

Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

Spring 2006 Vol. 39 Issue 1

Website: <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

Chair's Corner

Bibi Sandstrom

Hail to the Heroes!

Mid-Hudson has high praise for these helpful heroes: Mary Lunt, Denise Strang, Adele Schulz, and Dawn Osselmann, who generously sent checks to our POB 1012, Poughkeepsie NY 12602 (address given in case *you* would like to be listed to the hall of heroes with a check to Mid-Hudson Sierra!). And thanks to Arlene who is saving us \$ by sending us dots to use on our newsletters!

March Member Party!

Whether March goes out like a lion or a lamb, and whether you're a new member or "old", (but especially if you're new!), please come to our **New Member Party** on **Saturday, March 25th**, 7pm onward. Bring a dessert or snack or beverage to share to the large room at the Village Hall in New Paltz on Plattekill Avenue. We'll mill around, have some of James Krueger's nature music in the background, and have fun! Win a free door prize!!!!

May 24th Labeling Party - New location!

Calling all labelers, especially those in/around Dutchess County! Our Co-Conservation Chair has commandeered the East Fishkill Community Center for us to label, dot, and rubber band our summer newsletter! Time: between 6-10pm at 888 Route 82 (south, off the Taconic; contact Debra Hall for directions at debraduncanh@optonline.net). Pizza and soda on the house!

By the Way! Buy a raffle ticket for a local restaurant at any spring event. The prize will be awarded at the Labeling party.

PROGRAMS:

Come to New Paltz for our Third Wednesday 730pm Speaker Social - but NOTE: **April's will take place at the SUNY campus Lecture Center.** (see below)

APRIL 19, SUNY; Topic: RECUMBENT BICYCLES!

Designed for comfort and efficiency, **recumbent bicycles** allow the rider to recline in a lawnchair-like posture. Learn about the fascinating history of this alternative form of human-powered transportation as well as the variety of different designs. Find out about the advantages and disadvantages of "bents," and cap it off with a short test ride to experience them for yourself.

The speaker, Eric Kollenberg, is a mechanical engineer and a SC member who built his own recumbent bicycle from aircraft steel. Since completing it last spring he has logged over a thousand miles exploring the back roads of New York. Eric will discuss his bike and his adventures in the **SUNY Lecture Center, Room 108 at 7:30. Try it outdoors afterwards!**

MAY 17, JCC; Topics: CELL PHONES AND TOXICS

We'll meet at , the Jewish Community Center (the former Dominique's Restaurant) on Route 32N in New Paltz, at 730pm. **Rose Marie Williams of the Cancer Awareness Coalition**, will speak to us about "Cell Phones and other Household Toxins". Hear Ms. Williams warn of how only two minutes usage can disrupt the brain-blood barrier, and how longer use permanently destroys brain cells. Learn how Britain, France, and Germany have openly discouraged use of cellular phones by children who are especially at risk. Rose Marie, who has an MA and is a Health and Environmental advocate and columnist for a number of publications, will also talk to us about how to reduce household exposures to toxic substances.

Third Wednesdays:

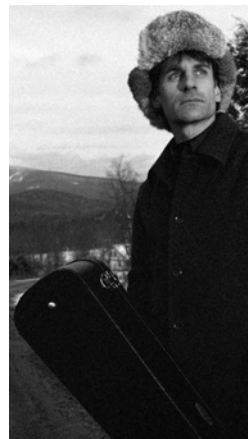
Mark your calendars now for Third Wednesdays April-June, then October and November. If you'd like an email reminder a few days before these events, or more info, please send your address to bibis@juno.com.

Like to Plan Programs, Raise Funds, or.....Be Our Webmaster???

We need: a **Program Chair** to line up speakers for socials, a **Fundraising Committee** to generate new ideas for adding to the coffers...and a **Webmaster** to insert events, etc. on our website. Let Bibi know!



\$\$ Fundraising to the Tune of James Krueger \$\$



To help promote his new CD release "Bluebird in the Snow", award-winning Ulster County songwriter James Krueger is offering to donate \$5 from the \$15 purchase price to the Mid-Hudson Sierra Club. CDs must be purchased directly from his Kingston-based label Contemporary Acoustic by calling 845-331-5851, or through his web site www.jameskrueger.com. If ordering on the web put "Mid-Hudson Sierra" in the "Comments" field on the checkout page. Sample songs from his web site and check out his performance schedule.

With songs like "Catskill Mountain Snow" and "North Lake Passage" (North Lake is near Tannersville), James' music celebrates the beauty of the natural environment, especially the Catskills where he visited as a child and has lived for the past 9 years. He is glad to be supporting the activities of the Mid-Hudson Sierra Club and gave a concert fundraiser for Sierra in November 2004.

Spring Outings:

Rating System for Hikes:

Class A – Difficult: 1500' climb/more than 8 miles

Class B - Moderate: Less than 1500' climb 6-8 miles

Class C- Easy: well graded trails, less than 6 miles.

Outings Coordinator: Tonda Highley

Contact Tonda at highleyt@newpaltz.edu or at 255-9933 if you would like to lead an outing.



*“ When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds
attached to the rest of the world”*

John Muir

Sat., March 18; Level B, Mohonk Preserve; Joint with Mohonk Singles. Snowshoe or hike 7 miles along the Northeast Trail, exploring the unique geology of conglomerate slabs at Table Rock. Potluck afterwards at leader's house. **Leader: Tonda Highley**, 255-9933. Meeting place is Spring Farm, off Mountain Rest Road, New Paltz, at 9:30AM. Fee for non Mohonk Preserve members.

Sun., March 26; Level A, 7 mile hike to Lost City. Joint with Ramapo/Catskill SC. Rock scrambling also. Study this rock formation on the Shawangunk Ridge. Starting time is 10AM and ending at 3PM. **Leader: John Kenney**, call for details and directions at 436-6046. (May require Mohonk Preserve fee)

Sun., April 9; Level C, hike and guided tour. Joint with ADK. About 2 1/2 miles, on the Wappinger Creek Greenway Trail in LaGrange. Enjoy early signs of spring along the stream banks and learn about trail building from Rolf Nijhuis, who has orchestrated the building of this trail for the past 13 years. Hear about his experiences - from negotiating with property owners to rerouting the trail after heavy rains. Meeting time: 1 pm. For meeting place, contact either **leader: Carol Gray** at 471-1168 (OutdoorCarol@aol.com) or **Marie Caruso** at 452-9086.

Sunday, April 16, Level A; Ashokan High Point via the Kanape trail. 7.5 miles round trip, approx. 2,000 ft. elevation, mostly on a woods road built in 1835, steady uphill walk to saddle, then along ridge to summit. This old blueberry picking area was burned over and we'll see the succession from cleared land to scrub oak; some planting of Norway spruce by CCC, old farm ruins, and the transition from human use to forest land. **Leader: Jim Mays**. Meet at 9:30; bring beverage/lunch, although the brook water is safe; call to confirm: 845-657-2013 or better yet e-mail <jmays@hvaccess.com> to set up meeting place.

Sat. April 22 (EARTH DAY) Level A; Catskill Mountains. 7 strenuous miles, exploring the geology of the Catskill Mountains. Joint with Mohonk Singles. Meet at 9:30 at the Park & Ride area opposite South entrance for Exit 20 of the NYS Thruway, Saugerties. We'll carpool to the trailhead. Expect to spend until 4PM. Bring water, lunch and possibly equipment for ice. **Leader: Tonda Highley**, 255-9933 for details.

Sun. April 23, Level C hike at Poet's Walk, Red Hook; Joint with ADK. Explore one of Scenic Hudson's contributions to land preservation by meandering meadows and woods. Reflect on Earth Day and bring a poem inspired by nature. Meet the leader in the parking lot at 11; bring snack/water. Rain cancels. Directions: Take Rte. 199 (towards Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge), go right on River Rd. Park is 0.6 miles on the left. **Leader: Nancy Keenan-Rich**, 452-1727

Sat., April 29; Level A/B +; West Trapps to Mohonk Lake. Moderate 7 miles up through the Lemon Squeeze (Rock scramble) to Skytop Tower. An opportunity to explore the unique geology of this area through discovery of crevices and caves. Meet at the West Trapps Parking area off 44/55, past the Mohonk Preserve Visitors Center. Hike begins at 9AM. Level A/B+. **Leader: Arlene Canonico** banjosnowy@aol.com. Fee for non - Mohonk Preserve members.

Sun., May 7; Level C, Easy botany walk. Joint with Bashakill Group. Focus on tree identification. **Leader: John Kenney**. For further information and directions, call 436-6046.

Sat., May 13, Level A+; Taconic Ridge. Joint ADK. 8 strenuous miles looking for clues to this area's dynamic geology. We'll likely start at the Copake Falls area (at 700') and climb to Alander (2250') then head south to Brace (2311) and South Brace (2304), followed by a steep descent. We'll spot cars at both ends. Group size limited to 10. Call **leaders** before 9 pm Fri. for time and meeting place. **Jean-Claude Fouere & Georgette Weir**, 462-0142.

Sun., May 21 Easy C walk at Mohonk Preserve. Discover spring wildflowers and enjoy Roger's splendid nature poetry. Space limited so pre-registration through Mohonk Preserve is required 255-0919. **Leaders: Barbara Petersen and Roger Roloff**, 255-8369. For meeting place and time, call 255-8369. Fee for non Mohonk Preserve members.

Sat., June 3; Level A, at Minnewaska State Park. Joint with ADK. 8- to 9-mile-loop hike with the focus on Mountain Laurel. We'll look for early blooms and learn something about its botany and ecology. Loop to include Jenny Lane, Rainbow Falls, Upper Awosting Carriageway, Blueberry Run, Mossy Glen Trail, and an unmaintained trail between Jenny Lane and Awosting parking area. Group size limited to 10. Call **leaders** before 9 pm for time and meeting place. **Georgette Weir & Jean-Claude Fouere**, 462-0142.

Sat., June 10 Easy 5 mile paddle on Chodikee Lake. Watch Blue Heron feed their young as well as observe other activities in a well-known Heron rookery. 10AM – 2PM. **Leader: Sherry Runk**. For directions, call 687-7669. Must have own canoe or kayak and necessary equipment.

Special request from a prospective SC member – kayaking 101 and rock climbing 101 outings. Contact Tonda Highley at 255-9933 if you are willing and able to help other members get started.

Conservation Corner/Ulster: Awosting Reserve:



If you haven't heard already, The Open Space Institute obtained a major victory for the Shawangunk Ridge parcel in Gardiner. The entire parcel (about 2200 acres) of the now defunct "Awosting Reserve" Property will be purchased and turned over to New York State for management as part of Minnewaska Preserve. The Shawangunk Ridge Coalition, of which OSI and the Sierra Club is a member, continues its vital activist work in advocating for ridge preservation. With this upcoming monumental success we should not rest on our laurels but continue to recognize that unhealthy development continues throughout our region.

Mamataking:

On the Eastern side of the ridge, the town of Mamakating struggles with the Mushroom Plant being forced down their throats. The Yukiguni Corporation from Japan is not concerned with our water quality, air quality, or viewshed, but with their profit margin.

If that entails pumping a vital waterway dry and refilling it with contaminated processed runoff then it's ok with them! If they need a 60 foot rooftop discharge for their food processor then they expect to get variances regardless of the effect on the people who live there. It may be 50 miles from you but so is Indian Point.

The effects of inappropriate development are far reaching and your resistance to such environmentally destructive acts is of the utmost importance. Please continue to participate in the coalition through www.shawangunkridgecoalition.org

Belleayre:

In September, we had a strong victory for the Catskill Preservation Coalition, which opposes the "Crossroads at Belleayre" project.

An Administrative Law Judge is requiring that 12 significant issues that were raised by the Coalition, of which Sierra Club is a member, are "substantive and significant" and required they be reviewed related to the environmental impacts of the project. Basic issues from water supply to quality of life and community character, from impacts on wildlife and their habitat to the developer's failure to propose alternatives to the current proposal for a mega-resort will all require further legal review and will slow the process of this unhealthy hotel/golf course development. BTW - rumor has it that business is booming at Dean Gitters new Emerson restaurant in Woodstock. Please remember the interconnectedness of all things and that where you spend your money is where you put your supportive energy.

For more info about the Catskill Preservation Coalition contact Jim Mays at jmays@hvaccess.com

Kingston:

The public comment period for the proposed Landing Development in Kingston is now closed and the Friends of the Kingston Waterfront have given the developer AVR, and the City of Kingston, a run for their money. The issues of the overburdened sewage treatment plant, water supply, endangered species, and other negative environmental effects on this Hudson River waterfront property are the concerns of the citizens of Kingston and the region. The Ulster County Planning Board responded that the present proposal is inconsistent with current zoning, excludes appropriate design guidelines, and does not properly address public transportation and public access to the property and to the waterfront. The Department of State has weighed in as well, citing concerns about density, stormwater runoff, view-

shed, and effects on groundwater. All concerned parties noted that no appropriate alternative plan has been proposed by the developer. As we all know, the economic effects of bringing in companies that do not reside in the Hudson Valley and have no intention of placing themselves here are not going to provide the most care and concern for what happens here, economically, or environmentally. The FOKW have provided a healthy alternative plan that proposes a more rational number of about 600 housing units rather than the over 2000 units proposed by the developer. At present, the major issue is the Coastal Management Act and the negative effects on our cherished Hudson River. Please contact, join, and participate through www.friendsofkingstonwaterfront.org

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Dutchess County:

On Thursday, Jan 26, a very important meeting was held in the town of East Fishkill. Residents had an opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas about a building moratorium the board is seriously considering. The turnout was the most I had ever seen at town hall. Every seat and spot on the wall was taken. In fact people were standing in the doorway and hallway trying to hear what was happening. Residents are in favor of the moratorium but also had some very good ideas. Open space and clean water were the 2 main issues most everyone spoke about.

The moratorium meeting needed to be cut short because of other business on the agenda but you will have 1 more night to express your feelings. If you are a resident of another town but have ideas and experience related to moratoriums, please express them. A last moratorium meeting was to be scheduled for Thursday February 23, at the East Fishkill town hall, 330 Route 376, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. As of this issue the meeting has most likely been held but contact Debra Hall if you want information on how it went or if there is still time to comment. (Debra spoke eloquently on this issue and afterward, the supervisor, John Hickman, said he could not agree more).

Debra Hall
Hopewell Junction Citizens For Clean Water
www.hopewell-junction-citizens-for-clean-water.org
DebraDuncan@optonline.net

Debra Hall
Sierra Club Mid Hudson Group
Conservation Co Chair
sierradutchess@optonline.net

NYS Assembly Vapor Intrusion Issue

Debra spoke at two of the meetings on the issue of vapor intrusion. She will update us on this topic in the next Fresh Air. If you want to find out more information now contact Debra by email at DebraDuncan@optonline.net.

Don't Get Lost!!

Updated edition of the East Hudson Trails Map Set (three maps) newly released by the **New York/New Jersey Trail Conference** covers the trails on the east side of the Hudson River from just north of Peekskill to Beacon, as well as Fahnestock State Park. This updated edition includes new trails in the Garrison School Forest and on Beacon Mountain, as well as on the waterfront in Beacon. Also included are Hudson Highlands Gateway Park and lands of the Audubon Society, Scenic Hudson and the Open Space Institute. The maps also show the route through our area of the world famous Appalachian Trail, from the Bear Mountain Bridge to the Dutchess-Putnam line.



Updated edition of the Hudson Palisades Trails Map Set (five maps) newly released by the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference covers the Long Path from the George Washington Bridge to Mount Ivy, the Shore Trail along the Hudson in the New Jersey Section of the Palisades Interstate Park. In addition, the set includes hiking trails in Tallman Mountain, Blauvelt, Rockland Lake, Hook Mountain and High Tor State Parks in New York – all part of the Palisades Interstate Park system. Also included on the map are the trail systems in various county and town parks in New York, as well as in Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Tenaflly Nature Center/Lost Brook Preserve and Rockleigh Woods Sanctuary/Lamont Reserve in New Jersey

NY/NJ TC maps are available in many outdoors-oriented retail shops or online at www.nynjtc.org. MHSC is a member of the NY/NJ Trail Conference, supporting its mission of protection and stewardship of our region's hiking trails and education about them. **The NY/NJ Trail Conference is a not-for-profit federation of 10,000 individuals and more than 100 area hiking clubs with a combined membership of 150,000 people.**

Georgette Weir

Looking Ahead: Start thinking about the **Fall Tag Sale** scheduled for **Sept. 9th**. What can you recycle, give up, pass on, so we can have a successful event (furniture, books, dishes, outdoor equipment, etc.) Also: **Tag Sale Raffle donations.** Original art? Local author's work? Approach a merchant regarding a gift certificate, basket of products? *Good advertising for the donor.* Re: Raffle: Call Nancy Keenan-Rich at 452-1727. a service? Raffle contact: Nancy Keenan-Rich at 452-1727.

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