

Adirondack Park Agency | 2004 Annual Report

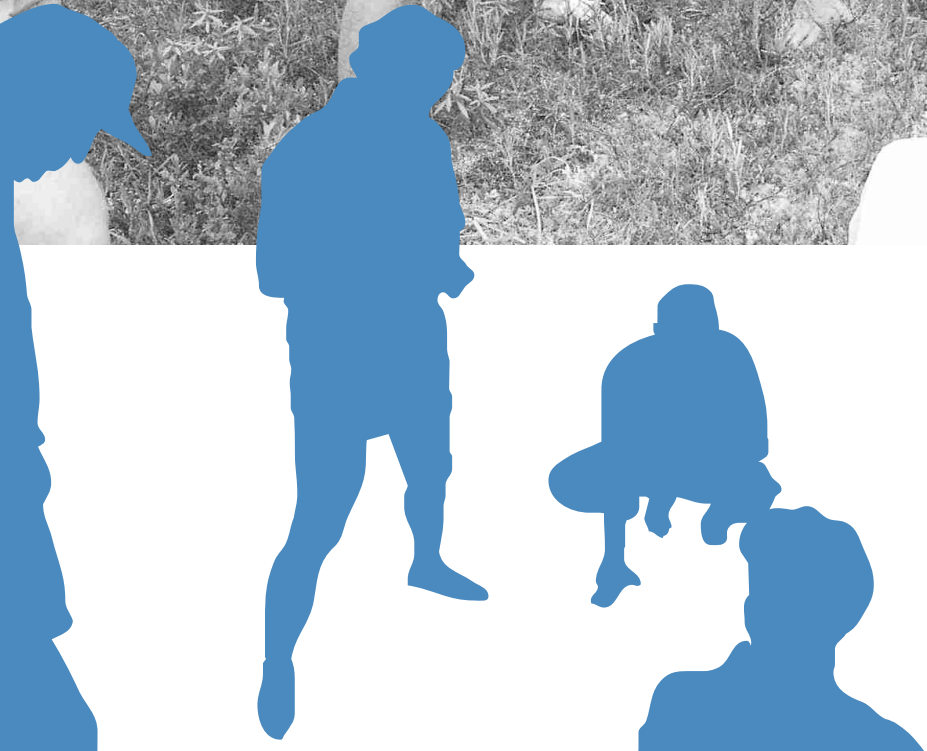


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Cover—Dan Spada (back to camera) explains wetland vegetation at Jones Pond in Franklin County to (l-r) Agency Members Jim Townsend and Katie Roberts, and Chairman Ross Whaley (squatting). Staff members Jennifer Carlo and Trevor Fravor are in the background.

Below, top—Chairman Ross Whaley and Nellie Staves of Tupper Lake compare notes at an Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board meeting in Long Lake.

Below, bottom—Katie Roberts reviews meeting materials at the Agency’s Ray Brook Headquarters.



Message from Governor Pataki

It is my pleasure to share the Adirondack Park Agency's 2004 Annual Report. The Adirondack Park continues to benefit from the good work of the Agency and many others at the public and private levels.

I'm proud of what we have together been able to accomplish. Last year, with the 104,000-acre agreement reached with Domtar Industries in the Adirondacks, we passed the 900,000-acre mark in our goal to protect one million acres of New York's open space for future generations. In this important agreement, not only are we supporting one of the most important industries in the Park, we are providing increased public access and recreational opportunities unparalleled in the State's history.

While we continue this legacy of resource protection and improving and expanding public access to the Park, we are also providing incentives and funding to help revitalize Park communities. Let's continue working together, devoting energy and resources to support the stewardship responsibilities we face and make the Adirondack Park even better for future generations.

George E. Pataki
Governor





Messages

Last year was my first full year as Chairman of the Adirondack Park Agency and what an experience it has been!

I have talked to many of you about my goals as Chairman: obey the law, respect people, and make the Adirondack Park a model for sustainable economic development in the world – simple, yet lofty expectations, which are consistent with the Agency’s mission. If we achieve these goals, then we will have met the aspirations of our predecessors who had a vision for the Park, and also will have been responsive to today’s citizens who live in or visit this special part of New York.

We continue to deal with difficult issues which certainly have been a learning experience for me. The hard choices always have the same ingredient, a trade-off between conflicting but worthwhile social objectives. With the help of a fine Board and a dedicated staff, I believe we have obeyed the law, been respectful to diverse opinions and made a small step forward toward reaching the full potential of this unique Park.

Ross S. Whaley
Chairman



Last year was a year of celebration, transition and challenge. It was a year of celebration as we completed our building renovations, opening the new George R. Farrell Maintenance Center and cutting the ribbon on the new conference facility.

We saw a significant transition in staff through retirement, transfer or promotion of current staff to new positions, and the hiring of talented new people.

It was also a year of challenges as we worked on many complex projects and issues on both private and State lands.

In addition to all of this, 2004 was our busiest year in recent memory, with workload up dramatically in all key areas. I am proud to say that despite all of the challenges and changes we faced, we successfully kept pace with the demands of a heavy workload.

Daniel T. Fitts
Executive Director



*Heron Marsh (left), Paul Smiths
Visitor Interpretive Center*



The Adirondack Park Agency

The Adirondack Park Agency is an independent agency in the Executive Department. It reports directly to the Governor.

The Board consists of eleven members. Eight are appointed by the Governor and three are ex-officio members: the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Secretary of State, and the Chairman of the Department of Economic Development. This membership represents a careful balance of local, regional and statewide interests.

The Adirondack Park Agency Act gives the Agency broad authority which has been refined through a Delegation Resolution to involve a discrete set of tasks, such as ordering a project to hearing, and matters of overall policy. The Agency conducts its business at regular monthly public meetings and does so through specialized committees charged with responsibilities in specific issue areas.

The Agency has further defined those tasks most appropriately handled by staff. Under these delegated responsibilities, staff members provide the Agency with the technical information and analysis necessary to make informed decisions or to develop policy direction. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the staff also exercises broad authority to conduct certain aspects of the Agency's business. A careful balance of activities between the Agency Board and staff is a matter of ongoing dialogue and close attention.

AGENCY BOARD

Ross S. Whaley, *Chairman,*
Franklin County

William H. Kissel, *Essex County*

Frank Mezzano, *Hamilton County*

Deanne Rehm, *Warren County*

Katherine O. Roberts, *Putnam County*

James T. Townsend, *Monroe County*

Leilani C. Ulrich, *Herkimer County*

Cecil Wray, *New York County*

Erin Crotty, *Commissioner*

*Department of Environmental
Conservation*

Charles A. Gargano, *Commissioner*
Department of Economic Development

Randy A. Daniels, *Secretary of State*

Randy Beach, *Designee Department of*
Economic Development

Stuart A. Buchanan, *Designee*
*Department of Environmental
Conservation*

Richard L. Hoffman, *Designee*
Department of State

*Students draw at Heron Marsh (left)
during the Art Exposure program at
the Paul Smiths Visitor Interpretive
Center (VIC).*

THE AGENCY WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER!

Governor Pataki's appointment of Leilani C. Ulrich of Old Forge, New York, to the Adirondack Park Agency was confirmed by the New York State Senate in December. Leilani is the Executive Director of the Central Adirondack Partnership for the 21st Century, Inc., "CAP-21", based in Old Forge. Her experience and perspectives on the important relationships of environmental, business, and community issues are certainly welcomed by the Board.

The Agency Board—(below) standing left to right: James T. Townsend, Katherine O. Roberts, Chairman Dr. Ross S. Whaley, Department of State Designee Richard L. Hoffman, William H. Kissel, and Cecil Wray. Seated left to right: Deane Rehm, Frank Mezzano, Department of Environmental Conservation Designee Stuart A. Buchanan, Department of Economic Development Designee Randy Beach, and Leilani C. Ulrich (missing from photo). Photo taken May 2005.



Leadership in Wetlands Protection

Last fall, Eileen Allen of Plattsburgh State University, and John Banta and Ray Curran of our staff, presented a paper on wetlands protection to the National Society of Wetlands Scientists in Seattle, Washington.

That paper focused on the importance of wetlands protection. It also talked about the Agency and the College collaborating in joint efforts to develop an innovative technology to identify and map wetlands. With federal grant funds from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, a method of digitizing aerial photo information to produce quality wetland maps was developed. This information, in turn, has been used in many applications to help promote better decisions about protecting wetlands in the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park.

In all of this, the Adirondack Park Agency and its partner, Plattsburgh State University, continue to be recognized as national leaders in wetlands protection and information management. We are very proud of this recognition.

Newcomb Visitor Interpretive Center Environmental Educator 1 Ellen Rathbone (below, top) shows red fox scat to Snow Patrol students from the L.P. Quinn Elementary School. Students look for owls in a Newcomb VIC program (below, bottom).



Building Renovations

In 2004, the Agency completed the renovations of the “old log cabin” which turned fifty years old.

The Agency’s new conference room is open and airy and can accommodate one hundred people. It is state-of-the-art with all the latest computer technologies. Below it, the new records center helps bring order to over thirty years of Agency business. The new entranceway, lobby, and elevator facilitate access to people of all abilities.

The George R. Farrell Maintenance Center provides adequate facilities for maintenance operations and isolates them from regular office activities. A new HVAC system provides more efficient heating and air circulation, and air conditioning in the hot summer months.

The dedication of these improvements was celebrated in grand fashion in 2004. We are looking forward to using them to further improve our service to the public.



Regulatory Programs

The Regulatory Programs Division is responsible for the review, recommendations and determination of all project permit applications subject to Agency jurisdiction. 2004 was one of the busiest years in recent history as Regulatory Programs workload increased over 23 percent compared to the previous two years.

The Agency considered a diverse variety of regional projects during the year and took a variety of actions with respect to them. Examples of important projects reviewed and approved during the year include the following:

Improvements to the existing *water supply and distribution systems* in Wanakena and the Town of Keene.

The New York State Department of Transportation was permitted by 814 Orders to reconstruct New York State Route 86 in the Towns of *Brighton* and *Harriestown*, to construct a new bridge spanning the East Branch of the AuSable River in the Town of Jay, and to restore the historic “*Jay Covered Bridge*.”

Improvements to *Marcy Field* in the Town of Keene including a permanent, landscaped/screened 75-vehicle capacity parking area to be used as part of the applicant’s hiker/shuttle operation, and renovation of the Holt

House to be used for public gatherings, historical demonstrations, displays, and interpretive exhibits.

An applicant was denied an after-the-fact permit and *variance* for construction of a single-family dwelling located 45 feet from the mean high water mark of the Sacandaga River, requiring a variance of 30 feet from the applicable 75-foot structural setback.

The Agency is processing a permit application from Saratoga County to construct three new *emergency communications towers* as part of Saratoga County’s 800 MHz Trunked Radio System. The three tower sites are on Mt. Anthony, Lakeview and Fraker Mountain.

The Agency sent to public hearing a project in Fort Ann proposed by Nextel Partners, Inc. to construct a 114-foot-tall *telecommunications tower* and related equipment.

The Town of Wells was granted a permit to *dredge* 143,000 cubic yards of sediment from the bottom of Lake Algonquin.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was granted a wetlands permit to use the pesticide rotenone in Twin and Round Ponds to remove non-native

fish and to restore a *native fish* community of heritage strain brook trout and round whitefish.

The Agency granted an extension of “*General Permit 2001G-1* for the Removal or Modification of Recent Beaver Dams and Debris by Individual Landowners.”

The International Paper Corporation was granted a permit for creation of the *John Dillon Park*, a group camp proposal that will provide outdoor recreational opportunities primarily for persons with disabilities.

The Agency sent to public hearing a project proposed by Barton Mines Corporation to temporarily install an 8-inch-diameter *guyed mast* (pole) of about 50 meters in height to support meteorological monitoring equipment on Pete Gay Mountain, Warren County.

The Agency conducted conceptual review of a large-scale project proposed by Preserve Associates, LLC in Tupper Lake involving 6,299± acres to be developed in phases. The project involves redevelopment of the former *Big Tupper Ski Area* and the subdivision of about 4,300± surrounding acres into sites and lots to create new condo/hotel units, multiple-family dwelling units and single-family dwellings.

The Agency’s Ray Brook Headquarters (left, background). Surrounded by former and current Board Members, Chairman Whaley and Executive Director Fitts (inset photo, far left) cut the ribbon on the renovation project

at the Ray Brook Headquarters. Randy Pray and Mike Bruno of the Murnane Construction Company of Plattsburgh, NY (inset photo, near left), join staff member, Ed Hood, and Dan Fitts at the dedication ceremonies.

Legal

The Legal Division's attorneys provide legal advice to the Agency and its staff on most issues. The Division also oversees the Jurisdictional Inquiry and Enforcement Offices.

Jurisdictional Office

The public's first point of contact with the Agency is often a letter or phone call handled by the Jurisdictional Inquiry Office at the Agency. The Agency received 1,170 written requests for formal jurisdictional determinations in 2004, with an average response time of 16 days. Staff in this office addressed nearly 8,500 telephone contacts and met with 441 members of the public who visited Agency headquarters to obtain information. Overall workload in the office increased by 15 percent when compared to the previous two years.

The Jurisdictional Inquiry Office saw staffing and management changes during the year which will improve service to the public and insure consistency and clarity in issuance of jurisdictional determinations.

Enforcement

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 2004, 390 potential violations were reported and 370 enforcement cases were resolved. A total of 50 enforcement cases were closed administratively. While overall caseload increased over 30 percent, staff managed to close 28 percent more cases when compared with the previous two years. Through new regulations and new approaches to managing this function, the overall open enforcement caseload is below 400 cases.

Staff Attorneys

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 manages litigation matters working with the Attorney General and saw the successful end of long-standing controversies involving Freshwater Wetland

and Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act jurisdiction of the Agency.

A number of technical corrections to the Agency Rules and Regulations were advanced for State Administrative Procedure Act (SAPA) review in 2004, including codification of boundary line adjustment guidance and consolidation of variance procedures. Major proposals for new definitions for "campground," "hunting and fishing cabin," "involving wetlands," and some other significant procedural revisions completed review with the Agency's Technical Advisors and Legal Affairs Committee and are now also pending SAPA review.

The Division has also drafted a package of legislative reforms that were developed from ideas generated at the Adirondack Park Agency's 30th Anniversary Conference held in 2003 in Lake Placid.

Resource Analysis

The Resource Analysis and Scientific Services (RASS) Unit provides the scientific and technical data supporting most Agency matters including project review, enforcement, and State land activities. Engineering advice on septic systems and storm water runoff, soils analysis, forestry, invasive species and wildlife habitat are just a few of the areas in which the Agency's scientists provide daily guidance to all Agency functions. Staff also conducts wetland delineations, which increased 18 percent in 2004 compared to the previous two years.

RASS staff were also involved in a number of different conservation partnership initiatives in 2004 such as the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). In August, APIPP was awarded an Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative by the Federal Highway Administration.

As in previous years, RASS staff continue to receive funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to study and map wetlands in major watersheds of the Park. In 2004, RASS staff continued to work on the AuSable-Boquet Watershed project to identify historic wetland patterns in partnership with the AuSable and Boquet River Associations, the New

Right—Town of Keene Supervisor Tom Both with Ed Hood at the dedication of the new Town of Keene Highway Garage.

Park Planning

York Natural Heritage Program, and the Remote Sensing Lab at SUNY Plattsburgh.

Finally, the RASS Unit and Planning staff led the Agency's efforts to use GIS mapping technologies. The Agency is a respected statewide leader in this area and a key member of the GIS Users Group partnership, a coalition of many organizations that promote the use of GIS.

In addition to overseeing broad-based regional planning issues, the Planning Division oversees the Agency's cartography, GIS, and web page initiatives, as well as local planning and State land matters.

Regional Planning

During 2004, the Planning Division made significant progress on a number of regional planning initiatives including:

Statewide Wireless Network Project

On behalf of the Agency, the Planning Division took the lead on establishing the Agency as an involved agency in the New York State Office for Technology's \$1.8 billion dollar emergency communications project.



Scenic Byway Project Implementation
The Agency continued to accomplish significant regional planning objectives through strategic partnerships with communities and organizations. In 2004, the following progress was achieved:

- The new Town of Keene Highway Garage was formally dedicated and plans were made for the razing of the old garage in 2005;
- The formal dedication of the Hudson River Interpretive Exhibits was held in June; these exhibits also became the inspiration and subject for the Agency's 2004 New York State Fair Exhibit;
- The Agency took delivery on the fifth of its model visitor/citizen guides – 6,000 copies of the Wilmington AuSable Guide;
- Work continues on the Agency-funded Hamlet Safety and Access Improvements project in the Town of Keene;
- Work on the assessment of trail-head parking areas, safety problems along Route 73 was completed and, with the help of the New York State Department of Transportation, physical improvements to these areas began in 2004.

Agency Web Site Updates

The Agency continues to build on the richness of information found on its web page. Among the improvements made in 2004, staff added a "What's New" button and started posting monthly Agency meeting materials.

State Lands

An important aspect of the Agency's State Land program is its work with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to complete or update unit management plans (UMPs) for the State-owned lands in the Park. These activities require the Agency's review for compliance with the State Land Master Plan.

Highlights of the Agency's work in 2004 include:

Approval of the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center Intensive Use Area Unit Management Plan update.

Approval of a UMP amendment for the Grasse River Wild Forest to provide accessibility for persons with disabilities to the Lampson Falls area.

Approval of a UMP amendment for the Independence River Wild Forest to improve access for persons with disabilities.

Approval of three UMP amendments prohibiting ATV use on roads open for public motor vehicle use in the Aldrich Pond, Black River and Independence River Wild Forest units.

Andy Flynn (right) is recognized with the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board's "Professionalism Award." Pictured (left to right) are John McDonald, Andy Flynn, Joe Rota, Lloyd Moore, and Carol Monroe.

Local Government

A major set of map amendments to the Official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map were approved for the Town of Chester. This map amendment request was part of the Town's anticipated submittal of their Local Land Use Program for approval by the Agency.

A very successful 7th Annual Adirondack Park Local Government Day was held at the Hotel Saranac in March 2004. There were over 190 registrants including participants, speakers and exhibitors.

The Agency continued its work on recommendations by former Essex County Planning Director William Johnston to improve its local land use program plan approval process. Several ideas were generated to accomplish this goal and discussed by the Local Government Services Committee for future action.

Amendments to local zoning codes for the Towns of Arietta, Horicon and Hague were submitted to the Agency and approved for local adoption. The revisions to the local codes were part of ongoing changes and improvements to local zoning codes, subdivision regulations and sanitary codes being conducted by towns with approved local land use programs.

Realizing the critical need for outreach and the sharing of technical expertise, staff organized several outreach and training initiatives for local government officials on local zoning, jurisdictional issues, and wetland identification including the very popular program "APA-101."



Economic

The Agency's Economic Services Unit in 2004 provided planning assistance for communities in the Park and project sponsors seeking to define business development activities which can improve local economies while meeting the rigorous environmental standards of the Agency's regulatory programs. Internally, staff provides technical expertise on the economic aspects of projects and other matters. Further, the Unit continues to play an important role in certain permit pre-applications and, in some cases, dispute resolution services.

Among the notable programs of the Agency's Economic Affairs Committee during the year was an August 2004 panel discussion on the dynamics of the Adirondack Park real estate market. Presentations by the real property tax directors of Hamilton and Essex Counties focused attention on the growing issue of land and housing affordability for year-round residents in many areas of the Park.

Interpretive Programs

The year 2004 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 for more than 93,000 visitors.

Accomplishments

We continue to improve and expand our trail systems. The Paul Smiths VIC upgraded its interpretive and backcountry trail system during the summer of 2004 with the construction of a Boreal Life Trail observation tower at Barnum Pond and the implementation of a new Comprehensive Sign Plan. In the summer of 2004, the Newcomb VIC staff began construction of the 1.1-mile R. W. Sage, Jr. Memorial Trail, which will eventually connect the VIC to the Camp Santanoni Historic Area.

The fourth annual Adirondack Raptor Celebration marked a record attendance level on October 10, 2004, with more than 330 people enjoying the live bird demonstrations. The Bird-of-Prey programs at both VICs continue to be successful with a total

of eight non-releasable education birds.

In December 2004, the Paul Smiths VIC completed renovations of its Snow Patrol Track Lab, which educators use for the indoor portion of the Snow Patrol school field trip program during the winter. Improvements included a three-wall mural painted by illustrator Sheri Amsel and new carpeting. The Paul Smiths VIC also upgraded its technology systems throughout the building in 2004.

New Initiatives

The Adirondack Collaborative Ecological Educators – the Adirondack Park Agency, the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks, the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry's Adirondack Ecological Center – held its first Teacher Resource Fair in May 2004 at the Wawbeek Resort with Agency Chairman Ross S. Whaley as the guest speaker.

In December 2004, the Paul Smiths VIC implemented a new dual-use program for its 9.5-mile winter trail system so visitors can snowshoe and cross-country ski on all the trails. At

Frank Lescinsky, a volunteer at the Paul Smiths VIC, leads a group of school children around the Heron Marsh as part of the School Visitation Program.



Adirondack Park Institute

the same time, the Center launched a park-wide publicity campaign on winter recreation etiquette with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Ski Touring Council.

Volunteers

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 2004, 2,633 volunteer hours were donated at Paul Smiths, and 554 at Newcomb. In addition, inmate crews from the Department of Correctional Services facilities at Camp Gabriels in Brighton and the Moriah Shock Camp provide invaluable assistance to maintenance staff at both facilities, including about 7,000 hours at Paul Smiths and about 3,800 hours at Newcomb.

The Adirondack Park Institute, Inc. (API) is a New York State not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The 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.

You can learn more about the API by contacting its office at 518-582-2022 or at www.adirondackparkinstitute.org.

Officers and Executive Director
President, Pieter V. C. Litchfield; Secretary, Mary E. Lyle; Treasurer, George H. Canon; Vice President, Development/Membership, Charles F. Monzeglio, Jr.; Executive Director, Tina E. Helms



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

Agency Statistics

WORKLOAD	2003	2004
<i>Jurisdictional Determinations</i>		
Written Inquiries.....	1,021	1,170
Written Responses.....	1,021	1,048
Phone Calls.....	7,321	8,475
Wetland Delineations	266	341
<i>Enforcement Cases</i>		
Open	246	390
Closed	231	370
<i>Regulatory Programs</i>		
Applications Received.....	304	402
Permits Issued	323	310
<i>Visitor Interpretive Centers–Visitation</i>		
Paul Smiths.....	74,699	69,348
Newcomb.....	22,621	24,351

APPROPRIATED FUNDS 2004-2005

Total Operating Funds.....	\$4,177,000
Local Government Review Board	\$50,000

STAFFING LEVEL FOR 2004

59 permanent staff

Awards

JOHN BARGE, Mapping Technologist 2, Planning Division, was awarded the Peter S. Thacher Award by the Northeast Arc Geographic Information System (GIS) Users Group. This award is selectively given to individuals who further the use of GIS technologies in resource protection. Congratulations John!

ANDY FLYNN, Senior Public Information Specialist, Interpretive Division, was awarded the APA Professionalism Award by the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board for his work in promoting the Interpretive Centers and the Adirondack Park.

JOHN BANTA was recognized for 25 years of New York State service.

HAROLD A. JERRY, JR. was honored by the Agency on Arbor Day with the planting of a tree at the Ray Brook Headquarters. We were very pleased to be joined that day by Harold's wife, Lynn, at the ceremony.

We celebrated Earth Day by recognizing JOE MARTENS of the Open Space Institute, JACK LADUKE of WCAX-TV, BOB QUINN who retired from the Tug Hill Commission,



Agency Counsel, John Banta, is recognized for 25 years of service to the Adirondack Park Agency.

Transitions

BILL PORTER of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, and the TOWN OF INLET PLANNING BOARD.

DON SMITH (20 years), long-serving Enforcement Officer, and RAY CURRAN (31 years), Supervisor of Natural Resources, retired in 2004. This initiated a significant transition in staff.

In the enforcement office, PAUL VAN COTT was promoted to Associate Attorney and takes over the daily management and supervision of the Agency's enforcement program. Paul came to the Agency in 2000 and previously held positions with the Attorney General's Office in Albany, the State of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Environmental Conservation in Ray Brook. LEIGH WALRATH, an Environmental Program Specialist (EPS-1) in the jurisdictional office, transferred to the enforcement office. Leigh has been with the Agency since 2002. In addition, TREVOR FRAVOR was hired as an EPS-1. He comes to the Agency from the Department of Environ-

mental Conservation where he was a Forestry Technician II. Trevor is a graduate of SUNY ESF with a B.S. in Resource Management and Environmental and Forest Biology.

In the Legal Division, RITA QUINN was promoted to the EPS-2 position and takes over the daily management and supervision of the jurisdictional office. Rita has been with the Agency since 1993. NANCY HEATH was promoted to the EPS-1 Trainee position in the jurisdictional office. Nancy brings 22 years of experience with the Agency, most recently serving as a Principal Clerk responsible for the records management program. MARY PALMER was hired to fill a Keyboard Specialist position in the Legal Division. Mary comes to the Agency from the Department of Environmental Conservation office in Ray Brook.

In Regulatory Programs, THERESA LEBARON was promoted to EPS-1 Trainee. Theresa was the long-serving Secretary 1 for the Division, having started her work with the Agency in 1988. TRACY FRECHETTE was promoted to Secretary 1 in the Division and STEVIE SUMMERS was hired as the Division's new Keyboard



The Agency recognizes John Barge for receiving the Peter S. Thatcher Award.



Lynn Jerry and Chairman Whaley honor the memory of Harold A. Jerry, Jr. with the planting of a tree on Earth Day at the Ray Brook Headquarters.

Specialist. Stevie comes to the Agency from Plattsburgh State University where she worked in Feinberg Library. Tracy she has been with the Agency 1994 having started at the Newcomb VIC.

SUSAN VAN WORMER was promoted to the Calculations Clerk 2 position in the Planning Division and takes over the records management program. Sue joined the Agency in 1999.

JUDY SMITH was promoted to the Office Services Manager position and takes over administrative responsibilities for the Agency. Judy joined the Agency in 1987 and has held a variety of positions in the administrative office. SUSAN CAREY was promoted to the Principal Clerk position in the administrative office and oversees a variety of functions including purchasing and employee benefits. Sue has also held a variety of positions in the Agency's Legal and Administrative Divisions and came to the Agency in 1990.

In the RASS Unit, ED SNIZEK was promoted to the Adirondack Park Project Analyst, Freshwater Resources position and provides the Agency with water quality expertise. He has

been with the Agency since 2001, previously serving as an Environmental Program Specialist 1 in the Legal Division.

Finally, CAMILE KWAK joined our Paul Smiths VIC staff as a Seasonal Naturalist. CHARLES SMITH and STEPHANIE SEGARD joined our Ray Brook maintenance staff helping out with overall building maintenance responsibilities.

Below, top—Dan Fitts and Agency Member Cecil Wray congratulate Ray Curran on the occasion of his retirement from the Agency.

Below, bottom—Dr. George Miller left his position as President of Paul Smiths College to become the President of American Intercontinental University in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Miller is pictured here at a trail dedication at the Paul Smiths VIC, which is one of the many collaborative partnerships with the College.





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, Office Services Manager
Robert P. Kreider, Sr., Computer Programmer/Analyst
Patrick R. Farrell, General Mechanic
Susan A. Carey, Principal Clerk
Lauretta H. Bullis, Keyboard Specialist 1 (Receptionist)
Bettijane Forrester, Keyboard Specialist 1
Howard Baker, Green Thumb
Cheri Phillips, Green Thumb
Charles Smith, Maintenance Assistant
Stephanie Segard, Maintenance Assistant

Regulatory Programs

Mark E. Sengenberger, Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs
Holly E. Kneeshaw, Assistant Director, Regulatory Programs
Stephanie C. Summers, Keyboard Specialist 1
Tracy J. Frechette, Secretary 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
Theresa A. LeBaron, Environmental Program Specialist 1 Trainee
Jennifer Carlo, Special Assistant

Legal

John S. Banta, Counsel
Barbara A. Rottier, Associate Counsel
Mary L. Reardon, Keyboard Specialist 1
Mary B. Palmer, Keyboard Specialist 1
Ellen Egan George, Senior Attorney
Mitchell Goroski, Senior Attorney
Richard R. Terry, Senior Attorney

Paul Van Cott, Associate Attorney
Brian M. Ford, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Rita G. Quinn, Environmental Program Specialist 2
Nancy M. Heath, Environmental Program Specialist 1 Trainee
Leigh R. Walrath, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Susan H. Parker, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Donald D. Smith, Environmental Program Specialist 1 (Retired)
Emily M. Tyner, Environmental Program Specialist 1
Trevor S. Fravor, Environmental Program Specialist 1

Resource Analysis & Scientific Services

Raymond P. Curran, Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis
(Retired)
Shaun LaLonde, Soil and Water Engineering Specialist
Brian F. Grisi, Associate Project Analyst, Forest Resources
Daniel M. Spada, Associate Project Analyst, Biological Resources
Edward S. Snizek, Associate Project Analyst, Fresh Water 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
Susan Van Wormer, Calculations Clerk 2
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. We are also grateful for the photos submitted by Ms. Carlene Dowling of the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

Gerry Gruending, Dan Spada, Ray Curran, Rick Weber, Betty Bogucki, Don Bogucki, and Hilmar Gruending (left) discuss alpine vegetation and State land management issues on the top of Noonmark Mountain near St. Huberts.

Visitor Interpretive Centers Staff Rosters

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 I

Robbie Cox, Laborer

Brian McAllister, Coordinator of Volunteer Services

Penny Dufrane, Cleaner

Larry Duprey, Maintenance Assistant (left Agency in 2004)

Adam Cox, Maintenance Assistant

Ariel Diggory, Student Aide

Aleitha Burns, Student Aide

Camile Kwak, 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

*Winter at the Newcomb Visitor
Interpretive Center.*



“Last year... we passed the 900,000-acre mark in our goal to protect one million acres of New York’s open space for future generations.”

—GOVERNOR GEORGE E. PATAKI

“My three goals as Chairman are obey the law, respect people, and make the Adirondack Park a model for sustainable economic development in the world”.

—DR. ROSS S. WHALEY

“2004 was our busiest year in recent memory. I am proud to say that despite all the challenges and changes, we successfully kept pace with the demands.”

—DANIEL T. FITTS

Ray Brook staff, June 2005.





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