

# THE FOREST RANGERS

A History of the  
New York State Forest Ranger Force



BY LOUIS C. CURTH



NEW YORK STATE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

MARIO M. CUOMO, *Governor*

HENRY G. WILLIAMS, *Commissioner*

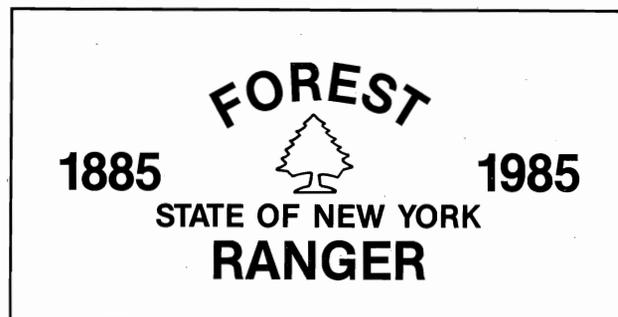
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*Cover illustration from a Centennial painting, "Responsibility," by Wayne Trimn, which appeared in the May-June 1985 issue of The Conservationist.*



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Many men and women have, at some time during their lives, entertained the dream of becoming a Forest Ranger. This book is dedicated to the many who didn't get to be Rangers as well as to the few who did.

Lou Curth  
Lake Placid, New York



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# Foreword

By  
Clarence Petty

*A History of New York State's Forest Ranger Force* is a fitting publication to celebrate the centennial of the creation of New York State's Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves.

The Forest Ranger Force shares this centennial anniversary with the New York State Forest Preserve because they are closely linked together in their establishment, growth and history.

Lou Curth, a New York State Forest Ranger with many years of experience on the force, has combined his intimate knowledge with research on the subject to provide information on the colorful history of the New York Forest Rangers and their dedicated commitment to protect one of the State's most valuable natural resources from fire and trespass and to serve the public when they enter these areas for any one or more purposes that have been a magnet for visitors throughout the years.

The writer traces the history of the force from its beginning before the title of "Forest Ranger" actually appeared in the records, to the present and on into speculation of the future for this specialized unit of State government.

Throughout this account, the developing role of the New York State Forest Ranger is interwoven with events that affected the State Forest Preserves. Some of these events were natural and dramatic, like the 1950 "blowdown"; others were technological and gradual, like the advent of auto camping and the evolution of two-way radio equipment communication made available to the Rangers. Some of the impacts on the Forest Rangers and the lands they are assigned to protect has been shaped by political events and controversies such as the establishment of the Adirondack Park Agency, changes in basic philosophy of land management and changes in leadership at the State level.

Each new change demanded that the role of the Forest Ranger adapt and respond. For example, a thorough understanding of oil and gas exploration helps Rangers do

their job in western New York, while an appreciation of wilderness area values is essential to the proper function of the Forest Ranger assigned to duty within the Adirondacks.

As described by the author, the New York State Forest Ranger Force was established primarily for the purpose of forest fire control. Probably one of the most significant events that stimulated action in that direction was the disastrous forest fires which occurred in the northern Adirondacks during 1903.

At that time, the "sports," as the guides called the visiting recreation seekers, often stayed for weeks at a time in hotels and the heavy smoke from the forest fires alarmed some of them. So much so that the guests at the Wawbeek Hotel on Upper Saranac Lake kept my father and other guides busy transporting them to Saranac Inn by guideboat where they planned to take the train south and out of danger. But they were thwarted in this attempt because the train could not reach the Saranac Inn station due to burned out wooden trestles.

A north wind carried the dense smoke over New York City where they found it necessary to keep the street lights on all day for several days until the wind changed because the light from the sun was almost totally blocked.

Several years after these fires, blueberry bushes sprouted in profusion on some of the burned ground. And like most of the natives, we lived off the land, so we reaped a harvest of blueberries until the inevitable vegetative succession shaded our bounty out of existence.

During the depression years, the CCC provided the District Forest Rangers like myself with a source of at least partially trained forest fire fighters. During the nine-year life of the CCC, the Forest Rangers relied quite heavily on this welcome pool of manpower.

One of the worst forest fire situations developed in the northern Adirondacks. Severe drought conditions, combined with unusually high wind velocities which prevailed night and day for extended periods of time, presented problems seldom encountered. One of the many fires, started along the tracks of the Grasse River railroad between Cranberry Lake and Conifer, was driven by high winds which continued for more than seventy-two hours. More than 1,100 men were in action on this fire at one time and although the spread of the fire was halted, the ground fire persisted until snow cover in

the fall allowed the patrols to leave the area. If it was not for the manpower supplied by the CCC camps, the Ranger Force would have been severely overburdened.

In the early days, an applicant for the Forest Ranger position was selected primarily on his knowledge of the several hundred square miles of forest and waters within his proposed area of responsibility, by the political party that was in power at that moment. Upon being appointed, he was expected to be on duty around the clock, seven days a week with no vacation or provisions for retirement benefits. He (only males were considered for the job) was required to provide his own car or truck, for which he was reimbursed as little as two cents per mile for official travel and his salary ranged from sixty to one hundred dollars per month until the 1940's.

There have been numerous changes since then, including civil service requirements as to background of education, experience and training, retirement benefits and compensation for overtime. In spite of all the changes, one chief characteristic of the Forest Ranger remains as necessary today as it was in the past if one is to be fully successful and satisfied in this diversified, yet specialized occupation and that is a love of the woods.

The Forest Ranger, often working alone in remote areas under adverse conditions of weather, rugged terrain and travel, sometimes lacking needed equipment, also requires self-reliance and the ability to improvise under stressful circumstances that few other occupations demand.

A century ago, the vision of Verplanck Colvin and the wisdom of the voters produced the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. Numerous unsuccessful attempts have been made to remove the protection which Article XIV of the State Constitution provides for these lands but the public has repeatedly gone to the polls and made known the intent to see that the Forest Preserves are free of exploitation and retained in their natural unspoiled condition.

As each year passes and the accelerated drive for man-made development reduces the percentage of remaining unexploited forest land, the desirability and value of the New York State Forest Preserves increase in proportion.

We should look back with satisfaction and appreciation on the last century of forest preserve protection mandated by the electorate and implemented to a large extent by the New York

State Forest Rangers, the chief protectors of the Adirondack and Catskill Preserves. If the past is some indication of future trends, we may look forward to the next one hundred years with hope that the same resolve to maintain our Forest Preserves in their pristine condition will prevail so that future generations will have the same opportunity to enjoy all that we have found so precious, even though we will not be around to share in them.

# Preface

This book was written to introduce the reader to the history of New York State's Forest Rangers on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary in 1985.

Spanning the decades since the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve was created, our Forest Rangers have served the Department of Environmental Conservation and its predecessors with distinction. Theirs is a story of battles to overcome the menace of forest fires; of pioneer outdoor recreational development; of urgent search and rescue missions and much more. Their record of dedicated service and stewardship of our natural resources will inspire everyone who cares about our environment.

Through this book, the rich history of New York State's Forest Rangers will be preserved for everyone to share and enjoy.

Henry G. Williams  
Commissioner



# Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the Department of Environmental Conservation and Commissioner Henry G. Williams for enabling this project to be completed.

*The Forest Rangers* would not have come to fruition without Norman J. VanValkenburgh, the Director of the Division of Lands and Forests. He conceived the idea for this work while planning for the Forest Preserve Centennial. Later he presided over the arduous task of arranging for its publication. Over the years, Norm has documented and preserved much valuable history of this Department and its predecessors which might well have been lost without his efforts. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to add some Ranger history to that worthy undertaking, and for Norm's confidence in me to do this job.

As the work on the project proceeded, I was very fortunate to have strong support from Thomas R. Monroe, our Regional Director for Region 5. Through his efforts, my work schedule was adjusted to accommodate the time needed for research and writing, and additional secretarial support was placed at my disposal. Most of all, I appreciated Tom's interest and encouragement during the long months of preparation.

At home, my wife Inger endured this writing assignment with more understanding and patience than I deserved, as did my children Sven Louis and Anna Kristina.

My work was greatly enhanced by the efforts of two gentlemen of the highest caliber: Robert F. Hall, former editor of DEC's *Conservationist*, inveigled, no doubt, through the charm of his old *Conservationist* sidekick Sylvia Lord, brought professional editing to the aid of this needy writer. With memories of his north country boyhood and experiences as a District Ranger and Forest Preserve expert, legendary Adirondacker Clarence A. Petty distinguished this effort by contributing the outstanding Foreword which introduces the text.

Many Forest Rangers, both present and retired, helped out with information, photos and other material. Bill Morse put extensive work into preparing the appendices of this book. Jim Emborsky added information about Ranger history beyond the Forest Preserve. Ray Wood contributed to the narrative of the Great Fires. Bill Houck added to the research effort by tape recording interviews with many former Rangers. Great cooperation was offered by Jim Lord, Ed Jacoby, Don Perryman and Bill Susdorff. Other Ranger personnel who provided valuable assistance included Gary Roberts, Dan Cummings, Ed Richards, Marty Hanna, Clyde Black, Ed Shevlin, Fred Oettinger, George Stewart, Larry West, Charlie Severance, Bill Marleau, Lynn Day, Mike Thompson, Howard Lashway, Bob Weitz, Frank Wheeler, Gib Manley, Gary Lee, Ed Pizon, Bob Bailey, Paul Hartmann, Don Petrie, George Ezzo, Norm Jensen, Leo Mulligan, Jim Ide, Dan Singer, Jim Carpenter, Bob Marrone and Tony Lenkiewicz.

Many relatives of Rangers, DEC personnel and others also helped out. John Goerg, DEC's photographer supreme, helped resuscitate old negatives from our dim and dusty files to enhance the illustrations. Mentors for this project included Maitland DeSormo, Cathy Andrews and Jim Connolly. Bill Starr shared his store of knowledge about fire towers. Other help came from Drayton Grant, "Ace" Howland, Earl Russell, Christine McDonald, Gould Hoyt, Maury Otis, Fran Rosevear, Roland Patnode, Liz Garten, Dave Smith, Gail Lincoln, "Fishy" Fullum, Burt Morehouse, Mal Coutant, Barb Goudreau, Barb Burl, Butler Cunningham, Wint Aldrich, Judy Odell, Paul Keller, Bob Schrader, Bev Rihm, Bill Barnes, Helen Barnes, Molly Maguire, Dot Plum, Bob Savare, Denise Stephens, Kerm Remele and Irving Edelmann.

I received help with my research from the Adirondack Museum's Jerry Pepper and Jim and Tracy Meehan; Crandall Library and Bruce Cole; Schaffer Library at Union College and Ellen Fladger; the library at North Country Community College and Kathy Tummons; the Saranac Lake Free Library and Helen Sprague; the Feinberg Library; the State Museum at Albany assisted by Connie Alesse; and the Adirondack Research Center where Edith Pilcher's aid will enable references for this work and other Forest Ranger historical materials to become part of the Research Center's extensive collection of Forest Preserve related documents.

Last, but by no means least, Margaret O'Neil and Chris Mandigo word processed this book from a horrifying

assortment of my scribbles, at great peril to their eyesight, aided by Laurie Knight, Jeannine Beatty, Lauren Eichler and Roberta Shaw. Proofreaders were Evelyn Greene, David Greene and Gail Perryman.

My sincere thanks goes out to all of you who helped make this project a reality.

Lou Curth  
Lake Placid, New York

# 1

# The Ranger Job— An Overview

Over the years the duties of Forest Rangers have changed and diversified tremendously. Understandably in the days of uncontrollable forest fire holocausts, the chief concern of Rangers was preventing and extinguishing forest fires. Protecting State lands from trespass and misuse were quick to follow as duties. Next were the construction and expansion of recreational facilities—trails, lean-tos, campsites, etc. Recreational use by the public brought on search and rescue duties. Environmental concerns promoted a whole new range of duties to educate, to study and to manage natural resources for the future. Forest Rangers still carry out many of their traditional assignments; but in today's complicated world, they also have an important new role helping the Department of Environmental Conservation to bring effective planning and management to New York State's natural resources. With concern about our environment steadily growing, Forest Rangers will continue to be part of the Division of Lands and Forests team of resource managers.

The diversity makes the job challenging. For many youths entering the employment market, their occupational choices are increasingly indoors and desk bound. Young people are horrified to see workers busy at jobs they don't care about. Compared to such choices, the job of the Forest Ranger enjoys a romantic appeal with America's young men and women unmatched by any other occupation. The idea of testing one's mettle working in a wilderness setting, and the tangible sense of accomplishment from helping to protect our natural resources have struck a responsive chord among young job seekers. This is the appeal to the many who have



*Trout waters of the Battenkill—Forest Rangers work to protect the precious resources of New York State's natural environment.*

sought admission to the nation's forestry schools despite a scarcity of positions in this field.

In New York State students have flocked to the Adirondacks to study at the New York State Ranger School at Wanakena or Paul Smith's College, both of which prepare students for technical careers in forestry. Practically all State Forest Rangers appointed in the last twenty-five years have been trained by these two institutions. Satisfactory completion of studies at one of these schools grants a student eligibility to compete in a written examination offered by the New York State Department of Civil Service. Civil Service periodically conducts examinations for many kinds of jobs, including the Forest Ranger title, at locations throughout the State.

Candidates who pass the Forest Ranger exam are ranked by their test scores and placed on a list from which new Rangers are hired. When a Forest Ranger vacancy is to be filled, interested candidates with the highest scores are interviewed and one is selected to fill the job at a designated location. Because of the nature of the job, candidates must also meet vigorous physical and medical standards, pass a stringent character investigation, and possess a valid driver's license.

For the person appointed to a Forest Ranger position, the glamour of the job is soon overshadowed by such prosaic needs as establishing a headquarters in the assigned area and learning about the people and places with which a Ranger must be familiar. By many estimates, it will be about five years before a Ranger has absorbed a sufficient amount of knowledge to be effective at the job.

In between learning faces and geography, the new Ranger will receive extensive in-service training of many kinds. All Forest Rangers are designated as "peace officers" under New York State's Criminal Procedure Law and have authority to enforce a wide variety of environmental statutes. Each Ranger must complete instruction dealing with law enforcement and court procedures. Mandatory training in the use of physical force will be required before the new Ranger can be issued a service revolver.



*All Rangers receive training in the use of firearms.*

## *The Forest Rangers*

*Working with helicopters provides Rangers with valuable experience which may be needed during an emergency.*



Extensive training in fire behavior, methods and techniques of fire suppression, fire fighting organization and much more will help prepare a Ranger for fire control duties. Later, forest fire scenarios will be created on a mechanical fire simulator which is used by Rangers to practice these skills. Hands-on training with a wide variety of pumps, vehicles and other equipment used by the Forest Ranger force completes the training. Later, that day will arrive, as it always does, when the new Ranger will be called upon to use this training amid the heat and smoke of a spreading forest fire.

New York State Forest Rangers are designated by law to organize and direct search and rescue operations in wild,



remote and forested areas of the State. In this effort, they work closely with State and local police, County Sheriffs and private search and rescue organizations. Rangers frequently team up with local medical personnel to assist and evacuate the sick and injured in remote areas. Forest Ranger search and rescue training includes First Aid, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, cliff, cave, and river rescue, helicopter evacuation and lost person search procedures.

Of all the duties of Forest Rangers, search and rescue missions receive the highest priority. Frequently these incidents involve children, the elderly and people with medical disabilities. Another high-risk category involves able-bodied young people in their teens and twenties whose lack of experience and common sense leads them into dangerous situations. It is often necessary to conduct such missions in darkness or under adverse weather conditions. Rangers may be handicapped in their efforts to respond by the victim's family or companions who wait too long before calling for

*Rangers, volunteers and DEC's Helicopter "600" search the High Peaks for a missing hiker. Search and rescue missions are the Rangers' highest priorities.*



Each year Forest Rangers bring the Smokey Bear Fire Prevention Campaign to life for thousands of youngsters across the State.

help. At any rate, when a call for help is received, Rangers quickly form an *ad hoc* team of sufficient size to carry out the mission. In the hours ahead, the Ranger directing the search and rescue mission may call upon additional Rangers, police, rescue organization members and even local citizens for assistance. This teamwork, together with the Forest Rangers' training and experience, can usually be counted on to bring such a mission to a happy ending.

In addition to receiving training, Forest Rangers must learn to prepare and conduct training as well. Most are certified instructors who have completed rigorous instructor training courses developed by the U.S. Forest Service. They are frequently called upon to conduct training for Fire Wardens, volunteer firemen, rescue squads, and others. As representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation they are often requested as speakers by clubs and organizations in nearby communities and cities.

Each year the wildfire prevention program brings Rangers into elementary schools, nursery schools and Head Start centers where amazed youngsters greet a visitor in the familiar likeness of Smokey the Bear. They hear his often repeated message, "Smokey's friends don't play with matches." Rangers also meet older students in classrooms and at conservation field days. They try to show youngsters how to use and enjoy the outdoors in a safe and proper manner. At other times Rangers can be found constructing and staffing displays at county fairs, or participating in parades and other exhibitions all over the State.

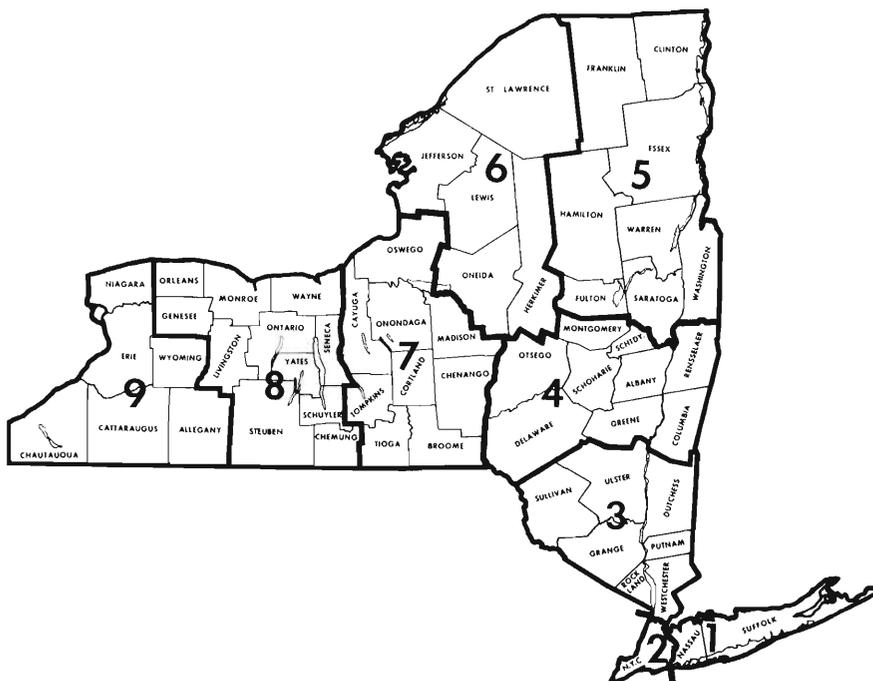
These days the duties of a Ranger are wide in range and complexity. Forest Rangers are presently involved in 27 different programs of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Although this kind of diversity can bring scheduling problems, Rangers generally cite the variety in their jobs as one of the things they cherish most, along with the latitude they are given to accomplish their tasks and help people.

The number of Forest Rangers deployed by New York State is surprisingly small. At full strength the State currently has 102 Forest Rangers. Rangers advance by promotion, some holding ranks of Lieutenants or Captains. Each officer serves as leader for those assigned to his command. All personnel are employed by the Bureau of Forest Protection and Fire Management which is part of the Division of Lands and Forests of the Department of Environmental Conservation. In

each of the administrative regions of the State, the Regional Director acts as coordinator for all Forest Rangers assigned to that region. Often the duties of a Ranger are appropriate and distinct to the specific needs of the region in which he serves.

State owned Ranger stations exist in a few remote areas, but most Forest Rangers operate out of their own homes. They are required as a condition of their employment to maintain a public office at home where they perform their duties as local agents of DEC. These duties include issuing permits, handling complaints, providing information about trails or other Department recreational facilities and many other functions. The spouse and children of a Forest Ranger are often very much involved in the Ranger's duties, whether handling visitors, taking telephone messages, picking up supplies for fire fighters or helping out during search and rescue missions. Although not compensated, these family members perform valuable services which are a key ingredient to success in doing the job.

A large part of the Forest Ranger force is located in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve areas, defined by the original legislation that created the forest fire protective force in 1885. Later "Fire Towns" were established in these areas,



DEC has divided the State into nine administrative regions, each one under the supervision of a Regional Director.



*Outdoor users of all ages benefit from information and helpful, friendly service provided by DEC Forest Rangers.*

often containing vast tracts of public land which were considered to have the greatest need of forest fire protection. They have always received priority in the assignment of Ranger personnel.

In 1911 a federal law brought new funding needed to improve the fire protection system. Some of this money was spent for equipment, but much of it was used to broaden fire protection in areas outside the Forest Preserve. Eventually, nearly all rural parts of the State were included under the forest fire protection system of "Fire Towns" and "Fire Districts," although Rangers assigned to the Fire Districts were always far fewer in number, causing their patrol areas to be very much larger.

In the job of protecting New York's woodlands from fire, the Rangers and volunteer firefighters have always been close allies. The fire companies that dot rural and wooded regions have been quick to respond with men and equipment when a fire is underway. With the help of these dedicated volunteers, Rangers have been able to reduce the amount of acreage damaged by fire. In many areas Rangers are active members of their local fire companies. They also assist volunteer firefighters to obtain funds for new equipment from federal Rural Community Fire Protection Grants under a program conducted by DEC's Bureau of Forest Protection and Fire Management.

In their assigned geographical territories, Forest Rangers serve as the eyes and ears of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Dealing with the public, as they do, puts them at the cutting edge of DEC and its programs, and they are constantly on the lookout for situations harmful to the environment. In their communities Rangers can accurately assess local opinions about sensitive issues, and be a kind of early warning system to help the Department work out local problems more effectively. In fact, in the person of a helpful and dedicated Forest Ranger serving at the local level, DEC takes on the familiar face of a friend, always willing to help out. Local citizens learn quickly that they have a neighbor they can call on for information or assistance, and they like that. Through countless opportunities to provide good service to the young, the old, the rich and the poor, in town or in the great outdoors, the Ranger helps build public trust and support for DEC. Perhaps this may be one of the most valuable services performed by Forest Rangers. Ironically, that service is not even mentioned in the long list of duties

specified by the official duty statement of Forest Rangers (See Appendix K).

As long as Forest Rangers continue to provide this kind of service, they will remain a valuable asset to both the Department of Environmental Conservation and the public, even if they are embarrassed when mothers point to them and say to their young children, "Look, there's a real Forest Ranger." 🌳



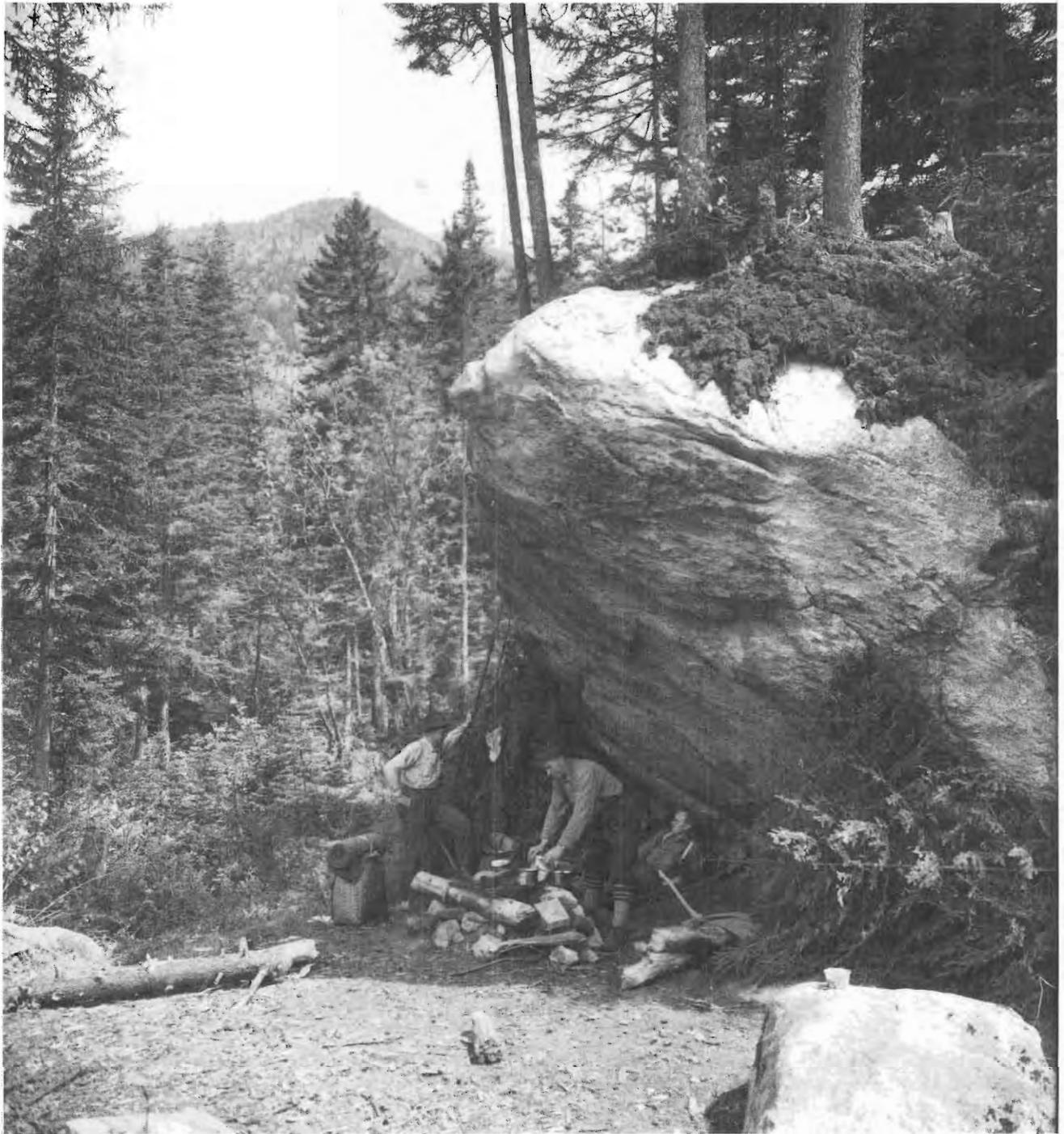
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## New Horizons

**T**he history of New York State's Forest Ranger Force is inextricably entwined with the history of conservation itself. Even before there was a Forest Ranger force, New Yorkers were conservation pioneers, among the first to recognize the dangers to our natural resources, and denounce their exploitation. Ultimately, conservationists were victorious. They won unprecedented safeguards for the Adirondacks and Catskills and established conservation as an acceptable and legitimate force to be reckoned with for all time. But more than a century earlier, Rangers, under the command of Major Robert Rogers, fought for control of this same land during the bloody conflicts of the French and Indian War. Their efforts helped secure this land for future generations to use and enjoy, while their skill, woodsmanship and daring became the hallmarks expected of all who would later on share the title "Ranger."

Perhaps it was inevitable that conservation should be an idea whose time would come, or that the protectors of New York's forests should become known by the title "Forest Rangers." At any rate, these elements came together on that historic day, May 15, 1885, when conservationists won their hard fought battle to preserve forest lands and establish a commission to watch over these domains. The agents of that new commission, scattered over 234 towns in the Forest Preserve counties, would become the first of a long line of forest guardians. They were the first generation of New York State's Forest Ranger Force.

The legislation, signed into law on May 15, 1885, by Governor David B. Hill, was acclaimed by those early



*Slant Rock Camp, Johns Brook Trail.  
The natural beauty of the  
Adirondacks made them a popular  
place for outdoor recreation.*



*Early lumbering practices convinced many people to support conservationists lobbying for the Forest Preserve.*

environmentalists who were alarmed by the increasing destruction of the State's natural resources, especially in the Adirondacks, where misuse and forest fires had taken a heavy toll. Many of them had labored in vain for many years for such a result. As early as 1791, the New York Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufacture was urging the preservation of valuable timber growth and the planting of trees. Later, Governor DeWitt Clinton, who understood the relation between forest cover and water supply, and was concerned about the future of the State's system of canals, demanded action by the Legislature to preserve the forests of the Adirondacks.

Professor Ebenezer Emmons, the distinguished state geologist, in the reports of his survey of northern New York, added wilderness recreation—hunting, fishing and mountain climbing—as a benefit along with water to be derived from preserving the forest. (Emmons was also the first to apply the name “Adirondack” to these mountains.) These pioneers undoubtedly influenced later generations of conservation leaders whose eloquence and zeal rallied a broad spectrum of the State's population in support of protective policies. Just a century ago they finally succeeded in their challenge to the greed and thoughtlessness that had been allowed to desecrate much of this beautiful area.



*Approval of this historic act came from Governor David B. Hill on May 15, 1885.*



*Little Red, the first Adirondack Cure Cottage built by Dr. Edward L. Trudeau in his effort to provide treatment for tuberculosis patients of moderate means. (Photo courtesy of the Trudeau Institute.)*

By 1850 the natural beauty of the Adirondacks and the wilderness experience it provided had made it popular for those seeking outdoor recreation. Increasingly, the wealthy found it a desirable place to build their private "camps" with comforts, conveniences and amenities not associated with that word. Adirondack hotels drew upon a satisfied clientele of families who returned yearly. Some came to hunt, fish or

"tramp," and even for the sick the region was touted for its healing powers. Most of these visitors became ardent supporters of conservation measures, especially when confronted by blatant cases of destruction, over-lumbering, forest fire damage, flooding, and other misuse. Their letters to members of the Legislature and to newspapers and magazines prompted editorials and articles in influential publications.

By the middle of the nineteenth century it was already clear that two schools of thought had emerged. Heading those who advocated preservation for recreation was Verplanck Colvin who conducted the Adirondack surveys from 1872 until 1900 and who was an early advocate of an Adirondack Park. Franklin Hough was a physician turned scientist who recognized the need for responsible forestry practices. He became spokesman for the "reasonable" utilization of the Adirondack forest for commercial purposes.

Hough argued that the terms "park" and "preserve" would alienate the average taxpayer who would oppose using State funds to provide recreation for only those who could afford the money and time for woodland sports.

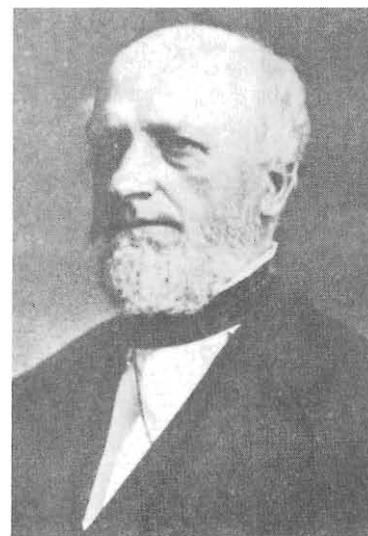
The clamor for protection continued, however, despite the differing philosophies and, in 1872, a State Park Commission was created to investigate the feasibility of establishing a public forest park in the Adirondack region. Seven commissioners, including Colvin and Hough, were appointed. Their report a year later focused on wasteful lumbering and urged forest protection for social reasons and also to control water supply. Wild lands owned by the State should be retained pending the outcome of debate on the proposals for the Forest Preserve. On his own, Colvin included in his 1874 report a recommendation for a State reserve. Nothing followed immediately despite the appeal for action by Governor John Dix and later by Governor Alonzo Cornell.

A significant development, however, occurred in 1876 when the Legislature enacted a law declaring that any person who set fire to the property of another by permitting a fire to spread from his own land was guilty of a misdemeanor. This was the first important fire fighting legislation since 1788, when a law was enacted authorizing certain officials to summon citizens to fight forest fires and set penalties for those who failed to report.

The myth of an inexhaustible supply of timber, which was perpetuated by Adirondack lumbermen, was tough to overcome. The science of forestry was relatively unknown and



*Verplanck Colvin*



*Franklin B. Hough*

general knowledge of the Adirondacks was still quite limited. In 1883, however, the New York Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of its chairman, Morris K. Jessup, began a campaign of lobbying the Legislature for measures to protect the Adirondack forests. It was joined by the Brooklyn Constitution Club, the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, and other groups. The effort was at first discouraging. But the following year the Legislature authorized a committee headed by Professor Charles S. Sargent of Harvard to prepare a statement of policy to guide the State's control of its forests. The committee did its work well and out of its study came recommendations for State land management and much relevant information that proved to be a tremendous benefit in drafting the legislation which in another year became the law creating the Forest Preserve.

The publication of the Sargent Report was followed by a flurry of legislative activity. Several bills were introduced, although none were approved. Late in the session a number of their provisions were consolidated in an omnibus measure. This bill, a composite version reflecting the ideas of both Sargent and Hough, may have been drafted in part by another early conservationist, Dr. Bernhard Fernow.

The legislation called for the creation of a Forest Commission composed of three members appointed by the Governor and established the Forest Preserve using much the same language that is presently found in Article XIV of the New York State Constitution.

The lands now or hereafter constituting the Forest Preserve shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private.

Appropriately, this bill was supported by Assemblyman Wesley Barnes, a Republican of Essex County who was an Adirondack surveyor associated with several of Colvin's State land surveys. It also had strong support of New York City organizations which helped win the approval of Governor Hill, a Democrat. He signed the measure into law on May 15, 1885. Thus, Chapter 283 of the Laws of 1885 became the fundamental conservation law of the State and the first comprehensive environmental law in the nation.

The enactment of this landmark measure gave New York State a strong directive to follow. Conservationists had succeeded in setting aside a vast Forest Preserve of wild forest

lands in the Adirondacks and Catskills. Protection of this new Forest Preserve received high priority. A Forest Commission was empowered to have "care, custody, control and superintendence" over the Forest Preserve; among its highest priorities was the Commission's duty to protect the forests from fire and timber trespass.

Railroad locomotives were required to have screens installed on their smokestacks and other fire prevention devices. Enforcement powers to arrest without warrant pursuant to this act were granted to the Forest Warden and other employees of the Commission. Authority was granted to the Commission to establish rules and regulations and to initiate legal action to prevent trespass on the Forest Preserve. Penalties were established for setting fires and for refusing to help fight fire, although authority to set penalties for violating the Commission's own rules and regulations was inadvertently omitted.

The Forest Ranger force was born in the law's authorization to appoint Firewardens in the Forest Preserve counties to be in charge of forest fires. Each Firewarden, when appointed, was furnished with an official warrant from the Forest Commission. This warrant read as follows:

STATE OF NEW YORK:  
The Forest Commission,

Albany, N.Y. \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Esq.,

Town of \_\_\_\_\_ County of \_\_\_\_\_

The Forest Commission hereby appoints you a Firewarden in and for your town, in accordance with the provisions of the "Act to establish a Forest Commission," etc., passed May 15, 1885.

It will be your duty, as Firewarden, whenever a forest fire occurs within the limits of your town, whether it be on State or other lands, to promptly notify a sufficient force to assist you; to go to the place where the fire is burning, and to take charge of and to direct the work necessary for extinguishing it. All persons in the territory, whom you may order to render you such assistance, are required by law, to obey your order, and any person who may refuse to act in obedience to your order is, by statute, liable to a fine of not less than five nor more than twenty dollars.

If a forest fire occurs in your vicinity, although it may be in the adjoining town, it will be as much your duty to go immediately to the place of such fire as if it were in your own

town; and, in the absence of the Firewarden of the town within the limits of which such fire may be, to assume the same authority, and to discharge the same duties that you are empowered to assume and discharge in your own town, until the arrival of the Firewarden of that town, upon which you will turn over all charges of the fire to him.

The same diligence and exertion must be used for the extinction of forest fires on private lands as on lands of the State. The public welfare requires that all forests should be protected from fire, no matter to whom they may belong.

After a forest fire has occurred in your town you must make a report of the same to the Forest Commission, stating the date and place of the fire, the number of acres burned over, the amount and nature of the damage, and the cause of the fire, if known.

Your attention is called to the provisions of the twentieth section of the Forest Commission Act, for dividing your town into fire districts. Action thereon, is left to your own discretion; but if taken, you should report it to the Commission.

It is essential that the rules and regulations of this Commission, governing the methods of preventing and extinguishing forest fires, should be made fully known to the public. To that end you will be required to post, and keep posted, the cards containing the printed rules throughout your town, conformably to the provisions of section 30 of the before mentioned Forest Commission Act, and wherever you may judge it to be necessary in order to accomplish a complete public notification. Such posted cards as may, at any time, be missing should be replaced at once. The cards will be furnished to you, and you can always be supplied with them on application to the Commission.

A Firewarden is required, by law, to be a resident of the town for which he is appointed. If you do not reside in the town, herein named, or if you should hereafter change your residence to another town, please notify this Commission at once.

The office of a Firewarden is distinct from that of a Forester. Firewardens are not required to discharge any duties except those necessary for the prevention and extinction of forest fires, as before explained, and such other duties for a like purpose, as may be, from time to time, assigned to them by this Commission.

It is provided, by statute, that the pay of a Firewarden for his official services shall not exceed the sum of two dollars a day for the time that he may be actually employed; and also, that the bills of Firewardens shall be paid by their respective towns. You are to render all your bills for services to your town, and if you have any difficulty in having such bills audited and paid you should notify the Forest Commission.

This appointment is tendered to you in reliance upon a recommendation in which this Commission places confidence.

Should you accept the appointment you are expected to discharge the duties of your office zealously, faithfully, in full compliance with the letter and spirit of the Forest Commission Act, and of the Rules of the Commission (both of which you are asked to read carefully), and in a manner at once honorable to the Forest Commission and yourself.

Be kind enough to inform the Commission immediately, whether you accept or decline your appointment; and in case that your acceptance is not forwarded within thirty days from date, you will be understood as declining.

By order of the Forest Commission,

[L.S.] \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary.

To comprehend the importance of Chapter 283 of the Laws of 1885 one need only stand atop one of the higher peaks in the Adirondacks or Catskills. On a clear day you would be surrounded by the panorama of mountains and valleys that has thrilled many generations who came before. From such a vantage point, it is easier to understand the stong convictions of people like Verplanck Colvin who persevered to establish the Forest Preserve to protect these lands from depredation. At such elevations, the magnitude of New York's public and private forest lands is impressive. Even today, much of the State still remains forested, despite the encroachments of a sprawling suburban population.

Many of these forests were severely damaged by forest fires which occurred frequently in the dry years of the nineteenth century. Forest fires, then as now, were usually caused by human carelessness. The Forest Commission's first annual report lists the causes of fires as follows: (1) Burning over natural meadows with a view toward improving the yield of hay. (2) Berry pickers. (3) Gum hunters. (4) Bee hunters. (5) Carelessness. (6) Hunters. (7) Maliciousness. (8) Iron manufacturing. (9) Unknown causes.

Whatever their cause, forest fires often burned fiercely, gathering momentum in areas where logging had denuded the forest canopy leaving acres of tops and debris drying in the sun. Lacking any real system of fire protection, little could be done to combat these conflagrations except to pray for a change in the weather. With enactment of this historic law, New York State took a giant step forward toward control of forest fire. In the years ahead there would be many setbacks; the system would prove cumbersome, manpower would sometimes be unreliable, and weather and forest conditions

# LOOK OUT FOR FIRE

**[FROM THE LAWS OF NEW YORK.]**

Any person who shall wilfully or negligently set fire to, or assist another to set fire to, any waste or forest lands belonging to the State or to another person, whereby the said forests are injured or endangered, or who suffers any fire upon his own land to escape or extend beyond the limits thereof, to the injury of the woodlands of another or of the State, shall be liable to a fine of not less than fifty dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars, or to imprisonment of not less than thirty days nor more than six months. He shall also be liable in an action for all damages that may be caused by such fires.

A person who, having been lawfully ordered to repair to the place of a fire in the woods and assist in extinguishing it, omits, without lawful excuse, to comply with the order, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall forfeit the sum of fifty dollars and be liable to fine and imprisonment.

Every person who shall trespass on any lands, belonging to the people of the State, by cutting or carrying away timber growing thereon, shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty-five dollars for every tree that shall be cut or carried away by him or under his direction.

Any person maliciously or wantonly defacing or destroying this notice shall be liable to a fine of five dollars.

**[FROM THE RULES OF THE FOREST COMMISSION.]**

Kindle no fires for clearing except when trees are in full leaf. Notify the firewarden before kindling such fires.

Clear away combustible stuff from places where fires are to be kindled for cooking or warmth.

All fires, except those here mentioned, are prohibited.

Sportsmen and smokers are cautioned against danger from fire, through the use of firearms pipes, cigars, matches, etc.

Leave no fires—put them out.

Felling trees, and peeling bark from or girdling standing trees is prohibited.

All persons are warned that they will be held responsible for any damage or injury to the Forest which may result from their carelessness or neglect.

By order of the Forest Commission of New York,

**ABNER L. TRAIN,**

Secretary.

*Early fire warning sign issued by the Forest Commission during its early years.*

would gang up to cause the worst forest fires that New York has ever known. However, rising from these ashes, like a phoenix, would be a system of fire prevention, detection and suppression that really worked. ●

# 3

## Roots

**R**anger. The word itself is a title but it is more than that. It carries a connotation of competence in the wild, of resourcefulness, of self reliance, and above all of courage in the pursuit of duties for the benefit of others. It was chosen in 1899 for the New York State force that now proudly bears the title, by Superintendent of Forests, William Fox, who must have known his regional history.

It was in 1755 that about 50 men from Colonel Joseph Blanchard's New Hampshire Provincial Regiment formed a "ranging" company under the command of Robert Rogers, then about 23. Rogers' Rangers, as they were called, were from the frontier areas of New Hampshire, western Massachusetts and northern New York. They were versed in the lore of the woods and most of them had defended their homes against Indian raids.

As the war between the British and French continued, Rogers' Rangers joined Sir William Johnson's command near Lake George. Rogers was promoted to Major and his Rangers became the nucleus of the Corps of His Majesty's Independent Companies of American Rangers.

Major Rogers was a bold and charismatic leader who time and again used his small force effectively against greater odds. The superb woodsmanship and courage of Rogers' Rangers made them famous as they helped turn the tide of war against the French.\*

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\* The effect of Ranger tactics on the American Revolution was noted by a later historian. "If the British military mind had allowed regulars to be exercised in Ranger tactics, they might easily have crushed the American Revolution later; instead the Americans absorbed the lessons of Rogers' experience and fielded an Army that perplexed the orthodoxed British." (From *The Journals of Majors Robert Rogers* by Howard H. Peckham)

Back in England, people marveled at the heroic exploits of the provincial Rangers who were admired as some kind of frontier nobility commanding respect in the vast northern wilderness. The prestige of the Ranger title would carry on into the future embodied in the name and reputation of elite American military units, in police agencies such as the Texas Rangers and in the nation's park and forest services. In 1912 the Ranger title returned to its Adirondack roots when the Forest Preserve was entrusted to a new generation of forest lords who would build their own impressive reputation as outstanding woodsmen and stewards of the wild lands entrusted to their keeping.

William Freeman Fox whom the Forest Rangers have to thank for their title, was born at Ballston Spa, New York in 1840. He completed engineering studies at Union College in 1860. Joining a New York regiment, he fought in the Civil War where he was wounded three times and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Returning home, Fox joined the family's extensive lumber business learning much that was of great value to him later.

When the Forest Commission was created in 1885, Fox was appointed Assistant Secretary, and later became Assistant to Forest Warden Samuel F. Garmon of Lowville (the Commission paid Fox \$166.66 per month). In 1891 Colonel Fox was appointed Superintendent of Forests. He continued in this position until 1909. During his tenure many organizational changes occurred. In 1893 the Forest Commission was replaced by another having five commissioners. In 1895 the Forest Commission and the Fish and Game Commission were consolidated as the Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission. In 1901 another change combined this Commission with the Forest Preserve Board under the name Forest, Fish and Game Commission. Three years later this Commission was revised and placed under a single Commissioner. Through these upheavals, Colonel Fox survived and continued to serve as Superintendent of Forests, gaining experience and gathering more knowledge about the State's forests, fires and the capabilities of his organization. Fox wrote a number of authoritative works about forestry and the Civil War. In 1901 he wrote extensively about New York State's lumber industry.

Fox understood the value of a skilled force in carrying out the work of the Forest Commission and its successors. Gradually, he became dissatisfied with the original system of



*Col. William F. Fox—The father of today's Forest Ranger Force.*

fire protection and with the lack of an adequate patrol which could protect the Forest Preserve. The original force of Firewardens established in 1885 had shown itself incapable of controlling the forest fires that occurred during dry years. Conflicts and political considerations detracted from the law's effectiveness. The Forest Commission had authority to appoint Firewardens, but local town boards were expected to pay for their compensation along with other fire expenses. Wardens only worked when there were fire emergencies, and it was hard to find enough competent men. Attempts to correct such deficiencies met with mixed results at the hands of the Legislature. One early recommendation was for a force of "forest guards" to patrol the Forest Preserve and enforce the law.

During 1894 tremendously destructive forest fires occurred in Minnesota, Wisconsin and elsewhere. New York State was largely spared but the implications of the fires almost certainly increased Superintendent Fox's doubts about his own fire fighting system. At any rate, three years later in his annual report for 1897, the Superintendent condemned deficiencies in the Firewarden system and called for change. In his report Fox concluded, "Rain is the best firewarden we have; and were it not for this agency, there would be no forests today on the Adirondack and Catskill uplands. But it

is hoped that through some better organization and management of Firewardens our forest fires can be prevented or extinguished without dependence on any such fortuitous agency."

As it was not an extreme fire year (ninety-eight fires had been reported), the Superintendent's report had little effect. The following year ninety-four fires occurred; and again, Colonel Fox used his report to point out deficiencies in the system. The following year, 1899, turned out to be extremely dry. Forest fires became epidemic with just those fires covering ten acres or more totaling 322. The fires burned over 79,653 acres in what was the worst year since the Forest Commission began. In the face of such an emergency, the system faltered. Since the towns had to pay the fire bills, they were reluctant to enlist more fire fighters. Men refused to go because of doubts about receiving their pay; meanwhile, the fires continued to spread until the Commission was directed by Governor Theodore Roosevelt to obtain necessary help with the State guaranteeing prompt payment for services.\* With the grim experiences of 1899 fresh in his mind, Superintendent Fox prepared sweeping recommendations for change which he included in his annual report. Fox's plan encompassed many improvements to the existing system. Among them was a proposal for a force of "forest rangers." In explaining his new idea, Fox wrote:

I would embrace this opportunity also to call attention to the urgent need of some efficient system for patrolling the Adirondack and Catskill forests. To this end I would suggest the organization of an adequate force of forest rangers who should be assigned to districts of a suitable area, which should be patrolled constantly and thoroughly. The few game protectors on duty in the Adirondacks cannot attend to this kind of work. One man cannot patrol an entire county.

The value of patrol service was strikingly exemplified this last summer, at the time of the numerous fires which, owing to an extraordinary drought, occurred then. Although one-third of the Adirondack forest is owned or controlled by private clubs, or held as private preserves, not one fire occurred on these lands, because this territory was thoroughly and efficiently guarded. On the million acres, or thereabouts, owned by the private preserves there are about ninety-eight

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\* The Governor's involvement in conservation issues influenced his later actions as President of the United States. In his autobiography, Roosevelt wrote: "All that later I strove for in the nation in connection with conservation was foreshadowed by what I strove to obtain for New York State when I was Governor."

patrols. Surely the State with its greater acreage should have some such kind of a force, even if not so numerous.

Each ranger or patrol should be assigned to some particular township for his district. The average Adirondack township is about seven miles square. The ranger should be required to live on the township, and a log cabin should be built for that purpose near the center of the township. He should live in the woods, not in some distant village. During dry seasons the highways should also be patrolled because more fires start at a roadside than anywhere else.

The duties of a patrol are different from those of a firewarden. The firewarden's work commences *after* the fire has started; the work of the patrol, *before*. The best way to fight fire is to have no fire; and there will be very few fires in woods that are thoroughly watched. The patrol would follow each camping party, and all hunters or fishermen, to see that the "coffee fires" are extinguished; and he would keep a sharp watch on any skulker who might be a possible incendiary. In winter time he would see that no timber was stolen and hauled off from State land; also that no deer were killed by "crusting." Every snowshoe track would be followed, and the reason for it ascertained.

The rangers or patrols by their mere presence in the woods would contribute greatly to the protection of fish and game. No poacher would attempt to operate on a township where there was a ranger. These rangers would also report all violations of the Game Law, and these reports would be turned over to the Chief Fish and Game Protector for prosecution. This force of rangers, if numerous enough, should be under the charge of some official who, in addition to other field work, should see that each man was always on his district, and attending to his duties. Such official could be designated as the assistant superintendent or as an inspector.

Superintendent Fox's eloquence, together with the forest fire statistics of 1899 convinced the Forest, Fish and Game Commission, which the following year urged the Legislature to create a force of Rangers. The idea was met with little enthusiasm by the Legislature where the added costs of creating a new force of Rangers weighed against the wisdom of Fox. However, where eloquence fails, tenacity often prevails. Superintendent Fox, with more than fifteen years of survival through four reorganizations of the Commission, was stubborn.

Getting action on Fox's recommendations seemed remote until 1903 when extensive forest fires devastated much of the Adirondacks. These were worse than those of 1899 and destroyed nearly 500,000 acres. Afterward, the federal Bureau of Forestry (forerunner of the U.S. Forest Service) carried out

a comprehensive study of the extent, causes and effects of these fires, and the Bureau of Forestry strongly reinforced Fox's call for a Forest Ranger force. This recommendation, along with useful information about the fires, is found in a report entitled *Forest Fires in the Adirondacks in 1903*. It was transmitted to the Secretary of Agriculture by Gifford Pinchot on February 27, 1904. The recommendation stated:

The recent fires have shown conclusively that the fire-warden service is not in itself sufficient. Its inherent weakness lies in the fact that the fire warden is not employed to prevent fires, but merely to organize a sufficient force to fight them when they come to notice. The thorough defense of the Adirondacks from fire is impossible until the fire-warden service is supplemented by a permanent force of rangers, who shall be continually on the lookout against fire. To work out the details of such a service would require careful study on the ground with that specific object in view. But it is firmly believed that the State of New York can effectively protect its forests from fire at a cost which represents no more than a reasonable rate of insurance upon the capital which these forests represent.

The report drove home its recommendation with an ominous warning:

The important lesson of the recent fires is that should another long drought occur, the State would be powerless under present methods against fire to prevent a repetition of the calamity.

Had this warning been heeded, the fire calamities which occurred five years later might have been averted.

In the aftermath of the 1903 fires, hearings were held by the Senate Forest, Fish and Game Committee. Many people, including Fox, had the opportunity to testify. Among them, Harry Radford, an ardent conservationist and editor of *Woods and Waters* magazine made a prophetic recommendation for fire patrols. He suggested establishing a force of 100 men who could also protect game and fish, act as guides and make useful reports to the State.

As a result of this hearing, new legislation was enacted to improve the system. The changes included organizing fire patrols when necessary along railroad lines and in Forest Preserve towns, the use of game wardens for such patrols and the employment of temporary assistants to maintain an efficient fire patrol in cases of immediate peril. Despite these and other significant improvements, the law still fell short of

the Forest Ranger force that Fox had called for, and interest waned once more.

Weather conditions over the next few years reduced forest fire danger to easily manageable levels. Then, in 1908, the "repetition of the calamity" struck just as predicted by the U.S. Forest Service.

Throughout the Adirondacks as in other parts of the nation, forest fires caused great destruction. Fire fighters everywhere fought hard just to prevent the situation from getting worse. When the nightmare ended, over 368,000 acres in New York State had been devastated by 605 forest fires. One reporter, writing in September 1908, summed up the nation's tragedies this way: "Words fail in any attempt that may be made to describe adequately the fearful loss of life and property during the past few weeks in the disasters following the great fires. From Maine to California smoke hangs over the land."

The smoke and ashes had not settled before calls for action began to pour in. Lumbermen, camp owners and ordinary citizens, scared by two forest fire disasters within five years, clamored for the Commission to do something!

On December 29, 1908, James S. Whipple, the sole Commissioner of the Forest, Fish and Game Commission since 1905, responded to the growing pressure. A conference was convened in Commissioner Whipple's office in order to find a better system for controlling forest fires with forty people representing business and recreational interests attending. A committee was named to draft resolutions for changes in the law. Among those attending was the noted conservation leader, Louis L. Marshall, who like Fox, wanted a paid force of fire police. He envisioned trained men who would give full time and attention to protection of the forests; and when there was no fire danger, they could serve as game protectors. Marshall's concept found considerable support among those present, and one of the resolutions adopted called for "the establishment of a more complete and systematic fire patrol service."

Later, while seeking the legislation needed to accomplish this, Commissioner Whipple wrote: "Additional legislation is needed by which the Forestry Department can organize a strong force of patrols whose duties will be to prevent fires. The Adirondack and Catskill regions should be divided into twelve or more districts, each one under a competent, experienced official who should have charge of these men.



*Commissioner of the Forest, Fish and Game Commission—James S. Whipple.*

The patrols should travel continuously along the roads and trails where forest fires most frequently occur and extinguish the incipient flames that start up so often along those lines. They should patrol the fishing brooks and follow up the fishermen, hunters and campers in order to make sure that all camp fires are thoroughly extinguished; and they should have power to arrest promptly any tourists or travelers who fail to comply with the regulations of the Department in that respect. This regular organized force of patrols and their chiefs should be paid by the State."

In the spring of 1909 sweeping amendments to the Forest, Fish and Game Law were signed by Governor Hughes. Included were many of the resolutions approved at that conference, including the creation of a fire patrol service in

place of the firewarden system. The Forest Preserve was divided into four districts, three in the Adirondacks and one in the Catskills. Each district was to be supervised by a "Superintendent of Fires," and employment of Patrolmen and Special Patrolmen was authorized. Each district was then subdivided into smaller areas placed under the supervision of a "Patrolman" who would be hired on a temporary basis and would receive \$75 per month plus expenses while employed. (Fire laborers' wages were set at fifteen cents per hour while employed.) Both Superintendents and Fire Patrolmen were vested with all the powers of Game Protectors. The law provided for the employment of six railroad inspectors to work with railroads in reducing fire losses. Provision was also made for the erection and staffing of forest fire observation stations and for the construction of modern telephone circuits to them. The Governor of the State was given authority during seasons of drought to forbid by proclamation any person from entering forest lands and to suspend any hunting and fishing season. The present top lopping law, requiring that branches be lopped from all evergreen trees cut in the Fire Towns down to a three-inch diameter, was also enacted in 1909.

Since most of the disastrous fires of 1903 and 1908 originated on the rights-of-way of several railroads within the Forest Preserve, new legislation required that railroad rights-of-way be cleared of inflammable material and that effective fire preventive appliances be installed on locomotives. In certain cases, railroads were compelled to operate oil burning locomotives during periods of extreme fire danger. The fire laws enacted in 1909, with surprisingly little modification, have been in operation ever since.

These changes in the law brought Superintendent Fox's vision of a Forest Ranger force almost into reality. It was as close as he would ever come. On June 16, 1909, William F. Fox was dead. It remained for another Superintendent, Clifford R. Pettis, to preside over the final transition which would include the adoption of the Forest Ranger title that remains in use to this day.

The process leading to this final step began in 1911 when the Legislature decided to replace the Forest, Fish and Game Commission with a Conservation Commission. Duties under the new Commission would be divided among three main divisions for (1) lands and forests, (2) fish and game, and (3) inland waters. The new Commission was directed to prepare



*District Ranger Patrick Cunningham beside the original observation tower at the summit of Gore Mountain.*

bills to revise and consolidate the Conservation Law by January 15, 1912.

The forest fire system which was recommended to the Legislature was outlined well in the Conservation Commission report of 1911. It says:

The value of our two great forest preserves is so great, not only commercially, but from the standpoint of protection to watersheds, as a great playground, health resort, game refuge, and source of wood material, in all of which the State is vitally interested, not only from the standpoint of State policy, but also as owner of several million dollars worth of property, that the State necessarily commits itself to a policy of protecting these great resources. In order to accomplish this work properly, a permanent annual force, sufficiently large and of the most efficient men, should be provided. The fire force

consists (including observers on mountain stations), during the summer season, of approximately 100 men, while only about one-fourth are retained during the winter. The men thus dismissed in the fall find it difficult to secure employment during the winter and it usually becomes necessary to employ new and inexperienced men the coming year. The loss of trained men means decreased efficiency and the training of new men again, a waste of time and money. The great forest preserve needs protection, not only from fire in summer, but from trespass in winter; therefore, there is sufficient work to employ a much larger force during the entire year. These men would also be used in the enforcement of the top lopping law and surveying State lands. The position of fire patrolman should be abolished and that of forest ranger created. The latter should have all of the powers and duties of the present fire patrolman and have full police duties relative to protection of State lands. A permanent force of about fifty men, employed during the entire year at a salary of \$720 per year, should be established. The title of fire superintendent should be changed to district forest ranger. The present official designated as special fire patrolman should be called fire warden, thus preventing any complication.

As adopted by the Legislature, these recommendations were embodied in Chapter 444 of Laws of 1912. Under the new law, most features of the existing fire fighting system were continued. The number of districts which had previously been increased from four to five was retained. However, the former title of "Superintendent of Fires" had become "District Forest Ranger" and the "Fire Patrolmen" would, from now on, be called "Forest Rangers." At last Colonel Fox's dream of a force of Forest Rangers had come to fruition.

In their new identity, Forest Rangers brought honor to their name by developing forest fire protection into a reliable and effective system ensuring that early forest fire disasters would never be repeated. Rangers learned how to handle emergencies and carry out other responsibilities using skill and common sense. Their dedication and "can do" attitude won them the appreciation and respect of the people they served and set a standard that every generation of new Rangers would strive to live up to. ●



# 4

## The Great Fires

**T**he years 1903 and 1908 and to a lesser degree, 1899, will long be remembered as the years of the great fires, particularly in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve counties. For nearly seven weeks between April 20 and June 8, 1903, fire fighting was carried on practically without cessation. There were 643 forest fires which burned approximately 428,180 acres of land in the Adirondacks and over 36,000 acres in the Catskills.

In 1908, the scene was repeated except that the fire season in the Adirondacks and Catskills was prolonged by drought conditions during the summer and autumn as well. When the last flame flickered out and the fire season of 1908 was officially ended, 605 fires had burned more than 368,000 acres. Much valuable timber had been destroyed, and the very soil was so badly burned in some areas that no new forests would even grow.

The forest fires of 1903 broke out with alarming frequency along the lines of the New York Central, New York and Ottawa, and the Saranac and Lake Placid railroads. At first the wardens were able to extinguish these fires. But the locomotives continued to belch sparks from stacks and throw live coals from fire boxes, starting fresh fires faster than the small forces of men could put them out.

Hundreds of fires sprang up in the wake of the railroad trains. The railroad rights-of-way and vicinity were veritable infernos; the wind blew steadily and gained in velocity during the month of April. Sparks and burning branches were carried on long flights and started new conflagrations miles away. The fires generated an intense heat rendering



Fire Fighters being transported by railroad to fight the 12,000 acre fire at Nehasane Park during the great fires of 1903.

approach to the burning area extremely difficult and dangerous. Smoke, ashes and flames assumed volcanic proportions. The cut-over lands were veritable fire traps formed by piles of dead tree tops, limbs and brush which contributed largely to the spread and intensity of the fires.

The fires in the Catskills were less destructive than in the Adirondacks. The value of standing timber burned in the Catskills was estimated at \$30,000 against \$669,000 in the Adirondacks. The statistics by county showed that Franklin County in the Adirondacks suffered most with 84,000 acres burned.

In addition to the loss in property destroyed, there was also the great expense incurred by towns and by the State in fighting them. In the Adirondacks, in the spring of 1903, 77,290 days of labor were expended by the men who were "warned out" by the firewardens to fight fires; in the Catskills, 4,492 days were worked. The total cost of this labor amounted to \$153,763.95, one-half of which was paid by the State and one-half by the towns in which the fires occurred.

Cinders fell in Albany, 150 miles away from the chief fire center of Lake Placid. It was reported that smoke from the Adirondacks even caused concern in Washington, D.C. Darkness like that of an eclipse of the sun fell on northern New York, and consternation and panic seized the

populations of many villages and isolated communities in the mountains.

In many places, every able-bodied man was repeatedly called into fire fighting service. A few population centers were completely surrounded by conflagrations threatening home and hearth, and many families, carrying what they could, fled before the inferno. In the main, however, each community organized for self-preservation and fought it out with the elements in long and bitter battles.

Tinder-dry forests in unpopulated areas became unchecked roaring infernos of flame and smoke until there was nothing left to burn, or until early June when nature came to the rescue with long deferred rains.

### The Fires of 1903

Herman M. Suter's account of the 1903 fires, contained in the report *Forest Fires in the Adirondacks in 1903* by the federal Bureau of Forestry is informative. Agent Suter was sent to the Adirondacks for the purpose of obtaining detailed accounts of the fires of 1903. Here is an excerpt of his report:

Between April 20 and June 8, 1903, over 600,000 acres of timberland in northern New York were burned over. About \$175,000 was spent in fighting the fires, which nevertheless were finally extinguished only by the help of heavy rains. The total direct loss was approximately \$3,500,000. No less serious,



*Tree tops and limbs left by loggers on cutover lands added fuel to the fires.*

though incapable of money valuation is the indirect loss due to the destruction of young growth which was to form the future forest. To this must be added the injury to the forest soil caused by the burning out of the vegetable matter indispensable to healthy tree growth. . .

Observations at the twelve Adirondack stations of the Weather Bureau show that during the winter of 1902-1903 the average snowfall was nearly eight inches less than the average of the past ten years. In April, the rainfall averaged 2.2 inches, most of which fell before the 11th. No rain fell in April after the 17th. In May, the average rainfall was about 0.2 inch, the least ever recorded in the Adirondacks for that month. In June, until the 7th, only traces of rain are reported. From the 7th to the 10th, light showers occurred. Heavy rains fell on the 10th, 11th and 12th, and from then until the middle of August rain was frequent. But in the fifty-one days between April 16th and June 7, there was only about 0.2 inch of rainfall.

As a result of this protracted drought, the whole forest was inflammable to an unprecedented degree. On cut-over lands, the debris left after lumbering was ready to catch fire like tinder, and to spread it almost like a powder magazine. Throughout the Adirondack region, which was one great forest, broken only by lakes, marshes and clearings, every chance spark left unextinguished by smoker or camper, every glowing cinder from locomotive or brush-burner's fire, carried the potential of great conflagration. This was at a season when fishermen were building campfires and smudges in every direction. Under such conditions, many forest fires were and will always be inevitable. . .

In general, the fires burned rapidly, owing to the inflammable condition of the forest. They were either "surface," "ground," or "crown," the type of fire varying with the character of the forest and the strength of the wind. Usually, fire began on the surface, spreading among the leaves and dead branches. Where deep, dry duff was encountered, combustion worked to the bottom of the half peaty mass, stealing along, sometimes without much evidence above ground, possibly even days or weeks later, to develop into a surface or crown fire under favorable conditions. Among conifers, with their inflammable foliage, surface fires frequently mounted to the tops of the trees and thus became crown fires. . .

Such fires have been known to travel with remarkable speed. In Newcomb last spring a warden and several men ran for two miles closely pursued by the fire, and finally escaped only by placing a lake between themselves and the flames. . .

In a fire near Lake Placid. . . about 14,000 acres of land were burned over and almost every tree killed, including the largest hardwoods. In addition, Adirondack Lodge, a beautiful rustic hotel, its adjoining buildings, a shingle mill, several small dwellings and a number of cattle were destroyed. The total loss from this fire was at least \$150,000.

A fire in Keene Valley burned from Cascade to a point near St. Hubert's Inn, about nine miles, while the Roaring Brook fire burned over 17,000 acres in the Towns of Keene and Elizabethtown, and the Dix fire in North Hudson burned over 18,000 acres. Twelve thousand acres of the Nehasane Preserve were burned, with much damage to the beauty of the preserve. The handsome and expensive camp buildings were saved by city fire engines hurried in on the railroad from Herkimer and Ilion. Powerful steam pumps mounted in a freight car protected a narrow belt of trees along the track. Four hundred men fought the fire at a cost of \$6,000. The same fire burned over 5,000 acres of the preserve of Hon. William C. Whitney. The Brandeth Preserve nearby lost 2,000.

Doctor Loomis' camps on the west end of Little Tupper Lake were burned at a loss of \$5,000, the Catlin Lake fire burned 10,000 acres, and 10,000 acres were burned over near Horseshoe Pond on the tract of Mr. A.A. Low. Ten thousand acres of the DeCamp tract were burned over. Most notable of all were the fires on the Rockefeller Preserve, which devastated over 40,000 acres. Many of the fires on this tract originated under the most suspicious circumstances. . .

Such were some of the large fires. But during the period between the last of April and the second week of June, smaller fires numbered thousands and their aggregate area exceeds that of the larger ones.

The fires caused no loss of human life, although several narrow escapes occurred. A few domestic animals are known to have been killed.

For the game, the results were more serious. The breeding



*The severe fires caused drying of the forest soil needed for healthy tree growth. Wildlife habitat was destroyed at the height of the breeding and nesting season.*



*A weary fire fighter catches some sleep while on fire duty in 1908.*

and nesting season was at its height, and for this reason, there must have been great loss of weak young animals and birds. Carcasses of several deer were found.

The trout suffered severely. In a number of towns, dead fish were seen floating down the streams. In one case, several bushels of fish were found washed up on the shore of a lake near an inlet. Along the West Branch of the Ausable River, considerable destruction took place. On the Boquet River, two boys waded the stream and in a single day took 92 brook trout, weighing 74 pounds. The fish seemed hardly able to move and were easily caught in the hands.

In shallow streams, the heat alone was probably sufficient to kill the fish. In deeper streams, it seems more likely that lye leached from the wood ashes, or the finely divided ashes themselves, had a poisonous effect.

In the main the wardens showed intelligence and zeal in the performance of their duties and made a gallant fight against odds which were frequently almost overwhelming. In some cases they and their men worked fifteen hours a day for a number of consecutive days, some to be prostrated later by sickness following the long strain and complete physical exhaustion. The various communities and the State owe such men a debt which pay checks cannot cancel. The blame for the avoidable loss lies rather with the system than with the men.

The most effective fighting was done from daybreak until about 9 o'clock in the morning. The fires were usually much deadened at this time of day, and the wardens took advantage

of the fact, resting their men or acting chiefly on the defensive in the middle of the day, and renewing the attack toward evening, when the fires again lost some of their aggressiveness.

Surface fires were checked by raking away the litter on the forest floor in a path a few feet wide, which served as a line of defense from which the fire could be fought back as it approached. When water could be obtained the path was thoroughly wet down. Shovelfuls of sand were dashed upon blazing wood. Burning grass in the clearings was thrashed out with the bushy top of a young spruce or balsam, or a few furrows were turned with a plow across the track of the fire.

But usually the presence of duff made it necessary to dig a trench from one to four feet wide, down to the mineral soil, sometimes completely encircling the fire. The roots were cut through with axes and mattocks, and the mass of peaty material chopped up and shoveled out. Often the sand was heaped against the outer side of the trench to protect the duff from sparks and heat, when the fire burned through the inner side. Several wardens report digging fifteen to twenty miles of such trenches.

When other methods failed or could not be used the wardens resorted to back firing. Often the fires became crown fires, or were of such volume and heat that men could not approach them. In such cases trenches were prepared, and fire was applied all along the side next to the approaching forest fire. If the trenches could then be defended successfully for a short time, the fires thus set would burn a distance back from the trench, thus clearing away much of the combustible matter and robbing the conflagration of its energy when the two lines of fire finally met. Most of the wardens who employed this expedient report good success in its use, and some say that without it they could have made no effective defense at all.



*Fire fighters used hand tools to dig trenches in an effort to halt the spread of a growing forest fire.*

These methods were fairly successful as long as enough help could be had and there was no strong wind. But about May 28 to June 3 (the latter being the worst day) high winds occurred in the Adirondacks, fanning smoldering fires into activity. As a result fire fighting became generally ineffective. The woods became so hot and smoky that everyone was compelled to take refuge in the clearings and to confine his efforts to an attempt to save the threatened cottages, camps, hotels and farm buildings. The destruction of the entire region seemed not at all improbable, for in the dense pall of smoke it was impossible to tell where the fires were. In some localities these unseen fires could be heard distinctly, and the nights were almost as bright as the days from the glare. People frequently slept on the floor to avoid the smoke.

It was only the timely appearance of heavy rains, beginning June 7, that brought the fires under control. Hundreds of men dropped their tools that day and slept the sleep of utter physical exhaustion. Another week of strain would have beaten down all defense.

### Fires in 1908

Just five years later, in 1908, another disastrous fire year occurred, primarily in the Adirondacks. The following narrative written by Robert Bernard for *Adirondack Life*\* illustrates the tremendous fires of that year.

At sea off Long Island, September 20, 1908, dawned clear and bright. The captain of the great Cunard Liner *Mauretania*, the world's fastest passenger vessel, had no reason to expect anything other than an easy passage to dock at the end of the ship's regular run from Southampton to New York. But as the *Mauretania* approached Sandy Hook, lookouts reported a dense and entirely unexpected bank of fog over New York City. By the time the huge liner reached the Narrows, at the mouth of the harbor, visibility was so reduced that the captain ordered foghorns sounded as the ship, barely moving, crept toward a rendezvous with its waiting tugs. But it was not fog that stopped the *Mauretania*. It was smoke. For the second time in five years, the Adirondacks were burning.

On that September day, as New Yorkers gaped gasping and weeping through the smoke, fires raged along the Beaver River, in the Town of Minerva near the confluence of the Cedar and the Hudson, on the Jordan not far from Camp Kildare, and at a dozen other locations in Hamilton, Herkimer, St. Lawrence, Franklin and Essex counties. The *New York Times* told its readers that the cloud over the city had "not a bit of rain in it. The overhanging cloud pall was merely smoke from the

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\* "Years of Fire," by Robert Bernard, *Adirondack Life*, March-April 1981. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.

Catskills, smoke from the Adirondacks, smoke from Maine, smoke from Massachusetts." The pall hung so thickly over the province of Quebec that trains, as had the *Mauretania* in New York harbor, reduced speed as they approached settled areas.

Those late September days marked the climax, but not the end, of a seige of fire without precedent in history. . .

During that long, hot summer of 1908, fires burned in many places besides the Adirondacks—in Upper Michigan on June 21, on the Huachuca Mountains of Arizona in early July, in Buffalo Park, Colorado, the New Jersey Pine Barrens, Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Ogunquit, Maine, as the month wore on. August opened with the destruction of two whole towns in British Columbia, with a loss of 125 killed and \$8 million in property burned. Another blaze threatened the giant Sequoias of Calaveras County, California, and a fire left 6,000 residents of Minnesota homeless. Other fires hit Michigan again, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Maine.

In the Adirondacks, it became evident in early spring that the year 1908 could be another dry one. Snowfall had been light during the preceding winter, and as early as April 15 the first minor fires were reported at scattered locations. During June, rain gauges at Saranac Lake recorded less than 2.5 inches of rain, down nearly 45 percent from the normal 4.3 inches. Slowly, the deficit in rainfall mounted—another inch short in July, an inch and a half in August, more than two inches shy of the normal rain for September. The woods withered, and the fires began to burn in earnest.

On July 11, a minor fire was reported on Prospect Mountain, near Lake George Village. Another broke out on July 17 near Saranac Lake, but after an all-night battle the firefighters were relieved by nature. "Rain falling in this region today brought long looked-for relief from the drought that had parched the fields and forests for weeks until they were like tinder and sprang ablaze in innumerable places in the Adirondacks," the Associated Press reported on July 18.

Then the drought clamped down again, and by the beginning of September, the forests flamed literally from one end of the Adirondacks to the other. The cause of many of the fires and the source of the fuel feeding them was no mystery. As it happened, the great drought of 1908 coincided with the peak extent of railroads in the Adirondacks—railroads which routinely fired their steam locomotives with spark producing coal, or even wood, rather than oil; few locomotives had spark arresters on their stacks.

By no coincidence, Adirondack lumbering operations, then also at their peak, tended to spread across the Park along the lines followed by the railroads. Although railroad builder William Seward Webb had tried to promote the concept of scientific forestry, safe logging practices had few adherents among less sophisticated Adirondack lumbermen. Perhaps the most dangerous of their verities was resistance to the idea of

"limbing" treetops. In the days before chipboard, tops were strictly waste, of no value whatever, and woods bosses hated to waste time cutting limbs so the tops would lie flat on the ground. Dropped to the ground, the debris drew moisture from the soil and soon rotted to the point of being unburnable. Unlimbed, the tops formed dense tangles of air-dried wood, sometimes reaching depths of 12 to 15 feet, so thickly matted together that a man could walk atop them. Since the lumbermen of the day cut conifers almost exclusively, the unlimbed tops became huge piles of tinder, needing only a spark to set them burning. Too often, the railroad supplied the spark.

Such was the origin of the worst single fire in the entire series of 1908—worst, at least, in duration and damage done. It started on September 9 when a passing Mohawk & Malone locomotive spat a glowing clinker onto the trackside kindling near Long Lake West, now Sabattis. A force of 150 men was quickly deployed to isolate the fire inside miles of trenches. Chief Fire Warden Emmons of Tupper Lake soon complained that trains rushing men to the scene of the fire were setting new fires, and by September 11 the flames had spread all along the track from Horseshoe almost to Nehasane, a distance of 12 miles.

The ominous signs of this raging inferno which engulfed the Hamlet of Long Lake West could be seen by residents of Long Lake Village 19 miles away. "Long Lake West is obliterated, and nothing remains but the blackened timbers of the buildings," wrote the *New York Times*.

On October 15 and 16, 1908, a party of concerned citizens, officials from the Forest, Fish and Game Commission, and the New York Central Railroad, traveled by train from Utica to Malone and then from Malone to Albany to view the disastrous trackside fires. The following is an excerpt from a report made by Secretary Edward Hagan Hall, who represented the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks on the tour.

#### The Great Long Lake West Fire

From Robinwood to Horseshoe was the greatest burn in the Adirondacks this year, embracing the Hamlet of Long Lake West which was destroyed on Sunday, September 27.

From mile post 92 (2-3/4 miles south of Long Lake West Station), to a point about 5 miles north of Long Lake West was presented a scene of desolation which Commissioner Osborne graphically likened to that which he saw on the Island of Martinique two years after the eruption of Mont Pelee. Here on either side of the track was spread out a blackened area



variously estimated to cover from 15 square miles to 40 square miles. My own estimate, based on descriptions of the outer limits of the fire in various directions and a computation of the area embraced is that about 35 square miles would be a conservative estimate. The scene presented was that of a chaos of blackened earth, fire blasted rocks, charred stumps, dead tree trunks standing and fallen, ruins of houses and debris of various kinds. It was a veritable desert, in which every form of life, animal and vegetable, had for a time been completely annihilated. Over much of this region still hung a pall of smoke, some of which was due to smoldering embers and some of which had come from extinct fires and had settled in the hollows.

This fire started on the property of Mr. Moynihan on the west side of the railroad track about 2-3/4 miles south of Long Lake West, about two weeks prior to Sunday, September 27. Simultaneously, a fire was started on the east side of the track on Doctor Webb's preserve. The latter was held in check by trenching and other methods. The fire on the west side, however, was unchecked and at a point 93 miles and 25 poles from Herkimer, or about one mile south of Long Lake West, the fire leaped across to the Webb property. The fire then raged beyond control on both sides, working northward toward Long Lake West. On Sunday, September 27, a fresh wind sprang

*Scene of devastation along the railroad track near the burned out village of Long Lake West in 1908.*

up from the south, and with a roar which is described as like that of the ocean, the fire rushed upon the Hamlet of Long Lake West from both sides.

The doomed settlement consisted of a railroad station, a hotel, a store, a schoolhouse, Mr. Low's electric light powerhouse, two blacksmith shops, an icehouse, Mr. Moynihan's house and office, and about half a dozen cottages. The value of these buildings was perhaps \$40,000 or \$50,000. There were about 75 persons living permanently or temporarily at the place. After a vain attempt to defend the buildings, the unequal contest was abandoned, the people fleeing for their lives and their property being destroyed amid the roar of the flames and the loud explosions of dynamite stored in one of them. Actual loss of life at this point was only avoided by the fortunate arrival of an emergency train which carried the refugees through the encircling flames to safety.

On the east side, the fire embraced Charley Pond, Little Charley Pond, East Charley Pond, Beaver Pond and Bear Pond, extending north to the road leading from Long Lake West to Long Lake and eastward about two miles on that road. I estimate, from descriptions given me, that about 20 square miles were burned on the east side. Mr. Byron H. Ames, Dr. William Seward Webb's superintendent, says that about 2,000 acres were burned on Dr. Webb's property, and Mr. Ernest Johnson says that about 5,000 acres were devastated on Mr. Chrystie's.

On the west side of the track, the fire extended from the point previously mentioned on the south, northward to a point four or five miles north of Long Lake West and to a distance of two miles back from the track. It extended from Moynihan's property on the south to Low's on the north, crossing Bog River and going as far as Lake Marian. Somewhere in this region is Grave's Mountain which was burned. I estimate that 15 square miles were burned over on the west side.

Among the many other forest fires reported by Secretary Hall were two burning out of control near Owl's Head.

#### **Owl's Head Blazing Like a Volcano**

Dusk had well set in when we reached Owl's Head, and here we saw a spectacle as picturesque as it was deplorable. The summit of Owl's Head Mountain was ablaze like a volcano in active eruption, and all of its western side had been blasted, not by a torrent of lava but by a torrent of flame. On the lower slopes of the mountain, the frontier line of the fire was still burning spitefully in many places. This fire was the latest phase of a fire which is said to have begun further eastward, in the vicinity of Ingraham Pond, and had worked westward toward Owl's Head, covering four or five square miles of territory. It was called the Ingraham fire.

### The Belmont Fire

Owl's Head is in the southwestern quarter of the Town of Belmont. North of that in the same town was a still more extensive fire called the Belmont fire. This is said to have originated just about in the middle of the township and swept westward to within half a mile of Chasm Falls Station on the New York Central railroad. Whether this fire was connected with the Ingraham fire or had an origin common with the latter could not be ascertained. It had burned a country estimated to be sixteen square miles in extent.

One last 2,000 acre fire occurred near Fox Lair in Warren County on October 24 before the weather changed bringing the rains which finally put an end to the destruction.

The principal causes of the Great Fires of 1903 and 1908 were much the same as they are today;: railroad locomotives, burning brush for agricultural purposes, fishermen, hunters, campers, smokers and incendiaries. The most important cause of the great fires was unquestionably the railroad locomotive throwing sparks from its stack and live coals from its ash pan onto a tinder dry right-of-way.

The burning of brush by farmers for the purpose of clearing land was also a source of fires throughout the Adirondack and Catskill forests. However, legislation was soon put in place to control the season and amount that could be burned at one time.

The fires caused by careless persons using the woods for recreation accounted for many of the fires blamed on other sources. It was common practice at the time for campers, hunters and fishermen to leave their campfires unattended or leave them before they were completely out.

The most difficult cause of fire to prove during this holocaust were those blazes set by incendiaries. The records of this period indicate that the great preserve of William S. Rockefeller suffered a loss of 40,000 acres from fires allegedly set by incendiaries.

Another reason for the great destruction of 1903 and 1908 was not a direct cause, *per se*, but rather a contributing factor which allowed the fires to become as large as they did and with such rapidity—*i.e.*, the lumbering practices of the time in which only the clear butt logs of the trees were utilized. This practice set the stage for disaster by littering thousands of acres with inflammable tree tops for many years following the lumbering operation.

Lastly, the firewarden system of this era could not function effectively without long overdue changes. There was money for suppression, but none for prevention. The best time to fight fire is before it starts, but due to the procedures of the times, firewardens had to wait until the fires were actually out of hand before they could take action. In the end, the Great Fires became the catalyst which finally brought about the sweeping changes that reformed the system. ●

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## Outdoor Recreation

**W**ith the newly created Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve areas acting as magnets, interest in outdoor recreation continued to soar. The Adirondack Park, suggested by Colvin during a speech at Lake Pleasant in 1868, became a reality in 1892. The Catskill Park followed in 1904.

Outdoor recreation as a valid reason for protecting resources, was rapidly outdistancing the desire to preserve the land for its water and timber supplies. Hotels, mountain houses and hostelries of all kinds were thriving. The popularity of the mountain regions had been steadily growing since the middle of the nineteenth century. Rev. William H.H. Murray's best selling *Adventures in the Wilderness*, Charles Dudley Warner's popular stories, *Forest and Stream* magazine and other works like these had drawn attention to the beauty of the mountains, lakes and forests and the sporting pleasures to be found there. In an increasingly industrialized America, these glorious images of pleasure and relaxation in a healthy, restful wilderness environment were a tonic increasingly sought by weary workers.

Upon arriving at their destinations, few of these out-of-town visitors were capable of going very far beyond the broad piazzas and manicured grounds of their hotels without assistance. Improvements such as well-marked trails, lean-tos, fireplaces, campsites and other comforts taken for granted by today's outdoor users simply did not exist. It was, therefore, necessary for vacationing men and women to enlist the aid of guides. These skilled woodsmen, among whom were the inventors of the Adirondack pack basket and the incomparable Adirondack guide boat, would for a fee (usually

about \$3 per day), conduct parties of vacationing fishermen, hunters, campers and hikers, tending to their safety and comfort while they were in the woods. Many of the early guides were loggers, hunters or trappers who began guiding occasional visitors as a way to earn extra money. As visitors increased in numbers, guiding offered these woodsmen all the seasonal employment they wanted. Many guides were associated with the hotels, providing services that could range from rowing an elderly lady around a lake to taking a party of guests on a wilderness campout. Other guides were hired by estate owners who paid them to remain available to serve the sporting whims of the owners and their guests. Still others were private guides who had developed a faithful clientele that reserved them on a regular basis for their vacation and sporting trips.

More than anything else, the memorable outings enjoyed by so many visitors to the wilderness were flavored by the quality of the guides who accompanied them and it is a great tribute to those guides that so many visitors cherished the memories of their backwoods excursions. The most successful guides were appreciated for their thoughtfulness, geniality and story telling abilities as much as for their craftsmanship and woods lore. Not all, of course, were exemplary custodians of the wilderness nor were their guests always inspired. Complaints about guides ranged from overcharging to carelessness with fire. Accounts of camping areas strewn with bits of broken bottles and trees stripped and mutilated can be found in early issues of *Forest and Stream Magazine* and elsewhere. In fact, descriptions of some camping places habitually used by the more uncouth early guides sound not unlike the littered and overused camping sites found in too great abundance today.

In 1891, the Adirondack Guides Association was formed, followed by the Brown's Tract Guides' Association in 1898. These organizations helped establish uniform wages for guides and encouraged some minimum standards of performance.

In 1918 the Conservation Commission established a system of optional registration of guides as a means of insuring their competency. In 1924, a new law made it mandatory for every person engaged in guiding in the Forest Preserve counties to obtain a license, after first submitting to examination to determine his fitness. By the time these changes were made, however, guides were already drifting into a long steady



*Books and magazines popularized the sporting pleasures to be found in the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve.*

decline brought about by revolutionary changes in outdoor recreational use. This decline, hastened by the outbreak of World War II, brought the dissolution in 1952 of both early guides' associations. By 1965, the State's licensing requirements for guides had become an anachronism. The program became little more than licensing on demand for practically anyone who could pay the fee. With the strong outpouring of concern for the environment that occurred in the 1970's, interest in guiding was rekindled. Confronted by this phenomenon, the State began to reevaluate its licensing standard and recently enacted new legislation which may herald a resurgence for the guide program in the near future.\* That is good news to all who appreciate the legacy of valuable contributions and colorful history that came from these legendary woodsmen.

The Adirondack guides were the victims of changing times. Large private preserves began to appear where the wealthy "camped" luxuriously in ornate lodges that evolved into a distinctive Adirondack style of architecture. Others of lesser means erected permanent camps on choice campsites located on Forest Preserve lands. In 1891, a law permitting the leasing of campsites was enacted, but the practice became illegal in 1894 when Article VII, Section 7 of the State Constitution was ratified. Little changed, however, until 1904 when a law was passed forbidding the erection of any permanent building on State land and authorizing the destruction of any previously erected. While the State agonized over these legal questions, the demand for places to go camping continued to increase. Then came the revolution in transportation brought about by the automobile. Aided by the popular automobile charts of the North Country produced by Seneca Ray Stoddard, motorists made their way into every corner of the Forest Preserve where there was a passable wheel track.

In August of 1919, a widely publicized auto-camping trip brought elderly naturalist John Burroughs and three famous friends, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone and Henry Ford, into the Adirondacks. A caravan of four Fords was modified to provide a kitchen, sleeping compartments and other needs.

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\* During the summer of 1985, this legislation was signed by Governor Cuomo. The new law establishes testing and certification procedures for six guiding categories: hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, white water rafting and canoeing and rock and ice climbing. The license requirements for guides are also extended to cover all of New York State.



*Boy Scout encampment at Lake George, 1919—Interest in the Forest Preserve for recreational use grew steadily.*

Even electric lighting was included. The publicity from the trip greatly popularized this new kind of outdoor recreation. In 1924, a new magazine "Motor Camper and Tourists" was inaugurated, featuring the latest information about auto-camping and promoting a variety of new camping accoutrements. Soon a flood tide of people were venturing into the wilds looking for suitable camping sites along the road where they could try out their camping gear, and for the more adventurous at least, looking for paths on which to go tramping through the woods.

Reluctantly, the Conservation Commission began to respond to these new demands. The time-honored access into the woods had always been via local guides and hunters' trails. In 1891, funds were provided for the construction of a trail to the summit of Slide Mountain in the Catskills. Around the turn of the century, permission was granted to the

Adirondack Trail Improvement Society at St. Huberts, and later the Camp and Trail Club of Lake Placid, to build and maintain several trails in the High Peaks area. In 1913 the Conservation Commission adopted rules permitting the construction and use of open camps, those distinctive three-sided structures now known as Adirondack lean-tos, at specified locations. No matter who constructed these camps, they became the property of the State and were open to the public. These early lean-tos built under permit by private organizations were followed by many more erected over the years by the State until they numbered well over 200 in the Adirondacks alone.

In 1915 George D. Pratt was appointed Conservation Commissioner. A wealthy and experienced executive, Pratt had served as president of the Camp Fire Club of America. He was particularly well suited to face the challenge of how to handle outdoor recreation.

Two years later the Commission began a program of marking trails leading to mountain-top fire observation stations and began welcoming visitors. The results were an overwhelming 20,000 sightseers that year. Three years later that number had increased to over 50,000. In 1920 the Conservation Commission obtained funds to embark on a historic recreational development program including trail, lean-to and campsite construction throughout the Forest Preserve. The logical choice to bring the new recreation program into a reality was the Division of Lands and Forests field force of Forest Rangers. The new program is described in considerable detail in the Conservation Commission's report of 1920. The report says, in part:

Recreational Uses. The fact that the people of the State are the owners of such a valuable asset as is the Forest Preserve has not been as widely appreciated as it should be. Railroads and highways bring the people into our mountain regions and to the civilized parts, but, for the people to have the full enjoyment of the forest region, it is necessary to supplement this means of communication by trails and similar lines of travel.

The value of good, well-marked trails and suitable campsites in the Adirondacks and Catskills, not only for the accommodation of the traveling public, but also for a reduction of the forest fire hazard, has long been realized. Prior to the present year, however, no funds have been available for the Commission to do more than make a beginning of work relating to trails and camping places. Such work has been



*Seneca Ray Stoddard—  
Conservationist, gifted photographer  
and early promoter of travel and  
tourism in the Adirondacks.*

confined mainly to keeping the trails to the fifty-four fire observation stations in good condition and to facilitating as much as possible the visiting of these stations by the public. The extended use made of these trails was conclusive as to the necessity for further trails.

Not until this year were funds available for this work. An appropriation of \$2,500 made the beginning possible.

A comprehensive plan was formulated for a system of trails covering the larger part of the Adirondacks and Catskills, making the back country accessible, and making use of existing routes of travel. This plan consisted of "trunk line" trails with appropriate branches indicated upon a map as a basis for completion of the plan. The money available limited the amount of work possible; therefore, while the whole plan could not be put into effect in one year, much was accomplished under the general plan in different sections.

The plan comprehended making, clearing, improving and marking trails; erection of open camps; and building of fire places. The work was carefully planned and then executed through the forest ranger force.

It should be borne in mind that there are hundreds of miles of existing trails and old lumber roads which provide access to nearly every part of the Adirondack and Catskill forests. Many of these, however, are not useful for the average person, because of the absence of signs or markings to indicate where they run. For that reason, one of the most important parts of the new work has been the proper marking of existing roads and trails where these are suitably located for trunk line routes.

There are long distances between existing stopping places in many parts of the woods traversed by roads and trails. In order to accommodate the transient who may be tramping, canoeing or, in some cases, motoring through the woods, open camps have been erected at suitable camp sites. Each camp is constructed of logs according to a design of a typical Adirondack open camp. A bed of boughs is placed inside, and in front of the camp is erected a large fireplace suitable for cooking and camp-fire purposes. Twenty of these open camps have now been completed during the year and plans are under way to build more during seasons to come.

The increase in camping by motorists during the past few years has been tremendous. Every day during the summer, if one travels through the woods along the Adirondack or Catskill highways, he meets large numbers of automobiles with camp equipment either in the car itself or in a trailer attached to it. Many people are adopting this form of travel through the mountains, partly on account of the pleasure it affords and partly on account of the difficulty in obtaining accommodations at the over-crowded hotels. For the benefit of such people, the Commission has worked out the plan of building fireplaces close to the highways where suitable camp sites are located. At such spots not only have fireplaces been built, but provision

has been made for the pitching of a tent and room provided outside the roadway for parking an automobile. Ninety-six of these fireplaces have been built during the past season.

The fact that the work of the Commission in opening trails and providing camping places is popular and appreciated by the public is attested by the very large number of people who have used the trails and particularly the campsites. Hardly a night passed during the summer months but practically every fireplace had a camping party gathered around it. The open camps have seldom been vacant.

It is difficult to estimate the great good that will be accomplished by a consistent development of such a policy for making more available the recreational facilities of our Adirondack and Catskill Parks. The Forest Preserve is the property of the people of the State. It is right that the Commission which has jurisdiction over that Preserve should do everything in its power to make it accessible to the people, and to furnish the necessary facilities for its full and complete enjoyment.

Much other work has been done in removing brush and limbs that obstruct the view of attractive scenes from the highways. In this way the pleasure of travel is increased and the region increases in interest to the traveler.

The legality of the recreational development of Forest Preserve lands was justified as a fire protection measure, concentrating camping at certain points and providing suitable places for campers to build their fires. Recreational development continued to expand with Forest Rangers



*The popularity of camping out in the woods led to the construction of the three-sided camps now known as Adirondack lean-tos.*

constructing campsites, fireplaces and lean-tos and clearing trails during periods of low fire danger. As the work proceeded, the Conservation Commission initiated a series of recreational circulars containing detailed information about some of the more popular trails.

The use of public campsites continued to grow at a phenomenal rate. During the summer of 1923, fifteen hundred people were counted in one day at a popular area on the Sacandaga River near Wells. To handle these crowds, two Rangers equipped with motorcycles were hired that year to patrol the public campsites, warn campers about the danger of fire, and see that campsites were kept clean and neat. By 1926 a number of major camping facilities had been created and were being used extensively:

Camp Site	No. of Fireplaces	No. of Campers 1926
<b>Adirondacks</b>		
Boreas Bridge . . . . .	6	—
Connery Pond . . . . .	9	—
Cross Clearing . . . . .	16	—
Fish Creek Pond . . . . .	20	2,500
Hatchery Brook . . . . .	7	—
Lake George Battleground . . . . .	31	5,000
Lewey Lake . . . . .	20	4,500
Meadowbrook . . . . .	25	5,000
Pine Lake . . . . .	6	—
Piseco . . . . .	10	—
Sacandaga . . . . .	44	20,000
Sharp Bridge . . . . .	31	7,000
Third Lake Creek . . . . .	13	2,500
Wilmington Notch . . . . .	12	3,500
<b>Catskills</b>		
Devil's Tombstone . . . . .	6	—
Woodland Valley . . . . .	6	—
		50,000

At many areas sanitary water supplies were developed and picnic tables and latrines added. In an effort to keep these



*A pause for refreshments during a tramp up Mt. Marcy.*

areas clean, garbage containers were placed in the larger camping areas (a move which put campers on a collision course with hungry bears and other wildlife). Due to the increasing workload, six additional Rangers were now hired. Each was assigned a motorcycle equipped with a side car for carrying forest fire equipment. On weekends and holidays, the six Rangers were headquartered at designated public campsites in tents provided for them. The motorcycle Rangers were given the dubious honor of emptying the garbage containers and cleaning up litter at the campsites. During the week, they carried out motorcycle patrols to inspect and police smaller campsites in their patrol area. By 1927, motorcycle Rangers had increased from six to nine and their motorcycles had been replaced by light pickup trucks. Two years later their number had increased to 14 men now called "Camp Site Rangers." Meanwhile, the campers continued to

increase with over 80,000 registered at the larger sites during 1928.

When the Conservation Commission became the Conservation Department in 1927, many changes occurred. One of these was a restructuring of the Division of Lands and Forests. The duties of the Division were apportioned with separate lines of work being assigned to different bureaus. Under the reorganization, Clifford Pettis, who had passed away on January 27, 1927, was replaced as Superintendent of Forests by William G. Howard. The man having primary responsibility for the Forest Ranger force was Kinne F. Williams, Supervisor of the Bureau of Forest Fire Control. At the same time, William D. Mulholland, Supervisor of the Bureau of Recreational Development was named to handle the job of recreational development of the State Forest Preserve. This reorganization led to a shifting of responsibilities for the larger public campsites away from the Forest Rangers. Campsite Rangers and later caretakers and other personnel were hired by the Bureau of Recreational Development to handle their job. At the same time, Forest Rangers, working for the Bureau of Forest Fire Control, in between their fire control duties, continued to build and maintain the trails and lean-tos and supervise camping at hundreds of small isolated sites throughout the Forest



*Roadside fireplaces constructed by Forest Rangers became popular with early motorists, and these locations eventually became the first State campsites.*

Preserve. Frequent offers of help with trail work came from the Adirondack Mountain Club, organized in 1922, outing clubs, Scout troops and many other organizations interested in hiking and camping. They joined the earlier efforts of the Adirondack Trail Improvement Society and the Camp and Trail Club in contributing their labor to improve the interior facilities used by the public. During the depression years, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) took an active role in improving outdoor recreational facilities as well as doing many other jobs. Through these efforts, New York State became a leader in the field of outdoor recreational development unsurpassed by any other state.

Through the decades, Forest Rangers continued to look after those interior recreational facilities in their Forest Ranger districts. Many became experts in laying out recreational facilities and trails, and in building rustic bridges, lean-tos and other structures. Often, Forest Rangers cared deeply about the facilities within their districts and tried very hard to keep them in excellent condition. In later years, however, Forest Rangers received additional duties, while the responsibilities for maintaining interior facilities were transferred to trail crews working under the direction of DEC's Division of Operations.

At the present time, outdoor recreation remains a dominant reason for protecting resources, its popularity bolstered by a proliferation of undreamed-of fads and new activities in addition to more traditional recreational pursuits of the past. The strong environmental concerns that led to a dramatic increase in the use of the Forest Preserve during the 1970's show no signs of abating. In the coming years, the biggest challenge to the State's recreational planners will be, as with the auto-campers, to find new and better ways of handling outdoor recreational use while maintaining adequate protection of our fragile Forest Preserve for future generations. ●



# 6

## The Fire Districts

Chapter 283 of the Laws of 1885 had placed the Forest Commission in charge of forest fires in every part of the State. However, when the system of Firewardens was created in 1885 their jurisdiction was limited to the designated Forest Preserve counties—Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, Washington, Greene, Ulster, Sullivan and Clinton (except the Towns of Altona and Dannemora).

For those fires which occurred in other parts of the State, the law had designated the Supervisor of every town outside the Forest Preserve counties to be a Firewarden *ex-officio*. This lack of Commission authority continued despite changes evolving in the Forest Preserve fire organization. Later, an amendment to the law weakened the Commission's statewide fire authority even more. Nevertheless, forest fires in these areas would occasionally be noted in the Commission reports.

During the severe fire year of 1899, destructive fires occurred in Dutchess, Steuben and Erie Counties as well as in parts of Long Island. The Commission, having no real power in these areas, was unable to help. To alleviate this problem, the Commission requested without success some legal jurisdiction to act in these matters. In 1905, the idea resurfaced when fires on Long Island and other areas outside the Preserve flared up again. With the sweeping reforms of 1909 rapidly transforming fire fighting in the Preserve counties, the Commission turned its attention to other areas. The following year, the Commission wrote:

This State is the only northeastern State, except Maine, whose State Forest Department does not exercise some jurisdiction or look after forest fires generally throughout the State. The amendment to the Town Law, chapter 630, Laws of 1910, provides that the supervisor of the town shall have authority to prevent and extinguish forest fires, but experience has shown, not only in this State, but in other States, that there must be, in order to secure adequate protection, some power of supervision. The supervisors need instructions in regard to their duties and the people at large must be made to realize the consequences that follow continued and extensive fires. During the past years large areas have been burned and in some cases the supervisors have made little, if any, attempt to extinguish these fires. This department has been called upon many times this season and asked to see that the supervisors fully discharge their duties.

In conclusion, the Commission added:

The large areas of forests throughout the State need better protection, and satisfactory results cannot be secured until there is some central authority vested in this Commission to secure the necessary enforcement of the law.

Despite these concerns, the Commission, lacking authority to act in these areas, could do little until these circumstances changed. However, new federal legislation, the Weeks Law, passed in 1911, paved the way for statewide fire protection. The Weeks Law provided federal funds for forest fire control through cooperative agreements between the states and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An initial grant to New York State of about \$4,000, received during 1912, helped pay salaries for Observers stationed at early fire towers. These funds continued each year.

In 1918 the Commission established two fire observation stations on Long Island at Telescope Hill and Flanders Hill. From the towers, fires were detected earlier, but the town Firewarden organizations were still unable to provide adequate protection. In December of 1919, a District Ranger was appointed for Long Island, and a third fire tower was placed in operation. There was plenty to see. In its report the following year, the Commission reported 101 fires which burned over 17,000 acres on Long Island. Although it was clear that much more was needed, New York had at last moved toward a statewide fire protection system. In 1921, when the federal allocation was increased to \$25,000, plans were made to extend coverage further. Ultimately, Fire



Districts would be established covering all parts of the State containing significant amounts of forest land. Conferences with U.S. Forest Service officials in August 1921 led to the formation of four new Fire Districts and the appointment of four additional District Forest Rangers. These were designated as:

- A) *Eastern District* - Washington, Rensselaer and Columbia Counties;
- B) *Southeastern District* - Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester Counties;
- C) *Southern District* - Orange and Rockland Counties and areas of Sullivan and Ulster Counties outside of the Fire Towns;
- D) *Western District* - Cattaraugus, Allegany and Steuben Counties.

*The office staff of the Division of Lands and Forests at Albany processed reports and correspondence from the fire districts around the State.*

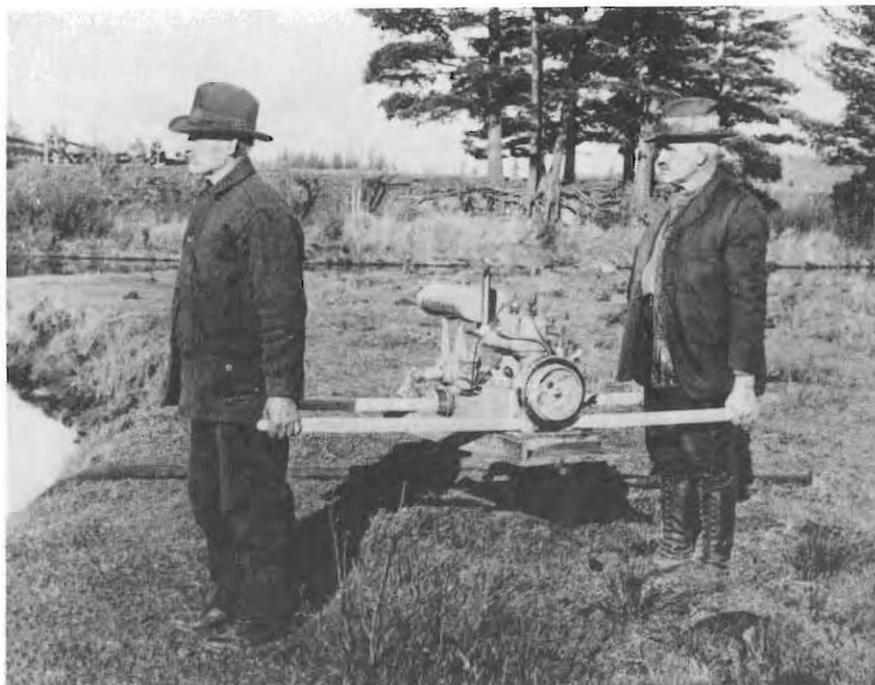
The District Rangers were instructed to assist in setting up an official organization of Town Fire Wardens, but this system, organized under the direction of a State-appointed District Ranger, soon proved unsatisfactory. The Town Fire Wardens were appointed by the local Town Supervisors and fire bills were paid by the Towns. This led to local jealousies and the tendency to fight fires along town lines and to neglect them if in another town.

A radical change in the organization of fire preventive work in the Fire Districts came when Chapters 36 and 38 of the Laws of 1923 were amended. The Conservation Commission was directed to appoint Fire Wardens and organize the protection system in the same way as in the Adirondack and Catskill Fire Towns. Fire bills were to be paid by the Commission, as they were in the Fire Towns, one-half of the amount being rebated at the end of the fire season by the towns in which the fires occurred.

The fire protective system in the Fire Towns at that time was considered to be one of the best in the nation. In 1922 an inspection of the Adirondack region was conducted by the U.S. Forest Service. In a report to the Conservation Commission, one inspector wrote: "Insofar as the Adirondack region goes, there is very little that I can say except in commendation. It appeared to me that you have just about worked out in that region a fire protective system which is as nearly perfect as one can be with a reasonable outlay of funds."

In 1925, a new Fire District was formed to include Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida and Oswego counties. At this time there were no full-time Forest Rangers, other than the District Rangers, employed in the Fire Districts. Seasonal Rangers were employed during the spring fire season and, when necessary, during the fall. Fire towers were widely scattered and Rangers were spread thin. The average Fire Town Ranger, for example, covered approximately 180 square miles and the Fire Tower Observer watched about 200 square miles. In the Fire Districts the average Ranger covered about 700 square miles and the Observer watched over 625 square miles.

The Conservation Commission's Annual Report for the year 1930 said that "there is a greater fire hazard existing in the Fire Districts than in the Fire Towns and the organization for controlling fires is less able to function successfully. Forest lands are usually surrounded by areas of uncut grass, which during the spring and fall months burn with fierce rapidity.



*Portable gasoline pumps proved to be effective tools in fighting forest fires.*

Frequently, the entire efforts of fire suppression crews are devoted to protecting buildings that are menaced by the flames.”

On July 1, 1925, the Clarke-McNary law superseded the Weeks Law. Like its predecessor, the Clarke-McNary Act made federal money available to the states for fire protection in forested areas and New York State depended on these funds for the operation of the Fire Districts.

During the 1920's and early 1930's the fire fighting organization in New York State improved continually; it benefited greatly from the money provided by the Clarke-McNary Act. Early in 1926, for example, tests of a knapsack sprayer known as an “Indian pump” were conducted with such success that 600 were purchased by the State. Also in 1926, the Rangers were required while on duty to wear uniforms provided by the State. The Conservation Commission saw real advantages in a uniformed force, because “the members are so widely scattered and because it is desirable that the public recognize the Rangers who have authority to grant permits and issue forest fire warnings to parties going into the woods.”

By 1931, federal Clarke-McNary funds amounted to over \$72,000 helping to finance much needed equipment,

## The Forest Rangers

*With funds provided by the Clarke-McNary Act of 1925, the State's fleet of fire trucks was gradually expanded and modernized. Note Ranger Uniforms.*



especially in the new Fire Districts. For use in detecting fires in areas of the State where there was an inadequate fire detection system, an airplane was acquired.

The year 1931 saw two specially constructed fire trucks operating continuously in Suffolk County during the spring fire season with such good results that three more were scheduled to be built over the next winter. Two of the new trucks would go to Long Island and one to the Catskill Fire Towns. Continued experience with specialized fire fighting



trucks confirmed the opinion that where they could operate, they were without equal as an efficient fire fighting outfit. In 1933, seven of these trucks were in operation in the State. In 1935, three new trucks were equipped and assigned to Poughkeepsie, Olean and Oneonta.

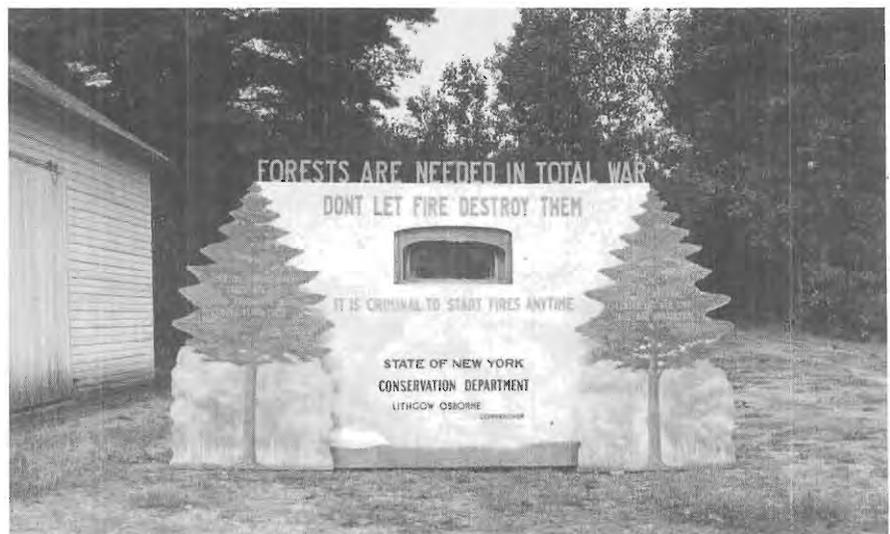
Additional Rangers were hired in the Fire Districts, but the number never equalled the personnel assigned to Fire Towns. Staffing levels during the late 20's and early 30's were as follows:

In the Fire Towns: 6 District Rangers, 66 Forest Rangers, 58 Observers and 200 volunteer Fire Wardens;

In the Fire Districts: 6 District Rangers, 13 Forest Rangers, 10 Observers and 2,000 volunteer Fire Wardens.

Since a Ranger's employment in the Fire Districts at this time was generally restricted to periods of fire danger, a number of names appear in the early records. By the late 1930's forest fire control in the Fire Districts had reached a development comparable to that of the early years in the Fire Towns and was rapidly attaining the same efficiency. Because fires in the Districts usually made headway faster than in Fire Towns, development of the specialized fire fighting truck probably was the major reason for this increased efficiency.

With the outbreak of World War II, Rangers and Observers became vital to the war effort. During the early war years, Forest Fire Observers in all Fire Districts, while on duty in their fire towers or cabins, were directed to report any airplanes they saw or heard to military information centers set up for this purpose. Towers in southeastern New York and



*New York State forests were deemed vital to the war effort.*

Long Island were incorporated into the Coastal Aircraft Warning Service.

Frank Forsyth, a Fire Observer, carried his patriotic duties a step further to the consternation of military aircraft watchers. Forsyth, who later became a Forest Ranger, was on duty at the Telescope Hill Fire Tower at Selden one day when he noticed what appeared to be an enemy submarine just off the coast of Long Island. When he called the Aircraft Warning Service about the sighting, it caused considerable confusion to U.S. Air Corps personnel expecting to hear only about aircraft. A more appropriate military authority was finally contacted and verified that a German submarine had indeed been in the vicinity. Evidence was later found indicating that the sub had put a landing party on shore. In June of 1942, Nazi saboteurs were captured near Amagansett, Long Island, after slipping ashore from a German submarine there.

The end of World War II saw a major change in the organization of the Conservation Department's forestry and fire control programs; it probably changed the role of the Fire District Forest Ranger more than that of his counterpart in the Fire Towns. The post-war reorganization, started in 1946, was intended to bring together all activities of the Division of Lands and Forests into Districts under the general administration of a District Forester, to be effective beginning January 1, 1947.

For example, up until that time, the reforestation program in the western-most frontier was under the direction of H.E. Dobbins, a District Forester whose office was in Jamestown. The forest fire control program was directed by R.L. Witherell, a District Ranger whose office was in Olean. The Fire District was comprised of Allegany, Cattaraugus and Steuben Counties, while the Forest District included Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties. In the fall of 1945 when District Ranger Witherell passed away, his replacement was assigned to the new District 5 office in Jamestown. Allegany and Steuben Counties were transferred to District 4, headquartered in Bath, and Chautauqua County, along with seven towns in southern Erie and Wyoming Counties, was included with Cattaraugus County in District 5.

When the Forest Rangers in the Fire Districts were made full-time, year-round employees, around 1945, their duties were expanded to include much more than forest fire control. Patrol and surveillance of the many thousands of acres of



*Long Island Rangers pioneered the use of brush trucks and heavy equipment for fighting fires. L-R: Forest Ranger Walt Teuber, District Ranger Robert E. Richards and Flanders Tower Observer Bill Snell.*

State reforestation lands became a large part of the Ranger's work when fire was not a problem. Other activities included marking and maintaining State boundary lines; plowing and maintaining fire lanes and truck trails on reforestation areas; investigating and reporting trespasses on State lands, being especially aware of Christmas tree thefts from young plantations; assisting Department Foresters with marking and tallying timber and cordwood sales; and carrying out much of the work in developing recreational facilities such as day-use areas and hiking trails on State land.

As the Fire Districts continued to develop, the Long Island Fire District was always unique, due to its geographic location. Scorching fires had always been a problem especially in eastern Long Island. The Conservation Commission, after extending forest fire protection to Long Island in 1919, began to improve the system. The first Forest Ranger was hired in 1924 to assist the District Ranger. The next year regulations were promulgated requiring burning permits in many parts of Suffolk County. Still, every March to November, large fires continued to sweep the fire-prone woodlands of eastern Long Island burning thousands of acres. Eventually, the District Ranger had five Forest Rangers on the job aided by Fire Observers at fire towers at Bay Shore, Kings Park, Selden,

Flanders and Amagansett. Despite an aggressive fire prevention campaign, the area continued to be plagued by large numbers of fires. With 150 to 200 fires occurring each year, Long Island Forest Rangers honed forest fire suppression into a fine art. A roster containing hundreds of volunteer Fire Wardens was continually updated for fire duty. Forest Rangers shortened response time by designing and using fast, lightweight fire trucks and coordinating efforts with volunteer fire departments. Bulldozers and other heavy equipment were first used by Forest Rangers on Long Island. Dispatch lists of equipment and experienced operators were maintained; many of these developments, as they proved their usefulness, were adopted by upstate Rangers.

After World War II the life style of America began to change. The automobile was now popular and reliable. People began to move from the cities into outlying areas. With veterans' benefits making home mortgages more accessible to large numbers of returning servicemen, home builders were quick to invest in land subdivisions and new home construction projects. Affordable housing in the suburbs became enormously popular at this time. Long Island with lots of gentle terrain to build on, near New York City, and with good road and railroad access, became a prime target. During the forties and fifties the suburbs sprawled out first over Nassau County, then into Suffolk. Long Island's population rose dramatically. Potato farms and woodlands disappeared as tracts of new look-alike houses sprang up almost overnight. Not even the rich tidal wetland areas were spared. Cattails and swamp grasses that had added to Long Island's fire statistics, were buried under sand dredged from the bottom of the bays and pumped as fill into wetlands to create building lots. In rural Suffolk County, the population reached 276,000 by 1950. Seven years later it had nearly doubled to almost 529,000.

The influx of people brought great changes for the Forest Rangers. Carelessness and unfamiliarity with burning regulations on the part of the new residents increased the threat of fire to nearby woodlands. Forest fires started by children multiplied, as did malicious fires of an incendiary nature. Even the best efforts of Smokey the Bear, now well along as the symbol of forest fire prevention, were unable to make much headway against the rising tide of new residents. With the increased population to draw from, new volunteer fire departments began to spring up. Forest Rangers helped

train these new departments whose members could then bring their manpower and fire apparatus into the forest fire suppression effort. While volunteer fire departments were increasing, new houses were replacing woodlands, and new roads created firebreaks all over the Island.

Although Suffolk County was still largely wooded, the State Conservation Department could see that the character of the County was rapidly changing. In 1959, District Ranger Robert E. Richards was informed that the services of the Forest Ranger force on Long Island were to be withdrawn at the end of the year. When the move was announced, it was strongly opposed by Suffolk County officials as well as by Long Island's volunteer firemen. However, appeals to Governor Nelson Rockefeller failed. In the end, members of the Ranger force retired or were transferred to positions upstate. District Ranger Richards transferred and was eventually promoted to Supervising District Ranger for the entire State. Forest fire protection for Long Island's remaining woodlands was entrusted to the volunteer fire departments just 40 years after the State had extended fire protection there.

Considering the events that were to follow, such as the dramatic rise in public concern for our environment and the expanded role of Forest Rangers in so many new fields, the decision may have been open to question. Training, educational activities and emergency incidents other than fires have, with some frequency, brought Rangers back to Long Island. In fact, just twenty-five years later, in 1984, Commissioner Williams appointed a Forest Ranger once more to serve full time on Long Island. ●

# 7

## Training

**T**here was a kinship between the early Forest Rangers and the old Adirondack Guides. Not long after its creation, the Forest Commission became aware of the difficulty in finding the right kind of men to serve as Firewardens in the towns of the Forest Preserve. Needed were good woodsmen who, when the need arose, could drop everything to fight forest fires. For this dirty and dangerous job, the Firewardens would receive two dollars a day, but only when they were needed. Among the residents of the Forest Preserve Counties, few were better qualified than those intrepid pathfinders, the Adirondack guides. The Forest Commission Report for 1893 included this glimpse of the guides and their ways.

A prominent feature of Adirondack life is the large number of guides, whose services are indispensable to the tourist in his journeyings through the wilderness. The fisherman and hunter, also, will find that success is largely dependent on the assistance of an intelligent, skillful guide.

True, a person could, if necessary, dispense with their services to some extent; but only at the cost of considerable labor and inconvenience. Those who can afford it will find that employing a competent guide is a judicious expenditure. He earns his money. If a tourist needs his services, he provides a boat and guides the way; pulls at the oars, through sun and rain, for twenty or thirty miles a day; takes the boat out of the water at various places, and, putting it on his head, carries it over the portages, some of which are four miles long. The fisherman needs his services; for the guide knows better than anyone else just where to drop in a line to catch the fish; just where the spring-holes are in which, during hot weather, the speckled trout may be found. In deer hunting, the guide climbs the mountain side in search of the "signs" on which to put

out the hounds that are chained to his belt; shows the sportsman on which "runways" the deer will be most apt to pass; and, when the animal is killed, "dresses" the carcass, and carries it to camp. The guide is also necessary in camping out. He knows where the cool spring or brook may be found by which the tent must be pitched, or the shanty, built of boughs or bark, erected. He prepares the bed of balsam twigs, and, being a good axeman, provides the wood for the fire which burns brightly each night before the camp, furnishing light and warmth, and the most attractive feature of camp life. He is skilled in cooking; in addition to trout and venison smoking hot, he will serve his guests with Adirondack flapjacks and other tempting dishes peculiar to his woodland cuisine. Happy the tourist, fisherman, or hunter, who can secure the services of a competent guide.

The guides are, for the most part, intelligent, sober, and industrious. That there should be some exceptions is natural; but they are few. During the winter many of them work in the lumber camps. When the ice goes out with the spring freshets, they join the river drivers, and work at driving logs, an employment for which strong, active men are always in demand.

Soon after the ice goes out, which, in our northern lakes occurs often in May, the fishing season opens. The large number of sportsmen who throng into the woods in May and June, on every railroad and from every direction, furnish employment for a large number of guides. The guide provides a boat, furnishes bait, carries the boat over the trails leading to the neighboring ponds or streams, cleans the fish, and packs them properly in case the fisherman wishes to carry some of them home. He is of great assistance, also, in pointing out the exact, circumscribed spots in which it is necessary to cast a line in order to catch trout, places which a fisherman unacquainted with the locality would seldom find.

With the close of the spring fishing the season for summer boarders and tourists commences, and the guide locates at or near a summer hotel. If a guest needs his services he will be found at evening about the piazzas, or in the "guide house," where he sits and smokes and listens to the interminable stories, which are an interesting feature of that spot. During the hotel season his principal employment, if in the Lake Region, consists in carrying tourists over the long, hundred-mile routes which traverse the wilderness in various directions. He also secures considerable patronage from the "trippers," parties who make short trips through the lakes to some other hotel for dinner, returning at night. Although the fishing is poor during the summer months he finds frequent employment with persons—often ladies—who want to try their luck with hook and line, and who generally succeed in getting some fish, to say nothing of a pleasant outing. In the mountain region, the

guides during the summer season are in demand for mountain climbing, camping-out parties, picnics, and brook fishing.

With the closing of the summer hotels the hunting season opens, and the guides find employment with the deer hunters whose hounds make the woods echo until the leaves have fallen. And now comes the time when the distinction between the real guide and one who is a mere boatman is quickly apparent. Many of the sportsmen go into camp during the shooting or hounding season. The guide must then have a boat, pack-basket, rifle, and hound of his own, and must understand handling each one of the four. He must be able to pull a good oar so as to head off a deer in the lake and keep it there awhile, if necessary; he must be able to carry a pack-basket loaded heavily with food, dishes, and camp equipment; he must be a quick, sure shot with a rifle, able to kill a running deer at twenty-five rods; and must be enough of a woodsman to know how, when, and where to "put out" hounds so that the deer will go to the runways where his hunters are stationed. If his patron wants to indulge in the questionable sport of "jacking" or night hunting, he must be proficient in rigging up a jack, or a head-light cap, and to paddle his boat through the darkness with that absolutely noiseless motion which, to many, is the great charm of night hunting. When the deer is killed, he must know how to cut it open, take out the innards, wash and dress it, get it to camp, and hoist it on the "pole." He must be able to run a good camp; must be handy in pitching a tent or building a shanty; ready in cutting wood and keeping up a fire that will not smoke his guests into a fit of profanity; and last, but above all, he must be a good cook, neat in his personal habits, and cleanly in all his cooking arrangements. This may be thought an uncommon list of requirements; but there are plenty of Adirondack guides who can fill the bill in every particular.

In 1885, there were about 1000 of these guides. During the nineteenth century, the unexplored Adirondacks had been tamed largely at the hands of these grizzled mountain men. Emmons, Colvin and pioneer photographer Seneca Ray Stoddard all benefited from their services. In addition, for a daily wage they guided hordes of strangers safely in and out of this vast country, and provided them unforgettable wilderness experiences. Grateful visitors emerged from the forest, exuberant in their enthusiasm for the Adirondacks, and in awe of their woodland mentors.

Where guides could be induced to serve, and some did, they made good Firewardens and fire fighters. Frequently, the relatives and friends of guides would serve as Firewardens, aided and influenced during forest fire emergencies by the guides.



*Early guides became the role models for later Forest Rangers.*

In a nation that as yet had no trained foresters, there was little that the Forest Commission could provide in the way of training for its first Firewardens scattered across the Forest Preserve. It was, therefore, quite understandable that guides should exert a strong influence on many Firewardens who would begin to emulate their independent and practical ways. These Firewardens, in turn, set an example for later Wardens. In this way, vestiges of the guides' strong influence survived the decades, rubbing off on Patrolmen and eventually, Forest Rangers. Today, despite all kinds of training and technical education, hints of the old Adirondack guides can still be sensed in the demeanor of long-time Rangers as they carry out their duties.

Technical training for Forest Rangers developed through the rise of the science of forestry. As conservation gained acceptance, Americans became more aware of the importance

of trees and forestry. Franklin Hough became the first forest Commissioner of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He prepared an extensive report on forestry which received wide attention. Another native New Yorker, J. Sterling Morton, was instrumental in the creation of the forestry milestone, Arbor Day, which Nebraska adopted in 1872 and New York in 1889.

In 1885, as part of its original mandate, the new Forest Commission was directed to take measures to awaken an interest in forestry in the State. Trained forestry technicians were badly needed to look after valuable forest resources and protect them against fire, disease and greedy lumbermen.

The science of forestry originated in France and Germany. A German forester, Bernhard E. Fernow, educated in Prussia, brought the new ideas about forestry to the United States when he came here with his American born wife-to-be in



*To stir interest in forestry, New York State recognized Arbor Day in 1889.*



*Extensive land clearing and replanting to desired species of trees was carried out by New York State's first forestry college under the direction of Bernhard E. Fernow.*

1876. His efforts were joined by an American—Yale graduate Gifford Pinchot, who studied forestry in Europe in 1889-1890. Pinchot's forestry work for George W. Vanderbilt helped pave the way for the nation's first forestry academy which commenced at Biltmore, near Asheville, North Carolina. Only a few months later, in 1898, the New York State College of Forestry at Cornell was formed.

New York's forestry college was established on 30,000 acres acquired at Axton near Upper Saranac Lake with Fernow as director. The new college needed to prove that scientific forestry could be made profitable but Fernow's attempt to do this turned into a disaster. Unwisely, he accelerated timber harvesting on college land in order to meet agreements made with the Brooklyn Cooperage Company. These activities, along with Fernow's arrogance in dealing with owners of estates on nearby Upper Saranac Lake, jeopardized the future of the forestry school. About 3,100 acres were cleared of their timber during this time, while 440 acres were replanted. In 1901, legal action was begun by the estate owners to stop Fernow's massive cutting program.

The death knell of the school came, however, in the spring of 1903 when devastating fires fed by logging slash swept across the college lands. Governor Benjamin Odell vetoed the forestry college's appropriation whereupon Cornell's trustees promptly closed the school and dismissed Fernow. In 1911 the



*The New York State Ranger School was established on the shore of Cranberry Lake, July 1912.*

*Paul Smith's College*

Legislature approved re-establishing the College of Forestry at Syracuse. Unlike its predecessor, the new college would gain eminence in the field of forestry.

In 1912, Dr. Hugh P. Baker, newly appointed dean at Syracuse, embarked on a daring undertaking. In addition to the professional forestry education offered at Syracuse, Baker sought to establish training which would fill the gap between the woodsmen and the professional forester. With this aim he established the New York State Ranger School as a subsidiary of the College of Forestry, designed to provide America's newly created National Forests with trained leaders as soon as possible. The Ranger School would teach men to think, to use their hands, and to become woods-wise as well as woods-useful. Here, education in forestry would be boiled down into short intensive courses in essential subjects crammed into nine vacationless months (now a two year course).

The Ranger School was established in 1912 beside Cranberry Lake near the isolated Adirondack community of Wanakena. The first students were housed at homes in the community until a dormitory was completed, with their help, in November 1912. Those early students began a Spartan tradition; life was rugged, with unending practical work and study and little time left for social activity. In 1920, when enrollment exceeded accommodations, overflow students were housed in tents. Temperatures that winter hovered at 35 below zero and students often had to dig their way through the snow to reach their classrooms.

The intensely practical training received at the Ranger School gave a strong foundation to students who had the

fortitude to see it through. Graduates moved on to further studies, or quickly assumed jobs in various fields of conservation. A good many State Forest Rangers, District Rangers and other State Conservation personnel established their careers after completing training at the Ranger School, and many attained prominence in their field.

In 1972, the Ranger School again made history with the enrollment of Hildegarde Kuhn, the school's first female student. After completing work at the Ranger School, Ms. Kuhn later became New York State's first female Forest Ranger.

Some years later, not so many Adirondack miles away, a second educational institution, Paul Smith's College, opened its doors. Established on the shore of St. Regis Lake, it occupied the former site of the glamorous resort hotel which Apollos "Paul" Smith had built. The idea for the college began when Phelps Smith, Paul's last surviving son, died in 1937, leaving in his will funds and plans for the college. After a long period of internal disagreements, the college finally opened in 1946. The two year school specialized in three fields: liberal arts, hotel-resort management, and forestry. Students in the forestry program found the college atmosphere less austere than their counterparts at the Ranger School, but the educational standards demanded were



*In December 1940, at the Ranger Barracks at Saranac Inn, Forest Rangers received training in the use of two-way radio equipment.*



*The first statewide Forest Ranger training school was held at Saratoga Springs in 1943.*

nonetheless rigorous. Successful graduates of the college received the degree of Associate in Applied Science for Forestry.

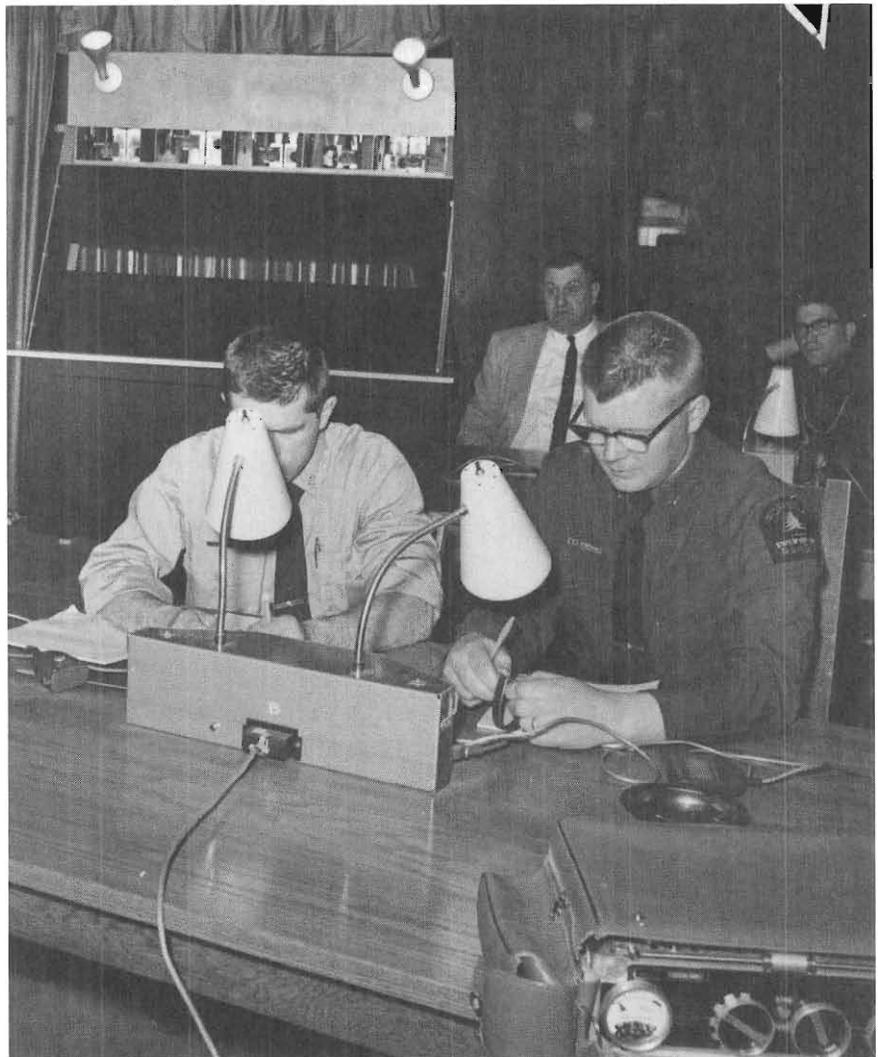
As civil service tests became required for more and more of the State's conservation jobs, Paul Smith's alumni proved strong competitors, and today many Forest Ranger positions are held by former students of Paul Smith's. Predictably, when Rangers gather together, their forestry school allegiances become the source of some good humored rivalry. Suffice it to say, both the Ranger School and Paul Smith's College have brought tremendous benefit to New York State through the quality of their technical training. This training has been particularly essential to the State's Forest Rangers who must cope with an ever-expanding role in the management and protection of our natural resources.

In the evolution of Forest Ranger training, in-service training has become increasingly important and Forest Rangers receive a wide variety of it at frequent intervals. However, in early years on-the-job training was nonexistent, and gatherings for any reason were infrequent. During the winter of 1910, Fire Patrolmen held a joint three-day meeting with Game Protectors at Albany. After the meeting, newly appointed Patrolmen remained for training in surveying and other duties. In 1912, under the new Conservation Commission, training of Rangers already on the force was

recommended. Meetings of a few days in length devoted to lecture and demonstration would, it was felt, enhance the Rangers' performance of their duties.

Beneficial training for the Forest Ranger force was subsequently carried out during a "Ranger Convention" held at Albany, February 4-8, 1913. After an orientation by Superintendent of State Forests Pettis and Assistant Superintendent Howard dealing with the organization of the fire fighting force, training got underway. Instructors were on hand for a variety of useful subjects including fire fighting accounts and reports, telephone system maintenance and repair, surveying and locating old boundary lines, drafting

*Rangers concentrate on fire control problems created during training with forest fire simulator machine.*





*Forest Ranger training schools were held at Bear Mountain for a number of years.*

and plotting survey notes, forest mapping, timber estimating, silviculture, reforestation, enforcement of game laws, and protecting the Forest Preserve against trespass and occupancy. The convention gave distant Rangers a chance to become acquainted and helped create an esprit de corps in the force. Unfortunately, with the nation headed toward the trauma of World War I, plans for additional training were apparently postponed.

By the middle of the 1920's, winter conferences for Rangers and Fire Tower Observers were being held in all the Forest Preserve districts. A school to teach Rangers how to use two-way radio equipment was held at the Saranac Inn Ranger Headquarters during 1940. In the spring of 1943, the first statewide Forest Ranger training school was held at Saratoga Springs. Twelve District Rangers and eighty-three Forest Rangers were in attendance. Instruction was given in all phases of the Rangers' work. From this beginning Forest Rangers gathered annually for a number of years at Bear Mountain for training conferences. The most ambitious program of in-service training was conducted during the 1960's under the direction of Superintendent of Forest Fire Control, Fred W. Oettinger, a strong proponent of training as a means of increasing the efficiency of the force. A training officer position was filled in 1966 through the promotion of

Ranger Richard T. Thompson who was assigned much of the work for the extensive in-service training program.

During several winters, training sessions were conducted on subjects including fire behavior, weather forecasting, fire suppression methods, aircraft operations, radio procedures and law enforcement. A forest fire simulator developed by District Ranger Philip Carter added realism to fire suppression training.

Forest Ranger training continued to be a high priority under Superintendent Charles E. Boone, with regular sessions held annually at the State Police Academy covering a wide variety of subjects.

Today, refresher courses on a wide range of subjects related to search and rescue, forest fire control and law enforcement fill the Ranger training menu. In addition to practical hands-on training, Forest Rangers and their supervisors are learning more than ever before about modern management practices aimed at improving the efficiency of their operations, and honing their supervisory skills.

Both statewide and regional training efforts are coordinated by Forest Ranger Training Officer David Ames who insures that these sessions maintain the objectives and high standards desired for the Ranger Force. ●

# 8

## Taming the Beast

*If fire break out and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn, or the field, be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.*

Exodus 22:6—The oldest fire law

**E**arly Forest Rangers were fortunate to have the leadership of Assistant Superintendent William G. Howard during those years following the reorganization of 1909. Under his watchful eye, the mandated improvements moved steadily forward. A high priority was given to establishing observation stations where smoke might be detected more quickly. In 1905, a private club had established a wooden tower on Balsam Lake Mountain in Ulster County. Four years later, the State launched its ambitious fire detection program with the creation of an observation station atop Mt. Morris in Franklin County. By the end of 1910, the State had 20 mountain top observation stations in operation (16 in the Adirondacks and four in the Catskills). The following year 16 more stations were put into operation. There was no set design for these early stations. At most stations, rough wooden towers of varying height were constructed of logs or planks. Telephone lines had to be constructed to each station so that Observers could notify District Rangers or Forest Rangers when smoke was detected. Early towers had little in the way of protection from the elements. Early Fire Observers were supplied with tents for shelter and rainproof wooden boxes for their telephones. The tents proved to be unsatisfactory due to the harsh weather conditions encountered on the mountain tops. In 1911 the Commission began a program of cabin construction for the Observers. By the end of 1912, 49 stations



*Early fire observation stations were equipped with crude log or plank towers.*

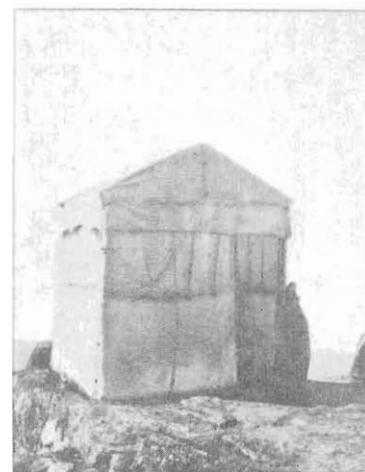
were operating and 32 of them were equipped with rough cabins made from logs or boards. Foot trails to the observation stations were also greatly improved beginning in that year. Observers were paid \$50 to \$60 per month from May to November which was considered to be the fire season. They received \$12 extra if they lived on their mountains instead of returning home at night. Along with the Fire Observers, the Forest Rangers had increased by 1913 to a field force of 65 to 70 men during the fire season, which was reduced to 20 to 30 men during the winter. These Rangers worked in the Adirondack and Catskill regions in five fire districts, each under the supervision of a District Forest Ranger.

- District 1. Clinton, Franklin and the northern half of Essex Counties.
- District 2. Southern Essex, Warren, Washington and northeastern Hamilton Counties.
- District 3. St. Lawrence, Oneida, Lewis, northern Herkimer and northwestern Hamilton Counties.
- District 4. Fulton, Saratoga, southern Herkimer and southern Hamilton Counties.
- District 5. Delaware, Greene, Sullivan and Ulster Counties.

The jobs of the District Forest Ranger, the Forest Ranger and the Fire Warden and Railroad Fire Inspectors are described in the Conservation Commission's Annual Report for 1913.

#### **District Forest Ranger**

An officer designated as district forest ranger is appointed for each district and has his headquarters at a suitable point within the district. He is paid a salary of \$1,500 a year, and is allowed his necessary traveling expenses. The district ranger is charged with the duty of protecting the forests within his district from fire. A force of forest rangers is appointed for each district and the district ranger is in charge of those men. All fire bills must be approved by him before they can be audited for payment. He directs the work of the ranger force in the field and advises the commission as to the division of his territory into patrol districts. All ranger reports are forwarded to the district ranger, and must pass through his hands before they are sent in to the Albany office.



*Tents provided shelter for early fire observers, but were quickly replaced by more sturdy cabins. Above: Tent shelter—Whiteface Mountain. Left: Observer cabin—Snowy Mountain*

### Forest Rangers

The actual fire fighting force is made up of a number of men known as forest rangers, who are appointed by the commission and are paid at the rate of \$60 per month. These men devote their entire time to the work of the department. During the fire season, that is, from May to November, between 65 and 70 forest rangers are employed, about fifteen for each Adirondack district, and ten for the Catskill district.

All the rangers are stationed where they can be readily reached by telephone. When a ranger is notified of a fire, he goes to it at once, or as soon as he can gather together a crew of fire fighters. He is given authority by law to summon any able-bodied man to help fight fire and any person who refuses to respond to such summons is liable to a fine of \$20. Each ranger has a quantity of tools, such as shovels, rakes, hoes, mattocks, pails, etc., at his headquarters, and tools are also stored at convenient places in different parts of each patrol district so as to be readily available in case of fire. Tents and camp outfits are also provided when it is necessary to board men in the woods, as in the case of a large fire at a long distance from any settlement.

### Fire Wardens

Fire wardens are appointed to supplement the force of regular men. They are, however, paid only for the time they actually spend in fighting fires (\$2.50 per day). When a ranger has more

than one fire in his district at a time, he appoints a foreman to take charge of each fire, while he himself moves from one fire to another, to see that the work is going on properly. The purpose of the force of fire wardens is to secure a large number of men whose interests are in the forest, and who are willing to take charge of any fires which may spring up in their immediate vicinity. These men are directly responsible to the regular rangers in whose district they are located. There are at present about 200 fire wardens employed by the department.

### **Railroad Fire Inspectors**

The Conservation Law provides for the appointment of two chief railroad inspectors and four railroad inspectors. The chief inspectors receive a salary of \$1,200 a year, the other inspectors \$900.

The State is divided into two districts, one including the main line of the New York Central R.R. from Albany west, and all territory north of that line, and the other district including the southern portion of the State. A chief inspector and two inspectors are assigned to each district. The work of enforcing the laws relating to railroads is assigned to these men under the direction of the Commission. The chiefs hold conferences with representatives of the railroad in order that there may be no misunderstanding as to the requirements of the law as regards the clearing of rights of way and the proper equipment of locomotives with fire protective devices. Frequent inspections are made, both of rights-of-way and of locomotives, and reports of these inspections are submitted to the Albany office. Copies of the requirements issued by the Public Service Commission at the request of the Conservation Commission are given to all inspectors and they are expected to see that these requirements are complied with.

Under Assistant Superintendent Howard's direction, the men in these positions became the kind of strong team needed to bring forest fires under control. Eventually, the work of the railroad inspectors would bring about significant reductions in the large number of forest fires caused by the railroads. In fact, railroad fires decreased so much that people today usually laugh when they learn that the organization charged with forest fire control ever employed personnel called "locomotive inspectors" as they were known in later years.

For the Forest Rangers, the work of increasing the number of observation stations, of cutting out trails and building cabins and telephone lines would continue for many years. Rangers operated from their homes which were considered to be their headquarters and were required to have telephone

service. They were expected to reside within their patrol area just as they are today. With the onset of dry weather when fire danger was high, Forest Rangers had to remain at their homes or be reachable by telephone, and were to be available at all times of the day or night, seven days a week. When a forest fire was discovered, the nearest Forest Ranger would be called. It would be the Ranger's job (or perhaps his wife's) to notify his Fire Wardens and fire fighters (who still received 15¢ per hour to fight fire). The Ranger would then drive his personal vehicle, loaded with sufficient hand tools for the fire fighters, to the vicinity where the fire had been reported. Usually, the fires were large enough by that time so that there was very little trouble finding them. After scouting the fire the Forest Ranger was expected to use his knowledge and experience to get the fire under control as quickly as possible. This was done by attacking the flames directly with shovels and wet gunny sacks, or if the fire was too hot, by trenching ahead of the advancing fire. The trench was dug through the decaying duff layer down to the mineral soil thus creating a fire break at which firefighters could, with luck, stop the spreading fire. Often a messenger would have to be sent to the nearest telephone to call for more help, tools or food. After a fire was under control, but still smoldering and potentially dangerous, a Fire Warden might be placed in charge and the Forest Ranger would return to headquarters to prepare for the next one.

From its beginning, the Forest Ranger force was instilled with two basic principles, as spelled out in 1913 by Howard:

Care must be taken to secure an organization which is readily adaptable to the emergencies of fire fighting. There should be as little "red tape" as is compatible with a proper performance of the work.

In the future, fire control administrators and District Rangers would take refuge in this axiom as they swam against a steadily rising tide of governmental bureaucracy. The second principle dealt with handling forest fire emergencies and it was drummed, without mercy, into the head of every new Ranger, and still is today.

It should always be borne in mind that the time to attack a fire is when it starts, and that the loss of even a few minutes at that time may mean hours or even days of work later, not to mention the loss of property caused by the fire should it attain large proportions.

The fire prevention program had been mandated as early as 1885. When fire danger was low, Rangers were supplied with pamphlets and fire notices defining the fire laws and exhorting users of the woods to be careful with fire. These were to be distributed and posted throughout each Ranger's patrol area.

The top-logging law required periodic inspections of logging jobs by Forest Rangers to make sure that limbs of evergreen tops were cut off the trees. This process reduced forest fire hazards by getting the limbs and tops down on the ground where they would decay more quickly. Rangers were also expected to guard State Forest Preserve lands against trespass and illegal occupancy. This was a difficult job at a time when boundary lines were often ill-defined and more land was being acquired by the State.

The fire control organization continued to grow and become more professional. In 1915, five Ford automobiles were purchased and issued to the District Forest Rangers. By this time the force had stabilized with 65 Forest Rangers and 50 Observers. The purchase of ten steel towers was under consideration (this was done the following year), and a



*Model T Ford—Purchased in 1915 by the Conservation Commission and assigned to District Rangers.*

Manual of Instruction had been prepared for the Forest Fire Protective Force. The new manual in a sturdy pocket-sized format containing 30 pages, explained the responsibilities of the various fire control personnel and outlined procedures to be followed in fire suppression, law enforcement, locating State land and keeping an inventory of equipment. For some unknown reason, Forest Rangers were authorized to arrest people caught trespassing or violating game laws; however, for violations of top-logging and fire laws, Rangers were only to gather sufficient evidence to prosecute these cases.

By the end of 1917 the Adirondack Preserve lands had grown to 1,702,136 acres while the Catskill Preserve contained 110,461. That year the Conservation Commission hired Kinne F. Williams, who ten years later would take charge of the Bureau of Forest Fire Control. He would provide strong leadership to the bureau, and command the loyalty and admiration of the forest fire protective force long after 1952 when he became Assistant Director of the Division of Lands and Forests. The Forest Rangers' pay was increased to a maximum of \$75 per month at this time and it was strongly recommended that they be placed on an equal salary with game protectors.

Publication of *The Conservationist* magazine began in April of 1917. Due to lack of funds, publication ceased in December of 1921. After a long hiatus our present, widely popular *New York State Conservationist* began publication in August of 1946. Interest in conservation education was growing. The Conservation Commission was beginning to receive requests for lectures from colleges, schools, churches, sportsmen's clubs, and others. Material was being written for newspapers and magazines while lantern slides and motion pictures were being produced, one a forest fire thriller entitled *The Match in the Forest!*

Conversion of the early mountain-top stations to new steel towers was nearly accomplished by 1920. Of the 54 stations, only Prospect (using the cupola of the old hotel), Mohunk (where the soon-to-be-built, magnificent, sky-top tower would contain an observatory), Belleayre and Ampersand remained unconverted. Two steel towers, Gore and Hadley, had blown over during a hurricane in October 1919 but were quickly reconstructed. Practically all of the labor in the erection of fire towers was performed by members of the Forest Ranger force. Most of the State's steel towers were erected under the



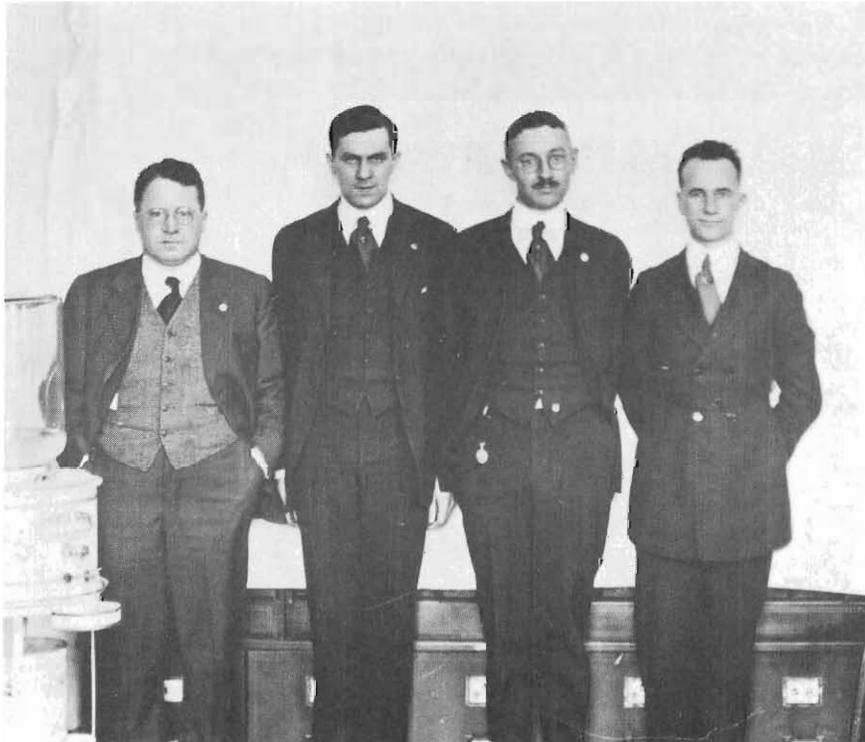
*Completed steel tower at Lyon Mountain erected 1917.*

supervision of Forest Ranger Albert Tebeau of Owls Head who travelled about the State directing local Rangers in the construction of the towers. The cost of a fire tower, not including Ranger labor, averaged about \$530.

The decade of the 1920's was an incredibly busy one for the Ranger force. The Forest Preserve was getting bigger, expanded by land purchased with \$7,500,000 from a Bond Act approved by the voters in 1916. The forest fire protective system was expanding to other parts of the State outside the Forest Preserve counties. The Rangers carried out a major new campsite and trail building program. Trucks and other

motorized equipment were being tried and modified for use by the Forest Ranger force. Modernization of fire detection facilities continued with the construction of additional towers and replacement Observer cabins. Beginning in 1918, circular map-tables were properly oriented and securely fastened to the floor in the cab of each fire tower. To each map-table was attached an alidade-type sighting device called an "Osborne Fire Finder" enabling the Fire Observer to pinpoint fires more accurately. Later, fires in remote areas would be located by triangulation using string maps and azimuth bearings provided by these sighting devices. Such devices were not much help during the 1922 fire season, a dry year in which 450 fires occurred. Smoke from extensive forest fires in Canada drifted into northern New York, limiting visibility and making the State's observation stations, for a time, practically useless.

The transition to mechanized equipment began in 1921 with the purchase of three rotary gear pumps containing two-cylinder gasoline engines and weighing 125 pounds each. "Two men can carry it anywhere," advertising literature boasted. Newer versions of these were added in subsequent



1920—Leaders of the Division of Lands and Forests. L-R: Clifford R. Pettis, Superintendent; B.H. Paul, Forester; William G. Howard, Assistant Superintendent; Carl Schmidt, Forester.

years and Forest Rangers were required to conduct pump tests twice monthly with much competition ensuing. The best Rangers could set up and start a pump, couple 200 feet of hose, and have water pumping in nine minutes flat. Other new equipment included the "Double Forester," a ten-gallon hand pump, and the Vermoree spray pump, the forerunner of the five-gallon knapsack pump in common use today. In 1924 a Ford truck was acquired and modified for fire duty on Long Island. In addition to hand tools, this truck was equipped with what could charitably be called the first "slip on unit," that truck-mounted fire fighting outfit which is so familiar to Forest Rangers today. This one consisted of an Evinrude two-cycle pump, hose and four large barrels of water. This decade saw the introduction of weather stations to aid the Forest Ranger force with scientific weather information and forecasts. For the first time, Conservation Commission officials took to the air waves to broadcast warnings about dry conditions and forest fire danger.

Concern about the unsightly proliferation of signs in the Adirondack Park brought about a new sign law in 1924. The unpopular job of bringing all off-premises signs in the Park into compliance was assigned to the Forest Ranger force.

In 1926 a new "Manual of Instructions" for the Forest Ranger force was issued. The size of the new manual (157 pages) reflected the increasing responsibilities of the Ranger force. Perhaps the need for bigger pockets for carrying the new larger manual influenced the decision that year to establish a uniform for Forest Rangers, District Rangers and Observers. At any rate, these personnel were told where to



*The first slip-on unit. 1924 edition.*



*The increase of unsightly roadside signs led to the passage of the Adirondack Park Sign Law in 1924.*

obtain the new uniforms and were directed to wear the uniform at all times when on duty except when doing rough or dirty work like fire fighting. The required uniform consisted of a gray coat and riding breeches, standard grey flannel shirt, green necktie, tan shoes, leather puttees and a standard felt (campaign style) hat. Identification of Fire Wardens was begun two years later. For the large numbers of Fire Wardens around the State, a numbered, metal bound button was devised. Upon appointment, each Warden received a button and a Fire Warden instruction manual.

After the reorganization of 1927 establishing the Bureau of Forest Fire Control, the amazing progress of these early years continued. A storehouse, shop and Forest Ranger barracks were established at Saranac Inn. The entire State benefited from work done here overhauling pumps and customizing trucks for fire fighting use. In fact, virtually all innovations in the design of early fire fighting trucks came from ideas suggested by Forest Rangers and fabricated at the Saranac Inn Ranger Headquarters.

By the end of the decade, effective statewide forest fire protection had moved a giant step forward. The forest fire protective force in the field consisted of 79 Forest Rangers, 12 District Rangers, 68 Fire Observers and 2,200 Fire Wardens. The pay for fire fighters had been increased to 35¢ per hour. In addition to quantities of hand tools, there were eight fire trucks, 57 gasoline pumps and 2,000 five-gallon Indian knapsack pumps available. With 1,176 fires during 1929, it was clear that this equipment would continue to be needed. Forest Rangers could tame the fire beast, but not defeat it. ☹



# 9

## Jubilee

As if the deepening depression wasn't enough to worry about in 1930, New York State was subjected to the worst forest fire hazard in history. Twice that year, Governor Franklin Roosevelt took the extreme measure of closing the woods. Only once prior to 1930 had this ever been done. The early disappearance of snow caused the spring fire season to begin early. Dry weather kept the danger high throughout most of the summer and led into an autumn of extreme peril. Despite the woods closures, forest fires totalled 2,207 by year's end. That none of these fires grew into anything comparable in size to the fires around the turn of the century was the greatest possible tribute to the skill of the Forest Ranger force and to the effectiveness of the system of fire detection and suppression that had been created since 1909.

In the summer of 1931, the Conservation Department took a historic step with the purchase of its first airplane. The aircraft was a Fleet biplane with a three-place open cockpit, acquired mainly for forest fire patrol and observation, with Albert L. Leo-Wolf of Niagara Falls as pilot. The following year, a larger plane equipped with a two-way radio was purchased. In 1940, a Waco ZKS-7 became the workhorse of forest fire control aviation. Radio tests carried out during 1932 led to the purchase the following year of three additional five-meter transmitters and receivers. By 1939 the number of radios in use had increased to ten. From this limited beginning came the radio communications system which would some day end the tyranny of the telephone for the Rangers.



*In 1931, the Conservation Department entered the era of aviation with the purchase of this Fleet Biplane for forest fire patrol and observation.*

The Conservation Department entered the winter sports business with the construction of the Mt. VanHoevenberg Bobsled Run, the only bobsled run in North America. After resolving a siting controversy, the twisting snow-packed run was built in preparation for the winter Olympic Games hosted at Lake Placid during 1932. These events helped to fire public enthusiasm for future winter sports facilities and gave a great boost to the Adirondack region as a place for winter sports. Forest Rangers served in many capacities at the bobsled run. Originally, a Ranger was placed in charge of the facility and he was assisted in the operational work there by various Rangers when needed. Ranger Roy Tallman became the last Ranger in charge of the bobsled run when his title was changed to Superintendent of the facility.

Two Forest Rangers came to be associated with the bobsled run as competitors. Ranger Jim Bickford was a sled driver for America's team in numerous world and Olympic competitions from 1932 to 1952, winning a third place in 1948. Ranger Jim Lord served during competition from 1964 to 1969 as brakeman on America's team which captured third place in 1965 during world bobsled competition held at St. Moritz, Switzerland.

In 1933 efforts to relieve unemployment brought the Federal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to New York State, and 32 camps were established in the State. Eighteen of these were placed under the direction of the Division of Lands and Forests, with each camp containing approximately 200 young men. The CCC provided a labor pool that accomplished a great deal during its relatively short span of service. Among their many accomplishments were campsite and fire tower construction, improvement of State reforestation areas, gypsy moth and blister rust control, fire fighting, and fire truck trail construction.

This latter project became the subject of considerable controversy. The truck trail idea was spawned in 1934 by the 8,000-acre Bay Pond fire in Franklin County. It was suggested that dead-end roads might be built along the route of old tote roads for better access for fire vehicles. The move was opposed by some leading conservationists, among them Bob Marshall, son of Louis Marshall, and a leading exponent of

*Through the years, many Forest Rangers worked at the Mt. VanHoevenberg Bobsled Run.*



*CCC Camp—Barnum Pond. Energy of youthful enrollees was skillfully channeled into hard work and vigorous athletic competition.*



modern wilderness preservation. Marshall, a trained forester who, in 1935, became one of the founders of America's Wilderness Society, objected strenuously saying: "Once a road passable for automobiles is actually built, there will immediately be a strong argument that the Conservation Department is like a dog in a manger in not permitting the general public to use it. It will be much easier to open by constitutional amendment a road which already exists than it would be to authorize the cutting of an entirely new road." Despite his contention that these roads would destroy the forever-wild character of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, 95 truck trails were eventually built. Nevertheless, Bob Marshall had introduced a new idea; wilderness was important not just for its timber or water or recreation, but was valuable because it was wilderness. A new era had begun! This wilderness philosophy would grow in popularity until finally Congress in 1964 would establish the federal Wilderness Act to preserve America's dwindling wilderness and revolutionize the way we look at land.

The accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps were of tremendous benefit to the Conservation Department during the 1930's. Facilities were put into tip-top condition around the State. From May 1933 until July 1942, approximately \$9,000,000 of federal funds were expended by the CCC for work of the Conservation Department carried out under the direction of the Divisions of Lands and Forests

and Fish and Game. The CCC was established as an unemployment relief program during the Great Depression and continued with impressive success until the outbreak of World War II.

Among the many projects completed by the CCC during their nine years in existence were included the following: fire truck trails, 393 miles; fire truck trail bridges, 73; forest fire suppression, 58,151 work-days; dams, 63; stream and lake bank protection, 1,100 square yards; stream development, 234 miles; water supply systems, 80; signs and markers erected, 4,000; fencing, 453 miles; tree and plant disease control, 1,100,000 acres; tree insect pest control, 3,700,000 acres; fish rearing ponds built, 107; fish stocked, 346,000; tree planting, 1,100,000 acres.

By 1935, the number of camps in New York State had reached 106. From this peak the CCC would gradually wind down until 1942 when it was disbanded. Many people remember the CCC, with its remarkable record of achievement in conservation projects and its positive impact on the people who participated, as the finest program among the relief efforts of the Great Depression.

The Conservation Department celebrated its jubilee in 1935, at a time of growing recognition of the need and importance of conservation. Moreover, much had been accomplished by the Department and its predecessors. The Forest Preserve had



*CCC boys guarding an Adirondack fire truck trail against motor vehicle encroachment.*

*An Adirondack fire truck trail. Construction of these roads on the Forest Preserve sparked considerable controversy.*



grown from its original 700,000 acres to 2,350,000. The Bureau of Forest Fire Protection, with 87 Forest Rangers, 13 District Rangers and 84 Fire Observers, had built up a viable system of protection for the Forest Preserve as well as for most of the State's forested lands. An active recreational development program was placing the outdoors within reach of ordinary citizens and, as a by-product, encouraging a whole new industry based on tourism. These and many more achievements brought strong support for the jubilee as reflected in all kinds of local observances occurring in 42 counties throughout the State. The festivities culminated in a gala three-day celebration held at Lake Placid on September 12, 13 and 14 attended by the President, the Governor and scores of other dignitaries. The program began with a parade and flag-raising ceremony at the Olympic Stadium. Later, visitors could take in conservation exhibits, equipment demonstrations, CCC athletic competitions, shooting tournaments, sportsmen's events, hikes, dinners and even a ball. On Saturday, September 14, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Veterans Memorial Highway on Whiteface Mountain. The festivities closed with a dramatic pageant at the Olympic stadium depicting the history of conservation in the State.

More important than its history was the *future* of conservation. In its Annual Report for 1935, the Department



*Opening parade at Lake Placid to celebrate 50 years of conservation, the Forest Preserve Jubilee, 1935.*

foresaw a future for environmental protection that would, of necessity, be controversial saying:

In the past when a natural resource has been threatened it has been the policy of the government to preserve that resource by purchasing the land, the franchise or the vested right held in that resource by private interests. No public treasury, however, can possibly stand the expense of acquiring all the property upon which conservation must be practiced if resources are to be saved. Therefore some further invasion of what have been regarded in the past as private property rights, must take place if conservation is to become entirely effective.

Forty years later, this concept would gain widespread support as people across the nation became critical of uncontrolled development and rampant pollution of America's resources.

For quite some time, the Conservation Department's expertise in conservation education had been increasing. The Division of Lands and Forests, its Bureau of Forestry and other Department units developed exhibits which were sent all over the State to be displayed at fairs, conventions, schools and elsewhere. News releases were issued and films and speakers scheduled. The increasing demands for such programs led in 1937 to the formation of the Bureau of Public Relations and Education, which became the Bureau of Conservation Education in 1944 and was upgraded to the

Division of Conservation Education in 1946. This was the forerunner of today's highly developed DEC information and educational service programs. Out in the field, an experimental program of campfire talks sponsored by the State College of Forestry in cooperation with the Department was begun in 1934 at Fish Creek Campground. The evening programs were heavily attended by campers. Later a nature museum was added to the campground and local field trips were offered. This highly successful pilot program reached thousands of campers annually during the years prior to the war. For the Forest Rangers working out among the people, education was far less structured; it just happened as a by-product of dealing with the public on a daily basis. However, as the educational value of the Forest Ranger image became more fully understood, Rangers found themselves involved

*President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressing the crowd at Lake Placid during the celebration of 50 years of conservation.*





*Clint West—Legendary Forest Ranger  
at the Lake Colden Ranger Station  
1920-1938.*

with increasing frequency in the Department's educational programs.

Another less fortunate entity was created in 1935 with a law providing funding for a Bureau of State Publicity aimed at publicizing the State as a desirable place for vacations. The Legislature failed to approve funds for its continued operation after five years. The "I Love New York" campaign was clearly an idea whose time had *not* come yet.

The use of interior trails and lean-tos continued to grow during the thirties. In 1939, Forest Ranger Clint West, at the Lake Colden Ranger Station tallied 1,775 visitors there in the heart of the Adirondacks. At Marcy Dam, a campsite

caretaker registered 2,889 hikers and campers. Elsewhere in the Forest Preserve, Rangers issued camping permits, needed for trips three days or longer, for over 9,000 campers.

Throughout these years, Forest Rangers continued to protect State lands against timber trespass and illegal occupancy. They enforced fire laws, the top-logging law, the sign law and the Department's regulations governing recreational use of the public lands. Lastly, they were always watchful for violations of the fish and game laws.

Since law enforcement so often took place in remote areas and involved people staying only briefly in an area, a most unusual system of law enforcement was created. The method was known by Rangers as "settlement by stipulation," and it worked like this: When a Forest Ranger found someone committing an offense, he would explain the law and then invite the offender to make an offer of settlement to the Conservation Department. First, however, the Ranger would stipulate an amount within the range of penalties that he was willing to recommend that the Department accept. If the offender agreed to pay, he would give the Ranger the stipulated amount for which he would receive a written receipt. The Ranger would complete the action by signing a recommendation for settlement printed on the receipt stub and turn it over to the District Ranger along with the money collected. Later the Department would send a letter to the offender accepting the amount offered in settlement and declaring the case closed.

*Old Ranger Cabin at Lake Colden. Originally built by the Tahawus Club, this cabin was used until 1937 when a new cabin was erected by Forest Rangers and Observers under the supervision of Clint West.*



Under this system Forest Rangers collected thousands of dollars in penalties over the years. Lawyers may cringe at the thought of such an unconventional system of justice; however, its simplicity made it convenient and thus popular with Rangers and acceptable to offenders. The system also provided the basis for a Forest Ranger story that has become a timeless classic, *Merry Christmas*\* by William Chapman White.

John Roberts is a forest ranger. He is a grayed, gaunt man, as sturdy as one of the tall spruces in his care. For forty years he has watched over what he calls "his trees."

A few days before Christmas last year John came out of the woods, following a human trail. It had started at a freshly cut white spruce stump, then crossed the heavy snow in a clearing, and came out on a back road. The heavy footprints turned down toward an unpainted bleak house a quarter-mile away. As John plodded down the road following the footprints he knew what he was going to have to do. It was one part of his job he never cared for.

The trail led right into Joe Carson's ramshackle place, where Joe, wife and seven kids somehow lived. John had known Carson all his life. He had never amounted to much.

In the littered front yard small children were building a snow man. A pack of black puppies ran at their heels. John went by them to the old barn. On the floor inside was the fresh-cut white spruce. Kids and puppies followed John when he turned to the house. Carson opened the door before John could knock. He asked without much surprise: "Something you want, John?"

The ranger nodded as he went into the house, along with the kids and dogs. In its one big, steamy, downstairs room were more children, more puppies. A faded woman in a faded dress stood by a littered dining table. Behind it were three ill-made beds.

John nodded to Mrs. Carson. He said to Joe: "You cut a tree off state land, Joe. You know there's a fine of ten dollars a tree for that. I didn't make the law. If we didn't have it, soon we wouldn't have any trees left, particularly at Christmas."

Joe nodded. "Yeah, I know. We can't have much for Christmas this year, but I figured I'd get the nicest tree I could and I didn't expect you'd see it. My wife even made some paper chains for it. Well, what do I do now?"

"You can pay me the fine, on stipulation, as we call it," John said bluntly. "Or you can come to justice court and stand trial."

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\* Reprinted by permission of the Adirondack Museum.

"No use," Joe shook his head. "I just about got \$10."

"How much money have you altogether?"

"I got \$11.58 in all this world. We were going into town tonight to get some things for the kids' Christmas, but we won't go now."

"I guess not." John hoped he did not sound as miserable as he felt. He saw Mrs. Carson and the circle of children 'round about staring at him. "Law's law, Joe. Give me the \$10 and I'll give you a receipt." He stooped down for a moment to brush away two puppies that were chewing at his shoelaces.

The ranger took a dirty crumpled bill from Joe and gave him a receipt. He felt angrier at the man for having put him in this spot. "Okay," he said. "That's all, Joe."

"Thanks," Joe answered. "Well, Merry Christmas!"

John just nodded at that as he hurried to the door to get away. At the door he had to stoop again and push puppies away. Then he turned back. "Joe," he said, "would you sell me one of these puppies? I have a nephew who wants a dog for Christmas."

"I'd sell most of 'em if I could."

John picked up one puppy. "How about \$10 for this one?"

Joe stared at the ranger, then grinned. "That's a high price."

"It's worth that to me." John took a dirty crumpled bill from his pocket, handed it over and hurried out with a puppy squirming under his arm.

Two nights later the ranger was in town finishing his Christmas shopping. He ran into the Carsons on the main street.

"Glad I met you," Joe told him. "The darndest thing happened after you left the other day. People started coming to buy those puppies. I musta sold seven."

"That's fine," John said. "News sure gets around fast up here in the backwoods. Well, Merry Christmas, Joe!"

"I'll say," Joe answered. "Merry Christmas!"

# 10

## A New Era

**T**he 1941 forest fire danger was said to be the most serious since 1903, due to prolonged drought extending over the entire Atlantic Coast. From early April until late October the fire danger persisted. Many serious fires occurred; one of the worst burned near Piercefield in the Adirondacks. Fanned by high winds, the fire burned over 1,100 acres before Rangers could bring it under control. By the end of the year, 2,700 fires had been recorded throughout the State, destroying over 30,000 acres, but still far less than the destruction in earlier years. Once more the State's forest fire control force had proven itself by preventing the recurrence of another great forest fire calamity.

With America's entry into World War II, conservation took a giant step backward. Funds were reduced for many of the Department's programs. Much conservation work under way was postponed or suspended. Staff needed to operate and maintain facilities to a great extent was diverted for military purposes.

Just about all activities of the Division of Lands and Forests were curtailed except for forest fire control work. Faced with the threat of forest fires started by sabotage or enemy action, the fire control system became vitally important to the war effort. Because of this, Forest Rangers and Fire Observers were deferred in most cases from military service, although some members of the force joined the military services anyway. With so much of the available work force in rural areas called into service or working in war industries, there was a critical need for help to work on forest fires. To meet this need, a new law was enacted lowering the age for fire



*Helen Ellett, Observer, Dickinson Hill Fire Tower. Staff shortages caused by World War II paved the way for the appointment of women as Forest Fire Observers.*

fighters from eighteen to sixteen. In 1943 a volunteer organization was created by the federal Office of Civilian Defense to aid in combating forest fires. This new "Forest Fire Fighters Service" soon had a statewide enrollment of nearly 20,000, although the staff in some areas remained severely depleted. All Forest Rangers were employed year round, and the force was beefed up with auxiliary positions during the spring and fall fire seasons. For the first time vacancies in the Observer force were filled with women. In the air, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) carried out fire detection patrols over the Adirondack region. As a result of all these efforts, forest fire control continued to keep the threat of serious forest fires in

check, although the workload of Rangers and Observers during these war years was tremendously increased.

With the end of World War II, a new era began for the Forest Ranger force. Overdue retirements postponed by the war, deaths and expansion of the force opened many jobs. Returning veterans were given preference in filling these vacant positions which brought many valuable new personnel into the Ranger ranks. The Forest Practice Act in 1946 helped stimulate a reorganization of the field operations of the Division of Lands and Forests which divided the State into 15 administrative districts. Under the plan, which took effect on January 1, 1947, the activities of Forest Rangers, District Rangers and Observers, as well as all other division personnel, were brought together under the administrative supervision of a District Forester. The new plan enabled more pooling of the work force when and where it was needed. The assistance from personnel of other bureaus to help Rangers during emergencies was a significant benefit of the new plan.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS OF 1946

##### Listed By County

<b>District 1</b> Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie	<b>District 8</b> Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida
<b>District 2</b> Broome, Chenango, Madison	<b>District 9</b> Clinton, Essex, Franklin
<b>District 3</b> Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Onandaga, Tioga, Tompkins	<b>District 10</b> Fulton, Hamilton
<b>District 4</b> Allegany, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Steuben, Yates	<b>District 11</b> Saratoga, Warren, Washington
<b>District 5</b> Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Wyoming	<b>District 12</b> Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer
<b>District 6</b> Lewis, Jefferson, Oswego	<b>District 13</b> Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster
<b>District 7</b> St. Lawrence	<b>District 14</b> Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester
	<b>District 15</b> Nassau, Suffolk

The post-war years brought a rush of activity postponed by the war. A post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction fund allocated money to be used for repairs, maintenance and new construction of forest fire control facilities across the State. It was superseded in 1949 by a capital construction fund for similar projects. Federal money allocated to New York State under the Clarke-McNary Act (which had replaced the Weeks Law in 1924) was increased after the war to around \$200,000 per year. The federal funds enabled the Ranger force to modernize outmoded fire equipment and facilities and to expand the services performed by the Rangers for which demands had been growing steadily during these years.

The shelling of the California coast in 1942 by a Japanese submarine raised the specter of extensive forest fires which in turn led to the creation of the Smokey the Bear forest fire prevention campaign. After a number of colorful early campaign ads, the U.S. Forest Service, the Wartime Advertising Council and the National Association of State Foresters came up with the idea for a bear as the symbol of their campaign. In 1944, Smokey, in a Ranger hat and dungarees, appeared on a fire prevention poster painted by Albert Staehle. The image of Smokey, so familiar today, was created a few years later by Rudolph Wendelin of the U.S. Forest Service. The famous slogan "Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires" was coined in 1947. The campaign worked.



*Smokey the Bear—One of America's best known celebrities.*

With help from fire control organizations throughout the nation, including New York State's Forest Rangers, Smokey's image became a familiar sight in campgrounds, schools and store windows.

A new dimension was added to the campaign in 1950, when Forest Rangers, fighting a severe forest fire in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico, rescued a black bear cub whose mother had been killed by the fire. They named the bear Smokey, and he grew up to become a living counterpart to the symbolic Smokey on the posters.

The story of Smokey's narrow escape from the forest fire was dramatized in story books and on films which were distributed to Rangers to aid them in getting the fire prevention message across to young children. Later, other clever Smokey strategies would be added, such as play kits, games, toys, junior Forest Ranger badges and live appearances



*Smokey goes to the fair. New York State Fair, Syracuse, New York.*



*"Town Hall" at Cold River. Noah John Rondeau, the Cold River Hermit, greets District Ranger William Petty.*

by a costumed Smokey (after a mechanical Smokey first delighted children at the New York State Fair in 1956). Over the years these efforts have caused significant reductions in the number of forest fires caused by human carelessness. Today, Smokey is known and loved by children everywhere. In fact, Smokey has a consistent recognition factor of 96% among America's youngsters.

During the years following the war, outdoor recreation, especially hunting, began to increase in popularity once more. Rangers devoting more and more time to the recreational work in their districts, now discovered that they were being called upon with increasing frequency to search for hunters who had become lost in the woods. In earlier years, searches were infrequent and were handled by guides and local woodsmen. After the war, they were much scarcer. To handle this growing problem, the Rangers, with their intimate knowledge of the woods, were thrust into a major new role in wilderness search and rescue.

By the end of 1947, the Conservation Department had acquired five airplanes used to carry out a wide variety of activities. The Waco ZKS-7, replaced in 1948 by a Ryan Navion (low wing), continued to be used primarily for forest fire control work. Two Stearman N2S-4's were used for spraying. (The infamous DDT spray program began around this time.) A Stinson L-5 for Division of Fish and Game projects, and an amphibious Grumman G-21 "Goose" completed the force.

*Chief Pilot Fred McLane beside Waco ZKS-7 purchased in 1940 and operated by the Conservation Department until 1948.*



The "Goose" had many uses including executive transport, hauling freight and stocking fish. Much of the forest fire control work done was handled by Chief Pilot Fred McLane who was appointed in 1938. Aircraft were a tremendous help in locating fires, transporting firefighters and equipment, and for scouting fires in order to provide information helpful to fire crews. In later years, Forest Rangers would receive valuable assistance from Department helicopters.

The Department's skill in creating interesting exhibits to promote conservation reached its apex in 1947. An exhibit for use at sportsmen's shows that year featured Noah John Rondeau, "the Cold River Hermit," who came out of his seclusion to be part of an exhibit replicating the Adirondack Cold River area and Rondeau's crude accommodations there. Other personnel, including game protectors and Forest Rangers accompanied the hermit at these shows to look after him and help greet the public. At each location, crowds of people came to tour the exhibit and see Rondeau, winning nationwide publicity for the Department and the State.

The following year the Conservation Department took another important step in conservation education with the opening of the first two boys' camps during the summer of 1948. This program would grow and add new dimensions to the lives of thousands of boys and, later, girls, who received a new understanding of their environment. Later, as an outgrowth of this vital program, the Department would hold workshops for teachers dealing with soil, water, forest, and fish and wildlife resource subjects, in an effort to promote the teaching of conservation in the public schools. Innovative teachers would soon begin to move their classrooms outdoors to teach some subjects while bringing in resource people from their communities, such as Forest Rangers and game protectors, to help teach others.

The year-round employment of Rangers which began during the war, was continued afterward due to the expansion of their duties. Rangers also received in 1947 a reallocation bringing their starting salary up to \$1,920 per year. Starting game protectors received an increase to \$2,040 per year.

A disastrous forest fire in Maine during 1947 led to the formation of the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact which was approved in February 1949. This was a cooperative agreement among the northeastern states and the U.S. Forest Service enabling personnel and fire equipment of

member states to be made available to each other during catastrophic forest fires.\* The following year, the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission was established in an attempt to coordinate Compact activities and secure better forest fire protection for the northeastern region. The Commission lost little time in preparing a regional fire plan for the northeastern states. This was followed by efforts to bring uniform training in forest fire suppression to the personnel of member states. In an on-going effort which continues up to the present time, the Commission conducts annual winter training meetings and has prepared a number of forest fire manuals.

In 1952 the Director of Lands and Forests, Arthur S. Hopkins, who had replaced William G. Howard after his death in 1948, was appointed Executive Secretary of the Commission. Kinne Williams, long time Superintendent of Forest Fire Control, was promoted to Assistant Director of the Division, and Supervising District Ranger, Solon J. Hyde was appointed as the new Bureau Chief for Forest Fire Control.

During the forties, two-way radio communications continued to improve, although it was still a far cry from today's modern lightweight technology. By 1949, the forest fire control force had 75 A.M. radio units in operation. The following year the Federal Communications Commission placed the nation under a new communications master plan requiring all new frequencies for the Bureau.

The opening of the State ski center at Belleayre Mountain on January 21, 1950, heralded one of the safest forest fire years in memory. However, that good news was soon eclipsed by a natural disaster of enormous proportions. It began when the tail end of a hurricane hit the eastern part of New York State on November 25, 1950. Winds reaching 105 miles per hour caused a huge blowdown in the Adirondacks; trees were snapped off or torn up by the roots over vast wooded areas. The U.S. Weather Bureau described the storm this way: "The low pressure system rapidly increased in intensity and magnitude. Its winds increased to gale force and were accompanied by heavy precipitation.... For the state as a whole, this was the most damaging storm of record."

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\* Two Canadian provinces later joined this Compact: Quebec (1969) and New Brunswick (1970).

In the wake of the storm, stunned Conservation Department officials faced an overwhelming job of cleaning up the devastation and preparing to deal with an extreme forest fire hazard when the toppled trees began to dry out. A survey of the damage indicated that over 400,000 acres of public and private lands in the Adirondacks had suffered blowdown in excess of 25 percent per acre.

Years of forest management on private lands were lost. District Director Maynard Fisk said, "Anyone who had been doing any planned forestry in the Adirondacks had to throw away the plans the morning after the hurricane and start all over."

On the Forest Preserve with its prohibitions on lumbering, there were no precedents to follow in such an emergency. After conferences between Conservation Commissioner Perry B. Duryea and Attorney General Nathaniel L. Goldstein, legislative action was sought and quickly obtained giving authority to the Conservation Department until June 30, 1955, to reduce the fire hazard by removing the blowdown timber. This was to be done by inviting private logging contractors to



*District Ranger George E. Stewart operating walkie-talkie. Two-way radios were among the fire equipment obtained in the aftermath of the blowdown. Forest Ranger Frank Wheeler in background.*



*Forest Ranger and fire fighters look over the damage from the Cold River fire of 1953.*

submit competitive bids for removal of the timber. By autumn of 1951, 115 salvage projects had been put up for bid containing 22 million feet of saw logs and 350,000 cords of pulpwood.

Loggers with successful bids were allowed to work in their allotted sectors under the watchful eyes of Conservation Department Foresters, Rangers and other field personnel. Contractors were required to have standby fire equipment on hand at their operations. Fear of a fire outbreak ran high in the Adirondack communities and in the loggers' camps. One logger who worried about fire arranged lodging for his 40-man crew at a nearby village instead of setting up a camp. "At least you'd have a better chance if you were near a highway," he said.

Concern over the possibility of devastating fires brought a significant increase in fire equipment for the Forest Ranger force. New trucks, power pumps, and two-way radios were acquired. Additional hand tools, knapsack pumps, camping gear and thousands of feet of hose were placed in tool caches at a number of remote locations. The following year, 27 "slip-on" units, designed by the Bureau of Forest Fire Control,

were completed at the Wallkill Prison and assigned for use on Forest Ranger trucks. Each slip-on unit contained a tank with a capacity of 150 to 300 gallons. Mounted on the tank were a power pump and hose reel for 3/4 inch booster hose. These units could be slid into the back of a truck and fastened down quickly and easily. At the close of fire season, they could be removed for storage or maintenance. The slip-on unit was a valuable step forward for the Forest Ranger force.

The 1951 fire season was moderate. Four fires were reported on fringes of the blowdown area but each was brought under control quickly before any threat of a major

*Interior facilities in blowdown areas were closed and posted with signs like this one.*

**POSTED!**  
**HEAVY**  
**BLOWDOWN**

**FOREST FIRE DANGER ACUTE!  
ENTRANCE BY THE PUBLIC  
FOR ANY PURPOSE  
PROHIBITED BY REGULATION**

**PERRY R. BURYEA  
CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER**



*Commissioner Sharon Mauhs who in 1958 placed the Rangers under the protection of Civil Service Law.*

fire could develop. The next year only eight fires occurred in the blowdown area despite considerably drier conditions. 1953 was marked by a wet spring, followed by prolonged dry weather forcing Governor Dewey to issue a proclamation closing the woods in October.

Of 1,718 fires that year, 15 occurred in the blowdown area. The intense fire planning done in the aftermath of the blowdown stressed rapid control to prevent a disaster. As a result, fires were kept small. One near the Cold River grew to 250 acres, however, before Rangers gained control. As salvage work neared completion, worries over the possibility of a disastrous forest fire eased. In 1955, trails and interior facilities in blowdown areas, which had been closed back in 1950 as part of the emergency legislation, were reopened to the public.

After a one-year extension, the salvage operations in the blowdown areas came to a close on March 31, 1956. Loggers had removed 245,000 cords of pulpwood and saw logs containing 40,000,000 board feet of lumber. Although the danger of an extreme forest fire would continue in many areas for some time afterward, safe passage through these perilous times would become a reality aided by favorable weather and vigilance on the part of the Ranger force.

In 1958, Conservation Commissioner Sharon J. Mauhs approved a recommendation which placed the Forest Ranger position under the protection of Civil Service law as an open-competitive job title. This was the same protection afforded to District Rangers back in 1929. Before this change, Ranger job seekers, no matter how good their qualifications, had to have the approval of local political leaders who supported the reigning party in power in State government. In the future, applicants would be selected on the basis of merit. Candidates would compete against each other in written Civil Service examinations designed to test their knowledge and ability to perform the Forest Ranger job. Positions would be filled from among those applicants having the best scores on their exams. Due to this important change, candidates who had completed technical forestry training would, at last, receive a fair chance to compete for Forest Ranger jobs. In the coming years the wisdom of this decision would be demonstrated through the spirit and dedication of a new generation of Forest Rangers. Their technical skills would contribute to the growing professionalism of the Forest Ranger force. ●

# 11

## Tumultuous Times

Well along now in the second half of the twentieth century, Forest Rangers would have two relatively quiet fire years before yet another cycle of dry weather began in 1962. For this latest bout with fire (1,532 forest fires were extinguished that year), the Bureau of Forest Fire Control was well prepared. The organization included 14 District Forest Rangers, 107 Forest Rangers, 98 Fire Observers and over 4,000 volunteer Fire Wardens guarding over 22,000,000 acres of New York forest lands. Fire equipment included 137 trucks (the newer models equipped with four-wheel drive, winches and slip-on units), 160 portable power pumps, 190 two-way radios and thousands of knapsack pumps and hand tools. There were six Department aircraft available (DC-3, Beechcraft, Otter, 2-Stearman, Cessna). Federal Clarke-McNary funds for that year contributed \$300,200 to the program. Starting Rangers were paid \$4,220 per year.

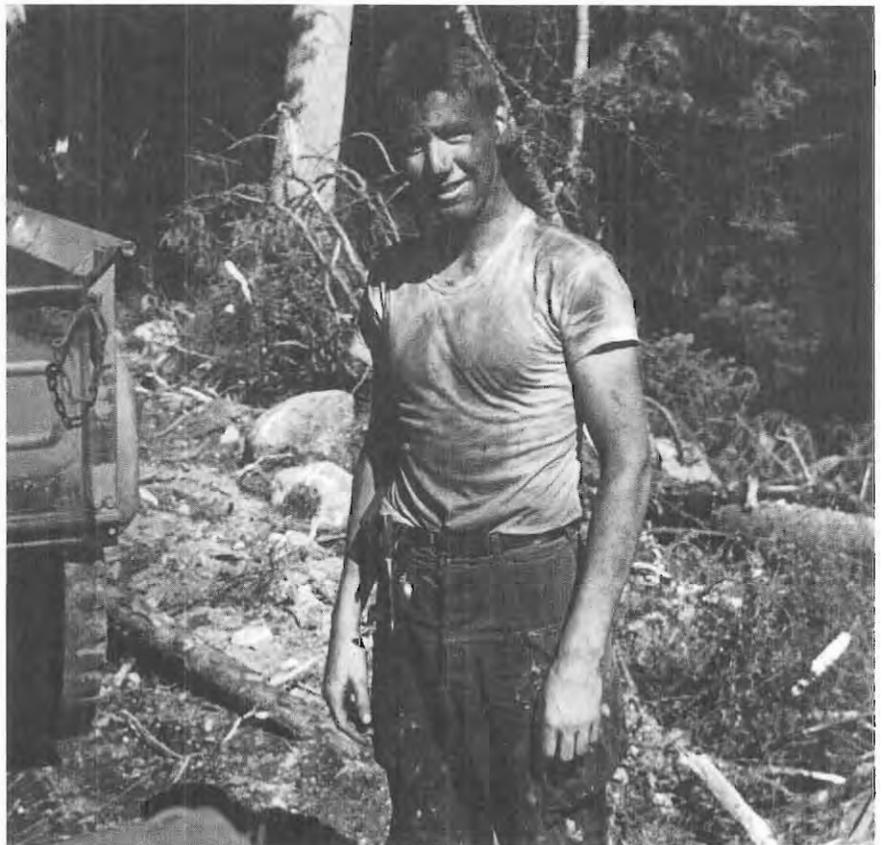
In the world of 1962, the Adirondack Forest Preserve contained 2,313,700 acres, while the Catskill Preserve had 237,265. In addition, Forest Rangers were looking after more than half a million acres of reforestation lands, game management areas and other public lands across the State. The popularity of outdoor recreation showed no sign of diminishing. Rangers issued permits for nearly 10,000 campers. Users of the Forest Preserve's 246 lean-tos, 694 miles of foot trails and 20.5 miles of ski trails were tallied at 46,000 on interior registers. Nearly a million people camped that year at the State's 42 public campsites.

The Department's earlier uncertainties about recreational development on the Forest Preserve had given way to a new



*THE FIRE FIGHTERS*

*The Back Pack Pump*



*A Dirty Job*



*Feeding Hungry Fire Crews*



*Watching for Spot Fires*

philosophy: "To foster the widest temporary use of the Forest Preserve for the benefit of all the people of the State."

In achieving this objective, Forest Rangers were heavily involved in providing care and custody of the State's facilities and looking after the safety and well-being of the people who used them. The Rangers' knowledge of the land and the people who used it caused the Department to depend on

*Lean-to construction—Forest Ranger Gilbert White and crew. Rangers handled much of the Conservation Department's interior recreation program.*



them for these duties. The Interior Use Manual, the Bureau of Forest Recreation's bible on such matters during the 1960's, said:

Forest Rangers must take an active part in the maintenance and administration of all interior facilities including the construction of new and additional lean-tos, trails, foot bridges, etc. They should make recommendations for changes in location of existing facilities where necessary and the need for additional ones based on their knowledge of the area and the amount of public use involved.

Actual construction work was often carried out during these years by groups of Rangers working together or by a seasonal trail crew hired and supervised by the local Ranger. Rangers also received help from citizen volunteers and hiking clubs. Northern Adirondack Rangers in District 9 spent considerable time each year living at the Ranger Barracks at Saranac Inn which was used as a base for a wide variety of fire control and interior recreation projects. A long tradition dictates that whenever Rangers work together, the Ranger in whose area the work is located becomes boss of the job. As the primary labor force during these years, Forest Rangers formed the backbone of the Conservation Department. They were assigned to every conceivable duty from digging latrines to managing campsites, from measuring snow to surveying boundary lines.

*Drought during the 1960's caused an increase in the number of serious forest fires. Left: Pottersville Fire—1965. Below: Paleface Fire—1966.*



The Conservation Department came to depend on the Rangers' skill and stoic determination, knowing that Rangers would get these jobs done. For their part, Rangers responded to the Department's trust with pride and a "can do" attitude that has become the hallmark of the Forest Ranger Force.

In 1963, Fred W. Oettinger was appointed as Superintendent of Forest Fire Control succeeding Solon Hyde who retired that year. Robert E. Richards continued to serve as Supervising District Ranger, the job he had held since 1961. Continuing dry weather provided ample challenge to the new superintendent. Dangerous fall conditions prompted a statewide closing of the forests on October 13, 1963, by Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Total fires for the year reached 1,429.

During an inspection tour of forest fires burning that fall, Conservation Commissioner Harold G. Wilm became aware of the inadequacy of the Forest Rangers' two-way radio system. The old A.M. radios were limited in quantity and in range. Background noise on these radios was constant and excessive; so excessive that the Commissioner finally ordered Superintendent Oettinger to "turn the thing off." The Commissioner's experience that day won his support for a new \$300,000 F.M. radio system which was installed the following year. The new system was thoroughly modern and highly effective. Each Ranger was issued a mobile unit for his truck and a "lunch box" portable unit which could be carried easily in a knapsack. The new radio system was a dramatic breakthrough, ending at last the need for Forest Rangers to stay close to their telephones during fire weather. With reliable radio communications, Rangers could remain in contact and yet still continue to work at other duties in their districts.

As the decade's dry weather continued, other equipment was added including improved slip-on units, and several fire control tank trucks specially built for off-road conditions. In 1964, a World War II era aircraft, a TBM "Avenger," was added to the Conservation Department's air force. The navy torpedo bomber was modified with a 650 gallon tank for dropping water or chemical retardants on forest fires. The powerful aircraft had a 1,900 horsepower Wright engine and was capable of flying over a fire at tree top levels at about 120 M.P.H. while spreading its cargo in a swath which could slow down a spreading fire and help Rangers gain control. In the hands of veteran pilot Amsden "Ace" Howland and other pilots, the TBM soon became the mainstay of the Department's water-dropping operations. This air support was invaluable in many of the 1,742 fires fought by Rangers that year.



To service and load the Department's aircraft, the Bureau of Forest Fire Control established airport operations centers located in Orange and Warren Counties which could be activated by the Ranger Force during times of need.

In 1965, the Department acquired a Bell 204B helicopter. The versatility of the helicopter for reconnaissance, transporting fire fighters and equipment and dropping water was quickly realized. Later, the helicopter would prove to be a boon to Forest Rangers involved in the growing number of search and rescue missions.

As the dry '60s wore on, Superintendent Oettinger pressed for expanded training of Forest Rangers. Training for fire wardens was also increased. Warden training was first initiated by Rangers in some districts during the early 1950's. It was then expanded into a network of fire warden schools hosted by the Forest Ranger Force. Later, Rangers modified this popular training and presented it to volunteer firemen at the request of rural fire companies around the state. Today's grass and brush fire training course for new firemen was created by the Division of Fire Safety of the N.Y.S. Department of State and DEC's Bureau of Forest Fire Control as a direct result of this earlier program.

The tumultuous decade of the '60s had an enormous impact on both the State's public lands and the Forest Ranger Force. Arrayed against Forest Rangers trying to protect the State's forest resources were a number of significant alterations in the fabric of America's lifestyle. An increasing population, affluent and suburban-oriented, was spending more leisure time in the country. The rigors of travel had

*During the dry '60s, the TBM flew countless water drops for Rangers fighting forest fires throughout the State. Left: Rangers loading drop tank of TBM. Above: TBM making a water drop at tree top level.*

been eased by luxurious automobiles speeding over a streamlined interstate highway system. The Adirondack Northway brought the heart of the Adirondack Forest Preserve within easy reach of millions. Improvements in lightweight camping gear took much of the work out of camping and brought swarms of new outdoor enthusiasts into the woods for an ever widening spectrum of activities. By the end of the decade, the State Commerce Department estimated that two and one-half million people were camping on State lands annually. Many came equipped with all the latest gear, but were, unfortunately, seriously lacking in their knowledge of how to use the outdoors properly and safely. Hopelessly outnumbered, frustrated Rangers found they couldn't stop the appalling tide of degradation of the public lands caused by the ignorance and outright maliciousness of significant numbers of outdoor users. Littering, vandalising facilities, pollution of pure waters, cutting of trees, carelessness with

*Ranger Jim Lord training young volunteer fire fighters in the use of fire fighting equipment.*





*Training Volunteer Firemen:  
Instructor—Ranger Craig  
Knickerbocker. Training of Fire  
Wardens and volunteer firemen was  
greatly expanded by the Ranger Force  
during these years.*

campfires and many other problems quickly grew to epidemic proportions. At the same time, the occasional search and rescue missions that Rangers heretofore conducted were increasing steadily as more outdoor users got into trouble, sometimes fatally. By 1968, the Rangers' search and rescue missions had reached 100 a year. This number would steadily increase in the years ahead.

The rising interest in the outdoors which occurred during this decade was also accompanied by a resounding public outcry demanding protection for wilderness. The idea of setting aside wild and remote lands to be left undeveloped and unmodified by man had become more popular over the years. In 1956, wilderness legislation had been introduced in Congress, but was bitterly opposed by lumbermen, mine owners and even many government bureaucrats, including foresters, who opposed preserving land which they felt ought to be developed to its fullest commercial and recreational potential. This utilitarian concept of multiple-use forestry had become widely accepted by American foresters as the dominant rule for public land management.

As the taming of America's once vast wildlands proceeded, however, disenchantment with this doctrine began to appear. A more profound need, manifest in Thoreau's belief that "in wildness is the preservation of the world," was being perceived. People were won over by the eloquence of wilderness advocates including a new breed of professional foresters inspired by Robert Marshall and Aldo Leopold. The notion of preserving some of America's rapidly vanishing

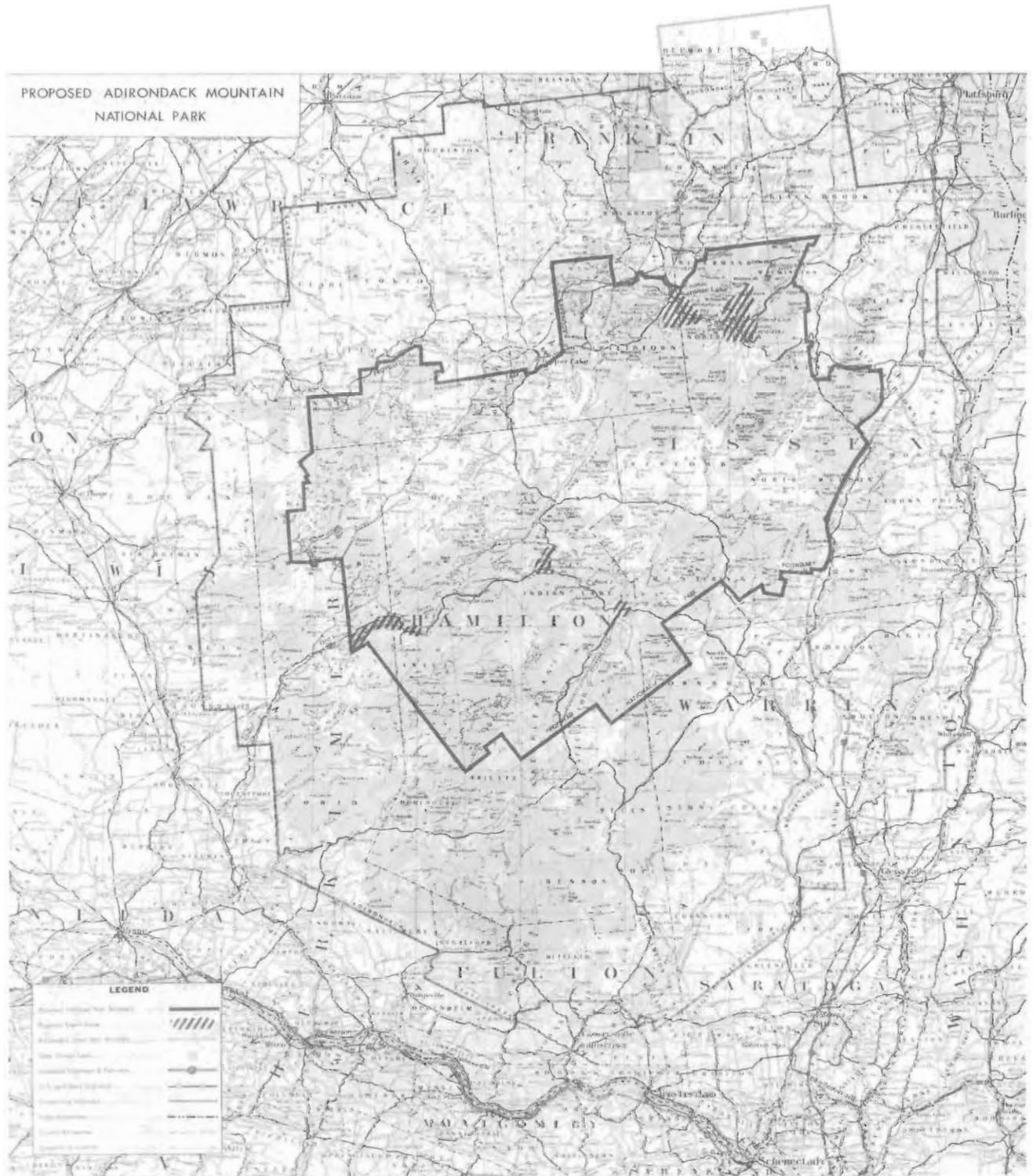
wilderness heritage was clearly an idea whose time had come. Its overwhelming support among voters made it irresistible. The National Wilderness Act, designating portions of government land eligible for protection as wilderness, was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 3, 1964.

In New York State, conservationists long active in defending the State's Forest Preserve in courtrooms and constitutional conventions, joined the wilderness debate. A joint Legislative Committee was created in 1951 to study the use and management of the Forest Preserve. In 1959, the Committee, under the leadership of its new chairman, R. Watson Pomeroy, decided to develop a long-range plan for the Forest Preserve containing provisions for establishing and protecting true wilderness areas in the Adirondacks and Catskills. After three years of intensive study, the joint Legislative Committee approved a plan recommending the designation of twelve wilderness areas in the Adirondack Forest Preserve and four more in the Catskills. Although the Conservation Department did not formally adopt these recommendations, Rangers were, nevertheless, directed to restrict the use of motorized equipment in these areas.

Meanwhile, the popularity of outdoor recreation had created a boom in Forest Preserve tourism. People by the millions were sightseeing along picturesque roads, patronizing motels, restaurants, gift shops and other tourist attractions.



*Ranger Clyde Black inspecting hunting camp. Tougher rules governing wilderness use put an end to semipermanent camps and equipment stored and frequently abandoned on Forest Preserve land.*



An Adirondack Mountains National Park (heavy solid line) within the State Adirondack Park (lighter solid line) was proposed in 1957. The national park idea was quickly rejected, but it forced many people to think about the threat to the Adirondack region from unrestricted development.

The more affluent visitors purchased land upon which they built vacation cabins or set up trailers as second homes. Entrepreneurs were quick to see a money-making combination. The State's taxpayers were footing the bills for the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserve, where natural beauty was attracting many people. Alongside these public lands were private lands, unencumbered by any local zoning or land use controls, that could be developed freely for maximum profits. As inevitable strip development spread out along scenic Adirondack and Catskill highways, and vacation home developments began to sprout on once open spaces, concern for the future of the Adirondacks grew.

In 1967, a suggestion was put forth by Laurance S. Rockefeller in response to this situation. He proposed the creation of an Adirondack Mountains National Park to be made up of 1,720,000 acres in the heart of the region. Opposition to the idea was strong and nearly universal. However, the idea forced many people to think about the future of the Adirondack Park and to worry about the unrestricted development of private lands in the Park. On September 19, 1968, Governor Nelson Rockefeller created the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks to study problems and alternatives for the future of the Adirondacks.

In 1970, the Commission, under the able leadership of Harold Hochschild, submitted 181 carefully thought out recommendations concerning the Adirondacks. The most important, as well as controversial, recommendation was : "An independent, bipartisan Adirondack Park Agency should be created by statute with general power over the use of private and public land in the Park." In this way, it was hoped that land use planning would be encouraged and future development might be more of a benefit than a detriment to the future of the Adirondack Park. Predictably, bitter opposition erupted from developers, many Adirondack residents and their legislators who felt that the use or misuse of private lands in the Park was a local issue and none of the State's business.

Despite opposition, legislation creating the Adirondack Park Agency was approved by the Legislature in June of 1971. The new agency began to draw up two master plans for the Adirondack Park. The master plan for private land was to become the focal point of vehement attack in the years ahead,

while the State Land Master Plan became state policy with relative ease, needing only the Governor's approval.

For Adirondack Forest Rangers, the State Land Master Plan was a dramatic departure from the way in which the Adirondacks had been managed in the past. The Preserve was divided into seven management categories governing recreational facilities. The new realities caused great frustration among many dedicated Rangers. For years they had worked hard to develop beneficial public facilities only to find that some of their accomplishments were now at odds with the management objectives of the new plan.

Rangers had scarcely time to dwell on these events, however, for their Department was experiencing a period of great upheaval in response to strident new demands from the State's citizens. All during the 1960's public awareness had been growing. Enthusiasm for outdoor recreation had created a much wider appreciation for wilderness and for the environment in general. More and more people began to speak out against pollution of America's air and water resources and to denounce the destruction of farmlands, wetlands, wildlife habitat and other fragile areas.

Conservationists, sensing strong grassroots support for the environment, organized a nationwide observance which they hoped might galvanize these public sentiments. On April 22, 1970, America celebrated Earth Day. In communities across the nation, young and old, rich and poor, liberal and conservative, people of every description, turned out to demonstrate their support for the environment. The event far exceeded the wildest hopes of its delighted organizers. Public support of such magnitude sent an unmistakable message to the nation's political leaders who were quick to respond with a cornucopia of new environmental programs and legislation.

New York State's consummate politician and bellwether of the public moods, Nelson Rockefeller, was among the earliest, securing legislation to create a new Department of Environmental Conservation which he signed into law on Earth Day. This new agency combined the environmental functions of the Conservation Department and parts of several other State agencies into a single superdepartment to be led by a new Commissioner—Henry L. Diamond. Responsibilities for regional state parks outside of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks were transferred from the Conservation Department to a new Office of Parks and Recreation.

*Leaders of the Bureau of Forest Fire Control. L-R: Ed Richards, Supervising District Ranger, 1960-1974; Charles E. Boone, Superintendent, 1970-1982; Fred W. Oettinger, Superintendent, 1963-1970; Gail Lincoln, Bureau Senior Secretary, 1968-present; Richard T. Thompson, District Ranger and Training Officer, 1966-1970.*



As the new superdepartment got underway, many changes occurred affecting the Forest Rangers, including the appointment of a new bureau chief. A promotion for Fred Oettinger paved the way for Charles E. Boone to become Superintendent on July 2, 1970. To carry out its broad environmental duties in the field, the State's forest districts, created in 1947, were absorbed into nine new administrative regions supervised by Regional Directors. For greater efficiency and economy, a new Division of Operations was created to care for the Department's extensive facilities and equipment. This move was particularly devastating to the Forest Ranger Force which had, throughout its history, maintained its own shops, storehouses and equipment. To a great extent, these resources, along with their operating budgets, were taken from the Ranger Force and reassigned to the new Division of Operations. The sweeping changes also affected the Forest Preserve interior use program. Henceforth, the Division of Operations would be responsible for constructing and maintaining all the trails, lean-tos, bridges and other interior facilities. Rangers would no longer be involved in the program other than conducting routine inspections of facilities and reporting where work was needed. These changes marked yet another turning point, albeit a dismal one, in the eyes of many members of the Ranger Force.

At any rate, new and different roles lay ahead for the Forest Ranger Force as the Department of Environmental Conservation moved on through its first decade. Reflecting these changing roles, in 1977 the name of the Ranger's Departmental Bureau was changed to Forest Protection and Fire Management. 🌳



# 12

## Searching

**F**orest Ranger history during the '70s can be aptly described by one all-encompassing word—searching. The force was searching for its purpose in the big new Department it had been thrust into. No one seemed to know or agree on what direction Rangers ought to be going, least of all the Rangers themselves. Some Rangers thought broadened forest fire control duties were the answer. Others favored more law enforcement. There were Rangers who preferred environmental activities; others favored education and public relations. And some Rangers just gave up trying to figure it out and tried to keep on doing interior recreation work in spite of it all.

Amid this growing cacophony the strong hand of fate once again intervened, leading the Ranger Force steadily toward an expanded role in search and rescue, a field where they were eminently qualified and sorely needed.

The occasional searches conducted by Rangers after World War II had grown in number over the years, so much so that during the 1950's, Superintendent Solon J. Hyde had attempted to obtain a budget allocation for this duty. However, his proposal did not succeed, and expenses incurred by Rangers for search and rescue continued to be paid out of funds earmarked for forest fire control. Rangers continued to handle an increasing number of these incidents without proper funding, but the stepchild status of the Ranger search and rescue program became an increasing problem as the number and size of these missions grew. Besides lost persons there were sick and injured needing evacuation. Then came requests for emergency notification of



*Helicopter 600—This DEC workhorse, on duty since the mid-60's, has flown scores of missions in remote areas of the Adirondacks.*

campers, together with more cases of downed aircraft. During the winter of 1962, an Air Force B-47 bomber crashed on Wright Peak in the Adirondack High Peaks. For nine days, Rangers and crews of airmen braved cold and bitter winds in a desperate but futile search for survivors.

During the autumn of 1962, Rangers, State Police and volunteers searched for weeks in the Siamese Ponds area of the Adirondacks. They were looking for a young psychiatrist who had become lost during his first hunting trip there. His glasses were recovered, but the missing man was never found.

In October of 1966, an archery hunter was found after he had wandered in circles for six days in a remote area near Raquette Lake. The search was a major operation involving Rangers and over 300 volunteers. For the first time, the Conservation Department's helicopter was used to evacuate a person recovered during a search. The following April, Rangers aboard the DEC helicopter were able to locate and evacuate an eleven-year-old girl who had strayed from her family near Stony Creek in the Adirondacks.

On November 19, 1969, Rangers led rescue parties on a tragic mission through wind, fog, heavy rain and later six inches of new snow to look for survivors among the wreckage of an airliner which had crashed on Pilot Knob



*Helicopter 600—Veteran Pilot “Ace”  
Howland is at the controls.*

Mountain near Lake George. There were none. In a bizarre search two years later, Rangers again combed the Lake George area looking for a hunter reported missing, only to learn, after five fruitless days, that the missing hunter had turned up in Florida.

Although more search and rescue missions were carried out in the Adirondacks, Rangers from the Catskills and other rural parts of the State were encountering more of these duties as well.

In June of 1972, the Southern Tier was hit by one of the most devastating floods in recent history. Hurricane Agnes became stalled over the area and dumped over six inches of rain on the area over a period of two days. Streams and

rivers overflowed their banks causing tremendous damage to property and the loss of many lives. Forest Rangers from Region 8, as well as the newly formed Blue Fox Search and Rescue Team from Region 6, assisted in the rescue of many stranded people in the Gang Mills area during the flood and conducted house-by-house searches for victims in the Riverside area near Corning after the waters had receded.

In August of 1973, Rangers from Regions 7, 8 and 9 led a search of the Bergen Swamp in northeastern Genesee County for a subject who had gone into the very dense area to photograph rare plants. After five days of intensive searching, the victim's body was located and removed from the swamp. An autopsy revealed that he had been bitten by a rattlesnake which was one of the contributing factors to his death.

*Local Rangers, as well as members of the Blue Fox Search and Rescue Team, joined rescue efforts in the southern tier where devastating floods occurred after Hurricane Agnes in 1972.*





*The vast and remote Santanoni Preserve was the site of a massive but unsuccessful search in 1971 for an eight-year-old boy.*

The search which was to bring official recognition of the Forest Rangers' search and rescue duties began on July 10, 1971. On that day, eight-year-old Douglas Legg wandered away from his relatives at the Santanoni Preserve, the family's 13,000 acre estate. Over the next six weeks, Rangers guiding hundreds of volunteer searchers, fought their way through Adirondack forests and nearly impenetrable thickets in an exhaustive attempt to locate the missing child. They were joined by State Police, Marine personnel, Army "Green Berets," and even a crew of mountain rescue experts flown in from California. Despite these massive efforts, no trace of the boy was ever found. What was discovered was the inability of the State to handle wilderness search and rescue problems adequately, a rude awakening to Governor Nelson Rockefeller. The Governor lost no time in directing DEC Commissioner Henry Diamond to fund and develop a search and rescue program. The Forest Rangers, expert in woodsmanship and by far the most experienced State personnel available for search and rescue, were designated to carry out the Governor's order.

Placed in charge of the new search and rescue program was District Ranger James F. Lord, a former Adirondack area Forest Ranger who would, in 1982, become Acting Superintendent of the Bureau following the retirement of Charles E. Boone. In planning the new program, Lord concluded that the local Rangers were in the best position to

direct these operations due to their intimate knowledge of their Ranger Districts. Their training and experience in large fire organization would lend themselves perfectly to coordinating searchers and resources during search and rescue emergencies. The greatest need was for a reliable source of backup personnel, trained and equipped to handle the most difficult and dangerous aspects of these missions. Above all, these backup personnel must be able to be mobilized quickly when needed by the local Ranger in charge of the search or rescue. To achieve these objectives, three teams of Forest Rangers were organized, trained and equipped. The members were selected from the Adirondack and Catskill regions where the majority of searches occur. The teams, designated Gray Hawk (Catskill), Blue Fox (Western Adirondacks) and Red Eagle (Eastern Adirondacks) included ten Rangers each plus a team leader and assistant team leader. Team members were issued some equipment, while other rescue and survival gear was stored in three vans ready for transport wherever needed. Training for teams became an ongoing program, stressing hands-on experience



*To improve DEC's search and rescue capabilities, three Forest Ranger search and rescue teams were formed.*

with frequent refreshers and critiques. Team members received basic training in both daylight and darkness, dealing with rappelling, cliff and cave rescues, helicopter evacuations, emergency medical procedures, and line searching. Later, training dealing with hypothermia, cold water survival and white water rescue would be added in response to growing public needs. As team members became more proficient in these skills, they formed a cadre of instructors for the rest of the Rangers. In this manner, the entire Ranger Force was gradually brought up to the same high standards of the team members thus making the program far more efficient and cost effective.

As the number of search and rescue missions spiraled upward, Forest Rangers and their teams of Eagles, Hawks and Foxes were put to the test again and again. Their record was overwhelmingly successful, due not only to this sophisticated new program, but also because of the Rangers' dedication to duty and their strong personal commitment to helping people.

In their efforts to do their best for people in trouble, Rangers have always had allies. Police agencies, private rescue organizations, firemen, ambulance squads, tracking-dog handlers, relatives of victims, and concerned citizens—even clairvoyants—offer help during these emergencies. That willingness to help led to a problem which had not been anticipated. New York State, it was discovered, had never addressed the question of who was legally in charge of wild land search and rescue operations. As a result mixups began to occur. Unconscionable delays in bringing help to victims occurred sporadically as new or unfamiliar police dispatchers failed to follow established protocol for notifying Rangers when persons were reported missing. Private organizations and volunteers sometimes confused or duplicated search efforts by neglecting or even refusing to cooperate with Rangers trying to coordinate manpower on searches. Doubts over who was in overall charge of these missions were impairing the ability of Rangers to do the job. To correct the problem, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Forest Rangers' union, Council 82 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, teamed up to secure new legislation which would delineate authority for search and rescue in the State's remote areas and expedite help to victims in need. After considerable delay, the bill,

known as the Forest Ranger Search and Rescue Bill, was approved and signed into law by Governor Mario Cuomo on July 27, 1984, becoming Chapter 617 of the laws of 1984.

SENATE—ASSEMBLY

January 13, 1983

IN SENATE—Introduction by Senator Stafford—read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Conservation and Recreation.

IN ASSEMBLY—Introduced by Member of Assembly Hinchey—read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation.

An ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to authorizing the department of environmental conservation to establish a search and rescue program in fire towns and fire districts.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

Section 1. Subdivision eighteen of section 9-0105 of the environmental conservation law is renumbered subdivision nineteen and a new subdivision eighteen is added to read as follows:

*18. Establish, operate and maintain a search and rescue program in fire towns and fire districts of the state. For the purposes of this section fire towns shall mean such towns provided for in section 9-1107 of this chapter and fire districts shall be deemed to be the fire protection areas provided for in section 9-1109 of this chapter and regulations promulgated pursuant to the authority of such sections. Pursuant to such program the forest ranger force of the department shall have the authority to organize, direct and execute search operations for lost persons or civilian aircraft and conduct rescue operations for persons injured or in serious danger of injury in the wild, remote and forested areas of fire towns and fire districts of the state; provided that, where criminal conduct is suspected or fugitive search is involved such search and rescue operations shall be conducted under the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement agency. Search and rescue operations outside of fire towns and fire districts may be conducted by the forest ranger force upon request of the agency conducting such operation. It shall be the duty of the commissioner to annually request the legislature to appropriate monies reasonably sufficient to fund the search and rescue program provided for in this subdivision.*

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

At the present time, Rangers continue their extensive training program, always on the lookout for better ways and



new equipment to help carry out their search and rescue duties more effectively. Although early experiments with airborne infrared scanners were not encouraging, the sensitivity of the scanners is increasing. When they can distinguish other large mammals—such as deer—from humans they may revolutionize search and rescue. Another new idea for this assignment is to analyze search and rescue information using computers.

*The many faces of Ranger Search and Rescue (Forest Ranger training photos). Top left: Helicopter Air Rescue. Top right: Cliff Rescue. Bottom left: Winter Evacuation of Injured Person. Bottom right: White Water Rescue*

Where appropriate, Ranger teams are being developed to handle specialized needs. A new Helicopter Emergency Air Rescue Team (HEART) has been formed by Rangers and DEC's Bureau of Aviation to expand and refine earlier helicopter rescue procedures. A river rescue team has been formed to deal with growing rescue problems in the Hudson River gorge and elsewhere. The Placid Memorial Hospital, interested medical staff and Rangers are working together under a new agreement designed to expedite medical assistance to seriously ill and injured recreational users in the High Peaks region. In addition, Rangers are revising their program of training offered to the personnel of other agencies and private organizations who normally assist Rangers during search and rescue missions. The "Manual of Instruction for Local Search and Rescue Groups" prepared by Forest Rangers in 1974 is also under review.

Ranger search and rescue operations have, over the years, reached out to help in every conceivable situation. Stories of children, foolhardy young men and forgetful oldsters, together with the sick, injured and mentally disabled are found in reams of reports filed by Forest Rangers upon completion of their missions and in occasional letters received from individuals who have been rescued or from their families.

Forest Ranger Lynn Day received a particularly heartwarming letter after he and seven other Rangers had searched for two hunters lost in the Adirondacks one bitter cold night.

December 9, 1976

New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Stony Creek, New York 12878

Gentlemen:

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Forest Ranger Lynn D. Day and the rest of his team, who on the night of December 2nd, rescued my husband and his friend who became lost in a snowstorm while hunting in the woods around Stony Creek.

I shudder to think what could have happened if this band of brave, dedicated men had not coordinated the search and trudged through the woods together for five hours searching for my husband and his companion in sub-freezing temperatures.

On behalf of myself and my four daughters, I would like to thank all the Rangers who helped in the search. You all have truly given us our most joyous Christmas ever!

May we wish you and yours the blessings and happiness of the Christmas Season!

Forever in your debt,  
(Name Withheld)

Yet another significant change in Forest Ranger duties during the '70s occurred in the field of environmental law enforcement. Although not the Department's primary law enforcement personnel, Rangers nevertheless had always been empowered to handle some enforcement duties.

In September of 1909, Superintendent of Forests Austin Cary directed Forest Rangers (then called "Regular Patrolmen") to "give such reasonable attention as they can to the enforcement of the Fish and Game Law. They are authorized to instantly arrest anyone violating any provision of the said law. They are primarily fire fighters, but when not engaged in fire fighting duties, they are to be utilized to watch lumber jobs, etc."

With myriad new environmental regulations to enforce, the Department saw advantages in having Rangers doing more enforcement work. This new role began to coalesce with prodding from Malcolm A. Coutant, one of the super-department's bright new attorneys. After careful study of the Forest Rangers' role in law enforcement, Coutant in 1972 began organizing a comprehensive enforcement training program for the Ranger Force. The attorney then conducted a series of exhaustive environmental enforcement training sessions needed to prepare Rangers for a new and greatly expanded role in this field. Rangers learned how to gather evidence and prepare cases, how to issue appearance tickets and prepare other legal instruments and how to conduct themselves in a court of law. With this training to bolster their confidence and ability, Rangers were authorized to issue appearance tickets and were encouraged to use their new skills against offenses committed in violation of the State's environmental conservation laws.

During the summer of 1973, the Adirondacks were rocked by a series of brutal slayings precipitating the largest manhunt since 1954, when fugitive James A. Call had fled into the woods after killing a policeman near Lake Placid. The events during 1973 began with a routine notification alerting Rangers about two missing campers, Daniel Porter and Susan Petz.



*Ranger Wesley Hurd. The Forest Ranger Force's first firearms instructor.*

On July 20, the body of Porter was found near Wevertown in northern Warren County. He had been stabbed to death. An intensive search of the area by Rangers and State Police produced no clues as to the whereabouts of Susan Petz. But on July 29, another young camper, Philip Doblewski, was murdered near Speculator in Hamilton County. The killer, later identified as Robert F. Garrow, a convicted rapist who was also an accomplished woodsman, escaped and fled into the woods.

For nearly two weeks Garrow eluded State Police. First he hid in the woods near Speculator, then escaped police road blocks and reached a new hideout near Witherbee in Essex County where he was finally wounded and captured by State

Environmental Conservation Officer Hilary LeBlanc. The body of Susan Petz was later found in an abandoned mine near Witherbee.

During the manhunt, several Forest Rangers had acted as guides for the State Police, raising questions about whether or not Rangers should be armed for their own protection as well as to better serve the public. In the past, Rangers had not been armed, although many Rangers carried personal weapons while checking hunting camps and performing other similar duties. After this incident, the Department decided to issue handguns (0.357 magnum revolvers) to Forest Rangers. The decision spawned a lawsuit brought by Ranger Daniel Singer, one of several Rangers who believed that the carrying of a weapon was inappropriate to the Forest Ranger job. The court decision and subsequent appeal led to considerable debate among Rangers over the pros and cons of carrying weapons. Eventually the issue was resolved when, in 1980, a new statute was added to the State Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) designating Forest Rangers as Peace Officers. The new law cleared up many nagging legal questions about Rangers' law enforcement authority, and established, once and for all, the Department's right to require Rangers to carry weapons.

After these developments, Forest Rangers' environmental enforcement duties continued to expand. Rangers in various regions became involved with laws affecting air, water, solid waste, mined lands and other environmental concerns. In the Adirondacks, Regional Director Tom Monroe, himself a former District Ranger, brought Forest Rangers into the stream protection program, adding a greater measure of protection to the region's pristine Adirondack trout waters.

In the Catskill area, Rangers were frequently called upon to enforce open burning and air pollution regulations and to be on the lookout for improper disposal of toxic waste materials.

The abandoned farmlands across the Southern Tier, originally purchased for reforestation purposes during the 1930's, were now producing some of the most valuable timber in New York State, as well as providing recreational space for thousands of people. Protecting this timber, overseeing contractors removing forest products from State land and managing people brought a whole new set of enforcement problems and concerns for western New York Rangers.

For instance, during the '70s a small group of young people, referred to as "hippies" by some, took up residence

in the Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area lying between Erie and Cattaraugus Counties. Special regulations were enacted by the Department in order to limit and control such use and the Rangers were called upon to evict the resident colony and to enforce the new regulations. The eviction was handled without a major confrontation and continued patrols kept the situation from recurring.

In a similar incident during 1972, a group of tradition-minded native American Indians took up residency near Moss Lake in the western Adirondacks claiming ownership of public lands there. Prolonged negotiations between the State



*An early gas well at Greenwood in western New York. Today, well sites are monitored by Forest Rangers to prevent environmental degradation.*

and the Indians ensued. Meanwhile, local Ranger Bill Marleau and neighboring Rangers monitoring the situation, maintained a working relationship with Indian leaders aimed at resolving misunderstanding that might lead to violence. In 1974, these occupied lands were finally vacated under terms of an agreement negotiated by then Secretary of State Mario Cuomo.

In other parts of the State, Ranger patrols were expanded to include fish and wildlife management and multiple-use areas. In some regions, Rangers became actively involved in enforcement of mined land reclamation regulations. The energy crisis of the mid '70s led to many wildcat gas wells being drilled in the Southern Tier, which resulted in a high rate of producing wells. The rapid increase in the number of gas wells being drilled brought public outcries demanding that the environment be protected from damage due to drilling and production activities. The Forest Rangers were assigned the task of making preliminary site inspections before drilling permits were issued by the Department. These on-site inspections were to determine possible adverse effects on protected streams, freshwater wetlands, and water supplies for both humans and livestock, as well as to determine if regulations pertaining to spacing and set-back distances were being met.

After receiving training from personnel of the Division of Mineral Resources, Rangers started making inspections in the spring of 1982. Since then, the Rangers in Region 9 alone have made over 1,500 inspections of gas and oil well sites, with nearly two-thirds of that total being in Chautauqua County and the remainder in Cattaraugus, Allegany, Erie and Wyoming Counties.

In 1980, members of the Forest Ranger Force converged on Lake Placid contributing their skills in search and rescue, law enforcement and public relations as part of the security network created for the XIII Olympic Winter Games there. In their new role, the Rangers' full participation at the Olympic events marked a significant professional achievement for the Force and a triumphant finale to a decade of doubt. 🌐



# 13

## Centennial

The changes and modernization which occurred at the Department of Environmental Conservation during the 1970's also affected forest fire detection and radio communications. For a number of years, experiments had been underway in several states and Canadian provinces using scheduled aircraft flights for fire detection. By the 1970's, new aerial detection methods had proven to be far more economical when compared with existing fire tower detection costs. In 1971, New York State adopted a modified aerial surveillance detection system. That year the Bureau of Forest Fire Control closed 61 of its 102 fire towers and replaced them with 22 experimental aerial detection flights which were offered for bid to private contractors. Since that time, Rangers have relied on a combination of 39 strategic fire towers and 23 aerial detection flights with good results at a savings of approximately \$250,000 per year.

In 1976, a DEC radio communications center was established to provide two-way radio coverage for nights, weekends and holidays in order to assist Forest Rangers engaged in search and rescue missions, forest fire suppression and other emergency operations. The Saranac Lake Dispatch Center became a reality through the efforts of a dedicated husband and wife team, Roland and "Jackie" Patnode, who created the Dispatch Center at their home and rearranged their lives in order to provide reliable communications for Adirondack Rangers. At first, the center was operated on a trial basis. After a year, the value of the Dispatch Center was clearly evident and approval to make it permanent was secured from Commissioner Peter A.A. Berle in November of



*Hunter Mountain Fire Tower in the Catskills. One of 39 strategic towers across the State not replaced by aerial fire-detection flights.*

1977. Today, the Saranac Lake Dispatch Center and several similar centers around the State provide invaluable radio communications for Rangers, Environmental Conservation Officers and other DEC field personnel.

America's infatuation with snowmobiling as a winter recreational activity went through a phenomenal growth boom during the late 1960's. During the seventies, however, snowmobile sales began to plummet, giving way to the more economical, albeit slower, pastime of cross-country skiing. During the 1980's the public appetite for motorized off-road vehicles was reawakened with the debut of a variety of two, three and four wheel all-terrain vehicles. Rangers, by now accustomed to the public's seemingly endless variety of recreational pursuits, can only wonder what is next as they face the prospect of increased accidents and unlawful activities that accompany and detract from each new activity.

In 1975, the Department of Environmental Conservation established "Wilderness Forest Ranger" positions in parts of the Adirondacks, and later, in the Catskills. The action followed on the heels of a highly effective program of summer "Ridge Runners," employed by the Adirondack Mountain Club to assist and educate wilderness campers and hikers.

In 1978, seasonal Rangers were also assigned to some wilderness areas in order to fill a gap caused by the

elimination of several interior cabins. Under the Adirondack Park Agency's State Land Master Plan, these non-conforming interior cabins had to be removed from several wilderness areas in the Adirondacks. Presently, the seasonal Rangers, now called "Assistant Forest Rangers," continue to patrol the State's wilderness areas, helping the public and assisting Forest Rangers with emergency missions and law enforcement activities. By augmenting the amount of time available for patrols into the remote areas, the Assistant Rangers have proven to be a real asset to Forest Rangers with large districts who must handle an ever expanding list of duties.

The important contribution of rural fire companies in controlling forest fires cannot be overestimated. Forest Rangers have been able to reduce forest fire damage significantly thanks to the help received from these dedicated volunteers. In recent years, Forest Rangers have expanded their training of volunteer firemen and have administered the Rural Community Fire Protection Program. Under this program, federal matching grants are made available for equipping rural firefighters in towns with fewer than 10,000 population.

Since 1978, New York's Forest Rangers have also fought fires in states outside the region covered by the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact. Under an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, New York State has provided crews of experienced firefighters to help during forest fire emergencies in the states of California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

In April 1983, media coverage of possible health risks from the misuse by exterminators of the pesticides Chlordane and Aldrin brought Long Island homeowners to near panic. The DEC regional office at Stony Brook was besieged by worried residents whose homes had been treated with the chemicals. To handle the crisis, Pesticide Inspectors, Foresters and Forest Rangers were sent from upstate to Long Island where they spent weeks handling thousands of telephone inquiries and assisting with investigations and testing procedures for suspected contamination. The professionalism of the Forest Rangers during this emergency helped calm worried homeowners and restore the ability of the Department to cope with this crisis of unparalleled proportions.

The following year, as the Forest Ranger Force approached its 100th anniversary, an emergency of a different kind occurred—this time involving the Rangers themselves. It came

with a proposal in the Executive Budget to save money through the elimination of 50 Forest Ranger positions. The proposal was devastating! For such a small force, the elimination of 50 Forest Rangers was tantamount to extinction. The story of this near tragedy for the Forest Ranger Force is described in the following account by Commissioner Williams.

Over the years, funding for the Forest Rangers has been provided mainly by federal and State governments. Although federal support has declined to virtually nothing, State support has been fairly consistent over the years. Nevertheless, by 1983 there were more than a dozen vacant Ranger districts and the condition of trucks and other equipment had deteriorated despite efforts of the Rangers to make repairs and improvements. Early in 1983, after a new table of organization was developed, I filled some of the vacancies and several Rangers were promoted.

We thought good progress was being made toward our goal

*A giant 40th birthday cake for Smokey and his friends. Forest Ranger Joe Rupp is looking on.*



of filling each Ranger district when, to our surprise, the 1984-85 budget called for a savings of \$935,000 to be achieved by eliminating fifty Forest Ranger positions.

The proposed cut-back was explained on the basis of "improvements in fire control methods," implying that modern tools and methods of fighting forest fires meant that we didn't need as many Forest Rangers. This obviously ignored the fact that fire control had come to be only a part of the total responsibility of the Forest Rangers. In addition, the acreage of State land that Rangers were charged with protecting had increased from 715,000 acres in 1885, to more than 3.8 million acres in 1984. Certainly, airplanes and technological advances have helped in all aspects of the work of Forest Rangers, but there is no substitute for the person in the woods and on the trail.

Support for the Forest Rangers came from the Legislature, the press and citizens all across the State. I personally worked hard to restore the proposed budget cuts. Letters and telephone calls by the thousands were delivered to the Governor's Office and the Legislature. The Governor amended the Executive Budget by restoring the fifty Forest Ranger positions and a very difficult period for the Forest Rangers and their families was concluded successfully.

Putting this nightmare behind them, Forest Rangers resumed their regular duties with a couple of unusual additions. In the spring of 1984, New York State, along with other States, joined the U.S. Forest Service in recognizing the 40th Anniversary of Smokey the Bear. In honor of this occasion, Smokey's symbolic counterpart appeared at Albany, New York City and other locations, greeting public officials and participating in events designed to publicize forty years of forest fire prevention. At Lake Placid, the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) opened its 1980 Olympic Arena to host a gigantic birthday party for Smokey and over 2,000 delighted young children from the Adirondack region. Masterminded by Forest Ranger Frank Dorchak, the party brought together local dignitaries, Forest Rangers, volunteer firemen and over twenty-five popular costumed characters who joined a military color guard, marching band, baton twirlers and native American dancers to create an unforgettable occasion. The party was topped off with the unveiling of a giant eight-foot-high birthday cake made and donated by Paul Smith's College.

With Smokey's birthday party out of the way, Forest Rangers turned their attention to the planning needed for the upcoming Forest Preserve Centennial and the 100th

## The Forest Rangers

*Forest Preserve Centennial dedication of Wesley Barnes Monument by Minerva Historical Society, Essex County, July 6, 1985. Assemblyman Barnes actively supported the legislation which created the Forest Preserve in 1885. (L-R: William Roden, Commissioner—Adirondack Park Agency; Forest Ranger James White; DEC Commissioner Henry G. Williams; Charles William Barnes, Grandson of Wesley Barnes; Forest Ranger Robert Morris.)*



Anniversary of the Forest Ranger Force. Plans for Centennial festivities included a number of special dinners, lectures, conferences, exhibits, tree planting ceremonies, guided hikes, Centennial publications (including this Ranger history), and a television documentary. Forest Rangers were involved in many of these events throughout the year. All of the events were heralded by Centennial Proclamations for the Forest Preserve and the Forest Ranger Force, issued on May 15, 1985 by Governor Mario M. Cuomo.

Progress on the Rangers' Centennial activities was disrupted several times during the summer of '85 by prolonged dry weather which brought with it an increased number of forest fires in many areas. The worst fire of the season began on August 18 when smoke was spotted in remote terrain near the top of Tongue Mountain overlooking Lake George. The fire burned over 200 acres before Rangers and their fire crews were able to contain it.

On September 13-15, 1985, a Forest Preserve Centennial Festival was held in Lake Placid similar to the three-day celebration held there for the Golden Jubilee. Six days before the festivities were due to begin, however, an incident occurred which nearly prevented many of the Forest Rangers from participating in the celebration. On Saturday, September 7, 1985, a backpacker was reported missing from a group which was hiking and camping in the Adirondack High Peaks near Indian Pass. Because the young man was autistic, a handicap which made any response on his part doubtful,

Rangers knew that finding him would be more difficult. As cold and rain-soaked nights reduced his chances of survival, more than a hundred Forest Rangers, Assistant Forest Rangers and volunteers combed the woods aided by K-9 units and state helicopters. Hours before the start of the Centennial Festival, with plans already underway to curtail drastically Rangers' participation in the celebration, the missing man was found alive and evacuated by helicopter to Placid Memorial Hospital. With this happy news, the search disbanded in record time and the Ranger Force rushed to prepare for the Centennial Festival.

On Friday afternoon, September 13, weary Rangers led the Centennial parade down Main Street in Lake Placid, where their predecessors had marched fifty years before. During the opening ceremony at the speed skating oval, Commissioner Henry G. Williams welcomed the Rangers and announced the good news about the successful search to the public.

Later that night it was the Forest Rangers' wives who were honored at a dinner held in appreciation for the valuable and all too often overlooked services performed by these loyal partners. For others celebrating the Forest Preserve Centennial that evening, a giant campfire warmed the chilly night air while a variety of Adirondack musicians and storytellers entertained the crowd.



*Forest Ranger Victor Sasse on parade duty with his assigned vehicle.*

CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL

L-R: Commissioner Williams, Forest Ranger Frank Dorchak, Regional Director Thomas Monroe review details for Centennial Parade at Lake Placid.



Opening ceremonies for the Forest Preserve Centennial Festival at Lake Placid. Commissioner Williams at the rostrum.



Forest Rangers competed in a variety of Centennial events. Two Rangers entered the 90 mile Adirondack Canoe Classic Race from Old Forge to Saranac Lake. Other Rangers joined many police agencies in a shooting tournament which saw the Department's Environmental Conservation Officers collect many prizes with their excellent marksmanship. At the Lake Placid Horse Show Grounds, a pumping contest reminiscent of Ranger pump tests during the 1920's, pitted Forest Ranger pump teams from across the State in spirited competition.



*Forest Rangers parading on Main Street, Lake Placid.*



*The Forest Ranger contingent assembled at Lake Placid. Led by (front row—L-R): Deputy Commissioner Drayton Grant, Superintendent Edward F. Jacoby, Commissioner Henry G. Williams.*

The Lake Placid Horse Show Grounds also sported a variety of exhibits for those in attendance to view. The widest array of displays and exhibits, however, could be seen at the Olympic Arena where a large number of exhibitors participated in the Outdoor Sportsmen's Expo during the three-day Festival.

On Saturday afternoon, the Forest Ranger Color Guard participated in the rededication of the Veterans Memorial Highway at Whiteface Mountain.

That night, a Forest Ranger Centennial Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn in Lake Placid. This event was followed by the Forest Preserve Centennial Grand Ball held at the Olympic Arena. Many Forest Rangers and their wives attended these events and danced the night away to the music of the Jimmy Dorsey Band.

The fair weather Sunday morning afforded a fine opportunity to photograph the Forest Ranger Force so rarely together in one place. Later, after the closing ceremonies that afternoon, it was time for Rangers and their families to join the many other visitors heading homeward after being part of this once-in-a-lifetime Centennial Festival.

For Forest Rangers actively involved in so many events throughout the Centennial celebration, the events at Lake Placid were a full and fitting climax to this festival year. The Rangers own motto, "Protecting Lives and Resources," was underscored by the search that so nearly disrupted this historic occasion. It also served as a most poignant reminder of the Forest Rangers' fundamental role in the Forest Preserve Centennial theme: "Heritage of the Past—Stewardship for the Future."

The Centennial year found the earth's environment in fragile condition. A rapidly growing population is placing enormous demands on our planet's limited natural resources. More than ever before, there is urgent need for protecting the quality of our ambient air and pristine waters, as well as the bountiful land that sustains us. New York State's magnificent Forest Preserve remains the paramount example of what can be done if people will just try. This Centennial Celebration should have given hope and inspiration to all who strive to preserve the last remnants of our world's remaining wilderness and to all who would save a place for helpless wildlife and plant species in danger of extinction. The Forest Preserve is a beacon for all of us who share a yearning for that lonely interlude in some quiet, natural place now and then.

What did this Centennial mean to the Forest Ranger Force? For Forest Rangers, public service has always offered the greatest of challenges, as it does to all men and women who can bring to it a sense of honor and dedication. The long heritage of devoted service found among Rangers would indicate that their stewardship for the future will be no less dedicated. ●

# Appendices



**Appendix A**  
**CHAPTER 283, LAWS OF 1885**

AN ACT to establish a forest commission, and to define its powers and duties, and for the preservation of the forests.

Passed May 15, 1885; three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. There shall be a forest commission which shall consist of three persons who shall be styled forest commissioners, and who may be removed by the governor for cause. The forest commissioners shall be appointed by the governor by and with the advice and consent of the senate.

§ 2. At the first meeting of the forest commissioners they shall divide themselves by lot, so that the term of one shall expire in two years, one in four years, and one in six years from the first day of February next ensuing. Except as to the three terms of office thus determined, the term of office of a forest commissioner shall be six years from the first day of February on which the preceding term expires.

§ 3. During the month of January, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, and in every second year thereafter, the governor by and with the advice and consent of the senate shall appoint one forest commissioner. Vacancies that may exist in the office of a forest commissioner after the commencement of a term of office shall be filled by the governor's appointment subject to the confirmation of the senate at its next session for the unexpired portion of the term in which the vacancy occurs.

§ 4. The forest commissioners shall serve without compensation except that there shall be paid them their reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

§ 5. The forest commission shall have power to employ a forest warden, forest inspectors, a clerk and all such agents as they may deem necessary, and to fix their compensations, but the expenses and salaries of such warden, agents, clerk, inspectors and assistants shall not exceed in the aggregate

with the other expenses of the commission the sum therefore appropriated by the legislature.

§ 6. The trustees of public buildings, under chapter three hundred and forty-nine, laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-three, shall provide rooms for office for the forest commission, with proper furniture and fixtures, and with warming and lights.

§ 7. All the lands now owned or which may hereafter be acquired by the State of New York, within the counties of Clinton, excepting the towns of Altona and Dannemora, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, Washington, Greene, Ulster, and Sullivan, shall constitute and be known as the forest preserve.

§ 8. The lands now or hereafter constituting the forest preserve shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private.

§ 9. The forest commission shall have the care, custody, control and superintendence of the forest preserve. It shall be the duty of the commission to maintain and protect the forests now on the forest preserve, and to promote as far as practicable the further growth of forests thereon. It shall also have charge of the public interests of the State, with regard to forests and tree planting, and especially with reference to forest fires in every part of the State. It shall have as to all lands now or hereafter included in the forest preserve, but subject to the provisions of this act, all the powers now vested in the commissioners of the land office and in the comptroller, as to such of the said lands as are now owned by the State. The forest commission may, from time to time, prescribe rules or regulations, and may from time to time alter or amend the same, affecting the whole or any part of the forest preserve, and for its use, care and administration; but neither such rules or regulations, nor anything herein contained, shall prevent or operate to prevent the free use of any road, stream or water as the same may have been heretofore used, or as may be reasonably required in the prosecution of any lawful business.

§ 10. The forest warden, forest inspectors, foresters and other persons acting upon the forest preserve under the written employment of the forest warden or of the forest commission may, without warrant, arrest any person found upon the forest preserve violating any of the provisions of

this act; but in case of such arrest, the person making the arrest shall forthwith take the person arrested before the nearest magistrate having jurisdiction to issue warrants in such case, and there make, or procure to be made, a complaint in writing, upon which complaint the magistrate shall act as the case may require.

§ 11. The forest commission may bring in the name, or on behalf of the people of the State of New York, any action to prevent injury to the forest preserve or trespass thereon, to recover damages for such injury or trespass, to recover lands properly forming part of the forest preserve, but occupied or held by persons not entitled thereto, and in all other respects for the protection and maintenance of the forest preserve, which any owner of lands would be entitled to bring. The forest commission may also maintain, in the name or on behalf of the people of the State, an action for the trespass specified in section seventy-four, article fifth, title five, chapter nine, part one of the Revised Statutes, when such trespass is committed upon any lands within the forest preserve. In such action there shall be recoverable the same penalty, and a like execution shall issue, and the defendant be imprisoned thereunder without being entitled to the liberties of the jail, all as provided in sections seventy-four and seventy-six of the said article; and in such action the plaintiff shall be entitled to an order of arrest before judgment, as in the cases mentioned in section five hundred and forty-nine of the Code of Civil Procedure. The trespass herein mentioned shall be deemed to include, in addition to the acts specified in the said section seventy-four, any act of cutting, or causing to be cut, or assisting to be cut, any tree or timber standing within the forest preserve, or any bark thereon, with intent to remove such tree or timber, or any portion thereof, or bark therefrom, from the said forest preserve. With the consent of the attorney-general and the comptroller, the forest commission may employ attorneys and counsel to prosecute any such action, or to defend any action brought against the commission or any of its members or subordinates, arising out of their or his official conduct with relation to the forest preserve. Any attorney or counsel so employed shall act under the direction of and in the name of the attorney-general. Where such attorney or counsel is not so employed, the attorney-general shall prosecute and defend such actions.

§ 12. In an action brought by or at the instance of the forest commission, an injunction, either preliminary or final, shall upon application be granted restraining any act of trespass, waste or destruction upon the forest preserve.

§ 13. Whenever the State owns or shall own an undivided interest with any person in any lands within the counties mentioned in section eight of this act, or is or shall be in possession of any such lands as joint tenant or tenants in common with any person who has an estate of freehold therein, the attorney-general shall, upon the request of the forest commission, bring an action in the name of the people of the State of New York for the actual partition of the said lands according to the respective rights of the parties interested therein; and upon the consent in writing of the forest commission any such person may maintain an action for the actual partition of such lands, according to the respective rights of the parties interested therein, in the same manner as if the State were not entitled to exemption from legal proceedings, service of process in such action upon the attorney-general to be deemed service upon the State. Such actions, the proceedings and the judgment therein, and the proceedings under the judgment therein, shall be according to the practice at the time prevailing in actions of partition, and shall have the same force and effect as in other actions, except that no costs shall be allowed to the plaintiff in such action, and except that no sale of such lands shall be adjudged therein. The forest commission may, without suit, but upon the consent of the comptroller, agree with any person or persons owning lands within the said towns jointly or as tenants in common with the State for the partition of such lands, and upon such agreement and consent, the comptroller shall make on behalf of the people of the State any conveyance necessary or proper in such partition, such conveyance to be forthwith recorded as now provided by law as to conveyances made by the commissioners of the land office.

§ 14. All income that may hereafter be derived from State forest lands shall be paid over by the forest commission to the treasury of the State.

§ 15. A strict account shall be kept of all receipts and expenses, which account shall be audited by the comptroller, and a general summary thereof shall be reported annually to the legislature.

§ 16. The forest commission shall, in January of every year, make a written report to the legislature of their proceedings, together with such recommendations of further legislative or official action as they may deem proper.

§ 17. The supervisor of every town in the State in which wild or forest lands belonging to the State are located, except within the counties mentioned in section seven of this act, shall be by virtue of his office the protector of these lands, subject to the instructions he may receive from the forest commission. It shall be his duty to report to the district attorney for prosecution any acts of spoliation or injury that may be done, and it shall be the duty of such district attorney to institute proceedings for the prevention of further trespass, and for the recovery of all damages that may have been committed, with costs of prosecution. The supervisors shall also report their proceedings therein to the forest commission. In towns where the forest commission shall deem it necessary, they may serve a notice upon the supervisor, requiring him to appoint one or more forest guards, and if more than one in a town, the district of each shall be properly defined. The guard so appointed shall have such powers, and perform such duties and receive such pay as the forest commission may determine.

§ 18. The forest commission shall take such measures as the department of public instruction, the regents of the university and the forest commission may approve, for awakening an interest in behalf of forestry in the public schools, academies and colleges of the State, and of imparting some degree of elementary instruction upon this subject therein.

§ 19. The forest commission shall, as soon as practicable, prepare tracts or circulars of information giving plain and concise advice for the care of woodlands upon private lands, and for the starting of new plantations upon lands that have been denuded, exhausted by cultivation, eroded by torrents, or injured by fire, or that are sandy, marshy, broken, sterile, or waste, and unfit for other use. These publications shall be furnished without cost to any citizen of the State, upon application, and proper measures may be taken for bringing them to the notice of persons who would be benefited by this advice.

§ 20. Every supervisor of a town in this State, excepting within the counties mentioned in section seven of this act, shall be *ex officio* fire warden therein. But in towns

particularly exposed to damages from forest fires, the supervisor may divide the same into two or more districts, bounded as far as may be by roads, streams of water, or dividing ridges of land or lot lines, and he may, in writing, appoint one resident citizen in each district as district fire warden therein. A description of these districts and the names of the district fire wardens thus appointed shall be recorded in the office of town clerk. The supervisor may also cause a map of the fire district of his town to be posted in some public place with the names of the district fire wardens appointed. The cost of such map, not exceeding five dollars, may be made a town charge; and the services of the fire wardens shall also be deemed a town charge; and shall not exceed the sum of two dollars per day for the time actually employed. Within the counties mentioned in section seven of this act, such persons shall be fire wardens as may from time to time be appointed by the forest commission. The persons so appointed shall act during the pleasure of the forest commission; and there shall be applicable to them all the provisions of this act, with reference to supervisors and district town wardens. Upon the discovery of a forest fire it shall be the duty of the fire warden of the district, town or county, to take such measures as may be necessary for its extinction. For this purpose he shall have authority to call upon any person in the territory in which he acts for assistance, and any person shall be liable to a fine of not less than five or more than twenty dollars for refusing to act when so called upon.

§ 21. The forest commission, the forest warden, the forest inspector, the foresters, and any other persons employed by or under the authority of the forest commission, and who may be authorized by the commission to assume such duty, shall, within the counties mentioned in section seven of this act, whenever the woods in any such town shall be on fire, perform the duty imposed upon, and in such case shall have the powers granted to the justices of the peace, the supervisors and the commissioner of highways of such town by title fourteen of chapter twenty of part one of the Revised Statutes, with reference to the ordering of persons to assist in extinguishing fire or stopping their progress; and any person so ordered by the forest commission, the forest warden, the forest inspectors, the foresters, or any of them, or any other person acting or authorized as aforesaid who

shall refuse or neglect to comply with any such order, shall be liable to the punishment prescribed by the said title.

§ 22. No action for trespass shall be brought by any owner of land for entry made upon his premises by persons going to assist in extinguishing a forest fire, although it may not be upon his land.

§ 23. The fire wardens, or the supervisor, where acting in general charge, may cause fences to be destroyed or furrows to be plowed to check the running of fires, and in cases of great danger, back fires may be set along a road or stream, or other line of defense, to clear off the combustible material before an advancing fire.

§ 24. The supervisor of every town of which he is a fire warden as aforesaid, and in which a forest fire of more than one acre in extent has occurred within a year, shall report to the forest commission the extent of area burned over, to the best of his information, together with the probable amount of property destroyed, specifying the value of timber, as near as may be, and amount of cord-wood, logs, bark or other forest product, and of fencing, bridges and buildings that have been burned. He shall also make inquiries and report as to the causes of these fires, if they can be ascertained, and as to the measures employed and found most effectual in checking their progress. A consolidated summary of these returns by counties, and of the information as to the same matter otherwise gathered by the forest commission, shall be included in the annual report of the forest commission.

§ 25. Every railroad company whose road passes through waste or forest lands, or lands liable to be overrun by fires within this State, shall twice in each year cut and burn off or remove from its right of way all grass, brush, or inflammable material, but under proper care, and at times when the fires thus set are not liable to spread beyond control.

§ 26. All locomotives which shall be run through forest lands shall be provided, within one year from the date of this act, with approved and sufficient arrangements for preventing the escape of fire from their furnace or ash-pan, and netting of steel or iron wire upon their smoke stack to check the escape of sparks of fire. It shall be the duty of every engineer and fireman employed upon a locomotive to see that the appliances for the prevention of the escape of fire are in use and applied, as far as it can be reasonably and possibly done.

§ 27. No railroad company shall permit its employees to deposit fire coals or ashes upon their track in the immediate vicinity of woodlands or lands liable to be overrun by fires, and in all cases where any engineers, conductors or trainmen discover that fences along the right of way, on woodlands adjacent to the railroad, are burning, or in danger from fire, it shall be their duty to report the same at their next stopping place, and the person in charge of such station shall take prompt measures for extinguishing such fires.

§ 28. In seasons of drought, and especially during the first dry time in the spring after the snows have gone and before vegetation has revived, railroad companies shall employ a sufficient additional number of trackmen for the prompt extinguishment of fires. And where a forest fire is raging near the line of their road they shall concentrate such help and adopt such measures and shall most effectually arrest their progress.

§ 29. Any railroad company violating the provisions or requirements of this act shall be liable to a fine of one hundred dollars for each offense.

§ 30. The forest commission shall, with as little delay as practicable, cause rules for the prevention and suppression of forest fires to be printed for posting in school-houses, inns, saw-mills and other wood-working establishments, lumber camps and other places, in such portions of the State as they may deem necessary. Any person maliciously or wantonly defacing or destroying such notices shall be liable to a fine of five dollars. It shall be the duty of forest agents, supervisors and school trustees, to cause these rules, when received by them, to be properly posted, and replaced when lost or destroyed.

§ 31. Any person who shall willfully or negligently set fire to, or assist another to set fire to, any waste or forest lands belonging to the State or to another person, whereby the said forests are injured or endangered, or who suffers any fire upon his own land to escape or extend beyond the limits thereof, to the injury of the woodlands of another or of the State, shall be liable to a fine of not less than fifty dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars, or to imprisonment of not less than thirty days nor more than six months. He shall also be liable in an action for all damages that may be caused by such fires; such action to be brought in any court of this State having jurisdiction thereof.

§ 32. Fifteen thousand dollars is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, for the purposes of this act. And no liabilities shall be incurred by said forest commissioners in excess of this appropriation.

§ 33. This act shall take effect immediately.

**Appendix B**  
**PAST AND PRESENT FIRE TOWERS**  
**IN NEW YORK STATE**

Region	Former Forest District	Tower	County	Observation Station Established	Steel Tower Established	Present Status
1	15	Camp Upton	Suffolk	1932	1932	Removed
1	15	Clock	Suffolk	?	?	Removed
1	15	Dix Hill	Suffolk	1924	1924	Removed
1	15	Flanders Hill	Suffolk	1918	1918	Removed
1	15	Bayshore	Suffolk	1948	1948	Removed
1	15	Kings Park	Suffolk	1948	1948	Removed
1	15	Oak Dale	Suffolk	?	?	Removed
1	15	Stony Hill	Suffolk	1930	1930	Removed
1	15	Telescope Hill	Suffolk	1918	1918	Removed
3	13	Balsam Mt.	Ulster	1905	1919	Active
3	13	Belleayre Mt.	Ulster	1909	1920	Removed
3	13	Gallis Hill	Ulster	1927	1927	Moved to Overlook 1950
3	13	High Point	Ulster	1912	1919	Inactive
3	13	Mohonk	Ulster	1912	—	Private Tower
3	13	Overlook	Ulster	1950	1950	Active
3	13	Red Hill	Ulster	1920	1920	Active
3	13	Slide Mt.	Ulster	1912	1934	Removed
3	13	Spruce Mt.	Ulster	1909	—	Removed
3	13	Tremper Mt.	Ulster	1917	1917	Inactive
3	13	Chapin Hill	Sullivan	1923	1923	Inactive
3	13	Roosa Gap	Sullivan	1948	1948	Sold
3	13	Pocatello Mt.	Orange	1930	1930	Moved to Graham Mt.
3	13	Graham Mt.	Orange	1947	1947	Active
3	13	Sterling Mt.	Orange	1922	1922	Active
3	13	Jackie Jones	Rockland	1931	1931	Active
3	14	Clove Mt.	Dutchess	1933	1933	Active
3	14	Beacon Mt.	Dutchess	1922	1931	Inactive
3	14	Stissing Mt.	Dutchess	1934	1934	Inactive
3	14	Ninham Mt.	Putnam	1941	1941	Active
3	14	Cross River Mt.	Westchester	1931	1931	Removed
3	14	Nelson Mt.	Westchester	1950	1950	Removed
4	1	Bramley Mt.	Delaware	1950	1950	Removed
4	1	Rock Rift Mt.	Delaware	1934	1934	Active
4	1	Utsayantha Mt.	Delaware	1934	1934	Active
4	1	Twadell Pt.	Delaware	1910	1919	Inactive
4	1	Hooker Mt.	Otsego	1935	1935	Removed
4	1	Leonard Hill	Schoharie	1948	1948	Active
4	1	Petersburg Mt.	Schoharie	1941	1941	Transferred to Schoharie County
4	12	Beebe Hill	Columbia	1964	1964	Active

Region	Former Forest District	Tower	County	Observation Station Established	Steel Tower Established	Present Status
4	12	Washburn Mt.	Columbia	1933	1933	Moved to Beebe Hill
4	12	Hunter Mt.	Greene	1909	1917	Active
4	12	Dickinson Hill	Rensselaer	1924	1924	Inactive
4	12	Number Seven Hill	Rensselaer	1922	1922	Removed
5	9	Lyon Mt.	Clinton	1910	1917	Active
5	9	Palmer Hill	Clinton	1930	1930	Active
5	9	Adams Mt.	Essex	1912	1917	Inactive
5	9	Belfrey Mt.	Essex	1912	1917	Active
5	9	Boreas Mt.	Essex	1911	1919	Inactive
5	9	Goodnew Mt.	Essex	1922	1922	Removed
5	9	Makomis Mt.	Essex	1911	1916	Removed
5	9	Hurricane Mt.	Essex	1909	1919	Inactive
5	9	Pharaoh Mt.	Essex	1909	1918	Inactive
5	9	Poke-O-Moonshine	Essex	1912	1917	Active
5	9	Vander Wacker Mt.	Essex	1911	1918	Active
5	9	Whiteface Mt.	Essex	1909	1919	Removed
5	9	Ampersand Mt.	Franklin	1911	1921	Removed
5	9	Azure Mt.	Franklin	1914	1918	Inactive
5	9	DeBar Mt.	Franklin	1912	1918	Removed
5	9	Loon Lake Mt.	Franklin	1912	1917	Inactive
5	9	Mt. Morris	Franklin	1909	1919	Inactive
5	9	St. Regis Mt.	Franklin	1909	1918	Active
5	10	Kane Mt.	Fulton	1925	1925	Active
5	10	Blue Mt.	Hamilton	1911	1917	Active
5	10	Cathead Mt.	Hamilton	1910	1916	Active
5	10	Dunn Brook Mt.	Hamilton	1911		Removed
5	10	Hamilton Mt.	Hamilton	1909	1916	Removed
5	10	Kempshall Mt.	Hamilton	1911	1918	Removed
5	10	Owls Head Mt.	Hamilton	1911	1919	Inactive
5	10	Pillsbury Mt.	Hamilton	1918	1924	Inactive
5	10	Snowy Mt.	Hamilton	1909	1917	Inactive
5	10	T-Lake Mt.	Hamilton	1916	1916	Removed
5	10	Tomany Mt.	Hamilton	1912	1916	Inactive
5	10	Wakely Mt.	Hamilton	1911	1916	Active
5	10	West Mt.	Hamilton	1909	1919	Removed
5	11	Cornell Hill	Saratoga	1923	1923	Inactive
5	11	Hadley Mt.	Saratoga	1917	1917	Active
5	11	Ohmer Mt.	Saratoga	1911		Removed
5	11	Spruce Mt.	Saratoga	1928	1928	Active
5	11	Black Mt.	Washington	1911	1918	Active
5	11	Colfax Mt.	Washington	1950	1950	Inactive
5	11	Crane Mt.	Warren	1911	1919	Inactive
5	11	Gore Mt.	Warren	1909	1918	Active
5	11	Prospect Mt.	Warren	1910	1932	Removed
5	11	Swede Mt.	Warren	1912	1918	Inactive

*The Forest Rangers*

Region	Former Forest District	Tower	County	Observation Station Established	Steel Tower Established	Present Status
6	6	Gomer Hill	Lewis	1941	1941	Active
6	6	New Boston	Lewis	1950	1950	Removed
6	6	Number Four	Lewis	1928	1928	Removed
6	6	Bald Mt.	Lewis	1911	1919	Removed
6	7	Arab Mt.	St. Lawrence	1911	1918	Active
6	7	Cat Mt.	St. Lawrence	1909	1917	Removed
6	7	Catamount Mt.	St. Lawrence	1911	1917	Removed
6	7	Moosehead Mt.	St. Lawrence	1909	1916	Removed
6	7	Sand Hill	St. Lawrence	1950	1950	Removed
6	7	Tooley Pond Mt.	St. Lawrence	1913	1919	Removed
6	7	Whites Hill	St. Lawrence	1950	1950	Removed
6	8	Penn Mt.	Oneida	1950	1950	Removed
6	8	Swancott Hill	Lewis	1940	1940	Removed
6	8	Beaver Lake Mt.	Herkimer	1910	1919	Removed
6	8	Dairy Hill	Herkimer	1934	1934	Active
6	8	Fort Noble Mt.	Herkimer	1910	1916	Removed
6	8	Moose River Mt.	Herkimer	1912	1919	Removed
6	8	Rondaxe Mt.	Herkimer	1912	1917	Active
6	8	Stillwater Mt.	Herkimer	1912	1919	Active
6	8	Woodhull Mt.	Herkimer	1911	1916	Inactive
7	2	Ingraham Hill	Broome	1950	1950	Removed
7	2	Page Pond	Broome	1935	1935	Active
7	2	Berry Hill	Chenango	1934	1934	Active
7	2	Brookfield	Madison	1943	1943	Removed
7	2	Georgetown Mt.	Madison	1941	1941	Removed
7	2	Castor Hill	Oswego	1927	1927	Removed
7	3	Morgan Hill	Cortland	1941	1941	Removed
7	3	Padlock Hill	Tompkins	1941	1941	Removed
8	4	Sugar Hill	Schuyler	1951	1951	Active
8	4	Erwin Mt.	Steuben	1943	1943	Removed
8	4	Prattsburg Mt.	Steuben	1950	1950	Removed
9	4	Alma Hill	Allegany	1950	1950	Removed
9	4	Jersey Hill	Allegany	1935	1935	Active
9	5	Hartzfelt Hill	Cattaragus	1924	1924	Removed
9	5	McCarty Hill	Cattaragus	1941	1941	Active
9	5	Summit Hill	Cattaragus	1931	1931	Inactive

**Appendix C**  
**SUMMARY OF FOREST FIRE LOSSES**

Year	Fire Towns <i>(Forest Preserve Counties)</i>		Fire Districts		Statewide Total	
	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Number of Fires	Acres Burned
1891	65	13,789	—	—	—	—
1892	33	1,030	—	—	—	—
1893	13	8,790	—	—	—	—
1894	50	17,093	—	—	—	—
1895	36	2,448	—	—	—	—
1896	116	29,817	—	—	—	—
1897	98	26,187	—	—	—	—
1898	94	9,648	—	—	—	—
1899	322	79,653	—	—	—	—
1900	127	14,893	—	—	—	—
1901	—	7,780	—	—	—	—
1902	—	21,356	—	—	—	—
1903	643	464,189	—	—	—	—
1904	101	2,627	—	—	—	—
1905	126	4,795	—	—	—	—
1906	142	12,500	—	—	—	—
1907	198	5,653	—	—	—	—
1908	605	368,072	—	—	—	—
1909	307	11,759	—	—	—	—
1910	277	12,680	—	—	—	—
1911	596	37,909	—	—	—	—
1912	383	6,990	—	—	—	—
1913	688	54,796	—	—	—	—
1914	413	13,837	—	—	—	—
1915	346	—	—	—	—	—
1916	258	3,010	—	—	—	—
1917	234	3,751	—	—	—	—
1918	398	7,354	—	—	—	—
1919	266	6,550	163*	—	—	—
1920	378	17,811	101	17,365	479	35,176
1921	726	26,663	102	11,110	828	37,773
1922	450	12,512	205	63,753	655	76,265
1923	556	17,855	236	30,063	792	47,918
1924	484	14,920	420	51,067	904	65,987
1925	319	4,145	417	27,018	736	31,163

\* Only Long Island

The Forest Rangers

Year	Fire Towns (Forest Preserve Counties)		Fire Districts		Statewide Total	
	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Number of Fires	Acres Burned
1926	245	1,740	481	38,654	726	40,394
1927	359	5,113	581	31,152	940	36,265
1928	208	1,298	622	37,453	830	38,751
1929	349	1,584	827	25,122	1,176	26,706
1930	583	7,821	1,624	63,306	2,207	71,127
1931	397	1,052	1,338	33,266	1,735	34,318
1932	547	4,910	1,723	26,214	2,270	31,124
1933	782	6,667	1,295	12,675	2,077	19,342
1934	923	11,461	1,275	14,439	2,198	25,900
1935	476	2,544	1,913	22,221	2,389	24,765
1936	551	1,203	1,305	7,260	1,856	8,463
1937	302	812	1,312	13,078	1,614	13,890
1938	458	4,466	1,909	14,207	2,367	18,673
1939	636	3,785	1,773	9,660	2,409	13,445
1940	433	1,282	1,563	14,045	1,996	15,327
1941	640	9,322	2,060	21,179	2,700	30,501
1942	284	835	1,416	13,597	1,700	14,432
1943	219	550	1,218	13,089	1,437	13,639
1944	459	1,998	2,094	46,227	2,553	48,225
1945	221	741	833	9,357	1,054	10,098
1946	418	1,407	1,269	18,637	1,687	20,044
1947	—	—	—	—	1,701	31,683
1948	—	—	—	—	1,308	13,313
1949	—	—	—	—	1,837	21,374
1950	—	—	—	—	1,271	8,181
1951	—	—	—	—	1,236	11,937
1952	—	—	—	—	1,950	32,573
1953	—	—	—	—	1,718	15,790
1954	—	—	—	—	1,578	18,235
1955	—	—	—	—	1,720	23,127
1956	—	—	—	—	943	5,275
1957	—	—	—	—	1,757	29,807
1958	—	—	—	—	679	5,924
1959	—	—	—	—	1,072	10,499
1960	—	—	—	—	714	5,065
1961	—	—	—	—	663	4,440
1962	—	—	—	—	1,532	19,549
1963	—	—	—	—	1,429	12,405
1964	—	—	—	—	1,742	18,592
1965	—	—	—	—	1,200	8,469
1966	—	—	—	—	1,131	5,856
1967	—	—	—	—	657	4,218

Year	Fire Towns (Forest Preserve Counties)		Fire Districts		Statewide Total	
	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Number of Fires	Acres Burned
1968	—	—	—	—	1,458	11,413
1969	—	—	—	—	894	5,135
1970	—	—	—	—	631	2,262
1971	—	—	—	—	582	2,191
1972	—	—	—	—	508	2,693
1973	—	—	—	—	669	3,300
1974	—	—	—	—	558	2,268
1975	—	—	—	—	795	2,968
1976	—	—	—	—	509	6,260
1977	—	—	—	—	895	7,016
1978	—	—	—	—	786	7,182
1979	—	—	—	—	552	2,593
1980	—	—	—	—	772	5,391
1981	—	—	—	—	655	5,540
1982	—	—	—	—	610	3,389
1983	—	—	—	—	356	1,585
1984	—	—	—	—	319	1,516
1985	—	—	—	—	654	3,666

**Appendix D**  
**FOREST RANGER SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Missions</b>	<b>Number of Persons Requiring Assistance</b>
1967	130	172
1968	100	120
1969	113	150
1970	116	164
1971	104	133
1972	138	188
1973	178	263
1974	144	201
1975	162	238
1976	211	284
1977	202	253
1978	156	249
1979	163	239
1980	164	220
1981	163	241
1982	184	278
1983	215	266
1984	188	221
1985	206	269

**Appendix E**  
**GOVERNORS' WOODS CLOSURE PROCLAMATIONS**

1. **Year:** 1924      **Closed:** October 31      **Opened:** November 14  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Year:** 1930      **Closed:** May 12      **Opened:** May 13  
Fire Towns closed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Year:** 1930      **Closed:** October 15      **Opened:** October 19  
Forest Preserve counties, Jefferson, Oswego counties closed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Year:** 1932      **Closed:** May 25      **Opened:** May 27  
Entire State closed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **Year:** 1934      **Closed:** June 1      **Opened:** June 7  
Adirondack area only closed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **Year:** 1938      **Closed:** October 17 and 18      **Opened:** October 24  
Adirondack area only closed on Oct. 17; extended to include Catskill area on Oct. 18.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. **Year:** 1941      **Closed:** April 30      **Opened:** May 8, 9 and 28  
Area closed on Apr. 30 included entire State. On May 8 all regions excepting Adirondacks and Catskills opened; May 9, Catskills opened; May 28, Adirondacks opened.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. **Year:** 1943      **Closed:** October 14      **Opened:** October 16  
Entire southern section of State, excepting Long Island, closed.  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **Year:** 1947      **Closed:** October 17 and 22      **Opened:** October 31  
Area north of Mohawk River closed, October 17; extended to include entire State, October 22.  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. **Year:** 1952      **Closed:** November 2      **Opened:** November 7 and 10  
Entire State (excepting Long Island) closed at midnight, 11/2/52; Proclamation of 11/7/52 opened all areas excepting the counties of Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Albany, Rensselaer, Greene, Columbia, Ulster, Dutchess, Sullivan, Orange, Rockland, Putnam, Westchester and Schenectady; Proclamation of 11/10/52 opened entire State.
11. **Year:** 1953      **Closed:** October 24      **Opened:** October 28  
Entire State (excepting Long Island) closed at 6 P.M., 10/24/53. Proclamation, 10/28/53, opened entire State.
12. **Year:** 1957      **Closed:** May 4      **Opened:** May 11  
Entire State closed at 12:30 P.M., May 4, 1957. Rescinded 8:30 A.M., May 11 in all of State except 9 counties of Districts 13, 14 & 15. The rest of the State opened at 8:30 P.M., May 11.
13. **Year:** 1963      **Closed:** October 13      **Opened:** November 1  
Entire State closed except Long Island and New York City. Long Island and New York City closed October 19. All of State except Forest Districts 13 and 14 opened on October 31. Districts 13 and 14 opened on November 1.
14. **Year:** 1964      **Closed:** July 3      **Opened:** July 14  
Ban on smoking and burning. Proclamation applied within the counties of Albany, Clinton, Essex, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington.
15. **Year:** 1964      **Closed:** October 17      **Opened:** November 20  
Twenty counties closed on October 17. Some additional counties were added at the later date.

## Appendix F

### RAILROADS IN THE FOREST PRESERVE

(From the Annual Report of the Forest Commission  
for the Year Ending September 30, 1888)

NOTE: This appendix is included to acquaint the reader with the once numerous railroads which traversed the Forest Preserve and were responsible for causing many early forest fires.

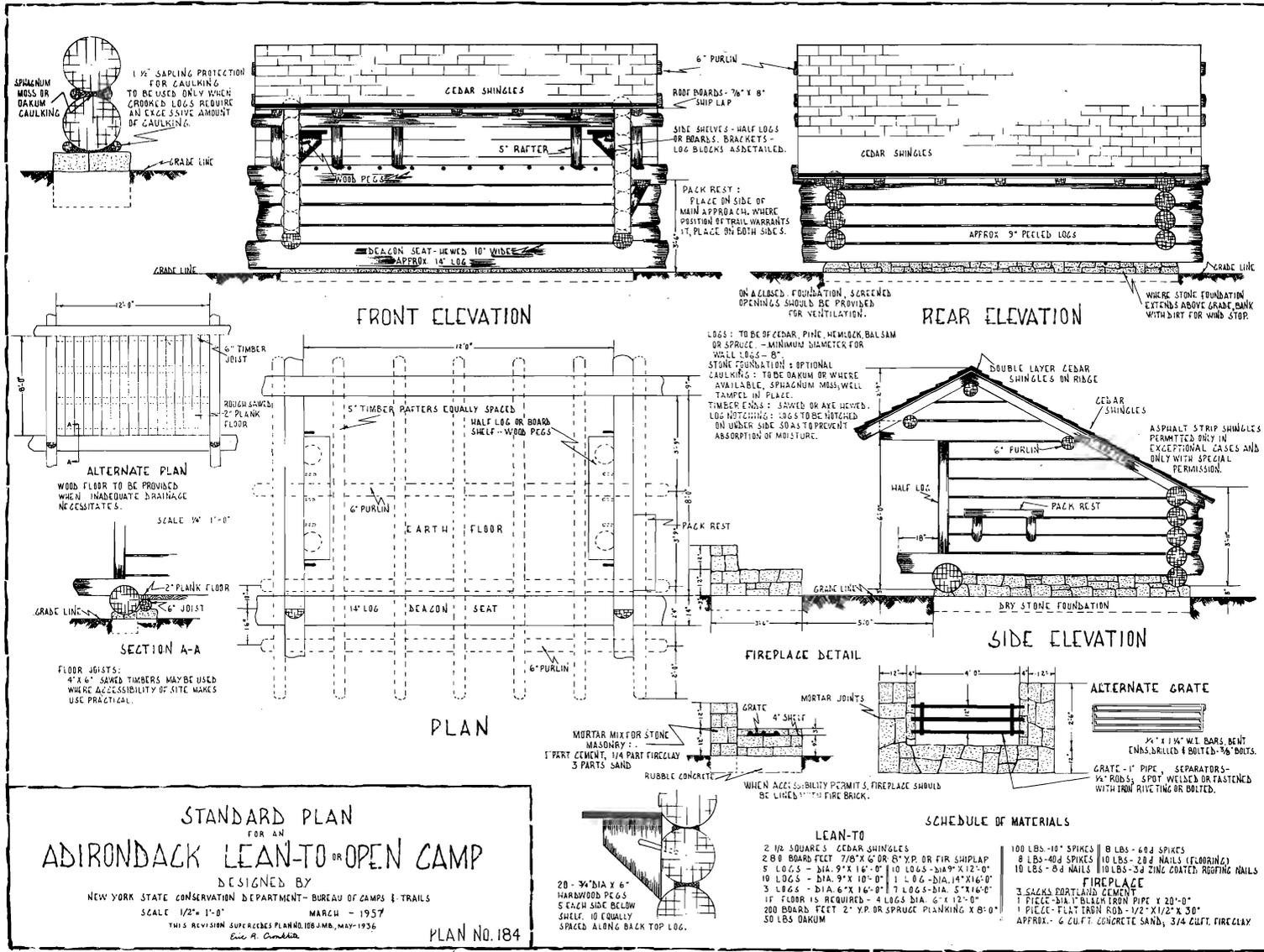
Name of Railroad	Counties	Miles
Athens br. N.Y.W.S. and B.	Greene	6.34
Adirondack R.R.	Warren and Saratoga	47.00
B., H. T. and W.	Saratoga	42.50
Chateaugay R.R.	Clinton	74.00
Cart. and Adirondack	Lewis and St. Lawrence	20.00
D., L. and W. R.R.	Oneida	32.00
Ellenville br. N.Y., O. and W.	Ulster and Sullivan	8.00
Fonda, Johns and Glovers.	Fulton	23.00
Greenwich and Johns	Washington	14.65
Herk., N. P't and Poland	Herkimer	16.73
L. Cham. and Moriah	Essex	7.66
L. Geo. br. of D. and H. R.R.	Washington and Warren	21.12
New York and Canada	Clinton, Essex and Washington	121.09
New York, L. E. and W.	Delaware and Sullivan	51.00
N.Y., O. and W.	Delaware, Oneida and Sullivan	168.00
Northern Adirondack	Franklin and St. Lawrence	32.00
N.Y., W.S. and Buffalo	Greene, Oneida and Ulster	80.50
New York Central	Oneida	31.00
Ogednsburgh and L. Cham.	Clinton, Franklin and St. Lawrence	110.75
Port Jervis and Monticello	Sullivan	9.50
R., W. and O. R.R.	Oneida and St. Lawrence	88.00
Ren's and Saratoga	Saratoga and Washington	52.00
Rut. and W. br. of R. and S.	Washington	29.00
Stoney Cl'e. and Catts Mt.	Greene and Ulster	19.03
Saratoga and Mt. McGregor	Saratoga	10.50
Saratoga and Mechanicsville	Saratoga	11.50
Ulster and Delaware	Delaware and Ulster	66.50
Utica and Black River	Lewis, Oneida and St. Lawrence	97.50
Wallkill Valley	Ulster	26.00
	Total miles	1,316.87

**Appendix G**  
**CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS**  
**CAMPS OF NEW YORK STATE**

Camp No.	Location	Date Established	Date Abandoned
S-51	Davenport	6/29/33	11/11/33
S-52	Boston Corners	6/09/33	10/31/33
S-53	Boiceville	6/24/33	1/10/36
S-56	Fish Creek Pond	6/03/33	10/26/35
S-57	Alma Farm (Bolton Landing)	6/07/33	11/18/33
S-58	Eighth Lake	6/20/33	11/08/33
S-59	Speculator	6/12/33	11/11/33
S-60	Paul Smiths	6/03/33	7/22/42
S-61	Goldsmiths	6/22/33	11/13/33
S-62	Tahawus	6/27/33	11/11/33
S-63	Tupper Lake	5/26/33	1/03/36
S-64	Arietta	5/26/33	11/18/33
S-65	Schroon River	6/15/33	11/15/33
S-66	Burgess Farm	5/27/33	11/17/33
P-67	Camp Upton	6/19/33	11/29/33
S-68	Oxford	6/27/33	11/19/41
P-69	Newcomb	6/28/33	11/11/33
P-70	Wanakena	6/23/33	11/25/33
S-71	Lake Placid	11/13/33	10/10/37
S-72	Delmar	11/07/33	9/29/36
S-73	Sherburne	11/09/33	1/13/36
P-74	Port Henry	11/15/33	1/09/36
P-75	Bridgehampton	11/29/33	5/24/34
P-76	Deposit	11/11/33	10/18/35
S-77	Cherry Plains	11/15/33	10/25/35
S-78	Cherry Plains	11/14/33	10/03/39
S-79	Port Byron	11/05/33	9/30/37*
S-80	North Pharsalia	11/05/33	6/06/41
S-81	Van Etten	10/30/33	5/28/37
	(reoccupied)	10/03/39	11/07/41
S-82	Bolton Landing	5/25/33	10/31/41
P-83	Boston Corners	5/15/33	3/26/42
S-84	Benson Mines	6/20/33	10/10/37
P-85	Narrowsburg	11/11/33	4/30/36
S-86	Yaphank	5/08/34	10/29/35
S-87	Yaphank	5/08/34	1/13/36
	(reoccupied)	1/28/36	4/30/36
	(reoccupied)	10/13/39	5/10/40
S-88	Yaphank	5/07/34	10/29/35
S-89	Yaphank	5/08/34	1/29/36
S-90	Speculator	5/11/34	10/31/42
S-91	North Brookfield	5/17/34	5/28/37
S-92	Almond	7/03/34	3/30/42
S-93	Breakabeen	5/19/34	1/15/42
S-94	Harrisville	5/11/34	10/31/41
S-95	Brasher Falls	5/11/34	3/27/42
S-96	Homer	5/17/34	1/11/36

\*Turned over to Biological Survey

Camp No.	Location	Date Established	Date Abandoned
S-97	Tannersville	5/15/34	10/10/37
S-98	Canajoharie	6/21/34	1/09/36
P-99	Huntington	5/24/34	10/10/38
S-100	Masonville	5/22/34	1/13/36
	(reoccupied)	10/22/38	11/18/41
S-101	Warrensburg	5/17/34	1/09/36
S-102	Plattsburg	1/05/35	5/18/40
	(reoccupied)	10/21/40	
	(redesignated AF-1)	9/26/41	7/23/42
S-103	DeRuyter	1/04/35	10/10/37
	(reoccupied)	7/03/39	10/31/41
P-104	West Haverstraw	8/09/35	3/31/37
P-105	Highland Mills	8/09/35	10/10/37
S-106	Salamanca	9/14/35	6/03/41
S-107	Minerva	8/31/35	1/09/36
S-108	Thendara	8/08/35	1/13/36
P-109	Elmsford	10/18/35	4/20/39
	(reoccupied)	10/02/39	5/02/40
S-110	Panama	8/08/35	10/09/37
P-111	Alps	8/16/35	10/06/38
	(reoccupied)	4/04/39	5/22/42
P-112	Carmel	8/09/35	1/05/38
	(reoccupied)	10/06/38	4/04/39
	(reoccupied)	7/08/40	7/10/41
S-113	Camden	10/26/35	6/05/42
P-114	Johnsville	8/16/35	10/10/37
S-115	Indian Lake	9/14/35	10/13/39
	(reoccupied)	5/10/40	6/30/41
S-116	Mannsville	9/14/35	11/07/41
S-117	Birdsall	8/31/35	10/09/37
S-118	Truxton	10/29/35	6/30/41
S-119	Middleburgh	8/08/35	6/30/41
S-120	Brushton	8/09/35	8/15/41
P-121	Fort Ann	10/25/35	10/10/37
S-122	Boonville	8/09/35	10/31/41
S-123	Beaver Dams	8/16/35	10/31/41
S-124	Adams	9/14/35	10/09/37
S-125	Slaterville Springs	8/09/35	3/23/42
S-126	Centerville	8/31/35	6/03/41
S-127	Hartwick	8/09/35	10/10/37
S-129	Newcomb	8/09/35	11/13/41
S-130	Williamstown	8/08/35	6/26/37
S-131	Sherburne	8/09/35	6/03/41
S-132	North Pharsalia	10/29/35	7/25/42
S-133	Margaretville	10/26/35	10/22/38
S-134	Canton	8/09/35	6/30/37
	(reoccupied)	10/14/40	5/15/41
P-135	Peekskill	1/05/38	1/15/42
P-136	Peekskill	10/10/38	7/08/40
P-137	Sag Harbor	4/20/39	10/02/39
	(reoccupied)	5/02/40	10/21/40
S-138	Lake Placid	5/18/40	10/15/40
	(reoccupied)	5/14/41	10/23/41
P-139	Grafton	10/21/41	3/27/42



Appendix H

**Appendix I**  
**COMMISSIONS**  
**1885-1985**

Forest Commission	1885-94
Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission	1895-99
Forest, Fish and Game Commission	1900-10
Conservation Commission	1911-26
Conservation Department	1927-69
Dept. Environmental Conservation	1970-Present

**COMMISSIONERS**  
**1885-1985**

Townsend Cox	1885-92
Sherman W. Knevals	1885-91
Theodore B. Basselin	1885-92
Dudley Farlin	1891-93
Francis G. Babcock	1893-99
Samuel J. Tilden	1893-94
Clarkson C. Schuyler	1893-94
Nathan Straus	1893-94
William R. Weed	1893-99
Barnet H. Davis	1895-99
H.H. Lyman	1895-99
Edward Thompson	1895-99
Hendrick S. Holden	1896-99
W. Austin Wadsworth	1900-01
Percy Lansdowne	1900-01
Delos S. Mackey	1900-01
B. Frank Wood	1900-01
DeWitt C. Middleton	1900-04
Timothy L. Woodruff	1901-02
Charles H. Babcock	1901-02
James S. Whipple	1905-10
H. LeRoy Austin	Oct. 1910-Jan. 5, 1911
Thomas Mott Osborne	Jan. 1911-May 22, 1911
James W. Fleming	June-July 1911
George E. VanKennen	1911-14
James W. Fleming	1911-13
John D. Moore	1911-14
Patrick E. McCabe	1914
George D. Pratt	1915-20
Ellis J. Staley	April-Dec. 1921

**COMMISSIONERS (Continued)**  
**1885-1985**

Alexander Macdonald	1922-30
Henry Morgenthau, Jr.	1931-32
Lithgow Osborne	1933-42
John T. Gibbs	1942
John L. Halpin (Acting Commissioner)	Jan. 1-Sept. 1, 1943
John A. White	Sept. 2-Dec. 31, 1944
J. Victor Skiff (Acting Commissioner)	Dec. 31-April 11, 1945
Perry B. Duryea	1945-54
Louis A. Wehle	1955-56
Justin T. Mahoney (Acting Commissioner)	1956-Aug. 24, 1956
Sharon J. Mauhs	Aug. 24, 1956-1958
Dr. Harold G. Wilm	1959-66
R. Stewart Kilborne	1966-70
Henry L. Diamond	1970-74
James L. Biggane	1974-75
Ogden Reid	1975-76
Peter A.A. Berle	1976-79
Robert F. Flacke	1979-83
Henry G. Williams	1983-Present

## Appendix J

### FOREST RANGER ROSTER

The information presented in this roster was compiled from all available sources by Lt. William Morse at New Paltz. Due to the incompleteness of records, however, we anticipate that some errors and omissions may have occurred. Additional names or other verifiable information regarding the Forest Ranger Roster is always welcome.

#### Commission Staff

1885-1891	Abner L. Train	Secretary
1885-1886	William F. Fox	Asst. Secretary
1885-1891	Samuel F. Garmon	Forest Warden
1887-1891	William F. Fox	Asst. Warden
1891-1909	William F. Fox	Supt. of Forests
1909-1910	Austin Cary	Supt. of Forests
1910-1927	Clifford R. Pettis	Supt. of Forests
1927-1948	William G. Howard	Supt. of Forests
1900-1909	Lester S. Emmons	Chief Firewarden
1909-1910	Earnest H. Johnson	Asst. Supt. of Forests (in charge of forest fire service)

#### Superintendents

Bureau of Forest Fire Control (1927-1977)

Bureau of Forest Protection and Fire Management (1977-Present)

1927-1952	Kinne F. Williams
1952-1963	Solon J. Hyde
1963-1969	Fred W. Oettinger
1969-1981	Charles E. Boone
1981-1985	James F. Lord
1985-Present	Edward F. Jacoby

#### Supervising District Rangers

1927-1939	William O'Brien
1940-1952	Solon J. Hyde
1952-1960	Abraham George, Jr.
1960-1974	Robert E. Richards
1974-1981	James F. Lord
1981-1984	Donald G. Perryman
1984-1985	Edward F. Jacoby
1985-Present	James F. Lord

Superintendents of Fire

Year	Dist./Reg.*	Name	Office
1909-1911	Dist. 1	M.C. Hutchins	Lake Placid
1909-1911	Dist. 2	A.D. Lowe	Northville
1909-1911	Dist. 3	James McBride	Old Forge
1909-1911	Dist. 4	Stratton D. Todd	Arkville
1911	Dist. 1	John Harding	Saranac
1911	Dist. 2	P.J. Cunningham	North Creek
1911	Dist. 3	William O'Brien	Fulton Chain
1911	Dist. 4	George E. Van Arnam	Northville
1911	Dist. 5 <sup>†</sup>	John J. McGrath	Phoenicia

District Forest Rangers

Year	Dist./Reg.*	Name	Office
1911-1914	Dist. 1	John Harding	Saranac Lake
1911-1940	Dist. 2	P.J. Cunningham	North Creek
1911-1917	Dist. 3	William O'Brien	Fulton Chain
1911-1914	Dist. 4	George Van Arnam	Northville
1911-1914	Dist. 5	John J. McGrath	Phoenicia
1915-1919	Dist. 1	James A. Latour	Saranac Lake
1915-1945	Dist. 4	E.C. Roberts	Northville
1915-1934	Dist. 5 (6)	Stratton D. Todd	Phoenicia
1916-1918	Dist. 1	A.I. Vosburgh	Lake Clear Jct.
1918-1951	Dist. 3	Ernest W. Blue	Old Forge
1919-1942	Dist. 1	James H. Hopkins	Saranac Lake
1921-1952	Dist. 6 (11) (15)	Clarence E. Dare	Selden, L.I.
1923-1930	Dist. 7	Henry A. Teal	Troy
1923-1929	Dist. 8	Lyman H. Taft	Montgomery
1921-1945	Dist. 9	R.L. Witherell	Olean
1923-1930	Dist. 10	Harry E. Ferris	Cold Spring
1928-1945	Dist. 5	M.H. LaFountain	Cranberry Lake
1928-1961	Dist. 12 (1)	Harry A. Williams	Oneonta
1930-1931	Dist. 8	H.F. Hedgecock	Middletown
1931-1948	Dist. 7 (12)	C.N. Traver	Troy
1931	Dist. 8	J.E. Corwin	Middletown
1931-1967	Dist. 10 (14)	H.F. Hedgecock	Poughkeepsie
1932-1934	Dist. 8 (13)	Leon B. Furch	Middletown
1935-1940	Dist. 6	Leon B. Furch	Fleischmanns
1935-1940	Dist. 8	S.J. Hyde	Middletown
1941-1942	Dist. 8	S.M. Farmer	Middletown
1942-1943	Dist. 8	M.C. Fisk	Middletown
1942-1948	Dist. 2 (11)	S.M. Farmer	Chestertown
1943-1946	Dist. 1	M.C. Fisk	Saranac Lake

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<sup>†</sup> Formerly District 4.

## District Forest Rangers

Year	Dist./Reg.*	Name	Office
1943-1944	Dist. 8	W.E. Petty	Middletown
1944-1945	Dist. 8	M.C. Fisk	Middletown
1944-1946	Dist. 1	W.E. Petty	Saranac Lake
1946-1947	Dist. 4	M.C. Fisk	Northville
1946-1957	Dist. 5	C.A. Petty	Cranberry Lake
1946-1948	Dist. 8	F.E. Jadwin	Middletown
1946-1947	Dist. 9	H.E. Call	Jamestown
1946-1960	Dist. 13	I.F. McGowan	Norwich
1946-1948	Dist. 3	S.G. Bascom	Cortland
1946-1947	Dist. 4	E.D. Brockway	Bath
1948-1949	Dist. 4	G.J. Youngs	Bath
1947-1948	Dist. 9	C.J. Yops	Saranac Lake
1948-1949	Dist. 5	V.D. Schrader	Jamestown
1948-1954	Dist. 6	H.E. Call	Lowville
1947-1953	Dist. 10	F.E. Fohrman	Northville
1948-1964	Dist. 13	Arthur H. Walsh	Middletown
1949-1955	Dist. 3	Fred E. Fohrman	Cortland
1949-1955	Dist. 5	H.E. Krueger	Jamestown
1949-1973	Dist. 4	Robert Roche	Bath
1949-1972	Dist. 9	G.J. Youngs	Saranac Lake
1949-1970	Dist. 11	G.E. Stewart	Warrensburg
1949-1978	Dist. 12	V.D. Schrader	Catskill
1950-1953	Dist. 3	G.J. Meylan	Cortland
1953-1954	Dist. 3	R.J. Fournier	Cortland
1952-1962	Dist. 8	M.T. Dewan	Herkimer
1953-1959	Dist. 15	Robert F. Richards	St. James
1955-1977	Dist. 5	Harold Madison	Jamestown
1955-1966	Dist. 6	H.E. Krueger	Lowville
1954-1963	Dist. 1	R.J. Fournier	Northville
1954-1967	Dist. 3	Fred E. Fohrman	Cortland
1958-1964	Dist. 7	R.E. Kerr	Canton
1962-1962	Dist. 1	P.J. Carter	Stamford
1961-1974	Dist. 2	Richard Pratt	Norwich
1963-1974	Dist. 8	Donald S. Petrie	Herkimer
1963-1964	Dist. 1	Donald C. Decker	Stamford
1964-1972	Dist. 1	P.J. Carter	Stamford
1964-1974	Dist. 10	Donald C. Decker	Northville
1964-Present	Dist. 7	Morgan Roderick	Canton
1965-1971	Dist. 13	William Sussdorff	Middletown/New Paltz
1965-1974	Albany	James F. Lord	Albany
1966-1970	Dist. 14	Thomas R. Monroe	Millbrook
1966-1970	Albany	Richard T. Thompson	Albany
1967-1970	Dist. 3	Mart Allen	Cortland

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**District Forest Rangers**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dist./Reg.*</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>
1967-1968	Dist. 6	William Richardson	Lowville
1969-1983	Dist. 6	Robert Bailey	Lowville
1970-1982	Dist. 11	Richard T. Thompson	Warrensburg
1970-1985	Dist. 14	Craig Knickerbocker	Millbrook
1971-1977	Dist. 3	Andrew Misura	Cortland
1971-Pres.	Dist. 9	William Sussdorff	Ray Brook
1972-1973	Dist. 14	Gerald Hamm	Millbrook
1973-1974	Dist. 1	Merchant Hutchins	Stamford
1973-1977	Dist. 13	Raymond A. Wood	New Paltz
1974-1978	Dist. 4	Stanley Lowell	Bath
1974-1984	Dist. 1	Donald Seacord	Stamford
1975-Pres.	Dist. 10	Martin Hanna	Northville
1976-Pres.	Dist. 8	Paul T. Hartmann	Herkimer
1977-1983	Dist. 5	James Emborsky	Jamestown
1977-Pres.	Reg. 3-A	William A. Morse	New Paltz
1979-1981	Albany	Donald Perryman	Albany
1980-1983	Dist. 2	Andrew Misura	Sherburne
1980-1983	Dist. 12	Edward Jacoby	Catskill
1980-1983	Dist. 3	Edwin Pierce	Cortland
1983-Pres.	Reg. 5-D	Robert Weitz	Warrensburg
1983-Pres.	Reg. 5-E	Lynn Day	Warrensburg
1983-Pres.	Reg. 5-A	Louis Curth	Ray Brook
1984-Pres.	Reg. 7	Harry DeKing	Sherburne
1984-Pres.	Reg. 4	George Ezzo	Catskill
1985-Pres.	Training Officer	D.C. Ames	Albany
1985-Pres.	Albany	Craig Knickerbocker	Albany

**Assistant District Rangers**

<u>Year</u>	<u>District*</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>
1966-1966	Dist. 10	Thomas R. Monroe	Northville
1967-1974	Dist. 10	Martin Hanna	Northville
1967-1983	Dist. 9	E.R. Nason	Ray Brook
1967-1975	Dist. 11	Charles Severance	Warrensburg
1967-1968	Dist. 13	Robert N. Bailey	New Paltz
1969-1970	Dist. 13	Craig Knickerbocker	New Paltz
1971-1972	Dist. 13	Gerald D. Hamm	New Paltz
1972-1973	Dist. 13	Raymond A. Wood	New Paltz
1974-1977	Dist. 13	William A. Morse	New Paltz
1975-1983	Dist. 11	Robert Weitz	Warrensburg
1977-79,80-83	Dist. 10	Lynn Day	Northville

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## Regional Forest Rangers

<u>Year</u>	<u>Region*</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Counties Served</u>
1977-Pres.	Reg. 1	Raymond A. Wood	Nassau, Suffolk
1977-Pres.	Reg. 2	Raymond A. Wood	New York City
1977-Pres.	Reg. 3	Raymond A. Wood	Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester
1983-1984	Reg. 4	Edward F. Jacoby	Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Schoharie
1984-Pres.	Reg. 4	Donald L. Seacord	Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Schoharie
1983-1984	Reg. 5	Bruce Coon	Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, Washington
1984-Pres.	Reg. 5	Donald G. Perryman	Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, Washington
1984-Pres.	Reg. 6	Robert N. Bailey	Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, St. Lawrence
1977-1979	Reg. 7	Andrew Misura	Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, Tompkins
1983-Pres.	Reg. 7	Edwin Pierce	Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, Tompkins
1978-Pres.	Reg. 8	Stanley A. Lowell	Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates
1983-Pres.	Reg. 9	James J. Emborsky	Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chataqua, Erie, Niagara, Wyoming

## Forest Rangers

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location†</u>	<u>Title</u>
ALBANY COUNTY			
1948-1950	Paul B. Richmond	Cooksburg	Forest Ranger
1951	Cyrus W. Thomkins	Athens	Forest Ranger

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ALLEGANY COUNTY			
1927-1929	Joseph Blakely	Swain	Forest Ranger
1939-1941	Leo Mulligan	Belmont	Forest Ranger
1946-1978	Leo Mulligan	Belmont	Forest Ranger
1943-1945	Donald Dwyer	Wellsville	Forest Ranger
1959-1966	Robert Bailey	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1958	H.R. Mayo	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1967-1970	William Bement	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1978-1980	Charles Hurtgam	Friendship	Forest Ranger
1980-1983	W. Thomas Koss	Scio	Forest Ranger
1983-1985	Daniel Richter	Hume	Forest Ranger
1983-Pres.	Morgan Peace	Belmont	Forest Ranger
BROOME COUNTY			
1929	Brice Button	Windsor	Forest Ranger
1930	Harry J. Richard	Windsor	Forest Ranger
1935-1953	W.E. Gould	Deposit	Forest Ranger
1948-1969	Donald Preston	Port Crane	Forest Ranger
1955	Ward H. Bradish	Bainbridge	Forest Ranger
1957-1979	Edward Wright	Bainbridge	Forest Ranger
1970-1974	Howard Graham	Hillcrest	Forest Ranger
1974-78, 80-Pres.	Charles Hurtgam	Greene	Forest Ranger
1983-Pres.	Robert Handley, Jr.	Bainbridge	Forest Ranger
CATTARAUGUS COUNTY			
1925	Charles Witherell	Weston Mills	Forest Ranger
1937	Francis Hannon	Salamanca	Forest Ranger
1938	Harry Gray	Salamanca	Forest Ranger
1939-1964	Francis Harmon	Salamanca	Forest Ranger
1938	Harry Gray	Salamanca	Forest Ranger
1947-1959	Ernest Parker	Olean	Forest Ranger
1948-1950	Burbank Woodruff	Machias	Forest Ranger
1951-Pres.	Willis C. Andres	Machias	Forest Ranger
1961-1983	Gene E. Smith	Olean	Forest Ranger
1965-Pres.	John Bryant	Salamanca	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
CAYUGA COUNTY			
1947-1962	Philip J. Carter	Dryden	Forest Ranger
1962-1973	Stanley Lowell	Cortland	Forest Ranger
1973-Pres.	Wilbur Peters	Homer	Forest Ranger
CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY			
1948	Jack R. Lee	Gerry	Forest Ranger
1947-1965	Jasper L. Button	Panama	Forest Ranger
1950-1975	G.L. Hodges	Cherry Creek	Forest Ranger
1966-1977	James Emborsky	Panama	Forest Ranger
1983-Pres.	W. Thomas Koss	Jamestown	Forest Ranger
CHEMUNG COUNTY			
1973-Pres.	Gary Crance	Painted Post	Forest Ranger
1983-1984	Stephen Morgan	Watkins Glen	Forest Ranger
1947-1960	Phil Carter	Dryden	Forest Ranger
1947-1960	Gerald Turner	Candor	Forest Ranger
1960-1970	Raymond Murray	Addison	Forest Ranger
1985-Pres.	Timothy Taylor	Montour Falls	Forest Ranger
CHENANGO COUNTY			
1931	Henry Mills	Oxford	Forest Ranger
1932-1934	William McNitt	Oxford	Forest Ranger
1934-1935	Joseph J. Case	Norwich	Forest Ranger
1936-1942	Max Fern	Norwich	Forest Ranger
1943-1945	Irving McCowan	Norwich	Forest Ranger
1946	Lenard Tefft	Norwich	Forest Ranger
1947-1960	Richard Pratt	Norwich	Forest Ranger
1962-1979	Leland Swertfager	Norwich	Forest Ranger
1981-Pres.	James Prunoske	Sherburne	Forest Ranger
1984-Pres.	Robert Handley, Jr.	Bainbridge	Forest Ranger
CLINTON COUNTY			
1890-1891	Charles E. Norcross	Altona	Firewarden
1890-1893	Richard A. McCormick	Ausable	Firewarden
1890-1893	Samuel Craig	Beekmantown	Firewarden
1890-1893	W.W. Pierce	Black Brook	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
CLINTON COUNTY (cont.)			
1890-1893	Robert McCrea	Champlain	Firewarden
1890-1891	Kirtland H. Buckman	Chazy	Firewarden
1890-1893	George W. O'Neil	Clinton	Firewarden
1890-1893	Charles Richardson	Dannemora	Firewarden
1890-1893	Charles W. Hutchins	Ellenburg	Firewarden
1890-1893	P.L. Mahan	Mooers	Firewarden
1890-1893	George P. Hallock	Peru	Firewarden
1890-1893	George W. Ostrander	Plattsburgh	Firewarden
1890-1893	S.P. Morgan	Saranac	Firewarden
1890-1893	James H. Lobdell	Schuyler Falls	Firewarden
1892-1893	R.R. Haeton	Chazy	Firewarden
1892-1893	E.W. Trombley	Altona	Firewarden
1895	William Hopkins	Black Brook	Firewarden
1895	Arze Turner	Dannemora	Firewarden
1904	Benjamin McGregor	Altona	Firewarden
1904	John W. Douglass	Black Brook	Firewarden
1904	George W. Meader	Dannemora	Firewarden
1904	G.H. McKinney	Ellenburg	Firewarden
1904	Frank J. Ayres	Saranac	Firewarden
1909, 11-13	William A. Wray	Altona	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11-12	Filmore Bresett	Saranac	Patrolman/Ranger
1912-1914	Dennis Fox	Ausable Forks	Forest Ranger
1912	Nelson Bessett, Jr.	Lyon Mt.	Forest Ranger
1913-1914	Richard J. Kissane	Lyon Mt.	Forest Ranger
1913-1914	Michael Ahern	Clayburg	Forest Ranger
1914	Leo F. Gilroy	Altona	Forest Ranger
1915-1924	John H. Dupraw	Clayburg	Forest Ranger
1915	John Farrell	Lyon Mt.	Forest Ranger
1915	Edward Lagoi	Purdy Mills	Forest Ranger
1916, 1919	H.A. Decora	Altona	Forest Ranger
1916, 19-24	Frank Woodward	Lyon Mt.	Forest Ranger
1917-1918	George Decora	Altona	Forest Ranger
1917	Morris Hart	Lyon Mt.	Forest Ranger
1919, 21-22	John J. Harnett	Altona	Forest Ranger
1923-1932	Lawrence Hanley	Altona	Forest Ranger
1928-1955	Lewis Carter	Chazy Lake	Forest Ranger
1928-1961	George H. Bull	Saranac Lake	Forest Ranger
1935-1944	Augustus Budah	Altona	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
CLINTON COUNTY (cont.)			
1945-1955	Walter Averill	Altona	Forest Ranger
1955-Pres.	Leon Lashway	Altona	Forest Ranger
1955-1985	Joseph Ducharme	Lyon Mt.	Forest Ranger
1963	Robert Hardy	Saranac Lake	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	John Maye	Saranac	Forest Ranger
1967	J. Bickford	Plattsburg	Forest Ranger
1968-Pres.	Richard Willauer	Peru	Forest Ranger
COLUMBIA COUNTY			
1951-1972	Stanley Engle	Ghent	Forest Ranger
1973-1974	William D. Van Slyke	Claverack	Forest Ranger
1977-1978	Dennis Martin	Claverack	Forest Ranger
CORTLAND COUNTY			
1947-1962	Philip J. Carter	Dryden	Forest Ranger
1962-1973	Stanley Lowell	Cortland	Forest Ranger
1974-1985	Wilbur Peters	Homer	Forest Ranger
DELAWARE COUNTY			
1895	W.A. Elliott	Andes	Firewarden
1895	John W. Blair	Bovina	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Thomas Ford	Colchester	Firewarden
1895	I.E. May	Davenport	Firewarden
1895	George Van Dyke	Delhi	Firewarden
1895	William Miller	Franklin	Firewarden
1895	Ralph Andrews	Hamden	Firewarden
1895	Francis Bonneford	Hancock	Firewarden
1895	J. Irving McLamey	Harpersfield	Firewarden
1895, 1904	J.A. Hill	Kortright	Firewarden
1895	John Barnabas	Masonville	Firewarden
1895	John White	Meredith	Firewarden
1895	Dewitt B. Cole	Middletown	Firewarden
1895	Richard S. Hammon	Roxbury	Firewarden
1895, 1904	John H. King	Stamford	Firewarden
1895	E.C. Howes	Tompkins	Firewarden
1895	George P. Beers	Walton	Firewarden
1904	Thomas S. Miller	Andes	Firewarden
1904	Marvin W. Knight	Hancock	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
DELAWARE COUNTY (cont.)			
1904	John D. Rotermund	Middletown	Firewarden
1904	Isaac S. Bookhout	Roxbury	Firewarden
1904	A.M. Gardinler	Tompkins	Firewarden
1904	John McGibbin	Walton	Firewarden
1909, 11-12	L.L. Sornberger	Hancock	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11, 12, 14	Alfred Bell	Arkville	Patrolman/Ranger
1911, 15-18	Emory Jenkins	Union Grove	Patrolman/Ranger
1913-1914	Patrick E. O'Rourke	Hancock	Forest Ranger
1915-1931	George Realy	Hancock	Forest Ranger
1919-1921	Frank S. DeSilva	Arena	Forest Ranger
1921-1925	Richard Borden	Union Grove	Forest Ranger
1926-1944	David T. Williams	Union Grove	Forest Ranger
1931-1934	Harvey Bump	Deposit	Forest Ranger
1932-1960	Leon Johnson	Hancock	Forest Ranger
1945-1974	Lester Rosa	Arkville	Forest Ranger
1948-1969	Nole D. Gonyo	Delhi	Forest Ranger
1961-Pres.	Walter Teuber	Hancock	Forest Ranger
1968-Pres.	Peter T. Rossi	Stamford	Forest Ranger
1968-Pres.	Edward Hale	Downsville	Forest Ranger
1975-1984	George Ezzo	Arkville	Forest Ranger
DUTCHESS COUNTY			
1929-1930	Harry B. Miller	Amenia	Forest Ranger
1931-1934	James Mullen	Dover Plains	Forest Ranger
1934-1970	Richard Darling	Dover Plains	Forest Ranger
1937-1942, 46-67	Robert Barrett	Beacon	Forest Ranger
1943-1955	Ralph Crosier	Wappingers Falls	Forest Ranger
1957-1971	Edwin P. Downs	Salt Point	Forest Ranger
1967-1979	Edward Jacoby	Fishkill	Forest Ranger
1972-Pres.	Richard Swanson	Poughquag	Forest Ranger
ERIE COUNTY			
1948-1950	Burbank Woodruff	Machias	Forest Ranger
1951-Pres.	Willis C. Andrews	Machias	Forest Ranger
1961-1983	Gene E. Smith	Olean	Forest Ranger
1965-Pres.	John Bryant	Salamanca	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ESSEX COUNTY			
1890-1891	Sidney E. Maders	Chesterfield	Firewarden
1890-91, 95-1904	Carlos W. Rowe	Chesterfield	Firewarden
1890-1893	Friend A. Brown	Elizabethtown	Firewarden
1890-1891	George Tucker	Essex	Firewarden
1890-1893	Thomas F. Madden	Jay	Firewarden
1890-1893	Almeron Hale	Keene	Firewarden
1890-1893	A.R. Whitman	Lewis	Firewarden
1890-1891	Daniel Lynch	Minerva	Firewarden
1890-1891	John Spring	Minerva	Firewarden
1890-1891	William Bennett	Minerva	Firewarden
1890-1891	Nelson Hyatt	Minerva	Firewarden
1890-1891	Byron Jones	Minerva	Firewarden
1890-1891	James W. Wright	Moriah	Firewarden
1891-1893	Benjamin Sibley	Newcomb	Firewarden
1890-1893	Lemuel S. Parkhurst	North Elba	Firewarden
1890-1891	Lyman Chaffee	North Hudson	Firewarden
1890-1891	Joseph Lamb	North Hudson	Firewarden
1890-1892	Edward Owens	North Hudson	Firewarden
1890-1893	Edward Ploof	North Hudson	Firewarden
1890-1892	Wallace Goodspeed	St. Armand	Firewarden
1890-1891	Charles C. Whitney	Schroon	Firewarden
1890-1891	Alex H. Weed	Ticonderoga	Firewarden
1890-1891	Israel Pattinson	Westport	Firewarden
1890-1892	Elliott S. Palmer	Willsboro	Firewarden
1890-1893	Patrick Davey	Wilmington	Firewarden
1892-1893	Henry Pierre	Chesterfield	Firewarden
1892-1893	Timothy O'Mara	Crown Point	Firewarden
1892-1893	A.B. Hoffnagle	Essex	Firewarden
1892-1893	M. Cronin	Minerva	Firewarden
1892	V.R. Broughton	Moriah	Firewarden
1892-1893	George Ford	Schroon	Firewarden
1892-1893	Edward McCoin	Ticonderoga	Firewarden
1892-1893	George C. Osborn	Westport	Firewarden
1893	John Mea	Minerva	Firewarden
1893	Michael Flynn	Minerva	Firewarden
1893	James Farrell	Minerva	Firewarden
1893	V.R. Broughton	Moriah	Firewarden
1893,95	Sylvester Reid	St. Armand	Firewarden
1893	Ezra M. Rickert	Schroon	Firewarden
1893	John H. Guire	Schroon	Firewarden
1893	Sydney Jacobs	Willsboro	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ESSEX COUNTY (cont.)			
1895	H. Underhill	Crown Point	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Carlos A. Jordon	Elizabethtown	Firewarden
1895	Denton Sayer	Essex	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Charles O. Bartlett	Jay	Firewarden
1895, 1904	James Hall	Hall	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Charles Catting	Lewis	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Robert H. Wilson	Minerva	Firewarden
1895	James Wright	Moriah	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Washington Chase	Newcomb	Firewarden
1895	Fred Lamb	North Elba	Firewarden
1895	Charles Lamb	North Hudson	Firewarden
1895	Gustav Wickham	Schroon	Firewarden
1895	E.C.D. Wiley	Ticonderoga	Firewarden
1895	William Ormiston	Westport	Firewarden
1895, 1904	E. Severance	Willsboro	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Cassius Winch	Wilmington	Firewarden
1904	Charles W. Orr	Essex	Firewarden
1904	Warren Broughton	Moriah	Firewarden
1904	B.R. Brewster	North Elba	Firewarden
1904	John Shandrow	North Hudson	Firewarden
1904	Edward S. Smith	St. Armand	Firewarden
1904	James Wood	Schroon	Firewarden
1904	Richard Arthur	Ticonderoga	Firewarden
1904	Charles Hooper	Westport	Firewarden
1909,11	Dennis Fox	Ausable Forks	Patrolman
1909,11,12	Morgan O'Donnell	Elizabethtown	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11,12,23,24	William F. Slattery	Keene	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11-14	John C. Bowe	Keeseville	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11	John J. Cross	Lewis	Patrolman
1909,11	Charles Sears	Newman	Patrolman
1909,11-20	William Greenough	North Hudson	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11-12,15-37	Charles T. Barnes	Olmstedville	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11,13,14	Ernest A. Wood	Schroon Lake	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11-12,15-33	Samuel Russell	Schroon Lake	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11	Wallace Cary	Schroon Lake	Patrolman
1911-1918	Fred L. Butler	Kayes	Patrolman/Ranger
1911	Fred Brittell	Lake Placid	Patrolman
1912-1914	Peter O'Malley	Bloomingdale	Forest Ranger
1912-1915	Morgan O'Donnell	Elizabethtown	Forest Ranger
1912-1915	William LaHaise	Newcomb	Forest Ranger
1913	Roger W. Slattery	Keene	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ESSEX COUNTY (cont.)			
1913	Albert J. Davis	Lake Placid	Forest Ranger
1913-1914	John A. Clifford	Olmstedville	Forest Ranger
1914	Frank M. Scanlon	Keene Valley	Forest Ranger
1914	John Foster	Lake Placid	Forest Ranger
1915	Fred Featherstone	Ausable Forks	Forest Ranger
1915-17,19	James A. Hall	Keene Valley	Forest Ranger
1915-17,19-33	Albert G. Winslow	Keeseville	Forest Ranger
1915-1916	James Ahern	Newman	Forest Ranger
1916-1918	James H. Opskins	Ausable Forks	Forest Ranger
1916	Henry Cullen	Elizabethtown	Forest Ranger
1916-18,20-46	Grover Lynch	Newcomb	Forest Ranger
1917-1919	Leonard C. Palmer	Elizabethtown	Forest Ranger
1917-1930	Frank Hughes	Newman	Forest Ranger
1917-1918	Lyman Russell	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1918,20-21	Edwin S. Hall	Keene Valley	Forest Ranger
1919-1925	William McKenzie	Ausable	Forest Ranger
1919-1944	Hubert Havron	Adien Lair	Forest Ranger
1919-1920	Lyman Beers	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1920-1950	John Longware	Elizabethtown	Forest Ranger
1921-1946	Clinton West	Lake Colden	Forest Ranger
1921-1948	Daniel McKenzie	Schroon River	Forest Ranger
1921-1922	Albert Carey	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1922,30-31	George Wells	Keene Valley	Forest Ranger
1923	George L. Brown	Elizabethtown	Forest Ranger
1923-1943	George W. Cole	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1933-1946	Martin Geary	Ausable Forks	Forest Ranger
1934-1945	Charles Wood	Schroon River	Forest Ranger
1928-1929	Louis Bosley	Ausable Forks	Forest Ranger
1925-1936	Harry O. Torrance	Keene Valley	Forest Ranger
1927-1941	Allen O'Keefe	Ironville	Forest Ranger
1930-1949	Martin J. Geary	Ausable Forks	Forest Ranger
1931	Abe Fuller	Windslow	Forest Ranger
1932-36,44	James McCann	Lake Placid	Forest Ranger
1935-1946	D.H. Toomey	Keeseville	Forest Ranger
1937-1966	John Hickey, Jr.	Keene	Forest Ranger
1937-1961	M.H. Nugent	Lake Placid	Forest Ranger
1938-1942	Maurice Bissell	Lake Colden	Forest Ranger
1943-1945	Floyd Nokes	Lake Placid (Bobsled Run)	Forest Ranger
1942-1965	Alex Stowell	Chilson	Forest Ranger
1943-1961	Ernest Hanmer	Lake Colden	Forest Ranger

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ESSEX COUNTY (cont.)			
1945-1959	Lee Griffen	Aiden Lair	Forest Ranger
1944-1955	Lucius Russell	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1946-1961	R.L. Tallman	Lake Placid (Bobsled Run)	Forest Ranger
1946-1957	Edwin Garfield	Schroon Lake	Forest Ranger
1947-1966	Richard T. Thompson	Keeseville	Forest Ranger
1947-1976	Lawrence West	Olmstedville	Forest Ranger
1951-1973	Case Phinney	Elizabethtown	Forest Ranger
1950-1982	Gilbert Manley	Jay	Forest Ranger
1949-1967	Chester L. Rafferty	Lake Colden	Forest Ranger
1949-1969	Edward Shevlin	Newcomb	Forest Ranger
1957-1958	William Sussdorff	Schroon Lake	Forest Ranger
1957-Pres.	Howard Lashway	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1959-Pres.	Richard Olcott	Elizabethtown	Forest Ranger
1958	William Welch	Schroon Lake	Forest Ranger
1959-1960	James F. Lord	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1961-1964	James F. Lord	Lake Placid	Forest Ranger
1963-Pres.	Grant Thatcher	North Hudson	Forest Ranger
1962	Roland Crowe	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1965-1974	Bruce Coon	Crown Point	Forest Ranger
1963-1964	David C. Ames	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1964-Pres.	Gary Hodgson	Lake Placid	Forest Ranger
1966-1985	David C. Ames	Keene	Forest Ranger
1967-1973	Robert Weitz	Keeseville	Forest Ranger
1967-1971	Frank Dorchak	Ray Brook	Forest Ranger
1970-1974	Robert Morris	Newcomb	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	John Gillen	Keeseville	Forest Ranger
1974	Martin Thompson	Moriah Center	Forest Ranger
1970-Pres.	Douglas Bissonette	Ray Brook	Forest Ranger
1975-Pres.	Robert Morris	Ticonderoga	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	Gary Roberts	Newcomb	Forest Ranger
1975-1977	Robert Conklin	Ray Brook	Forest Ranger
1975-Pres.	C. Peter Fish	Keene	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	Wesley Hurd	Wilmington	Forest Ranger
1976-1979	Donald Piersons	Ray Brook	Forest Ranger
FRANKLIN COUNTY			
1890-1891	J.H. Weir	Altamont	Firewarden
1890-1891	Silenus Washburn	Bangor	Firewarden
1890-1891	William L. Heading	Belmont	Firewarden

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
FRANKLIN COUNTY (cont.)			
1890-91,93	N. Grobuski	Belmont	Firewarden
1890-91,93	Fred R. Earle	Belmont	Firewarden
1890-91,93	Bradley Morrison	Belmont	Firewarden
1890-91,93	George A. Martin	Brandon	Firewarden
1890-91,93	FT.B. Weller	Brighton	Firewarden
1890-91,93	Henry Jordan	Burke	Firewarden
1890-91,93	Henry P. Beckwith	Chateaugay	Firewarden
1890-91,93	Fayette Langdon	Constable	Firewarden
1890-91,93	William Morrill	Dickinson	Firewarden
1890-91,93	E.M. Ladd	Duane	Firewarden
1890-91,93	George Higgins	Fort Covington	Firewarden
1890-1893	Ferd. W. Chase	Franklin	Firewarden
1890-1893	Isaiah Vosburgh	Harrietstown	Firewarden
1890-1893	Ernest Gleason	Malone	Firewarden
1890-1893	Eugene E. Low	Malone	Firewarden
1890-91,93	Horace Helms	Malone	Firewarden
1890-91,93	George C. Conger	Moir	Firewarden
1890-91,93	George H. Williams	Westville	Firewarden
1890-91,93	W.E. LaFountain	Waverly	Firewarden
1892-1893	William E. LaFountain	Altamont	Firewarden
1892-1893	Truman Wescott	Bangor	Firewarden
1892	Alex Benware	Belmont	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Dwyer	Bombay	Firewarden
1892-1893	Luke M. Haywood	Brandon	Firewarden
1892-1893	George D. Knowles	Brighton	Firewarden
1892-1893	Oliver V. Mitchell	Burke	Firewarden
1892-1893	Calvin Prairie	Chateaugay	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Lyons	Constable	Firewarden
1892-1893	John W. Lyons	Dickinson	Firewarden
1892-1893	William Chambers	Duane	Firewarden
1892-1893	Frank Summerfield	Fort Covington	Firewarden
1892-1893	Frank Eaton	Harrietstown	Firewarden
1892-1893	Patrick H. McCabe	Malone	Firewarden
1892	William McKane	Moir	Firewarden
1892-1893	Eben Hoyt	Westville	Firewarden
1892	Emmet W. Tryon	Santa Clara	Firewarden
1892-1893	W.H. Harvey	Waverly	Firewarden
1893	Silas Lamson	Franklin	Firewarden
1893	A.N. Skiff	Franklin	Firewarden
1893	Daniel Keese	Franklin	Firewarden
1893	Archie Collins	Franklin	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
FRANKLIN COUNTY (cont.)			
1893	Asa B. Witherell	Moira	Firewarden
1893	Daniel Riddell	Santa Clara	Firewarden
1893	William Boyce	Santa Clara	Firewarden
1895, 1904	E. LeBouf	Altamont	Firewarden
1895	Charles Adams	Bangor	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Joseph Williamson	Belmont	Firewarden
1895	W.H. Niles	Bombay	Firewarden
1895, 1904	B. Reynolds	Brandon	Firewarden
1895	E.C. Pine	Brighton	Firewarden
1895	James W. Sabin	Dickinson	Firewarden
1895	A.R. Fuller	Duane	Firewarden
1895	Henry Pay	Franklin	Firewarden
1895	Warren J. Slater	Harrietstown	Firewarden
1895	Fred Degan	Malone	Firewarden
1895	T.R. Eddy	Moira	Firewarden
1895	W.H. Flack	Waverly	Firewarden
1904	Benjamin A. Muncil	Brighton	Firewarden
1904	Henry Powell	Dickinson	Firewarden
1904	William H. Sprague	Duane	Firewarden
1904	Fremont F. Smith	Franklin	Firewarden
1904	Tuffield LaTour	Harrietstown	Firewarden
1904	William J. Wheeler	Malone	Firewarden
1904	Willard Boyce	Santa Clara	Firewarden
1904	Perkins Smith	Waverly	Firewarden
1909-11, 1914	James Ahern	Saranac Lake	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 1911	Peter O'Malley	Inman	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11,12,15-19	Frank Smith	Santa Clara	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11-13	John Timmons	Tupper Lake	Patrolman/Ranger
1909,11-13	A.I. Vosburgh	Loon Lake	Patrolman/Ranger
1912-1914	James Keese	Loon Lake Sta.	Forest Ranger
1912-1913	John LaPan	Saranac Lake	Forest Ranger
1913-1914	Harlow Wheeler	Santa Clara	Forest Ranger
1915	M.C. Corey	Saranac Lake	Forest Ranger
1915	Nelson Foster	Franklin Falls	Forest Ranger
1915-1948	Albert Tebeau	Owls Head	Forest Ranger
1915-1918	Wesley C. Fadden	Pine Park	Forest Ranger
1915-1916	Earl W. Owen	Tupper Lake	Forest Ranger
1916	James Ahern	Saranac Lake	Forest Ranger
1916-1918	John Black, Sr.	Tupper Lake	Forest Ranger
1916-1917	George Tyler	Vermontville	Forest Ranger
1917-1934	Gilbert Whitman	Saranac Lake	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
FRANKLIN COUNTY (cont.)			
1919-1957	Thomas B. Derby	Bloomingtondale	Forest Ranger
1919-1921	Edward H. Harvey	Tupper Lake	Forest Ranger
1920	Fred Lester	Mountain Pond	Forest Ranger
1920-1952	Burt Camp	St. Regis Falls	Forest Ranger
1922-1950	Delbert McNeil	Tupper Lake	Forest Ranger
1923	Edward Fauver	Saranac Lake	Forest Ranger
1934-1948	Orville Betters	Saranac Lake	Forest Ranger
1951-1953	Ira McKinney	Brushton	Forest Ranger
1950-1973	Robert Brown	Owls Head	Forest Ranger
1951-1960	Francis Pilon	Faust	Forest Ranger
1949-1969	James J. Bickford	Saranac Lake	Forest Ranger
1953-1972	Lymond Camp	St. Regis Falls	Forest Ranger
1956-1972	Merchant T. Hutchins	North Bangor	Forest Ranger
1959-1982	Harold Martin	Gabriels	Forest Ranger
1961-1966	Martin Hanna	Tupper Lake	Forest Ranger
1966-Pres.	John Dalton	Gabriels	Forest Ranger
1967-1972	Edward Reid	Tupper Lake	Forest Ranger
1971-Pres.	Frank Dorchak	Malone	Forest Ranger
1973-Pres.	Clyde Black	Tupper Lake	Forest Ranger
1974-1975	Robert Weitz	St. Regis Falls	Forest Ranger
1974-1979	Donald Piersons	Malone	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	Joe Rupp	Paul Smiths	Forest Ranger
FULTON COUNTY			
1890-1893	Francis Unger	Bleecker	Firewarden
1890-1891	J.W. Cleveland	Broadalbin	Firewarden
1890-1893	Fred Bosquet	Caroga	Firewarden
1890-1891	Albert Gray	Ephratah	Firewarden
1890-1892	Charles Gage	Johnstown	Firewarden
1890-1891	Hamilton C. Robertson	Mayfield	Firewarden
1890-1891	Chauncey Brown	Oppenheim	Firewarden
1890-1892	George Bowers	Stratford	Firewarden
1892-1893	Sanford Rider	Broadalbin	Firewarden
1892	Sanford Snell	Ephratah	Firewarden
1892	Emmet Benedict	Mayfield	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Fox	Perth	Firewarden
1893	George Snell	Ephratah	Firewarden
1893	George Dygert	Ephratah	Firewarden
1893	John A. Putnam	Johnstown	Firewarden
1893	Frank Holmes	Mayfield	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
FULTON COUNTY (cont.)			
1893	Lemon Wilson	Northampton	Firewarden
1893	Ira Brown	Oppenheim	Firewarden
1893	Henry Cool	Stratford	Firewarden
1895	E. Fisher	Bleecker	Firewarden
1895	Englebert Hine	Caroga	Firewarden
1895	M.G. Van Voarst	Ephratah	Firewarden
1895	F.B. Warren	Johnstown	Firewarden
1895, 1904	William F. Bellin	Mayfield	Firewarden
1895	C.H. Ressiquie	Northampton	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Netus Lancaster	Stratford	Firewarden
1904	Englebert Fisher	Bleecker	Firewarden
1904	Guy Durey	Caroga	Firewarden
1909, 1911	E.C. Roberts	Northville	Regular Patrolman
1909, 1911	Frank Cool	Oregon	Regular Patrolman
1912-1913	P.J. Conroy	Northville	Forest Ranger
1912, 1924	H.H. Pettingill	Rockwood	Forest Ranger
1914	Raymond Sweet	Green Lake	Forest Ranger
1914	William Kattwinkle	Stratford	Forest Ranger
1915-1921	Gilbert Bradt	Pine Lake	Forest Ranger
1915	John P. Lawton	Northville	Forest Ranger
1922-1923	Edward Sargent	Green Lake	Forest Ranger
1928-1946	E. Baker	Green Lake	Forest Ranger
1927-1946	Elmer Cole	Northville	Forest Ranger
1947-1978	Holton Seeley	Canada Lake	Forest Ranger
1947-1973	George Seeley	Maco	Forest Ranger
1948-1964	Willard Hopkins	Northville	Forest Ranger
1964-Pres.	Daniel Singer	Northville	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	David Countryman	Gloversville	Forest Ranger
1982-Pres.	William Rockwell	Caroga Lake	Forest Ranger
GREENE COUNTY			
1890-1891	Wilbur F. Lee	Ashland	Firewarden
1890-1893	William Meadaugh	Cairo	Firewarden
1890-1893	George A. Dykeman	Catskill	Firewarden
1890-1893	John F. Sharp	Coxsackie	Firewarden
1890-1893	Emerson Ford	Durham	Firewarden
1890-1893	James Stevens	Greenville	Firewarden
1890-1893	Orson Ballard	Halcott	Firewarden
1890-1892	Tremain Bloodgood	Jewett	Firewarden
1890-1892	Edgar O'Hara	Lexington	Firewarden
1890-1892	William H. Wheeler	New Baltimore	Firewarden

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
GREENE COUNTY (cont.)			
1890-1892	Harvey C. Osborne	Windham	Firewarden
1892-1893	Daniel W. Hyatt	Ashland	Firewarden
1892-1893	Samuel W. Sprague	Athens	Firewarden
1982	Hezekiah S. Eckler	Catskill	Firewarden
1892-1893	William B. Faulk	Durham	Firewarden
1892-1893	Albert Tremmel	Greenville	Firewarden
1892-1893	Jacob Hogaboom	Lexington	Firewarden
1892-1893	Charles W. Mackey	New Baltimore	Firewarden
1892-1893	John McGinnes	Prattsville	Firewarden
1892-1893	A. Gay Holcomb	Windham	Firewarden
1893	Charles B. Wiltrel	Hunter	Firewarden
1893	Freeman Bloodgood	Jewett	Firewarden
1895	Frank Dodge	Ashland	Firewarden
1895	Douglas W. McKnight	Athens	Firewarden
1895	Gaston Wynkoop	Cairo	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Benjamin W. Grant	Catskill	Firewarden
1895	Adelbert Newell	Durham	Firewarden
1895	W.S. Rundell	Greenville	Firewarden
1895	William Douglass	Hunter	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Monroe Truesdell	Jewett	Firewarden
1895	William Friend	New Baltimore	Firewarden
1895	Edward A. Clark	Prattsville	Firewarden
1904	Burr W. Hall	Cairo	Firewarden
1904	A.J. Morse	Halcott	Firewarden
1904	Jeremiah E. Haines	Hunter	Firewarden
1904	C.B. Deyo	Lexington	Firewarden
1909, 1911	Walter Dederick	Leeds	Regular Patrolman
1909, 11-35	Robert S. Tuttle	Westkill	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11-12	B.G. Dewell	Windham	Patrolman/Ranger
1916-1924	LeRoy Pelham	Hensonville	Forest Ranger
1936-1965	Daniel O. Showers	Tannersville	Forest Ranger
1952-1965	Coral Couchman	Catskill	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	Peter McLaren	Catskill	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	Hamilton Topping	Tannersville	Forest Ranger
1968-1970	Douglas Bissonette	Windham	Forest Ranger
1979-Pres.	Dennis Martin	Windham	Forest Ranger

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
HAMILTON COUNTY			
1890-1893	James E. Higgins	Arietta	Firewarden
1890-1892	George D. Rhodes	Benson	Firewarden
1890-1893	Isaac Brownell	Hope	Firewarden
1890-1892	Edward A. Wilson	Indian Lake	Firewarden
1890-1891	Tyler Merwin	Indian Lake	Firewarden
1890-1892	William B. Meveigh	Lake Pleasant	Firewarden
1890-91,93	Ernest Johnson	Long Lake	Firewarden
1890-1892	Andrew Deming	Wells	Firewarden
1892	Henry M. Forester	Morehouse	Firewarden
1893	William Reid	Benson	Firewarden
1893	Edward Spain	Indian Lake	Firewarden
1893	T. Depan	Indian Lake	Firewarden
1893	Martin Kelley	Lake Pleasant	Firewarden
1893	H.F. Kreuzer	Morehouse	Firewarden
1893	P. Hanley	Wells	Firewarden
1895	F.C. Adams	Arietta	Firewarden
1895	H. Snell	Benson	Firewarden
1895	William Lawton	Hope	Firewarden
1895	Orrin Cross	Indian Lake	Firewarden
1895-1904	D.E. Call	Lake Pleasant	Firewarden
1895-1904	W.D. Jennings	Long Lake	Firewarden
1895-1904	M. Boh	Morehouse	Firewarden
1895	T.D. Brown	Wells	Firewarden
1904	FW. Abrams	Arietta	Firewarden
1904	C.E. Walker	Benson	Firewarden
1904	James H. Tubbs	Hope	Firewarden
1904	Robert B. Nichols	Indian Lake	Firewarden
1904	M.E. O'Reilly	Wells	Firewarden
1904	Wellington Kenwell	Inlet	Firewarden
1909-1912	John Callahan	Blue Mt. Lake	Patrolman/Ranger
1909-1913	Lewis Jennings	Long Lake	Patrolman/Ranger
1909-1911	Frank Newton	Long Lake West	Regular Patrolman
1909, 11-13,16-35	Daniel Lynn	Raquette Lake	Patrolman/Ranger
1909-1911	William Brannon	Sumner Stream	Regular Patrolman
1909, 1911	Ernest Braley	Cold River	Regular Patrolman
1909, 1911	James J. Welch	Green Lake	Regular Patrolman
1909, 11-13,16-18	Ed D. Call	Hope	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 1911	Hosea Locke	Indian Lake	Regular Patrolman
1909, 11-13	Thomas Slack	Speculator	Patrolman/Ranger
1911	P.J. Cunningham	Long Lake	Regular Patrolman
1912	D.J. Callahan	Cold River	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
HAMILTON COUNTY (cont.)			
1912-1915	William Sibley	Long Lake	Forest Ranger
1912	Allie Leffler	Sumner Stream	Forest Ranger
1912-1927	Henry Keenan	Indian Lake	Forest Ranger
1912-1916	James Donahue	Morehouseville	Forest Ranger
1913	James Flynn	Cold River	Forest Ranger
1913	D.D. Callahan	Sumner Steam	Forest Ranger
1914	Albert Duane	Cold River	Forest Ranger
1914	Daniel L. Cunningham	Long Lake	Forest Ranger
1914	Joseph Lahey	RaquetteLake	Forest Ranger
1914-1915	John Hoy	Sumner Stream	Forest Ranger
1914	Thomas Callahan	Blue Mt. Lake	Forest Ranger
1914	Charles A. Williams	Hope	Forest Ranger
1914	Lee L. Fountain	Speculator	Forest Ranger
1915-1916	W.E. Faulkner	Blue Mt. Lake	Forest Ranger
1915-1941	Isaac B. Robinson	Long Lake	Forest Ranger
1915	Frank Carlin	Raquette Lake	Forest Ranger
1915-1916	Arthur Duane	Shattuck Clearing	Forest Ranger
1915-1916	Edgar G. Weaver	Lake Pleasant	Forest Ranger
1916-1917	Arthur Richardson	Long Lake West	Forest Ranger
1917-1934	George Perkins	Speculator	Forest Ranger
1918-1952	Ralph Spring	Blue Mt. Lake	Forest Ranger
1918	Garfield Kennell	Piseco	Forest Ranger
1919-1924	Willard Sutton	Long Lake West	Forest Ranger
1919-1938	William Duham	Piseco	Forest Ranger
1919	William B. Ronald	Wells	Forest Ranger
1920-1927	Fred Burgess	Wells	Forest Ranger
1921-1923	George Sutherland	Forked Lake	Forest Ranger
1925	J.W. Williams	Northville	Motorcycle Ranger
1927-1960	Frank McGinn	Indian Lake	Forest Ranger
1928-1941	Fred Coulombe	Wells	Forest Ranger
1929-1948	Ernest Ovitt	W. Canada Lake	Forest Ranger
1935-1971	Halsey Page	Speculator	Forest Ranger
1933-1935	A.H. Houghton	Sabattis	Forest Ranger
1936-1958	Moses Leonard	Raquette Lake	Forest Ranger
1937-1948	Charles Farr	Sabattis	Forest Ranger
1938-1940	Cliffton Wright	Piseco	Forest Ranger
1941-1942	Homer Preston	Piseco	Forest Ranger
1943-1948	Albert Duane	Forked Lake	Forest Ranger
1943	Victor Simons	Lake Pleasant	Forest Ranger
1943-1950	George Abrams	Piseco	Forest Ranger
1942-1944	Herbert Call	Wells	Forest Ranger
1942-1945	William J. Black	Sabattis	Forest Ranger

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
HAMILTON COUNTY (cont.)			
1945-1951	George Coulombe	Wells	Forest Ranger
1946-1972	Percy Stanton	Sabattis/Long Lk.	Forest Ranger
1951-1981	Frank Wagoner	Piseco	Forest Ranger
1949-1973	Elmer Morrissey	Sabattis	Forest Ranger
1949-1962	James Lawrence	W. Canada Lake	Forest Ranger
1953-1961	Ernest E. LaPrairie	Blue Mt. Lake	Forest Ranger
1952-1970	Edward Broland	Speculator	Forest Ranger
1952-1966	Lewis Simon	Wells	Forest Ranger
1958-1964	Morgan Roderick	Raquette Lake	Forest Ranger
1961-1979	Donald Perryman	Blue Mt. Lake	Forest Ranger
1961-1983	Gerald Husson	Indian Lake	Forest Ranger
1964-Pres.	Gary McChesney	Raquette Lake	Forest Ranger
1965-Pres.	Gary Lee	Inlet/W. Canada Lk.	Forest Ranger
1967-1974	Dave Larrabee	Wells	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	Bruce Coon	Long Lake	Forest Ranger
1973-1974	Edward Reid	Speculator	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	Tom Eakin	Lake Pleasant	Forest Ranger
1979-Pres.	John Seifts	Piseco	Forest Ranger
1982-Pres.	Mark Kralovic	Wells	Forest Ranger
1984-Pres.	Greg George	Blue Mt. Lake	Forest Ranger
HERKIMER COUNTY			
1890-1891	Wallace Young	Columbia	Firewarden
1890-1891	Henry Petrie	Danube	Firewarden
1890-1891	Martin A. Barnes	Fairfield	Firewarden
1890-1891	Thomas Honahan	Frankfort	Firewarden
1890-1891	David Crouch	German Flats	Firewarden
1890-1891	Henry Trembeth	Herkimer	Firewarden
1890-1891	Edward B. Holcomb	Litchfield	Firewarden
1890-1891	Halsey W. Warren	Little Falls	Firewarden
1890-1892	Peter J. Duncel	Manheim	Firewarden
1890-1891	Henry W. Dexter	Newport	Firewarden
1890-1893	Michael Mahardy	Norway	Firewarden
1890-1891	John Degenkolb	Ohio	Firewarden
1890-1891	Peter H. Hane	Russia	Firewarden
1890-1891	Volney Hopson	Salisbury	Firewarden
1890-1891	George W. Knapp	Schuyler	Firewarden
1890-1891	Ervin H. Miller	Stark	Firewarden
1890-1891	T.C. Swift	Warren	Firewarden
1890-1891	William H. Richard	Wilmurt	Firewarden

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
HERKIMER COUNTY (cont.)			
1890-1891	Frank C. Wilcox	Winfield	Firewarden
1892-1893	James L. Ackler	Columbia	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Moyer	Danube	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Field	Fairfield	Firewarden
1892-1893	George W. Keeler	Frankfort	Firewarden
1892-1893	William Kirtle	German Flats	Firewarden
1892-1893	Thomas Byrnes	Herkimer	Firewarden
1892-1893	Edward Cole	Litchfield	Firewarden
1892-1893	George W. McCammon	Little Falls	Firewarden
1892	William Stroop	Newport	Firewarden
1892	William Lawton	Ohio	Firewarden
1892-1893	William Lights	Russia	Firewarden
1892-1893	Charles L. Ives	Salisbury	Firewarden
1892-1893	William Way, Jr.	Schuyler	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Vedder	Stark	Firewarden
1892-1893	John M. Hanmer	Warren	Firewarden
1892	Burt J. Conklin	Wilmurt	Firewarden
1892	Thomas Smith	Winfield	Firewarden
1893	E.L. Dunckel	Manheim	Firewarden
1893	John S. Wood	Ohio	Firewarden
1893	Henry Conklin	Wilmurt	Firewarden
1893	Moses C. Jordan	Winfield	Firewarden
1895	W.A. Hatch	Columbia	Firewarden
1895	S.L. Harder	Danube	Firewarden
1895	Herman Dodge	Fairfield	Firewarden
1895	John Maynard	Frankfort	Firewarden
1895	P.H. Steele	German Flats	Firewarden
1895	Earl Brice	Herkimer	Firewarden
1895	William Norton	Litchfield	Firewarden
1895	A.X. Willard	Little Falls	Firewarden
1895	W.F. Stoddard	Manheim	Firewarden
1895	Howard Voornees	Newport	Firewarden
1895	Henry Nichols	Norway	Firewarden
1895-1904	A.C. Bullock	Ohio	Firewarden
1895-1904	Carey Garlock	Russia	Firewarden
1895	John Wood	Schuyler	Firewarden
1895	Gresham Smith	Stark	Firewarden
1895	James Fagan	Warren	Firewarden
1895	John M. Richard	Wilmurt	Firewarden
1895	H.C. Nichols	Winfield	Firewarden
1904	William C. Perkins	Salisbury	Firewarden
1904	Riley Parsons	Webb	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
HERKIMER COUNTY (cont.)			
1904	Henry A. Paull	Wilmurt	Firewarden
1909, 1911	D.F. Charboneau	Old Forge	Regular Patrolman
1909,11,12,13-30	David Conkey	Beaver River	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11-31	Edward J. Felt	McKeever	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11-49	Raymond Sweet	Deverauz	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11-14	Truman Haskell	Wilmurt	Patrolman/Ranger
1911	George W. Solane	Clearwater	Regular Patrolman
1912	Robert Dalton	Clearwater	Forest Ranger
1912	Albert Darrow	Beaver River	Forest Ranger
1914	P.J. Harner	Clearwater	Forest Ranger
1915-1918	Harry Proechel	Clearwater	Forest Ranger
1915	George Harver	Ohio	Forest Ranger
1916	Edward J. Williams	Big Otter Lake	Forest Ranger
1916	Eugene Murphy	Big Otter Lake	Forest Ranger
1916	Allen L. Spencer	Salisbury Center	Forest Ranger
1918	George Flansburg	Wilmurt	Forest Ranger
1919	S.B. Cartwright	Thendara	Forest Ranger
1920	Lewis Fagan	Wilmurt	Forest Ranger
1931	Ray Burke	Beaver River	Forest Ranger
1932-1935	Moses Leonard	Big Moose	Forest Ranger
1932-1934	William Gebhardt	Old Forge	Forest Ranger
1933-1957	Alfred Graves	Thendara	Forest Ranger
1934-1955	Arthur Noel	Wilmurt	Forest Ranger
1936-1937	Austin B. Proper	Big Moose	Forest Ranger
1939-1945	Alex MacEdwards	Big Moose	Forest Ranger
1949-1983	William Marleau	Big Moose	Forest Ranger
1951-1971	Frank Mang	Dolgeville	Forest Ranger
1951-1965	Emmett Hill	Stillwater	Forest Ranger
1956-1977	Frederick N. Richard	Ohio	Forest Ranger
1958	William Baker	Old Forge	Forest Ranger
1959-1966	Mart Allen	Thendara	Forest Ranger
1966	William Richardson	Stillwater	Forest Ranger
1967-1979	Doug King	Old Forge	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	Terry Perkins	Stillwater	Forest Ranger
1974-1981	William Van Slyke	Dolgeville	Forest Ranger
1981-Pres.	Doug Riedman	Old Forge	Forest Ranger
1984-Pres.	Steve Bazan	Poland	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
JEFFERSON COUNTY			
1948-1975	George Yerdon	Redfield	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	Dave Larrabee	Adams Center	Forest Ranger
1976-Pres.	Edmund Pizon	Redfield	Forest Ranger
LEWIS COUNTY			
1890-1893	M.A. Samson	Diana	Firewarden
1890-1893	Todd Scudder	Greig	Firewarden
1890-1893	Robert Roberts	Leyden	Firewarden
1890-1893	Ira Sharp	Lowville	Firewarden
1890-1893	William Williams	Martinsburgh	Firewarden
1890-1893	Orrin H. Spencer	Montague	Firewarden
1890-1893	Johnson Turk	New Bremen	Firewarden
1890-1893	William Roll	Osceola	Firewarden
1890-1891	Fred Glazier	Pinckney	Firewarden
1890-1893	Edward A. Sheppard	Turin	Firewarden
1890-1892	Samuel Rennie	Watson	Firewarden
1892-1893	George Nortz	Croghan	Firewarden
1892-1893	John T. Martin	Denmark	Firewarden
1892-1893	Frank McCarthy	Harrisburg	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Harrington	Highmarket	Firewarden
1892-1893	Paul Finister	Lewis	Firewarden
1892-1893	James Dority	Lyonsdale	Firewarden
1892-1893	James D. Bourk	Pinckney	Firewarden
1892-1893	Adam Korary	West Turin	Firewarden
1893	Thomas Rennie	Watson	Firewarden
1895	W.H. Mantle	Diana	Firewarden
1895-1904	Duane Norton	Greig	Firewarden
1895	W.D. Robeson	Harrisburg	Firewarden
1895-1904	Michael O'Brien	Highmarket	Firewarden
1895	Charles Myers	Lewis	Firewarden
1895	C.D. Wilcox	Leyden	Firewarden
1895	Charles Fowler	Lowville	Firewarden
1895	Edward Burdick	Lyonsdale	Firewarden
1895	John Taylor	Martinsburgh	Firewarden
1895	John H. Blintz	New Bremen	Firewarden
1895-1094	Charles Corbett	Osceola	Firewarden
1895	C.E. Greenley	Pinckney	Firewarden
1895	C.R. McCullock	Turin	Firewarden
1895-1904	Stephen Waldron	Watson	Firewarden
1895	F.E. Taylor	West Turin	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
LEWIS COUNTY (cont.)			
1904	Henry V. Miller	Croghan	Firewarden
1904	J.D. Paris	Denmark	Firewarden
1904	Eugene Hataway	Diana	Firewarden
1904	Edmund Holcomb	Lyonsdale	Firewarden
1904	Miles H. Taylor	Martinsburgh	Firewarden
1904	Frank G. Matty	Montague	Firewarden
1909, 11-14	Frank Burdick	Glenfield	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11	Thomas Rennie	Lowville	Regular Patrolman
1909, 11	J.D. McHale	Moose River	Regular Patrolman
1909, 11	William Andre	Croghan	Regular Patrolman
1911	W.W. Waterhouse	Croghan	Regular Patrolman
1911	Truman Hess	Brantingham	Regular Patrolman
1912-1914	William Burns	Castorland	Forest Ranger
1912-1913	Frank Burke	Lowville	Forest Ranger
1915	Joseph F. Farney	Croghan	Forest Ranger
1915-1928	Burton Rennie	Greig	Forest Ranger
1915	Patrick Wallace	Harrisville	Forest Ranger
1915-1917	Jesse A. Wilder	Petries Corners	Forest Ranger
1916-1920	Fred L. Tanzer	Croghan	Forest Ranger
1916	Joseph Menerd	Harrisville	Forest Ranger
1917-1918	Sydney L. Kearns	Harrisville	Forest Ranger
1917-1918	G.H. Gould	Bushes Landing	Forest Ranger
1919	B.W. Allen	Harrisville	Forest Ranger
1920-1921	Merwin Austin	Petries Corners	Forest Ranger
1921	John Boesch	Harrisville	Forest Ranger
1922-1934	William Tanzer	Croghan	Forest Ranger
1922-1940	Frank Carroll	Harrisville	Forest Ranger
1922-1931	J.M. Austin	Watson	Forest Ranger
1929-1942	Alfred DeLong	Greig	Forest Ranger
1932-1946	William McCarthy	Lowville	Forest Ranger
1934-1963	Ambros Turck	Croghan	Forest Ranger
1941-1960	Philius LeDuc	Harrisville	Forest Ranger
1943-1947	Andrew Black	Greig	Forest Ranger
1947-1958	Emmet Hill	Glenfield	Forest Ranger
1948-1957	Randolph Kerr	Glenfield	Forest Ranger
1959-1977	Harland Freeman	Turin	Forest Ranger
1958-1964	Gary Buckingham	Glenfield	Forest Ranger
1959	John Simek	Lowville	Forest Ranger
1960-1968	Andrew Misura	Lowville	Forest Ranger
1964-1979	Loren Hamlin	Croghan	Forest Ranger
1965-Pres.	Cliff Mattis	Barnes Corners	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
LEWIS COUNTY (cont.)			
1967-Pres.	Robert Henrickson	Brantingham	Forest Ranger
1969-1979	Edwin Pierce	Watson	Forest Ranger
1982-Pres.	Mike Lewis	Harrisville	Forest Ranger
LIVINGSTON COUNTY			
1959-1966	Robert Bailey	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1958	H.R. Mayo	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	William Bement	Arkport	Forest Ranger
MADISON COUNTY			
1947-1960	Dick Pratt	Norwich	Forest Ranger
1962-1979	Leland Swertfager	Norwich	Forest Ranger
1981-Pres.	James Prunoske	Sherburne	Forest Ranger
MONTGOMERY COUNTY			
1909-1949	Raymond B. Sweet	Stratford	Forest Ranger
1950-1960	Frank Mang	Dolgeville	Forest Ranger
1960-1969	Gerald Hamm	Richmondville	Forest Ranger
1970-1977	John Graves	Warnerville	Forest Ranger
1977-1982	Mike Lewis	Middleburg	Forest Ranger
1982-Pres.	Terry Figary	Middleburg	Forest Ranger
NASSAU COUNTY			
1932-1934	Charles Gordan	Hicksville	Forest Ranger
ONEIDA COUNTY			
1904	Warren Yeomans	Forestport	Firewarden
1904	R.R. Pritchard	Remsen	Firewarden
1909, 11-12	William Mulchi	Forestport	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 1911	Merrit M. Tanner	Hawkinsville	Regular Patrolman
1912-1914	Frank Tracy	Forestport	Forest Ranger
1912-1940	M.J. Oley	White Lk. Corners	Forest Ranger
1941-1945	Francis Hurley	Remsen	Forest Ranger
1946-1962	L.K. Liddle	Forestport	Forest Ranger
1947-1963	Don Petrie	Camden	Forest Ranger
1963-1965	William Richardson	Camden	Forest Ranger

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Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ONEIDA COUNTY (cont.)			
1963-Pres.	Eric Mynter	Remsen	Forest Ranger
1965-Pres.	Tom Oatman	Camden	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	Don Buehler	Otter Lake	Forest Ranger
ONONDAGA COUNTY			
1947-1962	Phillip J. Carter	Dryden	Forest Ranger
1962-1973	Stanley Lowell	Cortland	Forest Ranger
1973-Pres.	Wilbur Peters	Homer	Forest Ranger
ONTARIO COUNTY			
1947-1957	George N. Baily	Naples	Forest Ranger
1959-1979	Charles Harkness	Kanona	Forest Ranger
1980-Pres.	James Carpenter	Prattsburg	Forest Ranger
ORANGE COUNTY			
1925	Leo Schobl	Otisville	Forest Ranger
1926-1928	Danial S. Patterson	Rio	Forest Ranger
1929	Arthur Stempert	Port Jervis	Forest Ranger
1930	J.E. Corwin Jr.	Middletown	Forest Ranger
1931-1961	Earl Brewer	Middletown	Forest Ranger
1932-1969	Peter Sarnecky	Harriman	Forest Ranger
1932-1940	Elroy Reagan	Port Jervis	Forest Ranger
1946-1951	John Behrens	Otisville	Forest Ranger
1961-1964	William A. Morse	Middletown	Forest Ranger
1964-1966	Donald Wiltse	Godeffroy	Forest Ranger
1967-1969	Kenneth Denk	Godeffroy	Forest Ranger
1967-1969	Martin Bero	Central Valley	Forest Ranger
1969-1973	Charles Hurtgam	Cuddebackville	Forest Ranger
1969-1972	Richard Swanson	Highland Mills	Forest Ranger
1970-1975	Robert Conklin	Monroe/Newburgh	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	Greg L. Wagner	Cuddebackville	Forest Ranger
1975-1976	Edmund Pizon	Salisbury Mills	Forest Ranger
1977-Pres.	Robert Conklin	Monroe/Newburgh	Forest Ranger
OSWEGO COUNTY			
1948-1975	George Yerdon	Redfield	Forest Ranger
1976-Pres.	Edmund Pizon	Redfield	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
OTSEGO COUNTY			
1931-1950	John W. Chase	Schenevus	Forest Ranger
1951-1960	Glenmore Carrington	Oneonta	Forest Ranger
1960-1965	William Susdorff	Oneonta	Forest Ranger
1964-1974	Donald Seacord	Oneonta	Forest Ranger
1977-1984	Greg George	Milford	Forest Ranger
1985-Pres.	Tom Dent	Oneonta	Forest Ranger
PUTNAM COUNTY			
1925-1928	Frank Warren	Nelsonville	Forest Ranger
1929	Clarence Townsend	Patterson	Forest Ranger
1931	Harry Ferris	Cold Spring	Forest Ranger
1932-1947	Arthur H. Walsh, Jr.	Garrison	Forest Ranger
1948-1973	Charles F. Schneider	Putnam Valley	Forest Ranger
1964-1973	Wilbur Peters	Carmel	Forest Ranger
1974-1980	James Carpenter	Carmel	Forest Ranger
1975-1982	John Seifts	Putnam Valley	Forest Ranger
1984-Pres.	Steven Kautz	Carmel	Forest Ranger
RENSSELAER COUNTY			
1925-1950	W. Goodermote	Stephentown	Forest Ranger
1929-1930	C.N. Traver	Greenbush	Forest Ranger
1931-1932	Harvey Sherman	W. Sand Lake	Forest Ranger
1932-1966	Walter Hitchcock	W. Sand Lake	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	Leo Chamberlain	Averill Park	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	Daniel Cummings	Raymertown	Forest Ranger
ROCKLAND COUNTY			
1928	Fred P. Ernst	Suffern	Forest Ranger
1929	Harold L. Wilkinson	W. Haverstraw	Forest Ranger
1931	O.L. Carpenter	Port Jervis	Forest Ranger
1931	Peter Sarnecky	Suffern	Forest Ranger
1932-1935	John Dempsey	Suffern	Forest Ranger
1932-1957	Fred Jillson	Pearl River	Forest Ranger
1932	J. Sheridan	Grassy Point	Forest Ranger
1964	Timothy Sullivan	Bear Mountain	Forest Ranger
1965-1967	Donald Buehler	Rockland	Forest Ranger
1979-1983	Daniel Richter	Rockland	Forest Ranger
1984-Pres.	Timothy Taylor	Highland Falls	Forest Ranger

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY			
1890-1891	Allen M. Mean	Brasher	Firewarden
1890-1891	Homer Baily	Canton	Firewarden
1890-1891	John R. Smith	Clare	Firewarden
1890-1891	Alvin Allen	Clifton	Firewarden
1890-1891	John Smith	Colton	Firewarden
1890-1891	George Bennett	DeKalb	Firewarden
1890-1891	N.E. Griffin	DePeyster	Firewarden
1890-1891	Pasco D. Whitford	Edwards	Firewarden
1890-1891	Orwan W. Stephens	Fine	Firewarden
1890-1891	William R. Fosgate	Gouverneur	Firewarden
1890-1891	Andrew Mills	Hammond	Firewarden
1890-1891	Russell P. Kenney	Hermon	Firewarden
1890-1891	Philip R. Fitch	Hopkinton	Firewarden
1890-1891	H.D. Chaffee	Lawrence	Firewarden
1890-1891	John McBride	Lisbon	Firewarden
1890-1891	T.J. McNulty	Louisville	Firewarden
1890-1891	Milton J. Truax	Macomb	Firewarden
1890-1891	Patrick Kelly	Madrid	Firewarden
1890-1891	M.H. Flaherty	Massena	Firewarden
1890-1891	George Conroy	Morristown	Firewarden
1890-1891	H.D. Carpenter	Norfolk	Firewarden
1890-1891	William B. Hutchinson	Oswegatchie	Firewarden
1890-1891	Cody C. Conlon	Parishville	Firewarden
1890-1891	W.H. Pritchard	Pierrepoint	Firewarden
1890-1893	Henry C. Pearson	Pitcairn	Firewarden
1890-1891	Norman L. Benson	Potsdam	Firewarden
1890-1891	William Allen	Rossie	Firewarden
1890-1891	Stephen K. Miles	Russell	Firewarden
1890-1891	David Folsom	Stockholm	Firewarden
1890-1891	Chris Monaghan	Waddington	Firewarden
1892-1893	William Roper	Brasher	Firewarden
1892-1893	C.J. Perkin	Canton	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Bird	Clare	Firewarden
1892-1893	T.J. Donohue	Clifton	Firewarden
1892-1893	W.P. Lindsey	Colton	Firewarden
1892-1893	W.P. Hendrick	DeKalb	Firewarden
1892-1893	J. Conklin	DePeyster	Firewarden
1892	Frank Stevens	Edwards	Firewarden
1892	William Griffin	Fine	Firewarden
1892-1893	W.D. Fuller	Fowler	Firewarden
1892-1893	Stephen Farley	Gouverneur	Firewarden
1892-1893	M.W. Timmerman	Hammond	Firewarden

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY (cont.)			
1892-1893	J.Q. Flood	Hopkinton	Firewarden
1892-1893	E.T. Dustin	Lawrence	Firewarden
1892-1893	Peter C. Mullin	Lisbon	Firewarden
1892-1893	William Muller	Louisville	Firewarden
1892-1893	C.C. Lantry	Massena	Firewarden
1892-1893	J.F. Culligan	Morristown	Firewarden
1892-1893	R.C. Brinkerhoff	Norfolk	Firewarden
1892-1893	O.A. Best	Oswegatchie	Firewarden
1892-1893	A.R. Allen	Parishville	Firewarden
1892-1893	E.J. Corcoran	Pierre Point	Firewarden
1892-1893	R. Merrit Wheeler	Potsdam	Firewarden
1892-1893	M. McMullin	Rossie	Firewarden
1892-1893	Stephen K. Miles	Russell	Firewarden
1892-1893	R.B. Wheelock	Stockholm	Firewarden
1892-1893	Chris Monaghan	Waddington	Firewarden
1893	H.T. Carr	Fine	Firewarden
1895	B.P. Clarke	Brasher	Firewarden
1895	S. Heminway	Canton	Firewarden
1895	William N. Dean	Clare	Firewarden
1895	Charles F. Thomas	Clifton	Firewarden
1895-1904	W.J. Horton	Colton	Firewarden
1895	A.C. Farr	DeKalb	Firewarden
1895	Thomas Willis	Fine	Firewarden
1895	A.O. Morgan	Herman	Firewarden
1895	E.F. Gale	Hopkinton	Firewarden
1895	E.B. Hobbs	Lisbon	Firewarden
1895	John R. Mills	Macomb	Firewarden
1895-1904	D.G. Graham	Pitcairn	Firewarden
1895	L. DeLisle	Potsdam	Firewarden
1895	M.H. Turnbull	Rossie	Firewarden
1895	Edgar Lane	Russell	Firewarden
1904	Charles H. Isham	Clare	Firewarden
1904	Woolsey W. Glasby	Clifton	Firewarden
1904	Horace Webb	Edwards	Firewarden
1904	John Irvin	Fine	Firewarden
1904	Arthur Flanders	Hopkinton	Firewarden
1904	Nelson G. Tenny	Parishville	Firewarden
1904	Emery P. Gale	Piercefield	Firewarden
1904	Edgar Reed	Russell	Firewarden
1909, 11-14	Floyd Rosbeck	Cranberry Lake	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 1911	H.H. Vebber	Oswegatchie	Regular Patrolman
1909, 11-13	Fred M. Hayes	Peircefield	Patrolman/Ranger
1911	C.E. Campbell	Stark	Regular Patrolman
1911	C.C. Brundage	Oswegatchie	Regular Patrolman
1901, 1911	Albert Johnson	South Colton	Regular Patrolman
1909, 11-14	James L. Leavitt	North Russell	Patrolman/Ranger
1912-1913	Peter E. Lobdell	Oswegatchie	Forest Ranger

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY (cont.)			
1912	Archie H. Bresee	Parishville	Forest Ranger
1913	Delmar Covey	Stark	Forest Ranger
1914-1940	Henry Carbary	Childwold	Forest Ranger
1914	Robert Parmerlee	Oswegatchie	Forest Ranger
1914	Elmer Watson	Stark	Forest Ranger
1915-1919	Fred Baker	Cranberry Lake	Forest Ranger
1915-1935	Charles Ferris	Oswegatchie	Forest Ranger
1915-1922	Fred E. Pitts	Blake	Forest Ranger
1920-1941	Fred Brundage	Cranberry Lake	Forest Ranger
1921-1924	Moses LaFountain	Cranberry Lake	Forest Ranger
1923-1941	Carl Murray	Stark	Forest Ranger
1923-1924	Russell Shaw	Star Lake	Forest Ranger
1919-1929	A.E. Church	Alexandria Bay	Forest Ranger
1930-1934	James Blevins	Alexandria Bay	Forest Ranger
1936-1963	Frederick Griffin	Oswegatchie	Forest Ranger
1941-1971	Raymond Shurtleff	Childwold	Forest Ranger
1942-1958	William Doran	Cranberry Lake	Forest Ranger
1943-1967	Ivan Ford	Colton	Forest Ranger
1946-1983	Gordon P. Griffin	Brasher Falls	Forest Ranger
1947-1976	Charles Johnson	Hermon	Forest Ranger
1959-1963	Charles Hutson	Cranberry Lake	Forest Ranger
1963-1976	John Hurlbut	Cranberry Lake	Forest Ranger
1964-1975	Paul T. Hartmann	Star Lake	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	Gordon Ford	Colton	Forest Ranger
1974—Pres.	Howard Graham	Piercefield	Forest Ranger
1976-Pres.	Bernard Siskavich	Wanakena	Forest Ranger
1977-1978	James Kesel	Cranberry Lake	Forest Ranger
1979-Pres.	John Hurlbut	Oswegatchie	Forest Ranger
1983-Pres.	Wayne Labaff	Brasher Falls	Forest Ranger

SARATOGA COUNTY

1890-1895	Anson J. Larkin	Ballston	Firewarden
1890-1891	Walter I. Cavert	Charlton	Firewarden
1890-1893	Nicholas Vischer	Clifton Park	Firewarden
1890-1891	Charles L. Allen	Corinth	Firewarden
1890-1892	George Baker	Day	Firewarden
1890-1892	David Torrey	Edinburgh	Firewarden
1890-1891	Stephen Van Voorhis	Galway	Firewarden
1890-1893	Reuben E. Cronkhite	Greenfield	Firewarden
1890-1893	John Holloran	Hadley	Firewarden
1890-1895	Edward McDonnell	Half Moon	Firewarden
1890-1893	Edgar W. Eldridge	Malta	Firewarden
1890-1893	J.A. Cipperly	Milton	Firewarden
1890-1891	John Skym	Moreau	Firewarden

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
SARATOGA COUNTY (cont.)			
1890-1893	John G. Snyder	Northumberland	Firewarden
1890-1893	Joseph B. Sowl	Providence	Firewarden
1890-1893	Benjamin Hutchins	Saratoga Springs	Firewarden
1890-1893	William S. Donnelly	Stillwater	Firewarden
1890-1893	James Meeker	Waterford	Firewarden
1890-1891	Gilbert C. Hodges	Wilton	Firewarden
1892-1893	Joseph N. Hedden	Charlton	Firewarden
1892-1893	William McCarty	Corinth	Firewarden
1892-1893	Henry Hill	Galway	Firewarden
1892-1893	Marton S. Brayman	Moreau	Firewarden
1892-1893	Patrick Burke, Jr.	Saratoga	Firewarden
1892-1893	W.C. Hodges	Wilton	Firewarden
1893	George F. Paul	Day	Firewarden
1893	Daniel A. Brownell	Edinburgh	Firewarden
1895-1904	A.C. Hickok	Corinth	Firewarden
1895	Frank R. Smith	Edinburgh	Firewarden
1895	Fayette H. Baker	Greenfield	Firewarden
1895-1904	Edward J. Wilcox	Hadley	Firewarden
1895	Job Hubbell	Moreau	Firewarden
1895	Ray Schermerhorn	Wilton	Firewarden
1904	George L. Gray	Day	Firewarden
1904	Charles Brooks	Edinburgh	Firewarden
1909-13, 19-20	Cyrus Brownell	West Day	Patrolman/Ranger
1909-1914	A.J. Woodward	Hadley	Patrolman/Ranger
1914	S.H. Ellithorpe	West Day	Forest Ranger
1915-1947	C.H. Ross	Hadley	Forest Ranger
1915-18, 21	Emmet Van Avery	West Day	Forest Ranger
1922-1923	W.J. Delong	West Day	Forest Ranger
1924-1927	Ira Gray	Day	Forest Ranger
1924	A.T. Mallery	Corinth	Forest Ranger
1928-1959	William G. Partridge	Day	Forest Ranger
1927-1932	Guy V. Hale	Saratoga Springs	Forest Ranger
1932-1963	George McDonnell	Saratoga Springs	Forest Ranger
1948-1981	Gilbert White	Hadley	Forest Ranger
1960-Pres.	James Ide	Edinburgh	Forest Ranger
1964-1966	David Becker	Gansevoort	Forest Ranger
1967-1976	John Gaudette	Saratoga Springs	Forest Ranger
1977-Pres.	Richard Requa	Saratoga	Forest Ranger

## SCHENECTADY COUNTY

1975-1979	Dan Cummings	Cropseyville	Forest Ranger
1980-Pres.	Dennis Martin	Windham	Forest Ranger

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
SCHOHARIE COUNTY			
1943	Philip C. Lane	Newburg	Forest Ranger
1944-1951	Claude Van Wie	Schoharie	Forest Ranger
1952-1955	Herbert Brown	Schoharie	Forest Ranger
1955, 58-69	Gerald Hamm	W. Fulton	Forest Ranger
1970-1977	John Graves	Middleburg	Forest Ranger
1977-1982	Michael Lewis	Richmondville	Forest Ranger
1977-1979	Tom Dent	Richmondville	Forest Ranger
1982-Pres.	Terry Figary	Schoharie	Forest Ranger
SCHUYLER COUNTY			
1951-1970	Ray Murray	Addison	Forest Ranger
1947-1957	George Bailey	Naples	Forest Ranger
1959-1979	Charles Harkness	Kanona	Forest Ranger
1975-1983	Gary Crance	Painted Post	Forest Ranger
1983-1984	Stephen Morgan	Watkins Glen	Forest Ranger
1985-Pres.	Timothy Taylor	Montour Falls	Forest Ranger
STEUBEN COUNTY			
1930	Robert Witherill	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1931-1935	Harry Welch	Corning	Forest Ranger
1937-1952	Francis Meeks	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1939-1949	Robert M. Roche	Painted Post	Forest Ranger
1943	Olin J. Greene	Painted Post	Forest Ranger
1944-1945	George Bailey	Painted Post	Forest Ranger
1947-1957	George Bailey	Bath	Forest Ranger
1951-1970	Raymond L. Murray	Addison	Forest Ranger
1953-1954	Wilton Griffiths	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1955	Arthur R. Keddy	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1959-1966	Robert Bailey	Hornell	Forest Ranger
1959-1980	Charles Harkness	Kanona	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	William Bement	Arkport	Forest Ranger
1973-Pres.	Gary Crance	Painted Post	Forest Ranger
1980-Pres.	James Carpenter	Prattsburg	Forest Ranger
SUFFOLK COUNTY			
1925-1946	I.S. Stivers	Riverhead	Forest Ranger
1926-1929	William Sedlacek	Bayshore	Forest Ranger
1928-1929	William Hand	E. Hampton	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
SUFFOLK COUNTY (cont.)			
1930	Bart Hadel, Jr.	Amagansett	Forest Ranger
1930-1952	Les Hough	Selden	Forest Ranger
1931-1939	Chris Hansen	Corin	Forest Ranger
1932-1953	Frederick Goldsmith	Commack	Forest Ranger
1939-1942	Joseph M. Edwards	Amagansett	Forest Ranger
1939-1944	Zenas Southard	Hauppauge	Forest Ranger
1943-1943	George C. Baker	Camp Upton	Forest Ranger
1943-1955	E.V. Parsons	Amagansett	Forest Ranger
1944-1947	Charles Lyons	Camp Upton	Forest Ranger
1948-1959	Frank Forsyth	Camp Upton	Forest Ranger
1948-1959	Walter Teuber	Riverhead	Forest Ranger
1949-1959	Wilber Unstadt	Kings Park	Forest Ranger
1955-1959	Russell Cullum	E. Hampton	Forest Ranger
1954-1959	E.H. Connell	Medford Station	Forest Ranger
1984-Pres.	Paul Rinaldi	Stony Brook	Forest Ranger
SULLIVAN COUNTY			
1890-93, 95	Newcomb Mapes	Bethel	Firewarden
1890-93, 95	Henry J. Gobleman	Delaware	Firewarden
1890-93, 95	M.A. Hoffman	Fremont	Firewarden
1890-93, 95	George W. Parker	Highlands	Firewarden
1890-93, 95	Wesley Marshall	Mamakating	Firewarden
1890-1893	Peter Parks	Rockland	Firewarden
1890-1892	James Purcell	Thompson	Firewarden
1890-93, 95	W.S. Coddington	Thompson	Firewarden
1892-93, 95	Casper Van Weisenfluh	Callicoon	Firewarden
1892-93, 95	Peter Theis	Cochecton	Firewarden
1892-93, 95	Wilson D. Sporting	Delaware	Firewarden
1892-93, 95-1904	Morris Downey	Fallsburgh	Firewarden
1892-93, 95-1904	George L. Decker	Forestburgh	Firewarden
1892-93, 95	Frederick Buckley	Liberty	Firewarden
1892-93, 95	William Ruddick	Lumberland	Firewarden
1892-93, 95	Samuel J. Groo	Neversink	Firewarden
1892-93, 95	William Darling	Tusten	Firewarden
1904	U.R. Calkins	Callicoon	Firewarden
1904	Charles M. Hadden	Cochecton	Firewarden
1904	George A. Eller	Delaware	Firewarden
1904	Phillip Gerhardt	Fremont	Firewarden
1904	Morgan O. Sargeant	Highland	Firewarden
1904	George W. Snyder	Lumberland	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
SULLIVAN COUNTY (cont.)			
1904	David Rhodes	Mamakating	Firewarden
1904	M.I. Kortright	Neversink	Firewarden
1904	Plymouth Davis	Rockland	Firewarden
1904	William Beattle	Tusten	Firewarden
1909-1911	D.S. Avery	Monticello	Firewarden/Patrolman
1912-1915	Lawrence McGrath	Livingston Manor	Forest Ranger
1916-1922	J. Bruce Lindsley	White Sulphur Springs	Forest Ranger
1923-1947	W.J. Morrisey	Beaverkill	Forest Ranger
1925-1927	Ralph Phillips	Forestine	Forest Ranger
1932	Melvin Lybott	Wurtsboro	Forest Ranger
1942-1953	Edward Brundage	Rock Hill	Forest Ranger
1948-1953	Bernard O'Neil	Livingston Manor	Forest Ranger
1953-1966	John Behrens	Rock Hill	Forest Ranger
1953-1957	George W. Maier	Wurtsboro	Forest Ranger
1955-1980	Charles R. O'Neil	Glen Spey	Forest Ranger
1959-1962	Donald C. Decker	Wurtsboro	Forest Ranger
1960-Pres.	Herbert Lepke, Jr.	Neversink	Forest Ranger
1963-1967	William Bement	Wurtsboro	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	Anthony Lenkiewicz	Livingston Manor	Forest Ranger
1968-1974	John Gillen	Wurtsboro	Forest Ranger
1974-1976	Bernard Siskavich	Spring Glen	Forest Ranger
1979-1983	Bruce Rode	Spring Glen	Forest Ranger
1984-Pres.	Joseph Kennedy	Wolf Lake	Forest Ranger
TIOGA COUNTY			
1948-1977	Gerald Turner	Candor	Forest Ranger
1977-1979	Robert Moore	Candor	Forest Ranger
1979-Pres.	Norman Jensen	Candor	Forest Ranger
TOMPKINS COUNTY			
1947-1962	Philip J. Carter	Dryden	Forest Ranger
1962-1973	Stanley Lowell	Cortland	Forest Ranger
1965-1977	Gerald Turner	Candor	Forest Ranger
1974-Pres.	Wilbur Peters	Homer	Forest Ranger
1977-1979	Robert Moore	Candor	Forest Ranger
1979-Pres.	Norman Jensen	Candor	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ULSTER COUNTY			
1890-1893	William G. Satterlee	Denning	Firewarden
1890-1893	Peter Freer	Esopus	Firewarden
1890-1891	Richard Jansen	Gardiner	Firewarden
1890-1891	Chandler Hinckley	Hardenburgh	Firewarden
1890-1891	J.P.D. Ellsworth	Hurley	Firewarden
1890-1893	Michael Burns	Kingston	Firewarden
1890-1891	Philip L.F. Elting	Lloyd	Firewarden
1890-1892	Theodore Woolsey	Marbletown	Firewarden
1890-1891	Jesse Lyon	Marlborough	Firewarden
1890-1893	Elias Coe	New Paltz	Firewarden
1890-1891	Mark Shurter	Olive	Firewarden
1890-1893	George W. Lewis	Olive	Firewarden
1890-1891	Reuben B. Heaton	Plattekill	Firewarden
1890-1892	John McGibney	Rochester	Firewarden
1890-91, 93	John Mertine	Rochester	Firewarden
1890-1891	Janson Vandermark	Rosendale	Firewarden
1890-1891	David E. Abel	Saugerties	Firewarden
1890-1891	James F. Browne	Shandaken	Firewarden
1890-1891	David D. Gillespie	Shawangunk	Firewarden
1890-1891	James F. Osterhout	Ulster	Firewarden
1890-1893	Cornelius H. Sheily	Wawarsing	Firewarden
1890-1891	Albert H. Vosburgh	Woodstock	Firewarden
1892-1893	Charles H. Story	Esopus	Firewarden
1892-1893	David H. Clearwater	Gardiner	Firewarden
1892-1893	Daniel Eighmy	Hardenburgh	Firewarden
1892	David Deyo	Hurley	Firewarden
1892-1893	Stephen P. Champlain	Lloyd	Firewarden
1892-1893	Edwin H. Shiel	Marlborough	Firewarden
1892-1893	John H. Van Ostrand	Plattekill	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Cook	Rosendale	Firewarden
1892	David Schoonmaker	Saugerties	Firewarden
1892-1893	Patrick Johnson	Shandaken	Firewarden
1892-1893	John R. Johnson	Shawangunk	Firewarden
1892-1893	Andrew McGuire	Ulster	Firewarden
1892	Mark C. Riseley	Woodstock	Firewarden
1893	Clinton Shovill	Hurley	Firewarden
1893	Thomas Woolsey	Marbletown	Firewarden
1893	George Hammond	Saugerties	Firewarden
1893	Isaac Wolven	Woodstock	Firewarden
1904	Albert Vandover	Denning	Firewarden
1904	James E. Lefevre	Gardiner	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ULSTER COUNTY (cont.)			
1904	Stratton D. Todd	Hardenburgh	Firewarden
1904	Austin B. Merritt	Lloyd	Firewarden
1904	Charles Harp	New Paltz	Firewarden
1904	Hugh Donahue	Olive	Firewarden
1904	Henry L. Devoe	Rochester	Firewarden
1904	Jay H. Simpson	Shandaken	Firewarden
1904	Frank Scott	Shawangunk	Firewarden
1904	Elmer E. Hoar	Wawarsing	Firewarden
1904	Levi N. Harder	Woodstock	Firewarden
1909, 11-15, 19-41	Fred Andrews	Oliverea	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11-13	George Russell	Wawarsing	Patrolman/Ranger
1909-1911	Elting Simpsons	Woodstock	Regular Patrolman
1912	John Johnston	Chichester	Forest Ranger
1914	William A. Hasbrouck	Ellenville	Forest Ranger
1914	Joseph Johnston	Phoenicia	Forest Ranger
1915-1931	George W. Garrison	Alligerville	Forest Ranger
1915-1918	John B. Carver	Ellenville	Forest Ranger
1915-1918	Jay H. Simpson	Phoenicia	Forest Ranger
1916-1917	John Barnum	Oliverea	Forest Ranger
1919-1923	M.E. Terwilliger	Ellenville	Forest Ranger
1919-1945	David R. Hillson	Phoenicia	Forest Ranger
1924-1941	Fred Wood	Ellenville	Forest Ranger
1932-1944	John A. Addis	Kerhonkson	Forest Ranger
1942, 45-71	Aaron Van DeBogart	Napanoch/Mt. Tremper	Forest Ranger
1943-1966	H.P. Lepke, Sr.	Ellenville	Forest Ranger
1945-1964	Jacob T. Gray	Accord	Forest Ranger
1946-1982	Byron E. Hill	Tillson	Forest Ranger
1953-1982	Franklyn Borden	Pine Hill	Forest Ranger
1964-1974	William A. Morse	Kerhonkson	Forest Ranger
1967-1969	Robert Baldwin	Ellenville	Forest Ranger
1967-1972	Raymond A. Wood	Wallkill	Forest Ranger
1969-1974	C. Peter Fish	Ellenville	Forest Ranger
1972-Pres.	Roger Blatter	West Hurley	Forest Ranger
1973-1974	Gary Roberts	Walden	Forest Ranger
1975-1977	R. David Matteson	Samsonville	Forest Ranger
1975-1977	James Kesel	Sundown	Forest Ranger
1977	Robert Herberger	Walden	Forest Ranger
1977-1978	Katherine Gilda	Walden	Forest Ranger
1977-1978	Hildegard Kuhn Webb	Ellenville	Forest Ranger
1977-Pres.	Frederick LaRow	Samsonville	Forest Ranger
1977-Pres.	A. Richard vanLaer	Shandaken	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
ULSTER COUNTY (cont.)			
1979-Pres.	Andrew Jacob	Napanoch	Forest Ranger
1979	Michael Gooden	Walden	Forest Ranger
1982-Pres.	Thomas Rinaldi	Rosendale	Forest Ranger
1985-Pres.	Robert Marrone	Alder Lake	Forest Ranger
WARREN COUNTY			
1890-1891	Elisha B. Middleton	Bolton	Firewarden
1890-1891	E.C. Smith	Bolton	Firewarden
1890-1891	Alphonso Young	Caldwell	Firewarden
1890-1891	Benjamin Brown	Chester	Firewarden
1890-1893	Samuel H. Miller	Hague	Firewarden
1890-1891	John West	Horicon	Firewarden
1890-1891	Moses Ordway	Johnsburgh	Firewarden
1890-1891	Thomas Noble	Johnsburgh	Firewarden
1890-1893	Hugh Clemons	Luzerne	Firewarden
1890-1891	William H. Burnett	Queensbury	Firewarden
1890-1891	George Conery	Queensbury	Firewarden
1890-1891	E.M. Black	Stony Creek	Firewarden
1890-1891	William J. Cameron	Thurman	Firewarden
1890-1893	Thomas H. Crandall	Warrensburg	Firewarden
1892-1893	Hiram Phillips	Bolton	Firewarden
1892-1893	Richard P. Hubbell	Caldwell	Firewarden
1892-1893	John Smith	Chester	Firewarden
1892-1893	Samuel Hayes	Horicon	Firewarden
1892-1893	Daniel Sheehan	Johnsburgh	Firewarden
1892-1893	Edward L. Mills	Queensbury	Firewarden
1892	John Marcellus	Stony Creek	Firewarden
1892-1893	David A. Green	Thurman	Firewarden
1893	John E. Burdick	Stony Creek	Firewarden
1895	J.D. Gates	Bolton	Firewarden
1895	Charles Wood	Caldwell	Firewarden
1895	George Swan	Chester	Firewarden
1895-1904	James A. Balcom	Hague	Firewarden
1895	Stephen Hoyt	Horicon	Firewarden
1895-1904	William Merrill	Johnsburgh	Firewarden
1895	W.J. Hall	Luzerne	Firewarden
1895-1904	William Roach	Queensbury	Firewarden
1895-1904	L.R. Dunlop	Stony Creek	Firewarden
1895	A.O. Ingraham	Thurman	Firewarden
1895-1904	William Woodworth	Warrensburg	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
WARREN COUNTY (cont.)			
1904	George H. Moon	Bolton	Firewarden
1904	William Chaney	Caldwell	Firewarden
1904	Frank Swan	Chester	Firewarden
1904	Clayton Ormsby	Horicon	Firewarden
1904	Nathan Pulver	Luzerne	Firewarden
1904	Miles Frost	Thurman	Firewarden
1909, 11-14	Charles Olds	Athol	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 1911	John E. Collins	Glens Falls	Regular Patrolman
1909, 11-14	Frank Owen	Horicon	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11-14, 23-29	R.T. Armstrong	Johnsburgh	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 11-14	Robert Cunningham	Warrensburg	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 1911	Cornelius M. Collins	North Creek	Regular Patrolman
1911-1914	John C. Smith	Knowelhurst	Patrolman/Ranger
1912, 1914	Dudley Kenyon	Knowelhurst	Forest Ranger
1912-1914, 23-37	William Collins	North Creek	Forest Ranger
1912	Daniel Sweeney	Glens Falls	Forest Ranger
1914	William L. Van Deusen	Queensbury	Forest Ranger
1915-1922	Smith Hastings	Bolton Landing	Forest Ranger
1915-1918	Jesse Starbuck	Brant Lake	Forest Ranger
1915-1924	Frank H. Knoxon	Chestertown	Forest Ranger
1915-1922	Charles S. Kenwell	Weavertown	Forest Ranger
1915-1924	Dudley Austin	Knowelhurst	Forest Ranger
1915-1921	Burt Swain	North River	Forest Ranger
1915-1918	John Lenox	French Mountain	Forest Ranger
1915-1945	John C. Browns	Warrensburg	Forest Ranger
1919-1920	Allen C. Anderson	French Mountain	Forest Ranger
1919-1936	Jay C. Taylor	Glen Island	Forest Ranger
1919-1922	Charles Chappel	Horicon	Forest Ranger
1921-1922	Wyatt Ellsworth	Queensbury	Forest Ranger
1923-1947	Grover C. Smith	Adirondack	Forest Ranger
1923	Charles Roberts	Bolton Landing	Forest Ranger
1923	Edward Moore	Queensbury	Forest Ranger
1923-1924	Frank Kelley	North Creek	Forest Ranger
1924-1944	Henry A. McGann	Bolton Landing	Forest Ranger
1924-1935	John F. Moynahan	Queensbury	Forest Ranger
1927-1960	Grover Swears	Stony Creek	Forest Ranger
1930-1936	Herman Blowe	Chestertown	Forest Ranger
1930-1951	James Goodman	Johnsburg	Forest Ranger
1936, 40-63	Owen Kane	Queensbury	Forest Ranger
1937-1941	William Barlow	Chestertown	Forest Ranger
1937-1939	Bernard Moses	Queensbury	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
WARREN COUNTY (cont.)			
1938-1942	Arthur F. Draper	North Creek	Forest Ranger
1942-1943	Winfield S. Codman	Chestertown	Forest Ranger
1943-1947	William J. Wood	North Creek	Forest Ranger
1944-1948	Eugene Rankin	Chestertown	Forest Ranger
1945-1961	Leonard Truax	Bolton Landing	Forest Ranger
1946-1971	Franklin Wheeler	Warrensburg	Forest Ranger
1948-1967	Charles Severance	North Creek	Forest Ranger
1948-1970	E. Boyd Meade	Brant Lake	Forest Ranger
1949-1977	Edward Carpenter	Chestertown	Forest Ranger
1952-1969	Roy McKee	Wevertown	Forest Ranger
1961-1968	Gordon Ford	Bolton Landing	Forest Ranger
1961-1977	Lynn Day	Stony Creek	Forest Ranger
1964-1966	Louis C. Curth	Queensbury	Forest Ranger
1967-1983	Louis C. Curth	Johnsburg	Forest Ranger
1968-Pres.	James White	Bolton Landing	Forest Ranger
1967-1973	Clyde Black	Hague	Forest Ranger
1967-Pres.	Victor Sasse	North Creek	Forest Ranger
1967-1968	Frederick Joost	Queensbury	Forest Ranger
1968-Pres.	George Stec	Queensbury	Forest Ranger
1970-Pres.	William Houck	Brant Lake	Forest Ranger
1970-Pres.	Mike Hagadorn	Chestertown	Forest Ranger
1972-1984	Harry DeKing	Warrensburg	Forest Ranger
1977-1978	Ray VanAnden	Stony Creek	Forest Ranger
1979-1980	Lynn D. Day	Stony Creek	Forest Ranger
1982-Pres.	Steven Guenther	Stony Creek	Forest Ranger
1985-Pres.	Werner Schwab	Warrensburg	Forest Ranger
WASHINGTON COUNTY			
1890-1893	Robert McIntyre	Argyle	Firewarden
1890-1893	John Ford	Cambridge	Firewarden
1890-1893	Thomas M. Cooper	Dresden	Firewarden
1890-1893	Albert C. Vaughn	Fort Ann	Firewarden
1890-1893	G.A. Wells, Jr.	Granville	Firewarden
1890-1893	John Alexander	Greenwich	Firewarden
1890-1893	Aaron C. Bouton	Hampton	Firewarden
1890-1893	William Tolman	Hartford	Firewarden
1890-1893	George Rea	Hebron	Firewarden
1890-1893	J.H. Cleveland	Jackson	Firewarden
1890-1893	John Murphy	Kingsbury	Firewarden
1890-1893	Robert H. Paterson	Putnam	Firewarden

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Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
WASHINGTON COUNTY (cont.)			
1890-1893	Sylvanus Dickinson	Salem	Firewarden
1890-1893	B.J.C. Senton	White Creek/Whitehall	Firewarden
1892	Peter H. Paterson	Putnam	Firewarden
1892-1893	Romaine Bennett	White Creek	Firewarden
1893	George S. Allen	Easton	Firewarden
1895	William Kilmer	Argyle	Firewarden
1895	Abram Robertson	Cambridge	Firewarden
1895	Patrick Crockwell	Dresden	Firewarden
1895	Eugene Briggs	Easton	Firewarden
1895, 1904	E.H. Sturtevant	Fort Ann	Firewarden
1895	Thomas Ellis	Fort Edward	Firewarden
1895	E.B. Temple	Granville	Firewarden
1895	Lyman Warren	Hampton	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Judson Maynard	Hartford	Firewarden
1895	Alton Wilson	Hebron	Firewarden
1895	V.S. Houghtaling	Jackson	Firewarden
1895	J.D. Leigh	Putnam	Firewarden
1895	Christopher Burnett	Salem	Firewarden
1895, 1904	Robert Steeves	Whitehall	Firewarden
1895	Charles Agan	White Creek	Firewarden
1904	Jesse Sawtelle	Dresden	Firewarden
1904	John Graham	Putnam	Firewarden
1909, 11-14, 23-43	Herbert Barber	Clemons	Patrolman/Ranger
1909, 1911	John J. McDonough	Fort Ann	Regular Patrolman
1912	Walter B. Murphy	Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1915-1916	John Sullivan, Jr.	W. Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1917-1918	Norman M. Barber	W. Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1919-1921	Raymond Gilmore	W. Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1923-1932	Herbert A. Barber	Clemons	Forest Ranger
1922	Leman Frost	Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1932-1943	Herbert M. Barber	Clemons	Forest Ranger
1944-1955	R.C. Neddo	Clemons	Forest Ranger
1948-1957	Karl Rissland	Hudson Falls	Forest Ranger
1950-1961	Roy Smith	Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1957-1957	Frank DiPhillips	Whitehall	Forest Ranger
1958-1959	Richard Olcott	Clemons	Forest Ranger
1959-1968	Craig Knickerbocker	Salem	Forest Ranger
1961-1965	Lance Killmeier	Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1961-1963	Donald Brown	Whitehall	Forest Ranger
1964-Pres.	Gerald Manell	Whitehall	Forest Ranger
1966-1967	Louis Curth	Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1967-1968	Kenneth Clark	Fort Ann	Forest Ranger

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## Forest Rangers

Year	Name	Location <sup>†</sup>	Title
WASHINGTON COUNTY (cont.)			
1967-Pres.	Lance Killmeier	Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1968-1969	James DeLaire	Fort Ann	Forest Ranger
1969-Pres.	James DeLaire	Argyle	Forest Ranger
1969-1972	Harry DeKing	Middle Falls	Forest Ranger
WESTCHESTER COUNTY			
1931	Everett Northrup	Pound Ridge	Forest Ranger
1932-1936	Thomas Acton	Yorktown Heights	Forest Ranger
1937-1962	Ira Thomas	Katonah	Forest Ranger
1952	Donald Henderson	Briarcliff Manor	Forest Ranger
1964-1973	Wilbur Peters	Carmel	Forest Ranger
1974-1977	James Carpenter	Carmel	Forest Ranger
1974-1977	John Seifts	Putnam Valley	Forest Ranger
WYOMING COUNTY			
1948-1950	Burbank Woodruff	Machias	Forest Ranger
1951-Pres.	Willis C. Andrews	Machias	Forest Ranger
1961-1983	Gene E. Smith	Olean	Forest Ranger
1965-Pres.	John Bryant	Salamanca	Forest Ranger
YATES COUNTY			
1947-1957	George N. Bailey	Naples	Forest Ranger
1959-1979	Charles Harkness	Kanona	Forest Ranger
1980-Pres.	James Carpenter	Prattsburg	Forest Ranger

<sup>†</sup> Location given for a Forest Ranger may not be in the county under which it appears. A Ranger may serve more than one county, but operates from one location.

## **Appendix K**

### **DUTY STATEMENT FOR FOREST RANGERS**

#### **Nature of Work**

Forest Rangers are employed only in the Department of Environmental Conservation and are stationed throughout New York State. Within a given geographic area, positions in this class are assigned duties which involve the preservation, protection and enhancement of the State's forest land resources and the safety and well-being of the public using these resources. They may operate cars, trucks, boats and snowmobiles in the course of their duties and may be required to fly as observers or passengers in Department-owned, commercial or contract aircraft.

#### **Classification Criteria and Distinguishing Characteristics**

Positions in this class perform a wide variety of duties throughout an assigned geographic area. Duties may include forest fire prevention, presuppression and suppression; forest management and utilization on both State and private lands; care, custody and control of State lands; forest insect and disease control; search, rescue and emergency missions; security and development of recreational areas and facilities.

Rangers are also authorized to enforce the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and Title 6—Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York. When qualified, they shall be armed with concealable weapons for the purpose of enhancing their safety and effectiveness and the wearing of such weapons will at all times be subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

Since the broad scope of ranger duties may be applicable to some extent in all areas of the State, and since it is sometimes necessary to temporarily assign rangers to areas other than their assigned geographic area, every ranger can be expected to perform the full scope of ranger duties and to possess the full range of knowledge and abilities these duties require. At any given time, however, rangers may be involved in a limited variety of activities reflecting the needs of the particular regions they serve.

### **Rangers May Be Required To Do Any Of The Following Typical Activities, Tasks and Assignments**

#### **Conduct Forest Fire Prevention and Presuppression Programs in Assigned Area**

- Give fire prevention talks at schools, summer camps and to other interested groups; distribute fire prevention materials; participate in radio or T.V. programs on fire prevention.
- Prepare fire prevention exhibits for fairs, schools, and shopping centers.
- Issue burning permits, inspect railroad r.o.w. for hazard reduction, investigate forest fire causes; enforce ECL in relation to top-logging, forest fires and deposition of flammable materials.
- Maintain specialized forest fire control equipment; supervise operation and maintenance of fire towers and telephone lines; fly as fire observer in aerial detection aircraft.
- Train and equip fire wardens and maintain close liaison with wardens in his assigned area. Train volunteer fire companies in grass, brush and forest fire control and provide liaison for Department programs.

#### **Participate in Forest Fire Suppression Projects**

- Respond to reports of forest fire by foot, vehicle, boat or aircraft. Depending on fire situation, suppress fire himself, request (by radio) additional manpower and equipment, or direct the suppression effort. Close coordination between the ranger, volunteer fire companies and local officials is essential.
- Serve in a supervisory or technical position in campaign fire organization.
- Assist in the suppression of large forest fires in member states and provinces of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (Maine, N.H., Vt., Mass., Conn., R.I., Quebec, N.B. and N.Y.).
- Prepare firefighter payrolls and submit reports on fires within his assigned area.

### Participate in the Management of State and Privately-Owned Forest Lands

- Following standard procedures and practices, mark State-owned timber for sale or stand improvement.
- During the cutting operation, make periodic field inspections to insure that the private cutter is following the terms of the contract.
- Make forest inventories to determine and record such information as acreage, forest types, volume and quality.
- Plan and lay out forest management projects to be performed by campmen at a Department of Correctional Services correction camp.
- Participate in the preparation of plans and profiles for truck trails on State forests and multiple use areas; determine locations of skid roads and log landing areas for timber sales.
- Following forest practice standards and the forest management plan developed by a forester for the landowner, mark timber for forest product sales and determine the volume and grade of timber to be cut.
- On request, provide cooperating landowners with practical advice on such forestry practices as tree planting, thinning and pruning.

### Assist Professional Foresters in Administering Federal Forestry Incentives Programs on Private Lands

- Make inspections to determine if lands qualify for improvement funds under the conditions of the program.
- Mark forest stands for improvement operations.
- Inspect privately-owned lands to determine eligibility for certification under the Forest Tax Law, or to determine forest management needs on lands so certified.

### Exercise Care, Custody, and Control of State Lands

- Inspect and maintain the boundaries of State lands in assigned area, patrol State land, and report timber

trespass, illegal occupancy, debris dumping, illegal use of motor vehicles and all other violations of Environmental Conservation Law.

- Investigate violations of ECL, apprehend violators, issue appearance tickets and may present the State's case in local criminal court to facilitate conviction of violaters.
- Issue camping permits, make site inspections, advise on camping regulations and correct techniques, monitor and report compliance with temporary revocable permits.
- Promote compliance with Environmental Conservation Law and individual responsibility for care of the forest resource at meetings of concerned organizations and through personal contact with the people using State lands.

#### Conduct the Following Insect and Disease Control Duties

- During the course of patrols and other duties, report all observed forest insect and disease outbreaks.
- Following information developed on maps, conduct foot or aerial reconnaissance. By use of standard sampling techniques and by direct observation, map the existence, type and intensity of any infestation.
- By use of standard monitoring devices, determine the effectiveness and coverage of spray operations.
- Prior to effecting control programs on private lands, may contact all landowners within the control area to gain permission to effect control on their land.

#### Participate in Emergency Operations Including Search for and Rescue of Injured or Lost Persons

- Conduct searches for lost or injured persons, either alone or as a member of a Department Search and Rescue Team.
- Act as a crew leader for volunteer search teams on large searches.
- Act as search director; organizing efforts of Department personnel, volunteers, State Police and other law enforcement personnel.

- Apply emergency medical procedures to injured persons and participate in the evacuation of injured by foot, vehicle or aircraft.
- Participate in searches for downed aircraft in forested areas and participate in the evacuation of injured or dead.
- During natural disasters provide radio communications, assist in search and evacuation, provide emergency first aid and security or operate specialized equipment.
- Monitor accidental releases of toxic or environmentally injurious materials, provide radio communications and participate in the clean-up of such releases.

Provide Supervision, Security and Public Education for Recreation Programs

- Determine location for and supervise specialized forest recreation construction or maintenance projects on State lands, including campsites, day-use areas, trail systems or special facilities.
- Inspect trails, lean-tos, day-use areas, campsites and other facilities and recommend needed maintenance or other administrative actions.
- Patrol on foot, large tracts of State-owned lands for the purpose of reporting use, enforcing rules and regulations, and advising those using the lands.
- Conduct workshops for schools, camps or other interested organizations relative to safety, equipment and conduct when camping in wilderness or primitive areas.
- Provide for the security of the camping public at State-operated public campsites, day-use areas, special facilities or undeveloped sites when so assigned.

Other Typical Activities Include:

- Enforcement of Environmental Conservation Law, Rules and Regulations in addition to those previously enumerated, *i.e.*: Article 11 (Fish & Wildlife); Article 15—Title 5 (work in Classified Streams); Adirondack and Catskill Sign Laws; and such other Laws, Rules and Regulations as may be assigned by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

- Conduct inspections, prepare and submit reports relating to provisions of Environmental Conservation Law, Rules and Regulations.
- Prepare and submit a variety of reports in both narrative and tabular format relating to daily activities, enforcement activities, land management programs, and special reports as may be assigned.
- Inspect projects for land acquisition.

### **Relationships with Others**

Positions in this class are primarily people-oriented and have frequent verbal contacts with a variety of people. Rangers often answer questions from the public relative to the location and use of State lands, Forest Fire Regulations, forest management programs and general environmental problems.

Rangers must maintain a close working relationship with volunteer fire companies, fire wardens, members of the wood-using industry, hiking clubs, and landowners. They must attempt to persuade people to comply with environmental laws and to instill in them a respect for the ranger as well as the environment. They also interview complainants and persons reporting alleged violations of the Environmental Conservation Law. They question suspects to obtain information which may be used in prosecution. They cultivate close rapport with town justices and law enforcement officers in and around their assigned areas. In conducting their enforcement responsibilities, public education about environmental resources plays a primary role with the use of the appearance ticket and local court generally reserved for deliberate and persistent violators.

### **Nature of Supervision**

Positions in this class are responsible for the implementation of the programs of the Division of Lands and Forests and such programs of other Divisions of the Department as may be assigned to them by their supervisor.

Rangers work under the general supervision of a District Ranger or Regional Ranger within a given region. The District Ranger or Regional Ranger, as members of the Regional Forester's staff, will determine and make work assignments, monitor field work and review written reports of activities. Rangers must for the most part, however, work

independently since their headquarters are not generally in or near regional offices.

### **Use of Machines, Tools and Equipment**

Rangers are required to operate cars, trucks, boats and snowmobiles in the conduct of their assigned duties. They operate mobile and portable radio units, portable and truck-mounted pumps, use hand tools, chainsaws, hand compass, surveyors' chain, biltmore stick and various other forestry tools.

They bear firearms when necessary for enforcement responsibilities in accordance with directives from the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, and periodically are required to requalify for proficiency in the use and maintenance of the weapon.

### **Unusual Working Conditions**

Rangers may be required to work long and irregular hours outdoors in extreme weather conditions and in remote, rugged terrain. They may receive telephone or radio requests for assistance at any time of day or night and may be recalled when on pass days, in cases of emergency.

### **Job Requirements**

- Generally good health and able to work long hours at strenuous activities.
- Good knowledge of forest fire management.
- Good knowledge of forest management and insect and disease control.
- Good knowledge of Environmental Conservation Law, Rules and Regulations.
- Good knowledge of mapping and elementary surveying techniques.
- Ability to communicate effectively with the public and fellow workers.
- Ability to remain clear-headed and decisive in emergency and stress situations.

- Ability to stand, walk, or drive a motor vehicle for long periods of time.
- Good knowledge of first aid.
- Good knowledge of radio communications procedure.
- Skill in use of firearms.

12/17/76

*Bureau of Forest Fire Control*

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<i>Lake Placid News</i>	Selected Issues
<i>New York Times</i>	Selected Issues
<i>New York State Conservationist</i>	Vol. I—Present (1946-Present)
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