

**Seventh Annual Conference on the Adirondacks**  
Hotel Saranac, Saranac Lake, New York

May 24 – 26, 2000

Conference Abstracts

Wednesday, May 24

9:30 – 11 am

**Plenary Session I: Re-inventing Wheels - Alternatives for Managing a Park**

Moderator: Barbara McMartin (Canada Lake, NY)

Participants: Peter Borelli (Center for Coastal Studies)

Peter Bauer (Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks)

Jim Frenette (Adirondack Park Agency)

From the time the Adirondack Park Agency Act was passed in the early 1970s, many people have recognized its flaws while other have objected to its very existence. In the past thirty years, many proposals have surfaced to address the perceived problems. Almost none have been adopted or become law. Many of the proposals have emerged in new form every few years; nothing really new has appeared in decades. The failure is shared among many groups: environmental groups have achieved modest successes, especially in land acquisitions and easements to add to the Park, but have made little progress in addressing the root problems of stewardship and management. The legislature has failed to enact important legislation ranging from tax abatements to help the forest products industry to strengthening waterfront regulations. This session is the first of a two part forum. It will look at the historical record, past proposals and shortcomings. Peter Bauer will focus on the interrelationship of state agencies; Peter Borrelli will talk about organizational problems within DEC and how they relate to the overall Park picture; Jim Frenette will discuss problems within the Park Agency; and I will explore the historical record with respect to involving local government in the Park government. Then I spend five minutes abstracting from that a possible way to respond to all the problems. This proposal will be the starting point of the second session, tomorrow, Park Management Proposal - Mission Plausible?

11:15 – 12:30 pm

**Paper Session I: Valuing the Wild**

Chair: t.b.a. (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

“Pragmatism in the Mountains: William James, Wildness, and the Adirondacks”

Charles Mitchell (Elmira College)

This paper explores William James's reflections upon the Adirondack region of New York State, reflections that grew out of time spent in and around Keene Valley, to which James would retreat after his teaching and lecturing duties had ended for the year. I connect these reflections with James's views on wildness and landscape, and in turn relate these observations to specific aspects of his philosophical work, particularly Pragmatism and Varieties of Religious Experience. More than several steps removed from the Romantic sensibility that inflected the writings of Emerson, his intellectual godfather, James views the forces of nature with a harder eye, suggesting that the happy accommodation of competing values may not always be possible or desirable. While he found in wilderness an analogue for the strenuous, twice-born nature he so admired, he also recognized the competing and often irreconcilable claims made upon the landscape by

those whose needs and values differed widely. Though I do not claim any simple, causal relationship between James's Adirondack experiences and his extraordinary philosophical achievement, I do suggest that his experience of a particular place helped give shape to his ideas.

“Valuing Publicly-Owned Land”

John Omohundro, Jamie Konkoski, Tara Shimer (SUNY Potsdam)

A report of the results of an internship with the St. Lawrence County Environment Management Council, in which we were asked to find answers to the question: how can the value of publicly-owned lands be measured, and what is the state of research on this subject? We are attempting to produce both a primer of land valuation for the Council's discussions and an annotated bibliography of current research by economists and other disciplines. Emphasis will be placed on work done in the eastern half of the country.

“Incorporating Non-game Wildlife Values in Private Forest Management in New York”

Michael Burger (National Audubon Society of NY)

Jan Beyea (Consulting in the Public Interest)

Graham Cox (National Audubon Society of NY)

James Arrigoni (Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education)

Private forests provide an important majority of forest wildlife habitat in New York State and the Northeastern US, and their retention is critical for conservation of many species. Polls show that most private forest owners value wildlife and claim that it is one of the most important reasons they own forests, but economic pressures force many either to sell their forests or derive revenue from them by harvesting trees. Our goal is to provide information on how various management practices affect faunal diversity in private forests in the Adirondacks and elsewhere in New York State so that management can incorporate the wildlife values of landowners. During the summer of 1999, we studied 28 northern hardwood forest stands in the Adirondacks to determine how harvest techniques and intensity affect species richness and abundance of amphibians and breeding birds. Researchers measured habitat characteristics such as the percentages of overstory, midstory, shrub, and ground cover; presence of conifer species; tree basal area; tree species composition; leaf litter, rock, and slash cover; tree canopy height; volume of coarse woody debris; and the availability of water. Breeding birds were sampled using standardized point-counts and amphibians were sampled using time-constrained, area searches. Preliminary, first-year results indicate significant relationships between tree harvest intensity and the species richness and abundance of breeding birds and amphibians. In addition, densities of individual species of interest, such as the Black-throated Blue Warbler, varied significantly with post-harvest habitat characteristics, suggesting that an opportunity exists to tailor private forest management to benefit these species. Plans for disseminating results and management recommendations to landowners, foresters, and loggers will be discussed.

11:15 – 12:30 pm

**Paper Session II: Dimensions of Wildlife Research and Management**

Chair: Richard Sage (Adirondack Ecological Center, Huntington Forest, Newcomb)

“An Alternative Technique for Indexing Populations of Small Mammals”

Michale Glennon & William Porter (SUNY College of Enviro. Science & Forestry)

Sampling of small mammal populations has traditionally focused on the use of live traps which are often high in cost and labor intensive. We tested an alternative technique to assessing small mammal populations by using track tubes (adapted from Drennan et al. 1998). Track tubes record the footprints of small mammals and allow collection of presence/absence data without the need for live capture. We compared results from live trapping against data from track tubes on 5 sites over a one-week period in June 1999. Relative abundance estimates from raw frequencies and robust estimates from the program MARK were

both compared against estimates from track tubes. Though data are for one year only, correlations between relative abundance by species between the two techniques ranged from 0.82 to 0.89. Additionally, representation of species was similar between the two techniques, with the exception of shrews of the genus *Sorex*, which were recorded only in the track tubes. There are disadvantages to the technique. For example, we cannot distinguish to the species level for certain animals such as *Peromyscus leucopus* and *Peromyscus maniculatus*. However, in comparison to live trapping, track tubes are inexpensive, are much less labor intensive for researchers, and can be run simultaneously at several sites, allowing for landscape-scale assessment of small mammal populations. The technique has good promise for research projects seeking only to identify species composition and relative abundance of smallmammal species.

### “Assessing the Effects of Supplemental-Winter Feeding on White-Tailed Deer Fawns in the Adirondacks”

Blair Page, H. Brian Underwood, and Richard Sage (Huntington Forest, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry)

Throughout the Adirondacks, there has developed a strong tradition of providing supplemental nutrition to deer during winter when mortality is acute due to the stresses of low ambient temperature, increased energy expenditure, and reduced food availability. Due to their relatively small body size and limited fat reserves, fawns (6-9 months old) are most severely affected by these hardships. Our study addresses how supplemental feeding affects the well-being and survival of fawns by evaluating several physical and physiological parameters. During the last two winters, we captured approximately 60 fawns on 3 sites where winter feeding occurs. From each deer we recorded age, weight, and a series of linear body measurements to evaluate physical condition. During the second winter, we also collected blood and fecal samples to assess fawn nutritional status as well. Physiological profiles will be compared to fecal indices of nutrition in deer-wintering areas where supplemental feeding does not occur. All fawns were ear-tagged and fitted radio-collars designed to break away after 6-8 months of use. The collars enable us to track the fawns from winter to summer range and the tags may present an opportunity to re-examine individuals once harvested, or upon their return to winter range the following year. From these results, we will assess the costs and benefits of supplemental-winter feeding through its affects on fawn well-being and survival. In addition, we hope to develop simple criteria, based on the physiological profiles we develop, for managers to assess their own feeding programs.

### “Deer Hunting as a Kinship Activity”

Jennifer Hartsig (Syracuse University)

Male deer hunters will be surveyed as to the role deer hunting plays in their family relationships with other males. This research study will examine family relationships in a rural, northern New York State county and assess the significance deer hunting has had on male-male interactions across the life span. Using an ecological model of family development as the theoretical framework, this study will question whether deer hunting plays a significant role in the family lives of men who live and work in a natural resource dependent community.

All Day

### **Poster Session**

### “Adirondack Studies at SUNY Potsdam”

John Omohundro (SUNY Potsdam)

The “Adirondacks,” now in its seventh year, offers a complete semester of five courses taught by a team of faculty from various disciplines who share a common environmental studies emphasis and use the

Adirondack Park region as case study. The program enrolls fifty first-year ("freshman") students who work closely all week with instructors and each other in frequent team projects, science and writing labs, field trips, or art studios. Courses in the program change slightly from year to year, but always include a wide range of disciplines. The Fall 2000 program will combine courses in creative writing, backpacking, environmental studies, biology, and geology.

#### “The Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks”

Betsy Lowe (Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks)

The Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks is a project under development to be located in Tupper Lake. The project was awarded its Provisional Charter with the New York State Board of Regents on February 3, 1999, officially establishing this museum as an educational, not-for-profit entity with a 24 member Board of Trustees. The organization currently has 1,000 Charter members; a completed museum master plan with an overall interpretive program, architectural and exhibit concepts and designs, and a business plan; and is currently in the process of bringing together the necessary resources to build and establish this museum in the realm of Adirondack cultural/educational destinations.

#### “Forest Ecology Research and Demonstration Area: Interpreting Silviculture at the VIC”

Mike Rechlin (Paul Smiths College)

The creation of a Forest Ecology Research and Demonstration Area at the Adirondack Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC) at Paul Smiths expands the interpretive and educational goals of the VIC to answer important research questions. Over the past two summers the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station has been working with Paul Smith's College on extensive vegetative surveys to gather baseline ecological data on fourteen 5 acre blocks of northern hardwood forests at the VIC. This past winter treatments were carried out on seven of the blocks to implement a representative sample of silvicultural systems, including clearcutting, shelterwood, two-aged, group selection, single tree selection and no cutting (on 2 blocks). A replication of these treatments will begin shortly on the other seven blocks. The research agenda includes studies to determine the effects of the treatments on ground cover vegetation, the establishment of deer exclosures to determine the impact of browsing on forest regeneration and a survey of visitors to determine public preferences for forest management, as well as evaluating the effects of the various treatments on residual trees. Planned interpretive programs include on-site signage to interpret the treatments, naturalist led walks into the area and the active involvement of school groups in conducting ecological experiments and monitoring change.

2:30 – 4 pm

#### **Mini-Workshop: Community Economic Assessment**

Conducted by: Spencer Phillips (The Wilderness Society)

The Wilderness Society's Community Economic Assessment Workshops build the knowledge and confidence communities need to guide their own economic future. Citizens often feel that economic trends are beyond their understanding, and thus beyond their control. Communities that understand these trends stand a better chance of both capitalizing on new opportunities and preparing for potential problems associated with economic change and growth. By helping people work with raw data to address questions about their own local economy, these workshops encourage people to get involved with setting economic policy. To ensure that information generated by participants in Community Economic Assessment Workshops is put to use, workshops are co-sponsored by an existing local organization. We encourage participation by a broad range of individuals. We focus on numbers rather than issues, and workshop participants can overlook previous disagreements to reach a shared understanding of what makes their economy tick. The mini-workshop offered at the Conference on the Adirondacks will allow participants to work through a shortened version of the five-step process introduced in a full workshop: asking questions,

gathering data, organizing data into worksheets, developing charts and graphs, and using the charts and graphs to develop an understanding of local economic trends. In the mini-workshop, we will supply a sample question and the local data needed to address it, then work as a group to adjust data and construct graphs. This is a hands-on and minds-on workshop. Come with your brains and your pencils sharpened.

4:30 – 6 pm

**Discussion Forum I: Who will Monitor the Health of the Adirondacks and How?**

Moderator: David Allee (Cornell Local Government Program)  
Participants: Ken Adams and Wayne Glass (SUNY Plattsburgh)  
Heidi Kretser (Wildlife Conservation Society)  
William Brown (Adirondack Nature Conservancy)  
Adirondack Economic Development Corporation

Ecosystems suffer. Economies suffer. From each other? It is not that simple! There are impacts from outside the region on both, for example. Still it seems only reasonable to bench mark and monitor. But how do we now, and how should we keep score in the future? If we kept better track of wealth and quality of life in the region would environmental management be more effective? If we kept better track of the health of the natural systems would management of economic development be more effective? Do we learn all we could from the monitoring that is done now of either the ecology or the economy? Can the two be usefully related to each other? At what scale? Who needs such data? Do they get it? And who does it? Who does the monitoring must affect the trust of the results and the eventual use or lack of use. Is there a role for citizen volunteers region wide and/or at the community level? With wider participation there should be wider understanding and more trust.

**Thursday, May 25**

9 – 10:30 am

**Paper Session III: Economic Change and Changing Economics**

Chair: Alan Beideck (NYS Department of Labor)

“One Region, Two Parts: an Economic Assessment of the North Country and its Adirondack Park, 1989-1999”

Robert Withington and Robert Christopherson (SUNY Plattsburgh)

In New York today there is concern about the relatively high rates of unemployment and low per capita incomes found in the far northern counties composing the North Country. Within this region lies the Adirondack Park (the Park). The state of its economy and its rate of growth are of great concern. Some support greater (sustainable) economic growth for the Park, feeling its economy anemic and its growth minimal. Others believe the Park's economy shows adequate growth, that a greater rate of growth may lead to diminution of the essentially rural or wild nature of the Park. Both sides rely on a minimum of economic data. The authors do not take sides in this debate. They simply provide new data and assess the relative economic activity of the Park, shedding more light on the issue. This paper measures economic activity, over time, within the Adirondack Park comparing it to economic activity in a nine-county area surrounding the Park. The results do not end the controversy but allow for more informed debate. For nine counties in the Adirondack area, the authors have gathered longitudinal data creating seven economic series, covering the period 1989-99. In addition, they have developed a Measure of Aggregate Relative Economic Strength (MARES) in order to compare economic activity within the Adirondack Park to that of the remaining nine-county area outside the Adirondack Park. Results indicate the North Country has struggled to recover from the 1990-91 recession: 1989 was a strong year for economic activity both inside and outside the Park, and for most of the economic indicators the levels enjoyed in 1989 have not been recovered. The *absolute* MARES shows the economy of the Park operating at a level well below that of the economy outside the Park. The *per capita* MARES, however, reveals economic activity close to par when the Park's economic activity is compared to that outside the Park. Taken as a whole, economic activity inside the Park has lost ground relative to that outside the Park, a loss due to relatively greater shrinkage of economic activity inside the Park than outside. Clearly, more research is needed. The authors intend to expand this project to include more indicators and counties, as time and funding permit.

“Large Retailers and Small Communities”

Lester Hasdell (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

In this thesis we examined the impact that large, multiple-market retailers can have on local economies. Specifically, we investigated the effect large retailers have on property tax rates for local governments. Local officials and others often see attracting large retailers to their community as an economic development tool. Among the benefits sought is an increased property tax base. Entry of large retailers may lead to decreased property tax rates as they expand the property tax base and as local governments substitute the sales tax (which is more exportable as market area widens) for the property tax. On the other hand, large retailers might lead to an increase in property tax rates as capital income leakages reduce local economic activity and as competing businesses close. We decided to focus our study on Wal-Mart, the fastest-growing and biggest national retailing chain, in small communities of Upstate New York where, because of their small size and stagnant economies, economic impacts can more easily be measured. Both microeconomic and macroeconomic perspectives were employed to describe the expected changes in local economies when a large retailer enters. The role of information and consumer mobility on market area and market structure was found to be particularly important - and a potentially fruitful subject for future research. The data used for the empirical work included property tax revenue and full value for all municipalities in New York State outside of New York City from 1992 through 1997. A panel data set was created for 26 towns and villages with a Wal-Mart during the years being studied and 55 towns and villages

without a Wal-Mart. Thus 486 observations were used. Results lead us to conclude that Wal-Mart does not lower property tax rates. In fact, the results from one form of the regression model indicate a statistically and economically significant increase in property tax rates attributable to Wal-Mart. Possible causes for the increase are discussed and include government spending increases, a declining tax base, and tax substitution. Future research should address the causes in more detail and expand the study to effects on government fiscal capacity and health.

#### “Adirondack Rustic Furniture Industry: Survey and Prospect”

Jack Elliot (Cornell University’s College of Human Ecology)

The last few years have witnessed a marked increase in “rustic design” in North America, particularly in the area of furniture. The Adirondacks has long been known for its rustic furniture production. Today, it still serves as home to most of the rustic furniture manufacturers in the state of New York. This revival of interest in rustic furniture has the potential to be good for the economic development of the predominantly rural Adirondack region, where unemployment and underemployment are persistent problems. The Adirondack economy is closely linked to its natural resource base, especially forestry. However, this sector of the economy has been slowly declining, both in the primary and secondary wood product industries. There is a need to create greater value from wood resources, thereby improving employment prospects without compromising the ecologies of the region. The rustic furniture industry may be ideally suited to provide such a prospect. It is characterized by forest-based, small-scaled, decentralized handcrafted enterprises, requiring intimate knowledge of local materials and traditions. While praiseworthy in terms of its designs, this important craft-based industry has largely been left unstudied. However, in the fall of 1999, a survey instrument was developed at Cornell University for investigating rustic furniture industries in the Adirondack region to assess their manufacturing technologies and their ecological and economic impacts. This paper presents the findings of this survey. Although these results are derived from a craft-based industry, they suggest how commercially scaled industrial eco-enterprises could enhance the viability and competitiveness of a furniture industry in the state. These results suggest new prospects for rustic furniture production, where industries add value to existing products through environmentally responsible practices and innovative design.

9 – 10:30 am

#### **Paper Session IV: Water Quality, Education and Management Implications**

Chair: Michael Martin (F.X. Browne, Inc.)

#### “Subterranean Tales: On-site Wastewater Management in the Adirondacks”

Lyle Raymond (Cornell Local Government Program)

The threat to water quality from malfunctioning on-site wastewater systems--predominately residential on-site septic systems--is receiving increasing recognition as an important element in nonpoint water pollution source control. This is not news to the members of many lake associations in New York, including the Adirondacks. Under a grant from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, the Cornell Local Government Program has identified a variety of local on-site wastewater management programs in New York. Small focus group meetings were held around the state to gather information on these local on-site wastewater management programs. Three of these meetings were held in the Adirondack Park, at Old Forge, Lake Pleasant, and Warrensburg. The meetings typically consisted of 6 to 10 town and county officials, members of lake associations, state agencies such as DEC and DOH, soil conservation districts, Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, consulting/engineering firms, and septic system pumpers or installers. A major objective of this research project is to discover what is working and what is not in local on-site wastewater management and under what circumstances these programs been developed. This information will become part of a forthcoming manual for the use of local governments and communities, as well as providing creative concepts for development of public policy initiatives to improve on-site wastewater management

in New York. It is no surprise that the Adirondack Park, given its size, has room for different approaches to on-site wastewater management in different portions of the Park. This presentation will summarize what was learned from the three focus group meetings in the Park. What methods and tools have been employed and what problems have been encountered? What triggered development of public policy on on-site wastewater management in some towns and not in others? Finally, the findings from the Adirondack meetings will be compared with findings from similar meetings in other parts of New York.

“New Data for Improved Lake Characterization in the Adirondack Park”

A. Primack, K. Roy, D. Spada (Adirondack Park Agency)

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is a land use regulatory agency charged with reviewing new land use and development on private lands in the 2.4 million hectare Adirondack Park. The Park is a patchwork of public and private lands. An important consideration for the APA is the impact of new private development on the nutrient status of waterbodies. Over the past 10 years, the APA has developed or obtained a set of GIS map layers on environmental themes, including over 2171 watershed boundaries in the Oswegatchie, Black and Upper Hudson watersheds, and digital elevation models. These layers were used in conjunction with a climate model to estimate mean monthly temperature and precipitation. A simple evapotranspiration model was used to estimate surplus precipitation, and summed by watershed. Lake volumes obtained from the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation was used to calculate lake flushing rate, Carlson’s Trophic State Index (TSI), and Vollenweider’s index of lake sensitivity to nutrient input. Map outputs from this process were evaluated, compared to percent of public and private ownership, and used to determine which lakes are potentially vulnerable to trophic level changes and need special consideration in permit review by the APA.

“Revised Education of Rural Landowners in the Adirondacks could Enhance the Park’s Environmental Future”

Melodee DeCoteau (North Bangor, NY)

The Adirondacks have progressive, beneficial research, ongoing and published, about its air, soil, water and animals. The human residents of the state park are another matter. Research, involving human inhabitants, turns to historical accounts of local and statewide political struggles, conservation groups’ well-meaning environmental interventions, and local citizens clashes with the government’s involvement in private land management. These historical accounts inevitably lend bias to the author’s own conviction regarding the mentioned issues. Because of this, a problem that has existed since the Park’s conception is passed over time and again. That problem is the misinformation, and uneducated views held by many rural Adirondackers. Conservation groups and state agencies do educate the public about the environment. They do put effort into informing people about political changes and their potential affect on the Adirondack Park’s environment. However, this information is reaching people already dedicated to the Park; not the people who need it. An effort needs to be made to saturate local people with this wealth of information. It needs to reach those who do not have political ties or environmental interests. It has to reach the minority population, the small, multi-generational landowner. This paper will look at a 1974 survey that briefly portrays local opinion about the park, *The Results of a Survey of Rural Landowners in the Adirondack Region of NY State*. As well as, *State Policy and Local Influence in the Adirondacks*. I will present my interpretation of how new research on the Park’s human inhabitants could result in a more cohesive collaboration between the private landowners, conservation groups and state regulators of The Adirondack Park.

11 – 12:30 pm

**Plenary Session II: Speeding up the Preparation of Unit Management Plans for the Adirondack Park - What Role for the Research Community?**

Moderator: Graham Cox (National Audubon Society of NY)



Participants: Ted Hullar (Cornell Center for the Environment)  
William Porter (SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry)  
David Gibson (Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks)  
Karyn Richards (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)

A panel discussion on the feasibility and practicality of incorporating the Adirondack research community in helping the State Department of Environmental Conservation complete 36 unit management plans for the Forest Preserve in the Adirondack Park in the next five years. The Executive Office budget allocates an additional \$400,000 from the Environmental Protection Fund and three additional forester positions to get this job done in record time. The State DEC intends to speed up this UMP work by contracting with various entities for some of the work elements. The research community has offered its help, both in ecological inventory and analysis, in providing recreational user data, in analyzing alternative management scenarios, and in facilitating any appropriate public involvement activities to get stakeholder input and support. This panel will discuss: the unit management planning process; the areas and issues on which the research community can offer its help; the practical problems of managing researchers and research work to contribute efficiently and effectively within tight state deadlines; and alternative ways the research community can contribute their knowledge and skills.

1 – 1:30 pm

**Open Dialogue with Gerald Barnhart, Director of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources, NYSDEC**

2 – 3:30 pm

**Discussion Forum II: Invasive Exotic Plant Species in the Adirondack Park - The State of our Knowledge**

Moderators: Daniel Spada (Adirondack Park Agency)  
William Brown (Adirondack Nature Conservancy)

Participants: Robert Zaremba (Nature Conservancy)  
James Sutherland (NY Department of Environmental Conservation)  
Nina Schoch (Adirondack Nature Conservancy)  
John Falge (NY Department of Transportation)

Invasive exotic plant species are causing ecologic disturbances on varying scales throughout the United States. Efforts are simultaneously under way to identify the extent of the problem and to attempt to control it in the Adirondack Park. This symposium will gather representatives from four groups actively dealing with the problem. Recently in New York State the Invasive Plant Council has organized a network of professionals from a variety of fields to share information, and develop and coordinate action strategies. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has a long record of concern and action regarding Eurasian watermilfoil in the Park. The Department has spearheaded efforts to identify and implement appropriate milfoil control strategies and conducts an active campaign to reduce its spread. The Adirondack Nature Conservancy (TNC) has conducted a survey within the Adirondack Park to identify the location of terrestrial invasives, and to promote early detection and management. The New York State Department of Transportation is in the process of utilizing the TNC invasive plant database to direct their maintenance crews in roadside census and control efforts. The Adirondack Park Agency, DOT and TNC are coordinating efforts aimed at developing a pilot invasive plant management program. In the Adirondacks, a cooperative public/private effort is required to address the threat of invasive plants. For some species, such as Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria officinalis*), a unique opportunity exists to work proactively

to detect infestations of invasive plants before they become well established, and to prevent the establishment and spread of others, thus maintaining a high quality natural landscape. For other species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, a cooperative public/private partnership will be required to address the threat that invasive plants pose to natural areas. In either case, the sharing of knowledge and coordinated management over a large area will provide for better protection of the Adirondack's lakes, forests and wetlands.

4 – 5:30 pm

**Plenary Session III: Are Park Management Alternatives Mission Plausible?**

Moderator: Michael Wilson (Sagamore Institute)  
Participants: Stu Buchanan (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)  
Dan Fitts\* (Adirondack Park Agency)  
Greg Cato\* (NYS Department of Economic Development)  
Bill Thomas\* (Johnsburg Supervisor)

Abstract not available.

After Dinner

**Keynote Speaker:** Fred LeBrun (Columnist for the Albany Times Union)

\* Invited