

AJES

Adirondack Journal of
Environmental Studies

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MISSION STATEMENT

The *Adirondack Journal of Environmental Studies* (AJES) exists to foster a dialogue about the broad range of issues that concern the Adirondacks and the Northern Forest.

AJES serves to bridge the gaps among academic disciplines and among researchers and practitioners devoted to understanding and promoting the development of sustainable communities, both human and wild.

The journal purposefully avoids serving as a vehicle for any single or special point of view. To the contrary, in searching for common ground AJES welcomes variety and a broad spectrum of perspectives from its contributors.

CONTRIBUTING TO AJES

We encourage the submission of manuscripts, reviews, photographs, artwork and letters to the editor. For additional information please visit the AJES website at www.ajes.org/ or contact Gary Chilson at chilsog@paulsmiths.edu or 518-327-6377.

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PREROGATIVE

Editorially Speaking

By GARY CHILSON

Paul Smith's College

Since the Adirondack Research Consortium's 12th Annual Conference on the Adirondacks in May, 2005, progress toward our announced goals has been understandably slow over the summer and warm fall months. But the ARC is now officially recognized by the State of New York as a not-for-profit organization. With that designation in hand, the ARC's Board has begun the process of applying to the Internal Revenue Service for its important 501 c (3) status which would make the ARC eligible to receive grants and tax deductible contributions. And now, with the end of the busy summer and fall season, progress toward our other goals can be expected to accelerate during the cold winter months of the North Country. For example, we have already released our Call for Papers and identified the date and location of our 13th Annual Conference on the Adirondacks. See page 10 for a copy of the electronic announcement.

In this issue's Research News, the exciting development and organization of an Adirondack All-Taxa Biological Inventory (ATBI) is explained by organizers Stacy McNulty, Craig Milewski, Dan Spada and Ray Curran. One of the key goals of the ATBI, besides the obvious need to inventory all lifeforms within the Adirondacks in order to keep track of all the pieces that make up this special region, is to involve citizens in the scientific process of collecting the specimens, identifying the organisms, and organizing, storing and using the data. The hope is that through this kind of involvement our residents and visitors will better appreciate and promote the unique opportunity to protect the biodiversity of the Northern Forest which the Adirondack Park represents.

One of the most influential organizations in the region is the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages (AATV), now headed by Inlet Supervisor, John Risley. In Profile, Kirk Peterson relates his interviews

with "JR" and several others to help us better understand this effective organization of elected representatives and some of their top concerns – among them affordable housing and taxes.

Featured in this issue is John Humbach and Charles Morrison's concise treatment of the public's legal navigation rights in New York following the historic 1998 court case of the *Adirondack League Club v. Sierra Club*. This landmark case significantly changed the century-old assumption of shoreline property owners that they could prevent recreational boaters from using 'their' waterway.

Two organizational Perspectives are presented this fall. Among the least known but arguably the most effective "on the ground" conservation organizations are the County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Dave Wick, Warren County District Manager, presents a history of the organization and explains how these locally controlled districts operate to help realize important conservation projects, such as protecting lakes by constructing and maintaining sediment control basins on streams. Eric Holmlund is the Director of the Watershed Stewardship Program. His Perspective relates the efforts of watershed stewards trying to prevent or help slow the spread of aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian water-milfoil into some of our Adirondack lakes, like Lake Placid.

In Analysis, Heidi Kretzer analyzes and compares Census data from Franklin County as a whole to data available for Tract 9508 – the Census data available for Brighton and Franklin Townships, two small, remote communities best known, perhaps, for their famous camps around Loon, Rainbow and St. Regis Lakes. The methods and results presented in this article expand our understanding of the affordable housing issue and can be considered in contrast to the results for Lake George Township presented by Randy Rath in the spring/summer 2005 issue of *AJES*.