woods Design Studio in Lake Placid, New York.

*PHOTO CREDITS: photo of the Paul Smiths Visitors
Interpretive Center on facing page and images of Black Pond
Outlet on cover and page 17 by Andy Flynn.*

visitor **interpretive** centers

Paul Smiths

Michael Brennan, Environmental Educator 3 (Facility Manager)
Milton B. Adams, Environmental Educator 2
Joanne B. MacDowell, Administrative Aide
Cara McCann, Artist Designer 3
Andrew Flynn, Senior Public Information Specialist
Clarence G. Hare, Maintenance Supervisor 1
Robbie Cox, Laborer
Brian McAllister, Coordinator of Volunteer Services
Penny Dufrane, Cleaner
Larry Duprey, Maintenance Assistant
Adam Cox, Maintenance Assistant
Ariel Diggory, Student Aide
Aleitha Burns, Student Aide

Newcomb

Rynda McCray, Environmental Educator 3 (Facility Manager)
Ellen Rathbone, Environmental Educator 1
Michael Tracy, Maintenance Assistant
Kathleen Jennings, Keyboard Specialist 1
Ann LaRose, Coordinator of Volunteer Services
Mary Tisi, Student Aide



“As we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, we examine the impact of its policies in the Park over the last 30 years, and dare to look 30 years into the future where we, as citizens of this great State, want to be.” —GOVERNOR, GEORGE PATAKI ■ ■ ■ “The Forest Preserve is the **engine** that drives the Park.” —CLARENCE PETTY, *Recipient, 30th Anniversary Environment Award* ■ ■ ■ “**Sustainable forestry** is key to the Park’s economy.” —JOHN DILLON, *Recipient, 30th Anniversary Economy Award* ■ ■ ■ “People should **listen** to each other.” —SENATOR RONALD B. STAFFORD, *Recipient, 30th Anniversary People Award*



NEW YORK STATE

Adirondack parkagency

George E. Pataki, Governor | Ross S. Whaley, Chairman | Daniel T. Fitts, Executive Director

State of New York Adirondack Park Agency, Route 86, P.O. Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977, 518.891.4050, www.apa.state.ny.us
Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive Center, Route 30, P.O. Box 3000, Paul Smiths, NY 12970, 518.327.3000
Newcomb Visitor Interpretive Center, Route 28N, P.O. Box 101, Newcomb, NY 12852, 518.582.2000