



Annual Report  
2011-12

# Letter from Protect the Adirondacks

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*Cover picture of Hudson River*  
*by Melody Thomas*

The Board of Protect the Adirondacks took bold actions in 2011-12 to assure our viability in protecting this most sacred part of New York State. Two main organization changes occurred: veteran Park activist Peter Bauer was hired as the Executive Director and the building housing the Center for the Forest Preserve in Niskayuna was transferred to Union College.

Peter Bauer brings many years of experience in Adirondack Park advocacy and managing grassroots non-profit organizations. Peter said "I feel very privileged to get the opportunity to join PROTECT. We're faced with terrific challenges around the Park, from monitoring decisions by regulatory agencies to advocating for new Wilderness areas to protecting the Forest Preserve from motorized uses to protecting Park forests from clearcutting. PROTECT brings strong principles and political savvy to these issues so I'm confident that we can help to improve things."

Peter Borrelli, who negotiated the agreements with Union College on behalf of the PROTECT Board in his capacity as senior advisor, said "The goals of the Board of Directors were to retire debt associated with the construction and operation of the building, find a new use for the building compatible with the purposes intended by Schaefer and the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, and maintain the library in the Capital District. This transaction will fulfill all three."

Protecting Adirondack waters continued to be one of our main concerns. Our Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP), now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, is a water quality monitoring program of currently 70 lakes run primarily through the generous support of volunteers. This year our annual Clean Water Benefit was held at the Adirondack Interpretive Center August 2011 in Newcomb, raising the awareness on the importance of clean waters to the ecological balance in the Park. On the legal front, in August 2011 New York State ruled in favor of a lawsuit brought by PROTECT and the Adirondack Mountain Club stating that the bed and water of Lows Lake are Wilderness, a ruling that will help protect Adirondack waters.

PROTECT was a major player in the Adirondack Club and Resort (ACR) adjudicatory hearing. We presented expert witnesses on the financial and fiscal risks of the project as well as other topics. After the Adirondack Park Agency approved the application, PROTECT, the Sierra Club, and three co-petitioners sued the Adirondack Park Agency, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the developer of the proposed Adirondack Club and Resort in Tupper Lake charging that the APA violated its legal mandate.

The Conservation Advocacy Committee forms the heart of our activism and is open to all members of PROTECT. The Committee this year, with approval from the Board, revised its position statements covering snowmobile use and management in the Adirondack Park and Constitutional Amendments for Township 40 around Raquette Lake and the NYCO mines in Lewis, in the Champlain Valley.

These are just a few of the things that PROTECT worked on to preserve the Park. During this fiscal year we made significant progress in developing an organizational culture of a genuinely grassroots nature with an activist board, with many public advocacy and programmatic functions being performed by volunteers. With the addition of an exemplary Executive Director PROTECT is now the leader in assuring a protected and sustainable Adirondack Park for now and for future generations. Join with us.

—Chuck Clusen, Lorraine Duvall, Bob Harrison,  
Protect the Adirondacks co-Chairs, 2011-2012



## PROTECT Defends Bobcats

Protect the Adirondacks vigorously opposed the introduction of the new Bobcat Management Plan finalized by Department of Environment (DEC) in October 2012. The DEC plan is based on inadequate science, relying largely on the self-reported “harvesting” of bobcats by hunters and trappers. Most disturbingly, without proper field research on existing populations, this plan permits the “harvesting” of hundreds more bobcats in other areas of New York State.

PROTECT’s primary objection to the Plan is that it made no attempt to study the role of the bobcat in the broad ecological order of either the Adirondack Park or any other place in New York State. The “forever wild” character of the



Picture by Susan C. Morse.

Park requires a healthy natural balance among the many species that currently – and historically – occupy this ecosystem. The bobcat is a reclusive animal and one of only two major predators in the Park. Without wolves and cougars, bobcats and coyotes are the only animals that limit the deer population and help to keep it in a natural balance. A healthy bobcat population also controls rodents, rabbits and hare, which do damage to plant ecosystems on the forest floor. In its management of wildlife populations the DEC has an obligation to maintain the ecological integrity of both the Park and of the biosystems of New York State. It cannot do this without scientifically sound field research.

The DEC bases much of its reasoning for the expansion of bobcat hunting on the fact that the number of bobcats harvested is going up. DEC estimates that 10% or more of the bobcat population is “harvested” in a year. Hence, DEC believes an increase in bobcat “harvests” shows a growing population. Bobcat pelt prices have risen sharply in the past several years, driven by the luxury fur markets in China, Russia and Greece. DEC sees no correlation in the higher pelt prices and increased bobcat hunting.

One of the most memorable wildlife sightings that any backcountry hiker might hope to see is a bobcat. A healthy population is the best way to promote this objective. Good research will also ensure sustainable populations for other traditional uses, a “win-win” situation for sportsmen. As this annual report went to press the DEC had, unfortunately, begun writing new rules to fully implement this new Plan.



## Bob and Marie Snyder Leave Bequest to PROTECT

Bob and Marie Snyder, who lived off the grid for 30 years in Paradox, near Schroon Lake, left a generous bequest to Protect the Adirondacks. This gift was an effort to further their lifelong desire for preservation of wild places in the Adirondacks. Bob and Marie were deeply appreciative of the natural world in all its beauty and infinite variety. They lived very lightly on the earth, using almost no fossil fuels for daily life in their forest home.

As Bob and Marie told their story, they moved to a camp deep in the woods after leaving a house on an Adirondack lake because of ever increasing encroaching development and disturbances from recreational vehicles. They built a very efficient log home from the trees and rocks on their land, using nothing but hand tools and a wheelbarrow, cutting all the building wood and beams with a two-man saw and ax.

Bob and Marie loved the peace and quiet of living a half mile by trail from their bicycles, which they mainly used for supplies, and their seldom-used car. After attending a series of meetings held by a predecessor organization of PROTECT about the need for further protections for the Adirondack Park, Bob and Marie supported the conservation group for two decades in its work to limit the impacts of development in the Park and maintain the Forest Preserve as forever wild.

## Victory for Wilderness for Lows Lake



Lows Lake, a popular canoeing destination, has been the focus of controversy for years as a result of the state's failure to classify it as Wilderness despite the requirements of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP). In 2010, Protect the Adirondacks and the Adirondack Mountain Club brought a lawsuit challenging this failure. As a result in August 2011, Justice Lynch, a state Supreme Court judge, ruled that the lake is Wilderness and that the state must manage it as such. In his opinion, Justice Lynch held that the APA erred when it approved a resolution in November 2009 that left the lake unclassified. The Court also noted that Lows Lake was included in a 1987 Wilderness classification of about 9,100 acres, a classification that was signed by then-Governor Mario Cuomo. The decision not only confirmed that Lows Lake has been Wilderness for a quarter century, it upheld the principle that the APA has a

*Lows Lake is a truly stunning water body.*

legal obligation to classify all water bodies that are part of the Adirondack Forest Preserve.

On June 8, 2012, the NYS Attorney General's Office, which represents DEC and APA, filed a formal withdrawal of its appeal of Justice Lynch's decision, bringing the matter to a close.

"This decision underscores the fact that the lakes and water bodies of the Adirondacks need protection as much as the land and forests do," PROTECT Conservation & Advocacy Co-Chair John Caffry said. "In fact, the need to protect Adirondack waters was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Forest Preserve in 1885."

# PROTECT Launched Legal Challenge to APA's Decision to Approve 6,000-Acre Adirondack Club & Resort Project

In January 2012, PROTECT started a lawsuit to challenge the approval by the Adirondack Park of the 6,000-acre Adirondack Club & Resort (ACR) project in Tupper Lake. PROTECT participated in the formal adjudicatory hearing administered by the APA that led to the APA's approvals. During the APA's final revision and decision, we found numerous irregularities and violations of law.

The ACR project is a terrific illustration of exurban sprawl, one of the major threats to the ecological integrity and productivity of private lands in the Adirondacks. Development that fragments forestlands inevitably degrades ecosystems and is inconsistent with the desire to keep forestlands in sustainable production and open space.

The threat posed by sprawl is one reason why the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) land classification and regulation program contains the Resource Management classification, an open space zoning classification, which limits development to 15 buildings per square mile. Development in Resource Management is supposed to be clustered and it is the most restrictive in the Adirondack Park.

PROTECT believes that the ACR project sets a dangerous precedent that will be replicated across the Park. This development threatens not only the ecological integrity of 4,700 acres of Resource Management lands in Tupper Lake, but also threatens over 1.5 million acres of other Resource Management lands across the Adirondack Park.

Finally, PROTECT believes that there were significant irregularities in the APA's decision to approve the ACR project was made. Hence there are important issues of good government that must be raised.

- When it approved the ACR project, the APA referred to its laws as "guidelines" and "recommendations." This never happened before.
- The APA also illegally supplemented the public hearing record to support its faulty or non-existent findings. The purpose of a formal public hearing is to make a record to support a decision. The APA is not supposed to use information outside the hearing to make a decision.
- The project violates the law by fragmenting 4,805 acres of undeveloped forestlands, classified as "Resource Management" by the Adirondack Park

Agency Act, into 35 "Great Camp" lots and 45 other smaller lots. None of these 80 lots in the Resource Management lands are situated, as the statute calls for, "in small clusters on carefully-selected and well designed sites."

- Despite having formally asked the developers to prepare a 4-season, comprehensive wildlife study no less than four times, the APA approved the fragmentation of the undeveloped forest lands without ever having received an impact study.
- Even more puzzling is the APA's approval of the project on the condition that more studies of impacts to wildlife would be done after that approval, rather than beforehand.
- ACR's principal financing is illegal. The initial road, sewer, water and electric infrastructure for the project is proposed to be financed by \$36 million in bonds to be issued by the Franklin County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). The IDA's own bond counsel has also questioned the novel scheme.
- APA violated its own regulations in numerous respects, including allowing illegal "ex parte" contacts (communications not on notice to the other parties to the proceeding) between the developer's representatives and APA's executive staff.
- PROTECT is also concerned about a public statement by a local official indicating that there was improper influence by the developers in the APA's decision. Since then, this same local official has revealed that there was also improper political influence on the decision.

PROTECT also believes that ACR is not economically viable and is unlikely to be the economic salvation of the Tupper Lake area. One expert witness testified during the hearing that the ACR developers "are unlikely to get anywhere near what they project for property sale prices and volume. Big Tupper [Ski Area] does not have brand recognition, is too far from key metro areas, and is not using cutting-edge ski lift technology."

Currently all parties are awaiting decisions on various motions around access to witnesses and withheld documents relative to the allegations of illegal ex parte communications. A final decision is expected by the end of 2013.



## PROTECT's Board of Directors brings Broad Experiences and Extensive Community Involvement

The Board of Directors of Protect the Adirondacks brings a great deal of experience and history to its work to protect the open spaces, natural resources, and rural communities of the Adirondack Park. Here is a brief overview of PROTECT's activist Board of Directors.

**Nancy Bernstein**, Vermontville. Nancy works as a builder of timberframe houses and barns, and as a freelance illustrator and mapmaker. She has served on the Town of Franklin's Planning Board and its Committee to draft subdivision regulations, and is a leader of PROTECT's Adirondack Lake Assessment Program.

**Anya Bickford**, Indian Lake. Anya is a retired nurse practitioner, currently serving as a volunteer on the Indian Lake Planning Board. Active on PROTECT's Conservation Advocacy Committee, Anya enjoys hiking the woods and paddling the waters of the region in all seasons, and is particularly concerned about water pollution and the impact of invasive aquatic species.

**John Caffry**, Glens Falls. John is a partner in the law firm of Caffry & Flower, concentrating in environmental and land use law. On the Executive Committee of the NY State Bar Association's Environmental Law Section, John also co-chairs PROTECT's Conservation Advocacy Committee, and is member of Adirondack Mountain Club's Conservation Committee. John makes the Palinesque claim that when the leaves are down he can see the Adirondack Park from his Glens Falls home. In his spare time he hikes, camps, paddles, and skis in the Adirondacks.

**Chuck Clusen**, Arlington, VA and Saranac Inn, NY. Chuck is the Director of that National Parks and Alaska Projects for the Natural Resources Defense Council. His forty years of advocating protection for federal public lands include organizing and leading a coalition that pushed Congress to pass the Alaska National Interest Lands Act of 1980 which created over a 100 million acres of national parks and wildlife refuges and an additional 56 million acres of Wilderness, as well providing leadership in the successful Congressional designation of more than 14 million acres of Wilderness in the lower 48 states. Having served as Executive Director of the Adirondack Council, Chuck has long been familiar with Adirondack Park management and issues.

**Dean Cook**, DMD, Ticonderoga. Dean is an Adirondack native with a private dental practice in Ticonderoga. He

holds a BA from the University of Buffalo and a DMD from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a past board member of the Adirondack Council, the Lake Champlain Committee, the Lake George Land Conservancy, and a past President of High Peaks Audubon. He currently serves on the Lake George Park Commission, and is active on PROTECT's Conservation Advocacy Committee.

**John Douglas**, Pittsburgh, PA. John is a retired Senior Vice President of National Aluminum Corporation. From 1994-2001, John was Chief Operating Officer, Secretary & Treasurer of Rolling Rock Club in Ligonier, PA. In the early 1960s, John worked as a registered NYS Fishing Guide. He has served on the boards of The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, The Adirondack League Club, and a number of not for profit boards in Pittsburgh; currently treasurer of The First Tee of Pittsburgh, a youth development organization and am treasurer of The Neighborhood Academy, a college preparatory high school for inner city, low income students.

**Mary Lou Doulin**, Hague. Mary Lou is a retired elementary art teacher and art instructor at North Country Community College. She sat on the Town of Hague Zoning Board and is an avid outdoorswoman and gardener. She is active in numerous civic efforts in Hague.

**Lorraine M. Duvall**, Ph.D., Keene. Lorraine is a retired computer software engineer and director of research who is now active in community organizations, including service as a member of the Keene Planning Board, the Essex County Community Services Board, the Ausable River Association; and the Executive Committee, Hurricane Mountain Chapter, of the Adirondack Mountain Club. A lover of the Adirondacks since her youth, as a resident Lorraine now relishes hiking the woods and paddling quiet waters. Her civic pursuits have helped her to understand and respect the range of perspectives among those who live and visit here, and at the same time reinforced her commitment to protecting the Adirondack environment for generations to come.

**Robert Glennon**, Ray Brook. Bob recently retired from twelve years as an Assistant Attorney General in the NYS Department of Law, bringing extensive prior conservation experience to PROTECT. He was CEO of Ecologically Sustainable Development, Inc., for international application of ecologically informed land use planning. For over twenty years Bob served the APA, first as Counsel and then as Executive Director; authored two Technical



Papers for Governor Mario Cuomo’s Commission on the Adirondacks in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and was a member of the Governor’s negotiating team on Adirondack legislation. His recognition for environmental achievement include awards from the NYS Bar Association, The Adirondack Council, Environmental Advocates, and the Albany Law School.

**Evelyn Greene**, North Creek. Evelyn is a naturalist and writer specializing in mosses, bogs, & river ice. A hiker, paddler, and snowshoer who enjoys introducing people to the fascinating natural world, she is an active member of PROTECT’s Conservation Advocacy Committee, chairing its subcommittee on motorized access and serving as a co-leader of the Adirondack Lakes Assessment Program. She sees the future of the Adirondack economy and the attractiveness of our towns as dependent on keeping the waters clean, the air pure, the private forests healthy and the public forests truly wild, with plentiful opportunities to enjoy the very rare natural resource of peace and quiet.

**Sid Harring**, Mayfield. Sid grew up practicing forestry on his family farm in Wisconsin. After forty years of teaching at six different law schools, he retired to a “timber tract” in the Adirondack Park, and leads PROTECT’s program to promote sustainable forestry practices on the Park’s private lands. Sid loves the diversity of Adirondack forests, and manages his own to model the highest standards of sustainable forestry.

**Robert Harrison**, Brant Lake. Bob is a retired engineer and sales executive from the machine tool industry. He is a past Board Chair of the Residents’ Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, Chief Pumperman for the Horicon Volunteer Fire Department and chaired the Public Service Sub-Committee of the Town of Horicon Master Plan Steering Committee.

*The PROTECT Board of Directors at work and at play. A dedicated group of volunteers leads on policy review, conservation priorities, charts a course of advocacy and public education, and ensures PROTECT’s financial viability.*

**Bill Healy**, Ballston Lake. Bill is a long-time book dealer who has been involved in many research and cultural organizations in the Capitol District. He has been very involved in the Adirondack Research Library.

**Peter Hornbeck**, Olmstedville. Peter grew up in and around Buffalo, New York. After college and military service he and his wife, Ann, moved to the central Adirondacks where they have lived in Olmstedville for the last 40 years. Pete worked as a school teacher in Johnsbury for 30 years and founded Hornbeck Boats, a well known line of lightweight solo and tandem boats. Hornbeck Boats are famous for their light weight and ability to be carried great distances into the backwoods.

**Dale Jeffers**, Slingerlands. An attorney and certified public accountant, Dale has served as an officer and director of several advocacy organizations. Long active in Adirondack issues, and while often frustrated by the negative Adirondack regulatory and political climate, he finds great rewards in the progress of Park protection that PROTECT and its predecessors have served. The Adirondack Park continues as a place where his spirit soars.

**Maryde King**, Niskayuna. Maryde managed the Adirondack Research Library for years and its predecessor the Adirondack Research Center at the Schenectady Museum. She is an accomplished archivist and librarian. She taught at the SUNY Albany Library School.



**Charles Morrison**, Saratoga Springs. From municipal planning to rural resources management, Charlie has performed a wide variety of roles in his long career of public service. He has worked in New York City's Department of Planning, in the U.S. Dept. of Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and the NYS office for Local Government. His 25 years with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation included management leadership in the Forest Preserve Bureau, Division of Lands and Forests, and responsibilities for open space planning, public navigation rights, and conservation easements. To PROTECT Charlie brings invaluable expertise, particularly in Forest Preserve, Article XIV, and land acquisition issues. As a member of the Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter, Charlie serves on its Adirondack Committee.



**Peter O'Shea**, Fine. Peter is a retired Sergeant from the New York City Police Department, a well known Adirondack naturalist with four published books on wildlife and hiking in the Adirondacks. He also serves as Lay Minister of Saint Hubert's Church in Star Lake and serves on various advisory boards to state agencies and local governments.

**David Quinn**, Saratoga Springs. Dave is Senior Vice President of The Ayco Company, which provides tax and investment services to corporate executives and private individuals. Joining the board of its predecessor organization in 1999, he now serves PROTECT as its Treasurer. Dave's lifelong attachment to the Adirondacks was nurtured during youthful summers in the foothills near Croghan and Belfort, and today his outdoor activities include hiking and fishing in the Park.

**Marilyn Sargent**, Edinburg. Marilyn is a retired Special Educator and writer. She resides in the Southern Adirondacks on the Great Sacandaga Reservoir, where she and her partner completely renovated one of the original Batchellerville homes built in 1850. She takes pride in having conquered numerous high peaks; some in mid winter on snow shoes. Taking high school students winter camping in those same mountains became another passion. Her activism began when the state proposed building a very high bridge to replace the span that had crossed the Sacandaga for the last 80 years. She states, "The Batchellerville Bridge is part of my view from my front windows. I was so upset by the unnecessary height of the State's design, that I found myself taking over a 'Here's your bridge' presentation, and rallying the citizens to send the engineers back to the drawing board. Ever since, I find it very difficult to keep my opinions to myself."

*Two views of the wild Hudson River gorge. Left is the Blue Ledges and on the right the rapids among a wall of Cedars.*

**Kenneth Strike**, Ph.D., Thendara. Ken is a Professor Emeritus at Cornell University where he taught education ethics, law, and policy for thirty years. He is a member of the National Academy of Education. His most recent book is *Small Schools and Strong Communities: a Third Way of School Reform* (2010). He is also an elder at Nicolls Memorial Presbyterian Church in Old Forge where he sings in the church choir and chairs the Mission Committee. In this latter role he helped to create a program to develop and support an elementary school in a poor rural village in Uganda. He has served as a board member of CAP-21, a community development agency, in Old Forge.

**Michael Wilson**, Ph.D., Saranac Lake. A retired college professor of cultural history, Michael most recently collaborated over a decade to develop a field-based major in Environmental Studies of the Adirondacks at SUNY-Potsdam. Serving for over 20 years as Associate Director of Great Camp Sagamore, a National Historic Landmark in Raquette Lake, he has developed a public history program that interprets Great Camps in light of the Adirondack Park's unique conservation story. As a licensed Adirondack guide, Michael brought the first wood boats back to the whitewater of the upper Hudson River Gorge since the log-driving bateaus in the 1930s.

**Abbie Verner**, Long Lake. Abbie is the Archivist for the Town of Long Lake and worked for many years as a development consultant with a variety of non-profits in the Capitol District.



# PROTECT Completes 15 Successful Years of Water Quality Monitoring across the Adirondack Park



The Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP), managed by Protect the Adirondacks in partnership with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith's College, has finished its 15<sup>th</sup> year of successful lake monitoring. ALAP now monitors 69 Adirondack lakes and ponds. ALAP's dozens of dedicated volunteers continue to do their part to create the critical database required to determine the long-term trends in water quality in the Adirondacks.

Every summer ALAP volunteers wait for three to five sunny, calm days. Then they load their collection bottles and equipment into canoes or boats and paddle or drive to the middle of their chosen lake or pond, collect water samples, filter them, and store them in a freezer until they can be delivered to AWI for analysis.

Why collect this data? Shoreline landowners, residents, local governments, businesses, tourists, and Adirondack Park regulators all care about keeping our waters clean and our lakes attractive. Good data about water quality is crucial to this effort. Because most of the lakes ALAP monitors are developed lakes or are near roads, they are very susceptible to road salt and pollution from human land use impacts, such as land clearing, yards, buildings, residential and commercial land uses. AWI has recently used ALAP data to produce a comprehensive report on de-icing recommendations in the Park. It has also produced a peer-reviewed study of salt pollution trends in the Adirondack Park. Protect the Adirondacks' ALAP program is a critical player in this important effort because AWI does not have the resources to monitor these lakes on its own.

ALAP water samples are also tested for pH, alkalinity, calcium, the calcium saturation index, transparency, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, nitrate, chloride, conductivity, color, aluminum, and dissolved oxygen. This year for

the first time ALAP and AWI also monitored *E. coli* levels, an important indicator of possible septic system failure, in association with Adirondack Action. The long-term data ALAP provides makes it possible to do many other important studies on water quality trends in the Adirondacks.

AWI designed the testing program, provides the equipment (for which ALAP volunteers or a sponsoring lake association purchase), trains volunteers, analyzes the samples, and writes each lake's report. These reports and other ALAP information are available on PROTECT's website. AWI staff are also available for public presentations concerning changes in Adirondack water quality and their effects on lake evolution.

ALAP is a good example of successful collaboration. The Adirondacks needs reliable research on Adirondack water quality to shape public policy that ensures beautiful and healthy water bodies. AWI, as a scientific institution, is enabled by ALAP volunteers to do research that similarly promotes sound public policy and furthers our understanding of human effects on the environment. The partnership has worked very well the last 15 years. We hope it will continue for many more!

## Stand up for Wilderness and Sign our Online Petition

Go to [www.adirondackparkpetition.com](http://www.adirondackparkpetition.com) and support the creation of a new Hudson Headwaters Wilderness Area.

## Forest Stewardship Program

The Adirondack Park is a mosaic of public (52%) and private (48%) lands, mostly forested. The “forever wild” character of the Adirondack forest requires that private and public forests maintain an ecological relationship that promotes the wilderness qualities of the Park. This “patchwork” pattern of forest ownership, if not properly managed, can defeat the entire “wild” purpose of the Park: after all, moose, bobcats, fishers, and martins roam both public and private lands without knowledge of ownership and in disregard of state land classifications.

Recognizing this, eleven years ago the Residents’ Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (RCPA), one of PROTECT’s predecessor organizations, created a forestry program aimed at promoting sustainable forestry practices among private landowners. This program continues today with over 16,000 acres enrolled, representing different types of forests throughout the Park. However, over time, we have come to realize that “sustainability” does not fully define our goals. In fact we now have a group of private forest owners who are not only committed to sustainable forestry, but who are also committed to the highest ecological standards of forest management, standards that respect the wild character of the Park. If a revitalized private forestry economy is going to return to the Park, PROTECT believes that forest lands will need to be managed not only for sustainable production, but with sensitivity to the ecological factors required to sustain a wild Adirondacks.

In addition, new challenges have overtaken forestry in the Adirondack Park in the succeeding period. The collapse of the timber industry and low prices for forest products have provided a challenging environment for private forestry in the Park. The state’s purchase of hundreds of thousands of acres of recreational easements from the large timber companies – a huge subsidy for these operations – has disadvantaged small forest owners who do not have access to this level of support. The arrival of new tree diseases, threatening our beech, ash and hemlock forests, also poses difficulties for small forest owners. Global warming is hastening the arrival of these diseases as well as changing the growing conditions that support the traditional Adirondack forest, threatening the sugar maples, red spruce, beech, and other northern trees. State support for private forestry has also been reduced with the fiscal crisis and the weakening of the DEC.

We envision a forestry program that will grow to encompass a network of activist private forest owners who will, with our support, engage these issues at all levels.



## Communications: Getting the Word Out

Over the past year, PROTECT has worked hard to get the message out on a range of issues and topics that affect the future of the Adirondack Park. A center of activity is PROTECT’s website that includes a variety of informative posts in our Adirondack Issues blog, providing PROTECT’s perspective on critical issues facing the Adirondack Park as well as sound information.

The Mountain Mix blog provides a range of information and opinion about “anything Adirondack.” This eclectic mix makes for fun and interesting reading.

PROTECT also posts all public comments, which include detailed policy letters, and press releases on the website. We link to recent news about major Adirondack issues and detail all PROTECT current actions. We also stream Bill Mckibben’s daily messages about climate change.

Beyond the website, PROTECT publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Park Report*, as well a periodic calls to action and electronic bulletins. PROTECT seeks to keep our members deeply informed and up to date on the biggest issues facing the Adirondack Park.



## Peter Bauer hired as Executive Director

In April of 2012, PROTECT's Board of Directors voted to hire Peter Bauer as its new Executive Director. He started full-time in September. Peter has a long history of working for the environmental protection of the Adirondack Park. He has coordinated major advocacy, grassroots organizing, and research efforts. His advocacy was instrumental in forcing the state to close scores of roads illegally opened to ATVs and in pressuring state agencies into a variety of reforms for Forest Preserve management, among other successes.



Peter worked as the Executive Director for over 13 years for one of PROTECT's predecessor organizations, the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, from 1994-2007. Prior to coming to PROTECT, Peter served as the Executive Director of the FUND for Lake George for five years. He worked as the Assistant Editor of Adirondack Life Magazine and on the staff of the Commission on the Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century.

"PROTECT made a smart choice with Peter" said Chuck Clusen, PROTECT's co-chair in 2011-12. "He's one of the top advocates in the state and has extensive experience in Adirondack issues and in building environmental organizations."

Robert Harrison, another PROTECT co-chair, said: "I worked with Peter for years at the RCPA and there's no finer Executive Director out there. Peter will work closely with the Board and help to expand PROTECT's influence across the Park and in Albany. This is yet another important milestone in the building strength of PROTECT."

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with PROTECT. The defense of the Forest Preserve, great open spaces, lakes and rivers, and rural communities of the Adirondack Park is great work. PROTECT is well positioned to have a huge impact over the next decade and beyond" said Peter Bauer.



## PROTECT Headquarters now Kelly Adirondack Center

At its Annual Meeting held in June 2011, the membership unanimously approved the sale of PROTECT'S real property in Niskayuna, New York and the loan of its renowned Adirondack Research Library to Union College of Schenectady, New York. This transaction was completed in September.

The facility, now named the Kelly Adirondack Center, is being used to facilitate the College's curricular and co-curricular offerings related to the natural and cultural history of the Adirondacks and adjacent geographic regions, including the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys and Catskills.

We are particularly pleased that the Adirondack Research Library will continue as an Adirondack environmental and historical resource. PROTECT anticipates library's stature and influence will be enhanced by being formally linked to an institution of higher learning, and reassured that the building will be used for its educational purposes that complement its mission. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial collaboration with Union College in protecting the Adirondacks through education.

## Deciding the Future of a Landmark Land Purchase

The future of the 69,000 acres of former Finch, Pruyn & Company lands, purchased by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 2006, dominated the news in 2011-12. These acres were the last part of TNC's original purchase of the Find lands. TNC had previously sold over 95,000 acres as conservation easement lands.

PROTECT and many others advocated for the state to buy the 69,000 acres as new additions to the Forest Preserve. PROTECT organized a grassroots effort and encouraged members to sign an online petition urging Governor Andrew Cuomo to publicly commit to this exciting new purchase. In August, Governor Cuomo agreed to state purchase of these lands. This action is the largest single purchase for the Forest Preserve in over 100 years.

This purchase will make accessible to the public for the first time a variety of ecologic and outdoor recreational treasures. The deal includes 12 miles of the Hudson River, five miles of the Cedar River, a network of a dozen lakes and ponds in the Essex Chain Lakes, the spectacular Boreas Ponds, the Blue Ledges and OK Slip Falls in the Hudson River Gorge, and the confluence of the Indian and Hudson Rivers. Also included are ecologic gems such as the Ice Meadows on the Hudson River below the Glen and the 1,000-acre Swamp in Edinburg.

PROTECT heartily congratulates the Adirondack Chapter of TNC for making this deal a reality. It simply would not have been possible without the foresight, tough calls, and hard work of TNC since 2006.

PROTECT also refuted false charges of negative impacts from this land purchase. The deal effectively balances a variety of interests. Over 95,000 acres of the former Finch lands are protected in perpetuity as managed timber lands under conservation easements. They will supply logs to mills and not lots for housing. The 69,000 acres to be protected in the Forest Preserve will make outstanding natural resource areas available to the public, and will benefit the whitewater rafting industry. Another 1,000 acres was sold to local governments for various community enhancement purposes, including expansion of the Town of Newcomb golf course.

Action now moves to formal classification of these lands by the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation. PROTECT has called for a new 40,000-acre Hudson Headwaters Wilderness area centered on 22 miles of the upper Hudson River and Essex Chain lakes. PROTECT is also advocating that the Boreas Ponds be classified as Wilderness and added to the High Peaks Wilderness Area.



*Pictures of new Forest Preserve lands. From the top: Third Lake on the Essex Chain, Fourth Lake on the Essex Chain, the Hudson River near the confluence with the Indian River. The purchase of the 69,000 acres from The Nature Conservancy by the State of New York will be remembered as one of the great conservation actions in the history of the Adirondack Park.*



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# 2011-2012 Financial Summary

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Cash	\$83,535	\$33,310
Grants Receivable	25,000	11,188
Property (Research Library/Office)	470,827	827,831
Cash (Designated)	112,845	0
Cash (Temporarily Restricted)	39,055	72,568
Investments - Unrestricted	5,000	5,000
Investments - Restricted	3,108	3,109
Mortgage Closing Costs	0	3,337
Security Deposit	700	700
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$740,070</b>	<b>\$957,043</b>

<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$48,601	\$335,694
Demand Notes Payable	0	76,000
Long-Term Debt	0	154,816
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$48,601</b>	<b>\$266,510</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Salaries	\$31,443	\$84,613
Payroll Expenses & Benefits	5,925	15,659
Contracted Services	26,741	46,059
Insurance	4,944	9,182
Occupancy Costs	3,324	13,776
Telephone	1,840	2,939
Supplies	2,794	3,463
Printing	7,983	9,710
Postage	6,196	9,656
Conferences & Celebrations	1,382	8,969
Bank Charges	651	1,611
General Misc.	0	1,850
Advertising	0	14,368
Interest Expense	9,912	13,836
Dues & Subscriptions	1,756	7,469
Legal Defense	112,257	149,682
Professional Fees/Services	25,158	30,146
Travel	214	6,984
Website & Internet	3,620	8,622
Investment Fees	8,222	85
Program Expense	9,942	10,150
Repairs & Maintenance	136	1,291
Amortization	(8,544)	(3,640)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$272,984</b>	<b>\$453,750</b>

<b>Income</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Contributions & Grants	\$230,717	\$320,771
Dues & Fees	29,734	25,173
Investment Income	600	3,083
Realized Gain on Sale of Investments	3,202	50,895
Realized Loss on Sale of Assets	0	0
Investment Holding Loss	49	(14,162)
Event Income	0	6,400
Lease Income	0	16,000
In-Kind Donations	0	9,618
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$264,302</b>	<b>\$417,778</b>

<b>Program, Administrative &amp; Fundraising Expenses</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Program Expenses	(85%) \$231,508	(76%) \$341,33
Administrative Expenses	(7%) 18,856	(14%) 64,938
Fundraising Expenses	(8%) 22,620	(10%) 47,479
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$272,984</b>	<b>\$453,750</b>

## Notes

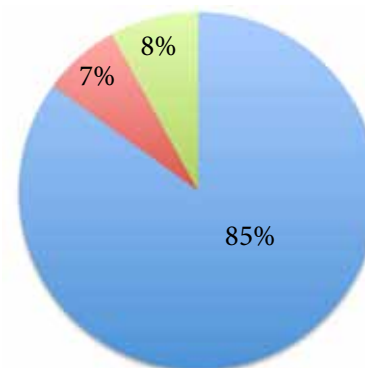
Protect the Adirondacks' fiscal year runs from July 1 - June 30th.

An independent audit was prepared by Cusack & Company in Latham, New York.

All information reported in this summary is also available in PROTECT's NYS CHAR 5500 and federal 990 filed with the NYS Attorney General's Office.

The \$470,827 listed under Assets "Property" is the contents of the Adirondack Research Library on permanent loan to the Kelly Adirondack Center of Union College in Niskayuna, New York.

## 2011-2012 Total Resource Allocation



Administration 7%  
Fundraising 8%  
Programs 85%

## Visit PROTECT Website

PROTECT posts regularly to its website [www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org). Our *Adirondack Issues* and *Mountain Mix* blogs provide good information and hard looks at pressing issues confronting the Adirondack Park.

Recent posts look at population demographics, Wilderness classification, Bicknell's thrush and the Endangered Species Act, climate change, public navigation rights, ATV use on the Forest Preserve, clearcutting, snowmobile trails management litigation, aquatic invasive species, among many other topics. Read all this and more at [www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org).

## Sign up your Lake with the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP)

In partnership with the Adirondack Watersheds Institute at Paul Smith's College, PROTECT manages the largest water quality monitoring program in the Adirondack Park. This year we had over 70 lakes and ponds enrolled.

ALAP provides good data for landowners, lake associations and local governments about the long-term water quality trends of specific lakes.

## Stand up for Wilderness and Sign our Online Petition

Go to [www.adirondackparkpetition.com](http://www.adirondackparkpetition.com) and support the creation of a new Hudson Headwaters Wilderness Area.

## Volunteer with Research Committee

PROTECT manages an active research committee that tackles major issues facing the Park. PROTECT seeks to bring sound data to the public debate over Adirondack Park management and the Park's future. We aim to draw on the expertise and talents of our membership to help with this work.

## Help PROTECT Grow Our Membership

We need your help to build PROTECT's membership. Please urge your friends and family to join us online at [www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org). PROTECT is the environmental leader in the Adirondacks. We've taken the important and needed stands to protect the Adirondack Park and now we ask you to stand with us. Join today.

## Host a House Party for PROTECT this Summer

Bring PROTECT to your neighborhood. This summer PROTECT's Board and staff are traveling throughout the Adirondacks to meet with members and supporters and talk about our programs.

This is a great opportunity to learn about PROTECT's work and how you can get involved.

Contact PROTECT's executive director if you would like to host a house party and help introduce PROTECT to your community.

Contact PROTECT at [info@protectadks.org](mailto:info@protectadks.org) for more information on any of these subjects.



Who can you always count on to be there to protect the Adirondack Park?

Who proposed a new 40,000-acre Hudson Headwaters Wilderness area?

Who has gone to court to stop construction of road-like snowmobile trails in the Forest Preserve?

Who is working to stop large-scale clearcutting of Adirondack forests?

Who is working to stop expansion of bobcat hunting to feed the overseas fur market?

Who manages the largest water quality monitoring program in the Adirondacks?

Who is working to stop ATV damage on the Forest Preserve?

PROTECT has taken tough stands when nobody else would.

Now we need you to stand with us.

Contribute online at  
[www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org)

JOIN THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER  
OF THE ADIRONDACK PARK

**PROTECT**   
**THE ADIRONDACKS!**