

Fresh Air



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

Fall 2008 Vol.40 Issue 3

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

CHAIR'S CORNER

by Bibi Sandstrom

This issue covers September, October, and November, so even though it's summer when it first arrives, it's not inappropriate to have "Thanksgiving"! Some important people to thank:

Any of you who can help our great Tag Sale Chair, Carol Jarvis, with the **TAG SALE** coming up September 20 (see elsewhere)

Our frequent hero **Dawn Osselmann** for her donations (sent to Mid-Hudson Sierra at our POB in Poughkeepsie (1012; 12602)

My wonderful righthand woman and vice chair AND the Membership Chair who sends you New Members your welcome letter and questionnaire, **Lynne Ridgeway**

Garrick Bryant who came on board recently and served admirably but is about to handle both school and more-than-fulltime work and thus has to step down. We need some good volunteers to step up and run for the executive committee; contact Ralph Pollard well before November at ralphpollard@verizon.net if willing & able to do this vital job!

Karen Hinderstein & Marie Caruso for tabling at the Beacon Sloop Club Recycling Festival

Our outgoing and incoming editors: **Nancy Keenan-Rich** has ended a long run as our capable & efficient newsletter editor, and **Kevin McKenzie**, who has already been serving as our capable & efficient webmaster, has agreed to take over the reins.

All of these above people deserve profuse thanks, so if you see them or write them, do please give them thanks for helping out Mid-Hudson Sierra!

Tag Sale and Raffle New Hackensack Reformed Church on Rte. 376. September 20th, 2008 9 am – 3 pm REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

The upcoming annual Sierra Club Tag Sale might be just the motivation you need to go through the house, garage, basement and clear out those treasures that, if truth be told, you most likely will never use or need again! Do your part to simplify and recycle...and help your Sierra Club Chapter raise much needed funding.

This year, we are trying something new...we will have an indoor location! The sale will be held on Saturday, September 20, at the New Hackensack Reformed Church on Rt. 376. Obvious benefits are no weather concerns, no table rental fees and an orderly set-up time the night before!!! Your donations of books, cds, toys with all the parts, hiking/camping equipment, sporting goods with some play left in them, tools, antiques, kitchen items, glassware, pictures, camera equipment, etc., in good condition are needed. Clothing and shoes are NOT big sellers. Please call me before dropping off any computers, TVs or stereo equipment.

Drop off time will be Friday, September 19, between 4 and 8 pm. Prepricing your items will be greatly appreciated.

Want to HELP? Please call Carol Jarvis at home and leave a message, 473-5620. I will need volunteers to help on Friday evening...and then have shifts scheduled for Saturday... 8-11 am; 10am-1pm; noon-3 pm; and 2-5 pm.

RAFFLE – please contact Nancy Keenan-Rich (nkrich@hvc.rr.com) or 452-1727 if you have a raffle item to donate (original art, a new book of general interest, gift basket, etc.).

Dine to Donate 9/21 - see page 3

PROGRAM CORNER

Our Spring & Fall Third Wednesday Speaker Socials are undergoing some exciting changes!

First, our first one for the fall, will be a one-time special change for date and location! We will be meeting on the Third THURSDAY of October at the Elting Library of New Paltz on Main Street, where we will be welcoming back Intrepid Traveler and New Paltz High School Environmental Science teacher CATHY LAW. Those of you who saw her spectacular slides will be overjoyed to have her back with NEW tales; those of you who missed her earlier "Misadventures of a Worldly Traveler" will be spellbound by learning of her shots and stories of her bicycling across the world. Come to 93 Main Street (parking lot is at the corners of Front & Church Street) at 7pm for a very entertaining and educational program on **Thursday, October 16th.**

Then, on **November 19**, we'll be back to Third Wednesdays, but at our NEW regular location.

Thanks to member Michele Muller who responded to my plea for help in finding us a new Speaker Social home. She's also a member of the Hudson River Rowing Association, and said the director Tracy Mauer will let Sierra use their beautiful boathouse near Marist for our Socials for free! The November program will feature our new host - slides of the Hudson River, and rowing, and info about all that. Come learn about rowing from Andy Mauer and check out our new digs! (Directions are at <http://www.hudsonriverrowing.org/>) The last change is to be a new Program Chair - if YOU are willing to find speakers for our spring and fall programs in 2009 and beyond. You would even have one of the spring programs arranged; member Rene Tritschler will do one on Acid Rain. Contact bibis@juno.com if interested.

Other Sierra events: Come learn about Fair Trade at the Fair Trade Bazaar Nov 15-16, Vassar College; learn, buy cool items, and/or help sell Sierra items. Beacon Sloop Pumpkin Fest on October 19th. (Can help? Contact Bibi).

Not too early to say if you're available for Barnes & Noble Giftwrapping, either! We think we'll have Saturday Dec 13 - but we might get the 20th! If you can giftwrap either of those dates at the Poughkeepsie store, let me know!

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 or at 255-9933 if you would like to lead an outing.

Sunday, October 5th, Level C. Join us for a family outing at Sam's Point Preserve. We will explore and learn about the "Ice Caves" while taking in the fall colors. From there we can continue to Verkeerder Falls and have lunch there or eat at the caves depending on the consensus of the group. This hike is meant for families with children. The total hike distance is about 4 or 5 miles. Please call Bob Marcinik (845) 566-9727 (h) or (203) 739-2532 (w) for directions and to reserve or email robert.marcinik@pb.com. Rain cancels. Fee required to park.

Sat., Oct. 18, Level C+. Fahnestock State Park and Glynwood Center. Hike to Jordan and Beaver Ponds, with a tour en route of Glynwood Center, a working farm and conference facility dedicated to sustaining local agriculture and helping communities conserve local culture and natural resources. About 4 - 5 miles, moderately paced. Steady rain cancels. Meet 9 am at Pelton Pond parking area on Route 301, but please register in advance with leader, Marie Caruso, at (845) 452-9086 or mariehv@verizon.net.

Sun. Oct. 26th, Level C. Discover the Black Creek Preserve, a 130 acre park purchased by Scenic Hudson. Let's explore the 2 + miles of trails which begin with an elevation gain of 150 feet. Some rough terrain with ups and downs to reach the shore of the Hudson River. Look for evidence of previous land use. Directions: From Mid-Hudson Bridge go 7.6 miles north on 9W, make a right on Winding Brook Acres Rd. Parking is on the left. Meet the leader at 10:00 Call if you want to carpool from Poughkeepsie at 452-1727. Rain cancels. Joint with ADK. Leader: Nancy Keenan-Rich

Please Take Note!

Calling all potential hike leaders:

National SC dictates as of July 1 that all official Sierra Club Outings be led by a SC member certified in Red Cross Community First Aid AND an online "hike leader training course"! State money is available for the first aid class; contact Tonda.

Conservation Corner

The invasive vine, mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliatum* L.) is moving up in the Hudson Valley. It is an environmental and agricultural threat due to its ability to rapidly cover and kill pre-existing vegetation. This prickly stemmed annual can grow up to 6 inches a day and 27 feet in a year. Look for triangular leaves, downward facing prickles, ocrea (circular leaf surrounding the stem), small blue berries in late summer.

Contact mjtaylor@gw.dec.state.ny.us or call 845-889-4745 ext. 109 if you sight this invader. Important: Use caution when touching or pulling out the vine. Wear heavy gloves and long sleeved heavy shirt. Source: Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Several organizations including the Sierra Club are planning a rally to inform the public about the Belleayre Mega-resort on National Public Lands Day, September 27, at the Ski Center. Please contact Joe Gardner at jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com for more info if you are interested in attending.

There's a geothermal initiative in Poughkeepsie which local legislators are opposing because of cost. A local volunteer is needed to take the lead on this, but a NYC activist (Bob Muldoon at bob.muldoon@sierraclub.org) will help with advice if someone out there can pursue this green heating and cooling initiative...

Come celebrate the fall equinox (and a successful Tag Sale we hope) at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant on **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21st** at the Cherry Hill Plaza off Main Street in New Paltz. From 4-9pm the dinner you order will have a small part of the proceeds going to Mid-Hudson Sierra!

Before the meal, you can stop by Bibi's on 32S (South Manheim) to shop her "Night Owl" mini-yard sale with Sierra leftovers 3-6pm (but don't let that keep you from shopping at our Tag Sale Saturday! Go THERE first!) 255-5528.

ENDORSEMENT TIME IS HERE

A reminder to our members: Sept. & Oct. are the months when your Executive Committee will be evaluating State Assembly and Senate candidates for possible Sierra Club endorsement. According to our guidelines, these endorsements are based solely on the candidates' environmental credentials. Although questionnaires are mailed to all candidates, input from our members can be crucial in determining which candidates in each district are most likely to further the Sierra Club's environmental goals. If you know of a State Legislative candidate whom you feel is most likely to support the environmental issues in your community, please let us know ASAP. You may contact Marie Caruso at (845) 452-9086 or mariehv@verizon.net.

HVME Has Been Saved!!

The Hudson Valley Materials Exchange was pushed out of their wonderful recycling warehouse by Port Authority when they needed more parking lots at Stewart Airport. After much effort, moving, packing, looking... and costs... they have landed a new home at the Recycling Center in New Paltz! They need volunteers to help move materials & trailers & design & build their new deck/warehouse and donations to defray all these costs. They are offering a **FREE \$25 year membership** to anyone who makes a donation to 211 Woodcrest Drive Apt 1A, Modena, NY 12548 (they'll even send you a SASE if you need one - email hvme@optonline.net).

November 21 conference on local actions on global warming by the Mohonk Foundation & the Hudson Valley Watershed Alliance. Speakers are from the New York Times science section, NASA, Orange County, and Congress (Maurice Hinchey). Mohonk Lodge. Contact Phil Ehrensaft at metro845@gmail.com or 744-3575 for possible reduced registration fee for Sierrans.

DEC TAKES LEAD IN REVIEW OF WILLIAMS LAKE PROJECT

Local residents working to preserve Williams Lake in Rosendale are gratified that State DEC Commissioner Alexander Grannis, over the objections of the Rosendale Town Board, in July designated DEC's region 3 office to be lead agency in the pending environmental review (SEQRA) process for the large gated resort community proposed for the area by Canopy Development, aka Hudson River Valley Resorts. According to Commissioner Grannis' letter, the DEC is the agency most qualified to review this project, which could have impacts of "...regional, statewide, and potentially national significance..." because "...an extraordinary number and diversity of sensitive resources" (including the endangered Indiana bat) "are found on the site and within its surrounding area." Our Sierra Executive Committee, in June, passed a resolution opposing the

Canopy development and supporting the work of the local citizens' group, "Save the Lakes", to protect the natural resources of this area and inform the public about the likely adverse impacts of the proposed development. At our April program meeting, Tim Trumpeter, Dave Porter, and Paul Rubin from "Save the Lakes" gave a comprehensive review of the SEQRA process and the significant natural and cultural resources of Williams Lake that are likely to be harmed by this project. Commissioner Grannis' letter and a great deal more information can be found on the group's web site, "www.savethelakes.us".

**MARK SEPTEMBER
20 & 21**

Now is the time for all good Sierrans to help at the Tag Sale or to run for the local excom (board)! Details inside!

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