

Fresh Air



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The Quarterly Newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

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

CHAIR'S CORNER

by Bibi Sandstrom

'Member in the winter issue I said of course we'd "be totally lost without a Tag Sale Chair"? We (gulp) don't have one this year but we're gonna try anyway! Your efforts in dropping off items on **9/25**, helping during a shift **9/26**, and/or taking away stuff and mopping at the end will be invaluable! See elsewhere for details. And as always, check any last-minute details at our website <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>.

While we're always grateful for any monetary help (thank you, Dawn Osselmann and Henry Westmoreland!), right now we are in desperate need of your physical help, not only at the Tag Sale, but for almost every position - Program Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, Outings Chair, Publicity Chair (thanks for a smashing job, Filomena!), Issues help, Political Chair, Tag Sale Chair, excom (board) members, and even Group Chair (I'm REALLY getting tired!!) If you want to get an inkling of what's involved, contact me at bibis@juno.com or feel free to come to the Oct 7th excom meeting, New Paltz Village Hall where you might be drafted upon sight! BTW, if we as usual only get 3 or fewer candidates for the excom, we might not send out a winter newsletter.

Other ways to help: staff a table at the October 18 Beacon Sloop Club Pumpkin Fest; help on 350 Climate Change Day 10/24 in New Paltz and/or Poughkeepsie; staff 11am-1pm at the Fair Trade Bazaar in Po'k Sun 11/8; giftwrap at Barnes & Noble, probably on Sat 12/19, and/or buy a calendar from us - contact Jonathan Ridgeway for the last two at 845-883-7908 during daylight hours only.

Federal and State Incentives To Improve Energy Efficiency

As part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, existing tax credits for making your house more energy efficient, by replacing certain appliances with more energy efficient ones, installing insulation, replacing windows and doors, and so on, were extended and enhanced. Improvements to existing homes are eligible for a tax credit of 30% of up to \$5000, for a total credit of \$1500. See <http://energystar.gov/taxcredits> for more information.

At the New York State level, in order to meet the goal of reducing energy use in the state through energy efficiency improvements, utilities are required to have in place programs to assist with making existing homes more energy efficient, and also to provide incentives to upgrade certain appliances with more energy efficient ones. In order to qualify for the program, you have to go through a state-approved Trade Ally. After paying for a home energy audit with a blower door test, you will be eligible for a rebate for up to 4 hours of air sealing work at up to \$75 an hour. After a duct blaster test, you are eligible for a rebate for up to 3 hours of duct sealing work at up to \$100 an hour. Equipment rebates range from \$25 for a programmable thermostat to \$1000 for purchase and installation of a very efficient water boiler. For Central Hudson customers, see <http://www.savingscentral.com>; other utilities have similar programs.

PROGRAM CORNER

2009 Speaker Socials are at our new location along the Hudson River in Poughkeepsie, at the Hudson River Rowing Association's nice boathouse/community room.

Complete directions can be found at <http://www.hudsonriverrowing.org>, or ours, at <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson/>, and on the back of this newsletter.

Wed October 21, 2009, 7:30pm: One Pound of Solid Waste Per Person Per Year: Is It Possible?

Our speaker, Chris Burger, and his family of four have been doing it successfully for a number of years! Chris is the chair of the Solid Waste Committee of the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter and is a former member of the Broome County legislature where he was instrumental in developing Broome County's recycling program. His credentials are too numerous to list here, but he has been featured in newspapers throughout the USA and Europe; in Ripley's Believe It or Not; in numerous magazines; and numerous times on national radio and television. Chris will give us a PowerPoint presentation on why it is important for all of us to reduce waste, followed by practical "how-to" suggestions for families, businesses, and communities.

Wed November 18, 2009, 7:30 pm: Rusty Johnson

Our November 18th speaker social will feature renowned wildlife educator Rusty Johnson. One of our most popular speakers, Rusty presents a most exciting program with his cadre of live reptiles and birds of prey. His animals help him to demonstrate the importance of preserving open space, wildlife, and wilderness.

Rusty has traveled extensively to the Amazon and other parts of the world doing research, videography, and education. He has given over 3,000 lectures to such venues as Princeton University and the American Museum of Natural History. His television credits include appearances on David Letterman and The Today Show, and he has worked as an assistant to Jim Fowler of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom.

Author of the book "The Twilight of the Wild", Rusty also leads ecotourism journeys to the Peruvian Amazon. For more information about Rusty and his ventures, check out his web site: <http://www.AmazonDetours.com>.

Williams Lake Update

Although the original developer, Canopy, seems to have dissolved, an entity known as Hudson River Valley Resorts, LLC, continues to pursue plans for a massive gated resort community at Williams Lake in Rosendale. With the exception of a few privately-organized events, the area remains closed to the public. The developer is working to fulfill the requirements of the final scoping document, which was released by the DEC on April 1, 2009.

The grassroots opposition group, Save the Lakes, with help from the Sierra Club, continues its mission to inform the public about the adverse consequences of this proposed development. Mid-Hudson Sierra, with funds from the Sierra Club Foundation, has published a two-page study by the hydrologist Paul Rubin which highlights the bountiful natural and cultural resources of the Williams Lake Property. This study is being widely distributed at public gatherings in the region, and can be viewed on the Save the Lakes website or our own. The Summer 2009 issue of the Sierra Atlantic also contains a comprehensive article about the Williams Lake property.

Save the Lakes is planning a series of fundraising events to support their participation in the upcoming SEQR hearings, which will require professional expertise. For more information, or to support the work of this highly dedicated group of volunteers, check out their informative website: <http://www.savethelakes.us>. And if you would like to be a part of Mid-Hudson Sierra's efforts to preserve this remarkable property, please contact Marie Caruso at mariehv@verizon.net or (845) 452-9086.

ANNUAL TAG SALE

Saturday, September 26

9 am – 3 pm

Drop-off time: Fri., Sept. 25, 3 pm to 8 pm

Location: **New Hackensack Reformed Church, 1580 Route 376, Wappingers Falls (Driveway just East of the 3-way intersection with All Angels Hill Rd.)**

Time again to REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

Our annual tag sale is not only our Group's major fund-raiser but a great opportunity to interact with your fellow Sierrans and give new life to your unwanted treasures. It 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 Group raise much needed revenue.

Once again, thanks to Sierran Joann Hartwig and her associates at the New Hackensack Reformed Church, we are fortunate to have an indoor location. Obvious benefits are no weather concerns, no table rental fees and an orderly set-up time the night before!!! Your donations of books, cd's, 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. All electronics must be in good working order.

Prepricing your items, especially any that you think would sell for more than \$1, is greatly appreciated. Don't hesitate to price on the high side to leave room for negotiation. (Use masking tape, stickers, or whatever you have handy).

Preferred drop-off time is Friday, September 25, between 3 pm and 8 pm. , or if you can't make that, as early as possible after 8 am. Sat.

Although we have no single tag sale chair this year, we do have volunteers serving in various capacities. If you have items to donate but absolutely can NOT drop them off at either of the above times, please contact one of the following members:

On the East side of the Hudson: Bill Collier, at **(845) 297-5901** or **collier@acm.org**

On the West side of the Hudson: Gerald Davison, at **(845) 339-4509** or Joanne Steele, at **(845) 338-0300 (9 am to 9 pm)**.

However, if you wish to donate any extremely large or heavy items, we do request that you drop them off yourself—and be willing to take them back if they don't sell (we'll need your phone #). Disposing of our unsold items after the sale can be quite a chore!

We will, of course, need a good cadre of volunteers to help with set-up on Fri. evening, and selling and clean-up on Sat. If you're willing to work any time during these hours, or can help in any other capacity (making signs, posting flyers, collecting items, etc.), please contact me at **mariehv@verizon.net** or **(845) 452-9086 (9 am to 10 pm)**.

Come join your fellow Sierrans at this busy but fun-filled annual event! Help reduce our carbon footprint by giving your unneeded items a chance to be useful to others. Come and see for yourself what treasures we might have to offer. We guarantee you'll have a good time!! **See our website for a flyer you can print and post.**

Marie Caruso
Tag Sale Volunteer Coordinator

Directions to the Hudson River Rowing Association's Boat House (Our Meeting Place)

Find Main Street in Poughkeepsie. It runs east-west, and is about two blocks north of the highway bridge over the Hudson. If you are coming across the bridge, turn left at the first traffic light and then turn left again at the next corner. From there, go with the flow until you come to a traffic light, which is Main Street. Turn left (west) onto Main Street.

Travel down Main Street and find North Water Street about a half block before Main Street ends at the river (it's the last side street before the river). Turn right onto North Water Street, traveling north between the river and the railroad. This is an interesting old industrial area. You'll shortly pass the Children's Museum (on your left) and the Walkway-Over-the-Hudson (above you). But just stay on North Water Street to the very end, a distance of about 1.2 miles. At about 0.9 miles there is a gate which should be open during our meeting. Beyond the gate the road descends to the level of the river and then makes a U-turn to double back and so then travels south along the river for the last 0.2 miles to the Boat House. The Boat House is the first building complex on your right after the U-turn. Enter through the first set of double-doors that you come to as you drive into the parking area.

As usual, our programs are free and open to the public.

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Sierra Club
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