



Dear CLA Members:

I am pleased to return as President. The excellent board of directors we have should be able to help reinvigorate our organization. No doubt you have some knowledge of these individuals. Our focus this year is to build our membership and develop a strategic plan for the next 3 to 5 years. We remain committed to address the most important issues to the private property owner. We will continue to bring together the various non-profit entities serving the Catskills. We shall provide our members with a stimulating annual meeting with an outstanding program.

A very interesting voting case was recently handed down involving the Delaware town of Bovina. Second homeowners have the right to select that town as their place to vote if that is their choice. When an individual has more than one residence, for voting purposes, the individual need not vote in his or her town of principal or full time residence. Hence, as a private landowner you may decide your vote is more important here in the Catskills where you pay taxes.

Please be sure to visit our website at [www.catskilllandowners.org](http://www.catskilllandowners.org). Send it on to friends who may be prospective members.

We continue to follow proposed legislation in Albany. The Governor's proposal for a tax on dams has been rejected by the legislature. Likewise, a bill on the public right of passage on navigable waters did not pass.

We want to timely communicate with our members. Please provide us with an e-mail address. Often, an important issue surfaces with little time to react. With e-mail we can alert members of the need to communicate with elected representatives as to our position. We see this as one of our most important services to our members.

We shall endeavor to communicate with you through newsletters, e-mail and the website in an effort to make your membership important to you.

*John J. Wadlin*  
John J. Wadlin

## CLA Annual Meeting

CLA held its fourteenth annual meeting on September 15, 2007 at the Winnisook Club in Big Indian, NY.

The following are highlights from the meeting, which was presided over by outgoing President Richard Hess.

Outgoing Secretary and new President, John Wadlin, reported that changes to CLA's bylaws are now in place. These include:

**Article III, section 2** shall eliminate the provision "No director shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms."

**Article II, section 1 and section 7** shall be repealed and replaced with:

**Section 1. - Membership.** The members of the Corporation shall consist of all existing members who have paid current dues and all persons or clubs who are hereafter elected to membership by vote of the board. There shall be two classes of membership: Individual and Club. All members are entitled to (1) vote; (2) receive ongoing information; and (3) have access to certain support services and other assistance in the resolution of future regulatory and acquisition issues impacting the use and ownership of their properties.

**Section 7. Voting.** Every member of the Corporation shall be entitled to one vote.

President Hess then gave his President's Report as follows:

1. A new CLA brochure is now ready for distribution.
2. A new CLA website [www.catskill-landowners.org](http://www.catskill-landowners.org) is set up and all members are being asked to provide their e-mail addresses as well as updates on postal addresses.
3. CLA plans to actively seek new members and is planning a membership drive.

Board member, Alan White gave a brief background leading to the tree tax problem: He noted this issue is still pending and will be brought up in the State's legislative session in January 2008. Mr. White said he believes

Governor Spitzer may ask the legislature to kill any tree tax legislation.

Treasurer Jack McShane then reviewed the background and status of conservation easements offered by New York City.

Kingdon Gould, Jr., a founding member of CLA, was the guest speaker. Mr White, who is also President of the New York Forest Owners Association and Phil Giltner, regional coordinator for congresswoman Kirstin Gillibrand, also made presentations.

Following the meeting, board members met to elect new officers. They are: John Wadlin, as President; Patty Cullen, as Vice President; Jack McShane as Treasurer, and Steve Berg as Secretary.

Ms. Cullen agreed to represent CLA at the New York Council of Forest Resource Organizations. (<http://nyfoa.org/docs/CFROLegislativePriorities2006.pdf>) Board members Bob Bishop and Mr. Wedemeyer will attend a meeting in October of NYFOA to set up its agenda involving legislative issues. 🌲

### **Introducing Patty Cullen, a New CLA board Member**

Patty Cullen moved to the Catskills full time in 2001 and started her own business, A House Around The Bend, which markets vacation rental homes.

She also runs Treeline Solutions Group, a marketing consulting firm specializing in creative regional strategies with a focus on tourism.

She is a member of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Andes Chamber of Commerce and Andes Advertising Group. 🌲

### **Timber Theft Report**

A new report has been released on timber theft that found that landowners who are victims of theft rarely recover their losses, and those who commit the crime are seldom required to reimburse. Visit [www.catskilllandowners.org](http://www.catskilllandowners.org) for the full report. 🌲

### **New Members**

CLA would like to welcome the following new members:

**Paul and Lillian Steinfeld**  
**Dr. Len and Laura Glassman** 🌲

### **Action Items**

Please visit [www.catskilllandowners.org](http://www.catskilllandowners.org) for more details.

- Tree Tax
- Conservation Easements
- Navigable Waterways 🌲

## **Catskill Landowners Association, Inc.**

PO Box 1188, Margaretville, NY 12455

### **OFFICERS**

John Wadlin, President  
Patty Cullen, Vice President  
Jack McShane, Treasurer  
Steve Berg, Secretary

Patricia Odell, Executive Director  
Margaret D. Helthaler, Graphic Designer

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Steve Berg  
Bob Bishop  
Mitch Brock  
Patty Cullen  
Jean-Louis Danis  
Richard Hess  
Jack McShane  
John Wadlin  
Eric Wedemeyer  
Alan White  
Patty Cullen

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[www.catskilllandowners.org](http://www.catskilllandowners.org)