

Fresh Air



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

Spring 2012 Vol.44 Issue 1

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

Chair's Corner

Joanne Steele

We skipped our Winter newsletter because there was no competitive race for the three Executive Committee members who agreed to run again. Later, we got convinced that someone might want to write-in. So, unusually, you'll find the candidates' bios and the ballot in this Spring newsletter.

Our Sept. 17th Tag Sale was a big success, led by your vice-chair David Friedman who reports to us below.

Forty-six plus thousand responses! That's the number of responses the DEC said it received by its January 12th deadline, on the hydro-fracking SGEIS submitted by the gas/oil industry. I am sure it helped that we had handed out about 200 How-To-Reply flyers to those of you and others at the hearing in the pouring rain at Loch Sheldrake, NY last Nov 29th.

We sent a busload of you Sierrans and friends to attend the Nov. 6th Tar Sands Demo in D.C. to stop the Keystone XL pipeline along with the other 11,000 who showed up and encircled the White House. This was successful, as later Pres. Obama disallowed it's development. Keep the pressure on the President as it's sure to come up again.

On Dec. 7th I attended a powerful conference, "Impacts of the Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing Lifecycle on Residential Property Ownership and Community Life" at Pace Law School in White Plains. To access a video file of this program, call Linda at the School's Environmental Law Program at **914-422-4062**.

We have some verry interesting programs and a New (& old) Member party coming up this Spring. Check them out! Please note carefully the changes of day of the week and venue for the various programs. Check them out! We have included a flyer insert this time for you to copy for yourself and to post it where it'll do the most good, too, OK? Our Outings Chair, Andy Moss has been incapacitated for a while now, so is not out on the trails. However, you can still participate in Atlantic Chapter outings by signing up at <http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubNY>.

Our work continues on bringing about appropriate development at Williams Lake and challenges to the development of the Cricket Valley Energy gas plant in Dover Plains. We count on you members to be our eyes and ears in this six-county bio-region. So, let us know what's happening so that we might help you! You know that it takes money to raise awareness and to fight over development. Thank you again to Dawn Osselmann who sent in another contribution recently.

Program Corner

SEE WEBSITE FOR A MORE DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Mar 21 (Wednesday) 7 PM—WILLIAMS LAKE: A PUBLIC FORUM on HYPE vs. REALITIES. A public forum to discuss Hudson River Valley Resorts' proposed development at Williams Lake: the impacts, the hype vs. the realities, the current status, and the environmental review process. Come with your questions. Free. Sponsored by SAVE the LAKES and the MID-HUDSON GROUP SIERRA CLUB. Info: Mourka at (845) 658-7102 or www.savethelakes.us **Rosendale Community Center, 1055 New York 32, Rosendale.**

Mar 31 (Saturday) 6:30-9:30 PM—NEW MEMBER PARTY!! For new & old members. Free pizza, snacks, goodies; win door prizes. FUN! **Upstairs Room, Village Hall 25 Plattekill Avenue, New Paltz.**

April 15 (Sunday) 7 PM—A NIGHT OF COMEDY to benefit SAVE the LAKES: HOROWITZ & MALKINE plus the radio play: YOU CAN DREAM, INC.

The unique wit of the famed comedy/musical duo Mikhail Horowitz & Gilles Malkine plus this humorous 1940's radio play, with live sound effects. \$15. **Rosendale Café, 434 Main St., Rosendale**

April 19 (Thursday) 7 PM—Parcelizing the Catskills and the Boiled Frog Syndrome

This is a 75-minute video (DVD) produced by filmmaker and certified tree farmer, Art Siegel. It deals with the slow, but relentless development in the Greater Catskill Area including the adjoining rural farm and forest land. Discussion with Dr. Kathy Nolan of the Catskill Mountainkeeper. **Jewish Community Center, 30 North Chestnut Street (Route 32N), New Paltz.**

May 17 (Thursday) 7 PM--Six Crises: A Synopsis of Earth's Systemic, Human-Caused Environmental Calamities, presented by John S. Keith, Director of Operations for the Blacksmith Institute.

A global perspective of the world's environmental problems, illustrated with photos from Keith's extensive travels throughout the world. Co-sponsored by the UFP Social Justice Committee.

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

Memorial

Nancy Keenan-Rich

A FAREWELL TO CHARYL

People who knew Charyl Pollard were very saddened when she passed away in November. I met her and Ralph Pollard at my first Sierra Club meeting in 1973 or so. Ralph welcomed people by asking them about themselves to explore how they might get involved, so that eased my shyness. Charyl welcomed people with refreshments and of course her friendly, open smile, as she created a refuge for newcomers at the conclusion of the meeting. Feeling out of place? Go get a cookie and chat with Charyl.

Charyl and Ralph also hosted many meetings in their home which concluded with a variety of pies and gobs of whipped cream. In addition, Charyl loved nature, especially the rocky coast of Maine, participated as a board member on the SC ExCom, pitched in during the annual Tag Sale, and joined in on outings. While a parent of two daughters and with Ralph's support she continued her education in Albany, gaining expertise as an information specialist. This resulted in employment at Marist College, where she was valued by staff and students alike for her kind and patient technical and research tutelage. She was also valued by friends and is missed on many fronts.

The family has requested that any memorial donations for Charyl be directed to the **Poughkeepsie Public Library, care of Adriance Memorial Library, 93 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.**

Tag Sale

David Friedman

A huge thank you to all the volunteers, donors, and customers who participated in our Annual Tag sale that we held in September. The sale was a huge success. We received high quality goods, had a terrific team of volunteers and a near perfect sale day. The funds received will help us with the work of our local group throughout the year. Start putting aside your good items for our next sale this September.

Political Corner

Andi Weiss Bartczak

I emailed out a press release to invite candidates in the six counties where our members live to fill out our updated political questionnaire if they wanted our endorsement. When a candidate in a race contacted me, the other official candidates in that race were invited to fill it out too. After our deadline, I compiled the information and sent it to the Ex-Com. Your Ex-Com held a special meeting to discuss endorsements and we sent our proposed endorsements, as mandated, to our state chapter. Our list of six endorsed candidates, all in Ulster County, were confirmed by our state chapter and informed of our endorsements. Our group would have liked to endorse both candidates for Dutchess County Executive, on the basis of their good environmental credentials, but chapter did not approve our doing so. Of our 6 endorsed candidates, 2 won. Coming up are two special elections on March 20th. For more information on that, please visit our website or contact me at **845-255-4371** or by email at <dr.andi@scienceforcitizens.org>.

Needed for future political work from all members: clip out mentions of our Group from local newspapers and mail to us. Write down details of any mentions of our Group on radio, television or Internet sites and mail or email to me. Also needed are volunteers to write letters to newspapers/blog/social media notes that use information from our press releases, so we are not totally dependent upon our press releases and our website to inform non-Sierrans. I need to know your local news outlets – print, radio & Internet. Our Group will be able to do more if there are more volunteers in the political committee; the work is intense but ends at the election. Just Contact me!

Contributions

David Friedman

As a local group within the Sierra Club we aren't able to do a mass solicitation letter for funds. However, we welcome contributions towards the work of our local group at any time. Funds donated will be used towards the many projects that we undertake and will benefit our local environment. Among the positive benefits of giving locally is the fact that all gifts are magnified because our local efforts are all accomplished by volunteers, and of course geared to issues that are significant in our own area. Further information can be obtained from Fund Raising Chair David Friedman (Friedman_David@msn.com).

Conservation Corner

Marie Caruso

Our mission to protect the natural resources of Williams Lake suffered a major setback last fall, when the candidates backed by the developer narrowly won the races for town supervisor and two council seats in Rosendale. The Sierra Club had endorsed for town supervisor Democrat Jen Metzger, Chair of the Rosendale Environmental Commission and a strong advocate for responsible development at Williams Lake. The developer, Hudson River Valley Resorts (HRVR), launched a PR campaign strongly favoring her opponent on the Republican line. Jen Metzger lost by about 50 votes out of around 2200 cast, an indication of the deep divisions within the Town of Rosendale over this issue.

The ardent volunteers at Save the Lakes, however, buoyed with help from the Sierra Club and many enthusiastic supporters, are not about to give up. The DEC, in its response to the DEIS last August, indicated many problems with the project that need to be addressed. Notable among them are its impacts on wetlands, water bodies, and the endangered bats that reside in the abandoned mines. The DEC suggested that many of these problems could be resolved by scaling down the project. We are awaiting the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to see what changes, if any, HRVR will make to mitigate these adverse impacts.

Want to know more about what's happening at Williams Lake? Come to the PUBLIC FORUM co-sponsored by Mid-Hudson Sierra and Save the Lakes on WED., MARCH 21, from 7 to 9 pm at the Rosendale Community Center. We will discuss the SEQRA process, the various impacts and the hype vs. the realities of this project.

And on SUN., APRIL 15, Save the Lakes will present a great night of comedy from 7 to 9 pm at the Rosendale Café, featuring the satirical musical duo MIKHAIL HOROWITZ & GILLES MALKINE, plus a performance of "YOU CAN DREAM, INC.", a humorous 1940's radio play with live sound effects. This benefit will raise money for the lawyers and experts needed for Save the Lakes' continued involvement in the SEQRA process. For up to date information, check their website, www.savethelakes.us, or call Mourka at (845) 658-7102.

If you'd like to help with Sierra Club efforts to preserve Williams Lake, please contact ExCom members Marie Caruso at mariehv@verizon.net (ph. 845-452-9086) or Peter Fiorentino at petefior@verizon.net (ph. 845-658-7235).

Candidate Bio

Gerald A. Davison

Interests: Forests, open-space preservation, photography, general science. I've been on the Mid-Hudson Group ExCom (Executive Committee) for a number of years, and also have been the Group's delegate to the Atlantic Chapter (NY Chapter) ExCom. For a number of years I've helped with our annual Tag Sale fundraiser, supplying some of the signs, and doing the "clean-up" (finding a home for leftovers and transporting them with my old Toyota truck). For a couple of years I've been following the Emerald Ash Borer problem (a non-native insect that kills ash trees), and have distributed about 3,800 wallet cards describing the insect to NY environmental organizations. Questions? (845)-339-4509

Candidate Bio

Peter Fiorentino

It has been a very rewarding experience for me, working with the ExCom over the last two years and I look forward to serving for another term. As a resident of Rosendale, I have also been active with Save the Lakes in the effort to preserve Williams Lake as a publicly accessible asset to our region and have helped the Sierra Club effort to support this important initiative.

Now that the issue of hydro-fracking has become so important in New York State, and our region - I hope to encourage our 1725 members to become more active by utilizing our member database. We need to spread the urgent word about needed activities and actions to make sure that our water supply and natural environment are not compromised by fracking operations in our state!

Candidate Bio

Irwin Sperber

My strongest interests are the protection of Williams Lake and its surrounding wetlands from excessive or irresponsible development, and opposition to horizontal gas drilling (hydrofracking) in New York State. As a faculty member at SUNY New Paltz. I continue to promote among colleagues and students an emphasis on critically investigating the role of NGOs in such issues as toxic waste dumping and climate change. I have organized panels and workshops on ecosocialism, including prospects for green transportation, at conferences of the Union of Radical Sociologists (URPE) in upstate New York and at the Left Forum in NYC. I also arranged for the talks of Frank Morris, vice president of the Atlantic Chapter, to the Mid-Hudson Group as well as on campus the next day in November 2011.

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

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BALLOT for Mid-Hudson Sierra executive committee:

Please vote for up to 3 below:

Gerald A. Davison (Incumbent) _____

Peter Fiorentino (Incumbent) _____

Irwin Sperber (Incumbent) _____

The top 3 vote-getters get 3 year terms ending 12/31/2015. Send ballots to arrive at
Mid-Hudson Sierra Club
PO Box 1012
Poughkeepsie NY 12602
by Mar 31st.

Your membership will be verified with your address label: these will all be removed prior to
viewing any of the ballots.



Spring 2012 Sierra Club Events
<http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>



**Mar 21 (Wednesday) 7 PM—WILLIAMS LAKE:
A PUBLIC FORUM on HYPE vs. REALITIES**

A public forum to discuss Hudson River Valley Resorts' proposed development at Williams Lake: the impacts, the hype vs. the realities, the current status, and the environmental review process. Come with your questions. Admission is free.

Sponsored by SAVE the LAKES and the MID-HUDSON GROUP SIERRA CLUB
Info: www.savethelakes.us or Mourka at (845) 658-7102
Rosendale Community Center, 1055 New York 32, Rosendale

Mar 31 (Saturday) 6:30 PM—NEW MEMBER PARTY

If you're a new member - or even if you're not! - come to our Party on SATURDAY MARCH 31st 6:30pm-10pm! Enjoy free pizza, snacks, goodies; win door prizes; see the history of our Group through older newsletters; meet your fellow members; and have fun!
Village Hall Upstairs Room, New Paltz, Plattekill Avenue.

No need to RSVP, but you can contact Bibi at 255-5528 or bibis@juno.com for more info.

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HOROWITZ & MALKINE plus the radio play: YOU CAN DREAM, INC.**

The unique wit of the famed comedy/musical duo Mikhail Horowitz & Gilles Malkine plus this humorous 1940's radio play, with live sound effects, will keep you laughing all night. \$15 admission.

Rosendale Café, 434 Main St., Rosendale

**April 19 (Thursday) 7 PM—PARCELIZING the CATSKILLS and the BOILED FROG
SYNDROME**

This is a 75-minute video (DVD) produced by filmmaker and certified tree farmer, Art Siegel. It deals with the slow, but relentless, continuing development in what might be called the Greater Catskill Area: not only the Catskill Mountains proper, but including also the adjoining rural farm and forest land, extending especially to the west. The film includes aerial views, it includes old photos and films of areas now covered by the Delaware reservoirs of the NYC water supply system, and it includes interviews with numerous "experts" on the problem of diminishing open-space in the Catskill area.

Jewish Community Center, 30 North Chestnut Street (Route 32N), New Paltz

**May 17 (Thursday) 7 PM—SIX CRISES: A SYNOPSIS of EARTH'S SYSTEMIC, HUMAN-
CAUSED ENVIRONMENTAL CALAMATIES**

John S. Keith, Director of Operations for the Blacksmith Institute, will present a global perspective of the world's environmental problems, based on his extensive travels throughout the world focusing on issues of ecological health and environmental degradation. The program, illustrated with photos from Keith's extensive catalog, will feature a comprehensive overview of all the environmental crises facing our planet, grouped into six broad categories: ocean health; deforestation/desertification; global warming; fresh water; invasive species; and toxic chemicals/heavy metals.

Keith is an environmental executive and engineer with over 35 years experience in industry, government, and international NGO's. His current mission with the Blacksmith Institute is to remediate polluted industrial sites in the developing world that impact public health. The program will feature discussion about the multiple and complex interconnections between the six crises, their global geographic dimension, their root causes and their likely long-term consequences.

The Unitarian Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, 67 South Randolph Avenue