



## ANNUAL TAG SALE

Saturday, September 25 – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday September 26 – 9:00 – 3:00 pm

### Mulligan's Irish House

2146 New Hackensack Rd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

It's our annual fund-raiser!

**Calling all Sierrans!** Donate, Promote, Purchase, Volunteer

**DONATE:** Bring your donations to Mulligans on Friday, September 24 between 1 – 6 pm (rain or shine-items will be stored in a truck). We are looking for 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 equip-ment, etc., in good condition are needed. Clothing and shoes are NOT big sellers. All electronics must be in good working order.

Limited "pick-up" service may be available for those in need. On the West side of the Hudson; Joanne Steele, at 845-338-0300 or Gerald Davison, at 845-339-4509 (for Kingston and surrounding areas). On the East side of the Hudson, please contact Bill Collier at 297-5901 or [collier@acm.org](mailto:collier@acm.org).

Pre-pricing 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).

**PROMOTE:** Let your friends and family know about the sale. We'll have a poster on our website that you can download, print, and post (<http://tinyurl.com/mhs2010tag>).

**PURCHASE:** Come to the sale and find great buys for yourself and others. The benefits are many – low prices, great selection, recycling goods, and helping your local Sierra club meet challenges!

**Early Birds:** Some people like to shop early. We'd like to get the sale set up efficiently – so, any early birds will be charged the listed price of the item(s) they are buying along with **an early admission fee of \$5.00.**

**VOLUNTEER:** We can use your help! Can you spare 3 hours or more? Let us know. Contact tag sale chair David Friedman at 845-255-2635 or e-mail: [Friedman\\_David@msn.com](mailto:Friedman_David@msn.com) Help needed on Friday (September 24) and Saturday (September 25), as well as stand-bys for the rain date, Sunday (September 26th).

**DAY OF SALE Announcements:** Any rain announcements or special pre-sale announcements will be on our tag sale hot-line: Call 845-255-2635 for information.

**Contact:** To Volunteer, find out more information about donating, or for any other information regarding the sale contact David Friedman, Tag Sale Chair

Phone: 845-255-2635 (Barner Books)

E-mail: [Friedman\\_David@msn.com](mailto:Friedman_David@msn.com)

Cell: 845-701-6229

## CHAIR'S CORNER **Joanne Steele**

Four of our Group's members attended the Outdoor Leader Training in July. Among the 60 attendees, including two from your Excom, were Brother Yusef Burgess and his group of young people and their teachers from the "Xbox Detox" program featured in the July/Aug. national Sierra magazine. (Xbox Detox is the title shown on the cover). Check it out! National Sierra Club has had an Inner City Outings program for the past 33 years. This very educational workshop should eventually prove to be of help in reviving our Group's outings program.

You might also read the agenda and bios for the URPE (Union of Radical Political Economics) Summer Conference 2010. About 70 of us attended workshops on the relationship between economics and the environment. Neither is doing well. We know that growing the economy is shrinking our ecosystems. Given this, Ming Li (U. Utah), in the annual David Gordon lecture, asked: "Will Capitalism restructure itself now?" His answer was no for three reasons: hegemonic leadership by the US and the US has less power now, capitalism will buy off the opposition, and exhausted environmental space for furtherance. That isn't good news, either. He also presented in graphic form from James Hansen's Storms of My Grandchildren. Prepare yourself to wince, but read the book anyway! All of us Sierrans will have to work hard to educate our friends, families and neighbors about our dangerous situation. Let's get busy!

## EXCOM CANDIDATES SOUGHT

How would you like to have a voice in directing the activities of our local Sierra group? If so, why not run for a position on our Group Executive Committee? The people on our "ExCom" determine our positions on local issues, help plan activities such as programs and outings, allocate our resources, and generally direct the functions which keep our group going. Candidates for 3-year terms will be announced in our winter (Dec.) newsletter. If you're interested in running, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Group Chair Joanne Steele at (845) 339-7526 as soon as possible. We hope to evaluate candidates at our Oct. 6 ExCom meeting.

## PROGRAM CORNER

The new normal location for Speaker Socials is the Hudson River Rowing Association's boathouse, at 270 N. Water Street in Poughkeepsie. Directions to the boathouse can be found on their website, <http://www.hudsonriverrowing.org>. Our meetings are free and open to the public, so bring friends. Refreshments will be provided.

**Wednesday, October 13th (Note: 2nd Wednesday), 7:30 PM: Bruce and Jeannete Hopkins - Environmental Educators and Writers.**

In cooperation with Barner Books of New Paltz, the Mid-Hudson Sierra Group will be presenting an evening with Bruce and Jeannete Hopkins. Bruce will focus on his just released book "When Foxes Wore Red Vests." The book explores Bruce's childhood in the Catskills and development of his environmental ethos. Jeannete, an award winning children's writer will present on the environmental themes in her work. Books will be available for purchase, and signing, with the proceeds being donated to the Mid Hudson Group.

**Wednesday, November 17th, 7:30 PM: "Monumental: David Brower's Fight for Wild America"**

This documentary will motivate even a couch potato to get into action. The movie chronicles the drive of David Brower, former head of the Sierra Club, to build the Club into a national political force to save our natural treasures and establish preserves that would otherwise have been exchanged for money to developers. Brower, an idealist had the vision, passion and savvy to take on big government--and win! Under his leadership the Club saved Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and more. Watching this tireless conservationist, you'll wonder why you are not rafting a river or climbing a rock face or giving congress the what for. Be inspired!

## CONSERVATION CORNER **Marie Caruso**

Williams Lake: As previously noted, the initial attempt at a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) submitted by the developer (Hudson River Valley Resorts, or HRVR) was rejected by the DEC in April, due to problems with the wildlife protocols, hydrogeological studies, and wastewater disposal. A cursory review of this rejected DEIS reveals that the developer has mischaracterized many of the complex hydrogeological features documented by Paul Rubin, the consulting hydrologist whose work has been supported by Save the Lakes and Mid-Hudson Sierra. The Town of Rosendale has authorized the hiring of a well-known karst aquifer analyst, Ewers Water Consultants of Richmond, KY, to evaluate HRVR's hydrogeological work and determine what additional studies may be needed.

Save the Lakes and Sierra continue our work to preserve the area. We think its development into a private luxury resort and housing development would represent a devastating loss to our region. We urge Sierra members to assist in these efforts by contacting their public officials, writing letters to the editor, distributing flyers, attending meetings, helping at various events, and/or donating badly-needed \$\$\$ to support the legal and scientific work required to respond to the DEIS. For further information, please see the website [www.savethelakes.us](http://www.savethelakes.us) and/or contact Marie Caruso at (845) 452-9086 ([mariehv@verizon.net](mailto:mariehv@verizon.net)) or Peter Fiorentino at (845) 594-5413 ([petefior@verizon.net](mailto:petefior@verizon.net)).

Should we discuss that nasty (overpopulation) word?

The human population factor in causing global warming, resource depletion, and environmental degradation needs to be exposed for the huge part that it plays in all these problems. The latest worldwide population growth projections for the next 40 years are truly frightening - much as the much-maligned Thomas Malthus and Paul Ehrlich had originally predicted - and will essentially cancel out even the most aggressive steps taken to reduce carbon and other emissions over the same period. I fear that all the "fixes" that are being currently proposed by Mr. Gore and other well meaning scientific experts, will be ineffectual if the human population explosion is not seriously addressed as well. Although the Sierra Club has a policy on population growth ([www.sierraclub.org/population](http://www.sierraclub.org/population)), the policy itself, as well as the resources and action devoted to this issue, are totally inadequate considering the severity of this problem.

A bit of simple arithmetic shows us where we are, population-wise, compared to a century ago - and where we are inevitably heading if comprehensive worldwide action on humane population reduction is not taken! The global population is careening toward 9.2 billion people by 2050 (from 6.7 billion today), and that's assuming that fertility will decline in countries with weak family planning infrastructures. A population of 9.2 billion will mean that programs have done an excellent job of lowering fertility rates around the world; if they are not successful, the population could be closer to 12 billion by 2050! Without the elemental human population factor considered - can we really solve this urgent, massive environmental crisis that looms ahead for mankind? Clearly, we must adjust ballooning world population numbers way down to sustainable levels.

In addition we are now witnessing a major collapse in the earth's food supply! Our oceans are rapidly dying! The recent flooding in China and Pakistan plus the severe drought in Russia are the latest threats to already strained world food reserves. The ominous symptoms are there for all to see: rapidly rising CO2 levels, depletion of ocean fisheries, massive corn, wheat and other worldwide food shortages, ongoing deforestation on a huge scale, serious losses of species habitat with resulting wildlife extinctions, and alarming levels of environmental toxins! No place is safe from contamination today! It's unbelievable!

Even the growing use of corn to produce ethanol is directly related - because of the scarcity of the petroleum needed to fuel the production and transportation needs of an exploding population. What we have are more and more people - with each person demanding a higher standard of living. This is particularly evident now in China and India, where sales of cars and other energy gobbling devices are driving the demand for coal, oil and other fossil fuels.

I am not, at this point, proposing any specific solution to the out-of-control human population dilemma. In a general sense though, I think a purely voluntary system for population control would not work. Tax disincentives for having big families would be much more effective. Our taxation system, in general, encourages couples to have large families. This has got to stop! The same sort of situation is prevalent in many other parts of the world - where large families are encouraged and considered a "good thing". The official Roman Catholic Church doctrine (and other world religions) are also big forces that need to be overcome by massive educational efforts and just plain "common sense". We just need to think differently about our so-called "right" to have as many kids as we darn please. It's really not such "a big deal".

Many people will say, "this is not a problem with an easy solution" - but how can any solutions be formulated when there is little recognition of the problem? Furthermore, the difficulty of the solution is no excuse for ignoring the problem, because the consequences of such denial are too horrible to contemplate. It is really up to some courageous world and environmental leaders to come forward and give this issue the kind of exposure it desperately needs. You may recall the film "Soylent Green" that was released in the seventies. It may have seemed a bit far-fetched back then, but not any more!

On an encouraging note, that controversial "overpopulation" word is beginning to pop up here and there - but why did we wait so long to acknowledge the obvious? Now it may be too late to avert a massive human disaster in many parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America. As Sierrans, we need to push very hard on the national level to urge the Sierra Club and other major environmental organizations to get more heavily involved in this issue. Is it controversial? - you bet! - but controversy has always been an obstacle facing people with vision! So why should that stop us now?

**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.

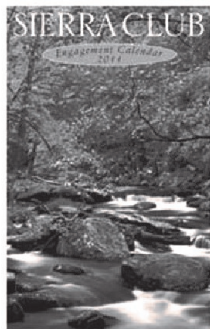
As usual, our programs are free and open to the public.

Mid-Hudson  
Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 1012  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Newburgh, NY 12550  
Permit No. 8604

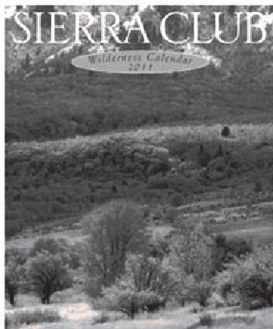
**SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS—2011 Edition**  
Now Available  
Your Purchase helps the Mid Hudson Group and the Club

Engagement: \$11.00



Purchase From  
ExecComm Members  
Or  
Barner Books  
3 Church Street  
New Paltz, NY 12561  
Or call: 845-255-2635  
Will ship for: \$3.50

Wilderness: \$12.00



**SIERRA CLUB  
ANNUAL  
TAG SALE**

**Saturday September 25, 2010\***  
9:00 am—3:00 pm

**Mulligans Irish House**  
2146 New Hackensack Rd,  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

**Drop off Goods** Friday, September 24 1-6 pm  
**Volunteer:** Call 845-255-2635 (Barner Books)  
**Learn More:** Read detailed article inside

\* Rain Date Sunday, September 26