

# Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group



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CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

Our website:  
[newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson)

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## Chair's Corner

Joanne Steele

Please attend and promote the **People's Climate March** to be held in New York City on **Sunday, September 21**, in advance of the *UN Climate Summit* to be held on September 23. We will be marching in solidarity with over 500 other organizations from all over America to stop climate disruption and replace dirty fossil fuels. The Club is not providing buses from the Mid-Hudson since train and bus service to the city is so available. I also encourage you to carpool with your friends. On our Group's website home page we have a link to page with more information: [ <http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson/climatemarch.html> ]. You will find more information as well as links to flyers, posters, stickers, labels, 1/4 sheet handouts, etc. Get busy!

To light a fire under you, just look at the picture of the Siberian Crater below (the biggest one noticed so far, 200 feet wide and no one knows how deep). This was caused by warming of the frozen permafrost liberating under it deposits of methane hydrate which exploded. As Sierran Maggie wrote, "Such deposits are both on land as well as under the arctic ocean floor, and the amount of methane waiting to escape dwarfs all the carbon presently in the atmosphere. The speed will only accelerate faster and faster due to positive feedbacks."

For more action against climate-changing actions, the Global Frackdown is scheduled this year for Saturday, October 11th. [ <http://www.globalfrackdown.org/org-endorsement-form/> ] Again, we will be mobilizing for a large presence in Albany for Cuomo's State of the State speech in January. We are expecting 3,000-4,000 to surpass

last year's 2,000 of you. Between now and then, motivate yourself further by reading up on Public Law 1 at [ <http://www.frackbustersny.org/new-york-public-law-1.html> ]

Now, to cool you down, how about a \$30 air conditioner you can make yourself that draws only 54 watts? Check out [ <http://www.nextworldtv.com/videos/energy/home-made-air-conditioner-a-fan-and-simple-supplies.html> ] Saving energy by not using it is measured in negawatts. According to Amory Lovins [ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/amorylovins/2014/07/18/energy-intensity-the-secret-revolution/> ] reduced "energy intensity" and increased efficiency matters. Quoting Michael Liebrich (*Bloomberg New Energy Finance* 4/15/14), Lovins informs us that "although between 2004 and 2013 the amount that fracking for domestic oil displaced oil imports equaled 10% of domestic consumption, two little-noticed demand-side trends, less driving and more-efficient vehicles, saved 18%, nearly twice as much." Lovins goes on, "Similarly, [ <http://co2scorecard.org/home/researchitem/27> ] showed that in 2012, lower U.S. electric intensity—using less electricity to produce a dollar of real GDP—displaced nearly twice as much domestically burned coal as expanded natural gas use did. And again, "... lower consumption due to 1974-2010 drops in energy intensity was the largest single energy resource across the 11 IEA member countries' aggregate total final consumption—bigger than oil, or than all other sources combined."

*Let us all get ingenious in producing negawatts!  
We can do that!*



Siberian Craters on the Yamal Peninsula.



200-foot wide and seemingly bottomless crater discovered in the Yamal Peninsula.

Russian scientists have determined that the massive crater discovered in a remote part of Siberia was probably caused by thawing permafrost.

## Conservation Corner **Joanne Steele**

### Update on Williams Lake

by Marie Caruso, Chair, Williams Lake Committee

For the first time in seven years, the developers of the Williams Lake Project did open the lake for fee-based swimming on weekends this past summer, as promised. They've also been working with the Town of Rosendale on final details of their

wastewater treatment plans, which will likely have been approved by the time you receive this newsletter. It is uncertain, however, when construction of the Project will actually begin, as there's been no sign, as yet, of their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which is required prior to the start of any demolition or construction activity.

## Political Corner **Andi Weiss Bartczak**

This November the races will have lower turnouts because there is no presidential race. This means that each vote will be more important. Your vote might decide whether the House returns to Democratic control or stays in the hands of the Republicans. National has endorsed Sean Eldridge for the

Democratic slot in the 19th Congressional District.

Check our website to see what help Mr. Eldridge and state legislators we have endorsed will need.

*Andi Weiss Bartczak, andiwbartczak@yahoo.com, (845) 255-4371*

## Public Programs **JoyAnn Savino**

**PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBIC. BRING A FRIEND!**

*See our website: [newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson) for more details.*

### October Program:

*See our website for date and location.*

### Film: *Dear Governor Cuomo*

*Dear Governor Cuomo* is a concert protest film aimed at influencing New York State's decision on hydraulic fracturing - fracking, to be a NO. Featuring local activists including Mark Ruffalo, Melissa Leo, Natalie Merchant, Pete Seeger, Citizen Cope and scientists like Sandra Steingraber. The film lays out the science and facts and encourages the governor to join the anti-fracking majority in his state. Though focused on the issue in New York, the education, and incredible music, are relevant in the 34 states that already allow fracking.

### November Program

*See our website for date and location.*

### America's Wilderness with the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club Outings department provides trips throughout the United States and around the world. Trips include lodge-based hiking, backpacking, walking, base-camp hiking, supported trekking, kayaking, canoeing, service, skiing/snowshoeing, and more. Groups include seniors (50+), women, grandparents/grandkids, teens, family and beginners. Joanne Steele and Andy Moss will present slideshows of National Sierra Club trips and an overview of International trips. Learn what is required to participate and how to sign up.

## Donations

We would like to thank the following for their donations to our group: *Dawn Osselmann, Sandra Kissam.*

We also wish to thank Marie Caruso for requesting that in lieu of gifts for her birthday, donations be made to our Group. We are grateful to the following for doing so: *Bill Collier, Jan Roth, Joan Rech, Nancy Swanson and Sue Lowy.*

Donations to our group, in support of our programs and conservation activities, are always welcome. For tax deductible contributions, checks should be made out to the Sierra Club Foundation (with Mid-Hudson Sierra in the memo section) and mailed to our group: Mid-Hudson Group, PO Box 1012, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602.

### GO SOLAR WITH THE SIERRA CLUB

The Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity for solar panel installations. When you go solar with the Sierra Club, you are joining more than 1,100 who have chosen to move toward a clean-energy future. Feel confident about going solar with Sungevity, a company that is a trusted partner of the Sierra Club. When you go solar, Sungevity sends \$750 back to your local Sierra Club chapter to continue the important on-the-ground work chapters are doing every day to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. As utility rates continue to rise, solar leasing allows you to lock in lower utility rates through low solar lease payments. To find out more visit: <http://content.sierraclub.org/solar/>

### Volunteers Needed

We have a wonderful **Program Chair**, JoyAnn, who would appreciate help with the implementation and publicity of our programs. Contact JoyAnn at [sunchipseac@yahoo.com](mailto:sunchipseac@yahoo.com). Our **Political Chair**, Andi, ([andiwbartczak@yahoo.com](mailto:andiwbartczak@yahoo.com)) would be grateful for help contacting political candidates. Our **Outings Chair**, Andy Moss ([andy@hvi.net](mailto:andy@hvi.net)) is looking for volunteers to lead local outings. We are also searching for a **Secretary** to take minutes of our monthly Executive Committee meetings in New Paltz. Contact our **Volunteer Chair**, Marie (who would also appreciate a little help) at (845) 452-9086 or [mariehv@verizon.net](mailto:mariehv@verizon.net), if you have any questions. We need your help to help our environment.

*Outings are posted at: [meetup.com/sierraclubny](http://meetup.com/sierraclubny). To participate please join the website to receive email announcements. If you are interested in becoming an outing leader, please contact me: Andy Moss, Outings Chair, (845) 336-5446 or [andy@hvi.net](mailto:andy@hvi.net).*

On July 12th an intrepid group joined me for a four-part adventure at Minnewaska State Park. First we followed the Peterskill Creek on the Mossy Glen Trail. Following the creek provided many scenic moments including a stop on the brand new bridge that replaces the one washed out by hurricane Irene. Our next section was along the Blueberry Run Trail. We were a little early for the blueberries, but did manage to find a few to taste. We arrived around 12:30 for



*Our group stops for a photo on the new bridge over the Peterskill Creek.*

lunch at Castle Point, the highest point in the park. We continued our journey along a section of the Long Path until we reached the Awosting Carriageway. From here we picked up the Rainbow Falls trail and enjoyed a cool shower under the falls. The trail then continued on until we reached the Lower Awosting Carriageway. From here it was an easy walk to the parking lot. It certainly was a beautiful day to be hiking the trails at Minnewaska Park.



*Having fun hiking along the cliffs. (Litchfield Ledge in the background)*

## Caring for Injured Wildlife

By Shelley Bance

As lovers of the great outdoors, we Sierra Club folks sometimes come across injured or orphaned wildlife along hiking trails—or even in our own backyards. What exactly should we do to help and what should we avoid?

First, determine whether the baby animal or bird is hurt or sick, or whether it was attacked by a cat or dog. If so, call a wildlife rehabilitator or, if unable to reach one, call your state wildlife agency or a wildlife veterinarian. If the baby bird or animal is not hurt or sick, look for its nest or den and see if it's intact.

It's normal for a feathered bird (fledgling) to be hopping on the ground, but one without feathers (nestling) will need help. Place a fledgling in the bushes or on a nearby tree limb. A nestling should be put back in its nest, or make a substitute nest from a basket or margarine tub lined with dry grasses or pine needles and hang it nearby. Put the bird in the nest and observe from a distance to see if the parents are nearby or visiting the nest. For a baby mammal, place it back in an intact nest or den, or else in a shallow box close to where you found it. Keep it warm but out of the sun and watch for its mother for 4 to 6 hours. Stay completely out of sight or the mother won't return. If the parents return, leave the area. Remember that a baby's best chance for survival is its mother. Fawns are born without scent so they don't attract predators and mothers normally leave them to feed. Don't touch the fawn, but leave the area. If the

parents of the creature do not return or it is in obvious distress, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

You can also take steps to rescue the baby bird or mammal. Prepare a container from a cardboard box or cat/dog carrier, or a paper sack with air holes. Protect yourself and wear gloves. Cover the bird or animal with a light sheet or towel, then gently place it in the container and keep it closed. Make note of exactly where you found the creature. Keep it in a warm, dark, quiet place, without food or water, and leave it alone. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator or agency or veterinarian as soon as possible and don't keep it at your home longer than necessary or let it loose in your house. Wash your hands after contact with the animal. Remember, it's against the law in most states to keep wild animals if you don't have permits, even if you plan to release them.

Never touch wildlife with your bare hands, but play it safe and use care and common sense. You might want to keep cardboard boxes in your car, as well as thick leather gloves and a bath towel, for such emergencies.

For a complete list of New York State licensed wildlife rehabilitators, organized by county, go to: [www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife\\_pdf/wrlist.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife_pdf/wrlist.pdf) Or call the NYS-DEC Region 3 wildlife department which covers the Mid-Hudson Valley area: 845-256-3098.

## READ YOUR NEWSLETTERS ONLINE

You can help our Group save printing and mailing costs by choosing to read your newsletters online. Contact Dave Thomas, our Database Administrator: [dave@davidalexanderthomas.com](mailto:dave@davidalexanderthomas.com). Include your name and email address in the body of the email. When newsletters are mailed you will receive an Email with a link to the PDF version posted on our website.

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Permit No. 8604



## ANNUAL TAG SALE

*All proceeds benefit our Mid-Hudson Group*

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

**Saturday, September 20th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

*Rain Date: Sunday, September 21st, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm*

*Drop-Off: Friday, September 19th 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 19th 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. *Items should be clean and dust-free.*

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. Call for more information.***

**PROMOTE:** Let your friends and family know about the sale. We have a poster on our website 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!

**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