



# Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

Fall 2005 Vol. 37 Issue 4

## CHAIRS'S CORNER

**Bibi Sandstrom**

Thanks in advance for your help with the upcoming major fundraising Tag Sale. And thanks to Gary and Kristin for their donation sent to our POB. Please note the upcoming programs which look so enticing.

### October Program:

October Speaker Social: Special Location!!

Come to the Sweetwater Catering Hall in Kingston to hear noted author, ROXANA ROBINSON, discuss her novel, "Sweetwater", which is set in the Adirondacks.

This beautiful mountainous region has long played an important part in the American consciousness as a symbol of the sacred and powerful notion of wilderness. In Robinson's book the Adirondacks represent the natural world in all its breathtaking splendor, dangerous potency, and heartbreaking vulnerability. She'll talk about our need for the notion of wilderness - in our minds and hearts and lives - which lies at the core of her novel.

ROXANA ROBINSON has written three other novels, a biography of Georgia O'Keefe, and three short story collections. Four works have been named New York Times Notable Books of the Year and she has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the MacDowell Colony. Robinson, an avid organic gardener and traveler, frequently contributes pieces to various magazines and newspapers on these subjects. She lives in New York City and Maine.

Place: The Sweetwater Catering Hall, a rental place for private parties at 7:30. Location: 146 Delaware Ave. at Kingston Point, (east of the Rondout). Call 339-7800 for directions or check our website, <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

### November Program:

We've had many authors describe beautiful places through prose and slides. In November, learn to see nature through poetry.

On Wednesday, November 16th, poet, birdwatcher, gardener, and hiker ROGER ROLOFF will share his love of nature through his poems, which have been published in three books, "Gathered From the Wild: Poems of a Wanderer", "The Poetry of Earth" and "Natural Gifts". Learn to "read all the ridgelines right" to read between them needs this deeper sight: to spy in mute rocks geologic speech, to know the hermit thrush's heart through song".

Place: the JCC on Rt. 32N at 730pm. Enjoy nature & the company of Sierrans, stock up on SC calendars for holiday gifts and nurture your spirit with poetry.

**SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24,**  
The annual Sierra Club Tag Sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, at Mulligan's Irish Pub on New Hackensack Road in Poughkeepsie. Sale hours are 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM but volunteers will be onsite by 7 AM. Raindate (if questionable weather) Sunday Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. Please call the *Sierra Sale Hotline* at 454-1190 for a recorded message to confirm.)

Tag Sale

### Donations Needed:

We need donations of quality, clean items..... electronics in working order, toys with all the parts, hiking/camping equipment, sporting goods with some play left in them, books, tools, antiques, etc. Clothing/shoes (not a big seller) must be in excellent condition. Please have your items priced to sell; it really helps the volunteer sales crew.

### Donation Drop Off:

Donations can be dropped off the morning of the tag sale or by contacting one of the following drop-off volunteers: Marjorie Russell (Hudson), 518-828-9146; Dave Page (Milton), 795-5665; Fred Schaeffer (Pleasant Valley/Poughkeepsie, 454-1190(w); Ronnie Brown (Newburgh), 565-6329. Pick-up volunteer: Gerald Davison, 339-4509.

**NEW THIS YEAR...** a Raffle and Consignment tent! Several club members have donated artwork for the raffle and we will be seeking donations from area merchants. The consignment tent will provide donors with a little cash incentive for those big ticket items...consignment items must have a minimum tag sale value of \$50 and we will share the proceeds of the sale 50/50. Contact Ralph Pollard (845-462-3389) or [ralphpollard@att.net](mailto:ralphpollard@att.net) if you are interested in consignment.

### Volunteers Needed:

WE NEED volunteers to work these shifts (7-10AM, 10AM-1PM, and 1-4PM).

Please contact Carol Jarvis, 473-5620, to let her know when you can help out. The tag sale, the club's main fundraiser, is a huge undertaking and the work usually falls on a few...please volunteer to set up, price, sell, take away. Help make a difference!

### Labeling Party

Our Labeling Party in May was a success, so we'll try it again - but this time, not on the same night as a speaker social so we hope you'll still come out to help!

Date: November 30<sup>th</sup>. Time: 6:00pm

Place: Village Hall in New Paltz (Plattekill Ave.) in the large room. Help us fold (just one fold this time), affix labels, and seal up our winter newsletter. Perhaps bring some kind of food and we'll make it a party again. Call Bibi, 255-5528.



## Fall Outings/Events:

### Outing Rating System:

**Class A – Difficult:** 1500’climb/more than 8 miles  
**Class B - Moderate:** Less than 1500’ climb 6-8 miles  
**Class C - Easy:** Well graded trails, less than 6 miles.

*“Keep close to Nature’s heart...and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean”.*

*John Muir*

**Outings Program: Tonda Highley and committee**  
 Contact Tonda at [toredshu@aol.com](mailto:toredshu@aol.com) or 255-9933  
 if interested in leading an outing or learning more.

Sat. Sept. 17, Black Rock Forest, Orange County, Level B, joint with ADK. Meander trails and dirt roads exploring ponds and reservoirs and discover an area of both natural and historical significance. Stop at the interpretive center to learn about local field studies. Views of the Hudson. Bring lunch/beverage. Rain cancels. Meet the leader at the Bed and Bath parking lot (Newburgh Mall-Union Ave. (Rt.300) at 9:30. Leader: Arlene Canonico, (845) 246-2069.

Sept. 24 (raindate 25), TAG SALE - Our major fundraising activity and community awareness drive.

Sat. Oct. 1, Brace Mtn. (Taconics) Level A, joint with ADK We'll examine the metamorphic rock of the remnants of an ancient Himalayan-scale range on this 8-mile trek that will take us from New York to Massachusetts and back. Elevation gain will be about 1400 feet. Group size limited to 10. Early start. Contact leaders for meeting time and place. Jean-Claude Fouere and Georgette Weir, 462-0142 (before 9 pm) or [geweir@optonline.net](mailto:geweir@optonline.net).

Sun. Oct. 16, Shaupeneake Ridge (town of Esopus, Ulster Co), Level B. The trail circles Louisa Pond and meanders about on the ridge; some views of the Hudson from on high. The area is relatively isolated and is in a good location along the Hudson Valley fly-path, a major migration route, and is a good example of forest succession from agricultural to logging to preserve/forest. Examples of all stages are evident. The pond is of a fairly advanced age and is abundant in aquatic wildlife. Bring lunch and beverage. Heavy rain cancels. Contact leader to confirm and for meeting place. Time: 10:00 AM. Leader: Jim Mays: 845-657-2013 or [jmays@hvaccess.com](mailto:jmays@hvaccess.com).

Sun. Oct. 23, Duck Pond/Mohonk Preserve, Level B, 6 miles loop. Meet the leader at the trailhead at the end of Pine Rd. off of Butterville Rd. in New Paltz at 10AM and hike from Duck Pond to Skytop. Enjoy the Preserve, a unique protected area of geological and ecological significance, with views of Mohonk Mt. House Gardens and wildlife sightings. Some scrambling. Bring lunch/water. Mohonk Preserve membership or fee required. Leader: Tonda Highley: [toredshu@aol.com](mailto:toredshu@aol.com).

Sat. Oct. 29, (raindate: Sun. Oct.30), Fire ecology walk and talk at Sam's Point Preserve, Cragmoor, level C+. Joint with ADK. Some climbing. Explore one of the world's "Last Great Places" with a fire ecologist from the Nature Conservancy. See the unique Ice Caves and explore how proposed development (e.g. the "Awosting Reserve") would impact the area's extraordinary views and ecology. Afterward, we'll visit the Nature Conservancy's new Conservation Center. Hike will leave Sam's Point at about 11 am; pre-registration is required. There is a parking fee. Bring lunch & beverage. Contact leader to register and arrange car pooling: Marie Caruso, 845-452-9086 or [mclagr@aol.com](mailto:mclagr@aol.com).

Sat. Nov. 5, Mount Taurus (Hudson Highlands) Level B+, joint with ADK. We'll look for signs of previous land use and appreciate the power of nature to reclaim the land as we hike a loop of about 6 miles with a strenuous 1400 feet of steep elevation, up and down. Group size limited to 10. Early start. Contact leaders for meeting time and place. Georgette Weir and Jean-Claude Fouere, 462-0142 (before 9 pm) or [geweir@optonline.net](mailto:geweir@optonline.net).

Sat. Dec. 3, Minnewaska Ramble (hunting-free zone) Level B, joint with ADK. 6-8 mile route TBD, but probably will include Blueberry Run and Scenic Trail. As we walk, we'll consider what is involved in designing and maintaining hiking trails. (No trail work today, though leaders maintain a section of the Blueberry Run.) Group size limited to 10. Early start. Contact leaders for meeting time and place. Georgette Weir and Jean-Claude Fouere, 462-0142 (before 9 pm) or [geweir@optonline.net](mailto:geweir@optonline.net).

Sat., Dec. 10, James Baird State Park, LaGrange, Level C. An easy 4-mile hike through woods. With the foliage gone, it should be a good time to see birds that are over-wintering. Rain or heavy snow cancels, but if we have good snow cover, we'll ski on the golf course instead. Contact leader, Marie Caruso, for time & meeting place: 845-452-9086 or [mclagr@aol.com](mailto:mclagr@aol.com).



**Lapland Lake X-Country Ski Trip Early Notice on page 4.**

## Conservation Corner:

Roberta Clements

Mamataking cont. **Contact Paula Medely via e-mail at [jhgrifo@hvc.rr.com](mailto:jhgrifo@hvc.rr.com)**

### Kingston

The fight for the Kingston waterfront is gearing up as the developers for the 574 acre Tilcon property in Kingston presented their Draft Environmental Impact Statement on July 17. The DEIS is quite long (22 Volumes) and inaccurate as far as environmental concerns go. The developer will state that concerns are few or none. We need to respond and make our voices heard by letters to the mayor and city aldermen, letters to the newspapers, and by attending the public hearing at Kingston City Hall on September 14. We must show the politicians that we don't want supersized development in the Hudson Valley.

The Mid-Hudson Sierra Club is participating in an informal alliance with many citizen groups and environmental organizations to work together to show that the current proposals on the Kingston waterfront are too big, do not fit in with the unique character of Kingston, and are environmentally destructive. The proposed 2200 units on the Tilcon property alone should be slashed in half at the very least and should be no more than 2 or 3 stories in height. Public access to the Hudson River should be provided through a large waterfront public park.

Environmental concerns such as the stress on the already malfunctioning sewage system should be the developer's responsibility, not the taxpayer's. Check out these websites: [www.ci.kingston.ny.us](http://www.ci.kingston.ny.us) and click on the meeting calendar to attend the next planning board or city council meeting and ask questions.

[www.friendsofkingstonwaterfront.org](http://www.friendsofkingstonwaterfront.org) for updates and to see what you can do. Please attend an informational and planning session on September 8th with location to be announced.

### Mamataking

On the Western side of the Shawangunk Mountains the proposed mushroom plant is still plowing through the approval process. A proposed law to limit building on steep slopes in the Town of Mamakating is well intentioned but does not address the real issue. Mamakating is still in the scopes of casino developers, and don't be fooled, these "remote" areas are closer than you think and such large scale development will have a dramatic effect on the entire region.

### Saugerties/Casinos

The Casino in Saugerties is still a possibility but this is one issue where our local and county governments have moved swiftly and effectively. Hurrah! to the Village and Town and Citizens of Saugerties for the loud and clear and resounding NO to the proposed casino on the Winston Farm. There are a million (literally) better alternatives for this gorgeous and historic property and these should be investigated for the long term sustainable economic and environmental health of the town and the region.

The Ulster County Legislature unanimously supported any towns that passed a resolution opposing casinos in their borders. In addition to Saugerties, New Paltz, Rochester, Gardiner, Woodstock, and Marletown have all passed formal resolutions in opposition to casinos. If your town has not, please contact your town board and urge them to do so. There are zero positives to having a casino (unless of course you are a drug dealer, prostitute, or loan shark).

Check out [www.nosaugertiescasino.com](http://www.nosaugertiescasino.com)

A thousand thanks to our Dutchess County members for all you do, especially Herb Sweet for his incredible contributions as he describes the number of issues in Hyde Park alone. You may contact him via e-mail at [K2GBH@arrl.net](mailto:K2GBH@arrl.net). I still need a co-chair to cover the eastern side of the river. This critical position has so much potential for positive change. I'd love to hear from you.

**We all need to stay on top of the issues and let our local representatives and candidates know what is important to us!**

**Roberta Clements**  
**Conservation Chair**  
**Sierra Club Mid Hudson Group**  
[rac137@juno.com](mailto:rac137@juno.com)  
**cell (845) 532-6400**

### Hyde Park/Community Planning

Following W.W.II, the country drifted into suburban expansion and auto oriented highway business. But now, after 50 years of this expansion, it has become clear to the national planning community that this cannot continue. The reasons include destruction of countryside, inability to provide cost effective infrastructure and services, aquifer limitations, social disintegration and increased reliance on an oil based economy with oil availability no longer assured. Consequently, a revision to the development pattern of the past half century is what should be in the future for every area of the country. This is an organic model defined by compact and walkable communities surrounded by accessible green space.

In Hyde Park, the organic model is at odds with the "strip and sprawl" approach. At this point all of the public hearings for the town's new zoning have been completed. This new zoning is expected to be passed by the town board in August. While it is an improvement over the present one (1979 vintage), it is poorly written and will result in a great deal of procedural difficulty and potential lawsuits. It also replaces the previously proposed organic approach.

Last September, a grass roots bi-partisan organization "Stop the Sprawl" was formed to save Hyde Park from the destructive effects of the strip and sprawl approach to zoning, a positive step. What will impact Hyde Park will also impact the larger Dutchess County community. You can learn more about what is happening in Hyde Park, at [www.stopthesprawl.net](http://www.stopthesprawl.net).

**Herb Sweet**

Feb. 2006 Lapland Lake Cross Country Ski Trip – Early Notice.

Lapland Lake, located in Northville, NY approximately 2 ½ hours drive from the Poughkeepsie/New Paltz area offers skiing, tubing, snowshoeing, and ice skating in a pristine environment. Lapland Lake is situated in the lower Adirondacks and is reliably blessed with snow. Share cozy cabins (tupas), cook, or eat in the restaurant. Take advantage of the sauna at the end of the day. Contact Arlene Canonico at 845-246-2069 or at banjosnowy@aol.com this fall to find out cost and if interested in signing up for this mid-week trip. Date TBD. Check [www.laplandlake.com](http://www.laplandlake.com) for photos and other details.



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