

# Fresh Air



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

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Website: <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

## Chair's Corner

### Unvarnished Truths! by Bibi Sandstrom

I apologize, but I'm afraid some of you are not going to like what I have to say. Even some environmentalists don't want to acknowledge, much less act upon, what is the underlying cause of all environmental ills. No less the premier voice for environmental reform, the masterful film "An Inconvenient Truth", balked at telling the most inconvenient, important truth of all, despite having had a perfect opportunity. During the end credits, they offered solutions to global warming. They gave the excellent advice, "If you are a parent, join with your children to save the world they will live in". Then they wasted the perfect opening by not adding, "If you are *not* a parent, don't become one."

Pollution? Fewer trees & habitats for animals? Paving paradise for parking lots? It all comes down to too many people. It took 4 million years for humanity to reach the 2 billion mark. Only 30 years to add a third billion. And now we're increasing by 95 million every single year. Forget light bulbs; let's install birth control. We need to change our way of thinking from 'not having kids is selfish', to how having all the kids we want is definitely not in the best interest of the planet. Tell youngsters to think about this and you and they will be helping to save the planet.

So many people still don't realize the impact of numbers multiplying upon numbers upon numbers. My hero, the learned scientist, writer, and humanist Dr. Isaac Asimov, has tried to explain Geometric Progression. Asimov warned that in theory, the numbers will get so big (every 48 hours, we're adding another San Francisco but exponential growth means that rate will explode even further) as to totally overrun the planet in just a few short centuries, but in reality, long before that happens, we will be limited by the spectres of war, famine, and disease due precisely to population pressures. Isn't it better, he asks, if we limit ourselves instead? I don't know about you, but I'd rather not invite the 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse into my living room, and I've chosen not to procreate. If we could all limit ourselves to no more than 2 children a couple, before either laws of man or nature strike us, we might save the planet.

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## TAG SALE/Raffle Day

Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-3:30  
at Mulligan's on Rte. 376

Rain date: 9/16

**Reuse, Reduce, Recycle !**



Sierra friends always donate the best stuff, including books, cds, toys, furniture, kitchenware, gently used clothing, tools and so much more. Have fun at this friendly community event and help us raise much needed funds. There will be a raffle, goodies, Sierra Calendars and Holiday Cards.

**Have something wonderful to donate??** Please call first about computers, TVs and stereo equipment as it costs us quite a lot to take these items to the recycling center.) Please call first about computers, TVs, stereo equipment unless you are willing to take it back..

**Want to help??** Shifts are 7-10:30 a.m., 9-12:30 p.m., and noon until 4 p.m. Help is always appreciated so please contact me if you can take a shift selling items, bring baked goods to sell, oversee the raffle tent, maintain the site and clean up. **Contact Carol Jarvis at 473-5620**

## Fall Programs:

### Climate and Energy Solutions

A series of 4 climate/energy panels/presentations under the title of "Some Unvarnished Truths", promises "gloves off" discussions on 3 Sundays in October.

**10/7 Political solutions (Hinchey & Tyner),**

**10/14 Technical solutions**

**10/21 Individual solutions** (with yours truly & 2 others) See related opinion piece by Bibi

Time: 3:00 Place: SUNY New Paltz

Contact Dr. Andi Bartczak at [dr.andi@scienceforcitizens.org](mailto:dr.andi@scienceforcitizens.org)

**10/17. New Member Party** at the Jewish Community Center, 30 N. Chestnut (32N), New Paltz at 7:30! Come party whether you're brand new, relatively new, or "old". Food, prizes, raffle, fun!! [bibis@juno.com](mailto:bibis@juno.com), 255-5528.

**11/6/07: Cool Cities Presentation** – 4:00pm Arlington Public Library, Poughkeepsie. (see p. 3)

## Fall Outings:

### Rating System for Hikes:

**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.**

**Outings Coordinator: Tonda Highley**

**Contact Tonda at [highleyt@newpaltz.edu](mailto:highleyt@newpaltz.edu) or at 255-9933 if you would like to lead an outing.**



*“ When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds  
attached to the rest of the world”*

**John Muir**

### Fresh Air Fall 2007 Outings:

**Sat. Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> Walk and Picnic at Mills/Norrie State Park Level C.** We'll walk along the river trail from Norrie Point to Mills Mansion, where we'll picnic on the lawn; then back. Approximately 6 miles round-trip; not difficult, but one hill at Norrie Point end then a little up and down along the way. Late afternoon. Call leader for time and meeting place. Leader: Georgette Weir, 462-0142. Joint with ADK.

**Sat. Sep 8<sup>th</sup> Level A.** Strenuous all-day hike will give participants an idea of the very rich geological history of New York and of the Northeast. While hiking from **Copake Falls** (700') to **Alander** (2250'), to **Brace** (2311'), to **South Brace** (2304') we will look for clues to this area's dynamic geologic past and discuss the formation process of the North American continent eastern mountains. About 10 miles. Call Leader: Tonda Highley 845-255-9933 ([Highleyt@newpaltz.edu](mailto:Highleyt@newpaltz.edu)) re: meeting place, time, and carpool arrangements. Joint with Mohonk Singles and Sociables.

**Sat. Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tag Sale** See page 1.

**Sun. Sep 30<sup>th</sup> Minnewaska Grand Tour, Level A.** In association with the Hudson River Ramble. Starting from the Coxing parking lot off Clove Rd., the Minnewaska Grand Tour hike will take us from The Trapps to Millbrook Mountain along the ridge trail that overlooks the beautiful Hudson Valley with unique views of the Taconic mountains on the east and of the Highlands to the southeast. We will then hike along the Millbrook Mountain Trail to Minnewaska Lake, on to the High Peterskill trail across Rt. 44, after a short detour to Awosting Falls, that will take us back to Coxing. The geologic history of the area will be discussed. All day hike, bring lunch, water, etc. Mohonk Preserve day use fee is required. Contact leader: Jean-Claude Fouere ([JCFouere@optonline.net](mailto:JCFouere@optonline.net); 845-462 0142) by Sept. 27, 9:00 p.m. for meeting place, time, and carpool arrangements. Joint ADK.

**Sat. Oct. 13th, Locust Grove/Samuel Morse Estate** just north of the Hudson Plaza; Level C (2-3 miles). Escape the Rte. 9 traffic and descend to the lower reaches of this lovely historical estate. Woods trails, Hudson views, habitat for deer and wild turkey. Nature experiences adults and kids can enjoy. Bring water, snack/lunch to enjoy on the visitor center patio afterwards. Rain cancels. 9:30 in parking lot. Leader: Nancy Keenan-Rich, 452-1727 or [nkrich@hvc.rr.com](mailto:nkrich@hvc.rr.com).

**Sat., Oct 20th Rain date/Oct Sep 21<sup>st</sup>.** Hike in **Fahnestock State Park**, Level C, about 4 miles. A lovely hike to Jordan & Beaver Ponds, where we'll see signs of the early settlers who eked out a hardscrabble existence here hundreds of years ago. We'll leave at 10 am. We'll leave at 10 am. For exact meeting place, contact leader, Marie Caruso, at (845) 452-9086 or [marie@verizon.net](mailto:marie@verizon.net). Joint with ADK (hopefully).

### Local Events of Interest

Forsyth Nature Center  
Kingston, NY  
[www.forsythnaturecenter.org](http://www.forsythnaturecenter.org)



Forsyth Nature Center offers educational activities for adults and children. It features animal exhibits, gardens and a host of programs. Located on Lucas Ave. in Kingston near the traffic circle.

### Upcoming events:

**Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> - Fall Festival** featuring entertainment, crafts, food, games, interactive nature center activities, raffle, hayrides and more. Fun for kids and adults.

**Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> - Bird Walk** for late fall migrants at Esopus Bend Nature Preserve in Saugerties.

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> - Bird Walk** with special attention to sparrows at the Gardens for Nutrition in New Paltz

**Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> - Golden Eagle Migration.** Trip to Franklin Mountain in Oneonta for the peak of their travels.

Check the website for details and additional programs.



## Conservation Corner

### Williams Lake Threatened!

by Marie Caruso

I recently attended a meeting of concerned residents regarding the proposed plans of Canopy Development LLC to purchase and build a private, very high-end gated community on 756 acres surrounding Williams Lake in Rosendale. All public access has been cut off to this area, which historically has been open to the public for various gatherings and civic events, as well as hiking, winter sports, and fee-based beach club swimming. There is growing concern about the impacts of this major development upon the superb lakes, wetlands, trails, caves, scenic vistas, and the endangered Indiana Bat which makes its home there, not to mention various other issues such as water pollution and traffic. The Sierra Club is interested in monitoring these plans, with an eye towards preservation and possible public access to this outstanding natural area. If any members, particularly those living nearby, would like to attend meetings and monitor these issues on behalf of Sierra, please contact Marie Caruso at [marie@verizon.net](mailto:marie@verizon.net) or (845) 452-9086. Further information is available:

[www.friendsofwilliamslake.org](http://www.friendsofwilliamslake.org).

### Cool Cities in the Hudson Valley

by Nancy Keenan-Rich

You may have read about Sierra Club's **Cool Cities Campaign** whereby local mayors are encouraged to:

1. Join the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement to reduce global warming pollution.
2. Green the city vehicle fleets with hybrid and other cleaner cars
3. Modernize city buildings with money-saving energy-efficiency technology.
4. Invest in clean and safe renewable energy

MHSC has formed an alliance with **Sustainable Hudson Valley** (SHV) which under the leadership of Melissa Everett has already been exploring similar activity in our region (Cool Communities) and will be the lead group joined by MHSC with a focus on both Kingston and Poughkeepsie as becoming "Cool". Roberta Clements (MHSC) is the liaison for MHSC and SHV and Cornelia Smith with Nancy Keenan-Rich are liaisons for Poughkeepsie. Read on and join us for a presentation on this topic with Bob Muldoon, regional representative for Sierra Club.

### Well Testing Victories – Town by Town! by Debra Hall

Three towns located in Dutchess County, Fishkill, East Fishkill, and Wappingers, recently passed their private well testing laws. While different all three require that any home with a private well must be tested before sale and require that the same chemicals get tested. There are a few differences. For example in Fishkill the seller is responsible to do the testing and in Wappingers the buyer needs to do the testing. Westchester County has already passed a private well testing law.

It is important to remember that water is never private. Water knows no boundaries of industrial, commercial and residential properties. Water flows from town to town and sometimes from county to county. In some places aquifers cross from state to state. There is no such thing as "my water". It is and always will be "our water".

We congratulate Supervisors Joan Pagonis, Joe Ruggiero and John Hickman for supporting this law. It is imperative to protect residents from drinking contaminated water. It is a shame that with a stroke of a pen Dutchess County Executive Steinhaus vetoed the private well testing law which would have covered the entire county. Senator Saland is working against a similar law for the state of New York. Both of these people are up for re-election. Remember the environment when in the voting booth. --

Debra Hall  
Sierra Club Mid Hudson Group  
Conservation Chair  
[Sierradutchess@optonline.net](mailto:Sierradutchess@optonline.net)



Bob is coming from NYC to do a slide show on the Cool Cities Campaign for Club members and the public. A representative from SHV will hopefully join us and the Mayor will be invited.

**Date: November 6<sup>th</sup> (You'll be out voting anyway right?)**

**Time: 4:00p.m.**

**Place: Arlington Public Library (off of Haight Ave) in Poughkeepsie)**

This is an opportunity for club members to become locally active on this issue and to consider whether they want to encourage other cities/towns to sign on also.

~

Unvarnished Truths cont.

Americans would like to lay this problem at the feet of the Third World, as if we're separate from the world at large. However, a child born in the US will use 10x the amount of resources than a child born in Bangladesh. American know-how isn't enough either. Carl Sagan said, "a population increasing exponentially will outstrip any conceivable increase in food supply. No Green Revolution, no hydroponics, no making the deserts bloom can beat an exponential growth".

Leaving aside the consideration that not everyone should be a parent (I'd be hideous at this most difficult job), it's hard to speak out against motherhood. Despite the survival of the planet hinging on this, on the need to lessen societal pressure to procreate, as the president of an animal shelter points out, "It's the third rail - the topic no one wants to talk about."

Well (gulp), I'm talking about it. I've been asked to be on a panel in a series arranged by Mid-Hudson Mensa and co-sponsored by MHSierra.

**Until Then – Brain teaser/math puzzle:**

Which chessboard would you take? One on which I've laid down \$1000? Or one where I placed a penny on the first square, 2 pennies on the 2nd, 4 cents on the 3rd, & continued to double on each subsequent square?

Answer 10/21 and next issue! Bibi

**And in this Corner!**

Anyone wanting to respond to Bibi's article can submit your opinion for the winter Fresh Air (subject to space limitations). Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Send to: [nkrich@hvc.rr.com](mailto:nkrich@hvc.rr.com)

**Support the Tag Sale ! September 15th**

**Remember the Three Rs. Recycling is Reusing and Reducing.**

**Raffle items include: Gift baskets, original art work, Sierra Club Calendar, and who knows what else?? Contact Nancy Keenan-Rich at 452- 1727 if you wish to donate a new item or help.**



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