The Adirondacks  Forever Wild

Peter Henderson
Ice breaker Questions

• Where is the Adirondack Park?
  a) Canada  b) New York State  c) Siberia

• The ADK is the largest park in continental US?
  TRUE           FALSE

• Todays ADK park landform is mainly due to
  a) Plate tectonics  b) The Romans  c) Glaciers

• The word Adirondack means?
  a) Big Forest  b) Bark eater  c) Life is hard
NEW YORK UNDER ICE
STAGE 1

Legend

Stage 1
The Ontarian lobe of the Laurentide ice-sheet has retreated from its extreme southern limit, and the melting has partially exposed the Adirondack highlands. The glacial lakes in the Cattaraugus and Genesee valleys flow south into the Allegheny and Susquehanna drainage.


Scale: 10 20 30 40
Scale in Miles

ONTARIAN LOBE
HUDSONIAN LOBE
NEW JERSEY
CONNEC TICUT
NEW YORK
PENNSYLVANIA
Today there are ~30 Peaks with “fire towers”. ~14 restored!!

There used to be 57

Adirondack Fire Tower Challenge

ADK History Museum in Elizabethtown has the history of fire towers, and a 55’ fire tower.
Triangulation
• There are 46 high peaks above ~4,000 feet in the ADK park

• Highest is Mt Marcy (Mohawk: Tewawe‘éstha) @ 5,343 feet
Alpine Plants on High Peaks Summits in Jeopardy

Are Snowshoes and Microspikes Damaging Alpine Zones?
Ice breaker Questions (continued)

• Which of the following ‘towns’ are in the ADK park?
  a) Lake George   b) Saratoga Springs   c) Lake Placid
  d) Ticonderoga   e) Rome       f) Plattsburgh

• Who owns the Adirondack Park?
  a) GOV       b) People       c) Native Americans   d) The Romans

• Rivers & Streams in the Adirondack park flow
  a) North     b) South       c) East        d) West

• What is your personal experience with the ADKs
  a) Never     b) Passed thru   c) Vacationed   d) Lived
Introductory Video from PBS special “The Adirondacks”
• ~1955 Family trip, Lake George, Canada, Niagara Falls
• 1960 College viewing trip, Clarkson, Potsdam, NY
• 1961 Freshman Clarkson College (University)
• 1965 B.S.E.E Clarkson
• 1967 M.S.E.E Clarkson
• 1967 Married a Potsdam townie
• 1967-1970 Instructor Electrical Engineering @ Clarkson
• 1970-1984 Frequent trips to Potsdam
• 1990-1998 son works at ADK camp Poko-Maccreday
• 1997 Purchased second home in ADK
Kids in the Adirondacks
What’s wrong with this picture?
Jay, NY
YouTube Video “Adirondack Blue” by Bacon Brothers
Adirondack
Blue
by The Bacon Brothers
Kevin and Michael Bacon
Video Clip from PBS special “The Adirondacks” Following slides are from this clip.
YouTube Video clip “Incredible Common Loon Video”
Video Clip from PBS special “The Adirondacks” Following slides are from this clip.
Brief historical timeline: BC to 1700’s

• 2,000 BC – 1600’s Iroquois settled & farmed surrounding lake & river valley areas, with hunting forages into ADKs.

• 1600’s First Europeans visit area. Samuel de Champlain and Father Isaac Jogues

• 1700’s France and Britain struggled for control of North America. Scattered settlements and military posts along Lake George and Lake Champlain.

• 1757-1763 French and Indian War - largest land battle in America before the Civil War - Fort Ticonderoga in 1758.

• 1776 -1783 American Revolution.
  – The capture of Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point (May 1775). Cannon from these posts were used to drive British troops from Boston.
  – The Battle of Valcour Island (1776) in Lake Champlain delayed a British invasion of New York from Canada.
93% of land in ADKs today are forest
Two major human threats to the Adirondack forests

• 1800 – 1880
  – 1800 > Majority of land was “virgin forest”
  – 1880 > ~29% of land was “virgin forest”
    • “The Adirondack atlas” by Jerry Jenkins

• 1900 – 2000+
  – Acid Rain
Video Clip from PBS special “The Adirondacks” describing the ADKs
For several reasons extensive logging became the impetus for the establishing of the Adirondack Park in 1982, and the Adirondack Preserve in 1885.

One of the first environmental movements in the U.S.
Video Clip from PBS special "The Adirondacks" Logging
Video Clip from PBS special “The Adirondacks” Loons