



## *Fresh Air*

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

Winter 2019 | Vol. 51 | Issue 4

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

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### **Chair's Corner** by *Bob Heinemann*

#### **Transitions...**

It has been my privilege to be Chair of the Executive Committee for the past two years, a group of dedicated volunteers working to improve the environment of the Hudson Valley. We are stronger and more inclusive when we share responsibility and rotate positions of leadership. Officers and Committee Chair positions are appointed annually, and Executive Board members are elected to three year terms. These positions are renewable in the absence of term limits in the Bylaws. I strongly believe in rotating leadership positions to promote a more active membership and inject new ideas and energy into our collective effort to improve and protect our local environment for the health and enjoyment of future generations. To that end, I am voluntarily stepping down as Chair of Mid-Hudson on January 7, 2020.

My current term on the Executive Committee runs through the end of 2020, so I will remain active and engaged for at least another year as a Board member.

A far more important and urgent transition, however, is the overdue and necessary political and public effort to transition from oil, gas and coal with their destructive effects of climate change in our region, throughout New York, and worldwide. We must start locally in each community, and we must collectively support New York State in its legislative commitment through the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Legislation is only the first, necessary step. Follow through by our elected representatives and every energy user is critical to make the goal a reality.

The task before us is enormous. The CLCPA requires New York to provide 70 percent of its electricity from renewable resources by 2030, have a 100 percent carbon-free electric sector by 2040, and 85 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2040. And yet, these goals are truly the minimal ones required to keep global temperature warming even within a two percent upward range.

A next, and absolutely necessary step, is to increase the staff of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEC) by funding a significant budget increase in the 2020 legislative session in Albany by our New York legislators. DEC has suffered staff reductions over the past ten years, and has difficulty adequately monitoring environmental issues at these reduced levels. If the mandatory requirements of the CLCPA are to be met, additional dedicated DEC staff need to be hired, trained and tasked with meeting the goals of the legislation passed this year. The true commitment of our elected representatives will be measured in 2020 by whether they pass the necessary budget increase for DEC.

Here are a few of the challenges that must be met and ameliorated. The private transportation sector needs to move toward green energy. More than one-third of New York's climate emissions are caused by transportation, with three-quarters of that directly coming from private on-road vehicles, most of which are everyday passenger vehicles. So, clearly the practical ability to transition to carbon-free electric vehicles (EV passenger cars) must be encouraged and made easier. Two obvious ways to do this are significant sales tax reductions on the purchase of new EV's, along with an increase in NYS EV rebates; and an urgent and widespread expansion of high speed charging stations on all primary and secondary highways throughout New York State.

In addition, local municipalities need even greater economic assistance from NYS to fund their own efforts to replace older buses, emergency vehicles and cars with EV's; and to add charging stations to public parking lots, recreational areas, parking near local government buildings and courts which have a high volume of public visitors.

Another urgent transition from the continued dependence on fossil fuels is a total cap on all new or refurbished oil and gas infrastructure. Every dollar spent to add more pipelines or re-power old coal, oil or gas plants is a step backwards when every cost from now onward must be put toward a new reliance on wind, solar and geothermal sources of energy. As you will read in the Energy article below, Mid-Hudson continues to oppose all backward energy steps nearby including the misguided effort to re-power the Danskammer plant with gas, and to run new power lines from Canada directly to NYC via the Champlain-Hudson Power Express (CHPE), which mindlessly will carry direct current instead of alternate current transmission lines and prevent local generation along its route to supply renewable energy to local consumers.

Transition to green energy is far from easy, but it also is not rocket science. What is needed is both practical and doable. It requires political willpower and resolve to achieve it. We all need to actively engage with our political representatives to hold their feet to the climate change fires so that they continue to walk the path to clean, renewable energy within the timeframe set out in the CLCPA, and not just talk about it.

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## Conservation Corner

### **Bluestone Wild Forest, Onteora Lake get a Temporary Reprieve**

*by Marie Caruso*

This past August 29, the Town of Kingston Planning Board, after enormous public pressure, rescinded the negative declaration they issued last March for the concrete slab and steel plant known as 850 Route 28 LLC, proposed to be built on a private inholding within the Bluestone Wild Forest, one quarter mile from Onteora Lake.

The resolution recognizes that new information received from the public indicates that the project may have significant adverse environmental impacts that require a second look, and that the Kingston Town Board must also be included as an Involved Agency in the project review, due to their consideration of a zoning change which would allow the project to proceed.

This does not mean, however, that the Planning Board, which is the Lead Agency, is requiring the applicant to file an environmental impact statement or undergo a full SEQRA review. At this writing, the Board is still waiting for the applicant's response and any proposals to mitigate the many adverse impacts outlined in the public comments submitted during several public hearings this past spring and summer.

This project, with its blasting, mining, clearing of trees, and heavy truck traffic (as described in our summer newsletter article) in the midst of the Bluestone Wild Forest should certainly merit a full environmental review. Such is the position taken by both the Mid-Hudson Group and the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club as well as other environmental organizations, and reiterated in strongly-worded letters from lawyers representing the Open Space Institute, Catskill Mountainkeeper, and the Woodstock Land Conservancy.

The two latter groups have been particularly active in raising public awareness around this issue, and are urging the public to keep up the pressure on the Town of Kingston Planning Board to require a comprehensive environmental review of this project. There's also an active group of concerned local citizens, known as the Bluestone Wild Forest Citizens Group, who

meet regularly to strategize ways to make that happen.

For regular updates on this issue, sign up for emails from the Woodstock Land Conservancy at [maxanne.wlc@gmail.com](mailto:maxanne.wlc@gmail.com) and/or the Bluestone Wild Forest Citizens Group at [bluestoneforest@gmail.com](mailto:bluestoneforest@gmail.com). Updates can also be found on the web at [woodstocklandconservancy.org](http://woodstocklandconservancy.org) and the Bluestone Forest Facebook page.

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## **A Proposal for Homegrown National Parks**

by Nancy Severns

Berkshire Botanical Garden recently hosted “Rooted in Place”, an ecological gardening symposium. Doug Tallamy, a professor at the University of Delaware and author of several books and many articles spoke on “Helping Migrants Justify their Migration”. Professor Tallamy addressed the special relationship between migrants, primarily birds and butterflies, and the food sources which they seek.

In his books, *Bringing Nature Home* and *The Living Landscape*, Tallamy explains the importance of leaf litter. Mowed turf contributes little or nothing to the cover, shelter, and sustenance necessary to sustain wildlife. We now have 40 million acres of lawn in the United States and we are adding more each year. He proposes a new sort of national park composed of the spaces in which we live, work, and play—our lawns. Setting aside the space you need for picnics and games, the idea is to devote your lawn to becoming an ecological service area supporting wildlife.

There are many benefits to creating these park-like communities of three-dimensional native plantings including sequestering carbon, managing water, and encouraging birds and pollinators.

One immediate way to foster the food web is to allow leaf litter. In other words, let leaves lie where they fall as they would in a forest. Most trees and shrubs along with some perennial herbs will grow well under natural leaf fall. The leaf layer depth can be managed for more delicate plants. Undisturbed soil and leaf litter mean more moths. Moths in their caterpillar stage are a key food source for birds. When allowing them to lie is not an option, second best is to mow them and create a finer mulch or to compost them.

So, if you’ve procrastinated on raking leaves, let them lie, and look for more ways to create an ecological habitat.

Readings:

Rick Darke & Doug Tallamy, *The Living Landscape*, Timber Press, Portland Oregon, 2014.

Douglas Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home*, Timber Press, Portland Oregon, 2017.

Douglas W. Tallamy, *Creating Living Landscapes: Why we need to Increase Plant/Insect Linkages in Designed Landscapes*, Hortechology, August 2017 27(4).

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## **Political Corner** by Alison White

### **Close Races in 2019 Elections**

Although the 2019 races didn’t generate as much interest as those in 2020 will, one of the interesting aspects of this year’s local races in the Mid-Hudson Group area is how close they were, especially given that this is a so-called “off-year” election, where turnout is typically low. A number of the races will be decided by absentee ballots, and their results unknown until absentee ballots can be counted and any challenges resolved. Absentee ballot counting began on November 25. The Dutchess County Board of Elections does not expect to certify its results until Dec. 10. Ulster County results are also expected to be certified in December.

- In the race for the Dutchess County Legislature seat representing the towns of Clinton and Rhinebeck, Democrat Brennan Kearney led Republican Howard Traudt by one vote after election day. Unofficial results have now confirmed that Kearney has won the race.
- In the Dutchess County District Attorney race, incumbent Republican Bill Grady led Democrat Rich Berube by 814

votes out of 66,569 cast, with at least 2,200 absentee ballots waiting to be counted.

- In the Town of Poughkeepsie Town Supervisor race, Republican Jay Baisley led Democrat Michael Treybich by 99 votes, with over 100 absentee ballots to be counted. After a week of counting absentee ballots, Baisley was still ahead and looks to be the likely winner.
- In Ulster County, Democrat Dave Klegg and Republican Mike Kavanaugh were separated by three votes (out of 50,000 cast) after November 6, with at least 2,100 absentee ballots to count. As of November 25, Klegg led Kavanaugh by 118 votes, with about 300 absentee ballots left to count, and at least 200 challenges in the hands of a judge.

In the 23-member Ulster County Legislature, three districts were closely fought:

1. In District 1 (Saugerties), Conservative incumbent Mary Wawro led by just 37 votes over Democratic challenger Aaron Levine on November 6. After counting the absentee ballots, the race may be headed to a mandated recount after Wawro came out only 12 votes ahead.
2. In District 4, which comprises parts of the towns of Ulster and Kingston, Democrat Brian Cahill was ahead of Republican Andi Turco-Levin by 26 votes after election day, with that lead increasing to 53 votes after absentee ballots were counted.
3. In District 22 (Olive, Shandaken, Denning, Hardenburgh), former Legislator John Parete, who ran on the GOP line even though he is a Democrat, held a 43-vote lead over incumbent Democrat Kathy Nolan, which narrowed to 21 votes after absentee ballots were counted.

Whether these races are an indication of an energized progressive voter population, and whether they predict results in the coming year's elections remains to be seen. But the coming year will certainly see Mid-Hudson Sierra Club Group endorsing and working to help elect progressive candidates who support Sierra Club goals: addressing climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, protecting the Hudson River, and supporting a rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Although the national races will draw a lot of attention, keep in mind that the races for New York State Senate and Legislature will also take place. The good work accomplished by the New York State Legislature is an indication of how important these races are. Since 2018, a number of bills have been passed: the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the ban on offshore oil and gas development in NY waters, the single-use plastic bags ban, the food waste bill that allows the donation of excess food and recycling of food scraps, the chlorpyrifos ban, the 1,4-dioxane ban, and the renewables law dealing with the maintenance and continued viability of the state's existing large-scale, renewable energy resources – to name just a few. We need to continue and grow this momentum, particularly in a time when so many profound environmental questions are at stake.

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**Energy Corner** by *Nivo Rovedo*

### **Our Energy Future: Gloom, Hope, or ... ho hum?**

No doubt that you have heard about renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar electricity generation that hold the promise to provide a clean energy future. Because they do not rely on burning fossil fuels, which have long lay buried underground with their carbon stored away, these ever-renewing energy sources will help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, which is at the root of our climate crisis. As sea levels rise with polar ice sheet melting and global temperature increasing, storms become ever more destructive, the weather ever more extreme and erratic, scientific reports ever more dire, and young people protest the future world being left them, more people are realizing that we are being challenged with a truly momentous threat.

Changes will have to be made to our lifestyles involving how we get around, what we eat, how food is farmed, and how we power our machines. Renewable energy projects continue to multiply and their electricity costs decrease, producing market forces that render coal production non-competitive. Murray Energy Holdings Company, a large coal producer, recently filed for bankruptcy. Although coal powered the Industrial Revolution with many positive consequences, it has also left us a legacy of environmental and health devastation. We need to change.

Natural gas, though somewhat cleaner burning in the sense of toxics, has too many associated problems: the methane that abundantly leaks from its infrastructure is a much more potent greenhouse gas; the fracking process to mine the gas pollutes

aquifers; and plenty of CO<sub>2</sub> enters our atmosphere as we burn it. As a result, some forward-thinking California municipalities are now banning new homes from using gas for cooking and heating. The following quote is from a [story by Elizabeth Weise](#) which was published on November 10, 2019 in USA Today .

*“...people in 13 cities and one county in California that have enacted new zoning codes encouraging or requiring all-electric new construction. The codes, most of them passed since June, are meant to keep builders from running natural gas lines to new homes and apartments, with an eye toward creating fewer legacy gas hookups as the nation shifts to carbon-neutral energy sources.”*

This trend would put even more emphasis on the need for clean, renewable electrical power. The drawback of solar and wind energy is intermittency: no sun at night and periods of low wind. Hence some method for storing the excess energy generated by wind and solar, so it can be released when they do not keep up with demand, is needed. Although many innovative ideas have come forward, efficiency and costs are issues. Industrial size lithium ion battery installations have been the main response, but they struggle to meet our demands in terms of capacity and efficiency. More research and development are needed.

On the topic of energy storage, a recent article in Bloomberg caught my eye: “[An energy breakthrough could store solar power for decades](#)”.

The subject is a new chemical touted as a solar energy breakthrough, not for electrical generation, but for thermal storage. “The innovations include an energy-trapping molecule, a storage system that promises to outperform traditional batteries, at least when it comes to heating, and an energy-storing laminate coating that can be applied to windows and textiles.” The molecule is composed of hydrogen, carbon and nitrogen; it can store the energy in sunlight for over 10 years, until released as heat when a catalyst is applied.

Further work is on-going, but the Swedish team that developed it has already created a transparent coating using it that can be applied to home windows, a moving vehicle, or even clothing. The coating collects solar energy and releases heat, reducing electricity required for heating spaces, which reduces carbon emissions. But it is not yet known if this can be applied to electrical generation. The coating may be available in 3 years, while the storage system could be commercial in 6 years.

Too little, too late? Maybe. But this sort of innovation and learning may be able to spark related ideas and advancements. This kind of work must be supported and encouraged if we can hope to survive the climate catastrophe with some of our way of life intact.

That we must continue to quickly make progress on weaning off fossil fuels is brought home in an article in The New York Times on November 13 which deals with a report released the day before by the International Energy Agency warning that current policies could cause greenhouse gas emissions to continue rising for the next 20 years. It is noted that “wind turbines, solar panels and electric vehicles spread far more quickly last year than many predictions, but not fast enough to get global warming under control.”

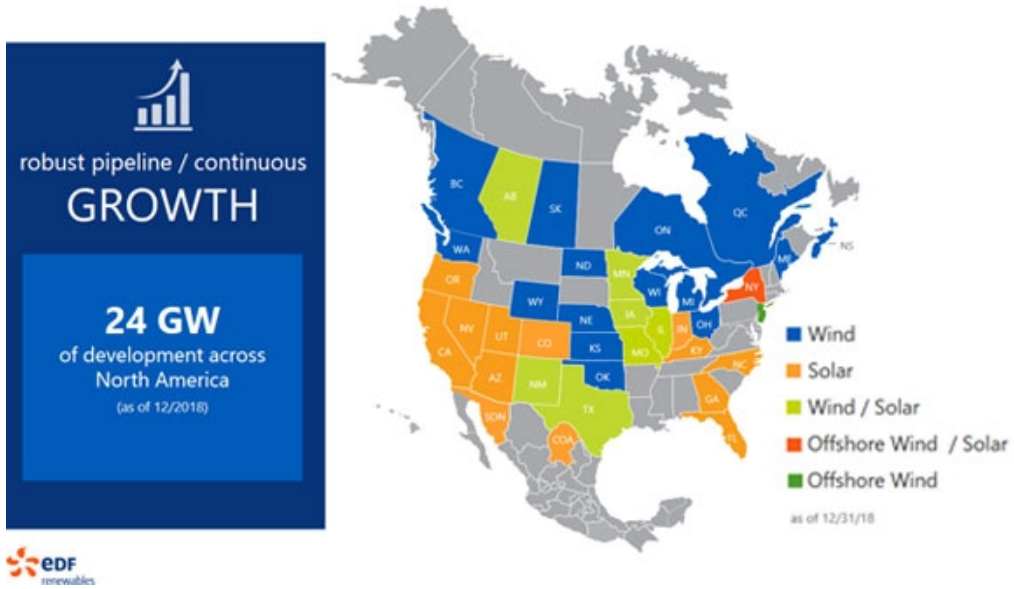
As an encouraging example of the spread of renewables, our Atlantic Chapter’s energy committee had a very upbeat presentation from EDF Renewables (the renewable energy arm of a French utility company) that is setting up a 177 Megawatt solar farm (very large — could power ~38,000 homes) in Mount Morris, NY in Livingston County. Distributed over several tracts of land totaling almost 1000 acres, acreage not suitable for agriculture, the solar farm will benefit the town, county and school districts through revenue (roughly \$500,000 annually) and construction jobs. In addition, sheep grazing and pollinator foraging (apiculture) will still be possible on the property, as evidenced by a similar project (Arnprior) by the company in Canada.





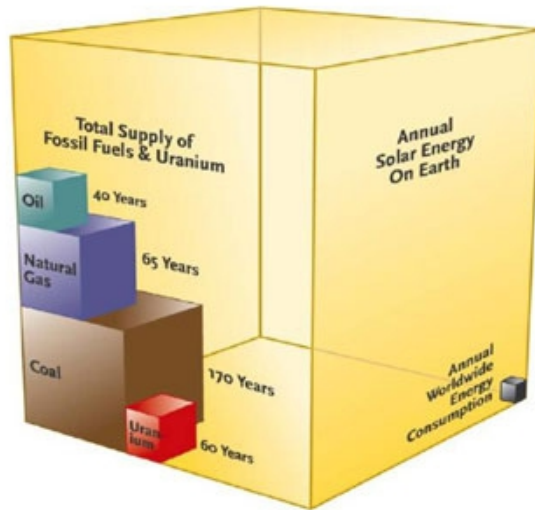
Here are two interesting statistics from the EDF Renewables talk:

*The Spread of Renewables in North America*



*Solar Energy Abundance Compared to Other Energy Sources*

# Solar Energy – An Abundant Resource



•Global consumption of energy is equivalent to approximately one hour of convertible solar energy falling on the earth.

•In the medium to long-term, our ability to innovate solar technologies and implement prudent business models to harness the earth's solar resource will become the foundation of global electricity supply markets.

•Solar PV will drive the world's long-term plan for reliable, sustainable electricity solutions.

Source: US Solar Energy Industry Association, AGM, 2009

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## Closer to Home, Two Potential Setbacks Loom on the Energy Front

*First*, there is a plan being put forward to re-power the **Danskammer power plant** with gas. The Danskammer installation sits right on the banks of the Hudson River, in the Town of Newburgh.



It has been idle after burning coal for many years. Bringing it back on line by burning gas would require more gas infrastructure to be built, with all the problems mentioned above, as well as encouraging more gas-burning installations to come into being once the pipelines are in place. Moreover, the plant is vulnerable to a rising river level, making it very risky and dangerous; the Hudson River rise is considered inevitable with the climate crisis (so much so that the Army Corps of Engineers has started drawing up multi-billion dollar projects in an attempt to avoid its worst effects). Danskammer has caused enough environmental damage in its coal-burning days; let us not re-open that wound.

*Second*, the **Champlain-Hudson Power Express (CHPE)** is gaining vigor with the endorsement of Mayor DeBlasio of NYC. This power line would directly connect hydropower from Quebec down to the NYC area; it would carry direct current (rather than use the usual alternate current transmission). Because it is DC (Direct Current), local generation along its route could not tap into it to supply renewable energy to market, a situation which discourages renewable energy project development. The new line could potentially do a great deal of environmental damage as it is built; it plans to run lines under the Hudson River, which could churn up much contamination.

CHPE may encourage more dam building in Quebec, furthering the damage. In addition, this power comes from outside NYS, when our leaders should be encouraging more local, renewable energy development. There are other less-damaging power line

proposals to feed lower New York State the electricity it needs..

Please be aware of these issues, and let your legislators know that you do not support policy that moves us backwards in the energy and health sector.

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### Outings Corner by Andy Moss

We are fortunate to have a great network of rail trails in the Hudson Valley for walking, biking, running or just strolling. Listed here are a few. You can find more information and maps through internet searches.

1. Wallkill Valley Rail Trail (Towns of Gardiner, New Paltz, Rosendale, Ulster)
2. Walden-Wallkill Rail Trail (Town of Shawangunk, Hamlet of Wallkill)
3. O&W Rail Trail (Towns of Hurley, Marbletown, Rochester, Wawarsing)
4. Harlem Valley Rail Trail (Millerton, eastern Dutchess area)
5. Hurley Rail Trail (Hurley to Kingston)

And now we have a brand new trail to enjoy, the **Ashokan Rail Trail**. This long-awaited multi-use trail in Ulster County opened on Friday, Oct. 18. The trail runs along the northern edge of the Ashokan Reservoir between Basin Road in West Hurley and Route 28A in Boiceville. [Download a free map from the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference](#).



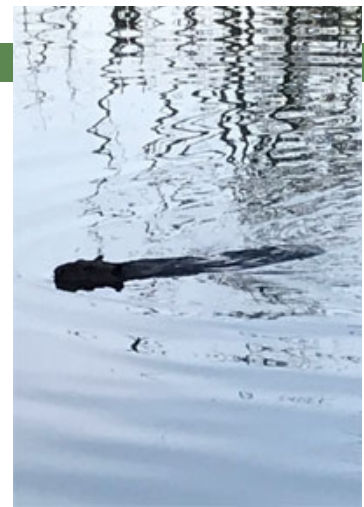
Proposed in 2012, the Ashokan Rail Trail is 10 to 12 feet in width and surfaced with a compacted crushed stone surface that is accessible for persons with disabilities and limited mobility. Open to the public dawn-to-dusk, year-round for non-motorized uses, including hiking, bicycling, running, nature observation, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. The ART will provide the first public access to the incredibly scenic northern shores of the Ashokan Reservoir without a special New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) access permit in more than a century. The first 9 miles of the trail are open now, with the full 11.5 miles opening by the end of this year.

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### Book Review by Sarah Kennedy

***Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter***  
by Ben Goldfarb

This book is an engaging read and a revelation. I had no idea that beavers are a keystone species, every bit as important to our landscape and ecology as wolves. Like wolves, they were hunted nearly to extinction. They are now being championed by people and





reintroduced in many areas around the country.

The book explores the history of beavers across this continent and how things might have looked before they were nearly totally wiped out for the fur trade by about 1840. Our romantic notion of what a healthy stream looks like—think of a fly fisherman standing in a clear, fast-running stream—is not how things look where beavers are well established.

When there is a healthy population of beavers, the flow of a stream is interrupted and there are many wetlands, bogs and small ponds across the landscape. Streams meander along as new dams are built and old ponds fill in and eventually become meadows.

The aesthetics of our landscapes are just one of the things which influence animus toward beavers. Other concerns crop up when a road is flooded or a culvert is blocked by the work of a busy beaver. Ranchers in the west want to use land to graze their cattle, and when the land is decimated by overgrazing the beavers are forced to move on.

The book explores the many ways that beavers enrich our ecology, fill our aquifers, and can even combat climate change. Given these benefits, some people become “beaver believers,” taking the lead in educating others and working to reintroduce and protect beavers. Others find ways to allow humans and beavers to coexist. In doing so they may become engineers themselves by constructing Beaver Deceivers which can be elaborate yet generally affordable devices which allow water to flow so beaver ponds do not rise to a height that endangers roads or property. Or some may build Beaver Dam Analogues which are good approximations of beaver dams built to entice beavers to settle down in particular areas. When educated about the benefits of beavers and the ways people can coexist with them, people warm to the idea, sometimes eventually becoming downright enthusiastic.



This book is a pleasure for naturalists and travelers. Ben Goldfarb has a deep appreciation for our land. He beautifully describes the beavers and their world along with the great variety of birds and wildlife that thrive in the habitat created when beavers are allowed to engineer their surroundings. Examples given of other species which thrive with the help of beavers include trumpeter swans and boreal toads. Ben Goldfarb travels all over the US and into Great Britain to talk with people about their interest in reestablishing beavers and to learn about how these efforts are going.

For those who attended our Mid-Hudson Group member party last spring at the Vassar Farm and Ecological Preserve, you will be happy to hear that beavers have made the preserve their home over the past five years or so. During the past few years I have spent time there observing the beavers along with muskrats, mink, bobcat, great horned owls, barred owls, great blue herons, green herons, wood ducks, kingfishers, a variety of woodpeckers (including a recent sighting of a redheaded woodpecker), and numerous songbirds nesting along the trail and enjoying the pond and wetlands. I have not seen evidence of beavers there recently and wonder whether they have dispersed further along the stream. Left behind is their intact dam, lodge and rather large beaver pond. It is a special place to explore along with other places in our area where beavers have made a comeback.



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## Letters from our Members

*Editor's note:* We are pleased to introduce this new Member Letters section to our quarterly newsletter. Send us letters about issues that are important to you—whether local, state or national. Please submit your letter to our Newsletter Editor: Andy Moss, at [and@hvi.net](mailto:and@hvi.net). Our submission schedule is posted at the bottom of our website's [Newsletters](#) page. We will consider letters of up to 250 words. Your letter will be published in the next newsletter upon review and acceptance by the editor. Subjects should focus on Sierra Club areas of interest:

conservation, environmental protection, political action, climate change, getting outdoors, etc. Visit the Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter, or Mid-Hudson Group website to learn more about where we stand.

### Defend the Clean Air Act

In July 2019, Ford, Honda, Volkswagen and BMW sided with California to uphold the clean air act of 1970 which called for strict pollution standards and fuel economy, In October 2019, GM, Toyota, Subaru and Fiat-Chrysler sided with the Trump administration on weakening those standards. I currently own a 2019, V6 Jeep Cherokee that runs at 34 mpg on the highway and no way want to go back to 23 mpg!

I called my local dealership to complain. I stressed that my next car doesn't have to be one of theirs; not just for the planet but I don't need to pay more for gas. I know local dealers aren't in control, but they do care about their sales and attend regional conferences. If enough of us voice our displeasure, maybe it will resonate upward. I encourage my fellow Sierrans to make their voices and pocketbooks reflect our values. I personally don't have any social media accounts but for those that do, feel free to add your voice there as well.

*Jeanne Henderson*

### Support Our Local Food Bank

I co-manage a food pantry in downtown Poughkeepsie at St. Paul's Church. We have been selected as the charity for the month of November by the *Stop-and-Shop* grocery store on Burnett Blvd. in Poughkeepsie. For every reusable shopping bag purchased at the store, \$1.00 will be donated to our pantry. The plastic bag ban is coming soon [March 1, 2020] and we are actively trying to educate our clients as well as the community at large to purchase reusable bags. So, if you plan on purchasing reusable bags yourself, please try to get them at the Burnett store and help out our pantry at the same time.

Thanks,

*Jeanne Henderson*

## Fundraising by David Friedman

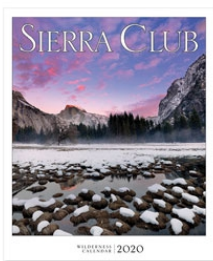
*Presented by Marie Caruso and Joanne Steele*

### KUDOS to the TAG SALE VOLUNTEERS

The weather again dawned clear and sunny for our drop-off and tag sale days on September 20th and 21st at Paula's Public House in Poughkeepsie. Despite the fine weather and nice assortment of donations, customers and sales were, once again, somewhat sparse this year. At the end of the day we gave our leftovers away to other worthy causes, thus keeping a lot of good stuff out of the trash stream.

We're grateful to Paula's Public House for the use of their site, the Beacon Sloop Club for the use of their tables, to all those who donated items for the sale and, especially, to the wonderful cadre of volunteers (18 in all!) who performed myriad chores before, during, and after the sale. The heavy workload, however, did not deter us from having fun socializing with our fellow Sierrans. Kudos to all who were involved!

## 2020 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS



WILDERNESS WALL CALENDAR



ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

Sierra Club 2020 Calendars are now available. Priced at \$14.00 (discounted) each you can choose from the **Wilderness Wall Calendar** which features a full page image for each month or the **Engagement Calendar** which features a full page picture for each week of the year and room for notations/appointments. They are often considered the most beautiful calendars in the world. The calendars are available at Barner Books in New Paltz (3 Church Street), or they can be ordered by calling 845-255-2635 and shipped to any address you wish (shipping is \$5 per address). The calendars make beautiful gifts for friends, family or even yourself! We sell out every year, so pick yours up today! **The mid-Hudson Group benefits from your purchase.**

### 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 and appreciate your support, and 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](mailto:Friedman_David@msn.com) or our Treasurer Ralph Pollard, [ralphpollard@verizon.net](mailto:ralphpollard@verizon.net).

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

Contact us:

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**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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