

Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Our website:
<http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

Fall 2012 Vol.44 Issue 3

ANNUAL TAG SALE

All proceeds benefit our Mid-Hudson Group

Calling all Sierrans! Please Donate, Promote, Purchase, Volunteer.

Saturday, September 22nd, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, September 23rd, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Drop-Off: Friday, September 21st, 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm (rain or shine)

Location:

**Mulligan's Irish House
2146 New Hackensack Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**

DONATE: Collect and bring donations to Mulligan's on Friday, September 21st between 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm (rain or shine), or early on the date of the sale. We are looking for donations of books, CD's, toys with all the parts, hiking/camping equipment (including jackets, ski boots, hiking accessories), sporting goods in good condition, tools, antiques, small furniture, kitchen items, glassware, pictures, camera equipment, etc. in good condition. All electronics must be in good working order. We do not sell clothing or shoes.

Can't make it to the Sale or Drop-Off? Let us know. We have volunteers who are willing to pick up goods or they can be dropped off early if need be.

PROMOTE: Let your friends and family know about the sale. We'll have a poster on our website soon that you can download, print and post.

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!

VOLUNTEER: We can use your help! Can you spare 3 hours or more? Let us know. Help is needed on Friday and Saturday. To volunteer or for more information contact David Friedman, Tag Sale Chair, or Marie Caruso, Volunteer Coordinator (see below).

DAY OF SALE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Any rain announcements or special pre-sale announcements will be on our tag sale hotline. Call 845-255-2635.

If you have questions or can help, contact one of our coordinators:

David Friedman, Tag Sale Chair
845-255-2635 (Barner Books)
Email: Friedman_David@msn.com
Cell: 845-701-6229 (calls or text)

Marie Caruso
Volunteer Coordinator
845-452-9086
Email: mariehv@verizon.net

Climate change is happening in our faces right here. Right now. What are we going to do about it? We all need to become politically active to effect the many changes we need in the how, the what and the way our several layers of government do things. Register to vote. Inform yourself. Refer to your NYS (atlantic.sierraclub.org) and to your National Sierra Club (sierraclub.org) websites. In the meantime, here's the Personal Ten for you (and me). You can do all of these, I know you can! (Earth911.com)

Change a light. Replace a regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent one.

Drive less. Walk, bike, carpool, take mass transit, and/or trip chain.

Buy less, Buy recycled and Recycle more. Recycle at least half of your household waste to save energy, resources and landfill space.

Check your tires. Properly inflated tires mean good gas mileage, saving gas.

Use less hot water. Reducing the amount used means big savings in your energy bills, and in carbon dioxide emissions. Use cold water for your wash and a low flow showerhead. Insulate your tank and keep its temperature set at or below 120.

Avoid products with a lot of packaging. Purchase products with the least amount of packaging.

Adjust your thermostat. Keeping your thermostat at 68 degrees in winter and 78 degrees in summer. Every degree helps!

Plant a tree. For oxygen, for life.

Turn off electronic devices when not in use. Turn off your TV, VCR, computer and other electronic devices. Put them on a multi-plug device with an on/off switch.

On the political side, for info on New York State practically anything, go to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/ils/>

And, don't stop calling Gov. Cuomo for **No Fracking NYS!** (518) 474-8390.



Outings News

Andy Moss

In June a group of Sierrans spent a 4-day weekend hiking in **Stowe, Vermont**. The highlight of the trip was the ascent of Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak. The accommodations were very nice, the food excellent, and we had a great group of hikers.

On July 8th our **Mid-Hudson Group held a picnic/barbecue** at Dutchess County's Wilcox Park. We had a very good turnout, lots of good conversation, great swimming, and of course plenty of delicious food. The weather was perfect and everyone had a wonderful time.

The hot weather inspired two Outings that featured hiking and swimming. The first started with an easy walk to **Kaaterskill Falls** — the highest in New York State. We next drove into **North Lake State Park** for a swim. After lunch we hiked to Boulder Rock and enjoyed the Hudson Valley views from the 2000' escarpment. The next Outing featured a hike to **Lake Awosting at Minnewaska State Park**. After an easy 3-mile walk on the carriageway, we spent several hours swimming at the lake. We returned via Castle Point for views, views and more views. A perfect day!

On August 4th, Marie Caruso led 16 attendees on a wonderful walk at the beautiful **Wethersfield Estate in Amenia**. The morning hike was hot, but the picnic area & gardens had nice shade, and the mansion and carriage house were cool. We appreciate the hospitality of the estate staff members who guided every part of the outing. A gorgeous setting for a day of exploration.

Note. Please join our website (www.meetup.com/sierraclubny) to participate in outings.



Mid-Hudson Group picnic at Wilcox Park



L-R: Excom members Ralph, Joanne, Marie



Mount Mansfield, Vermont



Lake Awosting

The “preliminary” Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Williams Lake was returned to the developer by the DEC on June 1, with suggestions from DEC staff for needed revisions and additional information. As of this writing, the revised document has not yet been returned to the DEC, and it has not been officially released for public review.

The Mid-Hudson Group, with the help of a conservation grant from the Atlantic Chapter, arranged for Erik Kiviat of Hudsonia to review the preliminary FEIS on behalf of the Sierra Club. The Club also agreed to pay half the cost of the review by Paul Rubin of Hydroquest.

Both of these highly regarded ecologists found serious deficiencies in the FEIS. Paul Rubin, pointing out inaccuracies in the developer’s maps of lake watershed, bathymetry, and groundwater flow, presented evidence that the developer has overestimated the capacity of Williams Lake to supply water for the project and that stormwater from the development could contaminate endangered bat hibernacula and adjacent streams.

Erik Kiviat found the biodiversity studies made by the developer to be incomplete and inaccurate, and the mitigation measures proposed inadequate to protect the site’s significant habitats and species. “The proposed development,” he said, “has a high probability of causing adverse impacts to rare plants and animals.”

Other experts associated with the Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership and Save the Lakes submitted comments pointing out the deficiencies of this preliminary FEIS. One major issue is the development’s inconsistency with Rosendale’s comprehensive plan, which gives a high priority to protection of the Binnewater Lakes and limits major development to the Routes 32 and 213 corridors. The current government of the Town of Rosendale however, elected last fall with the developer’s backing, has shown little regard for the tenets of the comprehensive plan.

It ain’t over ’til it’s over, tho. The DEC has indicated that the FEIS will not be approved until all the permit applications are approved (The DEC alone requires seven permit applications, none of which have been completed). This means additional opportunities for public comment and possibly public hearings.

Our Group needs all the help it can get to protect this significant property from over-development. If you’d like to review the preliminary FEIS, or can offer help in any other way, please contact me at mariehv@verizon.net or (845) 452-9086. I’ll be happy to send you copies of any relevant documents. You’ll also find a great deal of information on the website and research pages at www.savethelakes.us.

Thank you,
Marie

Political Corner Andi Weiss Bartczak

In September, Congressional and State senate and assembly primaries happen. Are you registered to vote? Have you registered in a party so that you have the power of the primary? Becoming educated about candidates and voting in primaries and elections is not enough to solve our environmental and other civil problems but it is a necessary part. Imagine how much easier our lives would be if all our elected representatives valued the environment and environmental services necessary for our existence.

In November we elect a President, Congressional representatives, one Senator and all our State legislators. I need your help in determining if there are any serious environmental problems that need State intervention in your State senatorial or assembly district. Go to the NYS Board of Elections website (www.elections.ny.gov) and look at your redrawn assembly and senate districts. Call me at (845) 255-4371, or email me at dr.andi@scienceforcitizens.org or write to me about environmental problems at Andi Weiss Bartczak, c/o Mid-Hudson Group, PO Box 1012, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602.

Nominating Committee Announcement

Any member wishing to run for election to the Mid-Hudson group Executive Committee (ExCom), is asked to please contact Andy Moss at 845-336-5446 (evenings and weekends). The deadline to apply is September 30th. The ExCom generally meets once a month and the term of office is three years. Please consider taking an active role in your local Sierra Club group to promote outdoor activities and protect our Hudson Valley environment.

New Partnership Offers Affordable, Easy Solar to Mid-Hudson Group Supporters

The Sierra Club is helping members and supporters drop dirty fuels. A new program is aimed at catalyzing widespread deployment of clean energy: the Solar Homes Program. Through a partnership with Sungevity, a leading national solar service provider, the Sierra Club is offering its members and supporters an affordable way to get solar on their rooftops. For every home that goes solar through this program, Sungevity will give \$750 to the Chapter for clean energy work and other efforts. The Atlantic Chapter Executive Committee decided in June 2012 that the \$750 will then be split with the local Group where the sale was finalized - \$375 for the local Group and \$375 for the Atlantic Chapter to put towards Clean Energy Programs and other important work! Previously, solar panel installations could cost up to \$20,000. Solar companies like Sungevity are now offering a “solar service”. Sungevity will install the panels for no up-front cost, and handle all maintenance and service. The homeowner pays a small monthly bill. *Also, for the month of August, for any contract signed by August 31st, Sungevity will give \$1000 to the contract signers! Get your FREE quote today at: www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes.*

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

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

SEE DETAILS INSIDE

Location: Mulligan's Irish House, 2146 New Hackensack Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

ANNUAL TAG SALE

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, September 22nd, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Public Programs

October Program

Date and Location: TBA

Politics And The Environment: How Government Helps and Hinders Environmental Protection

Our program will be about the interaction of environmental issues and politics. We have seen some of this at work during this past year's debate on hydrofracking. Check our Group website periodically (newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson) for the latest about this important program. Come and add your opinions.

November Program

Date: Tuesday, November 13th; 7pm

Location: Unitarian Fellowship of Poughkeepsie (UFP), 67 South Randolph Avenue, Poughkeepsie

Co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie's Social Justice Committee

The Politics Of Food: Government Regulations and Their Impact On Organic Farming

How do government regulations (local, State and Federal) help or hinder our access to organic farms and farm products? Do farmers succeed or fail due to regulations by agencies such as: the Department of Agriculture, the Health Department, the Commerce Department, etc? Come and hear what the farmers have to say. We will have a panel of Hudson Valley farmers to tell you their story. Find

out what our farmers think and what our legislators are doing or not doing to support the family farm. There will be ample time to ask questions and find out what you can do to support our farmers and improve your access to the foods grown here in the Hudson Valley.