



FORESTS

Audubon State Council Resolutions 2000

FOREST

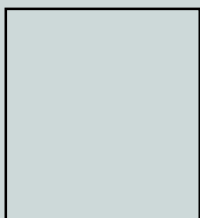
The resolutions adopted by the Audubon State Council relating to the forest campaign are:

- ✓ Promote wild lands protection, sustainable forestry and strong local economies for the Great Northern Forest Region (with special emphasis on the Adirondacks and Tug Hill) through the Northern Forest Stewardship Act as well as the LWCF and Forest Legacy programs;
- ✓ Support for the Adirondack Park Agency and legislation to protect the Adirondack Park;
- ✓ Oppose commercial logging in Allegany State Park;
- ✓ Support for a concentrated, cooperative conservation program in the southwestern Catskills/Beaverkill watershed that protects open space, promotes sustainable forestry and encourages smart growth policies;
- ✓ Support Sterling Forest purchase as well as support for funding of remaining lands still threatened by development;
- ✓ Oppose any legislation trading Catskill Forest Preserve lands on Hunter Mountain for development;
- ✓ Support implementation of Long Island Pine Barrens comprehensive management plan;
- ✓ Support protection of Stewart Buffer Lands west of Drury Lane as a wildlife management and reforestation area;
- ✓ Support federal acid rain legislation to protect Adirondacks and other natural resources of the state, as well as support state legislative and executive action to seek and enforce clean air solutions;
- ✓ Oppose the additional conversion of open space owned and managed by the New York City Parks Department;
- ✓ Promote drafting and applying environmental criteria to determine the compatibility of proposed golf courses with existing state park resource;
- ✓ Support retention of open space at SUNY Old Westbury campus to conserve this special groundwater protection area.

Audubon hires new forest ecologist

Staff Report

National Audubon Society of New York State's sustainable forestry project will enter its second year with a new leader at the helm. Mitschka Hartley, a doctoral candidate at the University of Maine, joined Audubon's staff in May to replace Dr. Michael Burger, who was promoted to



Mitschka Hartley

director of bird conservation in January. Hartley will be based at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse when he is not conducting research in the Adirondack and Catskill parks.

Hartley is a native of Turner, Maine, and graduated from Cornell University in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in natural resources. Since then he has been studying how bird communities respond to habitat disturbance by humans. His experience makes him well-suited to lead our efforts in New York, where he will be assessing how birds and other wildlife respond to forest management and logging techniques on private lands and using those results to educate foresters and loggers.

Canoe routes open Adirondacks to birders

By Rich Merritt

The Adirondack Park evokes visions of rugged mountain summits, pristine lakes and abundant wildlife. While hundreds of thousands of hikers assault the trails of the park each year, many of the rivers and narrow lakes within the park are relatively little used. With additional tracts of land such as those in the Whitney Preserve and Champion Lands now purchased by the state DEC in the past two years, there is no better time to discover the scores of canoe routes in the park.

Many vignettes of our classic wildlife heritage abound within the park's boundaries: a family of beaver at work; a porcupine gnawing at a tree; a deer or even a moose lapping a drink from water's edge; the playful otter or the elusive fisher. It is most often by canoe that you can experience such sights firsthand. The possibility to view wildlife in its natural setting is often hindered along overpopulated trails and where motorboats prevail. However, canoes allow you to quietly observe birds and other wildlife while minimizing your effects upon habitats. The view from a canoe, while not as expansive as from a mountain top, is often wide and grand.

Bird watchers can sight a number of species not easily approachable by other means, like the Common Loon, Bald Eagle and Osprey.

Several well-established canoe areas offer trips ranging from a few hours to several days. The St. Regis Canoe Area, Raquette River and Oswegatchie River all offer excellent adventures for variable skills and time restrictions. The 90-mile route from Old Forge to Saranac Lake is used to host the famous Adirondack Canoe Classic race each year and sections of this are superb. Other areas, such as those found along the Bog River Flow, Chubb River and newly opened sections of the Grasse River afford premium canoeing experiences with little traffic. The route from Little Tupper Lake to Lake Lila is a classic example of a two-day trip that can be found in the park and, though heavily marketed by the New York State DEC, is still used less often.

Depending on your stamina and level of skill, it is easy to avoid waterways with rapidly running water. In general, slow moving rivers will give you excellent canoeing experiences, while on some of the larger lakes you must contend with prevailing winds and motorboats. It is also imperative to check the weather projections before setting out on even a short sojourn. Chances of heavy rain, thunderstorms or high winds should cause you to reschedule your outing.

A number of outfitters and guiding services are found throughout the park (see the accompanying list for some of the outfitters in the park). Many offer full, guided expeditions while also catering to those who simply want to rent the basics: canoe, paddles and life preservers. You may also wish to enjoy their transportation services, since many of the best canoe routes don't finish back at the start, but miles away. For those with their own canoes, having a second vehicle left at the trips' destination is paramount.

Your local bookstore should offer detailed guidebooks (e.g. *Adirondack Canoe Waters-North Flow*, *Adirondack Canoe Waters-South and West Flow* and *Fun on Flatwater, an Introduction to Adirondack Canoeing*) describing canoeing opportunities in the Adirondacks. Regional DEC offices also have pamphlets detailing canoe routes in their area. You can receive a copy of *Adirondack Canoe Routes* at the Ray



New York State Office

Flying at 3,000 feet over the Adirondack Park it is easy to pick out canoe routes through the central, western and northern parts of the park.

Brook (518-897-1200), Warrensburg (518-623-3671) and Northville (518-863-4545) offices. The Ray Brook office also offers copies of *The St. Regis Canoe Area*, *Canoe Franklin County*, the *William C. Whitney Area Adirondack Forest Preserve Map and Guide* and the series of three *Champion Acquisition* pamphlets. You can get a brochure entitled *Fishing/Canoeing the Oswegatchie River* from the Region 6 office in Watertown (315-785-2261). Web sites such as www.adirondacks.com/canoe.html describe many popular canoeing destinations in great detail.

By using these books and maps you can plan your trip and enjoy the beautiful settings that the Adirondack Park has to offer. And don't forget the binoculars!

Rich Merritt, office manager for NASNY in Albany, was for several years a conservation supervisor for DEC based in Lake Colder. Given a choice, he would probably rather be in a canoe than a swivel chair.

- Adirondack Canoes & Kayaks, Tupper Lake, (518) 359-2174
- Adirondack Lakes & Trails Outfitters, Saranac Lake, (518) 891-7450
- Blue Mountain Outfitters, Blue Mountain Lake, (518) 352-7306
- Jones Outfitters, Inc., Lake Placid, (518) 523-3468
- McDonnell's Adirondack Challenges, Lake Clear, (518) 891-1176
- Mountainman Outdoor Supply, Inlet, (315) 357-6672
- Mountainman Outdoor Supply, Old Forge, (315) 369-6672
- Middle Earth Expeditions, Lake Placid, (518) 523-9572
- Raquette River Outfitters, Tupper Lake, (518) 359-3228
- St. Regis Canoe Outfitters, Lake Clear, (518) 891-1838
- Whitewater Challenges, Inc., Old Forge, (315) 369-6699

41,600 acres proposed as Park Wilderness

By Graham Cox

The Adirondack Park Agency has recommended to the governor that an additional 41,600 acres of existing forest preserve should be officially classified as Wilderness. This would take the state a step closer in creating what is known as the Bob Marshall or Oswegatchie Great Wilderness in the west central part of the park. Proponents of Wilderness classification argue that more than half of the forest preserve is already classified as Wild Forest, and only one million acres as Wilderness. This means that five of the six million acres of the park (more than half the park's six million acres is in private ownership) are open to motorized access. Conservation groups support an effort by the Sierra Club to promote canoe wilderness recreation in the Wilderness areas as to help boost local economies and introduce more people to the pleasures of canoe travel.