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Blue—the New Green

September/October 2006 ■ VOL. 13, NO. 5

Saving Local Wildlands SEE PAGES 4-5

HEATHER MORJAH



Great Plains Wilderness? The Indian Creek area in western South Dakota includes a vast array of landforms and plant life, providing hikers, horseback riders, hunters, birdwatchers, and scenery lovers with one of the most diverse wilderness experiences remaining on the Great Plains. The area is part of a Sierra Club-backed proposal for the nation's first grasslands wilderness.

Studying For the Midterms

BY TOM VALTIN

This summer and fall, thousands of Sierra Club volunteers and staff are taking the Club's message to the streets to engage environmental voters and motivate them to get to the polls in November. The goal is to turn out hundreds of thousands of "occasional" environmental voters on Election Day.

In Pennsylvania, Club organizers Annie Leary and Jason Brady in Philadelphia and Rachel Martin and Randy Francisco in Pittsburgh are reenergizing the thousands of volunteers who walked neighborhoods

and made phone calls two years ago. These volunteers knocked on more than 120,000 doors in 2004, and with interest running high in the races for U.S. Senate and governor this year, they are out again in force.

Club volunteers will try to contact thousands of voters eight times each—both over the phone, and in person at the door. They're not trying to explicitly convince them to vote for Bob Casey over Rick Santorum for Senate, or Ed Rendell over Lynn Swann for governor. Rather, they'll be talking about the candidates' environmental records and

encouraging people to vote.

The Club's Philadelphia field office launched its 2006 Voter Education Campaign on Saturday, July 22. "We had torrential rain and thunderstorms," reports Annie Leary, "and even so, 35 volunteers went door-to-door in the suburbs." The Voter Education Campaign aims to reach 35,000 infrequent voters through phone, mail, and door-to-door efforts by November.

Club canvassers will similarly be hitting the pavement and the phones in Washington State, where environmental champion Maria Cantwell (D) faces a challenge from Republican Mike McGavrick for U.S. Senate. In Northern California, where Representative Richard Pombo (R-Tracy) is seeking reelection, volunteers are contrasting his efforts to gut the Endangered Species Act and promote Arctic drilling with the views of challenger Jerry McNerney, a former energy consultant who has started a wind turbine company (see story on page 3).

The Club's environmental voter campaign is focusing on 11 sites in 9

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ANNIE LEARY

Knocking Around Town: Sierra Club interns Kelly Robinson and Liz Pinnie go door-to-door in Philadelphia to talk with voters. The Club's 2006 Voter Education Campaign kicked off in Philly on July 22, as volunteers fanned out to raise awareness about environmental and energy issues surrounding the November elections. Nationwide, the Club aims to reach hundreds of thousands of voters in nine key states through phone, mail, and door-to-door efforts, urging them to get to the polls on Election Day.

Making a Just Transition

Club partners with Hopi, Navajo on renewable energy plan

BY TIMOTHY LESLE

On the last day of 2005, the Mohave Generating Station in Laughlin, Nevada, powered down. The closure forced northern Arizona's Black Mesa Coal Mine to halt operations—its sole customer was the Mohave plant. As went the station and the mine, so went the pipeline that carried a slurry of water and Black Mesa coal 273 miles from the mine to the power plant, where it was dried and burned to create electricity for Las Vegas and Southern California. They fell, one after the other, "like three big dominoes," says Andy Bessler, of the Sierra Club's Partnerships program. On the first day of 2006, a system that had existed for more than 30 years, that had obscured views of the Grand Canyon with air pollution and drawn down the Navajo aquifer, was brought to a standstill.

Since the Black Mesa Mine was on Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation lands, its closure was a blow to their economies. But a plan is in the works to shift those economies in a more sustainable direction. The "Just Transition Plan" will bring the tribes millions of dollars each year for investment in renewable development on tribal lands—millions of dollars, organizers hope, that will come from the owners of the Mohave Generating Station.

In 1998, the Sierra Club, with the Grand Canyon Trust and the National Parks Conservation Association, filed a Clean Air Act lawsuit to force Mohave to install pollution controls. According to the EPA, the plant emitted up to 40,000 tons of sulfur dioxide each year, making it the dirtiest coal-fired power plant in the West. In 1999, Mohave's owners agreed to either upgrade the plant by December 31, 2005, or shut it down. Six years later, the owners closed the plant rather than pay for improvements. And this amounted to a victory, of sorts, for environmentalists.

But for the Hopi and Navajo, the story is more complicated. Peabody Western Coal Co., a subsidiary of Peabody Energy, the world's largest coal company, shut the mine

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from THE editor

How Far Can Efficiency Take Us?

On the first day of August, the Senate voted to open an additional 5.7 million acres of the Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas drilling, with proponents claiming that it could yield 5.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 1.26 billion barrels of oil.

Trillions, billions, millions, they all sound like a lot. Here's another way to picture it: According to drilling supporters, the area could supply enough natural gas to meet a quarter of the nation's electricity needs for a year, and enough oil to meet the national demand for two months.

Now I know that there's no silver bullet to meeting our energy needs, that we have to get a little here and a little there, but really: two months? Is two months' worth of oil worth risking oil spills and pollution?

Extracting those trillions of cubic feet and billions of barrels and then moving them to our gas stations and power plants will be like turning on the furnace with the windows wide open. The current thinking (which is not at all current, but decades old) is to address our energy needs by increasing supply. But we have incredible opportunities yet to be exploited on the demand side.

That's why the Sierra Club is pushing energy efficiency first and foremost of its "Smart Energy Solutions." Efficiency is a source of energy just like coal, oil, and wind, except we're not generating it by building new power plants, but by reducing the need for power. We're doing more with less. And efficiency actually cuts global warming emissions.

But energy efficiency can't possibly save enough energy to kick our addiction to oil. Or can it? What if we pulled out all the stops and adopted every energy-efficiency measure we could? Fully insulated our homes and businesses; replaced all our incandescents with more efficient bulbs; invested in energy efficiency at every point where we generate or use energy.

How much could we actually save?

- (a) 70 percent
- (b) 60 percent
- (c) 50 percent

The answer: all the above.

(a) According to the Rocky Mountain Institute, in most commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities, there are abundant opportunities to save 70 to 90 percent of the energy and cost for lighting, fan, and pump systems.

(b) The RMI also says that energy savings can reach 60 percent in areas such as heating, cooling, and office equipment.

(c) If fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks, which account for 40 percent of U.S. oil consumption and 20 percent of global warming gases, are raised to 40 miles per gallon and we use advanced technology like hybrid engines and smarter transmissions, we can save up to 50 percent of the gas our vehicles burn.

There are so many ways we use energy, it's tough to come up with a meaningful number for the entire energy budget, but with the right mix of investment and incentives, we could conceivably cut our energy use in half through conservation and efficiency alone.

And those energy savings would last us a lot more than two months.

—JOHN BYRNE BARRY



Working For a Just Transition: In January 2006, coalition members petitioned the California Public Utilities Commission to direct funding from pollution credits to their plan for renewable energy on Hopi and Navajo lands. Members include, from left to right, Marshall Johnson and daughter of To' Nizhoni Ani, Roger Clark of Grand Canyon Trust, Wahleah Johns of Black Mesa Water Coalition, Enei Begaye of Indigenous Environmental Network, Robert Tohe of the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice Program, Leonard Selestewa of Black Mesa Trust, Nicole Horseherder of To' Nizhoni Ani, and Andy Bessler of the Sierra Club's Partnership Program.

Black Mesa

[FROM P. 1]

when it lost its only customer, and almost 200 workers related to the mine, many of them tribal members, lost their jobs. But for some Navajo and Hopi, the closure was a victory—environmental groups and tribal grassroots activists opposed the mine because of its thirst for the arid region's most precious resource: fresh water. And it had been consuming 1.3 billion gallons of that fresh water from the Navajo aquifer each year in order to create the coal slurry.

Nicole Horseherder, a Navajo who works with the coalition, says the damage to her community from the mine has been tremendous, and, she fears, irreversible. She is unique among the many people working for Just Transition because she lives and works in the areas directly affected by the mine. She understands the importance—and scarcity—of water firsthand: her family lives 20 miles south of the mine, with no running water and about an hour from the nearest community well.

With the Mohave victory, Andy Bessler says, environmental groups like the Sierra Club could "just walk away and high-five each other." But because of the link between the Mohave closure and the lost jobs, "that's not responsible to the tribes we're trying to support and help." So in 2005, the Sierra Club began developing the Just Transition Plan with a coalition



Speaking Up For Water: Marshall Johnson, who is married to Nicole Horseherder, speaks at a rally for saving water resources in front of the Navajo Nation Council chambers in Window Rock, Arizona.

that includes the Black Mesa Trust, the Black Mesa Water Coalition, Indigenous Environmental Network, To' Nizhoni Ani, NRDC, Honor the Earth Foundation, Apollo Alliance, and the Grand Canyon Trust. The plan calls for establishing a renewable energy infrastructure of solar and wind operations that would be partially owned by tribal communities. It would provide electricity to the tribes—Bessler says that many Navajo and Hopi have no electricity, yet have "these huge power lines crisscrossing [over] their homes"—as well as income from electricity sold to former Mohave customers. And it would be an opportunity to retrain and employ tribal members who lost their mining jobs.

The money for this plan would come from the sale of sulfur dioxide allowances—pollution credits—granted to Mohave's owners since their now-shuttered plant is no longer producing pollution.

The majority owner of Mohave, at 56 percent, is the Southern California Edison (SCE) power company. In January, the Just Transition Coalition filed a motion with the California Public Utilities Commission requesting the creation of an escrow account to hold SCE's sulfur allowance earnings—earnings the coalition hopes will fund the plan. The coalition calculates that Mohave's owners stand to earn up to \$65 million per year from these sales; SCE's share would be 56 percent of that. While Bessler says the Sierra Club does not support pollution trading, he notes that SCE is cashing in these allowances, anyway, "and if they're going to be used to create renewable energy, that's good." The plan requests that the allowance program be retired in 2026, when Mohave would likely have shut down.

In May, the commission ruled that just such an account must be created, but it has not ruled on where that money will go. Meanwhile, SCE has until January 1, 2007, to propose its own plan on how those funds should be spent. Says Bessler: "They'll probably want to give it to their shareholders." If that turns out to be the case, the coalition will intervene and ask the commission to rule for the Just Transition Plan anyway.

In the meantime, the Just Transition Coalition is planning a summit in December to bring together tribal leaders and energy and business investors. Members are also drumming up more support for the plan in local communities. Nicole Horseherder, for example, has been educating her fellow Navajo about the effects

of the mine and the benefits of the Just Transition. Most of the people she encounters speak only Navajo, and she has had to explain the details of complicated issues and concepts in a language in which, she explains, there is no word-for-word translation. At this local level, the Just Transition has a great deal of support—it turns out that resistance has come mainly from tribal attorneys, who have been in closed-door negotiations with Peabody and SCE on re-opening the coal mine. But with SCE's June announcement that it will not reactivate the Mohave station, those meetings may have been in vain—and the Just Transition appears to be the best viable option.

"We've been running so fast chasing the American Dream because that's what the rest of the world tells us that we want and need," says Horseherder. "But we've run into this wall. Do we go left and continue developing at the cost of ruining our environment? Or do we go right and start making decisions that will have the least adverse impact?"

The tribes are at a crossroads, and choosing Just Transition may require a shift in thinking. "We were told," she says, "There's nothing wrong with selling the land, nothing wrong with selling the water.'... We were told, 'When land just sits there, that's wrong. You have to take it, modify it.'" To Horseherder, the Just Transition Plan runs counter to that sensibility, and she deems that ironic because it would bring her culture back to its traditional philosophy of living, before the prevailing philosophy was that natural resources like coal or water are merely commodities. So she continues her education and outreach efforts, which include a kind of unlearning of those ideas about commerce, industry, and consumption that have dominated for decades, and Just Transition's concept of sustainability seems to have come full circle. While the final decision on funding is still in the air, Horseherder is optimistic that the Just Transition will happen. "Am I positive? Yeah. I've never felt so much hope over something in all my life. Yeah."

For more on the Just Transition Plan, see the Sierra Club Environmental Partnerships Program's tribal partnerships page at sierraclub.org/partnerships/tribal.

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High Stakes for Midterm Elections

[FROM P. 1]

states where races are especially critical—and winnable: Philadelphia/Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, Columbus/Cincinnati in Ohio, Richard Pombo's district in California, and the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Washington.

The Sierra Club has two bedrock features that make it effective in a political season, says National Political Director Cathy Duvall: its reputation and its grassroots structure. "The Sierra Club is the most trusted environmental organization in the country," she says. "Voters listen to its recommendations."

The Club's strategy for 2006, as in 2004, is to target registered voters who have demonstrated that they care about the environment but don't always make it to the polls. But might not eight contacts annoy some voters? Inevitably, a few people will chafe, Duvall says, but research indicates that repeated contact makes people twice as likely to vote.

In addition to its voter education work, the Club is also endorsing candidates for local, state, and national office. And not just Democrats. This spring, the Club took serious heat in the progressive community when it endorsed Republican Senator Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island. But Jonathan Ela, chair of the Club's national political committee, says the Club isn't working to elect a Democratic majority; it's working to

elect a pro-environment majority.

"Even if it paid short-term dividends to adopt a partisan electoral strategy, it would be bad policy and hurt the Club in the long run," Ela says. "We're committed to supporting people on both sides of the aisle who've stood up for our issues."

Besides, he points out, the Sierra Club isn't a dictatorship, but a grassroots-run organization. Both the Rhode Island Chapter and the national political committee voted to endorse Chafee.

"Everyone here pretty much understood it was the right thing to do," says Rhode Island Chapter Chair Alison Buckser. "Chafee's Democratic opponent is an admirable person, but he's not an environmentalist. We met with three candidates, and Chafee was best able to articulate why he cares about the environment. He took a tour of Alaska recently, and he was raving about seeing musk-ox dung! He had the passion and the background we were looking for."

Buckser describes herself as a died-in-the-wool Democrat, but the endorsement decision was easy for her. "Chafee's a proven environmental leader," she says. "In the tough spots he's really come through, especially on the Endangered Species Act and Arctic drilling. And then there's the Sierra Club's credibility. What does it say to other moderate Republicans—or Democrats, for that matter—if we don't stand up for our friends?"

Unseating an Environmental Foe

■ BY LI MIAO LOVETT

To the cynical and weary, Richard Pombo is the California Congressman in cowboy boots who can't be bucked from his saddle in the House of Representatives. But Pombo is in for a rough ride this fall. Mary Gill, who's leading the Loma Prieta Chapter's campaign to elect contender Jerry McNerney, a wind-energy developer, says that Sierra Club activists are "telling people Pombo's the guy who wants to get rid of the Endangered Species Act and drill in the Arctic."

Gill and her allies are hoping that Pombo's drill-and-sell legacy as the House Resources Committee Chair will become an endangered species itself. Over the summer, the Loma Prieta Chapter has been running a phone bank campaign. A typical three-hour stint in early July yielded 350 calls to constituents, and 30-plus Club members expressed an interest in getting involved.

The Club has officially endorsed McNerney, and Loma Prieta Chapter activist Carolyn Straub encourages those she calls to volunteer in McNerney's campaign. She says most Sierra Club members are savvy about Pombo's record and have a "visceral reaction" to his name. But many say their environmental concerns are not shared by their more conservative neighbors in San Joaquin County.

Former Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey, who co-authored the Endangered Species Act in 1973, came out of retirement to run against Pombo in the primary. Although he lost the bid, McNerney hopes to pick up some of those GOP votes for a greener candidate.

Cathy Duvall, the Club's national political director, finds hope in the changing demographics in the district, as the county is increasingly home to Bay Area commuters flocking there for affordable housing. "They care about traffic and clean air and don't see Pombo as supportive in regard to these issues."

The donations Pombo has accepted from oil, mining, and timber interests have also touched a nerve with voters. At a June rally, residents in Pleasanton, California, accused him of changing his stance on offshore drilling after Big Oil added a quarter million dollars to his campaign coffers. The non-partisan Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics calls Pombo one of "the 13 most corrupt members of Congress."

The Sierra Club and other environmental groups took Pombo to task by circulating petitions and running radio ads before the primary elections. As November approaches, a cadre of volunteers will be recruited from several chapters to engage voters at tabling events and by walking the precincts to get out the vote.

Duvall says that Pombo was perceived as a local boy when he was first elected 14 years ago, but has lost that image over the past ten years.

Unseating Pombo won't be easy. His manifesto on property rights has won the favor of developers and landowners, and he has wielded his influence as chair of the House Resources Committee to promote oil drilling and mining interests. But Gill thinks the public is hungry for honesty and integrity in government.

Battle of Blair Mountain, Again



Razing Mountaintops, and History: Kenny King, of Logan, West Virginia, looks over the Arch Coal Co. site on Blair Mountain, which was shut down in 1999 and has lost all original forest and mountain topography. King is working to obtain historic status for Blair Mountain to help prevent further mountaintop removal. Mining proposals also threaten the nearby Ash Branch of Paint Creek, below.

■ BY TOM VALTIN

On Blair Mountain in 1921, some 10,000 West Virginia coal miners fighting for their right to unionize and improve working conditions faced off against armed federal troops in the largest armed conflict on U.S. soil since the Civil War. The federal troops prevailed, but the Battle of Blair Mountain became a pivotal event in the labor movement, building solidarity that later helped the union organize the coalfields.

Over the years, West Virginians have attempted to preserve the battle site, but have been blocked by lawsuits and other tactics employed by the coal companies that own or lease the land. Now coal companies appear intent on completely obliterating the intact, well-preserved mountain site through strip mining.

Traditionally, miners tunneled deep into the mountains to extract coal, but today coal companies all over Appalachia are embracing the cheaper—and far more destructive—method of lopping mountaintops right off their base. A mountaintop removal permit is pending on land where the battle occurred.

For more than a decade, Kenny King, a West Virginian whose ancestors fought in the Battle of Blair Mountain, has been documenting artifacts from the site and working to get the battlefield listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After the state Historic Preservation Office rejected his bid in 2002, he sought help from Regina Hendrix, a West Virginia Sierra Club leader and board member of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. King needed assistance with the mapping, aerial photography, and historical narrative to accompany a revised, stronger nomination. Hendrix put out the call for other groups to rally to the cause. Among them was Friends of the Mountains, a consortium of environmental groups that includes the West Virginia Sierra Club.

At the request of locals, the Club initiated a series of meetings with residents of the town of Blair to help them lobby the state to protect the battle site. Activists organized letter-writing and postcard campaigns to build public support for protecting Blair Mountain. The West Virginia Chapter purchased radio spots promoting battlesite protection and hired local historian Frank Unger to prepare and submit a revised nomination.

In 2005, the West Virginia Archives and History Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the National Park Service that 1,600 acres of Blair Mountain be included on the National Register.

Coal mining companies and nearby landowners promptly sued to overturn the nomination. The Sierra Club moved to join the suit, and in May 2006 a West Virginia judge granted the Club's participation. That same month, the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed the Blair Mountain battlefield on its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Places. The United Mine Workers union also came out in support of the National Register listing because of its importance to the labor movement.

The coal companies contend that surface mining is the only practical way to get at Blair Mountain's coal. But locals like Kenny King, who don't oppose mining per se, argue that they should be willing to settle for a smaller profit in this case by deep-mining the coal and preserving the historic landscape above. Listing on the National Register won't automatically stop mining, but would mandate a series of reviews that could slow or stop the permitting process.

"Destroying our mountains and our history isn't the way to meet America's energy needs in the 21st century," says Sierra Club attorney Aaron Isherwood.

To learn more, contact Regina Hendrix, regina1936@verizon.net, (304) 343-5211; or Bill Price, bill.price@sierraclub.org; (304) 342-3182.



The Pombo Mask:

Last Halloween, the Sierra Club called Pombo the "most frightening man in Congress." Download your own at sierraclub.org/pombo.



CURT FINNEGAN



Gaining Ground

BY TOM VALTIN

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rotecting America's wild places has been at the heart of the Sierra Club's mission since its founding in 1892 as a hiking club to protect the landscapes and ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada. Keeping the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge off-limits to drilling and preserving the nation's 25-year-old offshore drilling moratorium have grabbed most of the headlines of late, but the Club is involved in a host of wildlands-related campaigns around the country.

The last five years have been tough for getting new wilderness protected. Yet the Sierra Club and its allies pushed through more than 768,000 new acres of wilderness additions in Nevada in 2004, a 100,000-acre Cedar Mountain Wilderness in Utah this January, and in June President Bush signed into law the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Sanctuary, a 140,000-square-mile protected area stretching along a 1,200-mile-long chain of islands, atolls, and coral reefs. In July, Congress designated 277,000 acres of new wilderness in far-northern California, and wilderness bills for Oregon and Idaho passed the House and now await Senate action.

Here are three wildlands campaigns the Sierra Club is currently working on:

More Green for Vermont

The Vermont Chapter's top priority for the last four years has been promoting new wilderness in the Green Mountain National Forest. In April, its efforts paid off when Vermont's congressional delegation introduced the Vermont Wilderness Act of 2006, proposing more than 48,000 new acres of wilderness in the state.

As a charter member of the Vermont Wilderness Association, the chapter has spread the word about the values of wilderness to the public and the delegation. Hundreds of Club activists contacted their representatives in Congress and lobbied the Forest Service to increase the amount of wilderness in its new management plan. As a

Utah, Hawaii, and California make wilderness gains in 2006; campaigns on the move in Idaho, Oregon, Vermont, Maine, and South Dakota

result, the Forest Service upped its recommendation from 17,000 acres of new wilderness to more than 27,000.

"Our members attended every public meeting on the draft management plan, enlisted their state representatives in support of wilderness, went door-to-door, and sent letters-to-the-editor to every daily and weekly newspaper in the state," says Vermont Chapter Chair John Harbison. Chapter members responded to every letter-to-the-editor critical of more wilderness, and the campaign focused on towns most affected by management of the national forest, driving home the point that wilderness is good for local economies.

The bill introduced by Senators Jim Jeffords (I) and Patrick Leahy (D) and Representative Bernie Sanders (I) proposes nearly double the amount of new wilderness recommended by the Forest Service. Jeffords says that while some Vermonters dispute the need for more wilderness, "I recognize the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and believe deeply in the benefits of managing some areas so that the forces of nature hold sway."

Harbison is quick to credit the New Hampshire Chapter for helping promote the Vermont bill—the chapters have been working together as members of the Northeast Wilderness Team, which includes New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and Canada's Maritime Provinces. "A New Hampshire wilderness bill was introduced two weeks before the Vermont bill," he explains. "New Hampshire's congressional delegation is Republican, Vermont's is Democratic—or at least votes that way—and we hope the bills go forward together as a bipartisan package, helping the chances that both will pass."

100-Mile Wilderness

Next door, the Maine Chapter has been working with the Club's national wildlands campaign to protect Maine's North Woods, at 10 million acres the nation's largest expanse of contiguous northern forest east of the Mississippi. Most of Maine's forests are in private hands, mainly timber and investment companies, meaning land purchases by the state and conservation groups are often

the best way to protect land.

Two top concerns in the Pine Tree State are protecting the Wild Allagash River Waterway and bolstering protections along the "100-Mile Wilderness" section of the Appalachian Trail. The 100-mile corridor south of Baxter State Park is the longest stretch of the trail uninterrupted by a paved road, but timbering and development are permitted within a few hundred feet in many places.

The Club's Maine Woods campaign has built statewide support for beefing up this buffer zone and protecting a wilderness core on both sides of the trail. The Club's leadership has resulted in nearly 100,000 acres of protection over the past five years, with another 60,000 acres now in negotiations. Maine Governor John Baldacci (D) last year publicly commended the Club for its work to protect the 100-Mile Wilderness.

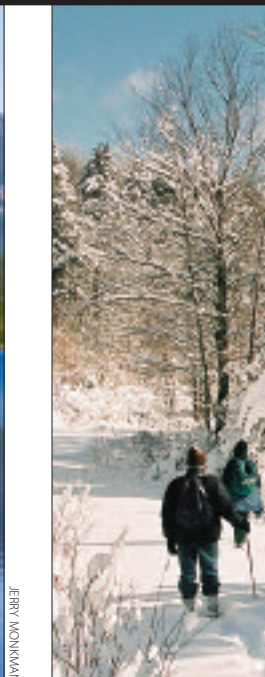
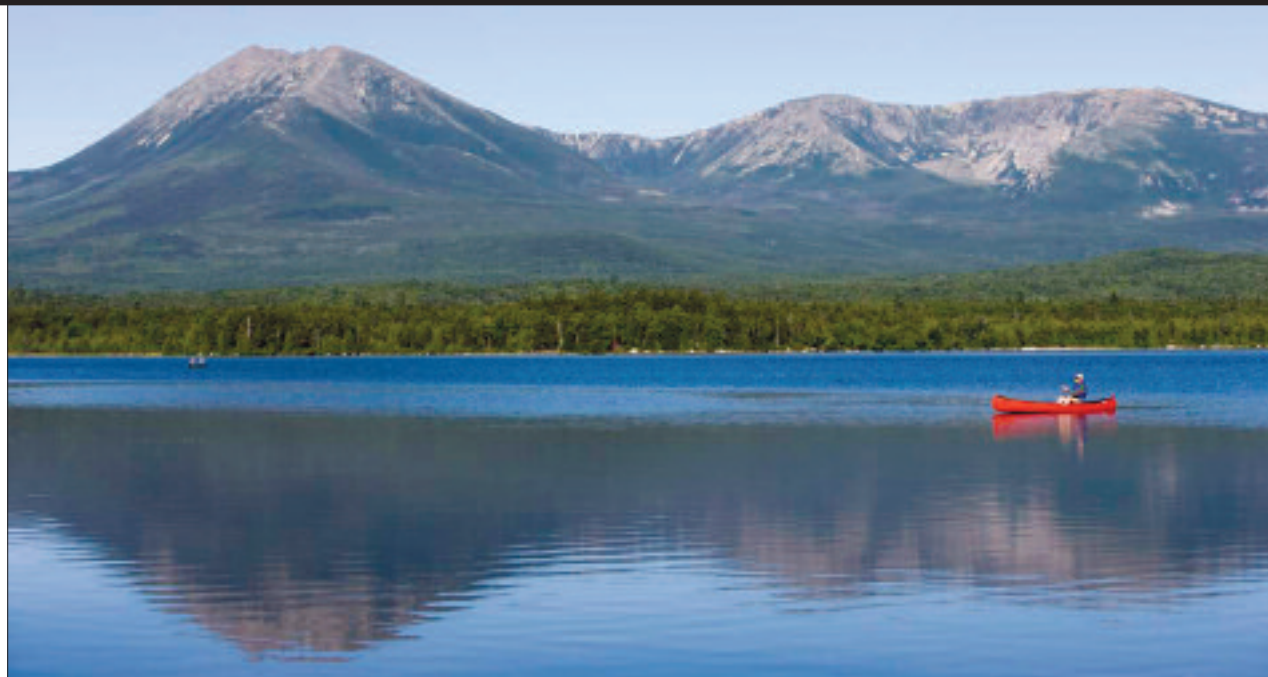
In 2004, chapter members in the northern part of the state formed the Wilderness Project, to empower rural northern Mainers to protect the wilderness in their backyard. No sooner had they organized than in January 2005, Seattle-based Plum Creek Corporation released a plan for the largest development ever proposed in the state. Slated for the Moosehead Lake area, renowned for its scenery, outdoor recreation, and sporting camps, the development would build more than 1,000 second homes, three RV parks, and two luxury resorts on the shores of the still-rustic lake.

Wilderness Project leader Darci Schofield has organized opposition to the proposal, encouraging locals to speak out and putting together workshops to train them in effective public speaking. "All of our workshop participants have given powerhouse comments at public meetings so far," Schofield says. "At the first meeting, our people arrived early and signed up to speak first, which really helped set the tone."

Fellow volunteers Arlene LeRoy and Jayne Lellow have joined Schofield in leading tours of the Moosehead Lake area, and chapter activist Bob Guethlen helped establish the Moosehead Region Futures Committee to promote citizen solutions for the area.

"This will be a lengthy process, with many hearings and

Quiet up North: A canoer glides across Katahdin Lake in Maine, near the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail—the Sierra Club is working to protect the lands around the lake, as well as the nearby "100-Mile Wilderness." At far right, skiers pause in the Battell Wilderness in Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest, not yet officially protected but included in the Vermont Wilderness Bill of 2006.



JERRY MONAHAN



Worth Fighting For: South Dakota's Indian Creek roadless area is proposed for wilderness status in the nation's first-ever grasslands wilderness bill.

opportunities for public comments along the way," says Maine Woods campaign director Karen Woodsum. "That's why the Wilderness Project will continue to be so crucial—it exemplifies the importance of rural outreach and organizing people who live in remote areas. This is something the Sierra Club is very good at."

Wild Dakota Grasslands

In South Dakota, the Club is working to protect a very different kind of ecosystem—the grasslands of the Great Plains. Working with the 5-year-old South Dakota Grasslands Wilderness Coalition of sportsmen, ranchers, conservationists, Native American tribes, and businesses, the South Dakota Chapter is promoting 70,000 acres of national forest grasslands as wilderness in the southwestern part of the state.

The Cheyenne River Valley Grasslands Wilderness Heritage Proposal would protect four units of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland—Indian Greek, Red Shirt, Cheyenne River, and First Black Canyon—chosen for their ecological significance, wilderness character, and geological and archeological resources. "This would be the country's first grasslands wilderness," says South Dakota Sierra Club organizer Heather Morijah. "It's very different from other designated wilderness out there."

The areas were designated roadless in 1979 under the Forest Service's RARE II roadless area inventory. "But this protection could be wiped out at any time with the stroke of a forester's pen," says Black Hills Group activist Sam Clauson. "They're getting increased use by off-road

vehicles, and we're concerned the Forest Service may swap lands with adjacent landowners, which has happened elsewhere."

In 2002, two of the areas were recommended for wilderness by Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Rick Cables. But the 2004 defeat of Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D) by John Thune (R) caused the process to stall. The Club is now working to convince ranchers, legislators, and county commissioners in the three affected counties to support wilderness and oppose a new coal-hauling rail line proposed for the area.

"We meet with people one-on-one or in small groups and explain that grazing can continue on federal wilderness—it can actually help ranchers keep their grazing permits," Clauson says. "We've convinced some staunch Republican ranchers that wilderness is a good idea. The majority of western South Dakotans aren't ranchers, but the state Stockgrowers Association is opposed, and non-ranchers don't speak out."

Club volunteers are leading field trips to the area to show people—including legislators—what's at stake. "We're making inroads with local governments and county commissioners," Clauson says, "and more and more hunters are on board. I'm a hunter myself, so I understand their concerns."

These efforts have generated supportive press and letters-to-the-editor in recent months. "If we can get people see the economic benefits of wilderness I think we'll get this passed," Clauson says. "I've been involved with this since we started the Black Hills Group in 1972—it's been my life's work."



DON DICKSON

AMERICA'S WILD LEGACY



JONATHAN JESSUP, WWW.JONATHANJESSUP.COM

Late last year, taking its cue from the 765 Sierra Summit delegates who met in September, the Sierra Club Board of Directors established "America's Wild Legacy" as one of the Club's three priority conservation initiatives. The Wild Legacy campaign seeks to rally a broad spectrum of citizens around the value of protecting wildlife, public lands, and special places, and block threats to these lands from commercial logging, mining, abusive recreation, and overgrazing.

See sierraclub.org/planet/wildlegacy for more information about these campaigns.

Endangered Species Act: The Endangered Species Act is one of our most effective tools for protecting America's wildlands and safeguarding our fish and wildlife. Thanks to this landmark law, passed in 1973, wild salmon still spawn in the rivers of the Pacific Northwest, wolves have returned to Yellowstone, and bald eagles have made a comeback from coast to coast.

National Forests: Not For Sale: President Bush's proposed 2007 federal budget includes a billion-dollar public land sell-off scheme that flies in the face of widespread opposition to recent proposals to privatize some of this country's most treasured public lands. The president wants to sell off 800,000 acres of National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands to raise money. The Sierra Club is rallying public opposition to the plan. The Club is also working to defeat the Walden-Baird logging bill to fast-track commercial salvage logging in our national forests.

Tongass National Forest: Protecting the Tongass National Forest—the world's largest temperate rainforest—is among the Club's top wildlands priorities. Alaska organizers have gotten nearly 100 businesses, including the Municipality of Anchorage, to sign the Club's Wild Lands for Wild Salmon proclamation, and organized gatherings and outings in Tongass communities to celebrate the benefits of Tongass wildlands and wild salmon on their economy and quality of life. Press events, community potlucks, outings, tabling events, phone banks, and door-to-door canvassing efforts are ongoing in Anchorage and around the state.

Klamath Basin: The plight of Klamath River salmon highlights the importance of the Endangered Species Act. The Sierra Club is working with an array of partners to restore salmon populations after water releases for irrigated farming have devastated their numbers in recent years.

West Virginia Wildlands: The Monongahela National Forest contains some of the most spectacular unprotected wild places in the eastern United States, like the Roaring Plains proposed wilderness pictured above. But the state's wildlands are now threatened by mining, logging, road-building, and industrial energy development. The Wild Legacy campaign is helping local activists move wilderness support and legislation forward in the state. The West Virginia Chapter has initiated a joint West Virginia Wilderness Campaign with the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and the Wilderness Society.

Giant Sequoia National Monument: Giant Sequoia National Monument, home to more than half the world's Sequoia redwoods, was protected by President Clinton in 2001. But the Bush administration is calling for the removal of large, healthy trees up to 30 inches in diameter, even within the sequoia groves, violating the original monument designation and contradicting a proclamation by the first President Bush declaring these forests off limits to commercial logging. In late July, the House Resources subcommittee took up legislation that would allow two commercial logging projects in Giant Sequoia Monument to move forward and would shield the timber sales from any environmental or legal review. The bill would also exempt from review another highly controversial 130,000-acre logging project in the Kings River watershed in nearby Sierra National Forest.

Off-Road Vehicles: Hunters and anglers, native nations, faith organizations, and ranchers are increasingly allied with conservation groups in fighting the rampant growth of ORV use on national forests and other public lands. The Wild Legacy campaign is building constituencies to combat this abuse.

Public Lands in Public Hands

On September 30 comes National Public Lands Day, the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands. Last year nearly 90,000 people around the country participated in trail or historic site maintenance, tree planting, fence pulls, trash and weed removal, habitat restoration, and accessibility improvements. The Sierra Club is joining the effort with its Public Lands in Public Hands campaign to raise awareness about attempts to give away our public lands and engage communities in local restoration projects on Public Lands Day. Club volunteers will be providing photos and accounts detailing their day of action, to be posted on the Sierra Club's public Web site. To find out about an event near you, see sierraclub.org/publiclandsday/.

Car Talk, Sierra Club Style

Interview with 'Climate Hero'
Dan Becker, Sierra Club's Car Guy

Automotive News, *Detroit's trade magazine*, named Becker, the Sierra Club's global warming expert, to its list of the top 10 people in Washington who most affect the auto industry, and Rolling Stone called him a "Climate Hero."

Let's start with the nitty-gritty, Dan. What do you drive?

I drive a Toyota Prius, 2000 model. It's our only car. It doesn't quite get the advertised mileage, but it does get about double what the previous car did, which was also a compact sedan.

So, do you consider your Prius a clean car? Or is "clean car" an oxymoron?

It's definitely a cleaner car than most. The best hybrids are dramatically more efficient than the same type of vehicle without the hybrid technology. There are lots of other technologies that can achieve significant improvements, and most of them are combined in the hybrids.



Dan Becker

We've talked for years about better engines, better transmissions, better aerodynamics. The hybrids use all of those and more. Most hybrids have regenerative braking, for example, so that they generate electricity when you slow the car rather than having that braking energy lost as heat. In addition, the hybrids have idle-off technology that turns off the engine when the car is stopped at a red light or in traffic and that saves even more gas.

So, there's a lot of good technology in these cars. You don't need to have a hybrid to have a relatively efficient vehicle, but most of the most efficient vehicles today are hybrids.

Are there good hybrids and bad hybrids?

There are good hybrids and less-good hybrids. There are some hybrids where the manufacturer used the technology to increase power and acceleration rather than to save gas and improve environmental performance. The Honda Accord hybrid, for example, is only about 25 percent more efficient than the normal Honda Accord, compared to a 50 percent efficiency improvement in the Civic hybrid. The Toyota Highlander is not a particularly stunning environmental achievement, nor is the Lexus 400H—both from Toyota. And GM is going to underwhelm everyone with its new Saturn Vue hybrid when it debuts in the fall.

The good news is that Americans seem to be responding appropriately by not buying these cars. They continue to wait in long lines to buy the best hybrids.

Ford made headlines recently when it backed off a commitment to sell more hybrids and instead chose to emphasize flex-fuel vehicles. What's the story behind that?

Well, it takes good technology and some level of commitment to make a significant number of hybrids. It only takes a desire to evade the law to build flexible fuel vehicles. A flexible fuel vehicle is a regular car or light truck that has the theoretical capability to run on alternative fuels such as E85, which is 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline.

I say theoretical because the vehicles usually have an optical scanner in the fuel line but no other significant changes to optimize them for running on ethanol. Ethanol is more corrosive than gasoline, so you need to coat the fuel tank so that it doesn't corrode. The auto companies don't do that because they recognize that the vast majority of people who buy these vehicles will never put ethanol in them. Why? Because out of 176,000 gas stations in the United States, only about 600 serve E85.

So, you may ask, "Well, if that's the case, then why do automakers bother to make FFVs?" And the answer is because they get a credit, due to a loophole in the law, that allows them to evade CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards and make more gas guzzlers than the

law would otherwise allow. The Big Three plus Nissan have all availed themselves of this loophole in the law, and recently Toyota announced that they intend to as well.

What if we had, say, 60,000 gas stations serving E85? Would FFVs start to make sense then?

Talk to me when we get anywhere near that. The reality today is that there are places where you would have to drive a thousand miles to find the nearest ethanol station. So, the first level of response is that E85 and FFVs are scams. If you really want to increase the use of ethanol, a better strategy and the one that the ethanol industry has proposed (as opposed to the auto industry which is pushing E85) is lower-ratio blends containing two to ten percent ethanol.

But couldn't ethanol help wean us off oil?

Certainly there is some level of ethanol, if it were produced from cellulosic material—not corn or soy, but switchgrass and other woody feedstocks—that could help us back out some of our addiction to gasoline. But above some level there will be other problems. You may be using more pesticides and water to produce your crop. You may be displacing food production. You might end up importing feedstock from tropical countries where they're already growing biofuel crops, but where any further increase will damage the rainforest. In Indonesia they're planning to cut a thousand-mile swath of rainforest to plant biofuel plantations for the Chinese automotive market.

We used 140 billion gallons of gasoline last year, and we produced the equivalent of 2.5 billion gallons of ethanol, total. That's a tiny fraction of the 140 billion. We would have to dramatically increase production to meet demand.

And that's why—and this is a novel expression—the single biggest step to curbing our oil addiction and global warming and to save consumers money at the gas pump is to raise CAFE standards and make cars go further on a gallon of gas. For the average vehicle, we could cut our gasoline consumption by more than half just by using existing technology. And that doesn't mean they all have to be hybrids. If they were all hybrids, it would be a much deeper cut than that. But it would also be somewhat more expensive.

Why has it been so difficult to get Congress to act?

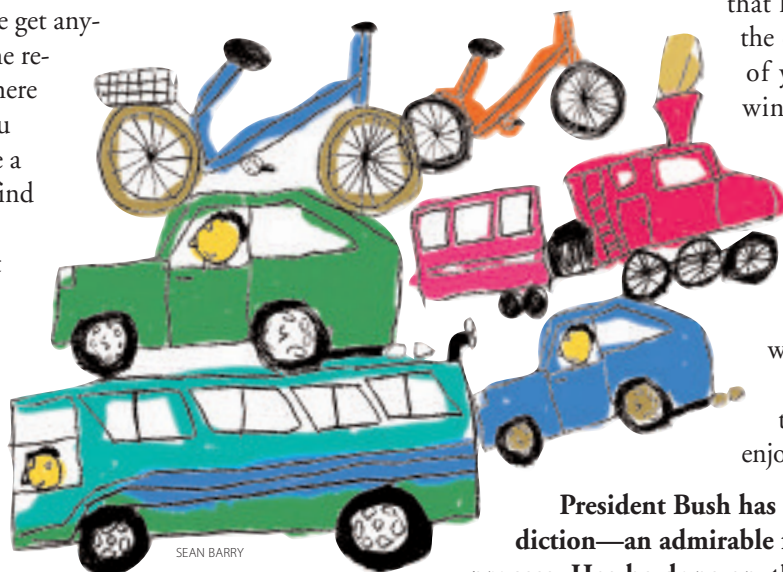
Well, Washington is broken, and the Congress is broken. So we have a stalemate now. The bad guys can't drill the Arctic, and we can't raise CAFE standards and thereby take the Arctic off the table forever. The auto industry funnels a lot of money into congressional campaigns. They also have a very effective lobbying campaign based on a series of big lies—one of which, fortunately, has been proven wrong. And that is, "We can't possibly make a vehicle that gets 40 mpg. It would be the size of a thimble. It would be unsafe. It would drive the automotive industry out of business."

Well, the hybrid is a rolling advertisement to prove that wrong. But big lies are hard to kill.

Starting a few years ago, in 2001, we began a three-part campaign. One part was taking the fight directly to the auto companies, such as Ford. Another part was exciting people about hybrid technology to get them to recognize that they actually can choose clean vehicles and pressure

automakers to make more of them. And the third part was going at the global warming problem through the states with the Pavley Law, which isn't a mile-per-gallon fuel economy law but a global warming emissions reduction law. And we've now gotten 11 states to adopt that, plus Canada. And that represents about 40 percent of the U.S. and Canadian car-buying market.

The auto companies have sued to overturn the law, and that lawsuit will be settled by the courts in the next couple of years. But I think we'll win—and then automakers will have a stark choice: Make clean cars and dirty cars in each of their plants and ship them accordingly, or decide, "Oh, the hell with it. We'll just make them all Pavley cars and the whole nation will enjoy cleaner vehicles."



President Bush has owned up to our oil addiction—an admirable first step in the recovery process. Has he done anything to follow up? And what should he do?

The president has the power himself to raise CAFE standards. He doesn't need Congress to do it. And, in fact, the president proposed last year an extraordinarily modest increase in CAFE standards for light trucks and SUVs—all of 2 mpg for light trucks by 2011. That increase is a fraction of the dramatic improvement that we got from the first round of CAFE, which doubled the fuel economy of America's cars from 1975 through the 80s. The technology exists to do this again, cost-effectively and safely, but the president has sat on his tailpipe rather than taking out his pen. That is shameful.

Here we have young Americans dying in Iraq. We have a lot of Iraqis dying. And we have all of the other consequences of oil dependence ranging from high gas prices to high global warming emissions, and enormous transfers of wealth to foreign nations, not all of whom are our best friends. The president talks piously about our oil addiction but has done nothing to begin to end it.

President Bush's early emphasis was on the promise of fuel cell cars. But we haven't heard much about that lately. Is there a future for fuel cell cars?

There may be, but it's a distant future. For starters, where are we going to get the hydrogen? It takes a lot of energy to create it. And then you've got to store it. If it's a gas, you can't put much of it on a vehicle, because you need a thick tank to hold it, for safety. So the driving range of the vehicle isn't going to be very great. If it's a liquid, it needs to be kept at minus 423 degrees F, which means you're using a lot of your energy just to keep it cold. Someday, we may have a solid that we can use, but we don't have one now. All that said, the fuel cell is a really neat technology with lots of potential applications. My guess is that it will most likely be used to run stationary plants first—buildings rather than cars.

Looking ten years ahead, where do you want to see us?

The scientists say we have about ten years to turn ourselves around on global warming emissions. We're racing down a road that ends at a giant chasm, and we've got to stop the car and turn it around and go the other way. But there is no good reason why we can't solve the problem. We managed to solve the problem of ozone depletion just in time.

We in the United States, the world's biggest polluter, need to lead. We need to get our head out of the sand. We need to recognize that global warming is a major problem that faces our nation and the world, that we have a major role in creating the problem and that we therefore have an enormous obligation to solve the problem.

As an optimist (and to work on global warming you pretty much have to be an optimist), I believe that we will succeed. We have the technology to begin to get there. Others can be developed over time. It won't be easy. What is lacking is the will to act, from our political leaders, from our corporate leaders. And there isn't enough of a commitment among ourselves to demand the kinds of actions that are needed. Still, I think we can turn it around, and the Sierra Club is the right group to lead that fight.

—PAT JOSEPH

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Blue and Green Ohio

Steelworkers, Sierra Club promote jobs, clean energy, and a new alliance

BY LARRY FAHN
SIERRA CLUB PRESIDENT, 2003-2005

The Sierra Club and the Steelworkers didn't just show up across Ohio recently to promote the new Blue/Green Alliance, we showed up in the newspaper business pages almost everywhere we went. I took part, on behalf of the Sierra Club, in a late June barnstorm from Cincinnati to Cleveland in support of new jobs, renewable energy, clean technologies, and fair trade policies. We received a surprisingly enthusiastic response from the media, even from conservative talk radio. Here are some of the highlights:

CINCINNATI—Dave Foster, a former Steelworkers regional director who's now chairing the Blue/Green Alliance, and I rise early for three live morning radio interviews, including a half-hour interview on the Mike McConnell Show. He's known as the Rush Limbaugh of the heartland, and his right-wing talk show is highly



Blue Is the New Green: Cincinnati City Councilwoman Laketa Cole and Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory sign the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement in the city's first certified green building.

rated all across the Midwest. We emphasized that fair trade policies and a push for renewable energy will save taxpayers money and reduce energy costs, and McConnell seemed surprisingly sympathetic, although shockingly skeptical about global warming.

Next we joined Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory for a terrific press conference where he signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement—he's mayor number 251—and joined the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" program to start lowering Cincinnati's global warming emissions. This was my first press conference ever in a gymnasium—a very high-tech gym on the second floor of the remarkable new Rec Center at the University of Cincinnati campus. It's the region's first LEED-certified green building, and we were joined by a designer who touted some of its innovative features, like collecting rainwater from the roof for irrigating nearby community gardens.

All four local TV network affiliates showed up with camera crews, and the 5 and 11 o'clock news broadcasts were saturated with our positive, solution-oriented message.

Dave and I also spent a cordial hour with the editorial board of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and business reporter Mike Boyer. The next morning's front page headline in the business section read "Greener Ohio Could Cash In"—this was the first of many outstanding print articles generated throughout the trip, mostly in the business section.

DAYTON—The highlights on this stop included being chauffeured around town in local Sierra Club leader Dave Brown's Honda Insight, one of the best designed hybrid cars ever, and meeting with Montgomery County

officials who touted the city's new solar energy and wind energy pilot program at Madison Park. The local officials also showed us how they cool city and county public buildings by using the extensive and cool underground aquifer that underlies Ohio's Miami Valley.

Dayton's Mayor McLin was one of the very early signers of the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement—she joined almost two years back. Since then, some of the old electric trolleys have been restored, lowering that city's public transit emissions. We also had a good discussion with the editorial board and writers at the *Dayton Business Journal*, which ran a front page story the following day.

Outside Dayton, in Springfield, we toured the factory of James Leffel & Company, which manufactures steel turbines using local materials and labor. The turbines help capture wasted energy from cooling towers at large utilities. We also learned about a local Montgomery County farmer who has installed four large windmills on his farm, and we shared that story and the potential for using wind energy to help stabilize Ohio's farm economy on conservative talk radio.

COLUMBUS—The historic statehouse served as backdrop for our Columbus press conference, where State Senator Dan Stewart and other officials joined us to highlight, among other accomplishments, Columbus' restoration of the Lazarus Building as the newest LEED-certified green public building in central Ohio. We had some frank discussions with the *Ohio Free Press*, including its editorial board and founder Harvey Wasserman, who probably knows more about wind energy than anyone in the Midwest. (Keep an eye out for Harvey's new book *Solartopia*, which documents how we can power our entire electric grid with solar energy in the next dozen years.)

CLEVELAND—One of the most well-attended and stimulating events of the week was our breakfast town hall meeting at a large labor hall in Cleveland, where Steelworkers and Sierra Clubbers came out in force for a healthy discussion on how our nation's bankrupt trade policy has helped decimate the region's jobs, and polluted the local air and water.

We lamented that our "free trade" policy wasn't just exporting Ohio jobs, but sending them to places in the third world that have a combination of the worst environmental protections (or none at all) and the lowest wages. We discussed how to spread the word about reversing course by setting up "fair trade" agreements—with enforceable labor and environmental standards—and using renewable energy and clean technology innovations to bring jobs back to Cleveland.

That morning's *Cleveland Plain Dealer* had a huge photo and headline on the front page of the business section: "COMMON GROUND—United Steelworkers, Sierra Club unite for good jobs, safety, clean environment," complete with a big color photo of a large wind turbine:

"...Yes, it's true, the country's biggest manufacturing union and biggest environmental group are joining forces to combat what they say is mounting damage from globalization of the economy and global climate change...the 850,000-member Steelworkers and the 750,000-member Sierra Club say their Blue/Green Alliance will fight for energy independence, fair trade and toxic pollution reduction at U.S. factories..."

The tour wrapped up with a press conference on the lawn in front of the large new wind turbines on Cleveland's rejuvenated lakefront. It's wedged in between the Cleveland Science Center, the world-renowned Rock-N-Roll Museum and Hall of Fame, and the new Browns football stadium. During the press conference we were joined by Mayor Georgine Welo of South Euclid, who signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement—mayor number 252.

Then Andrew Watterson, Cleveland's Sustainability Programs Manager—every city should have one—announced that on July 3, Cleveland's Mayor Frank Jackson would become the 253rd mayor to sign the pact, and would also make Cleveland a "Cool City," with commitments to start mapping out a plan to greatly reduce its global warming emissions. Cleveland has already purchased 32 hybrid vehicles for its municipal fleet.

For a complete report on the tour, go to sierraclub.org/tradelbluegreen/.



Sierra Club Insider

Alabama Green Rebuilding Project



From June 2-5, two dozen volunteers gathered in Coden, Alabama, near Mobile, for a green rebuilding project supported by the Sierra Club's Alabama Gulf

Coast Restoration Task Force. The goal was to rebuild a home for someone displaced by Hurricane Katrina, using low-cost, green rebuilding methods, and make the project a model for other rebuilding projects. The home belonged to Nancy McCall, who has been living in a FEMA trailer since Katrina. Alabama Sierra Club organizer Peggie Griffin says the project was such a success that another has been planned for later in the summer. Also in 'Bama, the Club organized a caravan of 16 hybrid cars carrying members of the Alabama Chapter and other local conservation groups to the opening night of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" in Birmingham. The cars arrived with American flags flying, a police escort, and onlookers waving.

Schwarzenegger Joins Sierra Club...

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger joined a Sierra Club teleconference on July 24 to announce his opposition to the offshore oil bill that passed the Senate a week later. The governor echoed the Club's concern that passage of the bill could "lead to the weakening of the moratorium that has protected our California coasts for 25 years." Find out what you can do to help protect our coasts at sierraclub.org/wildlands/coasts/. A week later, Schwarzenegger and British Prime Minister Tony Blair signed a nonbinding agreement to share technology and research aimed at reducing global warming.

Monterey Pines Saved



The Club's Great Coastal Places campaign won a victory in June when the Pebble Beach Company withdrew plans to cut down 17,000 Monterey pine trees on California's Monterey Peninsula for another golf course, a driving range, and more resort and luxury home development. Over the last year, campaign

organizer Owen Bailey arranged meetings between Sierra Club members and California Coastal Commissioners up and down the coast, recruiting activists through chapter newsletters, mailings, phone banks, and e-mail alerts. Last December, members hand-delivered more than 1,200 notes to the Commission in the shape of holiday ornaments, all hung on potted Monterey pine trees. In all, more than 2,000 notes and 5,000 postcards were sent, and the final stack was accompanied by a 12-inch cookie in the shape of a pine tree, decorated with the words "I am ESHA" (Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area). The developer pulled the plan the day before the Coastal Commission's decisive hearing.

National Solar Tour

The National Solar Tour, now in its 11th year, will kick off around the country on October 7. Hosted by the American Solar Energy Society, the tour has grown from 5,000 tour takers in 1996 to nearly 70,000 in 2005. The tour, with a theme of "real places for real people," opens thousands of homes and buildings throughout the country so visitors can see real examples of renewable energy and energy-efficiency. Many Sierra Club members are helping organize this year's event. For tour locations, see ases.org/tour/.

Supremes Weaken Water Protections

A June 19 Supreme Court ruling threatens the federal government's power to enforce the Clean Water Act and puts more than half of America's river miles at risk by making it harder for agencies to determine what bodies of water qualify for protection. The ruling puts enforcement of the Clean Water Act on a case-by-case basis that works in favor of polluters. It will also likely slow protective action and lead to endless delays and challenges in the courts. However, five of the nine justices recognized the importance of protecting wetlands and other waters, rejecting the narrow interpretation put forth by Justices Scalia, Thomas, Alito, and Roberts. Read more at sierraclub.org/cleanwater/.

—TOM VALTIN



NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Building Relationships, Rallying for Renewables, Saying Goodbye

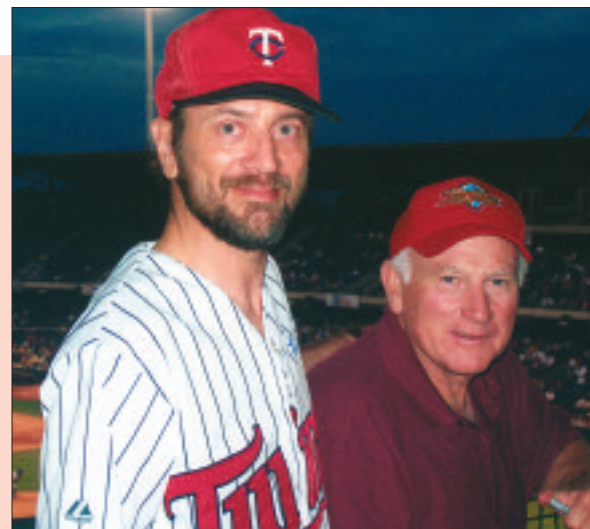
Leadership in Motion: At a recent Leadership Development Project workshop, facilitator Marshall Ganz recalled Cesar Chavez's oft-cited "secret" to effective organizing: "First I talk to one person, and then another and then another." One participant offered how we do it today: "First I send one e-mail, then another and then another." Everyone laughed.

Does that laughter tell us anything about our organizing strategies today? That's just one of the topics covered in recent LDP workshops in Los Altos, California, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Eatonville, Washington. Approximately 120 Sierra Club leaders from the Cascade, Florida, Loma Prieta, and Rio Grande chapters are taking part in the project, which focuses on developing relationships, using storytelling to engage new members, and motivating people to take action.

"We put relationship-building to use right away," says Ilse Bleck, group chair of the Rio Grande Chapter's Pajarito Group. "I've had three one-on-one meetings so far, two with new members, and I already recruited one new excom member." Lisa Barbosa from the Loma Prieta Peak Climbing Section says, "I've learned more in a day and a half than I have in the past year." The project is led by Club board member Greg Casini and Harvard researcher Marshall Ganz, a leading organizer in the United Farm Workers union under Chavez and the lead researcher of the Club's National Purpose/Local Action study. To find out more, go to clubhouse.sierraclub.org/ldp.

Maryland Students Rally for Clean Energy: In July, the Montgomery County Council in Maryland voted unanimously to purchase 20 percent renewable energy for all county municipal buildings by 2011, up from five percent. The power will be purchased from a West Virginia wind farm. The move came after an intense campaign from the Montgomery County Student Environmental Activists, a student-run organization of high school and college students who rallied support at schools, collected more than 3,100 petition signatures and 90 photo petitions, and met with the County Council president, who agreed to sponsor the resolution. In April they held a solar-powered rally on the steps of the County Council building featuring speeches by county officials, student leaders, and Sierra Student Coalition Director Jared Duval, as well as live music and a street theater duel between a belching smoke stack and a wind turbine.

Correction: Sierra Club member Clair Gustafson of Berkeley, California, was among those who pointed out the misspelling of "Clair" Tappaan in the July/Aug *Planet*. (We added an "e" on the end.) Gustafson phoned us up from his family's homestead in Arlington, South Dakota, where he is summering in the crop-withering heat. He says the name Clair is still quite common for a man in those parts—there's even another Clair Gustafson in the area whose bills get mixed up with his own. He doesn't think the name Clair is widely used in California anymore. Still, to all the Clairs out there—and especially Clair Tappaan—we apologize for the error.



Farewell, Friend: On June 21, Sierra Club Deputy Field Director Larry Mehlhaff died at his home in Salt Lake City, of complications related to brain cancer. He was 49. The son of a grain-elevator operator in Freeman, South Dakota, Mehlhaff was a Club staffer for 21 years. "Larry's death is a great loss to this organization and the planet," says Club Executive Director Carl Pope. "He spent his life speaking for the prairies, mountains, and wildlife with passion and good cheer, and he inspired others to join that work." In addition to his myriad conservation accomplishments, in the 1980s Mehlhaff combined his passions for organizing and baseball in a successful campaign to get former Minnesota Twins star Harmon Killebrew, pictured above right with Mehlhaff, elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

The week before he died, Mehlhaff was presented with the Club's John Muir Award. Pope, who bestowed the honor, took the occasion to announce the creation of the new Larry Mehlhaff Award, honoring employee excellence and special achievement. Mehlhaff's partner, Marion Klaus, requests that people wishing to honor Larry make contributions to the National Brain Tumor Foundation or to The Sierra Club Foundation, Larry Mehlhaff Memorial Conservation Fund. For more, see sierraclub.org/people/mehlhaff.

—TOM VALTIN AND JOHN BYRNE BARRY

who we are

Loyd Cortez—San Antonio, Texas
Alamo Group Vice Chair

"Anger is what got me involved with the Sierra Club," says Loyd Cortez, whose easygoing nature makes a decidedly un-angry first impression. "The city of San Antonio wanted to cut down a lot of trees on undeveloped land and build a golf course on top of our local aquifer. Most citizens were against it, but the only way to legally fight the re-zoning was to get 70,000 petitions and put it on the ballot."



Cortez at first expected only to sign the petition. But when no one in his part of town volunteered to collect signatures, he stepped up. "I set up a table at the P.O. and gathered signatures for 3-4 hours a day. All told, we got 100,000. But the city council exploited a legal loophole—a technicality on the wording of the ballot initiative—and approved the golf course. That really ticked me off. That's when I joined the Sierra Club."

A retired mainframe computer programmer, Cortez soon found himself speaking in public on water quality and zoning issues. When the Alamo Group chair heard him speak, he asked Cortez to run for the Alamo Group excom, which he did—successfully. He now serves as group vice chair, membership chair, and webmaster.

"My goal is to raise awareness," Cortez says. "I tell people if they want to make a difference they should join the Sierra Club and sign up for action alerts. One person standing in front of his city council won't have much impact. But if 1,000 people sign on, elected officials will listen."

Cortez enjoys traveling to Austin for the restaurants, cafes, and the nightlife. In San Antonio, he hops on his motorcycle to get around. "It gets 45 mpg," he winks. "It's hard to beat for fuel economy."

Christine Williamson—Chicago, Illinois
Chicago Group Chair

When avid birder Christine Williamson returned to her hometown of Chicago in 1988 after several years in England, she was struck by how many dead and injured birds she found as she walked around the Loop. Turns out the main culprit was the Windy



City's famous thicket of high-rises. A financial reporter by trade, Williamson devotes much of her volunteer energy to ameliorating the problem.

"One thing we can do is make glass in high-rises less reflective by etching it with patterns," she explains. "Another is to get the lights turned out. Songbirds travel at night and they're attracted to light, especially on cloudy nights. Even if they don't slam into the glass they'll flutter against it all night and fall to the ground dead or exhausted. The city has been very responsive, and for the last three years they've done a good job of turning lights out during spring and fall migrations."

Williamson applauds Mayor Richard Daley for converting an old airport terminal to a bird hospital, where a triage center has been set up. "Janitors are often the ones who find the injured birds," she says. "They put them in their shirt pockets and then gently pull them out for us. There's one janitor I know whose shirt pocket is always moving because there's a little bird inside."

Williamson, who met her husband at a bird club, says nearly every vacation or business trip they take involves birding. "We go to Duluth in January and Arizona in August," she laughs. "We were in Peru this summer, and the highlight was spotting a Peruvian flicker atop an ancient Incan storehouse at Machu Picchu. Our Indian guide almost danced for joy when we showed him a Peruvian white-throated hawk through our binoculars. He was so proud for his country."

Erica Langenbahn—Columbia, South Carolina
John Bachman Group Membership Chair

This summer, *An Inconvenient Truth* did surprisingly well in red states. Some credit for that should go to Erica Langenbahn, who urged her younger brother to see the film, and he liked it. So did her mother, her sister, her sister's boyfriend, and a friend of her brother.



Langenbahn works hard to engage people in environmental issues. To keep members involved and attract new ones, she helps organize Sierra Club & Beer get-togethers and has started a Sierra Club & Bowling program. "I wish more people would get involved," she says. "Either enjoying outings or contributing whatever special talents they have to help the Club and the environment." She joined the Club about a year ago; six months later, she was on the group excom. Now she's group membership chair, outings chair, newsletter editor, and the chapter's vice-chair for membership.

Langenbahn works as a field chemist with hazardous chemical waste, and wants to get a master's in environmental science and a juris doctorate in environmental law; her goal is to reduce what goes into landfills and promote better chemical recovery and recycling. She's even gotten her office to recycle, pointing out, "We take care of chemical waste, why don't we recycle?"

She believes the Club can educate people in many ways, such as taking them on hikes into forests that might be sold off for development. "Open their eyes," she says, "If you can get that education out there, then hopefully we have a better chance." Langenbahn is still working on her father. While they are both Republicans, she says her father is "hard-core" and likes Rush Limbaugh. "I try to say little tiny things to make him think." For years, when changing the oil in their cars, her father dumped the oil right onto the ground. But after some convincing, he now takes the oil to a recycling center.

—TOM VALTIN AND TIMOTHY LESLE