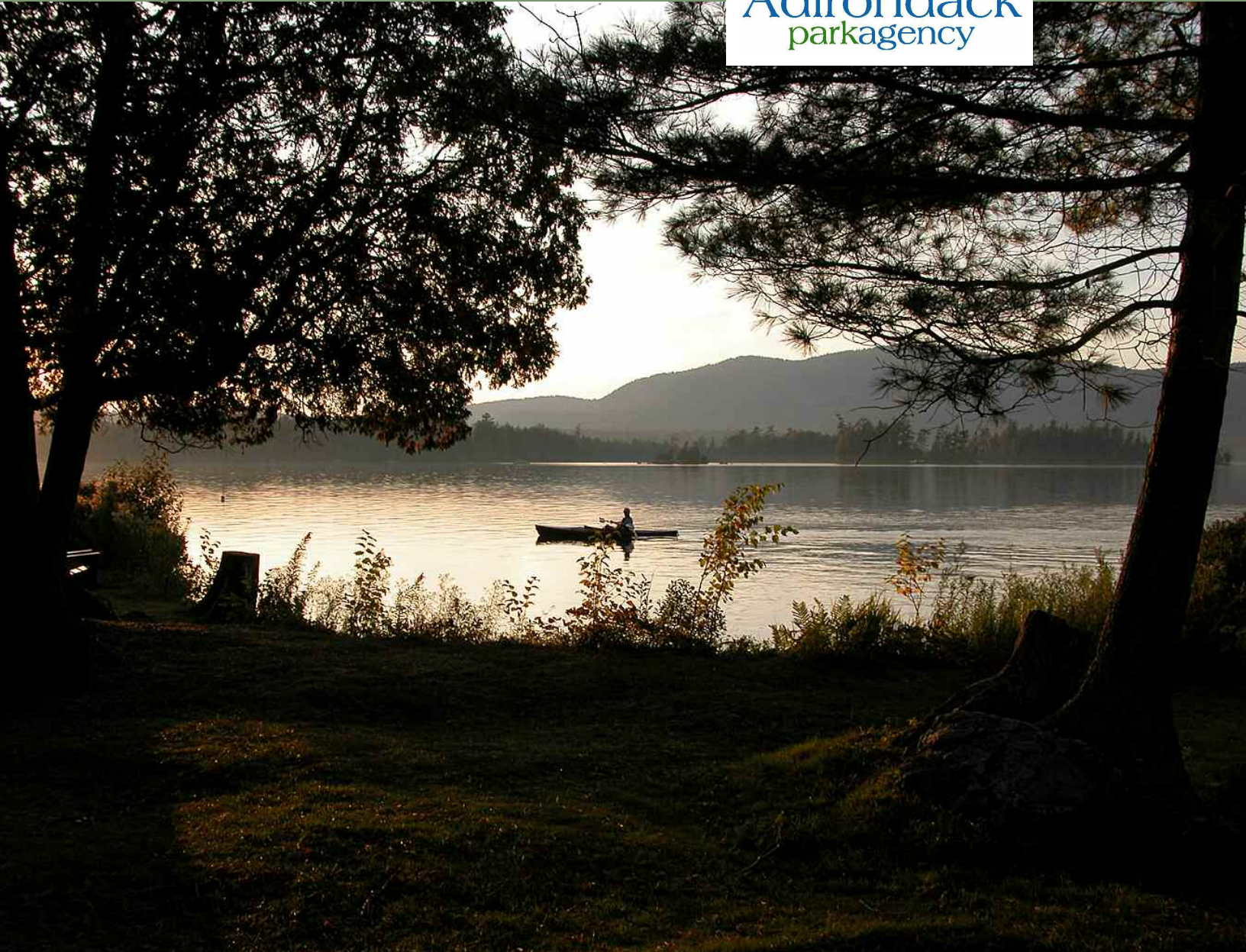


NEW YORK STATE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

David A. Paterson, Governor



'Our brighter future depends on raising our children in places where the sense of community is strong.'

Governor David A. Paterson

2008

ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the Governor



David A. Paterson
Governor

Cover photo: A kayaker takes a paddle on Blue Mountain Lake during fall foliage season. **Below:** a hummingbird moth sips nectar from a milkweed flower outside the Native Species Butterfly House at the APA Visitor Interpretive Center in Paul Smiths. **Back cover:** Environmental educator Milt Adams gives a Bird-of-Prey Program with a live red-tailed hawk at the Paul Smiths VIC in the summer of 2008.



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Over the past year, as I traveled throughout New York State, I recognized the importance of special places like the Adirondack Park to our quality of life and economic future.

The Adirondack Park is a managed landscape of public and private lands which is home to over 135,000 people. Residents and visitors alike appreciate the astounding beauty of the Park and know it is a place where special care should be taken to protect its open space character as well as build economic vitality in its 103 towns and villages.

This 2008 Annual Report highlights the important work of the State's Adirondack Park Agency, and I commend the Agency Board and staff for their steady efforts. Since all New Yorkers are stakeholders in the Adirondack Park, we all need to be aware of the work of the Agency and its State and local partners in protecting the Park and enhancing its communities.

Respectfully,

David A. Paterson
Governor



A tourist takes photos of the Wilmington/Lake Placid region from Whiteface Mountain.

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CREDITS: Thanks to the Agency staff, the NYS DEC, Keith McKeever, and Andy and Dawn Flynn for providing photos for this Annual Report, which was produced by Public Information Director Keith McKeever and Senior Public Information Specialist Andy Flynn.

As you review the Adirondack Park Agency's 2008 report, you will note it has been a very busy and challenging year for the Agency. Together, the Agency's Board of Commissioners and its staff focused on a wide range of issues involving open space and natural resource protection, water quality improvement, and community viability. We worked a broad agenda, consistent with the balanced mandate of Section 801 of the APA Act, in growing partnership with other State agencies and local governments.

As the Agency Board deliberated over projects and policy issues affecting both the Forest Preserve and the Park's private lands, we were encouraged by lively discussions which reflected the appropriate and diverse perspectives of our members and designees. The Adirondack Park is an authentic combination of natural and built resources and it is confronted by challenging issues which can impact both its short and long-term futures. Through its deliberations, the Agency strives to make good judgments and decisions based on the law, facts and science. We understand that the interests of the Park are best served when our deliberations are conducted with civility, transparency and in public.

During the year, the Board was supported by its knowledgeable and committed staff. Our agency, and other State and local government organizations, face the need to address ever more complex issues in uncertain economic times and with shrinking fiscal resources. I greatly appreciate our staff's ongoing commitment to the Park and the statutory responsibilities of the Agency. While our work is not easy, it is gratifying to know it is recognized as important by the public we serve.

It is my pleasure to provide you with our 2008 annual report. Please contact us if you have questions about any of the activities detailed herein.

Curtis F. Stiles
Chairman

Message from the Chairman

Curtis F. Stiles
Chairman



Message from the Director

It is a pleasure to provide you with our 2008 Annual Report. Serving as Acting Executive Director has been a rewarding challenge. The Agency has a dedicated staff that understands and appreciates the diverse needs of various stakeholders and property owners who live and enjoy the Adirondack Park and its beautiful landscape.

The Agency's focus and mission is to protect the Park's natural resources and open space character. The natural resources of the Adirondack Park are pre-eminent and internationally recognized. They provide a solid basis for a variety of economic and outdoor recreational activities, which contribute to a sustainable regional economy.

With this in mind during 2008, staff tirelessly contributed to long-range planning efforts and project review for applications which improved telecommunications throughout the Park. Outreach and training efforts assisted local government officials with priority issues such as comprehensive plans, economic development strategies, community housing initiatives and assisting with State and Federal grant programs. The Agency also achieved a significant milestone this year with the approval of an Energy Policy for the Adirondack Park. This policy was designed to increase public awareness of the critical need for alternative energy sources and to insure that the Agency's permit review process enhanced efforts for energy conservation in building design.

We face many challenges during the upcoming years but believe that local community planning and the application of science based regulatory standards by the Agency will help to provide a high quality of life in one of the world's most beautiful and treasured landscapes. As you read our report, I am confident it will convey the unique challenges and successes of 2008 as well as the opportunities that we must embrace in the future.

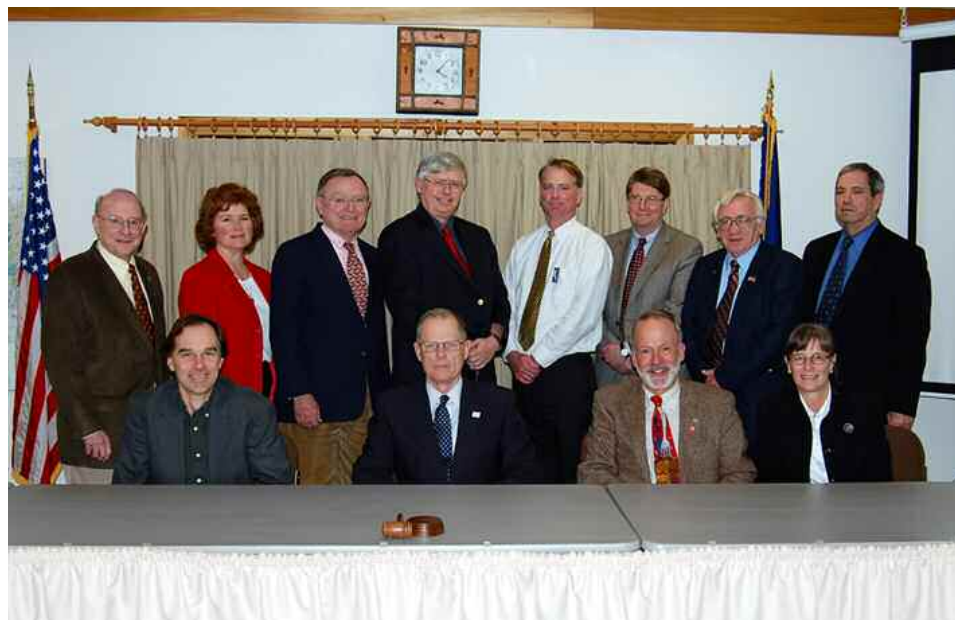
James E. Connolly
Acting Executive
Director



James E. Connolly
Acting Executive Director

Adirondack Park Agency Board

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) was created in 1971 by the New York State Legislature to develop long-range land use plans for both public and private lands within the boundary of the Park. The APA is a New York State government agency with an 11-member board and a staff of 72 people. The Board meets monthly to act on Park policy issues and permit applications. Agency Board meetings take place the second Thursday and Friday of each month and are open to the public. Plus, meetings are available as a live webcast on the Agency's web site.



Back row (from left): Frank L. Mezzano, Leilani C. Ulrich, Cecil Wray, Richard S. Booth, Christopher Walsh (Department of Economic Development Designee), Robert W. Elliott (Department of State Designee), William H. Thomas, and Frederick Monroe (Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Executive Director). Front row (from left): Arthur Lussi, Chairman Curtis F. Stiles, James T. Townsend, and Elizabeth M. Lowe (Department of Environmental Conservation Designee).

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY BOARD

Curtis F. Stiles, *Chairman, Franklin County*
 Richard S. Booth, *Tompkins County*
 Arthur Lussi, *Essex County*
 Frank L. Mezzano, *Hamilton County*
 William H. Thomas, *Warren County*
 James T. Townsend, *Monroe County*
 Leilani C. Ulrich, *Herkimer County*
 Cecil Wray, *New York County*
 Marisa Lago, *Commissioner Department of Economic Development*

Christopher Walsh, *Designee Department of Economic Development*
 Pete Grannis, *Commissioner Department of Environmental Conservation*
 Elizabeth M. Lowe, *Designee Department of Environmental Conservation*
 Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, *Secretary of State*
 Robert W. Elliott, *Designee Department of State*

At right, Deputy Secretary for the Environment Judith Enck addresses the Adirondack Park Agency Board at its February 2008 meeting.



The Adirondack Park Agency is an independent agency in the Executive Department.

The Board consists of 11 members, five of whom must reside inside the Park. The Governor appoints, subject to confirmation by the Senate, eight Members and three ex-officio Members: the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Secretary of State, and the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development. This Board represents a careful balance of local, regional and Statewide interests.

The Adirondack Park Agency Act gives the Agency broad authority over private and public land use 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 that are most appropriately handled by staff under the direction of the Executive Director with the guidance of a delegation resolution. Staff members develop technical information and conduct analysis that is necessary to make informed decisions and to develop policy direction. The staff exercises broad authority to conduct certain aspects of the Agency's business. A careful balance of activities between the Agency Board and its staff is a matter of ongoing dialogue and close attention and is adjusted as required.



Commissioner Leilani Ulrich brings the Whiteface View, LLC project public hearing to order in September 2008.



Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program partners sign a cooperative agreement to combat invasive species. From left, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 5 Director Elizabeth Lowe, Department of Transportation (DOT) Region 2 Director Michael Shamma, DOT Region 7 Director Carey Babyak, DOT Region 1 Director Brian Rowback, APA Chairman Curtis Stiles, DEC Region 6 Director Judy Drabicki, and Adirondack Nature Conservancy Executive Director Mike Carr.



Commissioner Arthur Lussi, far left, Village of Speculator Mayor Neil McGovern and Commissioner Frank Mezzano attend Local Government Day in March 2008.



At left, New York Department of State Designee Richard Hoffman, center, reflects fondly with his colleagues during his final Agency meeting in July 2008. Mr. Hoffman served the Agency from 1995 to 2008. From left are: APA Counsel John Banta, Commissioner James Townsend, Designee Hoffman, Department of Economic Development Designee Christopher Walsh, Commissioner William Thomas and Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Executive Director Frederick Monroe.

Meet the Board Members

Curtis F. Stiles was named chairman in October 2007. He served with the U.S. Marines as a Naval Flight Officer during the Vietnam War and worked for Xerox Corporation for more than 30 years. Since retirement from Xerox in 1996,



Chairman Stiles and two other partners started Saranac Software Inc., where he served as President and Chief Executive Officer. As President of the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation, he led an effort that resulted in raising \$1.5 million for the removal of Eurasian water milfoil. This intensive three-year project turned back the environmental clock by 10 years on Upper Saranac Lake. He was a signatory and charter member of the ad hoc group responsible for the creation of the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan. His past board memberships include the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation, Upper Saranac Lake Association, Adirondack Council, Trudeau Institute, Town of Harrietstown Planning Board, Adirondack Medical Center, Paul Smith's College and the Adirondack Explorer. He is a graduate of Nichols College, with additional study at the University of Rochester's Simon School. Chairman Stiles and his wife live on Upper Saranac Lake.

Richard S. Booth was appointed to the Agency in October 2007. He has a long history of public service and involvement in environmental and planning issues. A professor in the City and Regional Planning



Department at Cornell University, he was elected to three terms on Ithaca's Common Council (1986-1996). He has served on the New York State Low Level Radioactive Waste Siting Commission, Tompkins County Legislature, and the Environmental Planning Lobby. Mr. Booth received his undergraduate degree from Amherst College (1968) and his law degree from George Washington University (1972). A Plattsburgh native, he worked as an attorney for the APA in Ray Brook and the DEC in Albany and moved to Ithaca in 1977 to join the Cornell faculty. He is married and has two children.

Frank L. Mezzano was appointed to the Agency in February 1998. He is the Supervisor of the Town of Lake Pleasant and a member of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors. He has served as President of the Speculator/Lake Pleasant Consolidated Health District, Hamilton County representative to Region 5 Open Space Committee, a member of the Local Government Review Board and the Intercounty Legislative Committee on the Adirondacks, a Director-at-Large of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, and Director of the Colonial Health Care Corporation of Nathan Littauer Hospital and Nursing Home. He attended the University of Arizona. For many years, Mr. Mezzano owned the Speculator Department Store. He lives with his wife in the Town of Lake Pleasant.



Arthur Lussi was appointed to the Agency in June 2006. He hails from Lake Placid and attended Dartmouth College, graduating with a degree in English, and studied law at Syracuse University. He joined



the New York State Bar in 1989 and the District of Columbia Bar in 1990. Mr. Lussi spent time coaching ski racing in Vail, Colo., returning in 1991 to help his family manage and operate the Holiday Inn (now Crowne Plaza Hotel). Mr. Lussi encouraged his family members to purchase the Lake Placid Club in 1996 and managed the restoration of 15 historic cottages. He worked on the Village of Lake Placid's Comprehensive Plan in the 1990s and has coached ski racing for the New York Ski Education Foundation since 1991. Mr. Lussi currently lives in Lake Placid with his wife, two daughters and one son.

William H. Thomas was appointed to the Agency in December 2006. He received an associate's degree in business administration in Glens Falls from the Adirondack Community College in 1963 and worked



at Montgomery's Department Store in Pottersville, the State Bank of Albany, and NL Industries in Newcomb until the plant closed in 1989. Mr. Thomas served as the Town of Johnsbury's Supervisor from 1990 to 2007. He has served as Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, the Warren County Budget Officer, Johnsbury Town Justice, and as a member of the North Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad, North Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Johnsbury Central School Board, and Adirondack Tri-County Home Board of Directors. Mr. Thomas spent six years in the U.S. Army Reserves. He lives in North Creek.

James T. Townsend was appointed to the Agency in June 1999. He is a partner with the law firm of Remington, Gifford, Williams & Colicchio, LLP in Rochester, N.Y. He was an Assistant Corporation Counsel to the City of Rochester and the Counsel to the Monroe County Industrial Development Corp. Mr. Townsend received degrees from Trinity College (1968) and the Albany Law School of Union University (1971). Civic and professional activities include the Volunteer Legal Services Project, Monroe County Bar Association, Chair of the Seventh Judicial District, Attorney Grievance Committee, Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Harley School Board of Trustees, the American Arbitration Association, and the Rochester Hearing and Speech Advisory Committee. He lives in Rochester with his wife.



Leilani C. Ulrich was appointed to the Agency in November 2004. She first visited the Adirondacks while attending college, where she earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a master's degree in special education. She moved to Old Forge in 1994. In 1997, she began coordination of community discussions which grew into CAP-21, a regional non-profit community development organization serving hamlets in Long Lake, Inlet, Webb and Forestport. She is actively involved in the Common Ground Alliance. In 2000, she received the Adirondack North Country Association Citizen of the Year Award. She sits on the Central Adirondack Association Board of Directors as well as the Town of Webb Historical Association, on the Architectural Preservation Committee. She and her husband live in Old Forge.



Cecil Wray was appointed to the Agency in June 1999. Retiring in 1997, his law practice focused on general corporate matters, including domestic and international corporate finance transactions, securities matters and acquisitions. He is a retired senior partner with the law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton. Prior to joining the firm, he served as a Law Clerk to United States Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark. He is also an Adjunct Professor at New York Law School, where he teaches Mergers and Acquisitions. Mr. Wray received his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University in 1956 and his LL.B. from Yale Law School in 1959. He is a member of the New York City Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the American Law Institute. He lives with his wife in New York City.



Robert W. Elliott is the Designee for the New York State Department of State, representing Secretary of State Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez. Designee Elliott is the Deputy Secretary of State. He oversees a number of the Department of States' divisions, including that of Local Government, the Smart Growth Program, Office of Fire Protection and Control, as well as Code Enforcement and Administration. Prior to his appointment in 2007, he was the Executive Director of the New York Planning Federation and had an extensive career in the government, non-profit and business sectors. He was the Mayor of Croton-on-Hudson from 1991 to 2005; a member of the New York Conference of Mayors' Executive Committee for 11 years and past president; and founder and past Chairman of the Historic River Towns of Westchester.



Elizabeth M. Lowe is the Designee for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), representing Commissioner Pete Grannis. Based in Ray Brook, Designee Lowe is Director for DEC Region 5, which covers Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Washington and Warren counties. Prior to her appointment in 2007, she was Managing Director and Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks (a.k.a. The Wild Center) in Tupper Lake; and she served for nearly 20 years with the DEC, building experience in environmental management, community development, public relations, and administrative policy. Positions included Citizen Participation Specialist and Environmental Management Specialist.

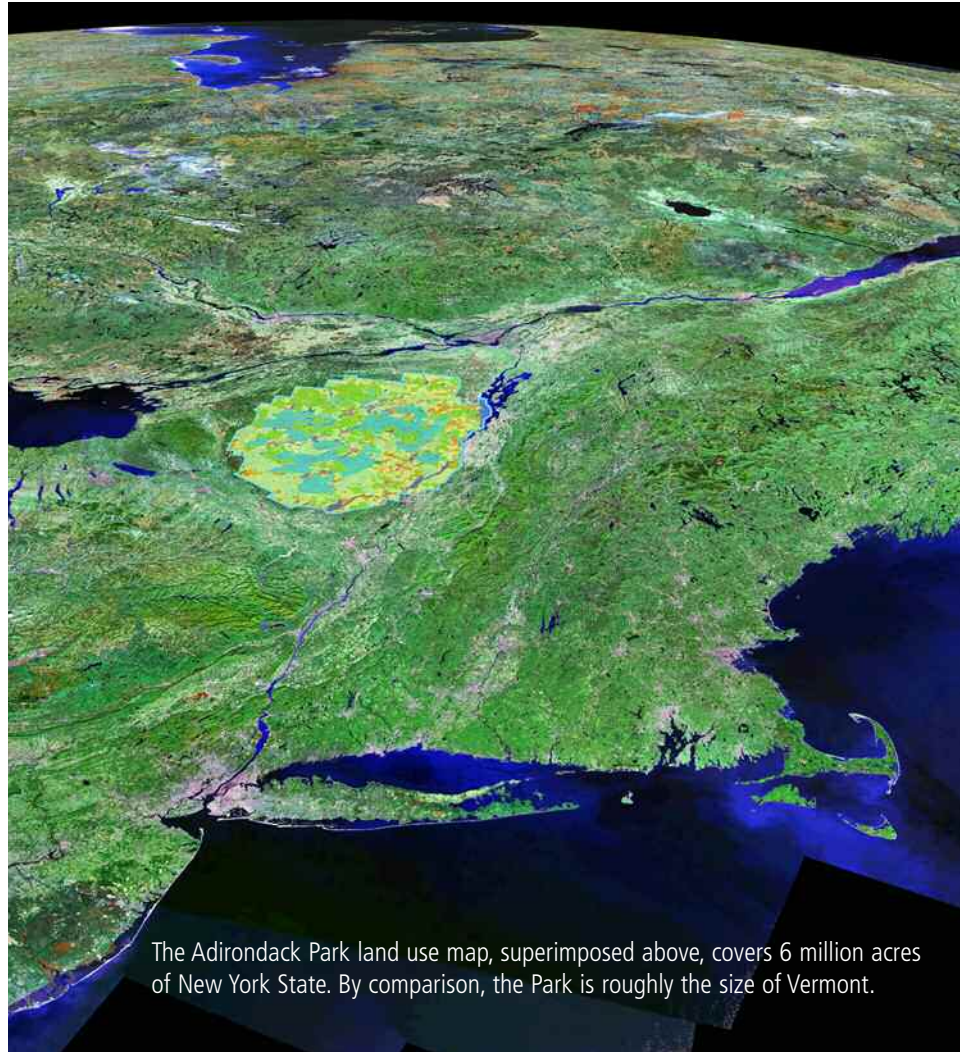


Christopher Walsh is the Designee for the New York State Department of Economic Development (DED), representing Commissioner Marisa Lago. Based in Albany, Designee Walsh serves as Vice President for Upstate Regional Offices and Subsidiaries, overseeing the eight regional offices of the Department located north or west of Albany. An attorney by trade, Mr. Walsh has previously served in several posts within New York State government, including Assistant Deputy Attorney General, under Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, Assistant Counsel to Governor Mario Cuomo, and Confidential Assistant to Governor Mario Cuomo. Mr. Walsh has also practiced law in private firms in both New York and New Hampshire.

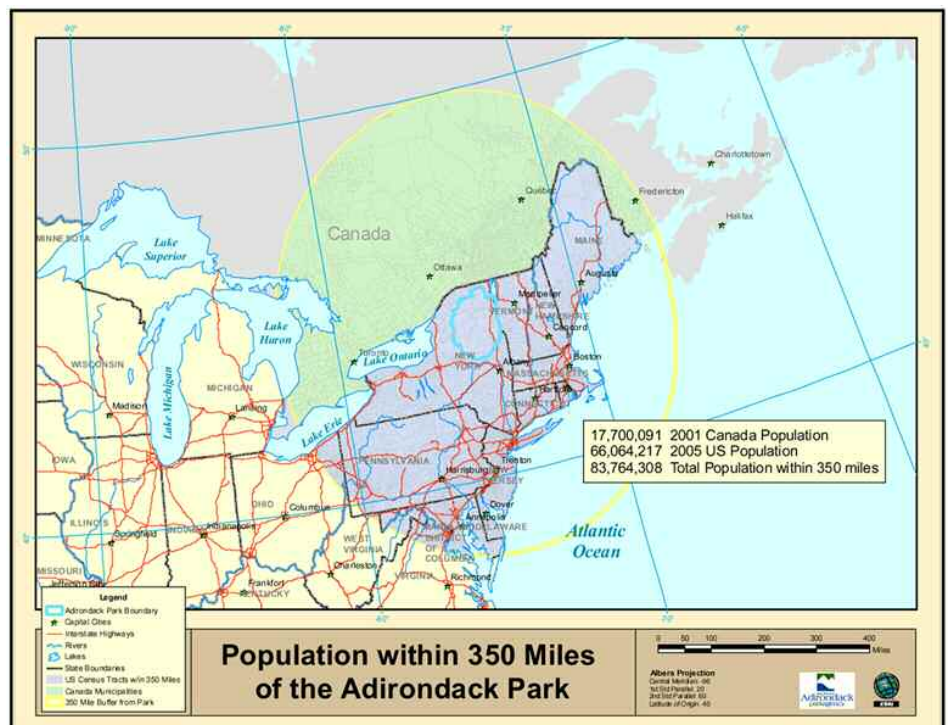


About the Adirondack Park

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan sets policy for the management of the State-owned lands. Developed by the Adirondack Park Agency in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and approved by the Governor of New York State, the Master Plan was first adopted in 1972. The actual management of the State Lands is carried out by the DEC's forest rangers, foresters, and environmental conservation officers, and other State personnel.



Kayaking on Blue Mountain Lake



The Adirondack Park was created in 1892 by the State of New York amid concerns for the water and timber resources of the region. It is truly one of our nation's great conservation success stories. At nearly 120 years old, the Adirondack Park encompasses about 6 million acres.

The heart of the Adirondack Park is the Forest Preserve, which was created by an act of the New York State Legislature in 1885 and is protected through Article 14 of the New York State Constitution that states: "The lands now or hereafter constituting the Forest Preserve shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private."

The private lands of the Park are dotted with authentic communities full of neighborhoods, main streets, farms, small businesses, working forests and open space. The character and appearance of the Adirondack Park is notably different than most other rural areas. The Park affords an unparalleled small town quality of life, world-class outdoor recreational opportunities and room for businesses of all kinds to grow.

Today the Park is the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States, greater in size than Yellowstone, Everglades, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Parks combined, and comparable in size to the entire State of Vermont.

The Park boasts over 10,000 lakes, 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, and a wide variety of habitats, including globally unique wetland types and old-growth forests. It is within a day's drive of nearly 84 million people.

This blend of private and public lands provides the Adirondack Park with a rich diversity found nowhere else—a diversity of open space and recreational lands, of wildlife and flora, of mountains and meadows, and people of all walks of life in a number of unique mountain communities.



Outdoor guide Joe Hackett, of Ray Brook, enjoys another fine day of work at a secret Adirondack fishing hole.



Clockwise from left: Members of the Keene Fire Department parade down Market Street in Keene Valley during the Town of Keene Memorial Day Event in 2008, the year the Town celebrated its bicentennial; Hoel Pond during foliage season; and the Paul Smith's College Draft Horse Team takes visitors on a holiday sleigh ride sponsored by the APA Visitor Interpretive Center at Paul Smiths.



About the Adirondack Park Agency

The Agency prepared the [State Land Master Plan](#), which was approved in 1972, followed by the [Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan](#) in 1973. Both plans are periodically revised to reflect the changes and current trends and conditions of the Park.

Land Use Map KEY

- H = Hamlet
- MI = Moderate Intensity
- LI = Low Intensity
- RU = Rural Use
- RM = Resource Management
- P = Primitive
- W = Wilderness

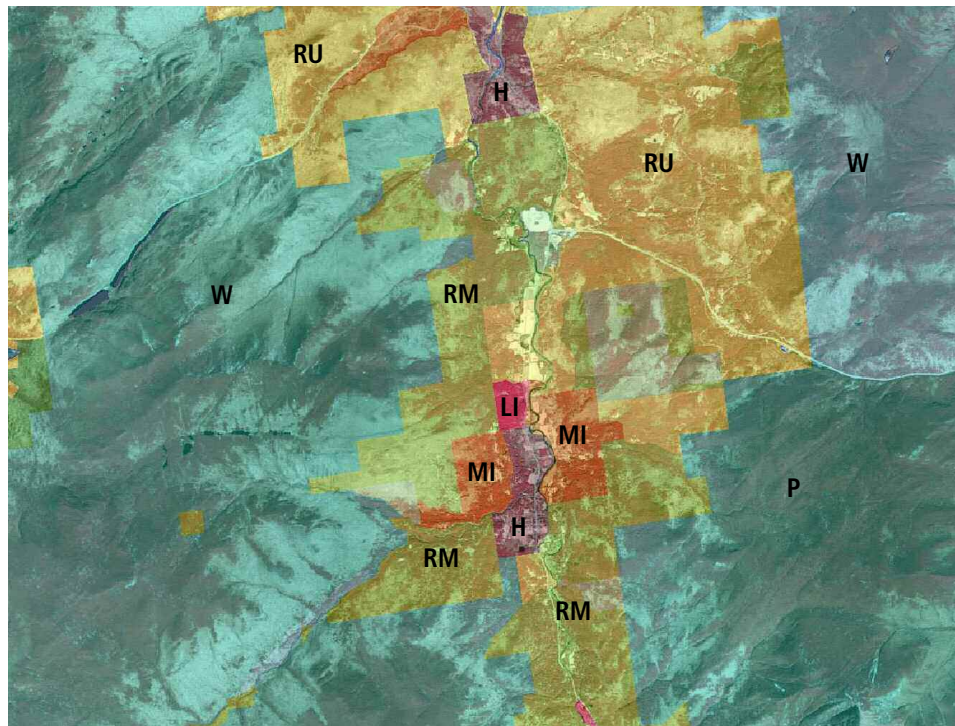
The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) was created in 1971 by the New York State Legislature and was charged with developing long-range land use plans for both public and private lands within the boundary of the Park, commonly referred to as the “Blue Line.” The basic purpose of the APA Act is “to insure optimum overall conservation, protection, development and use of the unique scenic, aesthetic, wildlife, recreational, open space, historic, ecological and natural resources of the Adirondack Park.”

The Agency strives to balance the complementary needs of all the people of the State for the preservation of the Park’s resources and open space character with the needs of the Park’s permanent, seasonal and transient populations for growth and service areas, employment, and a strong diversified economic base.

The Park Agency seeks to accomplish this through the administration of the Adirondack Park Private Land Use and Development Plan and the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. These documents classify State and private land according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use.

Under the State Land Master Plan (SLMP) all state land is classified as one of the following categories: Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe, Wild Forest, Intensive Use, Historic and State Administrative. The SLMP further sets policy for the management of Forest Preserve lands. This plan was developed in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and approved by the Governor. The actual management of the Forest Preserve is carried out by the DEC.

The Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan applies to the private land in the Park. It defines Agency jurisdiction and establishes development considerations for private land use and development. The Plan is designed to conserve the Park’s natural resources and open-space character by directing and clustering development to minimize impact.



Above is a map of the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan land classifications in the Essex County Town of Keene, looking north from the hamlet of Keene Valley along the Route 73 corridor to the hamlet of Keene. The goal of the land use plan is to channel growth where it is best supported and minimize the spread of development to areas less suited to sustain growth. See the real-life effects of this carefully managed development plan, as it relates to the Route 73 corridor in the Town of Keene, in a photograph on Page 10.

BY THE NUMBERS

FUNDS & STAFF 2008-2009

Total Operating Funds\$5,914,000
 Permanent Staff 2008 72

Under the Plan, all private lands are mapped into six land use classifications: Hamlet, Moderate Intensity Use, Low Intensity Use, Rural Use, Resource Management, and Industrial Use. The Agency has limited jurisdiction in Hamlet areas, extensive jurisdiction in Resource Management areas and various degrees of jurisdiction within the other land use classifications.

The Agency also administers the State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act for private lands within the Park, as well as the State Freshwater Wetlands Act for both the Park's public and private lands.

Staff is multidisciplined and dedicated to the Agency's mission. This mission is strongly rooted in resource protection and promoting sustainable communities. For the Adirondack Park, these goals are not mutually exclusively but intimately linked and interdependent.

Prior to undertaking any land use and development, the Adirondack Park Agency strongly advises landowners and their representatives to contact staff for a jurisdictional determination.



In the Town of Keene, outfitters like Cloudsplitter Mountain Guides provide services to visitors who wish to experience the unspoiled beauty of the Adirondack Mountains. Guide Jesse Williams is shown at left at the company's base camp in Keene Valley. The Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan also encourages the productive use of agricultural lands. Rivermede Farms, shown above, provides fresh produce to local residents as well as tourists at its farm store in Keene Valley.



Above is Keene Valley, as seen from Rooster Comb Mountain looking north. Compare what you see to the land use map on Page 9.

Administration

The Administration Services Division is responsible for all fiscal management, contract administration, personnel management, physical plant management and office support. This includes fiscal matters such as: preparation of purchase orders and vouchers, determination of division allocations, fiscal record keeping, determination of availability of funds for the Agency's division programs, and computerization of fiscal records. Staff are also responsible for media relations, community relations and outreach.



At Left: **Frank L. Mezzano**
Chair Administration Services

At Right: **James E. Connolly**
Acting Executive Director

Administration Services Division activities fully support the mission of the Adirondack Park Agency. Services provided by staff of this unit are critical to the effective and efficient expenditure of the State's resources in support of the Agency's statutory mission and core programs.

Facilities

The Administration Services Division implemented a number of energy conservation projects at its Ray Brook Headquarters to improve energy efficiency in accordance with [Gov. Paterson's Green Procurement and Agency Sustainability Program](#). Issued in April 2008, the Governor's order promotes policies within State agencies and authorities that reduce the consumption of materials and energy and reduces the potential impacts on public health and the environment.

Energy Efficiency

Upgrades, that will provide an annual cost savings of \$11,200, included:

- Installing a foundation wall insulation system.
- Replacing inefficient fluorescent lamp fixtures with high-efficiency fluorescent light fixtures.
- Installing motion sensor light controls.
- Installing a dedicated HVAC unit for the Agency's computer room.
- Providing an indirect hot water heater connection to the Agency's boiler and abandoning the use of the existing water heater.
- Replacing computer screens with energy-efficient flat screens.
- Setting night/weekend temperature controls on the building's heating and cooling system.

Staff continues to prepare for implementation of a photovoltaic solar system at its Ray Brook Headquarters. Once complete, this system will have the capacity to generate in excess of 54,000-kilowatt hours of electricity annually. This represents approximately 30 percent of the Agency's yearly energy demand and will result in an estimated yearly budget savings of \$8,000.

Emergency Management Plan

Staff completed a three-part emergency management plan for its headquarters building in Ray Brook. This plan focuses on emergency response procedures, business continuity, and recovery from a severe emergency. The plan was submitted to the Office of the State Comptroller in April.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

James E. Connolly, *Acting Executive Director*
Deborah A. Lester, *Secretary to Exec. Director*
Stephen M. Erman, *Special Assistant-Economic Affairs*
Keith P. McKeever, *Public Information Director*
Elaine M. Caldwell, *Administrative Officer*
Robert P. Kreider, *Information Technology Specialist*
Patrick R. Farrell, *General Mechanic*
Amy S. Hall, *Calculations Clerk*
Susan A. Carey, *Principal Clerk*
Susan A. Streiff, *Keyboard Specialist*
Stephanie S. Segard, *Maintenance*
Norma Howard, *Administration*
Elizabeth Stankus, *Information Tech. Dept.*
John J. Jock, *Maintenance Assistant*
Howard Baker, *Green Thumb volunteer*
Cheri Phillips, *Green Thumb volunteer*



Elizabeth Stankus and Robert Kreider accept certificates of appreciation from Acting Executive Director James Connolly for their work on replacing the Agency's phone system. They both saved the Agency thousands of dollars by rewiring the building to support a new digital phone system that replaced an antiquated system that was prone to failure.

Fiscal Management

Administrative staff worked diligently in 2008 to meet the Governor's request to reduce agency budgets by 10.35 percent. Through major reductions in non-personnel service items, efficiencies in fleet management and rescheduling the Visitor Interpretive Center hours, Administrative staff adhered to the budget reduction request without eliminating staff positions or level of services.

The Agency saved thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs by creating an electronic-only version of the Agency's 2007 Annual Report, which was available on the APA website as a PDF download.

In addition, staff prepared bi-weekly payroll for 72 permanent, 15 temporary and seasonal employees through the PayServ system. Fiscal responsibilities also include preparing all documentation, fiscal analysis and expenditure projections as required by the Division of the Budget and Office of the State Comptroller.

Information Services

One full-time employee and one part-time employee provide support to the Agency in numerous technologies. In 2008, staff initiated the transition to a new computer operating system; replaced the entire phone system; consolidated printing services; and replaced the Agency's entire computer infrastructure. In addition, staff ensured webcasting services (see Page 26) and "webinars" properly functioned throughout the year.

Staff efforts maximized cost-cutting measures while improving the technological capabilities of the Agency. This resulted in greater overall productivity, improved energy efficiencies and better documentation of resources. Throughout implementation, a high level of user support was maintained.

International Outreach: China Protected Areas Project Study Tour

The East-West Center, an education and research organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1960 to strengthen relations among the people and nations of Asia and the United States, contacted the Agency regarding an exchange program. The East-West Center is working with The Nature Conservancy-China Program, the Chinese State Forestry Administration and Tsinghua University (Beijing) to develop management policy throughout China for recently created nature-protected areas. The Adirondack Park was selected as a land use model to study. Agency staff, in partnership with various stakeholders, prepared an agenda, presented material, and conducted field trips for the visiting Chinese delegation. The Adirondack Park experience was so well received that it is the only park location in the United States that will be re-visited in 2009.



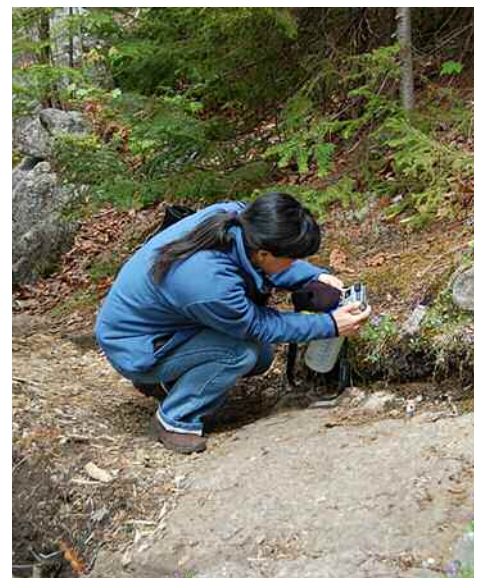
Administrative Officer Elaine Caldwell reviews agency budget numbers with Principal Clerk Susan Carey and Calculations Clerk Amy Hall.



Adirondack Park Agency Headquarters on State Route 86 in the Hamlet of Ray Brook, Essex County.



Above, Town of Keene Supervisor William Ferebee, back left, welcomes the China delegation to his town in May 2008. Mr. Ferebee discussed the advantages and challenges for local communities living within a protected area. At right, a delegation member photographs spring flowers along the Mount Joe trail in the Town of North Elba, Essex County.



Regulatory Programs

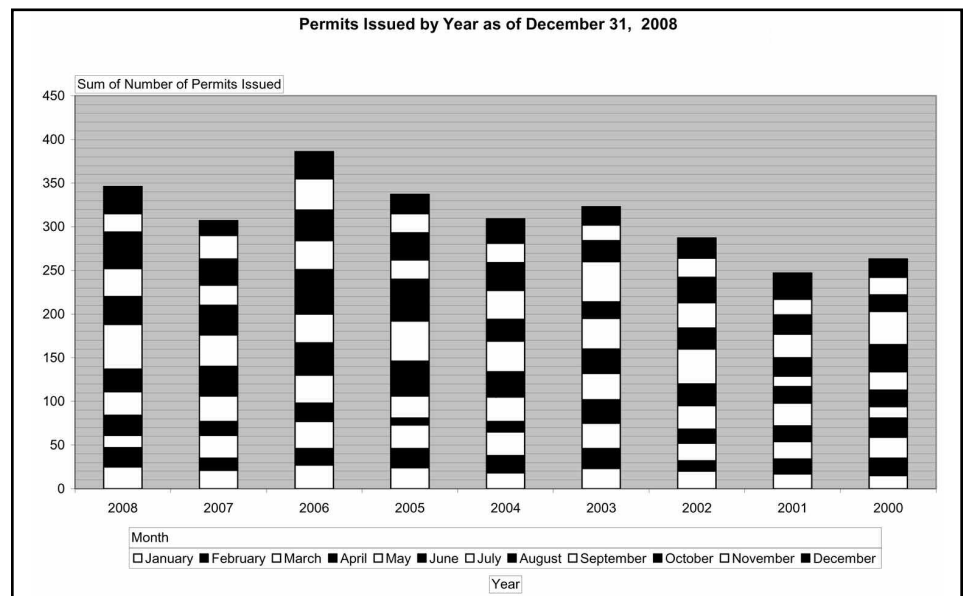
In 2008, the Regulatory Programs Division issued 346 new, amended and renewed permits and orders. Included in that number were 239 new individual permits; 106 permit amendments, renewals and transfers; 64 general permits; 14 State agency permits; and one order granting a variance. Staff also issued 19 non-jurisdictional determinations.

Careful review of permit applications by interdisciplinary agency review teams and reasonable permit conditions ensured that potential adverse impacts to the environment are minimized while allowing well-designed development to be approved in a timely manner.

Staff members pride themselves on thorough review and issuing permits in accordance with statutory deadlines. In 2008, 99 percent of both minor and major project permits were issued on time. Increases in the number of project review staff and technology improvements helped achieve timeliness. Staff dedication, professional expertise and hard work were critical to on-time performance.

In addition, Regulatory Programs reviewed and approved a number of regionally important projects and continued approving numerous telecommunications projects that were consistent with the Agency's Towers Policy and the Adirondack Park Agency Act.

The Regulatory Programs Division is responsible for the review and recommendations and/or determination for all project permit applications subject to Adirondack Park Agency jurisdiction.



At Left: **Leilani C. Ulrich**
Chair Regulatory Programs

At Right: **Mark E. Sengenberger**
Deputy Director



Bruce Brownell, at left, solar engineer and founder of Adirondack Alternate Energy, consults with Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs Mark Sengenberger and Chairman Curtis Stiles on construction design criteria for low-energy homes. Note the all-weather wood foundation on the left in the background.

Cellular Projects

Cellular coverage inside the Adirondack Park continues to improve as telecommunication companies apply for and successfully secure permit approvals for key highway corridors and population centers. In 2008, the Agency approved 17 cellular projects, including six permits for new towers, nine general permits for co-location on existing structures and two permit amendments to replace/co-locate antennas. Projects were approved in Clinton, Essex, St. Lawrence and Warren Counties. To date the Agency has approved nearly 90 individual permits and permit amendments within the Adirondack Park for cellular facilities, without issuing a single denial.

The Towers Policy protects the Adirondack Park’s aesthetic and open space resources by requiring that placement of telecommunication facilities achieve “substantial invisibility.” Policy guidance includes avoiding mountaintops and co-locating facilities on existing structures whenever possible. Projects meet the substantial invisibility threshold by incorporating policy guidance such as: using forested hills as backdrops; limiting towers to heights just above surrounding trees; maintaining vegetation in the foreground to screen the tower structure; using dark gray paint tones to blend the tower and antennas with existing vegetation; and, on occasion, constructing towers as simulated pine trees.

The success experienced this year proves it is possible to implement telecommunication technology without adversely impacting the high-value scenic land-



The arrow above shows a Verizon simulated white pine tree cell tower that provides coverage along the Adirondack Northway in the Town of Schroon.



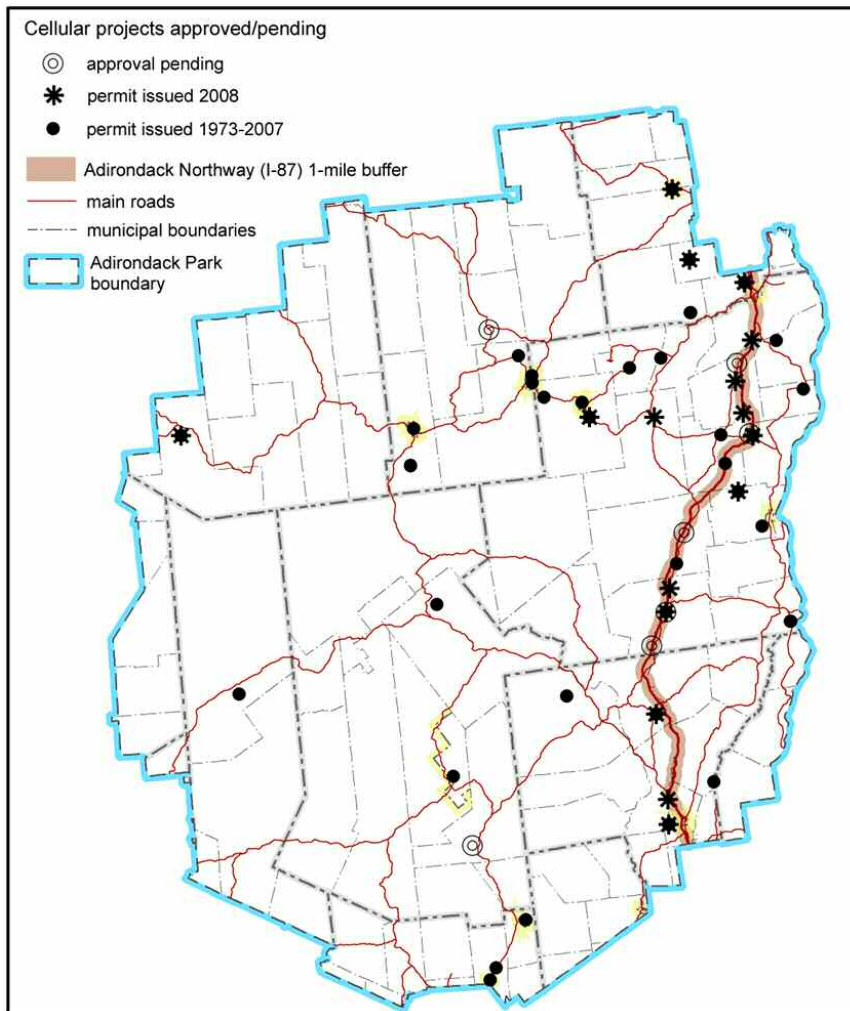
As part of visual analysis, balloons are floated above a proposed project site to help determine substantial invisibility.



Agency staff inspects an access road.



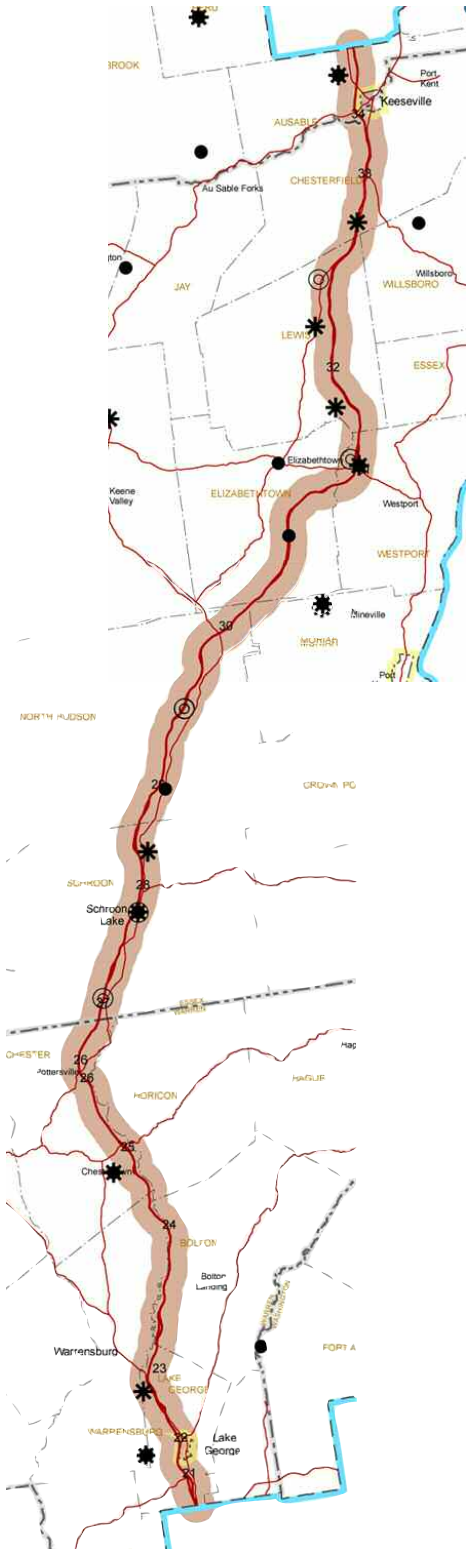
Porous matting is used on steep cell tower access roads to control stormwater runoff and to avoid soil erosion.



The GIS maps above and on Page 15, prepared by Environmental Program Specialist Ariel Diggory, are based on a telecommunication spatial database she created to improve regional planning efforts and co-location of telecommunications facilities.

Cellular projects approved/pending

- ⊙ approval pending
- * permit issued 2008
- permit issued 1973-2007
- Adirondack Northway (I-87) 1-mile buffer
- main roads
- - - municipal boundaries
- Adirondack Park boundary



scope of the Adirondack Park or dramatically altering community character. Both are fundamentally critical in sustaining many sectors of the Park’s economy.

Here are the 17 Permits/ Amendments issued in 2008 by permitted activity:

Six (6) New Towers

- 2 in the Town of Lewis (I-87, between Exits 31 & 33)
- 1 in the Town of Chesterfield (I-87, between Exits 32 & 33)
- 1 in the Town of Schroon (I-87, between Exits 27 & 28)
- 1 in the Towns of Lake George/Warrensburg (I-87, between Exits 22 & 23)
- 1 in the Town of Keene, Hamlet of Keene

Nine (9) Co-location of Antennas

- 1 in the Town of North Elba
- 1 in the Town of Schroon (I-87, between Exits 28 & 29)
- 1 in the Town of Chester (I-87, between Exits 24 & 25)
- 1 in the Town of Warrensburg (I-87, between Exits 21 & 22)
- 1 in the Town of Lewis (I-87, between Exits 32 & 33)
- 1 in the Town of Peru (I-87, between Exits 34 & 35)
- 1 in the Town of Fine
- 1 in the Town of AuSable
- 1 in the Town of Saranac

One (1) Replacement of Antennas

- 1 in the Town of Moriah

One (1) Both Replacement & Co-location of Antenna

- 1 in the Town of Westport (I-87, between Exits 31 & 32)

The arrow shows the location of Verizon Wireless’ Adirondack Northway Exit 29 tower in the Town of North Hudson, Essex County. It is an excellent example of substantial invisibility. This 94-foot-tall tower provides coverage in a north and south direction between Exits 26 and 29.



Here are the 2008 Regulatory Programs highlights of major approvals:

Ski Bowl Village at Gore Mountain

The Agency approved a residential resort project in the Town of Johnsbury involving the development of a four-season resort and the re-opening and expansion of the North Creek Ski Bowl. This project includes hotels and inns, townhouses, single-family dwellings, a private ski lodge, an equestrian center, a nine-hole golf course, restaurants and retail space. The Town of Johnsbury, ORDA and the developer—FrontStreet Mountain Development LLC—worked cooperatively on the development of the project. The project is consistent with the APA land use areas (Hamlet, Low Intensity) and the Town of Johnsbury’s long-range planning goals. Soils and slopes on the project site are suitable for development. Its proximity to the business district of North Creek will help stimulate local businesses. In addition, the Ski Bowl Village at Gore Mountain is projected to significantly

benefit the Adirondack Park economy. The projected total value of the project is \$164 million: \$74 million in non-residential development and \$90 million in residential development. Direct employment in the Ski Bowl Village At Gore Mountain, after construction, is estimated at 250 full- and part-time employees. The project also adheres to the New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code and will include Energy Star labeled Homes.

Tall Timbers at North Creek

The Agency approved this resort community of seven single-family dwellings, 64 town homes, a 25-room inn and a restaurant. The project is located in Town of Johnsbury, Warren County. The project site is a Hamlet land use area as designated on the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan. Hamlets areas are the traditional service and growth centers of the Park and accommodate a large portion of the necessary and natural expansion of the Park’s housing, commercial and industrial activities. They are appropriate locations for a higher density of development due to the presence of public infrastructure and the absence of significant building constraints.

Antlers on Raquette Lake

The Agency approved the expansion of a pre-existing, single-family dwelling to a tourist accommodation with 20 guests rooms and an 80-seat restaurant. This is an important economic project for the sparsely populated community of Raquette Lake, located in the Town of Long Lake, Hamilton County. Agency staff worked with the applicant and the community to minimize adverse impacts both to the natural resources and adjacent landowners. Key issues addressed include shoreline protection, visual impacts, stormwater management, parking and impacts on adjacent properties.

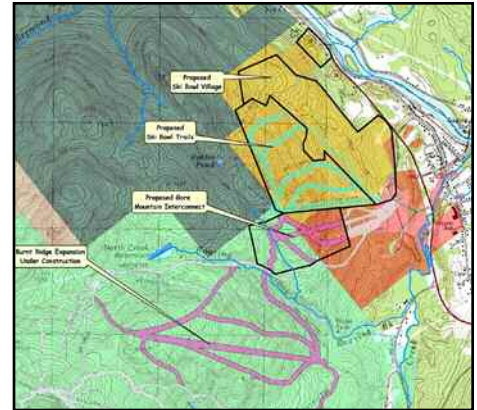
Whiteface View, LLC

The Agency’s Regulatory Programs Committee conducted non-binding conceptual review of the conversion of a pre-existing hotel to 12 townhouse units in the Town of Wilmington, Essex County. The 5.4-acre site is the location of the former White Stag Inn, a 20,000-square-foot building last used as a motel/hotel in 1981. The site is across from the Whiteface Mountain Ski Center and adjacent to two existing commercial enterprises. The project site is classified as Rural Use in the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan map and within the “river area” of the West Branch of the AuSable River, a recreational river in the New York State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System.

Update on Adirondack Club and Resort

The Adirondack Club and Resort project proposed for the vicinity of the former municipal ski area in Tupper Lake, Franklin County, was directed to an adjudicatory public hearing on 10 issues by the Adirondack Park Agency Board in February 2007. In October 2007, the project sponsor requested a mediation process to resolve disputes associated with the project application. On April 23, 2008, a conference was held to finalize a mediation protocol to guide, among other matters, who would be parties to the mediation, the scope of the mediation and approval of proposals and settlements. On that date, the mediation protocol was finalized and signed by 32 parties.

A second mediation session was held in Tupper Lake in May followed by a session in July. At the request of the project sponsor, the mediation sessions scheduled for October were suspended indefinitely. At the present time, it is the Agency’s understanding that the project sponsor wants to continue in mediation and prepare revised drawings and analyses to address the 10 issues raised in the Agency’s hearing order and the concerns raised by other parties to the hearing. The hearing remains under the control of the Administrative Law Judge, and the Agency Board cannot make any project decisions until the adjudicatory hearing and record is complete and submitted to them.



Here is the site plan for the Ski Bowl Village at Gore Mountain.



Retention of and planting new vegetation along a shoreline helps screen structures and prevent stormwater runoff. Here is a simulated look at the Antlers project on Raquette Lake.



Whiteface Mountain Ski Center

REGULATORY STAFF

- Mark E. Sengenberger, *Deputy Director*
- Holly E. Kneeshaw, *Assistant Director*
- Mary L. Reardon, *Secretary*
- Stephanie C. Summers, *Keyboard Specialist*
- John L. Quinn, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- George V. Outcalt, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- Colleen C. Parker, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- Thomas Saehrig, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- Michael Hannon, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- Susan Parker, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- Suzanne McSherry, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- Virginia Yamrick, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- Leigh R. Walrath, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- Tracy J. Darragh, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
- Ariel A. Diggory, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*

Legal

The Legal Division's attorneys provide legal advice to the Agency Board and staff and assist in land use and project determinations. The Division also oversees the Jurisdictional Inquiry and Enforcement Offices.

The Legal Division consists of three major components: the Office of Counsel, the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit, and the Enforcement Program.

Office of Counsel

Four Senior Attorneys, an Associate Attorney, the Associate Counsel and the Counsel provide legal services and advice to all Agency programs and the Board. Services include review of documents for significant permits, including notices of incomplete permit application and permits, and orders themselves. When the Agency directs a matter to an administrative hearing, an Agency attorney helps to ensure a complete record as directed by Agency regulations. In 2008, two formal hearings were commenced or underway. Similarly, Agency attorneys assist the Attorney General with litigation to both defend the Agency and enforce its legal authorities. This may include drafting pleadings and affidavits as well as organizing the record of the Agency decision involved in the litigation.

Counsel advises the Agency on statutory interpretation, procedures and litigation as well as supervising the work of the Legal Division. The Associate Counsel monitors and communicates important guidance regarding jurisdiction and other legal issues in current matters in general terms to the Legal Affairs Committee, and helps assure consistent decision making by Agency staff. The Associate Counsel is also the Agency's ethics officer. The Counsel and Associate Counsel together work with the Board, the Governor's Counsel and the various offices that oversee legislative and regulatory reform to advance the Agency's interests in legislation and regulatory updates.

Individual Senior Attorneys have primary responsibility for advising staff regarding specific permits, Agency-approved local land use programs, the State Land Master Plan, State agency projects pursuant to Section 814, assignments for rule-making and policy development, and individual hearings and litigation matters involving the Agency.

Finally, the Agency's Enforcement Program is managed by an Associate Attorney with the assistance of a Senior Attorney.

Regulatory Revisions

The Adirondack Park Agency began to comprehensively revise its rules and regulations with updates effective in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2005. Additional proposals were authorized for public involvement and regulatory review in 2008 to restore regular annual attention to Agency Rules and Regulations. The effort has sought to codify important administrative practices for improved public understanding and transparency, to clarify and correct inconsistencies and improve the effectiveness of Agency programs, and to further the overall mission of the Agency.



At Left: **James T. Townsend**
Chair Legal Affairs

At Right: **Cecil Wray**
Chair Enforcement

Regulatory Revisions

[Click below for a direct link to the Agency web site.]

[Notice of Proposed Rule Making: 2009 Consensus Rules](#)

[2008 Rulemaking and Transition Guidance](#)



Agency Counsel John Banta and Associate Counsel Barbara Rottier review regulatory proposals at a public hearing held to solicit public comment on the 2008 Rulemaking.

The 2008 Rulemaking took effect Dec. 31, 2008 and dealt with five subjects:

Involving wetlands: Revises regulatory definitions to make the Adirondack Park Agency Act and Freshwater Wetlands Act jurisdiction identical; tailors wetland subdivision jurisdiction to potential for impacts. As a general rule, all subdivisions where lots lines are within 200 feet of a wetland are now jurisdictional.

Expansion of non-conforming shoreline structures: Modifies former regulation which allows unlimited lateral and rear expansion of non-conforming shoreline structures (9 NYCRR 575.5). A companion change requires improvements to non-conforming on-site wastewater treatment systems where possible, and ensures expansions in such service are subject to shoreline setback requirements.

Hunting and fishing cabins: Amends former definition to provide additional detail as to what constitutes a "hunting and fishing cabin."

Floor space: Adds a regulatory definition which defines the "square feet of floor space" of a building and the "square footage" of any other structure.

Land division along roads or right of way owned in fee: Removes existing regulation which allows divisions along roads without permit even though the overall intensity guidelines cannot be met.

Rulemaking continues to involve the technical advisors to the Agency, referred to as the TAL, who serve as a sounding board for regulatory subjects and specific drafting issues. The Agency Legal Affairs Committee has referred all regulatory proposals to the TAL for advice, and the TAL met late in the year to address new subjects for regulatory revision.

Legal Affairs Committee

The Committee grappled with regulatory revision on repeated occasions during 2008. Long-standing proposals were advanced to State Administrative Procedure Act (SAPA) review and adoption as the 2008 Rulemaking noted above. In addition, the Committee re-visited the Agency's 2001 definition of "boathouse" to address unintended consequences of its "single story" criterion and new or modified boathouses with extensive decks over flat roofs. Related issues involving metal docks that are partially raised by hoists for the winter were also addressed to clarify long-standing advice that these structures require a variance if over 100 square feet in size because they are not docks when raised and remain in place for the winter.

Other regulatory revision subjects included clarification and codification of Agency practices regarding conversion of pre-existing resort hotels, rental cottages and group camps and potential corrections to different sections of Agency regulations describing when structures or improvements are considered abandoned or otherwise require a new permit or variance for replacement or reuse.

These proposals will be advanced to SAPA review in 2009.

LEGAL STAFF

Office of Counsel

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

Jurisdictional Inquiry Office

Rita G. Quinn, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
Brian M. Ford, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*,
FOIL
Nancy M. Heath, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*

Enforcement

Paul T. Van Cott, *Associate Attorney*
Sarah H. Reynolds, *Senior Attorney*
Jill L. Lawrence, *Keyboard Specialist*
Trevor S. Fravor, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
John M. Burth, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
Emily M. Tyner, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
Joseph Thouin, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
Douglas W. Miller, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*
Theresa LeBaron, *Environmental Prog. Spec.*



John S. Banta
Counsel



At left, residents learn about the Ski Bowl Village at Gore Mountain project during the Legislative Hearing at the Tannery Pond Center in North Creek, Warren County.

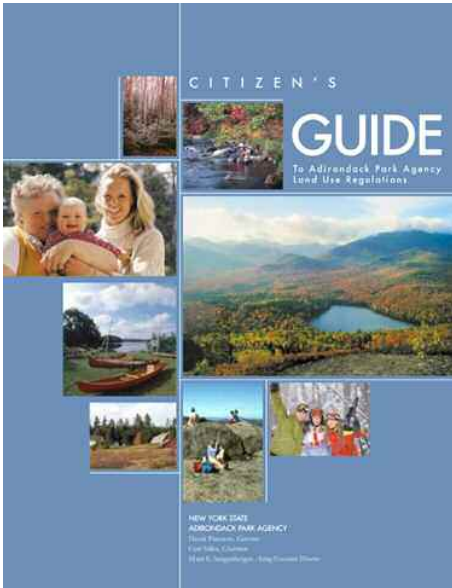
Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit

The public's first point of contact with the Agency is often a letter or a phone call handled by the Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit at the Agency. The Jurisdictional Inquiry Unit consists of three individuals who advise landowners and others whether an Agency permit or variance is required for a proposed land use or subdivision of land within the Park. The determination often requires a full deed history and other legal and factual research developed in communications with landowners and from Agency technical resources. This is the Agency's initial and most common point of contact with the public; hence, staff has given priority to a prompt response.

The Agency received 1,025 written requests for formal jurisdictional determinations in 2008, with an average response time of 12 days. Jurisdictional staff addressed 5,599 telephone contacts and met with 306 walk-in members of the public. In addition, staff handled 920 referrals from other agencies.

In 2008, the average response time increased by three days from the previous year. The increase is due in part to the complexity of inquiries in 2008.

The Agency's Records Access Officer is responsible for responding to requests for access to and/or copies of records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL). In 2008, the Agency received 240 such requests. The volume and complexity of FOIL requests varies significantly and depends primarily on the type of projects under review by the Agency. In response to changes in the law, the Agency's Records Access Officer established an electronic database to monitor all FOIL transactions, established a mechanism to provide responses as electronic records by email when requested by the applicant, and set up an accounting and tracking system to insure complete compliance and financial accountability for the FOIL program.



For more jurisdictional information, click on the Citizen's Guide cover above for a direct link to the Citizen's Guide PDF on the Agency web site.



Agency Soil and Water Engineer Shaun LaLonde discusses Agency jurisdiction related to on-site wastewater treatment systems. The workshop was hosted by the Town of Willsboro, Essex County.

Agency Biologist Mary O'Dell, at podium, and Jurisdictional Inquiry Office Supervisor Rita Quinn, seated in the second row, present an APA jurisdictional workshop to real estate professionals as part of their continuing education requirements. The workshop was held at The Wild Center in Tupper Lake.

**HELP YOURSELF
TO A JURISDICTIONAL INQUIRY FORM**

Prior to undertaking any land use and development, the Adirondack Park Agency strongly advises landowners and their representatives to submit a jurisdictional inquiry form. ([Download the form HERE.](#))



Enforcement Program

Extending innovations initiated with full staffing, the Enforcement Program in 2008 undertook proactive enforcement and field prevention of violations of the Agency's laws, regulations and permits. With six enforcement officers dedicated to the prompt investigation of alleged violations, supported by a Senior Attorney and a supervising Associate Attorney, the Enforcement Program made significant progress in its efforts to provide consistent and effective enforcement throughout the Adirondack Park. The Enforcement Program continues to provide outreach, particularly to local officials, in an effort to improve inter-governmental communications and to prevent violations before they occur.

In 2008, the Enforcement Program maintained its focus on environmentally significant violations, completing investigations on all such cases promptly after their discovery. Priorities include violations involving wetlands, shorelines, river areas, critical environmental areas and open space resources. Enforcement officers actively patrolled their territories, and they worked with local officials to prevent violations and to discover violations earlier so they are easier to resolve.

Beginning in 2008, the Enforcement Program tracked new subdivisions in the Adirondack Park for the purpose of identifying illegal subdivisions and taking prompt enforcement action to undo those violations before inappropriate development occurs on illegal lots. The announcement of this initiative in February 2008 was accompanied by a press release that received coverage throughout New York State. At the end of 2008, only 15 new subdivision violations had been identified and were being addressed promptly through enforcement action.

In 2008, the Enforcement Program closed more cases than it opened, reversing the historic trend of an ever-increasing backlog of open enforcement cases. This success occurred in a year that saw the most new enforcement cases opened ever, and is due to the fact that the Enforcement Program resolved 134 more cases in 2008 than in 2007.

Of the open cases, approximately 50 percent involve alleged shoreline, wetlands, rivers and permit violations. Subdivision violations comprise the other 50 percent of the open cases; almost all of these are older subdivisions that occurred without an Agency permit.

At the start of 2008, there were 496 open cases (up from 420 at the beginning of 2007). Through the year, 504 new cases were opened (up from 475 in 2007), and the Enforcement Program closed 533 cases (up from 399 in 2007). At the end of 2008, there were 467 cases still open.

The Enforcement Program continues to excel in achieving settlement agreements with violators. In 2008, 380 proposed settlement agreements were issued and 218 were accepted and returned during the year. These numbers eclipse the previous record numbers in 2007, when 269 settlement agreements were issued and 156 were accepted by violators.

Ten cases, involving a variety of shoreline, wetland, sand and gravel extraction, commercial use and permit violations were referred to the Enforcement Committee, including:

Matter of Lewis Family Farms, Inc. (Town of Essex, Essex County): Unpermitted construction of single-family dwellings requiring after-the-fact permit and directing a \$50,000 penalty.

Matter of Sawyer (Town of Ticonderoga, Essex County): Illegal commercial sand and gravel extraction requiring remediation, after-the-fact permit and directing a \$100,000 penalty.

Matter of Kerr (Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County): Illegal wetland fill requiring wetland restoration and directing a \$5,000 penalty.

Matter of Harrington (Town of Franklin, Franklin County): Illegal shoreline structure requiring removal and directing a \$15,000 penalty.

Matter of Fields (Town of Westport, Essex County): Illegal commercial use requiring after-the-fact permit and directing a \$2,500 penalty.



Enforcement Officer Joseph Thouin inspects a project site which involved an illegal stream crossing and wetland fill.



Enforcement Officer John Burth and Enforcement Attorney Sarah Reynolds review a case file and discuss settlement options.



Enforcement Officer John Burth oversees the removal of fill that was illegally placed in a regulated wetland.

Resource Analysis & Scientific Services

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. The Agency's scientists provide daily guidance on septic systems and stormwater runoff, soils analysis, forestry, invasive species and wildlife habitat. Staff also conducts wetland delineations.



At Left: **Leilani C. Ulrich**
Chair Park Ecology



At Right: **Daniel M. Spada**
Supervisor-Natural Resource Analysis

The RASS Division's 2008 accomplishments is a story of interaction, cooperation, collaboration, education, training and outreach. RASS staff conducted 297 field wetland delineations during a field season stretching from late April to early December, and 119 field deep hole test pits. Field work, engineering, resource review and comment related to almost every permit application the Agency receives represents an extraordinary amount of staff time. However, these efforts don't capture the essential collegial nature of RASS's work and the public service rendered.

Outreach and Education

RASS spends most of its time working with other regulatory agencies, local governments, landowners and other Agency staff to guide proposed development activities in such a way as to accomplish the goals of the project in an environmentally sensitive way. Providing training opportunities to others is one way RASS interacts with those we serve. During 2008, RASS staff conducted a wetland recognition training session, participated in three New York Logger training sessions on wetlands and Agency jurisdiction, conducted on-site wastewater treatment system soils workshops in the Towns of Chester and Willsboro with approximately 50 local government participants, participated in Adirondack realtor jurisdictional training, developed and presented "APA 401" to a High School senior level module in Ticonderoga's Participation in Government class, and conducted meetings with Soil and Water Conservation District staff from Essex, Lewis and Warren Counties regarding design of appropriate shoreline stabilization projects.

Regional Committee Service

RASS staff serve on several regional committees and work groups, including the Adirondack Research Consortium, Interagency Aquatic Connections Team, Lake Champlain Basin Program Technical Advisory Committee, Lake Champlain Basin Program Ecosystem Team, Lake Champlain Basin Program Aquatic Nuisance Species Sub-committee and Rapid Response Team, Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Relicensing Study Committee, Stream Crossing Working Group, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, and the New York State Invasive Species Council Steering Committee.



Project Analyst Lawrence Phillips, standing in trench, and Environmental Engineer Greg Bendell, second from right, conduct a deep hole test pit training workshop for local government officials and contractors.

Professional Meetings

RASS staff represented the Agency at numerous professional meetings, such as the Northeast Wetland Restoration Institute Wetland Workshop, Stream and Culvert Workshop, Wetland Plant Identification Course, New England Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting, Northern Appalachian/Acadian Ecoregion Conservation Planning Atlas training, Lake Champlain Basin program State of the Lake Conference, North Country Stormwater Conference and Trade Show, Lake George Water Quality Conference, Adirondack Research Consortium XV Annual Conference, and the Empire State Soil Scientist meeting. Finally, RASS staff reached a deep hole test pit coordination agreement with the Clinton County Department of Health so landowners need not dig duplicate test pits.

RASS intends to continue these education, outreach, service and training efforts in 2009 to achieve our goal to: "Protect natural resources by applying applicable laws, regulations, standards and policies using good science and sound engineering judgment, while at the same time being respectful and consistent with all those we come in contact with."

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-funded Wetlands Compliance Program

The Agency's wetland permit compliance program had a successful second year. In 2008, the Agency's contractors mailed 676 letters to permit holders informing them of the program and requesting site visits. The program is designed to help permit holders avoid violations and improve wetland conservation. Staff conducted 385 site visits and completed review of wetland permits issued between 2000 and 2007. Staff then initiated review of permits issued after 2007. By the end of 2008, final determinations on 443 project sites revealed that 92 percent of APA wetland permits were in compliance. Staff often found that permit holders were eager to show off how they implemented permit conditions. The 8 percent of non-compliant cases involved 17 minor infractions which were resolved by Regulatory Programs staff with 18 projects referred to the Enforcement Program.

EPA contractors also analyzed Agency Wetland General Permits issued since 2003 to determine their total area of wetland impacts. Wetland general permits expedite project review and permitting when the project involved proposes 300 square feet or less of wetland impacts. Analysis of 68 general permit project files revealed only 3,584 square feet of permanent wetland impacts and 5,437 square feet of temporary wetland impacts attributed to projects approved through the general permit process.



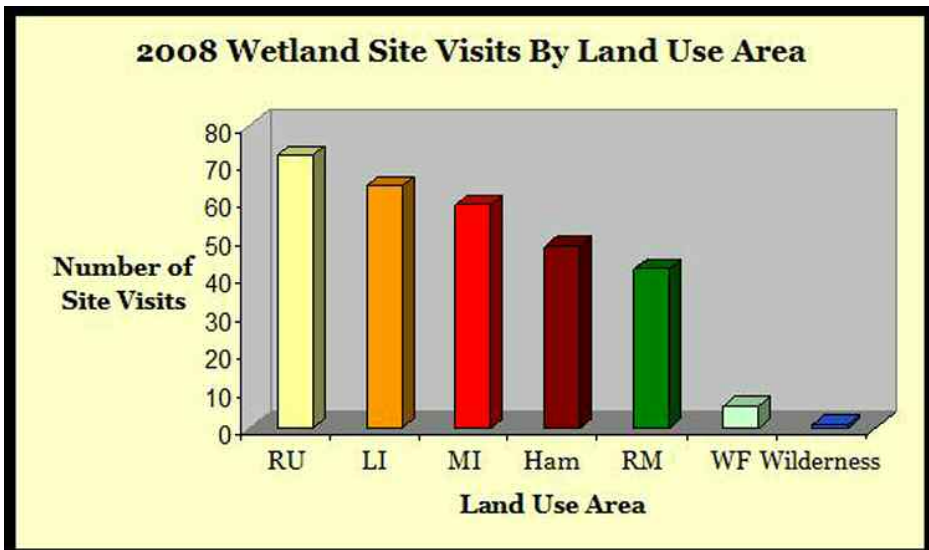
From left, Environmental Educator Milt Adams, Newcomb VIC Director Rynda McCray and RASS Supervisor Dan Spada welcome a Chinese delegation to the Agency's Visitor Interpretive Center in Paul Smiths. During their visit, staff educated the delegation on interpretive techniques and the importance of wetlands to the natural and built environment.



The Agency's EPA contractor, Aaron Ziemann, conducts an APA wetland permit compliance site visit. After two years of assessment, staff found that 92 percent of sites visited were in compliance with APA wetland permit conditions.

RASS STAFF

- Daniel M. Spada, *Supervisor-Natural Resource Analysis*
- Shaun E. LaLonde, *Soil and Water Engineering Specialist*
- Greg A. Bendell, *Environmental Engineer*
- Lawrence P. Phillips, *Assoc. A.P. Project Analyst, Forest Resources*
- W. Mark Rooks, *Assoc. A.P. Project Analyst, Biological Resources*
- Edward S. Snizek, *Assoc. A.P. Project Analyst, Fresh Water Resources*
- Mary A. O'Dell, *Biologist (Ecology)*
- Stephanie L. Petith, *Keyboard Specialist*
- Aaron Ziemann, *EPA Contractor*



Park Policy & Planning

The Agency's Planning Division is responsible for Local Government Services, Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map Updates and Map Amendments, State Lands, Park Policy Research & Analysis, Geographic Information System (GIS), Cartographic Services, Records Management & Library Services and Web Site Management.

Web site: www.apa.state.ny.us



At Left: **Richard S. Booth**
Chair Park Policy and Planning

At Right: **James E. Connolly**
Deputy Director, Planning

The Adirondack Park Agency's Planning Division is responsible for administering and maintaining the State Land Master Plan as well as working on long-term planning and policy initiatives for both the public and private lands of the Adirondack Park. The Division staff conducts a broad range of tasks supporting the work of all other Divisions in the Agency.

Some notable Policy accomplishments by Planning and other Agency divisions include:

[Energy Policy \[click here to download the Energy Policy PDF.\]](#)

During 2008, the Agency Board approved a Regulatory Programs staff proposal to establish an Energy Policy that primarily guides staff review of projects and encourages energy conservation in design and construction of major projects in the Park. It is consistent with State efforts to address climate change, reduce energy use and build sustainable communities through smart growth. The policy provides energy efficiency and conservation guidance and identifies the importance of developing clean, reliable, renewable and affordable energy. Staff will work in partnership with applicants to incorporate policy guidelines that ensure projects adhere to existing New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code requirements. The policy also encourages large-scale subdivision projects to exceed the minimum requirements of the State's Energy Code. Energy conservation is critical to improving the Park's economy and protecting our environment.

Map Amendments

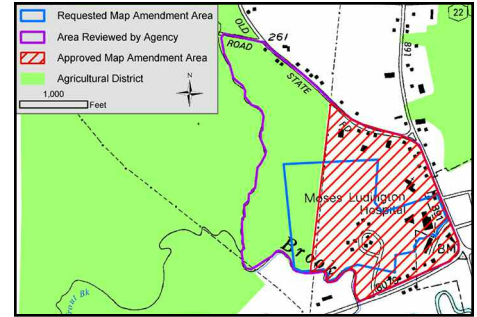
The Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan map was created by classifying lands based on capacity to withstand use. Occasionally, the Agency receives requests from local governments or private landowners to amend the official map. The Agency reviews these requests by examining natural resource capabilities, open space qualities and community infrastructure, as well as public and economic considerations. The map amendment process allows the Agency to work with local governments to help promote smart growth by determining where development is most suitable.



Solar engineer Bruce Brownell designed this low-energy requirement home in the Village of Lake Placid. He has designed more than 300 solar homes during his 30-year career, and many are in cold climates such as the Adirondack Mountains. Mr. Brownell incorporates proper solar orientation, a superior six-sided insulation envelope, and a large air-integrated thermal mass system to significantly reduce energy costs.

Ticonderoga (re-classified 93 acres)

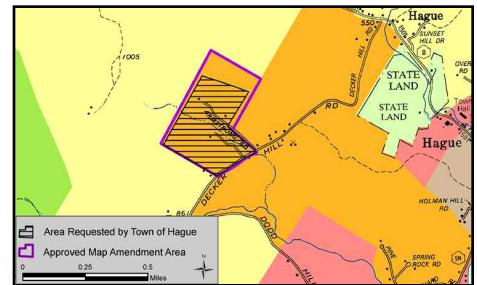
The Agency approved an amendment to the official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan map in the Town of Ticonderoga, Essex County. The Town of Ticonderoga requested the re-classification of approximately 62 acres that encompassed the Moses Ludington Hospital campus from Moderate Intensity Use to Hamlet. The Agency expanded the area to include adjacent land similar in character and **re-classified approximately 93 acres from Moderate Intensity Use to Hamlet**. The re-classified area is located adjacent to the Hamlet of Ticonderoga, avoids impacts to an agricultural district, and is served by public sewer and water.



The Ticonderoga map amendment expanded the Hamlet area without impacting an agricultural district.

Town of Hague (re-classified 74 acres)

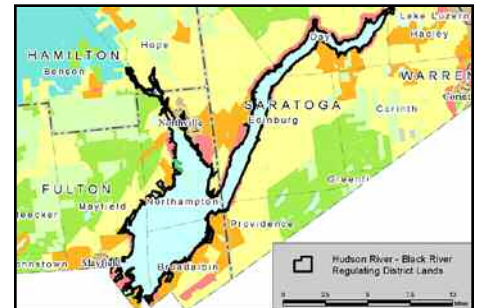
The Agency approved an amendment to the official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan map in the Town of Hague, Warren County. The Town of Hague requested re-classification of approximately 53 acres from Rural Use to Low Intensity Use to accommodate anticipated growth in an orderly manner consistent with the objectives of the Town and the APA land use plan. The Agency expanded the area to include adjacent land similar in character and **re-classified approximately 74 acres from Rural Use to Low Intensity Use**. Approval was based on accessibility and the lack of severe development constraints. The amendment accommodates future growth, retains community character and minimizes adverse impacts to the unique resources of the Park. The re-classified area is located along Decker Hill Road.



The Hague amendment will accommodate anticipated growth.

Great Sacandaga Lake/HRBRRD

The Agency addressed a long-standing technical map amendment to correct map data for the shoreline area surrounding the Great Sacandaga Lake as unclassified State Land. The amendment involved approximately 3,323 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the Hudson River/Black River Regulating District (HRBRRD). These areas fall within 11 towns and villages in Hamilton, Fulton and Saratoga Counties. The boundary of the HRBRRD lands are primarily based on the elevation of 778 feet above sea level. The Regulating District maintains jurisdiction over these State lands. The Agency continues to regulate wetlands permitting activity involving private land use and development and State agency projects under Section 814 of the APA Act.



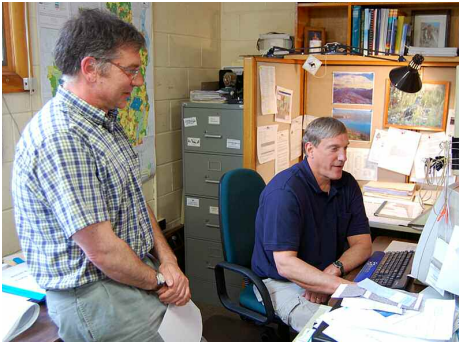
Area of the Great Sacandaga technical map amendment



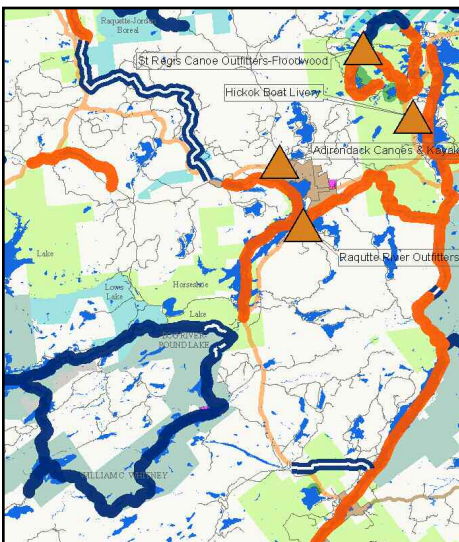
Architect-Planner James Hotaling participated in an APA-sponsored Energy workshop. He described energy strategies for large- and small-scale homes.

POLICY/PLANNING STAFF

- James E. Connolly, *Deputy Director, Planning*
- Richard E. Weber III, *Assistant Director, Planning*
- Brian F. Grisi, *Local Planning Assistance Specialist*
- Lauretta H. Bullis, *Secretary*
- Susan A. Van Wormer, *Calculations Clerk*
- Matthew S. Kendall, *Senior Natural Resources Planner*
- Kevin G. Prickett, *Senior Natural Resources Planner*
- Kathy D. Regan, *Associate Natural Resources Planner*
- John W. Barge, *Mapping Technologist*
- Robyn E. Burgess, *Environmental Program Specialist*
- Walter W. Linck, *Project Specialist (State Land Planning)*



Assistant Planning Director Richard Weber III and Project Analyst Edward Snizek review the Wilmington Notch Scenic Byway plans.



Above is a GIS analysis map of the Adirondack Park Wilderness Canoe Routes and Outfitters. The blue shows waterways without public motorized access, and the orange shows waterways with public motorized access.

Mapping Technologist John Barge, left, and Robert Gibson, of the Town of Long Lake Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department, discuss potential for local government use of GIS data.

Scenic Byways Program

The Agency initiated work on another Scenic Byway planning grant for the Wilmington Notch section of State Route 86. The project will focus on planning and design of parking areas, trailhead access, interpretative signage and natural resource protection activities in this heavily used travel corridor.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Staff held 15 meetings throughout the year to coordinate and improve its use of GIS. Meetings covered training opportunities, data standards and outreach programs. Below are the notable GIS accomplishments in 2008.

Tall Structures Visibility Screening Analysis: Staff are developing a viewshed analysis tool that uses existing topographic and land cover data layers to determine visibility of tall structures. This application will assist staff review of tall structures by predicting areas of potential visibility. Staff will use the tool to verify an applicant's submissions, which will result in cost savings to applicants for smaller scale residential wind turbines and public works projects.

Shoreline Photo Inventory: Staff developed a shoreline images mapping methodology that geographically links shoreline photographs. Computer retrieval tools were setup for staff use in the office.

Staff conducted a GIS analysis to determine public easement acreage statistics for each APA private land classification in the park.

As part of ongoing GIS analysis necessary for planning on state lands, staff are developing a thematic atlas covering a range of topics from military overflights, water access and historic snowmobile routes.

Major outreach included hosting the GIS Help Desk at Local Government Day; hosting the Adirondack/North Country Regional GIS Users Group meeting in November; participating in the UMP GIS Initiative with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and others; serving on the New York State GIS Coordinating Body; assisting the Town of Tupper Lake with its local zoning map; and responding to many requests for information from organizations and individuals.

New spatial data created by the Agency in 2008 included the AuSable/Boquet watershed boundaries; Wetland covertypes in the Mohawk River watershed; new Agency transactions for Jurisdictional Inquiry Form (JIF), Project Review, Enforcement Compliance, and Wetland Visit locations.



Can't make it to an Adirondack Park Agency meeting? No problem. Agency meetings can be seen live as a webcast on the Agency web site. In addition, they are archived on the web site for a minimum of 30 days after the meeting. The web site address is www.apa.state.ny.us.

Live and Archived Media (webcasting)

On the Agency's web site, visitors can go to the Live and Archived Media (webcasting) page to view the meeting videos, which are arranged by date, with the most recent at the top of the list. People should click Video to watch the meeting with documents, or Agenda/Minutes to see only the documents. They can also search the archives by typing keywords into the Search box.

The minimum system requirements for watching the archived video are available on the Live and Archived Media page. Windows Media Player is required to view the videos (a link to the Microsoft web site is available to download Windows Media Player for free).

Webcasting history

In 2007, Executive Order No. 3—Promotion of Public Access to Government Decisionmaking—required every State agency and public authority to start broadcasting all their meetings subject to the Open Meetings Law on the Internet through the use of webcasting. The Executive Order was created, in part, so “the citizens of this State be fully aware of and able to observe the performances of public officials and attend and listen to the deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy.”

Adirondack Park Agency Information Technology Specialist Robert Kreider drafted a webcasting strategy and implemented the Agency's program, launching the first public webcast in April 2008. Although the meetings are required to be on demand within two business days, in accordance with Executive Order No. 3, the Agency's meetings are offered as a live webcast. They must be captioned within seven days, available on the web site for 30 days, and distributed on a DVD upon request. Mr. Kreider and Public Information Director Keith McKeever handle the monthly webcasting duties during the meetings.



Above, Robert Kreider checks a camera for the meeting webcast in the Agency board room.



At left, Assistant Planning Director Richard Weber III gives a report during the Board meeting in October 2008, as seen here on the Agency web site.

State Lands

State Land staff of the Agency's Planning Division are responsible for working with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to prepare and review Unit Management Plans (UMPs) consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP); providing guidance and interpretation regarding the SLMP to the Agency's Board; developing long-range planning studies regarding the future of State lands; reviewing projects on State lands to ensure conformance with the SLMP; and working with the DEC to classify or re-classify State lands.

State land staff participated in a number of the DEC's unit management planning teams for plans currently under development, including the Alger Island Public Campground, Moose River Plains Wild Forest, Jay Mountain Wilderness Area, Sentinel Mountain Wilderness Area and the Hurricane Mountain Wilderness Area.

Staff also worked on a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Transportation (DOT), the DEC and the APA regarding the development of Travel Corridor Unit Management Plans.

Below are the notable State Land Actions.

Snowmobile Trail Mileage

Staff spent significant time in 2008 researching issues regarding snowmobile use in the Park, including trail mileage, trail character and use of tracked groomers. The DEC must manage and maintain snowmobile trails in accordance with State Land Master Plan guidelines and criteria. Due to the fact that snowmobile use and trail maintenance has changed over the years, the Agency Board must interpret whether current practices and proposals contained in the New York State Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park are compatible with the Master Plan guidelines. The Snowmobile Plan was prepared and approved by DEC and the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in 2006.

State lands staff prepared a series of maps and historic snowmobile mileage estimates for use during Agency discussion on interpretation of the "No Material Increase" provision of the Master Plan. The DEC has had a long-standing mileage "cap" of 848 miles for Forest Preserve lands classified as Wild Forest. The Agency Board agreed that this mileage was a reasonable benchmark figure for use in current snowmobile planning efforts. This decision allows snowmobile trail mileage to increase approximately 15 percent over the present estimated snowmobile trail mileage of 766 miles. It also establishes a firm baseline for DEC and APA staff to complete unit management planning and manage the snowmobile trail system as a whole.



At Left: **James T. Townsend**
Chair State Lands



At Right: **Richard E. Weber III**
Assistant Planning Director

Snowmobilers enjoy trails in the Adirondack Park. The Agency interpreted the "No Material Increase" provision of the Master Plan in 2008. This decision will result in a potential increase to snowmobile trail mileage of about 15 percent over existing levels.



Bog River Complex - Lows Lake

Staff reviewed a unit plan amendment which proposed continued use of commercial float planes, under a permit system, on Lows Lake for a period of 10 years. The State Land Master Plan (SLMP) states that non-conforming uses should be eliminated from Wilderness and Primitive Areas as soon as possible. The SLMP further states that the preservation of the Lows Lake-Bog River-Oswegatchie Wilderness canoe route without motorboat or airplane usage is the primary management goal for this Primitive Area. Staff recommended that the amendment was not consistent with the SLMP, and, in a close decision, the Agency Board agreed with this position. The Agency encouraged DEC to re-evaluate its proposal and work with APA staff to develop a plan that would be consistent with the Lows Lake Primitive Area management goals and the SLMP. Staff from both agencies have initiated efforts on a revised proposal expected in March 2009.

Gore Mountain Interconnect

After reviewing a supplemental environmental impact statement, staff recommended that a rescinded component of the 2005 Gore Mountain Ski Center Unit Management Plan, related to the interconnection with the historic North Creek Ski Bowl, was consistent with the SLMP. The amendment will improve public access and the skiing experience at Gore Mountain and provide an interconnect between Gore Mountain Ski Center, the historic North Creek Ski Bowl and the Hamlet of North Creek. The expansion and interconnect to the North Creek Ski Bowl is expected to increase skier visits from 208,000 (2006-07) to 314,000, resulting in an additional \$52.6 million in visitor spending in the Town of Johnsbury and Warren County.

Review of Universal Access Projects

APA staff reviewed and approved final work plans for three projects intended to provide access opportunities for persons with disabilities in the Lake George Wild Forest and eight similar projects in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest.



Here is some of the work on the new chairlift installation, as seen in the fall of 2008, which was part of the Burnt Ridge expansion at the Gore Mountain Ski Center in the Town of Johnsbury, Warren County.



DEC Environmental Program Specialist Dylan Walrath visits an accessible campsite on Saranac Islands.



Senior Natural Resource Planner Kevin Prickett, in the bow, and Chairman Curtis Stiles paddle on Middle Saranac Lake during a field visit to state campsites.

Local Government Services

The Local Government Services staff works with individual towns in the Park to assist them in planning and zoning and administering Agency-approved local land use programs. The staff also assists communities by attending community meetings, providing written advice, designing workshops and providing plan and code review.



At Left: **William H. Thomas**
Chair Local Government Services

At Right: **Brian F. Grisi**
Local Planning Assistance Specialist

Local Government Training Workshops

Staff was busy in 2008 traveling around the region, participating in seven training events and five workshops on topics critical to local government officials and landowners within the Adirondack Park.

Planning staff presented a training session on Agency jurisdiction and land use planning for municipal planning and zoning board members in Essex and Franklin Counties. The Essex County Planning office and Essex County Cornell Cooperative Extension Service hosted the program.

Assisted by New York State Department of Health (DOH) staff, Agency staff provided training on "On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems and Identifying Soils and Soil Characteristics in the Field." The program was hosted by the Town of Willsboro. Twenty-five people attended: nine local government officials from four communities, with the other attendees being a mix of engineering firms and septic system contractors.

The Town of Hague and Agency staff hosted a training program for local officials in conjunction with the New York State Department of State. The training consisted of a Mock Planning Board Meeting and Hearing, Planning and Zoning Case Law and a session on Records, Findings and Decisions. The program was attended by 24 officials from seven towns.

Agency staff participated in a Realty Subdivision Workshop sponsored by the Washington County Planning and Community Development Office. Approximately 50 planning board and zoning board members attended the training. Staff provided information on jurisdiction and subdivision regulations administered by the Agency for areas of Washington County that are within the Adirondack Park.

Agency staff provided training on "On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems and Identifying Soils and Soil Characteristics in the Field." The program was hosted by the Town of Chester. Staff from the DOH assisted with the program. Twenty-one people attended, including local government officials and septic installer contractors.

Local Government Services Staff hosted a training session featuring Randall Arendt, who is a renowned landscape planner, site designer, author, lecturer and an advocate of "Conservation Planning." Mr. Arendt conducted three sessions in which he discussed key elements of design and approval for subdivisions that incorporate "conservation principles" with a specific focus on Adirondack Park issues. Two sessions were held with Agency staff, and an evening public session was offered and attended by more than 50 local officials and land use planners. The Agency webcasted the public session.



Environmental Program Specialist Robyn Burgess, second from left, observes deep hole test pit demonstration during an APA-sponsored workshop held in the Town of Chester.

Local Government Day

The 11th annual Adirondack Park Agency Local Government Day Conference held on March 25-26 was an outstanding success. Adirondack Park communities were well represented with more than 230 local government officials and Adirondack interest group representatives in attendance.

The conference featured an APA building tour on the morning of March 25 with 85 people attending. In the afternoon, 140 people attended the GIS and Energy sessions held at the APA and DEC buildings. An informal social in the Great Room of the Crown Plaza Resort and Conference Center followed in the evening. On March 26, a full day of training and informational sessions started off with a keynote address by DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis.

The conference is hosted by the Adirondack Park Agency in collaboration with the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, New York State Department of State, DEC, and New York State Department of Economic Development.

In addition to these major efforts, staff attended 23 town planning and zoning board meetings, providing Agency program overviews, advice on land use planning and zoning actions, and specific training programs. Planning staff reviewed two local land use amendments, which the Agency approved. Staff also reviewed 104 local variance referrals and responded to 530 inquires from Town officials on land use issues.



DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis, at the podium, delivers the keynote address at the 2008 Local Government Day.



From left, Town of Inlet Supervisor J.R. Risley and Town of Newcomb Supervisor George Canon reflect on the "good old days" with Department of State Designee Rick Hoffman.



In the workshop above, the APA and New York State Department of State partnered to provide training to planning and zoning board members in the Town of Hague.



At left, Park Agency Chairman Curtis Stiles, second from right, enjoys a humorous moment with Board Members prior to discussion on Adirondack issues facing local governments. From left are Local Government Review Board Executive Director Frederick Monroe; DEC Designee Elizabeth Lowe; Chairman Stiles; and Department of Economic Development Designee Randall Beach.

Economic Services

The Economic Services Unit provides staff expertise in the analysis of market and financial feasibility, economic and fiscal impact analysis, and economic development planning.

It also assists project sponsors, economic developers and planners in the evaluation of business development sites and identifies appropriate sources of business development assistance for entrepreneurs.



At Left: **Arthur Lussi**
Chair Economic Affairs

At Right: **Stephen M. Erman**
Special Assistant-Economic Affairs

The Agency has been working closely with local and regional economic developers in an effort to build economic vitality in communities Parkwide. In the Adirondack Park, as elsewhere in rural New York, economic development is a challenging endeavor. In the Adirondacks, however, there is growing recognition of opportunities based in part on the State's historic protection of the natural environment and the Park's strong image as a "place of people and natural wonder."

New enterprises of all types, created by people who want to achieve the quality of life possible in the Adirondacks, can, with proper assistance, succeed and endure in communities throughout the Park. Further, there is new recognition that many products manufactured in the Adirondacks can be successfully marketed based on an "authentic Adirondack" identity. Current examples include Adirondack furniture, specialty boats, food products, outdoor equipment and camping gear.

The Agency's Special Assistant for Economic Affairs assists new and existing businesses in the Park by arranging and coordinating technical services. A network of State and local organizations share the goal of providing technical assistance, training, financial assistance and siting guidance, which allows entrepreneurs to achieve their objectives in a timely manner. The Special Assistant also helps business people to understand the Agency's regulatory responsibilities and its permitting processes if, in fact, permits are required. The work of the Agency's Economic Services Unit is tightly integrated with the regulatory, planning and public information activities of the Agency.



Chairman Curtis Stiles takes a tour of Old Adirondack, Inc. in Willsboro, Essex County, with the firm's president, Steve Maselli, and plant worker Teresa Ansin. Old Adirondack, a producer of white cedar furniture, relocated its expanded operation to Willsboro in 2002 based on a permit from the Agency. The firm markets its "authentic Adirondack" furniture nationwide based on the strong regional image of the Adirondack Park.

At the Board level in 2008, the Agency, through its Economic Affairs and Park Policy and Planning Committees, focused on a number of issues of importance to Adirondack community vitality. In January, the Economic Affairs Committee heard a presentation by the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems on emerging energy technologies. The presentation provided the Agency with important information in its review and eventual adoption of an energy policy later in the year. In July, the Committee heard a presentation by the Saranac Lake Office of Community Development and its consultants on local redevelopment concepts. The presentation illustrated how the community's streetscape and core features could change based on an earlier comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS). In November, the Committee received an update on the deployment of broadband in the Park's six northern counties.

Economic staff also prepared a draft Affordable/Workforce Housing Policy, which was presented to the Agency's Park Policy and Planning Committee in October. The ongoing availability of affordable housing for year-round residents of the Park is of critical importance to Park communities. The issue received significant attention through the creation of the Adirondack Community Housing Trust in 2006. In its consideration of the draft policy, the Agency is discussing how it can best assist the efforts of the Trust, other regional housing organizations, and Adirondack Park towns and villages in addressing affordable housing needs.

In other initiatives during 2008, the Agency provided planning information and technical support to the Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project (APRAP), a community and economic development planning effort jointly sponsored by the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages (AATV), the Town of Chester, and the Town of Arietta. The project, scheduled for completion in the spring of 2009, received grant funding through the Quality Communities Program.



Snowmobiling is an important component of the Park's winter economy. These snowmobilers are taking a break in the Hamlet of Lake Clear, Franklin County.



Visitors and residents enjoy swimming in the Town of Wilmington, Essex County. The Park offers world-class recreational opportunities.



The historic Village of Port Henry, seen here from the Crown Point State Historic Site, an important gateway to the Park from Vermont, is participating in a tourism destination planning study funded through the State's Smart Growth Program.



Agriculture helps sustain the Adirondack economy and enhances its scenic appeal. Momentum continues to build in support of food production and agricultural diversification in the Adirondack Park.



Events, such as the annual Fabulous Folk Festival in Bolton Landing, provide important stimulus to local economies.

Interpretive Programs

The Interpretive Programs Division oversees two Visitor Interpretive Centers (VICs) in the Adirondack Park located in Paul Smiths and Newcomb. They offer environmental education and visitor orientation services. Both facilities feature exhibits, indoor and outdoor public programs and miles of scenic, bark-surfaced trails where people can learn about the Park's ecology. They are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., year-round, Tuesday to Saturday. Admission is free. For more information, log on to the VIC web site at www.adkvic.org.



Above: **Elizabeth M. Lowe**
Chair Interpretive Programs

The Interpretive Programs Division in 2008 re-focused its attention toward helping the Adirondack Park Agency fulfill its mission "to protect the public and private resources of the Park through the exercise of the powers and duties provided by law." In doing so, staff at the Agency's Visitor Interpretive Centers (VICs) in Newcomb and Paul Smiths helped fulfill the Division's mission to enhance public awareness of Park resources and the Agency's and New York State's role in their protection.

Changes were made on the education level in 2008 as educators began developing new programs, and re-designing existing ones, that help teach the public how the Agency protects the Adirondack Park's resources. Environmental Educator Michael Brennan, the Paul Smiths VIC Director, took an existing APA slide presentation and created a newer version called "People and the Park: How New Yorkers Have Shaped the Adirondacks We See Today." This PowerPoint presentation will be given regularly at both VICs and is offered as an outreach program to be given at locations throughout the region.

Changes were made on the maintenance level in 2008 as both VICs became actively involved in the Agencywide energy-savings plan. In addition to installing more efficient light bulbs and reducing the use of office equipment, the VICs began a new winter schedule by closing both buildings on Sunday and Monday. The buildings are now using less fuel, as the thermostats are lowered continuously for almost 40 percent of the week during the winter months.

Changes were made at the communication level in 2008 as Senior Public Information Specialist Andy Flynn, the VIC spokesman, was assigned to work under the direction of Agency Public Information Director Keith McKeever. Together, they re-designed the Adirondack Observer (the VIC newsletter) to include a front-page story detailing one aspect of how the Agency protects the Park. For example, the Fall/Winter 2008 Observer featured a story about protecting Adirondack wetlands. A story about the Agency's role in approving cell phone towers in the Park was planned for the Winter/Spring 2009 Adirondack Observer.

New initiatives

Both VICs continued to strengthen their partnerships in 2008 with the DEC and other agencies, organizations, educational institutions, and local businesses, including the Adirondack Mountain Club, Adirondack Museum, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), Adirondack Ecological Center, Paul Smith's College, Adirondack Artisan Catering, Adirondack Connections Guide Service, Adirondack Lakes and Trails Outfitters, Ben & Jerry's of Lake Placid, Franklin County Tourism, High Peaks Cyclery Mountain Adventure Center, Hohmeyer's Lake Clear Lodge, Olympic Regional Development Authority, Town of Newcomb, St. Regis Canoe Outfitters, and The Wild Center.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS STAFF

NEWCOMB STAFF

Rynda McCray, *VIC Director*
Ellen Rathbone, *Environmental Educator*
Michael Tracy, *Maintenance Assistant*
Joyce M. King, *Keyboard Specialist*
Ann LaRose, *Volunteer Services Coordinator*
Mary Tisi, *Student Aide*
Brian Poulton, *Laborer*

PAUL SMITHS STAFF

Michael Brennan, *VIC Director*
Milton B. Adams, *Environmental Educator*
Joanne B. MacDowell, *Administrative Aide*
Cara McCann, *Artist/Designer*
Andy Flynn, *Sr. Public Information Specialist*
C. George Hare, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Kyle Martin, *Laborer*
Lydia Wright, *Volunteer Services Coordinator*
Penny Dufrane, *Maintenance Assistant*
Camille Burns, *Student Aide*

The Newcomb VIC successfully hosted the first Adirondack Rock Fest on Aug. 9, 2008. The event was designed to increase appreciation and understanding of regional geology and included presentations by New York State Geologist Dr. William Kelly; Matt Podniesinski, of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Mineral Resources; Chris Water, of Barton Mines Company, and Eve Bailey, of NYCO Minerals; Adirondack Museum staff; and Alan Jones, of SUNY Binghamton. In addition, Paul B. Hai, of SUNY-ESF's Adirondack Ecological Center, led a field trip to the McIntyre and Tahawus mines in Newcomb. Environmental Educator Rynda McCray, the Newcomb VIC Director, co-organized the event with the Adirondack Museum and the Adirondack Ecological Center.

The Paul Smiths VIC created a partnership with North Country Public Radio (NCPR) to host the radio station's 40th anniversary 40k/20k Run/Walk on May 10, 2008. The event included live music, a bird-of-prey program, children's activities, and a competitive run/walk on the Center's trail system. Some participants said this was the most scenic course they've ever competed on during their running careers. Runners came from as far away as Ontario.

The Interpretive Programs Division took the lead on publishing the first Adirondack Environmental Education Resource Guide, a 14-page document produced by the Adirondack Collaborative of Environmental Educators. The document includes information about the educational programs offered at the VICs and seven other organizations. [It is available on the VIC web site](#) as a PDF download.

The Interpretive Programs Division and The Wild Center created a new partnership to develop programs using the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) curriculum and teaching method. Artist/Designer Cara McCann and educators from The Wild Center traveled to New York City in July 2008 to attend the Professional Development Institute, where they were trained in VTS. In 2009, they expect to offer VTS-based outreach and field trip programs to Adirondack schools.

The VICs continued to search for inexpensive ways to promote their programs and facilities and relied on the media and other organizations for their assistance. The Paul Smiths VIC was invited to participate in an advertising campaign on one of seven new buses from Franklin County Public Transportation, and a new bus promoting the Center as "Earth Day, Every Day" was placed into service in June 2008.

More than 92,000 people visited the Agency's VICs in 2008: 28,447 at Newcomb and 64,329 at Paul Smiths. Attendance for programs, schools and groups was 3,890 in Newcomb and 12,415 at Paul Smiths. The Interpretive Programs Division provided outreach education to 1,748 people in 2008 (624 from Newcomb and 1,124 from Paul Smiths).

The VIC volunteers assist in many areas both on and off the centers' properties. In 2008, 4,285 volunteer hours were donated at Paul Smiths, and 190 were donated at Newcomb.



Above, Rock Fest 2008 visitors tour the McIntyre Iron Works in the Town of Newcomb. Below, a runner finishes the NCPR 40th Anniversary Race at the Paul Smiths VIC.



Heron Marsh at the Paul Smiths VIC, as seen in March 2008



At Left: **Rynda McCray**
Environmental Educator and Center Director,
Newcomb VIC

At Right: **Michael Brennan**
Environmental Educator and Center Director,
Paul Smiths VIC

Adirondack Park Institute

The Adirondack Park Institute, Inc. (API) was created in 1989 as a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit corporation to provide environmental educational and interpretive opportunities to schools, area visitors, children and their families.

The API accomplishes this mission through a partnership with the two Visitor Interpretive Centers (VICs) operated by the Adirondack Park Agency. The API's primary source of funding comes from the annual contributions of its membership. The API also administers grants for the benefit of program development at the VICs. The API supports environment education programs, special events, publications and curricula at the Paul Smiths and Newcomb VICs.



Martha E. Van der Voort
Executive Director, API

As the Adirondack Park Institute (API) prepared to celebrate 20 years of work, important changes to the organization were made in 2008. A full-time staff person was hired for the first time and permanent headquarters were moved from the Newcomb Town Hall and established at the Paul Smiths VIC. Program support for the Butterfly House, the Chilly Ski Festival, Adirondack Wildlife Festival, summer interns, and a variety of art exposure events continued. A new raptor cage was constructed to enhance the Bird-of-Prey program at the Newcomb VIC, and the important work of a dedicated corps of VIC volunteers at both facilities was again recognized through several special events.

In December 2008, the API initiated an informal Friends Walk every second Saturday of the month in Paul Smiths and every third Wednesday of the month in Newcomb. These walks continue throughout the year, and they are free and open to the public.

Annual membership provides the primary source of funding for API-sponsored programs. Benefits were expanded in 2008, and new members are always welcomed. Visitors are encouraged to stop by the new office at the Paul Smiths VIC to learn more about API, contact the Executive Director at (518) 327-3376, or visit online at www.adirondackparkinstitute.org.

Officers and Executive Director

President, Valerie L. Trudeau
Vice President, Development, Charles F. Monzeglio Jr.
Vice President, Membership, Stuart H. Angert
Secretary, Thad P. Collum
Treasurer, Col. Robert C. Lilly, USAF (Ret.)
Executive Director, Martha E. Van der Voort, Ph.D.



Jacob Adams roasts a marshmallow during the annual Friends & Families Snowshoe Day in January 2008 at the Paul Smiths VIC. The Adirondack Park Institute funds events such as this at both VICs.

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, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board Executive Director Frederick Monroe plays a prominent and active role in all deliberations. The Park Agency's efforts to achieve balanced decision making are greatly enhanced by this dialogue.

The State of New York provides operating funds for the Local Government Review Board through the Park Agency's budget.

Chairman and Officers

- Chairman, George Canon, Essex County
- Executive Director, Frederick Monroe
- Counsel, John C. McDonald
- Secretary, Carol A. Monroe

Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board



Frederick Monroe
Executive Director, APLGRB



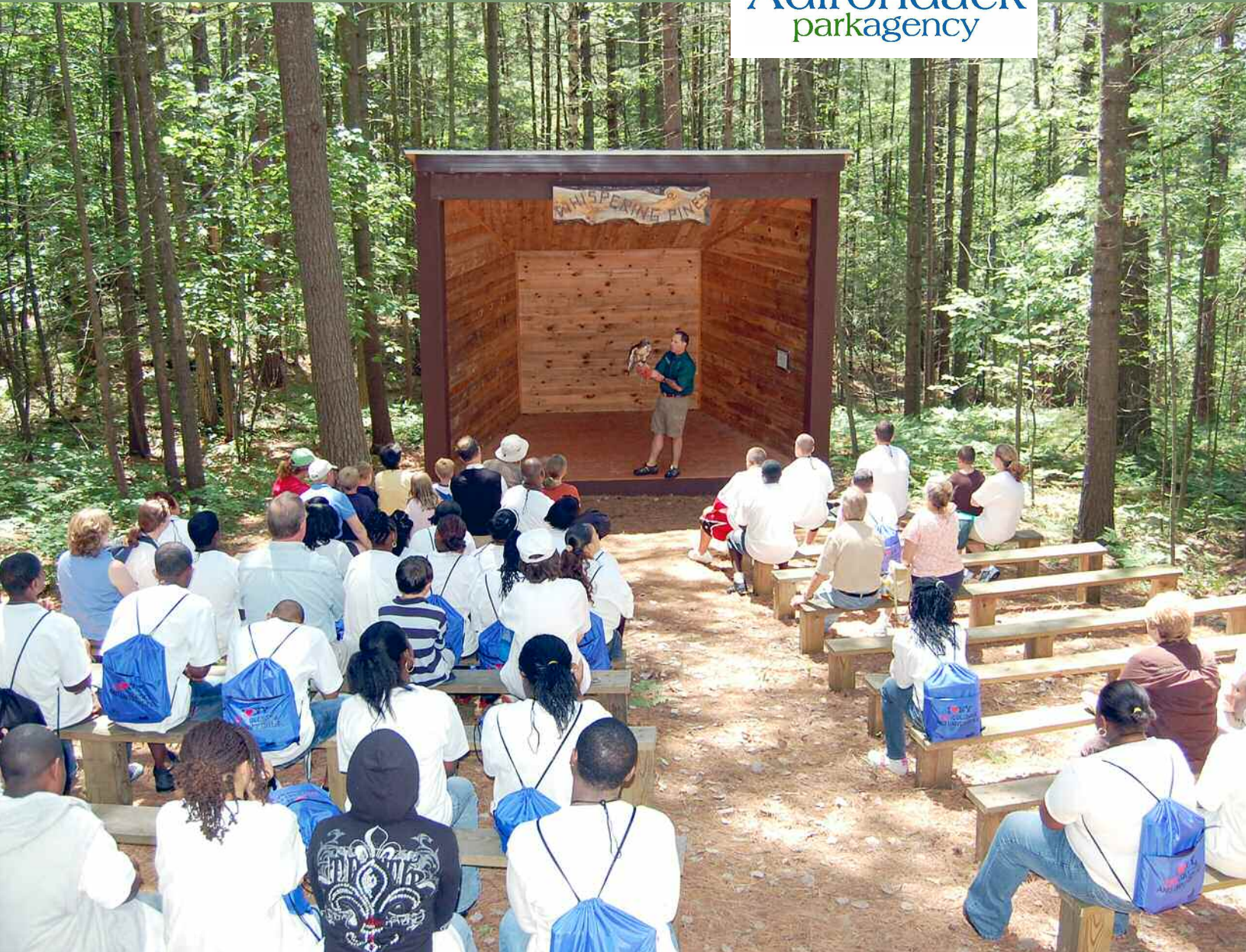
Stephen Maselli, President of Old Adirondack, Inc. located in the Willsboro Business Park, meets with the Local Government Review Board to discuss opportunities for marketing "authentic" Adirondack products based on the strong image of the Adirondack Park. Mr. Maselli recently secured a sales contract with a noted national retailer for his Adirondack-style cedar furniture.



In follow-up to their meeting with Old Adirondack's Stephen Maselli, the Local Government Review Board hired Ryan Hutton as a summer intern to survey Adirondack businesses which could potentially benefit from the regional branding of their products as "Authentic Adirondack." Above, Ryan enjoys a break with a round of golf at the High Peaks Golf Course in the Town of Newcomb, Essex County.

NEW YORK STATE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

David A. Paterson, Governor



State of New York Adirondack Park Agency

Route 86, P.O. Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977, (518) 891-4050

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

World Wide Web: www.apa.state.ny.us (APA), www.adkvic.org (VICs)

David A. Paterson, Governor • Curtis F. Stiles, Chairman • James E. Connolly, Acting Executive Director