

## [ OUR ADIRONDACKS ]

# Saving our liquid assets

**T**oo much pavement. Poor farming practices. Development of hillside lots that had once been considered too steep to build upon.

These don't necessarily sound like water-quality issues. But they are.

"If we want to take care of the water, we need to take care of the land," Dan Kelting, director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), told more than 50 public officials, planners, researchers and others who came to the group's fourth water quality conference in August.

Unintended effects of development such as erosion and stormwater runoff are threatening Adirondack waterways. So Kelting organized this year's conference, "Why Water Quality? Planning and Development in Your Town," in order that experts could discuss ways to promote greater sustainability.

"Every community in the park needs to face how growth affects our waterways," Kelting says. "It's important to talk about these issues now, before it's too late."

Excess sediment, for example, makes lakes unclear and kills sources of fish food. Phosphorous found in fertilizer used to green up the lawns of all those new vacation homes allows blue-green algae to

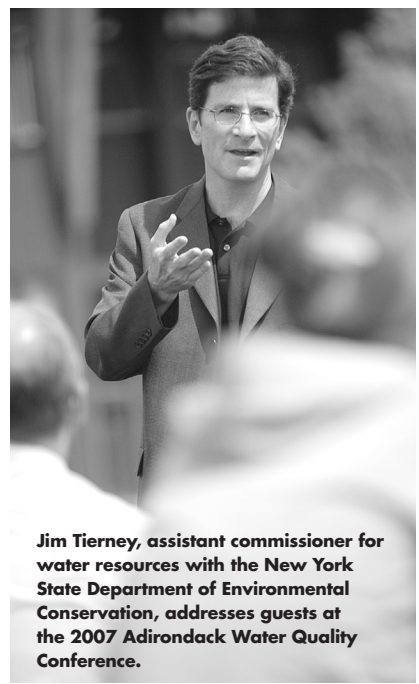
grow and flourish in ponds.

To reduce the threat, experts said communities need to embrace ways to regulate development of sensitive areas. "Watershed management is not a restriction of property rights, but an investment in our property values," said Sharon Khan, an environmental economist with the Waterkeeper Alliance who spoke at the two-day conference.

Several major development projects are on the drawing board in the Adirondacks. The revitalization of the Big Tupper ski area in Tupper Lake and the construction of a major resort in North Creek, near Gore Mountain, are among the largest – but problems from smaller development can add up without regulation.

This year alone, Willsboro, N.Y. has turned down requests from property owners to tear down and rebuild five houses. "Teardowns are an amazing threat to our communities," said Jim Kinley, Willsboro's code enforcement officer, at the conference. "In Willsboro, we have garage-mahals."

In addition to conducting research on Adirondack waterways and assisting communities in their efforts to fight invasive species, the AWI holds a conference on Adirondack issues every other year. The



**Jim Tierney, assistant commissioner for water resources with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, addresses guests at the 2007 Adirondack Water Quality Conference.**

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last, in 2005, concentrated on ways to halt the spread of those invasives, which can spread rapidly if not checked and overwhelm other native plant and animal life; the session led to the creation of a management plan for that scourge ultimately adopted by the Adirondack Park Agency.

Kelting is hoping this year's conference is a step in the same direction. "Sustainability is an attainable goal," Kelting says. "There is still plenty of time to make an impact."

—KENNETH AARON

» *Paul Smith's College is an inextricable part of the Adirondacks – and the Adirondacks an inextricable part of Paul Smith's. This column examines the ways both interact.*

## [ FACULTY & STAFF NOTES ]

### FORESTRY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

**Andrew Egan**, dean, published two papers: "Effects of population pressures on wood procurement and logging opportunities in northern New England," with Deryth Taggart and Isaac Annis, in the Northern Journal of Applied Forestry; and "Farm woodlots in northern New England, USA: Characteristics, management, and contributions to the whole farm system," in the Journal of Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems ... **Jorie Favreau**, assistant professor, published a review of "Endangered: Wildlife

on the Brink of Extinction," by George C. McGavin, in Science Books & Films ...

**Randall Swanson**, associate professor, conducted a street tree and park inventory for the Village of Greenwich, N.Y., and will create a management plan for that data.

### HOSPITALITY, RESORT AND CULINARY MANAGEMENT

**Alec Abt**, assistant professor, attended the American Culinary Federation's national conference in Orlando, Fla. ... Faculty members **Sue Alexander** and **Kathy Herd** and **Dean Nancy**

**Scanlon** attended the International CHRIE conference in Dallas ... Scanlon co-authored "Marketing Locally Grown Food Products in Globally Branded Restaurants: Do Customers Care?" in the Journal of Foodservice Business Research ... **Anne Sterling**, adjunct, translated two regional French cookbooks published by Cooks and Books International (Editions St. Honore): "French Culinary Traditions: Provence Mediterranee" and "Comte de Nice."

### SCIENCE, LIBERAL ARTS AND BUSINESS

**Lee Ann Sporn**, associate

professor, delivered a lecture, "Genes from the Past: Finding Fossil DNA in Adirondack Lakes," at the Newcomb Visitor Interpretive Center.

### OTHER FACULTY AND STAFF

**Mike Beccaria**, systems librarian, co-authored "Fac-Back-OPAC: An Open Source Interface to Your Library System," in Computers in Libraries magazine ...

**Roxanne McCarty**, a learning specialist in accommodative services, was appointed vice president of the independent sector of the New York State Disability Services Council.