

Name: Paul Schaefer

Years: September 13, 1908 to 1996

Residence: Paul Schaefer House, 897 St. David's Lane, Niskayuna, New York

Brief Biography: Pioneer conservationist, forester, and lobbyist Paul Schaefer was born on September 13, 1908, in Rotterdam, New York, to Rose and Peter Schaefer. In 1919, eleven year old Paul became a member 'Conservationist of the Empire State' at the Schenectady High School. During the 1920's he became a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club. At an early age Paul became an active and avid participant in enjoying and protecting the wild Adirondacks Mountains and continued this passion for his entire life. In 1935 he married Carolyn Kesseberg and they moved into a home they restored in Niskayuna. They would have four children. Paul had at that time already co-founded several forest and fish and game organizations and was well on his way to being an advocate and lobbyist for the protection of the Adirondack and Catskill Mountain preserves. In 1937, Bob Marshall, who had co-founded the Wilderness Society in 1935, appointed Paul Schaefer to head its Adirondack Committee. In 1946 Howard Zahniser, executive director of the Wilderness Society, built a cabin near Paul's in the Adirondacks and became his protégé for organizing grassroots movements and lobbying. They stopped several dam projects on the Moose River in the Adirondacks throughout the 1940's and 1950's. In 1963 Paul moved the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks headquarters and its archives to his house on St. David's Lane in Niskayuna. Paul Schaefer was instrumental in helping Howard Zahniser prepare and present the Wilderness Act Bill which Congress enacted in 1964.

Major Achievements: Paul Schaefer's grassroots and lobbying efforts helped fuel the modern environmental movement that swept the nation during the 1960's and 1970's. His association with the authors and proponents of the federal Wilderness Act of 1964 followed his efforts to preserve the Adirondacks' headwaters of the Hudson River and New York City's Catskill Mountains water supply. The efforts by Paul and his fellow preservationists and conservationists were inspired by the previous work of Emerson, Thoreau, Muir and Burroughs.

More Information: Adirondack Political History-Forever Wild:

<http://www.adirondack-park.net/history/political/threats.html>

Sources: Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks:

<http://www.protectadks.org/data/content/view/37/39/> ;

Paul Schaefer Chronology:

<http://www.protectadks.org/data/images/stories//paulschaeferchronology.pdf>

By Steve Grim