

[the sylvanian]

fall 2013

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[we're
not
alone]



explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

Vote for Your Chapter Delegates! (page 23)

[from the editors]

we're not alone

What are we doing – shining the spotlight on other environmental groups? In this issue, we acknowledge some fellow environmentalists and hold them up as worthy partners – not competitors. While not all the groups we asked participated in this issue, we have a good cross-section of them.

As we do this, we don't have much space to discuss current environmental issues. The biggest problem continues to be the drilling for Marcellus Shale gas. From north-eastern to southwestern Pennsylvania, the problems of water pollution, air pollution, poisoned streams, ruined forests, damaged roads, etc., continue.

Perhaps, the biggest problem isn't the pollution but is the support our government is giving to the industry. We have a very few friends in the Pennsylvania state General Assembly and none in the governor's office.

In passing, we can mention that Jeff Schmidt is leaving us. After 30 years of trying to cope with state leaders, he has earned the opportunity to take it easy.

Read on, friends. Hold the leaves in your hands. . . . as we clutch at straws.

WENDI TAYLOR AND PHIL COLEMAN
Co-editors of *The Sylvania*



Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

chapter directory

Due to space restrictions, the Chapter Directory was not included in this issue. To view the directory, go to http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/PA_Chapter_2008/chapter-directory.html



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Contributor deadlines are December 15 (Winter issue), March 15 (Spring issue), June 15 (Summer issue), and September 15 (Fall issue). Anonymous contributions are not accepted.

SIERRA CLUB MISSION STATEMENT: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and To use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Sierra Club's sexual harassment policy can be found online at <http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp> or by contacting the Harrisburg office.



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[the sylvanian]

[we are not alone]

special report

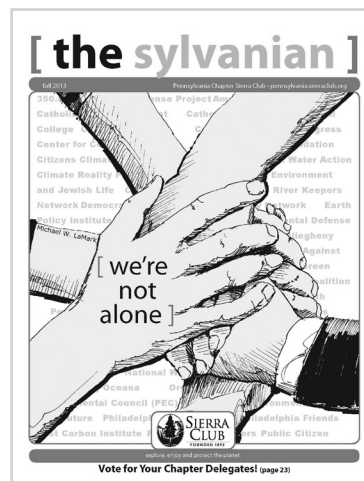
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[on the cover]

Michael LaMark illustrates his take on the fact that we are not alone. We join hands and work for a common cause. Note that in the background we have woven the names of 60+ Pennsylvania organizations that work on environmental issues. It's amazing how many organizations, large and small, share our concerns and our mission. All we need is teamwork.

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next deadline: december 15

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[the view from harrisburg]

by Jeff Schmidt

DRILLING, MINING, TIMBER INDUSTRIES SEEK TO WEAKEN ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTIONS

Extraction industries have set their sights on current Pennsylvania rules that provide protection for endangered species. Not content with the friendly approach of Corbett administration Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulators, they are seeking legislation to emasculate the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), which are independent agencies not under the Governor's jurisdiction. In addition, the legislation also weakens the ability of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to list endangered species under its jurisdiction. These industries have found legislative advocates, such as Representative Jeff Pyle (R, Armstrong) and Senate President Joe Scarnati (R, Jefferson) willing to spearhead the PA House and Senate attacks on endangered species.



JOAN WILSON

The legislation they are promoting has the misleading title of “Endangered Species Coordination Act.” In reality, it should be called the “Endangered Species Elimination Act.” The proposals are a response to efforts by the agencies to protect species in serious decline in Pennsylvania, such as endangered mussels in the Allegheny River and certain vulnerable bat species. In the case of the endangered mussels, the PFBC issued rules to protect these mussels, which had the effect of reducing the areas that river dredging companies can operate in the Allegheny River. The dredging industry convinced Rep. Jeff Pyle (the Allegheny River flows through his district) to take up their cause in the House.

In the case of the bats, a proposal by the PGC to protect bats that are threatened by the deadly white nose syndrome would limit when the timber industry could harvest trees in areas known to be used by bats during warm weather. It could also interfere with the plans for natural gas drilling in forested regions. This caused a huge stir in the timber and natural gas industries and they convinced Senator Scarnati to lead the Senate effort. Scarnati represents a region dominated by timber and natural gas interests. The bat protection proposal was never formally introduced by PGC but the industry backlash generated sufficient momentum to lay the groundwork for their anti-endangered species campaign.

WHAT THIS IS REALLY ABOUT: Currently, DEP is required to determine if there are any listed species in areas where permit applications have been filed. This includes drilling for natural gas, mining, construction of manufacturing, commercial or residential buildings, etc. DEP has the authority to require applicants to take action to

protect or avoid these species, if they are listed by the agencies like the PGC or PFBC. These industries would prefer to not have to deal with these additional requirements, which might include additional studies, moving a proposed facility or mitigating impacts.

HB 1576 has 69 cosponsors and has been referred to the House Games and Fisheries Committee. SB 1047 has 15 cosponsors and has been referred to the Senate Games and Fisheries Committee. Both bills have cosponsors that have traditionally supported sound environmental legislation and should know better. In August the House Games and Fisheries Committee and the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee held a hearing on the proposed bill. Sierra Club's Tom Au testified at the hearing, raising concerns and expressing our opposition the bills. Also speaking in opposition were PA Trout Unlimited, Fish and Boat Commission and Game Commission.

Currently, the PGC, PFBC and DCNR have statutory authority to list threatened or endangered species, based on their scientific research. Currently, there are 73 existing state-designated endangered or threatened species. Now, they are all at risk. The legislation would require every one of these species to be re-evaluated, using the stringent criteria outlined in the legislation. This could jeopardize currently-protected species, such as the osprey, great egret, bog turtle and banded sunfish. In fact, the bills would eliminate the ability to list any species, unless it has already been listed by the federal government. Since many species are under threat in specific states, but not nationally, the federal government expects states to protect those species. They would fall through the bureaucratic cracks, which is exactly the intent of the bill's proponents. The cost to the agencies of re-listing these species would be staggering and would divert funds from badly-needed habitat improvement efforts. Of course, neither bill provides any additional funding for the agencies. In fact, passage of the legislation could result in the loss of federal grant dollars, since the feds expect states to protect the state-listed species.

In addition, the process the species would have to go through to get relisted is extremely cumbersome, and would take two years or longer for each proposed species. In the meantime, DEP would not have authority to require additional studies or to avoid impacts, since the species would not be listed. Proposals to add species not currently on the list would similarly have to go through the cumbersome review process, which includes the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and the standing Legislative Committee that has oversight of PGC, PFBC or DCNR. Neither IRRC nor the committees have any technical or scientific staff. They are appointed by either legislative leaders or the governor. They can ignore the recommendations of the agency scientists and make decisions based on political pressure from the economic interests.

Currently, the agencies have a public input process that allows public comment when they propose to list a species. They frequently modify their proposal in response to public input. This process works, and

there is no need to replace scientifically-driven decisions with politics.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your state senator and representative and tell them to oppose efforts to weaken endangered species protection, as proposed in SB 1047 and HB 1567. Tell them the current process works well and there is no need to change the process. If you would like to get a copy of Tom Au's testimony on HB 1576 / SB 1047, please contact: pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org

GOV. CORBETT APPOINTS NEW DEP AND DCNR SECRETARIES

As we go to press, we have learned that Governor Corbett has nominated Chris Abruzzo to the post of Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Ellen Ferretti to head the Department of Conservation and National Resources (DCNR). As you may remember, DEP Secretary Michael Krancer resigned in April, so he could return to the law firm Blank Rome, which represents major energy interests, to head up its "Energy, Petrochemical and Natural Resource" practice. Then, in June, DCNR Secretary Richard Allan was abruptly fired, allegedly for making racially-insensitive remarks. Both Krancer and Allan had arrogant and confrontational interactions with conservation organizations, so few in the environmental community were sorry to see them leave.

Since their respective departures, environmental organizations have been calling on Governor Corbett to nominate new secretaries with strong environmental management experience and who have no background working for industrial or extractive industries, and who are able to work cooperatively with the conservation community. Obviously, that request fell on deaf ears. Abruzzo has no environmental management experience, having been brought from the Office of the Attorney General (AG) when Governor Corbett resigned as AG after he won the gubernatorial election. Ferretti who is currently acting secretary, came to DCNR with no public lands management experience, but knew Allan, since both hail from Northeastern Pennsylvania. Both Abruzzo and Ferretti appear to largely continue the policies put in place by the people they replaced.

OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS: DCNR MUST DISCLOSE THE GAS DRILLING PLANS FOR THE LOYALSOCK STATE FOREST

One of the most frustrating aspects of the effort to convince Department of Conservation and National Resources (DCNR) to prevent drilling in the Loyalsock State Forest is DCNR's refusal to share publicly the plans submitted to them by Anadarko, the drilling company. Since September of 2012, under former Secretary Richard Allan, DCNR repeatedly stonewalled, ignoring requests for information, while meeting behind closed doors with Anadarko. This, in turn, required environmental advocates to file formal state Right to Know (RTK) requests to force DCNR to make public the secret drilling plans. Penn Future attorney Mark Szybist filed a series of RTK

requests, and on September 13, the PA Office of Open Records (OOR) directed DCNR to disclose Anadarko's drilling plans for the Clarence Moore lands within the Loyalsock State Forest. DCNR has until October 13 to comply with the OOR order.

OOR rejected DCNR's claims that the Anadarko plan was an "internal, pre-decisional record" of DCNR, or that it was a document "made for DCNR." Either DCNR or Anadarko has the right to appeal the OOR decision to Commonwealth Court. However, this would be an opportunity for DCNR to change course from former Secretary Allan's stonewalling on the Loyalsock drilling issue, and make public what Anadarko plans to do our state forests. All eyes are on DCNR as the October 13 deadline approaches.

Sierra Club continues to work cooperatively with a broad and growing coalition of organizations that want to block new drilling in the Loyalsock State Forest.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENES FOR FALL SESSION FOLLOWING SUMMER RECESS

Following June passage of the 2013 - 14 state budget, the PA General Assembly adjourned for their annual summer recess. They have now reconvened for a relatively short fall session, with only seven days scheduled for October, five for November and five for December. Then, they will adjourn again for the holidays, returning in mid-January. With the current one-party control of the House, Senate and Governor's Office information about what is planned for the fall session is closely held by the Republicans. Environmental legislation poised to move includes certain bills in the "Marcellus Works" package of bills intended to promote expanded use of natural gas in Pennsylvania.

The legislation intended to gut endangered species protection (see above) could see movement. However, a strong backlash against the bills by environmental and sportsmen's organizations may give legislative leaders some pause about angering these constituencies.

Legislation will be introduced in the PA Senate to promote an expansion of the use of renewable energy in Pennsylvania. The bill, sponsored by Senator Daylin Leach (D, Montgomery), would amend our state Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards law, similar to HB 100, introduced in the PA House by environmental champion Greg Vitali (D, Delaware).



[inside the chapter]

Sierra Club members took to Pennsylvania's rivers this summer to gather signatures and support for the Environmental Protection Agency to better regulate toxics that are being dumped into our rivers and streams from coal fired power plants. In the process, the Club made some friends, spread goodwill and had some fun.



The Sierra Club joined a group of environmental advocates for a press conference at the Capitol and delivered thousands of petitions to Governor Corbett's office on August 22. The petitions are part of a plan to pressure the Corbett administration to prevent natural gas drilling in the Loyalsock State Forest. Under the slogan of "Keep the 'public' in public lands," the groups are urging the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to restrict drilling in particularly sensitive areas in the Loyalsock by exercising special rights they have to protect the surface. In June, DCNR held a public hearing in Williamsport on a proposal to put 26 well pads in the Loyalsock State Forest. Five hundred people showed up to oppose the drilling.



Pictured above: The Governor Pinchot Group gathered signatures to support new clean water rules during PrideFest, held in Harrisburg by the Susquehanna River on July 27th.



The Southeast Group created a living mural and spent two days, July 5 -6, at Penn's Landing during Philadelphia's Welcome America celebration. They collected 155 signatures on comment cards to support clean water regulations.



On Saturday, August 3, the Sierra Club in Pittsburgh joined by Clean Water Action, the Center for Coalfield Justice and Three Rivers Waterkeeper, gathered at Point State Park for a rally that included kayaks and canoes with banners and signs to declare support for new clean water protections recently proposed by the EPA. It was a beautiful day and a really fun event and all who participated had a great time.

PHOTO BY CECE VITI

PHOTO BY RANDY FRANCISCO

chapter director to retire in december

by Wendi Taylor

For many, Jeff Schmidt is the Sierra Club in Pennsylvania. For nearly 31 years he has been the face and voice of the Sierra Club at news conferences, hearings, rallies and in the hallways and hearing rooms of the state Capitol building.

Come December, Schmidt will retire and close the door to his long career as the first chapter director of the Sierra Club. When he assumed his position with the Club in 1983, Schmidt was the first and only full-time environmental lobbyist at the state Capitol.

Schmidt recalls standing on the Capitol steps, taking very deep breaths before his first press conference on January 17, 1983.

With television cameras rolling and half a dozen reporters from the Capitol newsroom assembled, Schmidt announced the opening of the Chapter office and introduced himself as the Sierra Club's lobbyist in Harrisburg.

"Jeff is an effective and tireless advocate for Pennsylvania's environment," said Jan Jarrett, who is best known for her work with PennFuture. "He was critical to the passage of many environmental policies that we now take for granted - the recycling law, laws that regulate garbage landfills and incinerators, the Growing Greener bills and others. He developed solid relationships with environmental champions in the General Assembly and he was a source of advice for those of us who also worked issues on the Hill. It was a pleasure working with him."

Schmidt likes to say that he got his job because of James Watt, one of the most

anti-environmental Secretaries of the Interior ever, who was appointed by Ronald Reagan. Watt's appointment in 1981 became an organizing tool for the Sierra Club, as more than one million



Jeff Schmidt (far right) speaks for the environment.

people joined the "Dump Watt" effort. The Pennsylvania Chapter collected 80,000 signatures and in the process doubled the Sierra Club's membership, from 5,000 to 10,000 members. It was then that the Executive Committee (Ex Com) determined the club had enough members to hire a lobbyist to advocate for the environment in Harrisburg.

"Jeff has worked effectively for many years, so we are sobered by the challenge of replacing him," said Phil Coleman, who was on the Ex Com in the 1980's.

"Jeff was a volunteer leader when we decided to create a state office and hire a lobbyist," recalls Coleman and noted that "There aren't many of us from that early time still around.

"As a group of dedicated volunteers, the

Ex Com members felt they could not represent their views effectively, the way the industry lobbyists did. It was not an easy decision for us to make. We were challenged with the need to raise enough funds to support an office.

"But once we decided to create the office, Jeff applied for the job and we felt that we had a person who fit what we needed," Coleman said.

Much has changed since 1983, but many of the issues are the same. In the early days, Schmidt worked on the state's first Oil and Gas Act, which sought to minimize the environmental impacts of oil and gas drilling. Thirty-one years later the club is working for stricter regulation of fracking and the gas drilling

industry. Back then Schmidt worked to establish the first Allegheny National Forest Wilderness Area. Now, the Sierra Club is working to save what it can from fracking.

Through the years, Schmidt and the Sierra Club have had a steering hand in regulating the coal mining industry, implementing curb-side recycling programs and "Growing Greener," curtailing development of the state parks, regulating mercury and acid rain, establishing goals and set asides for clean, renewable energy, preserving our cherished open/wild places, closing down coal-fired power plants, protecting against sprawl and over-development, and advocating for more funding for state agencies that protect the public from environmental hazards.

[coleman's lantern]

more about quebec run

by Phil Coleman

“... I have never been lost, but I will admit to being confused for several weeks.” Daniel Boone.

(A continuation of my yarns about Quebec Run)

Quebec Run Wild Area consists of about 11 square miles. But the area I enjoyed wasn't so limited. You could go west from Skyline Drive about a mile to the crest of Chestnut Ridge, north about six miles to Route 40, east about three miles to Elliotsville, and south into West Virginia and to Interstate 68, about three miles. For the most part, you would be in the same uninterrupted woods that you find in the designated wild area. So I had nearly 50 square miles to play in.

Early on, I hiked down Laurel and Patterson runs into West Virginia. Later, I canoed down Big Sandy from Elliotsville to the iron bridge about one-half mile south of the West Virginia border. Years later, I drove to that iron bridge several times and canoed upstream to the junction of Quebec

Run and Big Sandy. One nice thing about Quebec Run Area was that no matter how confused I got, three hours was virtually the limit to confusion. In that time I was bound to come across a landmark that would set me straight. I had a map that gave me much better guidance than Daniel Boone ever had, but I didn't always pay attention.

By the way, 200 years after Mason and Dixon established the Pennsylvania border, I didn't have their sextant; nor did I drag a chain to measure distance precisely. They always knew exactly where they were. I never saw one of their trail markers, but the line was well marked by a fifty foot wide gas line right of way that makes it unmissable in this part of the state.

I got “confused” once, but only for a couple of hours. I took my young sons for a walk on Chestnut Ridge, thinking I was going south, and I walked in a circle, realizing what I had done only when I came across our starting point.

A nice thing about river canoeing is that you can't get lost. It's possible to wonder which side of an island you should go on, but you know that as long as you go down stream both sides will end up in the same river. When I paddled up the Big Sandy, I knew that there were only two tributaries I could possibly take. And when I turned around and floated down stream, I was bound to get back to my starting point.

I once took an outdoor living class on a hike in the area and took my teen-aged sons along. The class got in an orderly line behind me, but my sons ran off on their own. After an hour of walking along a trail, one class member said we should look for the boys because they must be lost. Just then, they burst out of the woods ahead of us.

Quebec Run Area is nothing like the great blue grass region Daniel Boone stumbled into, but it was my playground for 40 years. I hope there are lots of people enjoying it today.

director retires continued from page 6

“Jeff has an amazing knowledge base and has always been there for the volunteers to access when an environmental issue important to them becomes critical,” explained Nancy Parks, who has been a club leader for decades. “That knowledge is always freely given to legislators and regulators as well. More than once, Jeff has brought together opposing sides to bring successful new laws, protecting and governing Pennsylvania's resources, to all our citizens.”

Yet, environmental victories are not permanent. Many of the hard-fought

issues have returned. Currently the club is working to protect the set asides that were enacted in 2004, known as the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS), to promote clean, renewable energy.

Schmidt said that he may retire from the job but he has not retiring from advocating for the environment. He intends to continue working with the Sierra Club as a volunteer, just like he did before he was hired 31 years ago. As a volunteer Schmidt was instrumental in establish-

ing the Lehigh Valley Group and was a tireless worker for the environment.

Schmidt lives in an intentional community that co-owns and manages a 130-acre farm. Between his experience with the farm and the Sierra Club, Schmidt said he knows the value of collective efforts.

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[we're not alone]

Many of us, active in the environmental movement, think of the Sierra Club as the most important environmental organization. Sometimes we act as though it is the only one. But when we pause, we discover that we are not alone. There are dozens of organizations at work on environmental issues. Some of us are members of several organizations, even if Sierra Club is central to our thinking. Sierra Club is the oldest and most firmly established. Nationally, we have the broadest base. We try to work on a wide range of environmental issues. These are qualities we are proud of.

But other organizations do what is often unique and important work. Some are local and take their strength in their involvement in local issues. Some concentrate on litigation. Some on advocacy, some on lobbying, some on political endorsement work. There are organizations willing to engage in civil disobedience, and some, like the Club, are reluctant to go that far. Sometimes the difference is whether a group relies on volunteers or has paid staff.

But the commitment to the environment is a key that should make us appreciate each other. Sometimes we think that we are in competition for funding, for members, and for leaders. A better way to look at it is that we are all potential allies. We need to honor each other -- one and all.

[we're not alone]

350.org

Allegheny Defense Project

American Rivers

Audubon

Catholic Climate Covenant

Catholic Nuns at Chestnut Hill College

Coalfield Citizens

Center for American Progress

Center for Coalfield Justice

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Citizens Climate Lobby

Clean Air Council*

Clean Water Action

Climate Reality Project

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Consumers Union

Delaware River Keepers Network

Democracy for America

Earth Day Network

Earth Policy Institute

Environmental Action

Environmental Defense Fund

Food and Water Watch

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

Group Against Smog & Pollution

Green America

Greenpeace

the audubon society of western pennsylvania

The mission of Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) is: Connecting the people of south-western Pennsylvania to birds and nature through our programs, projects, and places.

ASWP has three properties open to the public: Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, Succop Conservancy, and Todd Nature Reserve. As a bird-focused organization,

we actively engage in programs to ensure the health and future of our avian friends. These programs include creating towers for Chimney Swifts, researching breed and release programs for Barn Owls, and managing the Buffalo Creek Watershed Initiative.

ASWP engages everyday people in Citizen Science projects that provide invaluable information on the health and size of animal and insect populations while getting people involved in the natural world. This summer, we extended the reach of these programs beyond our reserves and into local libraries, senior centers, and nature centers throughout our



service region.

Additionally, we work to reduce the amount of stormwater that goes into local sewers by educating people about the installation of rain gardens. ASWP recently completed an initiative to install rain gardens throughout the Pine Creek Watershed, including on municipal property owned by the Town of McCandless.

We welcome the community to join us for hikes and educational programming, and bring students from local school districts into our reserves to experience the joy of the natural world. We also work with local schools to create natural areas on school properties. Our goal is to create lifelong path for people of all ages to loving and respecting the natural world.

The Audubon Society has many groups that are active across the state.



clean water action

Clean Water Action means years of success -- more than 40 years of action for clean water!

Clean Water Action is a one million member organization of diverse people joined to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and quality of life. Our goals include clean, safe and affordable water; prevention of health threatening pollution; creation of environmentally safe jobs and businesses; and empowerment of people to make democracy work. Clean Water Action works in coalitions to elect environmental candidates and solve environmental problems.

During the late 1960s water pollution was spreading virtually unchecked in many parts of the country, with a burning Cuyahoga River in northeast Ohio and dead Lake Erie among the most visible examples.

In order to remedy the power imbalance favoring polluters, Clean Water Action followed a people-based power strategy, using grassroots awareness campaigns and door-to-door canvassing. When the Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972, commonly known as the Clean Water Act, were passed by Congress, our initial policy goals were realized. The 1972 Clean Water Act was followed by enactment of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974.

In addition to work at the federal level, Clean Water Action has led hundreds of successful campaigns in dozens of states around the country. In Pennsylvania, it is active in the fight against fracking and trying to end coal plant pollution of streams and rivers. In addition, Clean Water Action helps elect pro-environment candidates at all levels of government-- federal, state and local -- pioneering the use of door to door canvassing for electoral campaigns.



delaware riverkeeper network

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) champions the

rights of the River to be clean and healthy. An advocacy group with more than 12,000 members, DRN gives voice, strength and protection to the communities and waterways along the 330 miles of the Delaware River.

DRN is unique in that it is founded upon the expectation of personal and community responsibility for river protection, as personified by the Delaware Riverkeeper. Since 1996, Maya van Rossum has led DRN in the role of the Delaware Riverkeeper.

Through independent advocacy, and the use of accurate facts, science, and law, DRN works to ensure the rich and healthy future that can only exist with a clean, healthy and free-flowing river system. DRN is the only grassroots advocacy organization that operates watershed-wide and

empowers communities with the engaged interaction and information needed to succeed in protecting our River and region, now and into the future.

DRN works in six interrelated program areas: Advocacy to protect water quality and habitats; Awareness-to-Action to organize local communities into activists to protect local streams; Habitat Restoration to restore damaged streams; Litigation to enforce environmental laws; River Tech to provide the technical expertise necessary for citizens, municipalities and water protection organizations to understand and address complex watershed issues; and Water Watch to monitor the health of the River and its tributaries.

Current issues in which DRN is actively engaged include preventing fish kills at water intakes, strengthening laws that protect our streams, and protecting our watershed from shale gas development.

greenpeace

Greenpeace was founded in 1971 by a small group of anti-war protesters taking nonviolent direct action against US nuclear weapons testing. Today, taking action is as important as ever to the way we campaign for a greener, more peaceful and equitable world. Guiding all of our actions, always, is our commitment to nonviolence and personal responsibility.

Greenpeace is the largest independent, direct-action environmental organization in the world. We defend the natural world and promote peace by investigating, exposing and confronting environmental abuse, and championing environmentally responsible solutions. We are perhaps best known in Pennsylvania for our action eight years ago, hanging a banner on the smoke stack of Hatfield's Ferry power plant, at that time one of the dirtiest plants in the United States.

Our method is to conduct investigations, then take



action and work for solutions.

Often, environmental problems – like climate change or forest destruction - are widely acknowledged, but governments, corporations and international bodies all duck or dismiss the solutions. Our solutions work promotes open, informed debate about society's environmental choices, and involves industries, communities and individuals in making change happen. Whether the solutions are political, social or technological, we believe that they should be both environmentally responsible and globally equitable.

We take personal responsibility for our actions, and we are committed to nonviolence. These principles are inspired by the Quaker concept of 'bearing witness', which is about taking action based on conscience – personal action based on personal responsibility.

**Interfaith
Coalition
for the
Environment**

**Keystone
Progress**

**Keystone
Trails Asso.**

**League of
Conservation
Voters**

**League of
Women Voters**

Merton Center

**National
Catholic
Rural Life
Conference**

**National
Wildlife
Federation**

**Nature
Conservancy**

Oceana

**Organizing for
Action**

**Pennsylvania
Environmental
Council**

**Penn
Environment**

PennFuture

**Philadelphia
Canoe Club**

**Philadelphia
Friends**

**Post Carbon
Institute**

**Protecting Our
Waters**

Public Citizen

Rising Tide

Sea Shepherd

**Western
Pennsylvania**

**Wildlands
Conservancy**

**World Wildlife
Fund**

**Youghiogheny
River Keepers**

[we're not alone]

350.org

Allegheny Defense Project

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Catholic Nuns at Chestnut Hill College

Coalfield Citizens

Center for American Progress

Center for Coalfield Justice

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Citizens Climate Lobby

Clean Air Council*

Clean Water Action

Climate Reality Project

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Consumers Union

Delaware River Keepers Network

Democracy for America

Earth Day Network

Earth Policy Institute

Environmental Action

Environmental Defense Fund

Food and Water Watch

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

Group Against Smog & Pollution

Green America

Greenpeace

pennsylvania interfaith power and light

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light is the state chapter of the national Interfaith Power and Light (IPL), begun in 1998 by Rev. Sally Bingham, an ordained Episcopal priest. Pennsylvania joined IPL in 2009.

Interfaith Power and Light represents a religious response to climate change as a moral and spiritual issue. It asks people of faith to see climate change through an ethical framework, recognizing the harmful impacts on vulnerable and poor people around the world, and the harmful impacts on other species and all of life.

Its mission is to be stewards of creation through energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.

PA-IPL brings the voice of the faith community into public policy making. Our actions alone cannot stop the force of climate change – public policies are needed to advance clean energy and limit carbon pollution. PA-IPL works at the local, state, and national levels.

Each year, the PA-IPL holds an annual conference, which this year will be on Saturday, October 5, 2013, at the Colonial Park United Church of Christ in Harrisburg, PA. The conference is entitled, One Creation, Many Faiths: A Call to Action on Climate Change. The conferences feature a panel discussion, workshops, and green fair. Further information and registration is available on the PA-IPL website www.paipl.org

Information about the Harrisburg chapter of PA-IPL can be found at: www.harrisburgice.wordpress.com.



keystone trails association



Founded in 1956, the Keystone Trails Association (KTA)'s mission is "to provide, preserve, protect and promote recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania." With more than 1100 individual members and 46 organizational members, KTA advocates for the interests and concerns of the Pennsylvania hiking community.

As the leading advocate for recreational hiking trails in Pennsylvania, KTA often partners with other organizations, including the Sierra Club, that share similar views on specific issues. KTA's efforts include advocacy meetings with state legislators and staffers and state land managers, and active involvement with groups of concerned citizens. To publicize its positions KTA publishes its digital newsletter, The Keystone Hiker, and maintains its website. KTA has been at the forefront of such diverse issues as limiting gas drilling on public lands, reducing conflict between motorized and non-motorized recreationists, Sunday hunting and maintaining the quality of Pennsylvania's water, air, forest and recreational resources.

Along with new trail construction, KTA organizes and trains skilled teams of volunteers to provide trail maintenance on hundreds of miles of hiking trails in public lands. These volunteers annually contribute more than 4000 hours of volunteer labor to keep hiking trails open and accessible to the public. Member clubs contribute an additional 35,000 hours. In 2013, KTA organized five week-long Trail Crew events, seven weekend Trail Care events, and four day-long Code Orange maintenance events.

KTA promotes hiking through organized activities such as the Susquehanna Super Hike, Prowl the Sproul hiking weekend, Pennsylvania Hiking Week, and its Fall and Spring membership meetings. It also authors the comprehensive guide Pennsylvania Hiking Trails.

Leadership is provided by Executive Director Curt Ashenfelter, Program Administrator Shanna Klucar, and Board President Thyra Sperry.

Contact: Keystone Trails Association

101 N. Front Street, 3rd Floor
Harrisburg PA 17101
717-238-7017 | info@kta-hike.org
www.kta-hike.org



mountain watershed association

The Mountain Watershed Association (MWA) was formed in 1994 in response to a deep mine proposal in the Indian Creek watershed, a sub-basin of the Youghiogheny River in Fayette and Westmoreland Counties, Pennsylvania. MWA's organizing and opposition resulted in the defeat of the proposal, and citizens then decided to continue working together to address over 125 years of poor mining practices in the watershed.

Since then, MWA has implemented six mine drainage treatment systems and completed other projects that have dramatically improved water quality in Indian Creek.

In 2003 MWA partnered with the international Waterkeeper Alliance to create the Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, a program of MWA. Our vision has since expanded into the larger Yough watershed.

We seek the protection, preservation and restoration of the Indian Creek and greater Youghiogheny River watersheds. Our major purposes include bringing about remediation of abandoned mine discharges, developing community awareness, promoting cooperative community efforts for stewardship and encouraging sound environmental practices.

We have a unique approach in that we pursue on-the-ground restoration of past damage while also advocating on local issues (primarily coal and shale gas extraction) as well as regional and national issues that have a local impact.

We conduct extensive water quality monitoring in the Indian Creek and Youghiogheny River watersheds. Through our Marcellus Citizen Stewardship Project, we seek to work with community leaders in shale gas drilling areas and train volunteer monitors to assess water quality. We're also currently developing the Indian Creek Valley Trail, a biking and walking trail, on an abandoned railway. Learn more about us by visiting www.mtwatershed.com.

the league of women voters of pennsylvania

The League of Women Voters (LWV), a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. For over ninety years, we have increased understanding of major public policy issues and influenced public policy through education and advocacy. Stemming from the suffrage movement, the League has evolved from an organization concerned for women's needs and women voters to one concerned for its nation's needs and citizen voters.

LWV does not support or oppose any political party or candidate but does take stands on issues on which members have studied and reached consensus. Based on these positions, we advocate on local, state, and national issues. Since the 1920's, the League has been concerned about the depletion, degradation and conservation of natural resources. Our national program focuses on protecting and managing the interrelated aspects of air, water, land use, energy and waste management.

In Pennsylvania, our Water Resource Education Network (WREN) is renown for twenty years of educating and informing policy development to protect our water. Building from grassroots studies in Indiana County, LWVPA has been in the forefront of examining natural gas development. Our study guides and positions on extraction and pipelines have ignited efforts throughout the Commonwealth, the region, and nation. As we explore legislative and regulatory frameworks of oil and gas operations, the League continues to educate the public while monitoring and revising its economic, environmental and public health resources with the assistance of grants from the Colcom Foundation and the U.S. Department of Transportation.



Interfaith Coalition for the Environment

Keystone Progress

Keystone Trails Asso.

League of Conservation Voters

League of Women Voters

Merton Center

National Catholic Rural Life Conference

National Wildlife Federation

Nature Conservancy

Oceana

Organizing for Action

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Penn Environment

PennFuture

Philadelphia Canoe Club

Philadelphia Friends

Post Carbon Institute

Protecting Our Waters

Public Citizen

Rising Tide

Sea Shepherd

Western Pennsylvania

Wildlands Conservancy

World Wildlife Fund

Youghiogheny River Keepers

[we're not alone]

350.org

Allegheny Defense Project

American Rivers

Audubon

Catholic Climate Covenant

Catholic Nuns at Chestnut Hill College

Coalfield Citizens

Center for American Progress

Center for Coalfield Justice

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Citizens Climate Lobby

Clean Air Council*

Clean Water Action

Climate Reality Project

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Consumers Union

Delaware River Keepers Network

Democracy for America

Earth Day Network

Earth Policy Institute

Environmental Action

Environmental Defense Fund

Food and Water Watch

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

Group Against Smog & Pollution

Green America

Greenpeace

the national wildlife federation

by Ed Perry

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is a nationwide conservation organization whose mission is to be a voice for wildlife. It is dedicated to protecting wildlife and habitat for future generations.

The NWF was founded in 1936 by Ding Darling, the first head of the US Biological Survey, because of his concern for the loss of wildlife throughout the country. Although NWF works on many conservation issues, such as the Farm Bill, public lands, and protecting the Clean Water Act, it is now focused on climate change. For the first time, NWF now has field staff in 13 high-priority states, focused mainly on climate change

As the Pennsylvania Outreach Coordinator for the NWF's climate change campaign, I am focused on educating my fellow sportsmen and sportswomen about the effects of climate change on fish and wildlife.

As I am a life-long fisherman and hunter, as well as an aquatic biologist, I can relate to their interests and

speaking their language. So for the past six years, I've traveled all across Pennsylvania, giving 77 presentations, which I use to

recruit new people to participate in our effort to get off dirty fossil fuels and on to clean renewable energy. I work with my activists to send in letters and op-eds, participate in rallies outside Congressional offices, attend meetings with their representative, and help put pressure on elected officials.

Most people in the conservation community are unaware of how closely the various groups involved in climate change work together to accomplish our ultimate goal of getting off fossil fuels. It's the best operation I've been involved in since I began working in the conservation field nearly 40 years ago.



pennfuture

PennFuture is celebrating 15 years of environmental victories in 2013. Working from four offices across the state, we couple legal strategies and public policy analysis with educational efforts that serve to safeguard our land, air and water while working toward a clean energy economy.

Among our victories in 2012-2013 were the extension of Act 129, the state's energy efficiency law and a measure we helped pass in 2008; a 50-foot development buffer on Philadelphia's rivers and streams; galvanizing municipalities to help reduce the cost of solar installations through our work on a Department of Energy SunShot grant; and aiding the return of nesting eagles to a Pittsburgh hillside by protecting that land from unwise development.

Yet, there's more to be done. We continue to defend the state's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards, which mandate an increasing percentage

of electricity be generated from alternative sources, from fossil fuel interests that would

like to see these standards eliminated; are fighting to keep natural gas drilling off pristine lands in the Loyalsock State Forest and other public lands; have launched an educational campaign around energy savings performance contracting that finances building upgrades via energy efficiency; and are demanding updated building codes, and accountability from state officials, through the Build It Safe coalition.

Our collaboration with partners, including the Sierra Club, continues to shine a spotlight on the President's climate action plan with the I Will #ActOnClimate campaign. Together, we can be an unbeatable force for good for all Pennsylvanians.



allegheny defense project



Allegheny Defense Project

Protecting and Restoring the Forests of the Allegheny Bioregion

The Allegheny Defense Project is the only organization in Pennsylvania dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Allegheny National Forest. As Pennsylvania's only national forest, the Allegheny provides habitat for threatened and endangered species, drinking water for the region's residents and recreation opportunities for citizens throughout the nation. Unfortunately, the Forest Service has, for far too long, managed the Allegheny primarily for the benefit of the timber and oil/gas industries. The Allegheny Defense Project strives to alter that dynamic so that the Allegheny is managed in the public interest for all Americans.

To do that, we monitor proposed actions, including timber sales and oil/gas developments, and engage in the public commenting process to ensure that the public interest is represented. The Forest Service and the oil/gas industry too often

overlook or disregard watershed protection, the primary purpose for which the Allegheny National Forest was created in 1923. In particular, the current shale gas fracking boom threatens not only watershed protection, but also habitat for threatened and endangered species, and recreation opportunities such as hiking, backpacking, camping and wildlife viewing.

We are currently challenging in federal court the oil/gas industry's attempt to exclude the public from having any say in decisions related to oil/gas drilling in the Allegheny National Forest. The industry believes that because it owns the mineral rights under much of the forest, the public has no right to comment on drilling projects that impact the surface. We will continue fighting an industry that so arrogantly disregards the public interest.

november training opportunity:

All you ever wanted to know about AEPS but were afraid to ask

For the next year, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club will be focused on the state's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards, AEPS for short. On Saturday, November 9, beginning at 2:30, the chapter will dive into this important topic with the strange sounding name. The AEPS is one of the few measures that Pennsylvania state government has to promote renewable energy. In the past, the Club has had to defend the AEPS from proposals that would have gutted the AEPS by adding types of energy that are neither clean nor renewable. The Sierra Club is now ready to go on the offensive and push for doubling the amount of clean, renewable energy required by the AEPS in Pennsylvania.

This training is being offered to our members to help us get ready for our next big push to move beyond coal and beyond natural gas to cleaner energy by beefing up the AEPS. The training will be held at the Granada Avenue Gym and Fitness Center, 30 East Granada Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033, and conclude in time to join the tribute and party being held for the Club's retiring Chapter Director Jeff Schmidt, just one and one-half miles away.

For more information or to enroll in the training, please contact Carli at the Sierra Club office: 717.232.0101 or carli.timpson@sierraclub.org

**Interfaith
Coalition
for the
Environment**

**Keystone
Progress**

**Keystone
Trails Asso.**

**League of
Conservation
Voters**

**League of
Women Voters**

Merton Center

**National
Catholic
Rural Life
Conference**

**National
Wildlife
Federation**

**Nature
Conservancy**

Oceana

**Organizing for
Action**

**Pennsylvania
Environmental
Council**

**Penn
Environment**

PennFuture

**Philadelphia
Canoe Club**

**Philadelphia
Friends**

**Post Carbon
Institute**

**Protecting Our
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Public Citizen

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Sea Shepherd

**Western
Pennsylvania**

**Wildlands
Conservancy**

**World Wildlife
Fund**

**Youghiogheny
River Keepers**

Letter to the editor

Economists call climate change "the mother of all market failures" for good reason. Our dependence on fossil fuels is costing society much more than what we pay at the pump. We as a society, bear many costs that economists say should instead be borne by the fossil fuel industry. Some examples are your child's dependence on an inhaler to breathe, your taxpayer dollars going towards FEMA disaster relief from the latest climate-change-induced mega-storm, or our military spending to protect overseas oil supplies.

Many economists including Greg Mankiw, who was Romney's economic advisor, and Art Laffer, who was Reagan's economic advisor, agree that a tax placed on carbon-based fuels is the best way to make up for these hidden costs on society. A tax on something you want less of is referred to as a Pigouvian Tax. An example of an effective Pigouvian tax would be taxes on cigarettes. 50 percent of Americans once smoked; now we're down to 20 percent.

We can apply the Pigouvian tax solution to climate change. The problem is too much carbon pollution in the atmosphere, trapping energy from the sun and causing the planet to warm with serious consequences for all of us. A carbon tax would be a simple and fair, small-government, market-based solution to reduce the amount of carbon pollution.

A revenue-neutral, steadily-rising tax on per-ton of CO₂ emissions would be placed on fossil fuels at the source (mine, well, or port of entry). Increased costs for the fossil fuels industry would be passed to consumers through higher fossil fuel prices. Placing the tax at the source ensures that emissions are reduced economy-wide, rather than targeting certain sectors (transportation, electric generation), as EPA regulations do. By returning 100 percent of the revenue collected to American households equally, we would protect lower and middle-class families from the costs associated with a carbon tax and provide the financial incentive to remove fossil fuels from their everyday lives. Making the tax steadily-rising means the dividend returned would be steadily-rising as well. Consumers could actually make money by removing fossil fuels from their everyday lives as they continued to receive dividends. The Carbon Tax Center estimates two-thirds of households would break even or come out ahead with their dividends.

The tax would signal to businesses that if their products or services were carbon-intensive, they should be removing fossil fuels from the equation in order to lower costs. They would substitute alternative forms of energy or materials in their business model because surely their competitors would do the same to gain the competitive edge. Investment money would shift from fossil fuels to clean, renewable forms of energy, lowering the cost of clean energy to consumers. A study by Mark Jacobson of Stanford University found that we can power the world with 100 percent clean, renewable energy in as little as 20 years, using technology available in 2009. We just need smart public policy to get us there. The barriers are political, not technological. We should be taxing carbon instead of letting carbon tax our future.

Jon Clark is Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator for Citizens Climate Lobby and a Sierra Club member

now where do we go?

by Mike Sanni

Sitting on the shore of Long Pine Reservoir, I wonder where we will all go next spring to enjoy this. The quiet is overwhelmingly peaceful except for the rhythmic splash of water on the rock next to me and the breeze puffing in my ears. My eyes scan the incredibly beautiful scene; a 186-acre expanse of crystal water sparkling in the sun, caressed by the green rolling Appalachian mountains of south-central Pennsylvania. There is no marina, concession stands, or beach. Aside from a small wooden deck and gravel parking lot, this is totally unmarred beauty and we are lucky to have it.

About a mile away, at the far end of the reservoir sits the stately 1800 foot, tree-covered mountain called, "Rocky Knob."

It watches over this very special place. An Osprey hovers to my left in the distance, then drops quickly and makes its target in the water. An important part of the cycle of life is satisfied once again in silence. It is replayed here countless times in many forms and by many creatures that rely on this reservoir including deer, beavers, foxes, and a great variety of ducks and geese, along with raptors including Bald Eagles.

The Green Construction Company of Des Moines, Iowa cleared, then flooded this V-shaped bowl in 1970 by damming the Long Pine Run and Birch Run streams at a cost of about \$3 million. Since then it has been the primary source of drinking water for the nearby town of Chambersburg.

No less importantly, it has also provided human refuge from the asphalt, noise and stress with which we have relentlessly inundated ourselves. For more than 40 years, its peaceful shores have quietly welcomed family outings, fishermen, hikers, kayakers, canoeists, and the anonymous who have lost loved ones or sometimes even love. Its waters can revitalize a body in the same way its surroundings can renew minds and emotions.

But sadly, this beauty and comforting solitude is threatened by the very officials we trusted to defend it. It's no secret that we are fast losing these special places and their unique magnificence to self-centered and political interests. There aren't many left and the special qualities that have graced Long Pine Reservoir will soon be gone as well - unnecessarily.



This coming spring, The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will begin construction of a likely permanent version of the target range (to replace one that had been closed) within 1500 feet of this extraordinarily beautiful and environmentally sensitive reservoir. Additionally, there is a long list of very low-cost, well-managed shooting ranges in the area - indoor and outdoor - to satisfy anyone who wants to site their scopes before hunting season or practice their shooting skills without disturbing others.

I would encourage those, who are serious about our environment and natural resources, to write or call to express your objection and disapproval for placing an unnecessary target range near this sensitive and beautiful gem called, Long Pine Reservoir. Contacts are listed below:

- District One Forester, Roy Brubaker:
robrubaker@pa.gov (or) 717-352-4859
- State Forester, Daniel Devlin:
ddevlin@state.pa.us (or) 717-787-2703
- Acting DCNR Secretary, Ellen Ferretti:
eferretti@pa.gov (or) 717-772-9084

*Mike Sanni,
former NASA Artist and former DCNR Volunteer*

two wyona coleman scholarships awarded

This year's scholarships were awarded to two freshmen as they begin their college careers. Tariah Burton of Harrisburg is beginning her studies at Shippensburg University and Stephen O'Hanlon of Downingtown is attending Swarthmore College.

Burton attended Sci-Tech High school in Harrisburg, where she excelled in math. She is interested in exploring ways to expand the use renewable energy, which will help reduce pollution and carbon emissions.

O'Hanlon is a graduate of University Scholars Program in West Chester, where he earned the nickname of Kermit the Frog, because of his work at local parks. He hopes to forge a career which will encompass environmental science, economics and public policy. He is already a member of the Sierra Club.

The scholarship fund was established in 2006 by contributions made to the Sierra Club in memory of Wyona Coleman, who died in December 2005. Coleman was a long-time environmental activist, who worked for many years on issues related to surface and deep coal mining, and was instrumental in the passage of state and federal laws dealing with reclamation, mine subsidence and water replacement. She worked as a journalist, a newspaper editor, raised three children along with our co-editor, Phil Coleman, and was for many years a librarian at the public library near her home in West Brownsville, Pennsylvania.

The scholarship is given to Pennsylvania students that are majoring in an environmental related field, who demonstrate service to the community, a dedication to protecting the environment, and financial need. Each scholarship is \$1,000.



Tariah Burton



Steven O'Hanlon

pennsylvania college recognized as second most green school



This year Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, has won kudos from the Sierra Magazine, as the 2nd most green college in the country. For the last seven years, the publication has been ranking colleges and universities as "Cool Schools."

Since 2008, Dickinson has bought enough wind power to offset all of its electrical needs. And since 2006, students have been collecting grease from local restaurants and turning it into biodiesel for the Carlisle campus's vehicle fleet. Further, the cafeterias are serving student-grown produce from its certified organic college farm. The irrigation pump on the farm is powered by solar panels and construction crews are building to LEED Gold standards. In addition, in the past four years the use of paper has decreased by 60 percent.

If all goes according to plan, the school will achieve zero net emissions by 2020.

huplits wildlife grants awarded to four pennsylvania projects

by Christopher Seymour, Chairperson, Huplits Wildlife Grants Committee

Each year a gift from the Huplits Trust is distributed by the Allegheny Group, Sierra Club, to award worthy grant applicants with projects to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat in Pennsylvania. This year the Huplits Wildlife Grants Committee awarded three grants totaling \$50,000.

#13-1. Allegheny Defense Project (ADP)

To defend the settlement agreement reached between Sierra Club, ADP, Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics and the U.S. Forest Service to conduct environmental reviews pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act before authorizing surface access for private oil and gas drilling projects in the Allegheny National Forest. The Huplits award will also help ADP fund the Pennsylvania Forest and River Action Project to protect public land in conjunction with efforts by Sierra Club groups. ADP is awarded \$30,000.

#13-2. Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) - Land Acquisition in Pine Creek Watershed

To support the acquisition and conservation of the 150 acre Pittsburgh Cut Flower (PCF) property located in the Pine Creek

Watershed in Allegheny County. ALT envisions a conservation area where sensitive habitats are protected and improved. Primary objectives include maintaining biodiversity, protecting water quality, preserving greenways and community engagement in land conservation. Huplits previously supported ALT in 2009 for the North Park Greenway land acquisition that has become the Irwin Run Conservation Area adjacent to North Park in Pine Township. ALT is awarded \$9,600.

#13-3. Center for Coalfield Justice (CCJ)

To fund a biological survey of Little Mingo Creek in Washington County, an area under serious threat due to a newly proposed deep underground coal mine operation. Huplits previously supported CCJ with an award in 2011 for the Wheeling Creek Watershed Monitoring Program to establish baseline data on the aquatic wildlife habitat and water resources threatened by coal mining activities. CCJ is awarded \$10,400.

the sierra club has endorsed kathy dahlkemper for erie county executive

Kathy Dahlkemper, a Democrat, was previously endorsed by the Club when she was elected to serve in Congress representing PA District 3 from 2009-2010. She earned an 86-percent rating on the 2009 scorecard, which is compiled by the League of Conservation Voters.

Based on the answers to the group's questionnaire and the dialogue with interviewers, Dahlkemper continues to be strongly pro-environment. As County Executive she will have the opportunity to review and update a 10-year-old Comprehensive Erie County Land Use Plan.

Dahlkemper supports increasing electric power generation from renewables and decreasing the use of energy through efficiencies, such as improving energy efficiency in our buildings. She also plans to "encourage less use of automobiles and increased use of public transportation, bicycle riding and walking."

By endorsing Dahlkemper, the Sierra Club will help elect someone who would support pro-environment initiatives in Erie County.

If you live in Erie County, please support Kathy Dahlkemper -- both financially and when you vote on Nov. 5. To get involved in her election campaign call: 814-520-5073 or go to her website (<http://kathydahlkemperforcountyexecutive.com/>). Be sure to identify yourself as a Sierra Club member.



[explore enjoy pennsylvania]

state forest road tour

by Gary Thornbloom

Fall in the woods, in Pennsylvania. The varied species of hardwood trees and the varied topography of the land provide a month or more of color.

Timing for peak color may vary. There are the constants of shorter daylight hours, leaf chemistry, and tree species, as well as the variables of rainfall and temperature.

Explore the varied landscape on the rural roads that thread their way throughout northern Pennsylvania and our State Forests. Dick Martin, Pennsylvania Forest Coalition, created a Road Tour, through the Loyalsock State Forest, through a beautiful forest that is a threatened forest.

You can find detailed directions and a map here: <http://tinyurl.com/oovm2op>

Traveling north from Williamsport on PA87 you are following Loyalsock Creek. As the mountains close in you will begin seeing State Forest land, and after crossing Loyalsock Creek you soon enter the State Forest. Paved roads give way to gravel as you make your way to the first stop on the Road Tour – mile 23.5 on the Old Loggers Path (OLP).

A short hike into the woods takes you into an area that will be home to a compressor station: a 500' by 500' fenced and lighted area that will be running, very noisily, 24/7. A 14.8 million gallon water impoundment and two natural gas well pads will be nearby. Savor the fall woods, the hemlocks in these wetlands, and imagine the change.

On your way to the next stop you may opt to add a trip to Sharp Top Vista. The John Merrell Road takes you to Sharp Top Vista, as will a 2.5 mile hike (5 miles round trip) approached from mile 21.52 of the Old Loggers Path (where OLP crosses Cascade Road). This will put you out in the forest with the colorful leaves, as well as the colorful flagging used for planning the industrialization of the forest.

The vista is a great view that includes forested mountains, as well as natural gas infrastructure.

Second stop on the Road Tour is Rock Run. Because the bridge in Masten, a ghost town, is out, the route to Rock Run will be circuitous, but scenic. The route winds through a rolling landscape, some of which is in the State Forest, and will take you into the Lycoming Creek watershed.

Rock Run is a stunningly beautiful stream. The stream includes waterfalls, rock chutes, and some great swimming and fishing holes. The stream cuts deeply into the rock, with sheer rock walls enclosing it. Rock Run is enchanting. There are several points where it is accessible from the road, and if you have packed a picnic lunch, here is where to enjoy it.

While natural gas drilling is unlikely along Rock Run, Anadarko Petroleum Company would like to drill in the headwaters of streams that feed Rock Run. So while you enjoy Rock Run, look at the maps and imagine the infrastructure of an industrialized State Forest.

Bodine Mountain is the destination for the third stop of the tour. As you climb the State Forest road, through your State Forest, enjoy the forest, the fall, and the leaves. Note how wide the gravel road is, the three security check points you will have to stop at, and then the clear cut gas line swath that parallels the road. You are encountering an industrialized State

Forest. This part of the tour also includes a pig launcher, used to clean the pipes; recently fracked well pads (part of your State Forest that is now off limits); another possible compressor pad site; a 14.8 million gallon reservoir for fracking water; large water pipes along the berm.

As you drive through the industrialized forest in this final section on the Road Tour, compare it to the still industrial free areas of the forest that you visited earlier in the day.

We need to take “Explore, Enjoy, and Protect” seriously.

Dick Martin, orange hardhat on backwards, tries to charm the security person with M&M's. This check point is in our state forest on a public road and on public land!



[poem]

Darkling

Balmy children, smooth and brown,
Palm soft in dappled sun.
Nuts plunk with hollow sound.
Burgeoning warm water melon.

Fecund hanging heavy limbs.
Balmy aromatic days
Invite the bees. Summer swims
In satisfied displays.

Sunset grays and lavender
fade slowly in the sky.
Yellow birches shiver. Bare
branches shake the day.

Peering in the evening glow
Leaves us wanting fire
And ice. The last halo
Confined to cold desire.

Distended swollen eyes
stare the frigid night.
Dark brows. Knobby knees.
Hollow veins. Souging troubled sighs.

The crack of frosted dawn,
Orchard's hapless East,
Trees in lacy gowns:
Day and night won't last.

Heat won't do. Deck the halls.
Adorn an old objection.
Apple holds its ruddy balls.
But bitter cold will crack them.

Ornel Hubbard,

Toward the Moon, Pelican Press, 2002

[chapter elections]

Each fall the members of the Pennsylvania Chapter elect three At-Large Delegates to represent them at the Chapter Executive Committee (Ex Com) meetings.

The Pennsylvania Chapter is comprised of ten groups, each of which elects their own delegates to represent their interests on the Chapter Ex Com: three delegates from the Southeastern Group, two from the Allegheny Group, and one from each of the other eight groups. Additionally, there are six At-Large Delegates that are elected by the entire general membership to serve two-year terms.

The candidates listed below are running for the three At-Large Member positions on the Chapter Executive Committee for terms running from January 2014 to January 2016.

The delegates you elect will help the Chapter determine which candidates to endorse in elections, which environmental issues the Chapter will pursue, how staff time and financial resources are used, and other critical issues.

Vote to ensure that the Ex Com reflects your choice. Ballots (on facing page), including address label (on back page), must be received on or before December 16, 2013. The order of the candidate statements and the names were determined by a drawing of lots.

at-large delegate statements

Wendi Taylor

Governor Pinchot Group

At no time in our history has Pennsylvania needed the Sierra Club more! I believe that the Club is an important advocate for clean energy and conservation that can reduce the effects of global warming and the disruption it creates. In this political climate, we need to hold the line against forces that want to scale back our hard-fought victories.

For the past four years I have been privileged to serve as your at-large delegate and ask you to return me to that position. I am currently the Chapter's chair, co-editor of the Chapter's newsletter, *The Sylvanian*, and active in the Beyond Coal Campaign and the Social Media Committee. I am on the Pennsylvania Environmental Lobby (SPEL) Committee and, in the past, have served as treasurer of both the Chapter and the Political Action Fund.

As your at-large delegate and chapter chair I am working to build better relationships between the chapter and the groups. I am meeting with our members, one-on-one, to encourage greater participation in the work of the club. Most recently I have focused on connecting with young people, which will help us grow and add diversity to the club.

Arthur Clark

Governor Pinchot Group

I currently serve as the chapter's Oil & Gas Committee Co-Chair, Interim Public Lands Co-Chair, and formerly served on the Club's national Beyond Natural Gas Campaign Team. Fracking continues to pose a dire, imminent threat to our ground water and surface waters. While there is fracking across the nation, Pennsylvania is the Ground Zero for this dangerous, foolhardy industry.

Natural gas's carbon footprint renders it a major threat in our climate crisis, not a "bridge fuel." Massive, distributed renewable power production, especially solar, is the best option. The cost of solar energy production is dropping faster than any other form of power, clean or dirty. The Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is no friend of renewables, very recently stated "Solar is growing so fast it is going to overtake everything."

The Sierra Club must seize on this opportunity and work to dramatically hasten the arrival of solar energy that costs less than coal or gas. The next several years will hold extraordinary opportunities to turn the tables on the fossil fuel industries. I kindly ask for your vote in this election, so that I can help ensure that Sierra Club leads the way.

Thomas Y. Au

Governor Pinchot Group

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 30 years. Hiking, biking, and getting outdoors helps me appreciate the need to protect our natural heritage. As conservation chair of the Pennsylvania chapter and of the Governor Pinchot Group, I am a believer that strong advocacy makes a difference. I work closely with chapter's climate change, water issues, air quality, coal, energy, public lands, and oil and gas chairs. We have sponsored conferences, prepared training, submitted comments, delivered testimony, and participated in face-to-face meetings with legislators. I have testified on behalf of Sierra Club on Marcellus gas issues and endangered species legislation. I seek to involve all members of the chapter in these activities. Sierra Club's message is easy to understand, and should be communicated broadly to the public officials and the media.

I have served as an environmental attorney in state government 28 years before retiring in 2004 and becoming an active volunteer in the Sierra Club. I do almost everything. From stuffing envelopes to picking up trash from the Susquehanna River, all volunteer work is valuable to the environment.

[pennsylvania chapter sierra club 2014 excom at-large delegate election ballot]

Vote for no more than three (3) candidates. The second set of boxes is for the second Sierra Club member of a joint membership only. The blank line is for write-in candidates.

WENDI TAYLOR	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> J
ARTHUR CLARK	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> J
THOMAS Y. AU	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> J
<hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> J
<hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> J

Your ballot must be received by **December 16, 2013**. Your mailing label which appears on the reverse side of this page is used for validation. The label must be legible, including the indication S/SNGL or J/JNT. No facsimiles.

Please mail your completed ballot to:

Sierra Club PA Chapter
Election Committee
attn.: Roy Fontaine
503 Wilson Street
Williamsport, PA 17701-3521

answers to crossword puzzle

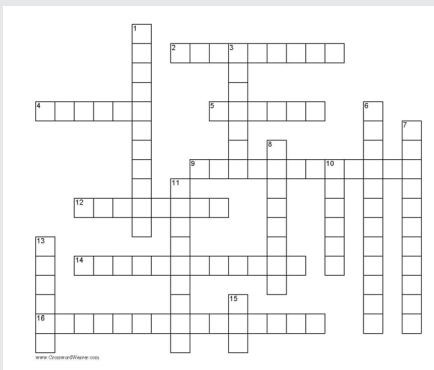
(from page 24)

Across

- 2. LOYALSOCK
- 4. VOTERS
- 5. QUEBEC
- 9. CONSERVATION
- 12. WILDLIFE
- 14. YOUGHIOGHENY
- 16. STEPHEN O'HANLON

Down

- 1. JEFF SCHMIDT
- 3. AUDUBON
- 6. TARIA BURTON
- 7. DANIEL BOONE
- 8. KEYSTONE
- 10. ACTION
- 11. DICKINSON
- 13. FOREST
- 15. TAX



DO YOU
HAVE
SOME-
THING
ON YOUR
MIND?

Consider this your invitation to say it on our blog. Yes, the Sierra Club Chapter has a blog that allows our members to share their thoughts, ideas and peevs with the rest of us on Sierra Keystone Conversations.

THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE.

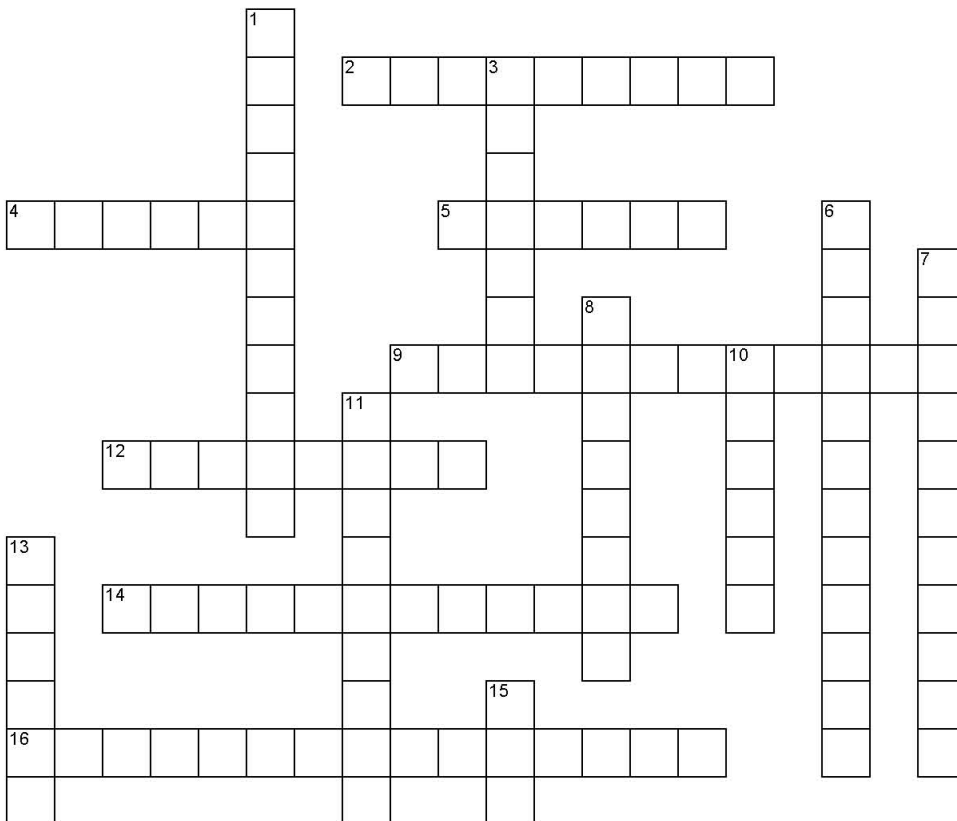
Submit your blog to: taylorwj@comcast.net.

Or, of course, you can just be a regular reader. Find it at: <http://sierraclubpa.blogspot.com/>



explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

[fall crossword]



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Across

- 2 Road Tour Forest
- 4 League of Women _____
- 5 _____ Run Wild Area
- 9 Tom Au, _____ Chair
- 12 Huplits _____ Grants
- 14 _____ Riverkeepers
- 16 Coleman Scholarship Winner

Down

- 1 Retiring Leader
- 2 Bird Painter
- 6 Coleman Scholarship Winner
- 8 _____ Trails Association
- 10 Clean Water _____
- 11 Green College
- 13 Allegheny National _____
- 15 Carbon

answers on page 23