



# Fresh Air

Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

Fall 2003

Volume 35, Issue 3

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**September 14** - Our group booth at "Taste of New Paltz"

**September 20** - Tag Sale!

**October 4** - Hike-a-thon

**October 15** - Speaker Social: Awosting Reserve development

**November 19** - Speaker Social: Wildlife educator Rusty Johnson and others

**December 14** - Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap Day

*Contact*

*bibis@juno.com or  
at (845) 255-5528  
if interested in  
volunteering*

**TAG SALE**  
**Saturday,**  
**September 20**

**Our chapter's annual  
fundraising event**

## **From the Group Chair's Corner**

**by Bibi Sandstrom**

I'm back from camping with my husband in northern Minnesota, where I sat and read by the light of the full moon on a bench overlooking Lake Superior... Trees, sky, fresh air, water, books... What more could anyone want?

Well, food... photos... animals... and bargains! And here in New York in the next few months you can get all of that! Aside of our 8/24 picnic, there will be a booth on 9/14 at "Taste of New Paltz" where you can buy Sierra calendars, our TAG SALE Saturday 9/20 where you can find bargains, and great Speaker Socials on 10/15 and 11/19!

On November 19, wildlife educator RUSTY JOHNSON, author of "The Twilight of the Wild", will bring some of his wild animals to the Highland Cultural Center! Rusty has given over 3,000 workshops and lectures, has assisted Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, and has appeared on TV. He has hawks, falcons, owls, vultures, frogs, lizards, and more! In the meantime, you can check out his website [www.WildlifeLectures.com](http://www.WildlifeLectures.com), but be sure and come to our Third Wednesday Speaker Social for a fun evening! On October 15, we will have a big powwow about the Awosting Reserve development. People from the different groups involved in this are being asked to come and fill us in on what's happening to this fragile, beautiful area. Keith LaBudde from Friends of the Shawangunks will speak, as will Anne Bienstock of Save the Ridge and the Shawangunk Valley Conservancy, Amy Little of the Ridge Coalition, and Ajax Greene of GARD, plus I hope many others. Also, slides of the endangered area will be shown. Please come to these free Speaker Socials at 54 Vineyard Avenue in downtown Highland at 730pm; call 691-6008 for directions or contact me for info ([bibis@juno.com](mailto:bibis@juno.com)).

On October 4, you can help us out with a **HIKEATHON**; please see elsewhere in this issue for details! And, our usual big fall event, is....

**TAG SALE SAT SEPT 20** (Raindate Sun 21):

Here it is - our big annual fundraising event! Reserve that date! Sale will be from 930am to 3pm on Saturday, September 20 at the parking lot of MULLIGAN'S on Rt. 376, 215 New Hackensack Road in Poughkeepsie, as per earlier years. It is 2 miles south of Vassar College.

**WE NEED TREASURES TO SELL!** Merchandise for sale should be dropped off at Mulligan's at 8am on the morning of the sale. If possible, please stay and help us sort the merchandise. It would help if items are presorted into the general categories of kitchen, household, brick-a-brack, children's or adult's clothing, etc. Computer and electronic equipment in excellent working order are also welcome, as are any books except old textbooks. JEWELRY and PLANTS and BAKED GOODS/drinks would be especially welcome. (Please note that shoes, other than sporting, do not sell, and clothing should be in near-perfect condition. Mattresses and items on consignment

*(Continued on page 2)*

**"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."**

**-- Frank Lloyd Wright, architect**

## From the Group Chair's Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

cannot be accepted. Very large items such as furniture and lawn equipment cannot be accepted because we have no way to get rid of them if they do not sell.)

### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO WORK ON SALE DAY!

If you can help out, please reserve the date and call Janet Sabatino at 897-5370. You can choose to work setup (8 to 11), the morning sales rush (10 to 1), or afternoon (1 until closing) or cleanup or any combination you can. Your help is greatly appreciated. We may need a volunteer with a truck, or at least to offer to drive a truck, to pick up tables at a local rental place at 8am and to return them at 3:30pm. We also need volunteers with trucks or vans to help shuttle merchandise from drop-off points to tag sale. If you can't drop-off on the morning of the Tag Sale, please contact one of the following drop-off volunteers: Marjorie Russell (Hudson), 518-828-9146, Dave Page (Milton), 795-5665, Fred Schaeffer (Pleasant Valley), 454-1190 (w).

**HELP US WITH ADVERTISING THE SALE!** Great ideas for spreading the word? This sale is a major source of funding for your newsletter!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, or in case of questionable weather, call Janet Sabatino at 897-5370.

### LOCAL POLITICAL QUESTIONNAIRE CREATED!

Your executive committee is distributing the following Questionnaire to local political candidates. Contact us to see how the candidates in \*your\* local race answer, and then check our website later to check our endorsements:

- 1) List any environmental organizations to which you have belonged and when, as well as your top environmental accomplishments. Who is your environmental adviser?
- 2) Does your town have an open space plan? What planned growth policies, land use techniques, and incentives for preserving open space and avoiding suburban sprawl do you support?

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### Ralph D. Pollard, Ph.D.

17 Horizon Hill Drive  
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3) What would you do to strengthen cooperative regional planning?

4) How can you help local and organic farms? Do you advocate zoning and tax incentives or other techniques to protect farmland and forest land?

5) Do you support expanding the use of sustainable energy sources such as wind and solar power in New York state? Do you support requiring government use of these sources, and providing tax incentives for private citizens to use them? Do you support sustainable building practices such as use of alternative building materials?

6) What are your thoughts about residential versus business development, and on public transportation? Would you promote a pedestrian/bicycle-friendly environment?

7) Do you advocate enforcement of the Pesticides Neighbor Notification Law, and of banning carcinogenic pesticides? Would your government become a model of responsible land use by increasing restrictions of non-agricultural pesticides and herbicides and by using low-impact landscaping? Will you ban the use of herbicides on highway right-of-ways?

8) How can you help prevent development on the aquifer/wetlands (such as along Rt. 299 in the Town of Lloyd outside of New Paltz)? How can you help protect wetlands and watersheds of any size?

9) What is your position on the proposed development for the Shawangunk Ridge (Awosting Reserve) and other projects of this type (St. Lawrence Cement Plant near Hudson, mining operations in Saugerties & Kerhonkson, Kingston Landing's AVR, Columbia's store on 299 on Lloyd's aquifer)?

9A) How do you feel about the plan for NY State to build an Interchange on Drury Lane in Orange County (cost: \$43 million) to provide access between I-84 and Stewart Airport?

10) Basically, how would you help bring your community more of clean air, clean water, and open space, and less of sprawl and pollution? How do you envision making your community more liveable?

### HELP OUT YOUR GROUP THIS FALL: — buy 2004

Sierra desk or wall calendars from us (contact Bibi); — volunteer some time at a festival (contact Bibi at [bibis@juno.com](mailto:bibis@juno.com)); (Taste of New Paltz 9/14? Beacon Sloop Fest in Oct? B&N Giftwrapping in Dec?)

— Indicate interest in being on an Earth Day Planning Committee;

— Nominate (or become!) good board candidates;

— Send a donation to POB 1012, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602;

— Check out our website at

[www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson](http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson) — also buy Sierra

items there or get others to join through our site;

— Sign up to receive Fresh Air electronically (write [midhudsonsierra@yahoo.com](mailto:midhudsonsierra@yahoo.com))

—Go on the Hikeathon Oct 4, or send money in order not to!!

— Volunteer at the Tag Sale Sept 20 and/or donate and/or buy items there!

**CONSERVATION CORNER by Roberta Clements**

The Mid-Hudson group is following some big conservation issues this summer. On the forefront is the proposed Awosting Reserve development on the Shawangunk Ridge in Gardiner. These 2600 acres of pristine mountainside continue to be in danger of being decimated in favor of suburban sprawl. Members should continue to voice their dismay through letters to the newspapers, Gardiner politicians, and the DEC office in New Paltz. On a positive note, New York State obtained 510 acres of the southernmost portion of the ridge, in Orange county, to be used as a preserve and parkland. The Awosting Reserve property should be the next parcel to go this route! The developers privately acknowledged the strength and organization of the resistance to their development and we need to keep the pressure on to show how strongly we oppose this type of building. When the developers present a draft scoping document we will need a big showing at the public hearing!

Another threat to the ridge includes a proposed casino on the Ellenville side of the mountains. Sierra members need to be heard this fall in Local Elections. Show our governmental leaders what we want and make it count in the polls. Local Sierra Club political endorsements will be posted on our website. We may need door to door volunteers in your area so please contact the group to do so.

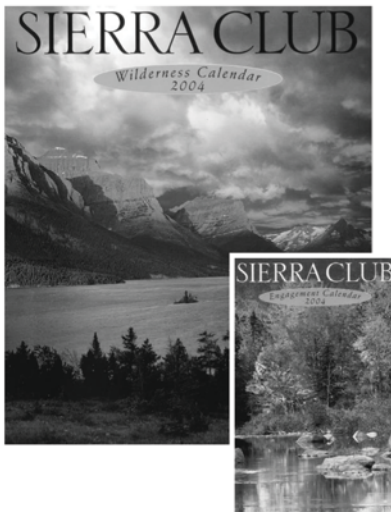
The AVR corporation has proposed over 2000 units on 524

acres on the Hudson River in the City of Kingston. This is another proposal that's just too big and too destructive. The sloped river frontage was previously a cement plant and would be a fine location for a forested park in the upper portions and a riverfront park in the lower portions. The Sierra Club endorses redevelopment of previous industrial sites and the Mid-Hudson Group believes a small cluster development of 300-500 condominium type attached units may be beneficial on this site, if appropriately sited. Use of a constructed wetland would be a key feature needed for sewage treatment in order to preserve the Hudson from any further pollution. Contact Ann Loeding @ Friends of Rondout (845) 331-3180.

Hyde Park member Cornelia Smith is fighting to save a 12 acre wetland near her home. The proposed development is called "Deer Hill Estates." The DEC has been notified and is involved. Members that want to support Cordelia's fight, please call her at 229-1875.

Sierrans should come out in force for our Hike-A-Thon at Minnewaska on October 4. It will be a volunteer led 6-10 mile hike. Please call Roberta Clements (845) 532-6400 to register and get your pledges lined up for this fun and fabulous event.

*(Roberta Clements, Conservation Chair, can be reached at (845) 532-6400 or email her at rac137@juno.com)*



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**To order, call:  
Bibi Sandstrom 255-5528**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

**HUDSON VALLEY HIKE-A THON**

**DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2003**  
**TIME: CHECK IN 9:30 AM - HIKE START 10 AM**  
**PLACE: MINNEWASKA STATE PARK, UPPER PARKING**  
 NEW PALTZ, NY

**DIRECTIONS:** FROM THRUWAY EXIT 18- LEFT ONTO ROUTE 299 WEST, RIGHT ONTO ROUTE 44/55, LEFT INTO MAIN GATE AT MINNEWASKA STATE PARK, PARK/MEET AT THE UPPER PARKING LEVEL

PLEDGES ARE A GREAT WAY FOR YOU TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP THE SIERRA CLUB. THE PLEDGE PER MILE IS \$25, \$20, \$15, \$10, \$5, OR \$2 FOR HIKING UP TO FIVE MILES. THE INDIVIDUAL FROM EACH SIERRA CLUB GROUP RAISING THE LARGEST DOLLAR AMOUNT IN PLEDGES WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE. ALL PLEDGES MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 29. CHECKS ARE BEST! PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SIERRA CLUB.

For a flyer and pledge form see our website at [www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson](http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson) or contact Roberta to receive information by mail.

## SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Sat-Sun, Sept 20-28, Fourth Annual Hudson River Valley Ramble (9 days)

On September 20-28, 2003, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Valley Greenway with assistance from the Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will sponsor the fourth annual Hudson River Valley Ramble. The Ramble features nearly 140 outdoor explorations and events that highlight the scenic and natural landscapes, and historic and cultural riches of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Estuary. Guided and interpreted walks showcase some 3,000 miles of trails, will also feature bicycling trips and paddling trips on the Hudson River Water Trail. Most events are free, and many are geared for families. For a free program booklet, call (800) 453-6665 or (845) 334-9574, or e-mail contact event coordinator High Land Flings Footloose Holidays at 800-453-6665 or 845-334-9574 and by e-mail at: [ramble@highlandflings.com](mailto:ramble@highlandflings.com).

The program may also be viewed and printed at [www.hudsonvalleyramble.com](http://www.hudsonvalleyramble.com).

Mid-Hudson Group  
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 1012  
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### *Have You Filled Out a Questionnaire?*

Do You Want to Be Reminded of Events or Alerted of Changes?

--via email: send address to [bibis@juno.com](mailto:bibis@juno.com)

--via phone: call Winnie at 266-4853.

Would You Prefer "email only" Newsletters in Future(once we figure out how)? -- contact webmaster Peter Ford through [midhudsonsierra@yahoo.com](mailto:midhudsonsierra@yahoo.com)

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