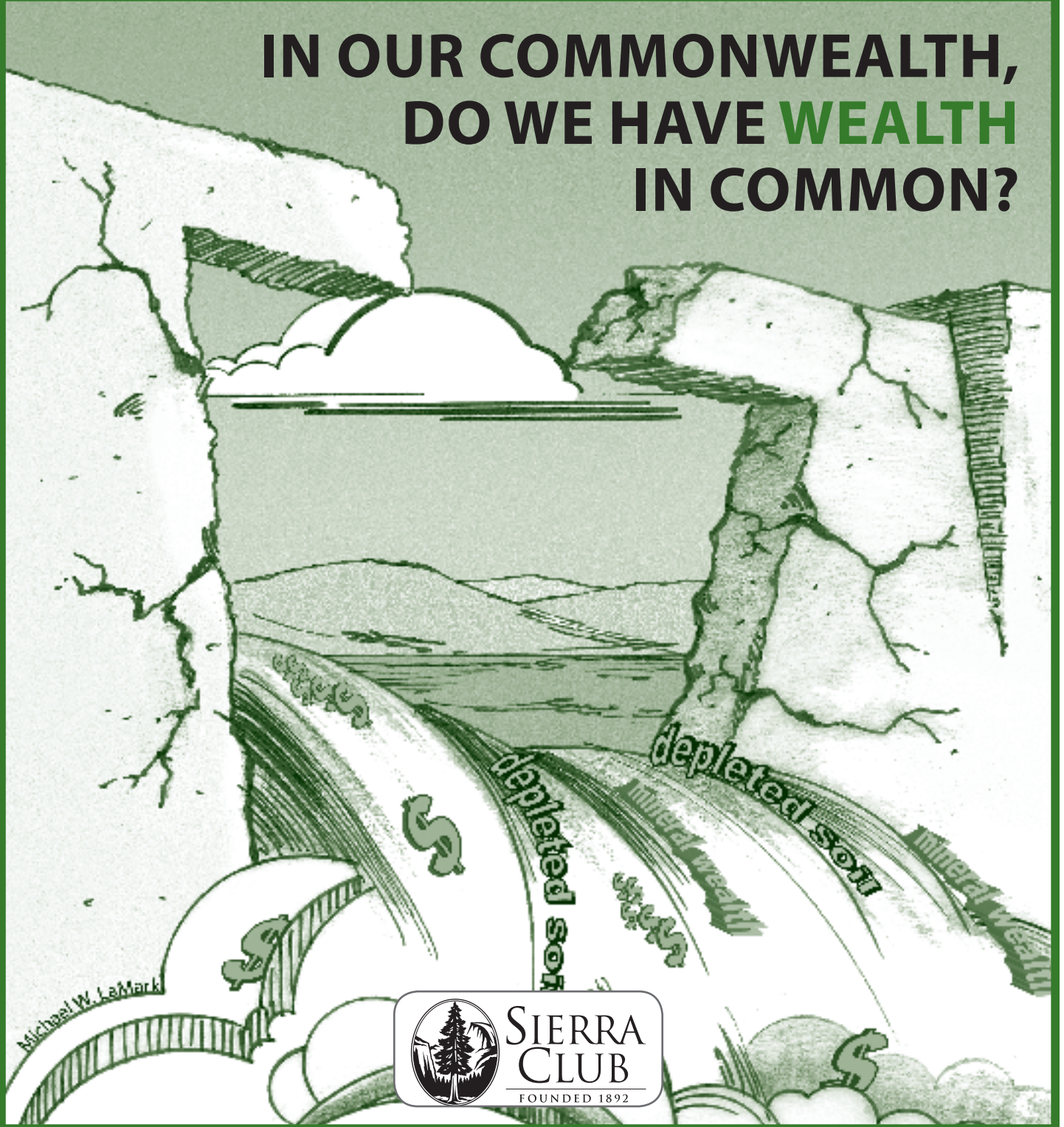


THE SYLVANIAN

Spring 2013

Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club • pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

IN OUR COMMONWEALTH,
DO WE HAVE **WEALTH**
IN COMMON?



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

FROM THE EDITORS

USE YOUR POWER

The experiment is over! For several years now we have only been printing one edition of *The Sylvania* a year, with the other three editions as electronic versions only. Our readership dropped to a paltry one-tenth of our membership – if that.

Since the whole point of having a newsletter is to reach our members, the Executive Committee in January voted to restore *The Sylvania* to a printed publication. To be prudent, we will limit the size to 24 pages. From time to time, we may refer you to our Web site for more information. The Chapter is working to keep our Web site fresher, timely and more interesting. We are even starting a weekly blog. Then on YouTube!

Why are we doing this? The Sierra Club needs to find new ways to do old things. Old things like recruiting new members, educating the public and energizing our members to step up and volunteer. Some of the Club leaders have been leading the way for decades. Even the most fit hikers have to stop and rest along the trail sometimes.

If you have time to give, don't wait for someone to call and ask you to help. Pitch in! Call the group chair in your area and volunteer. The map of group boundaries is listed on page 19 and the group chairs are listed on page 22. I can assure you that you will be warmly received.

In case you have not noticed, the Pennsylvania Sierra Club is currently in hostile territory. To succeed we are going to have to amass many volunteers and get ready to mount an offensive.



Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

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



Find us on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/PASierraClub>



Follow us on Twitter:
[@SierraClubPA](https://twitter.com/SierraClubPA)

Read our Blog:
<http://sierraclubpa.blogspot.com/>

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OFFICE
Phone: 717-232-0101
Email:
pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org
Website:
www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

Sylvanian Editors: Wendi Taylor
Phil Coleman
Feature Writer: Gary Thornbloom
Design: Sydney Willis
Strategy Design Studio

The Sylvanian, © 2012 Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter.
Issued four times per year.

This publication is dedicated to serving the Sierra Club Pennsylvania membership, and is a forum for internal policy discussion and debate among those truly concerned with protecting the environment. Opinions expressed herein are the personal opinions of their authors and may or may not reflect Sierra Club policy.

Contributor deadlines are June 15 (Summer issue), September 15 (Fall issue), December 15 (Winter issue), March 15 (Spring 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.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOY INKS

THE SYLVANIAN

COMMON WEALTH?

SPECIAL REPORT

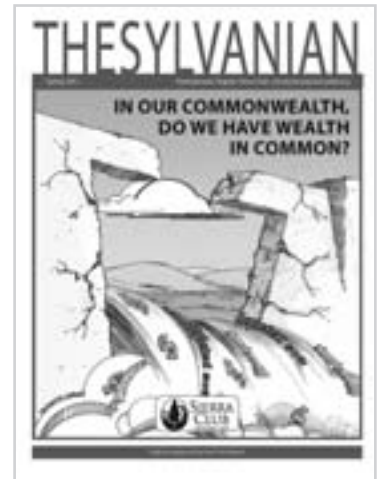
- 9 Introduction
- 10 Do We Have Wealth in Common
- 11 A Fracking Shame
- 13 A Farmer's Tale

LANDMARKS

- 2 From the Editors
- 4 View From Harrisburg
- 16 Explore, Enjoy... Pennsylvania
- 17 Coleman's Lantern
- 22 Chapter Directory
- 24 Crossword

NEWS & OUTINGS

- 6 We Were There
- 8 Power Shift 2013
- 8 Wyona Coleman Scholarship
- 15 Book Review: The Future
- 18 Huplits Wildlife Grant Competition
- 19 Meetings and Outings



ON THE COVER

When you build a stone arch, the keystone holds it together. Michael LaMark takes a fanciful look at a keystone state that has lost it keystone. Our common wealth is lost to industrial exploitation. What is left when our mineral wealth has been exported? If mineral wealth is our keystone, what will hold us together when it is gone?

To send photos by email:
taylorwj@comcast.net or
pcoleman19@tampabay.rr.com

To mail photos: *Sylvanian*, Sierra Club
- PA Chapter, PO Box 606, Harrisburg,
PA 17108

Next Deadline: June 15

Send articles & photographs
to: taylorwj@comcast.net or
pcoleman19@tampabay.rr.com

THE VIEW FROM HARRISBURG

By Jeff Schmidt, Chapter Director

DEP SECRETARY KRANCER ABRUPTLY RESIGNS TO RETURN TO WORK FOR ENERGY INDUSTRY LAW FIRM

On Friday, March 22, Governor Corbett announced the resignation of his controversial Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Mike Krancer, effective April 15. Krancer has told reporters he wants to spend more time with his family. However, he will be returning to a lucrative job with a powerful Philadelphia law firm Blank Rome, as head of its Energy, Petrochemical and Natural Resources practice. Prior to Krancer's appointment as DEP Secretary by Corbett, Krancer had worked for Blank Rome in the 90's, and later for the energy firm Exelon, the country's largest nuclear utility. Blank Rome has reported giving Governor Corbett and his wife in excess of \$15,000 in personal gifts.

KRANCER'S CONTROVERSIAL LEGACY

Mike Krancer was Governor Corbett's enthusiastic cheerleader for promoting gas drilling in Pennsylvania, streamlining permitting and minimizing regulatory requirements. He also expressed skepticism about the human causes of climate change, while always claiming that DEP's decisions were based on "sound science." At the same time, he ignored scientific data that failed to support Corbett policy goals. It became more and more apparent that DEP's policy decisions were being made in Governor Corbett's office, and Secretary Krancer made sure those decisions were implemented. Many veteran Capitol-watchers consider the real decision-maker on energy issues to be Pat Henderson, Corbett's hand-picked Energy Executive.

Henderson for many years served as the Director of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee when Senator Mary Jo White was its committee chair. White, like Krancer, has a disdain for environmental organizations.

Krancer had a stormy relationship with many environmental organizations and elected officials with whom he disagreed over policy issues. Krancer was responsible for eliminating the ability of local DEP professional field inspectors to write up industry environmental notices of violations. Instead, Krancer required the professional inspectors to submit their planned violation notices to the DEP central office, where political appointees would decide if a violation

would be placed in the public record. Later, Krancer established a similar policy related to letters of determination for pollution incidents. As a result of this change, the technical field inspectors were prohibited from informing people who suffered water contamination whether their pollution was coming from natural gas drilling operations. The new policy requires the professional inspectors to submit their recommendations to the DEP central office, where – once again -- political appointees could decide what information would go into the determination letter, including whether a gas drilling company was "determined" to have caused the pollution. During the Rendell administration, it was such letters of determination that gave the pollution victims in Dimock (Susquehanna County) proof that Cabot Oil and Gas Company caused the methane contamination that ruined their drinking water wells.

WATER TEST POLLUTION RESULTS WITHHELD

It was also during Krancer's tenure at DEP that the public learned that DEP had a policy that limited the information provided to homeowners about what chemicals were found in her drinking water. During a legal proceeding, a DEP lab technician acknowledged that, when a homeowner suspected gas drilling contamination in their drinking water, DEP's lab test results on their water were not fully disclosed. Instead, DEP's policy was to withhold the results of a number of contaminants detected, and only to provide partial information, along with the letter of determination as to whether gas drilling caused the pollution. We have heard reports from families who received determination letters denying that gas drilling was the cause, with only the partial test results provided. None of these families were informed that some test results were being withheld.

Sierra Club and other groups in our Campaign for Clean Water (CCW) coalition have called on Governor Corbett and Secretary Krancer to change the policy and start providing full disclosure of the test results for all pollutants. Krancer initially offered to set up a meeting between environmental organizations and his lab technicians, so we could better understand their testing and reporting procedures. We prepared and submitted an extensive list of questions we would want answered during the January 25 meeting. However, Krancer abruptly cancelled the meeting on January 23. The CCW coalition has worked for several months to get the meeting rescheduled, or at least to

JOAN WILSON



get written answers to the questions, with no success. Our coalition recently lobbied key House and Senate members to apply their pressure on Krancer to answer the questions. Several days later, Krancer's resignation was announced.

ACTING DEP SECRETARY IS PART-TIMER

In keeping with the Governor's office directing the operations of DEP, Corbett appointed his own Deputy Chief of Staff Christopher Abruzzo to serve as Acting DEP Secretary until a permanent replacement can be nominated. Abruzzo has no environmental management experience, having been brought from the Attorney General's Office (AG) by Corbett when Corbett resigned as AG to become governor. Corbett's decision to have Abruzzo remain as a Deputy Chief of Staff to the Governor, at the same time he is serving as Acting DEP Secretary means Abruzzo's DEP role is part-time. Some see symbolism in this decision: the Governor's office is now officially running DEP, no longer behind the scenes.

SIERRA CLUB REACTION

Several hours after Krancer's resignation was made public, the PA Chapter put out the following response, which got picked up in a number of media outlets:

"We hope that Secretary Krancer's departure clears the way for a DEP leader who is committed to protecting public health of Pennsylvania's families and safe guarding our air, water and climate. We need a leader who will work with communities concerned with their health and environment and is willing to share important information with the public. Governor Corbett now has an opportunity to appoint a qualified and appropriate leader who understands the risk of climate disruption and will protect the air our kids breathe and the water our families drink. We hope he will choose wisely."



COME ALL MEMBERS!

You're Invited!

Please join us for our: "Star Gazing" Awards Dinner and Fundraiser

Saturday, May 4th, 6 to 9p.m.

At the Bongiorno Conference and Retreat Center
430 Union Hall Road, Carlisle, PA

Come to meet with other club members and enjoy fun, food, and celebration while we recognize our "star" volunteers who have spent their time and efforts supporting conservation with the Pennsylvania Sierra Club. We'll enjoy a delicious buffet dinner and a silent auction fundraiser.

RSVP no later than April 24 to:
Pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org or by mail
Cost: Just \$15 per person will reserve your space!

Send checks to:

Sierra Club PA Chapter
P.O. Box 606
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Please include a sheet with your name, address, and number of people who are attending along with your phone number and email address.

Special Training Deal!

On Sunday, May 5, the Chapter will hold a training session on climate change, including using social media to help reach and organize our volunteers. If you come to the dinner, spend the night and attend the training, the Sierra Club will reimburse you for the cost of your lodging and travel at 25-cents a mile. For more information about using this option, please contact: Pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org

WE WERE THERE

by Wendi Taylor

Thousands of Pennsylvania Sierra Club members heeded the call from national director Michael Brune to rally at the nation's Capital on February 17. We came by plane, bus, train, car, bike, on foot and by the Washington, D.C. Metro system.

From the moment I reached the Shady Grove Metro station, there was energy in the air. Young people traveling in groups were eager to know if we were going to the rally, too? Yes, and with every stop more people bound for the rally joined us. As we approached the gathering place near the

Washington Monument, the crowd took on a spirit of its own, a combination of the jubilation of Mardi Gras and the passion of revival meeting. We were all there to add our bodies as punctuation to the demand to kill the proposed Keystone Pipeline.

Most people were buoyed by the sight that so many had come out – how many people were hard to know! Some said 35,000 while others

ANOTHER GROUP, WHOSE MEMBERS HAD SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY, SANG SONGS WHOSE LYRICS TOLD THE STORY OF THEIR PLIGHT.

said 45,000 or 50,000 people. Some folks were more ardent than others; some were more prepared than others. One group brought a giant drum that rolled on wheels, which kept a steady beat as we marched to the White House and surrounded several square blocks. Another group, whose members had suffered at the hands of the oil and gas industry, sang songs whose lyrics told the story of their plight. Some people came in costume and others in business suits. There were babies and children, college students and some folks walking with the aid of canes.

And Mother Nature did her part.

She demonstrated the power of both sun and wind. The crowd was warmed by the sun on one street and around the corner, the wind grabbed our signs and carried them down the street.

While the demonstration was peaceful, it was not quiet. We chanted: “Obama, come out! We have some sh_t to talk about.” Another was: “Obama, Obama, we don’t need this climate drama.”

Our demands were aimed at the president because he has the authority to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline... or to order his Secretary of State, John Kerry, to do it. The rally was staged to steel the spine of President Obama to reject the hype over the pipeline and the jobs it would create.

There were several Native Canadian speakers, the Indigenous people whose land would either be taken or ruined by the tar sands drilling. They spoke kindly and respectfully about President Obama. They saw him as a savior and as I stood listening, I hoped that their faith in our president was justified.

On display were a number of signs, succinct messages that used common phrases to make their point: “There is no planet B” and “I’ve been to the mountaintop...and it was gone.” and “Earth from space: Too big to fail.”

The rally was sponsored by the Sierra Club and 350.org and other groups, who hope that President Obama meant it when he said in his inaugural speech that we will address climate change. As one speaker put it, “Mr. President, we have your back if you have ours.”



MORE TO DO

The rally is over but there is more to do. We have to keep the pressure on! The Sierra Club has put its name on the line and we have to back up our demands now. Here are three simple things we all can do.

ONE

Write a letter to President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry and tell them they should reject the Keystone XL Pipeline. Emails won't do it this time. All you need are three handwritten sentences on a piece of paper, signed with your name and address.

If you were at the rally, tell President Obama that you came to see him but he was not there so you decided to follow up with a note.

If you weren't at the rally, tell President Obama that you could not be at the rally so you want him to know that you want him to reject the Keystone Pipeline.

If you worked on the President's re-election campaign, tell him. If you voted for him, tell him. Likewise, if you worked on John Kerry's campaign for the presidency, tell him. Let them know that you supported them and now you want them to support us!

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary of State John Kerry
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520



TWO

On April 22, call the President and/or the Secretary of State. Tell them you are a member of the Sierra Club and you want them to reject the Keystone XL Pipeline.

President Barack Obama - 202-456-1414

Secretary of State John Kerry - 202-647-4000

THREE

On Earth Day, when folks gather to celebrate the life-sustaining bounty from the earth, circulate a petition calling for President Obama to reject the Keystone Pipeline. At the end of the day, mail the petitions to the President. (The address is above.)

PETITION TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

*We, the undersigned,
in honor of Earth Day,
urge you to reject the
Keystone XL Pipeline.*

Name, Address, Date

PITTSBURGH WILL HOST THE SIERRA STUDENT COALITION AND POWER SHIFT 2013

By Quentin James, National Director of Sierra Student Coalition

On October 18, over 10,000 of students will gather in Pittsburgh for four-days to produce the largest and most powerful convergence in the history of the youth climate movement, Power Shift 2013.

In the past year, the movement has made incredible progress fighting Keystone XL, shutting down the coal industry, scaling up renewables, and building a movement to see this work through.

Power Shift 2013 is an opportunity for students – high school and college -- to come together and shift our country ENTIRELY AWAY from fossil fuels and TOWARD local clean energy solutions.

For the first time ever Power Shift is being hosted outside of Washington, DC. Organizers are taking it to Pittsburgh, a city at the crossroads of the fight for a clean and just energy future — at the center of building the green economy, yet also directly in the crosshairs of the fracking industry.

The Sierra Student Coalition seeks to train, empower, and organize youth to run effective campaigns that result in tangible environmental victories and that develop leaders for the environmental movement.

The PA Sierra Club is exploring ways that the chapter and groups can plug into Power Shift 2013, which could provide the energy and enthusiasm that we all need to keep the Club vibrant and growing!

So if you know students or are a student, check out Power Shift 2013!

Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/SSC2013PS>



CHAPTER ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR WYONA COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP



It's Spring! That means it's time to apply for the Wyona Coleman Scholarship. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club awards one or two \$1,000 scholarships each year in honor of Wyona Coleman.

The scholarship is open to all Pennsylvania residents who are seniors in high school, as well as those already accepted or enrolled in college.

The Wyona Coleman Scholarship Fund is a memorial to Sierra Club member Wyona Coleman, who was a founding member of both her local group and the Pennsylvania Chapter. Coleman was a longtime champion of coalfield residents victimized by unregulated strip mining, and was so instrumental in advocating for the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, that she was invited to the White House to witness President Jimmy Carter sign the bill into law.

Applications must include a letter of application, the student's academic record, two letters of support -- at least one from a community group in which the applicant has done volunteer work, and a 300-word essay on how the student intends use his or her education to protect the environment. The letter of application should include some basic biographical information about the student and attest to the student's financial need. Each essay must include a heading with the applicant's name, home mailing address, email, and phone number.

Applicants will be evaluated on academic potential and financial need.

Those awarded the scholarship will be required to provide their Social Security Numbers and the name and address of the institution they will be attending.

Applications are due June 30 and should be submitted electronically to:

pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org Please place the word "Scholarship" in the subject line. The scholarships will be awarded July 15, 2013.

SPECIALREPORTARTICLES

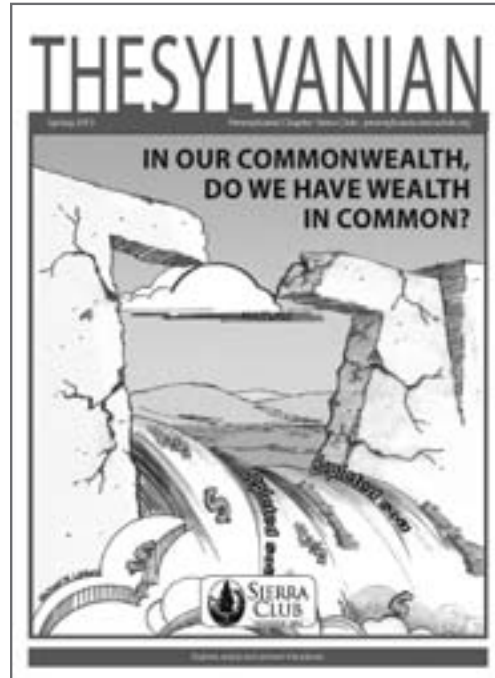
Introduction9

Do We Have Wealth in
Common 10

A Fracking Shame..... 11

A Farmer’s Tale 13

COMMON WEALTH?



WE WONDER whether the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania holds any wealth in common. We learn again and again that people who own the land don't necessarily own the wealth below the soil. The coal, oil, gas, iron, uranium, etc., often belong to someone else. Their value is rapidly being exported -- the money flowing into outsiders' pockets.

At the same time, the very soil we own is not necessarily ours. Lots of farms virtually belong to the bank. In order to practice "modern" agriculture, farmers have to borrow large sums. They live with the threat that one summer of drought might bankrupt them. Meanwhile soil erodes and flows to streams and rivers and ends up in the Chesapeake, the Atlantic or the Gulf of Mexico. Soil erodes, but pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and genetically modified seeds are injected.

Chickens and pigs are produced by factories. Again, the profits go to large companies that produce the chemicals and market the food products. In this issue, we take a glance at problems, ranging from fracking to farming, where our heritage seems to be turning from plenty to pollution, from wealth to poverty.

COMMONWEALTH?

DO WE HAVE WEALTH IN COMMON?

By Phil Coleman

Pennsylvania calls itself a “Commonwealth,” as do Massachusetts, Virginia and Kentucky, but the term means nothing in law. In fact, the terms commonwealth and state are interchangeable and frequently interchanged. When Cromwell declared England to be a commonwealth, the meaning was fairly clear as applying to government by the people and to some extent ownership of land by the people, rather than by a monarch. But none of this meaning seems ever to have applied to Pennsylvania. The 46 states and the four commonwealths make no distinctions in law based on the difference in name.

Here, I use the term in a literal sense and ask whether we hold any wealth in common. I also ask whether Pennsylvania’s wealth belongs to Pennsylvanians. There was a time when property owners owned more than mere surface rights. They owned subsurface, mineral wealth whether they knew about it or cared. To a farmer in Greene County, the fact that there was coal beneath his land meant nothing. The fact that there was gas and oil meant trouble if anything at all.

Extraction of wealth from the land has a history as long as there has been farming. When we look at barren stretches of the Middle East, we tend to think that the area was always desert. We ignore the history of timbering and farming that took nutrients from the soil and did not replace them. Colonials in New England tended to farm till the soil gave out and then move on.

Pennsylvania’s history was somewhat different because the first crop was timber, removing trees from steep and rocky erosion-prone slopes, followed closely by agriculture wherever land was level enough. Trees were floated down the Lehigh and Susquehanna and Delaware rivers to provide lumber in Philadelphia. The pattern moved west as new towns and cities developed. A century later, large

groves of hemlocks were cut down just so the bark could be used for tanning hides. In its history virtually all of Pennsylvania was cut down one to three times.

The next export crop – really for short distance export – was whiskey. Farmers needed a cash crop, and if they lived a distance from urban centers shipping crops was expensive. But whiskey could turn corn into a transportable cash crop. In fact, George Washington, who led the troops against the Whiskey rebellion, began distilling whiskey as soon as his presidential term was over.

Pennsylvania’s soils were not – and are not – as rich and productive as those of Midwestern states. But what Pennsylvania lacked in agricultural wealth, it made up for in minerals. Pennsylvania’s mineral wealth was extensive: iron, coal, oil, gas, even a bit of uranium. Add to this list timber and you have tremendous wealth.

The mineral wealth that took eons to develop is being used up in a couple of centuries. As this wealth has been exploited, the wealth has flowed out of Pennsylvania. It has flowed away from the people of Pennsylvania, who do the work, to companies owned by non-Pennsylvanians – corporations that in some cases are nominally in Pennsylvania but frequently located in corporation-friendly states such as Maryland and Delaware, with the owners and stockholders scattered around the world.

We discover two clear and seemingly inseparable problems: one, we are exporting our resources rapidly and at an accelerating rate, leaving behind a wasteland; two, poverty is not exported. Unemployment, underemployment and poverty remain.



A FRACKING SHAME

By Phil Coleman

David and Linda Headley were in their front yard talking to visitors when they heard sirens, then saw flashing lights. Five state police cars roared up in a cloud of dust. Officers poured out, guns drawn and shouted. “Put your arms up! What are you doing here?”

The Headleys were surrounded in their front yard and told that they were trespassing. They were forced to move out into the road. The officers threatened to search them. Then they finally realized that the Headleys and their neighbors, including a 15-year-old daughter, weren’t extremely dangerous.

What brought this on? The gas line company that had dug where it wasn’t supposed to had called someone who had called someone who had called the police. To this day they don’t know the chain of calls that had reported them as making terrorist threats.

A LITANY OF PROBLEMS

I heard about David and Linda Headley from Veronica Coptis, community organizer for Center for Coalfield Justice. So I called to talk with them. Their story is terrifying.

The Headleys bought a 115 acre farm in southwestern Fayette County eight years ago. Going into semi-retirement, they wanted a peaceful, rural setting. Their problems began with the purchase. The owner offered to sell them surface and coal rights but wanted double the price if he threw in the gas rights.

Not looking for big money, they declined the gas rights. That was their mistake.

Shortly after they moved in, they discovered that the owner had leased the gas rights to a subsidiary of Chevron named

Atlas America. And Atlas America came onto their land to survey. That didn’t seem so bad. But then without asking permission, Atlas brought in a drilling rig. Owning the surface, didn’t protect the Headleys from an owner of the gas intruding to get his gas. What followed were four shallow gas wells and then a deep Marcellus well. (Shallow wells are a mile deep. The Marcellus well is over five miles deep.)

Dust, mud, noise, rigs and trucks at all hours were bad enough. But then the drillers spilled fracking liquid that killed the grass. A leaking well fouled their water. David Headley called DEP. Rather than investigate, DEP called the drillers and asked them to check things out. Guess what? The company found nothing wrong.

EVEN WHERE YOU HAVE THE LAW CLEARLY ON YOUR SIDE, IT IS HARD FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST A LARGE CORPORATION WHICH HAS LOTS OF EXPENSIVE LAWYERS AT ITS BECK AND CALL. SUING IS EXPENSIVE AND CAN TAKE FOREVER.

“They’re doing whatever they want whenever they feel like it,” said David Headley when I talked to him. “It’s been one mess after another.”

The drillers dumped waste water into Georges Creek. The Headleys complained to no effect.

A pipeline company got permission to put a line across the Headley’s farm and caused more surface damage. It blocked the Headley’s lane. The Headleys complained to no effect.

A neighbor tested his drinking water and found it polluted. Headley asked DEP to check his water and was told it was fit to

drink. But Headley is sure that it is not. He is waiting for independent tests. And he is not drinking the water.

Going on four years, the Headleys have had aggravation where they were looking for peace and quiet.

GOING TO COURT?

You might ask why the Headleys don’t sue. Surely laws have been broken, and complaining hasn’t done any good. The answer is that they may. But consider the difficulties. Pennsylvania oil and gas laws were written by the industry. They favor drillers. The enforcers – DEP – work for a governor who has worked to ease the way for the drilling industry and has refused to impose an extraction fee, making Pennsylvania the favorite of the Marcellus industry. Even where you have the law clearly on your side, it is hard for an individual to take legal action against a large corporation which has lots of expensive lawyers at its beck and call. Suing is expensive and can take forever. Few attorneys will even consider such a suit where they are facing years of litigation, tens of thousands in expenses, and no sure outcome.

There aren’t a whole lot of Erin Brockoviches in the world.

DEAF EARS OR PINOCCHIO’S NOSE

Even now, the Pennsylvania Senate is considering a bill to limit drillers’ liability.

But this is just one sad story. Things aren’t really that bad, are they?

Few land owners have been treated as badly as the Headleys, but many have reported spills, polluted water, illegal dumping of fracking fluids, even flammable water and radioactive materials in their water. The Headleys problems are extreme, but not unique.

COMMONWEALTH?

When the New York Times did a story on the Headleys, the reporter did as reporters always do. He checked with the industry for comment. The slick industry spokesperson brushed aside the complaints and launched into industry speak. Gas is a transition fuel. It will give us energy independence. Marcellus offers a hundred year supply of “clean” gas. And the industry creates jobs. This spokesperson suggested that one and a half million jobs would be created.

In addition, thousands of Pennsylvanians are profiting from gas leases.

The notion that gas is a transition fuel is ephemeral. If gas replaces coal or oil in some applications, it does not move us to the renewable alternatives. It just slows transition.

The concept of energy independence includes its own fallacy. Our problem is not just that we have to import oil from foreign, sometimes unfriendly, countries. The big problem is that there is major and growing competition worldwide for a dwindling supply of oil. The United States is by far the biggest per capita user of oil (and gas). When China and India start bidding for scarce resources, we may not be the highest bidders. Gas can serve as an alternative for few of the uses of oil, and only then with major changes in infrastructure.

Besides, the concept is based on a gross, and deliberate, exaggeration of the amount of extractable Marcellus gas. The industry claims 100 years. The evidence suggests ten years. Look at the history of the Barnett shale as a warning example. Big difference. Not only is the quantity exaggerated, the cleanliness is also suspect. If you limit the comparison to air pollution caused by coal to air pollution caused by gas, then gas is cleaner. But if you include the pollution caused by all steps in the process – the tremendous amount of water used and polluted, the land destroyed, the amount of energy required to produce the gas, etc., then the difference is not so great. Besides, what if you compared the pollution of gas to wind or solar rather than coal?

The industry does create jobs. The jobs are always temporary. They usually require relocation or long commutes. And the industry can't approximate the number of jobs it claims without including the jobs indirectly created. We might note that when an industry lays off a work force, it mentions only its employees who lose their jobs, not the cooks, waitresses, store clerks and others who will soon be laid off when business declines. The jobs industry eagerly included in its one and a half million figure are not included when jobs are lost. It is no accident that the poorest counties in

Pennsylvania are the ones the coal industry exploited and left behind.

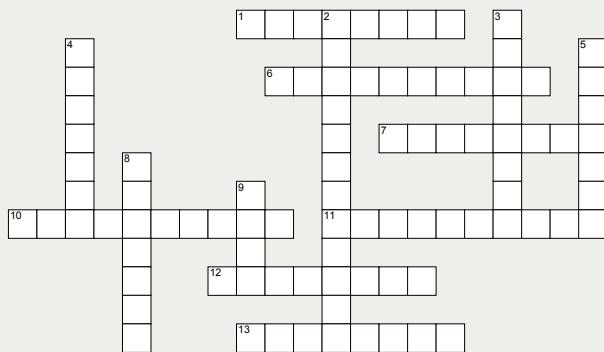
The fact is that the economic benefit is grossly exaggerated in order to gloss over and justify the pollution problems the industry creates.

PENNSYLVANIANS RICHER CASHING IN

But what about the thousands of Pennsylvanians who are making money from the gas leases they have signed? With their eyes half open, they see nothing wrong. But they might consult Genesis 25:26. They are Esau selling his birthright for a mess of pottage.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

(from page 24)



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Across

1. FRACKING
6. BOMGARTNER
7. KEYSTONE
10. WASHINGTON
11. EISENSTEIN
12. HEADLEYS
13. QUEHANNA

Down

2. COMMONWEALTH
3. CHESTNUT
4. HUPLITS
5. COLEMAN
8. WHISKEY
9. GORE



A FARMERS' TALE

By Wendi Taylor

From all appearances, John and Margaret Bomgardner are the quintessential family farmers. Their 113-acre dairy farm, located just 18 miles east of Harrisburg in Lebanon County, has been their home for 45 years.

John, who is now 68 years old, says he never considered doing anything else. He bought his farm four miles from where he was born and raised. He met Margaret in high school and she followed John to Penn State University, where he graduated with a degree in dairy science. Upon graduation, they bought the farm, some registered Holsteins and farm equipment – and also bought the debt required to get up and running. Now the farm is paid for and their equipment, while old, is theirs. They are debt-free.

Margaret and John agreed they would be hard-pressed to keep the farm these days if they still had debt. And John admits that he is not running the most modern dairy farm. He estimates it would take about \$150,000 to make his barn state-of-the-

art again. Margaret shook her head at the thought of going into debt again.

John and Margaret aren't organic farmers and they aren't factory farmers. They are somewhere in between. Every day, John and Margaret get up and spend 1 ½ hours preparing to milk their cows, 1 ¼ milking their cows, and 1 ½ hours cleaning up after milking their cows. Then, the process is repeated 12 hours later. That is 8 ½ hours a day, every day, devoted to the care, feeding and milking of their cows. Being a dairy farmer is not an easy life. In many ways, farm families are married to their cows.

The farm has 91 tillable acres on which John grows corn, hay and soybeans and 13 acres of pasture, where in the summer the cows graze during the day. When it is really hot, John keeps the cows inside during the day and lets them graze at night. John said his farm is not large enough to raise all he needs to feed his herd. However, he grows what he can.

While many farmers now hire dairy nutritionists to determine their feed rations,

John does it the old-fashioned way. He has his feed tested each year for its nutritional value and then he decides what to feed his cows. He makes adjustments based on his experience, sometimes adding vitamins or supplements. His rule of thumb is: "If it is working, don't change it," he said.

Some farmers push their cows to get maximum milk production; John doesn't. He is satisfied with his 55-pound of milk from each cow, while other farmers are getting 90 pounds a day from their cows. However, he thinks it stresses the cows, wears them out to an early death. He says that he has one of the oldest herds in the county. Domestic cows can live to 20 years; however those raised for dairy rarely live longer than four years. In order for a cow to give milk, she must have recently had a calf. A dairy cow must be bred and produce calves in order to continue giving milk. A cow's gestation period is nine months.

One thing that attracted John to farming was being his own boss. Sometimes he feels like he is working for the government because of all the regulations: regulations

COMMONWEALTH?



on manure handling, administering antibiotics, spraying pesticides and honoring set back requirements for streams. When the Bomgardners started farming, the only regulation was on the milk. John says the paperwork is “miserable” but he carefully follows all the rules. For example, if a cow is treated with antibiotics, her milk must be kept out of the milk for sale for four milkings. He usually waits six to eight milkings. That way he is sure not to have any trouble with antibiotics being passed along through the milk.

Margaret says that they recently signed up for Pennsylvania’s Clean and Green program to help save on their property taxes. She worries that participation will bring more government reporting into their lives. This program bases property taxes on use values rather than fair market values. This ordinarily results in a tax savings for landowners and protects the Commonwealth’s valuable farmland, forestland and open spaces.

Right now, John is milking 38 cows and getting about \$20 for 100 pounds of milk, or 20-cents a pound. There are 8.6 pounds in a gallon of milk. The price farmers get for milk fluctuates widely. In Pennsylvania, the price paid for milk in most of 2009 was four-cents less than the cost to produce it. “If I would have had any debt, I would have been done for,” said John, “for sure!” Many dairy farmers had to use their savings to stay in business and some were forced out of business.

The one thing that John said he learned at Penn State was how to recognize a good dairy cow, which is very important when they are the way you make a living. For years, he was a judge at fairs and shows. He selected registered Holsteins because that is what he grew up with. Further, in order for his children to show calves or cows at 4-H, the cows had to be registered.

Like most family farmers, the whole family helped with the many chores that keep a farm going. Looking back, Margaret admits they have not made much money farming but she would not trade their lives for another. Farming kept their family close. “We all worked together,” explained Margaret. No one did chores alone. “My children learned how to work. None of them work for an hour and take a break,” she said. “And any of my kids can use any equipment,” John said. They learned a healthy work ethic.

The Bomgardners said they always have a large garden and do their own butchering. Every year, they butcher two beef and nine pigs. And they usually sell between 13 -18 heifers a year for dairy.

While the family never had a family vacation, they took day trips together. Without hired help, it is not possible to be away from the farm too long because the animals need to be milked twice a day.

When they first started farming, the cows were milked by machine and dumped into milk cans, which were stored in a large cooler and picked up by a truck every day. Then the milk cans were replaced with a dumping station and then finally about 16 to 17 years ago, they installed a pipeline system. Milking machines remove the milk from the cow’s teats by suction. The milking machine transports milk through sanitized pipes to a filter and into a refrigerated milk tank

While John has all the usual farm equipment – five tractors, harvester, manure

spreader, hay binder, etc., he sometimes hires someone with big equipment to come in and bail his hay. They can do 10 -15 acres at a time. Then John uses a front-loader to store them in the barn. Margaret prefers the smaller bales that their hay binder makes because they are easier to manage. They also hire someone to make silage from their corn, which is fed to the cows.

The Bomgardners had six sons and one daughter. Their daughter married a farmer and they still live close by. Like many farming families, their daughter has a job to help make ends meet. Their sons chose other professions -- in construction, trucking and plumbing. However, they still dabble in farming from time to time, as well as some of their 19 grandchildren. Their 7-year-old granddaughter is preparing to show a calf and their 10-year old grandson is joining 4-H

About 91 percent of farms in the United States are considered “small family farms” (with sales of less than \$250,000 per year and net profits of less than \$50,000), and those farms produce 27 percent of U.S. agricultural output.

When John was asked what will happen to the farm when he is no longer there, John shook his head and said, “I really don’t know.”



BOOKREVIEW



Al Gore, *The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change*, Random House, 2013

Reviewed by Phil Coleman

Al Gore's involvement in politics in the last three decades has brought him lots of criticism as well as approval. Conservatives latched onto a careless statement about creating the internet years ago, misinterpreted it and claimed that he claimed he "invented the internet." It didn't matter that he didn't say that. His right wing critics needed ammunition to use against him. More recently those who don't want to admit that global warming is real pick selected Gore comments in order to say he overstated the case.

But Gore has always spoken in grand terms and left himself open to criticism. We will find the same kinds of criticism attempting to dismiss Gore's latest book. But this is an important, comprehensive attempt that should not be dismissed.

Gore speaks in grandiose terms. He covers a broad, inclusive swath of developing trends. Even so, he has carefully considered and researched the issues he discusses. He is mostly right, and when he isn't right, he is never completely wrong.

Gore's six drivers of global change are emergences of: 1) an interconnected global economy; 2) a planet-wide electronic communications grid; 3) a new balance of political, economic and military power; 4) rapid unsustainable growth; 5) a new set of biological, biochemical, genetic and materials science technologies; 6) a new relationship between aggregate power of human civilization and the Earth's ecological systems.

The headings don't exactly suggest what they are. For instance, number one makes the point that international business, using outsourcing and robosourcing of manufacture, tends to trump national autonomy and leave workers weak. Mega corporations can't be controlled by national laws in the

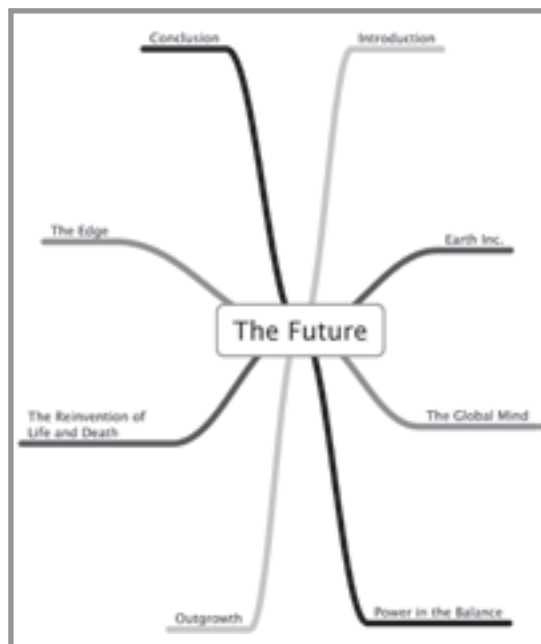
way we have thought they could. Number two is about the internet, with possibilities for good and tendencies to do bad things like nearly instantaneous trading conducted by algorithms that trump human thought. Number three focusses on the shift of economic and political power from West to East. Number four ties population growth in with the growing quest for more on the part of people in developing nations at a time when the Earth's resources cannot sustain such growth. Number

five examines the development of biotechnology, including the ability to prevent and cure diseases, but also the ability to create alternative species, manufactured hybrids in sufficient detail to convince me that I have been totally ignorant of what is going on. Number six re-examines the new relationship between power of people and limits of the Earth's resources. Our ability to shape the environment almost always turns to ways to use it up.

I urge everyone to read this book. But I also suggest not making the mistake I made. I bought it on Kindle. The last third of the book consists of notes, but there is no way I can manage to flip easily from text to note or note to text. Also, the book refers to a large chart that I found unreadable on Kindle.

I guarantee that every reader will find assertions he or she rejects, but also

lots and lots of important insights.



EXPLORE ENJOY PENNSYLVANIA

SOLITUDE IN THE QUEHANNA WILD AREA

By Gary Thornbloom

Where do you go when you want “to find peace and solitude?” As great as our Pennsylvania natural heritage is - over 4.5 million acres of public land - this forest is increasingly becoming industrialized.

State Forests, 2.5 million acres, are managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Management is intensive in semi-developed areas, less so in semi-primitive and not at all in primitive areas. Semi-developed allows motorized recreation and industrial activity, primarily timber and gas. Semi-primitive allows limited industrial activity. Primitive areas are free of industrial activity, and this, the smallest zone by area, is where you must go “to find peace and solitude.”

Wild Areas are protected to include the values of peace and solitude. The Quehanna Wild Area, over 48,000 acres at the corner of Cameron, Clearfield, and Elk counties, is Pennsylvania’s largest Wild Area. The Quehanna Trail is a 73 mile loop with many cross connectors that make shorter hikes possible.

For an eight-mile hike, enter the woods where Hoover Road meets a gas line right of way and follow an unnamed road to the red blazed Sanders Trail; go north to where it meets the Quehanna Trail; west down Sanders Draft; north along Red Run; west up Porcupine Draft; and finally south on the Quehanna Trail East Cross Connector to the Quehanna Highway.

The headwaters of Sanders Run wind through white pine, mature and pole sized, as well as seedlings that indicate healthy regeneration. The stream flows slowly over a sandy bottom, with club moss and sphagnum banks. The trail cuts through carpets of teaberry.

As the trail drops into the draft, boulders increase in size and number. Rhododendrons the size of small trees closes in on the trail.

The stream drops noisily through rocks and over down trees that form pools behind them, pools creating the habitat characteristic of a healthy, clear mountain stream.

Ridge lines drop away from the skyline, and the stream speaks louder. As the sides of the draft close in, white pines are scattered above the rhododendron. White braided bark of tulip trees, and smooth, silver-barked beech, contrast nicely with fall leaves on the ground and the greenery of ferns, rhododendron, white pine, and an occasional hemlock.

Sanders Run now drops between room size boulders coated with moss and into pools, reaches a series of drops, and ends in a large deep pool with a light turquoise tint at the edges of foam dissipating into the pool. Here is a place for the primitive experience of our state forests.

The Quehanna Trail continues on to a bridge that crosses beautiful Red Run, beautiful, but there is a road that removes you from the primitive area.

The trail climbs Porcupine Draft with its small stream - crossed and recrossed - until the trail moves away from the stream and crests. A short walk across the flat top of the Allegheny Plateau brings you to the Quehanna Trail East Cross Connector.

There are places scattered throughout our public lands where you can find peace and solitude. Sanders Draft, in the Quehanna Wild Area, is one of those places. We need to protect and to expand these places, or we will end up with an industrial forest that crowds out all other uses.

NOTE: The photo was taken by Gary Thornbloom, and is on Sanders Run.



COLEMAN'S LANTERN

TRAVELING LIGHT

By Phil Coleman

This is the first installment of a four part series.

I remember a time 45 years ago. I was new to Pennsylvania but wanted to explore its ridges and streams. In West Virginia, just south of the Mason Dixon line, there is a county park on Chestnut ridge. My family wanted to spend a weekend there, so I decided I would walk along the ridge from Route 40 in Pennsylvania along the ridge for twelve or so miles and join them.

Having looked at a road map and knowing where the ridge ran, I thought I needed nothing else for directions. No compass or map needed.

On a Friday afternoon, I hitched a ride to the Summit and started walking south. My plan was to get there the next morning. For the first several miles, I walked along a black-top road, and it was clear that I was more or less atop of Chestnut Ridge. After about three hours of walking, I could tell that the ridge dropped off steadily to the East. It was a beautiful summer day, pleasantly cool, with sunshine peeking through the scattered clouds. The view east was panoramic, the mottled green of mixed deciduous forest, with a ridge rising blue in the distance. The view to the West was different. I couldn't see the distance because I was no longer exactly atop the ridge. I needed to go west. This meant leaving the road and, perplexingly enough, going downhill. How could this be?

After a half mile west, I came to a small stream flowing south. Across the stream there was a steep uphill. I followed the stream south for a mile or so. It was getting dark, so I found a hollow under a rock ledge. I was traveling light with just a blanket, a canteen, some instant coffee, and Granola bars. I

ate a couple of Granola bars and settled down for the night. I closed my eyes, listening to the night sounds of the forest – light breeze in the trees, quiet gurgling stream nearby, and occasional little animal sounds rustling in the leaves. At some point I fell asleep and heard nothing for a few hours. But then I was startled awake by a shrieking little animal. The night was pitch black. The noise seemed to be just a few yards away. But I could see nothing. I listened for what must have been five minutes

while the killing and eating, and carrying away was completed. My guess now, though I had none then, is that an owl had caught some little rabbit-sized critter.

When I stirred again, it was no longer dark. Gray light was filtering through the trees. I drank some cold instant coffee, ate a couple more granola bars, rolled up my blanket and decided to start walking. I drifted southwest. At about sunrise, having gone through the woods uphill for a while and then downhill a bit, I came to a dirt road. Not knowing what was where, I followed the road a short way and came to a small lake, which I learned later is Lake O' the Woods, a private lake with a dozen cabins around it.

I walked on a short distance and came to a power line right-of-way. It was a clear-cut swath 20 yards wide, and I could look west and see it rising to the ridge top. Finally, I knew what to do. I walked a mile uphill and turned left at the top of the

ridge. Almost at once I found an abandoned timber road that I could follow. Before long it didn't look abandoned. I followed the road another mile or so, and came to the camp ground where my family was just arriving.

Next: Lessons Learned, in the Summer 2013 Sylvaniaian



16TH ANNUAL HUPLITS WILDLIFE GRANT COMPETITION

A Challenge to Protect Animal Wildlife and Habitat in Pennsylvania

The Sierra Club's Huplits Wildlife Grants Committee is seeking grant proposals to help protect animal wildlife and wildlife habitat in Pennsylvania. Approximately \$45,000 will be available for the 2013 Huplits Wildlife Grants program. A total of four grants were awarded in last year's competition.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

- We request projects that directly impact wildlife in the Commonwealth on a regional or statewide level.
- A grant project may involve public education, grassroots campaign organization, litigation, land acquisition, and scientific research that directly focuses on improving Pennsylvania wildlife and preventing cruelty to animals.

- Generally, projects will be funded for no more than two years. Under special circumstances a project may be extended.

A proposal should include the overall goal of your project, the project objectives, major activities, resources required, project timelines, and a reasonably detailed budget.

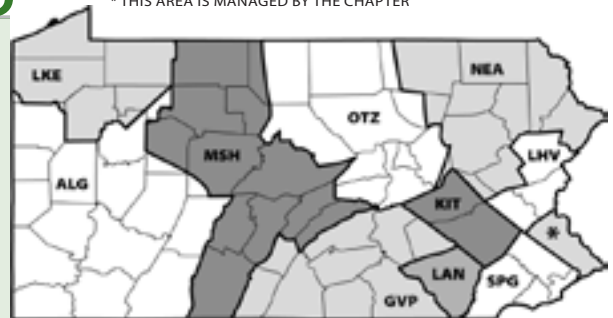
DEADLINE: Please submit proposals before APRIL 30, 2013 to Christopher Seymour via e-mail at tophseymour@gmail.com. If you have any questions, contact Chris via email or call 412-559-9535.



MEETINGS&OUTINGS

PENNSYLVANIA GROUPS MAP

* THIS AREA IS MANAGED BY THE CHAPTER



For up-to-date information, start times, meeting points, & directions, please see your Group's website or newsletter, or contact the Sierra Club members listed below.

The group events and outings may not be complete. Some events may be added after The Sylvania goes to press or some changes may be made to the events listed here. To be on the safe side, please confirm details.

Participants on outings must sign a liability waiver, available from www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or from the Outings Department at 415-977-5528. Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling and assumes no liability.

Chapter Executive Committee

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/>

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PASierraClub>

Follow us on Twitter: @SierraClubPA

MEETINGS

The Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) meets between four and six times a year in locations near the middle of the state. Our meeting schedule for 2013 is:

Saturday, May 4 - from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ExCom meeting at the Bongiorno Conference Center, 430 Union Hall Road; Carlisle, PA 17013

Saturday, May 4 - from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. the Annual Awards Dinner at the Bongiorno Conference Center in Carlisle

Sunday, May 5 - from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. training session at the Bongiorno Conference Center in Carlisle

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 12, 13, and 14 - Annual Outing and Retreat at Susquehannock State Park, 1880 Park Drive; Drumore, PA 17518-9751, hosted by the Lancaster Group, featuring an optional kayak trip downriver to see petroglyphs.

Saturday October 5 - from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ExCom meeting in the Centre County Solid Waste Authority Building, 253 Transfer Road Bellefonte, PA 16823

Allegheny Group

www.alleghenysc.org

MEETINGS

The Allegheny Group meets the 2nd Monday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at the Sierra Club Office, 425 North Craig St., Pittsburgh, PA

For more information, see the Web site: www.alleghenysc.org

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Interested in leading outings? Contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@windstream.net

Governor Pinchot Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot

MEETINGS

The Governor Pinchot group meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30. For the meeting location, please check the Web site above.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For information on Governor Pinchot Group activities, see pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot.

For more info contact John at 717-737-7675 or lenahan.john@mac.com

Kittatinny Group

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/kit/>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sierra.Kitt.Club>

MEETINGS

Kittatinny Executive Committee meets monthly. All members welcome. For more information, contact Kathy Stoica at 610-916-2928 or katstoica@yahoo.com

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For up-to-date listings of activities, see pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks/calendar.htm.

Sunday, April 21 - Berks County Earth Day Celebration in Reading, PA, Riverfront Park. For more information on the event visit www.earthdayberks.org. Volunteers are needed to man the Kittatinny Group Education Table. If interested, please contact Kathy Stoica at katstoica@yahoo.com or call 610-916-2928.

Lake Erie Group

Lakeeriegroup.webs.com

MEETINGS

Business meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month at the Asbury Wood Education Center, on Asbury Road in Erie, starting at 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For information on Lake Erie Group activities, contact Chuck Benson at bensonville@aol.com

Lancaster Group

www.lancastersierraclub.org

MEETINGS

General meetings of the Lancaster

Group of the Sierra Club are scheduled for June 19 and August 21. All meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:30 p.m. They are held (unless otherwise noted on the website) in Lancaster Country Day School (LCDS), 725 Hamilton Rd., Lancaster. Parking is available in the school's parking lot.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

The Lancaster Group also has slated several outings or events, to which all people are invited.

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. -- Tour of Oregon Dairy, 2900 Oregon Pike, Lititz, to identify ways this operation is green.

Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. -- Wildflower Hike at Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Preserve in southern Lancaster County.

Saturday, April 20, 8:30 a.m. -- Earth Day Removal of Invasive Plant Species from Landis Woods Park, just off Lititz Pike near Neffsville.

Saturday, May 4, 9:30 a.m. -- Family Spring Wildflower Hike in Landis Woods Park, just off Lititz Pike near Neffsville.

Wednesday, May 15, 7 p.m. -- Presentation on Composting at Lancaster County Central Park's Environmental Education Center.

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. -- Kelly's Run/Pinnacle Hike in southern Lancaster County near the Susquehanna River.

Saturday, June 1, departure time TBA

-- Bus Trip to Baltimore and Boat Tour of Chesapeake Bay with Chesapeake Bay Foundation biologists.

Sunday, June 2, 10 a.m. -- Hike at Serpentine Barrens in Rock Springs Nature Preserve in southern Lancaster County near the Maryland border.

Visit www.lancastersierraclub.org for more details about these events, as well as others in the planning stages, or contact Jennifer Ericson at jericson@ezsolution.com or (717) 892-2026.

Lehigh Valley Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sierraclublv>

MEETINGS

The Lehigh Valley Group Executive Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (except July) in Room 638, Fowler Family Center, Northampton Community College, Third and Buchanan Streets, (south) Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015. All members are welcome. This meeting is where we do our organizational planning and discuss environmental issues.

For updated information, please visit our Website:

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv/>

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sierraclublv>

For more information about Lehigh Valley Group, contact:

Donald Miles, Lehigh Valley Group chair, at donmiles@rcn.com or 610-730-2514 or Matt MacConnell, vice-chair, at mattmacconnell@gmail.com or 610-657-2707.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Saturday and Sunday, April 20 -21: Darth Days on the Greenway. The Sierra Club of the Lehigh Valley is proud to bring together our local environmental organizations, schools, arts communities and social action groups to celebrate Earth Day. For

more information, visit the Web site listed above. If you'd like to join us for outdoor fun, please consider joining our outings MeetUp: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Lehigh-Valley-Group/>

Moshannon Group

www.sierramsh.org

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/112180198821601/>

MEETINGS

Moshannon Group meetings are on the first Tuesday of month at 7 p.m. at Clear Water Conservancy, State College. All members & guests welcome. For more info, contact Gary Thornbloom at 814-353-3466 or by email at: bearknob@verizon.net.

OUTINGS

All outings open to general public & members. All levels of ability and interest are encouraged to participate.

Moshannon Group's outings are listed at: <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/outings.html>

Northeastern Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/northeastern

MEETINGS

Members are always welcomed and encouraged to join us each month for our executive committee meetings, where we plan activities & group priorities. Meetings held on first Tuesday of each month, usually at 7 p.m. and meeting sites vary.

OUTINGS

For more information, please visit the website above.

Otzinachson Group

<http://otzinachson.wordpress.com>

Follow us on Facebook: (<https://www.facebook.com/Otzinachson?ref=ts&fref=ts>)

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every other month. For more information, please visit the website.

OUTINGS

For more information contact: Paul Shaw, Outings Chair
155 Mowery Lane
Sunbury PA 17801
717-215-8339
pshaw@ptd.net

Sunday, April 7: Black Forest Trail System, Lycoming County. 7 miles, moderate. We will hike the plateau area just off the Coudersport Pike between Pine Creek and the West Branch of the Susquehanna. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Fin, Fur, and Feather at the intersection of Rt. 44 and Rt. 664, north of Lock Haven. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Leader: Joanne Heimer, jheimer@comcast.net, 570-295-1431.

Saturday, April 13: Tiadaghton State Forest, Lycoming County. 12.3 miles, strenuous to very strenuous. This hike in the Tiadaghton State Forest incorporates parts of the Golden Eagle Trail and the Pine Creek Rail Trail and features seven (7) excellent vistas. Meet at 7:45 am at the parking lot of the Comfort Inn in New Columbia, just off Rt. 15 south of I-80, or at 9:00 am at the parking area along RT 414 off of Slate Run Road. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Tony Robbins, tony.robbins@excellservices.com.

Sunday, April 14: Little Buffalo State Park, Perry County. 8 miles, moderate. Beautiful circuit hike around Holman Lake in Little Buffalo State Park. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the K-Mart parking lot on Rt. 15 in Shamokin Dam, or 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center parking lot near the park entrance. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Paul Shaw, pshaw@ptd.net; 717-215-8339.

Saturday, April 20: Thunder Swamp Trail, Pike County. 11 miles, moderate to strenuous. We will travel to the Delaware State Forest SE of Promised

Land State Park to hike a section of the 45 mile Thunder Swamp network of trails. Meet at 9 a.m. at the McDonald's off I-80 at the Mifflinville/339 exit #242. Bring water and lunch. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin and Ed Lawrence, 570-925-5285.

Sunday, April 21: RB Winter State Park & Bald Eagle State Forest, Union County. 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike a variety of trails to make a 10-mile loop. Meet at the parking lot at the breast of the dam along Rt. 192 at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134.

Sunday, April 28: Loyalsock Trail, Lycoming County. 8.7 miles, moderate to strenuous. We will hike the LT from Little Bear Road to Miller Trail via the spectacular Smith Knob Vista. Meet at the Walmart parking lot on Route 87 (N. Loyalsock Avenue) at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Sue Wright swright4@comcast.net; Hallie Luppert hallie10@verizon.net.

Saturday, May 4: Dale's Ridge Trail, Union County. 2 miles, easy. We will hike this easy 2 mile loop and look for migratory birds, etc. Meet at the parking lot at the trail head on Strawbridge Road about a mile off of Route 192 about 1.5 miles outside of Lewisburg at 9:30 AM. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

Saturday, May 4: Hunter Mountain, Catskill Mountains, New York. five hour hike, moderate up and down exciting Hunter Mountain Trail, then down ski slope. Great views of Hudson River Valley. Breakfast en route, dinner in Woodstock NY after hike. Bring lunch and water. Meet 6:00 a.m. at Wegman's parking lot, Williamsport. Leader: Richard Sahn 570-419-1435 (cell); 570-435-2401 (home); rsahn@pct.edu

Sunday, May 5: Rider Park, Lycoming County. 6.2 miles, easy to moderate. We will walk a figure 8 loop centered around the parking lot. Beginning hikers or hikers with children can bail after only 2 miles. Rider Park is

continued, next page

a real gem and a good place to see migratory spring song birds. Meet on Warrensville Road next to Loyalsock Creek just beyond the Interstate 180 overpass over Warrensville road at 8:30 am or 8:45am at the parking area 1.6 miles up Calebs Creek Road. Bring water and a snack if you want. We should be done by noon. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

Saturday, May 11: Zindel Park, Clinton County. 10 miles, strenuous. We will hike a variety of trails in this Recreation Area. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at McDonald's just off the McElhattan Exit of Route 220 (one exit north of Lock Haven). Leader: Joanne Heimer, jheimer@comcast.net, 570-295-1431.

Sunday, May 12: Golden Eagle Trail, Lycoming County. 9 miles, moderate to strenuous. One of the best hikes in PA with excellent views. Meet at 8:00 am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Avenue between Market and Hastings Streets (Rt. 15) in South Williamsport or at the trail parking lot along Rt. 414 at 8:50 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine, 570-220-4707.

Sunday, May 19: Old Loggers Path, Lycoming County. 10.5 miles, moderate to strenuous. The beautiful Old Logger's Path is one of PA's most threatened hiking trails due to gas drilling. Enjoy it while you can. Great vistas at Sprout Point and Sharp Top. There is a wet stream crossing near the end of the hike. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking area behind the Lewisburg Post Office or 9:00 a.m. at the Walmart parking lot on Rt. 87 in Montoursville, just off Rt. 220. Bring lunch, water, and water shoes. Leader: Paul Shaw, pshaw@ptd.net; 717-215-8339.

Sunday, May 26: RB Winter State Park & Bald Eagle State Forest, Union County. 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike a variety of trails to make a 10-mile loop. Meet at the parking lot at the breast of the dam along Rt. 192 at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134.

Saturday, June 1: Reeds Gap Spur, Mifflin County. 11 miles, moderate to strenuous. Join us in celebrating National Trails Day by hiking a trail brought back from the brink of extinction by volunteer maintainers coordinated by the Keystone Trails Association's Trail Care Program. We will hike the trail from its southern terminus in Reeds Gap State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of Wengers on Rte 45 west of Lewisburg. Bring water and lunch. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin and Ed Lawrence, 570-925-5285.

Sunday, June 2: RB Winter State Park & Bald Eagle State Forest, Union County. 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike a variety of trails to make a 10-mile loop. Meet at the parking lot at the breast of the dam along Rt. 192 at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134.

Sunday, June 9: Old Loggers Path, Lycoming County. 8.5 miles, moderate to strenuous. We will hike the middle section of OLP from Yellow Dog Road to Ellenton Road and back to complete a loop. The OLP is seriously threatened by gas drilling. Enjoy it while you can! Meet 8:30 at the Steam Valley Restaurant on Route 14 just off Route 15, north of Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

Sunday, June 16: Loyalsock Trail, Lycoming County. 14 miles, very strenuous. We will hike 14 miles from Miller Road to PA Route 87 via the spectacular Smith Knob Vista. Meet at 8:30 at the Minit Mart/Sovereign Bank parking lot along Rt. 87 (off Rt. 220) in Montoursville. Bring lunch and water. Leader Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

Sunday, June 23: RB Winter State Park & Bald Eagle State Forest, Union County. 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike a variety of trails to make a 10-mile loop. Meet at the parking lot at the breast of the dam along Rt. 192 at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134.

Sunday, June 30: RB Winter State Park & Bald Eagle State Forest, Union County. 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike a variety of trails to make a 10-mile loop. Meet at the parking lot at the breast of the dam along Rt. 192 at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134.

Sunday, July 7: RB Winter State Park & Bald Eagle State Forest, Union County. 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike a variety of trails to make a 10-mile loop. Meet at the parking lot at the breast of the dam along Rt. 192 at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134.

Sunday, July 14: RB Winter State Park & Bald Eagle State Forest, Union County. 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike a variety of trails to make a 10-mile loop. Meet at the parking lot at the breast of the dam along Rt. 192 at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134.

Southeastern Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern

MEETINGS

Executive Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at 135 S 19th St # 300, Philadelphia, PA 19103. To confirm the meeting date and location, contact: spgsierraclub@hotmail.com.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Please visit the website for updated outing information. For more information on any event, contact Bill Brainerd at 610-325-3127 or billbrainerd@gmail.com.

CHAPTER DIRECTORY

SIERRA CLUB PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER OFFICE

P.O. Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108
 (717) 232-0101, pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org
 Chapter Director: Jeff Schmidt jeff.schmidt@sierraclub.org
 Administrative Assistant: Carli Timpson carli.timpson@sierraclub.org

PA FIELD PROGRAM

PITTSBURGH OFFICE (412) 802-6161
 Regional Representative: Rachel Martin
 Associate Representative: Randy Francisco

CHAPTER LEADERS

OFFICERS

Chair: Wendi Taylor (717) 612-9409, taylorwj@comcast.net
 Vice Chair: Jack Miller (570) 837-6546, jmiller1018@yahoo.com
 Secretary: Bill Brainerd (610) 325-3127, billbrainerd@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Brian Brown (570) 412-9260; brianpetebrown@gmail.com
 Legal Chair: Alexander Bomstein (215) 981-4002, bomsteina@pepperlaw.com
 Beyond Natural Gas - PA Campaign: Deborah J. Nardone (814) 308-9767, deb.nardone@sierraclub.org
 Beyond Coal - PA Campaign: Tom Schuster (814) 467-2614, tom.schuster@sierraclub.org

COUNCIL

Delegate: Don Miles (610) 730-2514; donmiles@rcn.com
 Alternate: Nancy Parks (814) 349-5151, nfparks2@verizon.net

CONSERVATION

Chair: Thomas Au (717) 234-7445, thomxau@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: Jack Miller (570) 837-6546; jmiller1018@yahoo.com

POLITICAL

Chair: Dave Hemberger (610) 779-7376; dave.hemberger@gmail.com

POLITICAL ACTION FUND

Chair: David Byman 0) 963-2586, dx14@psu.edu
 Treasurer: James Keller (484) 797-3998; keller.james.m@gmail.com

OUTINGS

Chair: Vacant

COMPUTER

Chair: Dan Schreffler (570) 343-4056, computer.chair@pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

WEBMASTER

Dan Schreffler (570) 343-4056, webmaster@pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

SIERRA STUDENT COALITION

Vacant

GROUP LEADERS

ALLEGHENY GROUP (ALG)

Chair: Barbara Grover (412) 521-9526; bdgrover1@verizon.net

GOVERNOR PINCHOT (GVP)

Chair: Robin Broderick (717) 221-8590, rbroderick1@email.com

KITTATINNY (KIT)

Chair: Kathy Stoica (610) 916-2928, katstoica@yahoo.com

LAKE ERIE (LKE)

Chair: Chuck Benson (814) 868-9476, bensonville@aol.com

LANCASTER

Chair: Jennifer Ericson (717) 892-2026, jericson@ezsolution.com

LEHIGH VALLEY (LHV)

Chair: Donald Miles (610) 865-3844, donmiles@rcn.com

MOSHANNON (MSH)

Chair: Gary Thornbloom (814) 353-3466, bearknob@verizon.net

NORTHEASTERN (NEA)

Chair: Doug Heller (570) 241-8244, dheller2@yahoo.com

OTZINACHSON (OTZ)

Chair: Jack Miller (570) 837-6546, jmiller1018@yahoo.com

SOUTHEASTERN (SPG)

Chair: Mathew Himmelein (215) 815-7757, mathew.himmelein@gmail.com

CONSERVATION ISSUES

AIR QUALITY

Chair: Nancy Parks (814) 349-5151, nfparks2@verizon.net

COMMITTEE ON RADIATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair: Open

ENERGY

Co-Chair: Wayne Kenton waynekenton@comcast.net
 Co-Chair: Justina Wasicek (717) 234-7445, jmwasicek@gmail.com

GLOBAL WARMING/CLIMATE CHANGE

Co-chair: Sheila Gallagher (610) 923-6431: gallag.her@live.com
 Co-chair: John Rossi (814) 825-2728; jpr2@psu.edu

COMINTERNATIONAL TRADE

Chair: Peter Wray (412) 244-9907, pjwray@verizon.net

LAND USE

Chair: Don Miles (610) 730-2514, donmiles@rcn.com

MINING

Chair: Patrick Greuter (724) 229-3550; Patrick@coalfieldjustice.org

POWER TRANSMISSION LINES

Co-Chair: Nicole Faraguna (570) 758-2803, ndfhome@tds.net
 Co-Chair: Donald Miles (610) 865-3844, donmiles@rcn.com

PUBLIC LANDS

Co-chair: Cathy Pedler
 Co-chair: Gary Thornbloom

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Chair: Sheila Gallagher (610) 923-6431, gallag.her@live.com

TRANSPORTATION

Dennis Winters (215) 790-1894; dennis.winters@verizon.net

SOLID WASTE

Chair: Al Wurth (610) 866-9846, ahw1@lehigh.edu

WATER QUALITY

Co-Chair: Barbara Benson (610) 282-3611, barbarabenson@bensonsails.com
 Co-Chair: Thomas Au (717) 234-7445, thomxau@gmail.com

WILDERNESS

Chair: Dave Sublette (814) 825-0450, davidsublette@aol.com

FIELD STAFF PITTSBURGH

Randy Francisco (412) 802-6161
 Rachel Martin (412) 802-6161



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Since it was first listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the grizzly bear has made a strong recover, but there is still more work to be done. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.



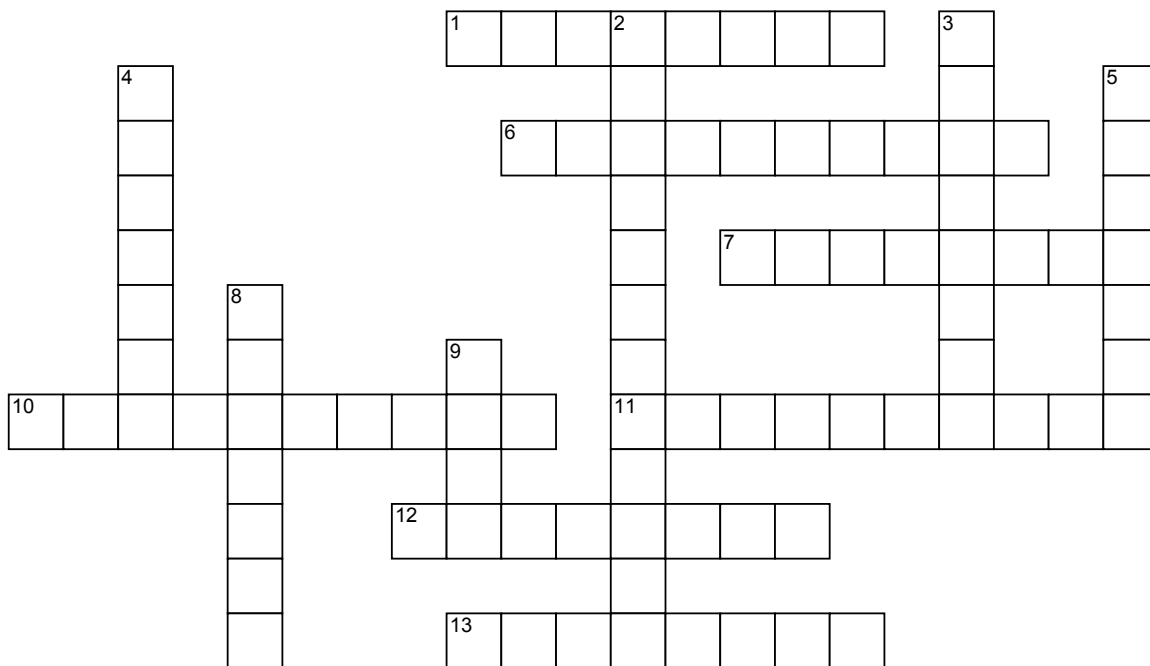
F94Q W 1

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32162-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

SPRINGCROSSWORD



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

Across

- 1 Getting shale to pass gas
- 6 Family farmer
- 7 Pipeline from Canada
- 10 Whiskey distiller

11 Wrote "Sacred Economics"

12 Bought a farm in Fayette County

13 Pennsylvania's largest wild area

Down

- 2 Synonym for state
- 3 Western-most Pennsylvania ridge
- 4 Wildlife grant competition

5 Sierra Club memorial scholarship

8 A cash crop for farmers

9 Wrote book on the future

answers on page 12