



Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group

Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Group of the Atlantic Chapter

Fall 2018 / Vol. 50 / Issue 3

This newsletter will be posted to our website along with all previous newsletters.

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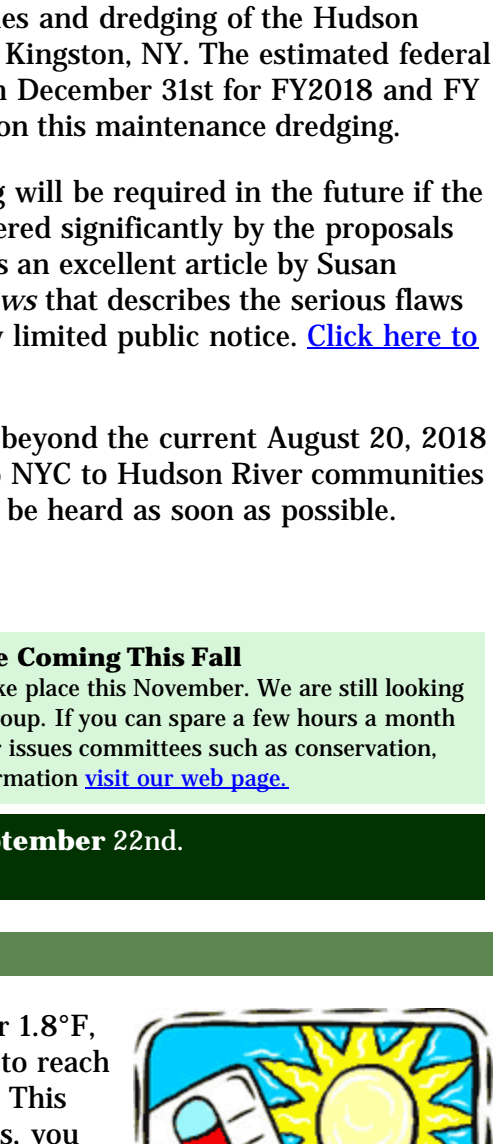
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Chair's Corner by Bob Heinemann

U.S. Coast Guard's NY/NJ Harbor & Tributaries Feasibility Study

On July 5, 2018, the Coast Guard announced Scoping Meetings on a project "to make specific recommendations for managing coastal storm flood risk in the NY/NJHAT study area." This first opportunity to hold just six public meetings about a massive project with six detailed proposals to be narrowed to just two by September, 2018 was issued just days before preliminary scoping meetings held on July 9th and 10th in NYC and on July 11th in Poughkeepsie. [See the Army Corps Feasibility Study.](#)



Risk area is shown in red.

The project is a reaction to Super Storm Sandy which occurred in October, 2012, allegedly a once in 200 year historical storm. The words "climate change" are carefully avoided and the Army Corps at the July 11th hearing considers that possibility a political issue not within their purview.

A July 13, 2018 [article by Scott Fallon](#) that appeared on NorthJersey.com (which is part of the USA Today Network) provides a succinct summary of the proposal underlining the significant environmental concerns with the various proposed plans. One of the proposals involves building a 5-mile sea barrier from Sandy Hook to Queens. Other proposals include moving tidal barriers near the Verrazano Bridge in the Harbor, the Arthur Kill near Raritan Bay and two in Long Island Sound. Environmental groups raised concerns about irrevocable damage to the Hudson, Passaic and Hackensack rivers and Raritan Bay "by changing tidal conditions".

Despite statements to the contrary by Army Corps representatives at the July 11th meeting in Poughkeepsie, that this initial review will not result in a final report until the Spring of 2021 and a Chief's report for Congress in the summer of 2022, the extremely short public notice and ability to comment on the current plan to reduce six proposals to two when a draft report is planned for release by the Fall of 2018, is unacceptable. It is clear that extensive planning already has occurred. Narrowing these six proposals to two, with either of them likely creating more unintended problems than potentially ameliorated at a huge cost to taxpayers and to the environment of the NYC Harbor, the Hudson River and other important local area rivers and the communities adjacent to them, without a reasonable comment period, is short-sighted and counter productive.

Obvious issues, among many others, include flooding north of the sea gates; substantial silt build up in the Hudson River and other rivers which will require dredging; the adverse effects of dredging especially in the Hudson River with the long history of PCB pollutants still lurking in the sediment layers at the bottom of the river; and related navigation issues and, of course, the harm to adjacent wetlands and property which will have storm water surges diverted there. The preliminary study cost allocated for the current proposals alone is \$3 million. The future construction cost will be many hundreds of millions, and the cost in unintended environmental impacts will be incalculable.

It is a little known fact that the Army Corps of Engineers already plans for annual hydrographic surveys and channel maintenance activities and dredging of the Hudson River from NYC to Waterford, NY and sometimes to Kingston, NY. The estimated federal cost for work performed from September 1st through December 31st for FY2018 and FY 2019 is \$9,650,000. See the [Army Corps Fact Sheet](#) on this maintenance dredging.

One can only imagine how much additional dredging will be required in the future if the natural flow of the tides and the Hudson River is altered significantly by the proposals under review in the current feasibility study. There is an excellent article by Susan Hellauer, dated July 25, 2018, in *Nyack News & Views* that describes the serious flaws in the proposals floated by the Army Corps with very limited public notice. [Click here to read the article.](#)

The comment period must be extended significantly beyond the current August 20, 2018 deadline. All concerned citizens from northern NJ to NYC to Hudson River communities at least as far north as Albany should let their voices be heard as soon as possible.

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Executive Committee Elections Are Coming This Fall

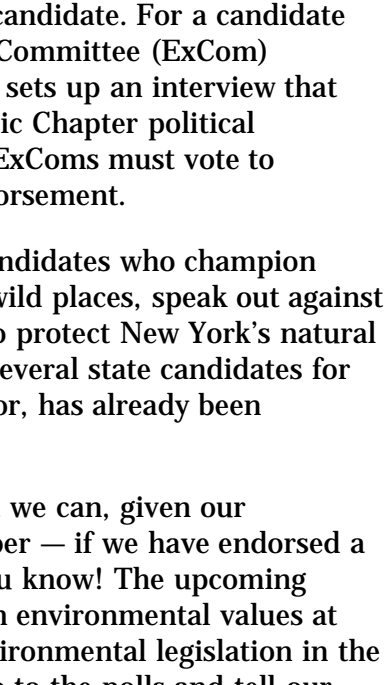
Our annual elections for Executive Committee members will take place this November. We are still looking for interested members to join our committee and help our Group. If you can spare a few hours a month you can make a difference. We are also seeking help with our issues committees such as conservation, political, outings and programs. For more information [visit our web page.](#)

The Tag Sale is Coming September 22nd.

[See details below.](#)

Conservation Corner by Joanne Steele

So far, the planet has only warmed by close to 1°C, or 1.8°F, above preindustrial levels. But, we're on a trajectory to reach 3 degrees Celsius, or 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit, by 2100. This summer raises the heat record higher once again. Yes, you have the time to help! Remember to identify yourself as a Mid-Hudson Sierra Club member!



Ourglia, Algeria set Africa's highest ever recorded temperature at 124.3°F. Sodankyla, Finland (above the Arctic circle) 89.2°F. Los Angeles 111°F. Hongcheon, Korea 105.2°F. Kumagaya, Japan 106 °F.

Will the world's hottest temperatures across Earth convince people that climate change is real, and an awful threat to human life on Earth? We Sierrans hope so! The author, Margaret Atwood of the cli-fi (climate fiction) novel, *The Year of the Flood*, tells us that if we continue on a certain path, the future will be unrecognizable, the earth uninhabitable and the changes wrought on humanity unimaginable. Atwood calls climate change the everything change. Her article, [It's Not Climate Change - It's Everything Change](#) (July 27, 2015) is also very worth the read. I, too, hope we will prove soon that we can call us *homo sapiens sapiens!*

More locally, we have Legoland, the CPV gas plant, the Bellevue gas plant, the Ulster Park 2.0-gigawatt (MW) gas plant, and the unending threat of the CNY energy development. I urge you to contact the below references, to join them as Sierrans, to do what must be done. Yes, you have the time to help!

Legoland water park: On 8/3/16, NYSDEC posted: *Positive Declaration Orange County.* The Town of Goshen Planning Board, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed LEGOLAND New York may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared. The action involves a proposal by the project sponsor, Merlin Entertainment, to construct a commercial recreation facility on approximately 153 acres of a 524 acre site consisting of 13 total parcels located off Harriman Drive in the Town of Goshen, New York. The commercial recreation facility will consist of a LEGOLAND theme park including rides and attractions, an aquarium, theaters, restaurants, a hotel and various back of the house facilities, including offices and staff areas, as well as associated parking and drainage facilities. The project sponsor proposes to seek municipal water and sewer services.

Since then, permits and construction abounding. Doreen Tignacelli (via hudson-valley-environment list) writes us, 7/29/18, "According to *Times Herald-Record*, Legoland site in Goshen racked up its third violation as construction site runoff turned the Otter Kill to the color of chocolate milk. While Legoland faces fines from the NYSDEC of up to \$37,500 a day if the violations continue, I have seldom seen that amount imposed on violators and fines are seen by developers as the cost of doing business. A Stop Work Order would be more effective." [Concerned Citizens of the Hudson Valley](#)

Moving on to cracked gas energy-generating plants. From extraction to delivery, if just 3% of the cracked gas leaks out throughout the entire process, then cracked gas is worse than coal for the climate. The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), which works closely with the industry, found leakage rates at about 2.5%, which is much higher than the Environmental Protection Agency reports based on fossil fuel industry supplied leakage rate data. However, independent scientists have found leakage rates between 5% to 12%, meaning cracked gas is a climate disaster as well as a serious public health risk. However, President Trump's FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) which is the agency that oversees the federal approval of interstate gas pipelines, has already said they will not take the climate impacts of the Dominion expansion into consideration! It's going to be a struggle that needs YOU to get involved! It's your future, too!

CPV's (Competitive Power Ventures) large 650 MW cracked-gas/diesel power plant located in Waywayanda, Orange County has been the subject of objection by [Sustainable Warwick](#) and [Protect Orange County](#). The first goal was to stop the Lateral Valley gas pipeline by asking Gov. Cuomo and the DEC to deny the 401 Water Permit needed for the pipeline's conclusion to feed the plant. Finally, the DEC denied the permit, then the developer sued, FERC reinstated the permit, our DEC sued FERC, and the 2nd Circuit U.S. Court disallowed DEC's denial of the permit.

CPV, currently running on diesel fuel, was yesterday denied an air quality permit. The *Times Herald Record* reported (8/3/18): "The state Department of Environmental Conservation announced its decision in a letter to CPV officials on Wednesday, one day after the air permit DEC granted in 2013 expired. A department official explained that the change in federal regulations required CPV to get a so-called Title V permit from the Environmental Protection Agency before starting up the plant, something the company had not done" adding "The DEC letter said the permit application requires a public comment period and a 45-day review period for the EPA." "As a result of this denial and the lack of a Title V permit, CPV may not lawfully operate the facility," wrote Kelly Turturro, a DEC regional director. This gives us time to keep organizing against the plant! **[Get Involved! Yes, you can!](#)**

CV (Crocket Valley), an even more massive, 1100 MW gas power plant is located in Dover (on the NY/CT border) in Dutchess County. One strategy to defeat the plant is to fight the Dominion cracked gas pipeline which will connect to the Iroquois pipeline and bring cracked gas to the Cricket Valley plant. Work on that (identify as a Mid-Hudson Sierra Club member) with Lisa Marshall at [Mothers Out Front](#). Others are organizing around informing the local people about the dangers to their health and future from the plant's operation.

Protect Orange County provides us the pollution information and NoCV ([noctricketvalleyplant@gogoglegovps.com](#)) is working to inform the public and organize us to Action! As Johanna Fallert of NoCV warned us: "Laws cannot fully protect us. The Environmental Protection Agency regulations do not reduce risks to health or the environment to a zero level, but rather to an "adequate margin of safety" for the general population. This margin of safety is a highly judgmental guess. The EPA itself admits that the margin of safety for the general population does not apply to the young, the old, pregnant women, and those whose immune systems are already compromised from chronic lung and cardiac illnesses. They are at heightened risk. Moreover, the EPA has not and cannot state what the effects of combined multiple chemicals simultaneously emitted during emissions may have on a person's health. Air pollution is a regional issue, with air quality measurements that represent averages over time and distance, some taken quarterly, others once per year. That doesn't mean that the people closest to the pollution source aren't being hammered more than others." She adds (I couldn't say it better myself): "We need to stand up and demand that investments be made in clean energy renewables and innovative technologies. We need to voice opposition to energy that harms people and the environment. There are 21st Century solutions that need to be supported and utilized. We need innovation in financing and business models, solar technologies and energy systems to avoid climate disaster. We don't need Cricket Valley Energy Center."

NYSERDA (New York State Energy Resource and Development Authority) proposed 83 Microgrids for NY. Of the 83, eleven are in the planning stage. All Microgrids are not bad because some use renewable energy, including wind. Locally the Ulster Park Microgrid, Lincoln Park Grid Support Center and Glidingpath 20 MW Plant plan on using natural (cracked) gas. Opposition to this plan is being organized by [Kingston Citizens](#), [TownOfUlsterCitizens.org](#), [Citizens for Local Power](#), your [Mid-Hudson Sierra Club](#), [Scenic Hudson](#) and [Riverkeeper](#). Coming right up is a free community BBQ and public forum on Friday, August 10th from 6 - 8 pm. [View the flyer](#) Join Energy Analyst and Economist Evelyn Wright (Citizens for Local Power) and Environmental Advocacy Director Hayley Carlock (Scenic Hudson) for an overview of what it means to be living in the 'G' zone and peak energy plants; the proposed Lincoln Park Grid Support System project, a gas-fired power plant in the Town of Ulster; an overview and next steps regarding the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process for the project; and an exciting step that all Ulster County residents can take together to deter peak energy fossil plants in the future. Join us **Yes, you have the time! Remember to identify yourself as a Mid-Hudson Sierra Club member! Yes you can help!**

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Political Corner by Alison White

In case you missed it ... election season is here! The Mid-Hudson Group's geographic area includes all of Dutchess county, most of Ulster and Greene, half of Columbia county, and small sections of Orange and Delaware counties. As far as the federal elections go, 99.9% of our area lies in congressional district 19, where Antonio Delgado is running against the incumbent, John Faso; but the Mid-Hudson Group spans multiple New York State legislative districts. Assembly districts 102, 103, 104, 105 and 106, and Senate districts 39, 41, 42, 43, 46 and 51 all intersect the Mid-Hudson Group area.



Sierra Club works to support candidates who will lead the fight in protecting our communities and natural surroundings. We vet candidates through a questionnaire and interview process, and then vote on whether to endorse the candidate. For a candidate running for state office, your Mid-Hudson Group Executive Committee (ExCom) contacts the candidate, provides the questionnaire, and then sets up an interview that includes participation by one or more members of the Atlantic Chapter political committee. Both the Mid-Hudson and the Atlantic Chapter ExComs must vote to endorse in order for the candidate to obtain Sierra Club endorsement.

The vetting process is designed to ensure that we endorse candidates who champion legislation that protects clean air, water and our remaining wild places, speak out against environmentally destructive practices, and otherwise work to protect New York's natural heritage. We are currently working on the endorsements of several state candidates for the November 2018 elections. One candidate, Aidan O'Connor, has already been endorsed for Assembly District 102.

Once a candidate is endorsed, we support him or her as best we can, given our resources. Watch your emails or visit our website in November – if we have endorsed a candidate in your Assembly or Senate District, we will let you know! The upcoming election is **extremely important!** The wholesale assault on environmental values at the federal level, plus conflict and inaction on important environmental legislation in the New York State legislature makes it imperative that we all go to the polls and tell our representatives that we want clean air and water, environmental protections, and governmental action to combat climate change.

PLEASE – we are looking for **volunteers to help** with the campaigns of Sierra Club-endorsed, pro-environment candidates. In the fall, we will be phone-banking to call our fellow Mid-Hudson Sierrans to ask for their votes to support our endorsed candidates. If you can help with either of these activities, please contact your Mid-Hudson Group Political Chair, Alison White – [72sierra@gmail.com](#).

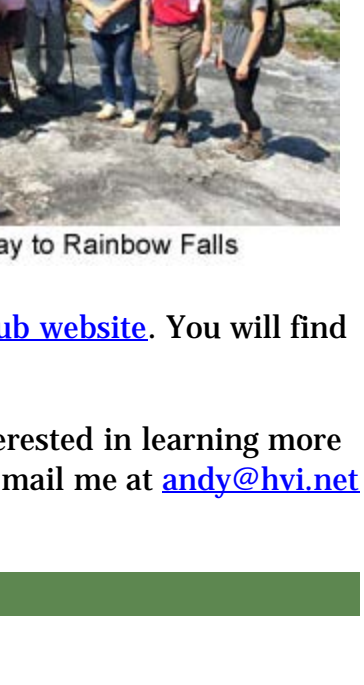
Below is a list of candidates for the New York State Assembly and Senate districts that intersect the Mid-Hudson Group area. Senate districts 39, 42 and 43 are considered battleground districts, that is, districts where the races have the potential to be more competitive than other races and could possibly lead to shifts in the Senate's partisan balance.

Senate		
District	Democratic	Republican
39	James Skoufis	Tom Basille Bill Larkin
41	Karen Smythe	Sue Serino
42	Jennifer Metzger Pranilla Malik	Ann Rabbitt
43	Aaron Gladd	Daphne Jordan
46	Pat Strong	George Amedore
51	Joyce St. George	James Seward
Assembly		
102	Aidan O'Connor	Christopher Tague
103	Kevin Cahill	Scott Manley Sakima McClinton
104	Jodi McCredo Jonathan Jacobson Kevidaryan Luban Ralph Coates Alexander Reed Kelly	
105	Laurette Giardino	Kieran Michael Lalor
106	Didi Barrett	William Truitt

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Energy Corner by Nivo Rovedo

The Grid is being reading an interesting book about America's electrical power network called *The Grid: The Praying Mice Between Americans and Our Energy Future*. It was written by a cultural anthropologist named Gretchen Bakke, Ph.D. and published in 2016 (given how quickly things change, there may be a few discussions in the book that are not fully up to date).



As you may expect from an anthropologist, the book is not oriented toward explaining the physics and engineering aspects of our electrical infrastructure, but rather studies the cultural aspects and societal impacts of the current status of the network in this time of energy upheaval. As the title implies, our grid needs some work if we are to depend upon it for a cleaner, healthier future. She traces the history of the American electrification movement, citizens' attitudes towards it, how the grid spread and has changed with time, legislation, and the growing awareness that our electrical infrastructure may require major changes to accommodate new needs, such as the necessity to reduce global warming emissions.

One conclusion I derive from the book is that the situation is complicated, as well as fraught with challenge with respect to our electrical facility: moving to a renewable energy-sourced electrical power system will require more than solar panels and wind turbines.

Interestingly, the arc of the relatively short history of American electrification goes from initially having power generation and consumption being small scale and extremely local (individual mansions and workplaces having their own power plant strictly for their own use), to centralization of power generation with long distance transmission and interconnection of large grids serving huge areas, to more recently the solar and wind generation era in which once again there is a trend to smaller scale, distributed power locally produced (think solar panels on homes and microgrids). And therein lies a large part of the problem our grid now faces.

Though it is something of a patchwork, our grid evolved to have a steady, predictable, centrally controlled and produced generation with long distance distribution, and now we are having to adopt to more distributed, smaller generation that is intermittent, less predictable (clouds passing before the sun, wind going calm then picking up). Furthermore, there has been an appalling lack of upkeep and protection of this most vital infrastructure. Here is a quote of some statistics attesting to the state of our grid:

"More than 70 percent of the grid's transmission lines and transformers are 25 years old; add nine years to that and you have the average age of an American power plant ... we rely on twice as many power plants as we actually need because of the massive inefficiencies built into this system" ... significant power outages are climbing year by year, from 11 in 2001 to 78 in 2007 to 307 in 2011. America has the highest number of outage minutes of any developed nation – coming in at about 6 hours per year [this does not include outages from extreme weather]. Compare this with Korea at 16 outage minutes a year, Italy at 51 minutes, Germany at 15, Japan at 11." [I grant you that these countries are smaller than the USA] "...The average U.S. power outage is 120 minutes and growing, while in the rest of the industrialized world it is less than 10 minutes and shrinking." This is the network we are pinning our hopes on for a cleaner energy future.

Climate change is producing stronger storms at the time when our grid is in this weak state. Added to the poor physical condition of our electrical infrastructure is vulnerability from cyber attacks, which is very real. For example, we have seen demonstrations of this menace in blackouts in Ukraine that are strongly suspected of originating in Russia.

It is quite clear that we must move away from burning fossil fuels, this despite not having fully satisfying answers at present to the problems this poses. Some of the grid issues can be helped by tackling the maintenance issues and upgrading to newer, more efficient network components. But the intermittency of wind and solar require breakthroughs in energy storage. There is much research in this area, and plenty of ideas, from incremental improvements in large scale battery storage, to using the energy stored in electric cars, to flywheel kinetic energy storage, to compressed air energy storage in salt caves, to more massive pumped-water reservoir schemes. However, no one local solution has yet been found to satisfy all requirements of cost, endurance, local applicability, and public acceptance.

Conservation and efficiency can certainly help reduce the need for more generation; cleverly legislating incentives to encourage conservation and efficiency could play a huge role. Allowing the utility to be able to gently reduce demand at peak loads is another way to manage some situations to avoid blackouts. For example, incentives could be instituted for utility customers to sign up to have smart thermostats that the system operator can use to raise air conditioning set temperatures a few degrees to ease electrical need during peak demand, rather than start up "peaker" diesel generators. (Here cultural issues of perceived liberty infringement play a role.)

The grid needs to have intelligence built into it, so that utilities will have the information needed to manage supply coming from many sources at unpredictable and varying levels, and to potentially manage demand at times of peak power usage. To that end, sensors located throughout the system could not only provide this vital data, but additionally help immediately pinpoint problem locations for timely, cost-effective dispatching of crews to fix problems more quickly. Algorithms that optimize the supply-demand balance, coordinate generation resources from homes with solar panels, local solar and wind farms, and local microgrids, all responding to varying conditions in milliseconds, hold the promise of better utilization (assuming they are adequately protected from cyber attacks).

We the people and our legislators must confront the problems that prevent the grid from "...larger, national project of providing the same quality of electric power, at a fair price, to all America's people. All the aspects of this challenge need to be addressed, not just the technical ones. As Bakke points out, "The grid ... is not only a technological system. It is also a legal one, a business one, a political one, is a cultural one, and a weather-driven one, and the ebbs and flows in each domain affect the very possibility of success of any plan for its improvement." It is a tall order, but our future well-being depends on it. The electrical infrastructure is, as Nicola Tesla pointed out, "...not only a system for powering the world but also essential to the lines of communication that weave our economies, our labor, and our imaginations together."

On a slightly different note, the Sierra Club has produced and just released an upbeat short film entitled *Reinventing Power* that debunks the narrative that renewable energy harms economic well-being. By looking at eight communities involved in adopting some aspect of green energy, the movie demonstrates how individuals and towns are flourishing with clean technology. Let's work toward this clean, healthy, sustainable, and just future for all of us.

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Legislative Corner by Bob Heinemann

Disappointing Legislative Session: Gridlock & Abdication
The recent end to this year's legislative session in Albany was largely devoid of meaningful action. From almost any perspective, little of note was accomplished. Certainly from an environmental point of view, almost nothing new was achieved. When the leadership does not allow bills to be introduced on the floor for debate and a vote, democracy suffers in silence.

Here are just three examples (our readers surely can add others) of long overdue matters that did not receive any meaningful consideration despite being the kind of environmental bills that should have attracted bipartisan support.

1. In 2017, NYC's fee based solution to plastic bag pollution was overridden. A Plastic Bag Task Force was appointed. The Task Force issued a very thorough report after almost a year on January 13, 2018. A bill banning single-use plastic bags, S.7760 (Krueger) / A.9953 (Englebright) was introduced. If it did not even get a vote in either the Assembly or the Senate. Shameful. If the problem issue for legislators was the 10-cent fee, even though most of the fee was targeted for the Environmental Protection Fund, and there was an exception made based upon income level, why wasn't at least a ban on plastic bags without a fee attached or even debated, or seriously considered? What is the possible reason for more delay before a comprehensive state wide ban on single use plastic becomes law?

2. New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) more than eight years ago prepared wetlands maps. These wetlands maps have never been officially released. What are the reasons for this extended and absurd delay? Could it possibly be that developers do a factor in not moving ahead with releasing the maps? A wetlands bill, A.6282 (Englebright) did not even have one Senate sponsor. The deep sixing of wetlands maps for over eight years ultimately affects homeowners who suffer flooding when concrete impedes the natural flow of water, and our drinking water also is negatively effected by the lack of protection to watersheds due to information withholding and the lack of legal enforcements of clean water laws. More on drinking water issues below.

3. A bill targeting locations that generate two tons or more per week of excess food to be recycled waste sent to landfills and incinerators, and to encourage the direction of the almost 40 percent of food produced but never eaten to local food banks, food kitchens and shelters, S.7508-A/A.9508-A, was not even considered. Surely this bill deserved bipartisan support on humanitarian grounds alone.

Then there is the continuing drinking water crisis in the City of Newburgh, with a population of more than 28,000 citizens. The *Times Herald-Record's opinion article* of May 6, 2018 sheds light on this continuing public health problem. Yes, the problem was caused by the Air National Guard at Stewart AFB, on federal property. But it went on for years, perhaps a decade or more before it was even discovered. A toxic chemical used in firefighting foam, PFOS, was discharged into streams that feed Lake Washington, the primary water source for the City of Newburgh. Stewart AFB was declared a superfund site in 2016, but no clean-up has started. Newburgh's drinking water is still being temporarily supplied by the New York City (Catskill) Aqueduct, and free blood testing of almost 8 percent of Newburgh residents was done which reflected PFOS blood levels almost 5 times the national average, now slowly dropping. Long term remediation plans have not been implemented.

This is a federal issue at the source of the pollution and the Clean Water Act is not being followed by the Department of Defense. Where is the identification of serious local drinking water issues well in advance of a problem becoming a significant public health crisis? Where is the preventative legislation by New York legislators that is so clearly needed to catch future drinking water issues before they fester unattended for years? Based on the lack of action on environmental issues outlined above that are seemingly non-controversial, do not hold your breath or drink the water without trepidation.

We need to hold our elected New York State representatives accountable for their actions, and also equally for their inactions and omissions regarding the environment. Stay tuned for our nonpartisan environmental score card reports on the voting records of New York officials in future editions of *Fresh Air*.

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Programs by JoyAnn Savino

This past year featured many very interesting Mid-Hudson Group programs including: bird migrations, caving, electric vehicles, wetlands, Native American trail systems, raptors, and gardening for beneficial insects. We hope to have more exciting programs this coming fall through the spring of 2019. If you have a suggestion for a program topic please [contact me](#). Join our [Meetup Group](#) to be kept informed about upcoming programs.

Outings by Andy Moss

I led two hikes in July that were quite different from each other. The first was a difficult ascent to the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain. The rocky trail provided a number of fun scrambles and we enjoyed a variety of scenic overlooks and beautiful rock formations. The second hike was certainly easier on the legs. We hiked from the Lower Awosting parking lot at Minnewaska State Park to Rainbow Falls. Despite a meager rainfall, we were delighted to find a good bit of water coming down. Many of our group took advantage and enjoyed a cooling shower. Our return to our cars followed the Mossy Glen path along the Peters Kill creek. I highly recommend this trail to everyone. It is well-shaded and offers plenty of opportunities to soak your feet in the creek.

View near the summit of Sugarloaf

On the way to Rainbow Falls

There is still time to book a 2018 vacation on the [Sierra Club website](#). You will find a wide variety of exciting trips still available.

Leading hikes and outings is very rewarding. If you are interested in learning more about how you can become a Sierra Club Outings Leader, email me at [andy@hvl.net](#) or call me any time at 845-336-5446.

Fundraising by David Friedman

Make A Gift - Make A Difference
Our local group depends on the support of volunteers and the generosity of our membership. The work of the group takes Sierra Club volunteer effort, and of course funds. We hope that you will consider making a gift to the Mid-Hudson group of the Sierra Club. In these turbulent times it's vital that we all do what we can to speak out and work for the protection of our environment and the future of our world. We welcome financial support, and we encourage you to consider providing financial support for our efforts. Our mailing address is at the bottom of this newsletter.

To speak about specific opportunities, or with any questions, please contact David Friedman, [Friedman_David@msn.com](#) or our Treasurer Ralph Pollard, [ralphpollard@verizon.net](#).

Save the Date:

ANNUAL TAG SALE PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
(Rain date: Sun, Sept. 23)

Paula's Public House, 2146 New Hackensack Road, Poughkeepsie, has once again graciously agreed to allow us to hold our annual tag sale on their grounds.

Details are still being planned, but we are looking for donations of many kinds: books, CDs, DVD's, toys with all the parts, hiking/camping equipment, sporting goods, some play left in their tools, antiques, small furniture, kitchen items, usable glassware/dishes/utensils, art, camera equipment, etc. Your items should be in good condition. Small electronics must be in good working order. Please, no large electronics! We'd love to have kayaks, canoes, working bicycles and other quality sporting goods. Collectibles and antiques are very desirable as well. Items should be clean and dust-free. Please, no clothing or shoes.

Drop-off will be the day of the sale, as early as possible after 7 am. Joanne Steele is working on early pick-up and storage options; contact her after Aug. 15 at [sierrclubjoanne@gmail.com](#) or 845-338-0300.

We are also looking for volunteers, to do everything from working at the tag sale to picking up donated items to publicizing the sale on social media. If you can help in any way, please contact Marie Caruso at [marichewdk@gmail.com](#) or 845-684-7058 (H) or 845-702-4521 (C). We look forward to hearing from you.

The tag sale, which we've been holding for nearly 40 years now, always proves to be a fun time to interact with other Sierrans, help support our group, and pass on our good but unneeded items to others who can use them again! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Continue to check [our website](#) for further details and updates.

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[Visit our Meetup website for Programs and Outings](#)

Contact us:

Email: [midhudsonsierra@twc.com](#)

Mail: Mid-Hudson Sierra Club, PO Box 1012, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

You can find the names of our Executive Committee members on our website: [Go to our Contact page](#)

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