



Fresh Air

Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

Summer 2003

Volume 35, Issue 2

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INTERESTED IN A HIKE-A-THON?

The chapter level is working on a fundraising idea for groups to do on October 4 or 5. We cannot participate unless we get:

- ♦ a location
- ♦ a hike leader (the one hiking first) ♦ a registrar
- ♦ a hike "ender" (the one hiking last)
- ♦ hikers who have gathered pledges

It's up to you!

Contact bibis@juno.com or 255-5528 if interested at all.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 18 - Speaker Social: defeating Wal-Mart

July 5-18 - use Waldenbooks coupon

August 24 - SUMMER PICNIC

Sept 14 - Taste of New Paltz table

Sept 20 - TAG SALE

Oct 15 & Nov 19 - Fall Speaker Socials; also in Fall: Touring an Organic Farm!

From the Group Chair's Corner

by Bibi Sandstrom

Pluses and minuses:

Quarterly newsletter: Plus -- less expensive Minus -- less timely.

When we were to be minus our scheduled May speaker, I realized we could not even tell members of the change in time. Fortunately, the minus was cancelled by the substitute of a similar speaker/topic. I hope many of you came to hear Frank Morris, President of EcologicInvestor.com on May 21. In general, more frequent newsletters would help - but the minus: unaffordable! In fact, we're hard-pressed to afford even 4 a year!

So, in the meantime, you can balance the minuses by:

- checking our website (newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson) for up-to-date info
- sending us your address for event reminders/changes
- offering to help with a phone tree/asking to get a "notify" call

Revolving Board: I am distressed to report that our wonderful board member **BARB MULDER** had to resign due to ill health; we hope she's healthy soon and active again! We thank **JUDY BAUMANN** for filling in again (10 years as treasurer!), but I'm happy to say a new treasurer has agreed to go through training. Professor **PHILIP EHRENSAFT**, late of Canada, is now a Hudson Valley resident, a brand-new Sierra member, an activist hard at work fighting his neighbor John Bradley on the Ridge development, and soon our treasurer!

Meanwhile, two members at the far north of our area had written themselves in on our recent ballot, and found themselves on our board - with so few of us, one vote is all it takes! Although circumstances have already sadly changed for **LEE AUSTIN**, we thank him for his readiness to help (and to drive great distances!) and we wish his family better health. His fellow far-traveler, **MARJORIE RUSSELL** of Hudson, is already - after even just one meeting - greatly welcomed what with her jumping in to offer information-gathering on the St. Lawrence Cement Plant issue, phoning 200 members, and barn space for your Tag Sale contributions. Call Marjorie at 518-828-9146.

Joanne Steele, our Outings Chair, is also a board member now, and desperately needs help in finding hiking volunteers. Got a great place to hike or walk? Let Joanne know at 339-7526 or aardvark@ulster.net.

The Power of One: Just as I despaired at losing our ONE festival table volunteer (Barb), new member **WINNIE MAIER** signed on to sit at festivals like the Stony Kill Earth Day Fest. She's also finding us community calendars, coordinating volunteers, and starting a phone tree. See how just even one person can make a difference? Frankly, it can even make the difference of a group's survival, when we have so few volunteers! Please help if you can!

-- *Bibi Sandstrom*

SUMMER PICNIC SUNDAY AUGUST 24!

Summer Picnic at Fred Schaeffer's place in Pleasant Valley, 2pm to...? Directions/details inside!

NEW EVENTS & NEWS

SUMMER FUN SIERRA-STYLE!

On SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, come to our now Annual Picnic at 31 Quaker Hill Road at the intersection of Main St. (Rt. 44) and Quaker Hill (adjacent to the bridge over the Wappingers Creek) in the hamlet of Pleasant Valley. It is 8 miles east on Rt. 44 from the Mid-Hudson Bridge or 4 miles west on Rt. 44 from the Taconic Parkway. Fred Schaeffer's "Potash Building" has bathrooms available; if it rains, this unique building has many books and photos of interest inside. People can fish from the bank or adjacent bridge. No on-site parking, but plenty west of the building on Main St. or at the nearby shopping center parking lot. Call Fred at 454-1190 (w) or 635-3479 (h); let him know if you need a "reminder call" what with the date (Sunday August 24) being at the end of our newsletter cycle.

TAG SALE: SUGGESTIONS SOUGHT- CONTRIBUTIONS CRAVED - VOLUNTEERS VALUED!

Our Annual Tag Sale is Saturday, September 20 (raindate Sunday 21)!

Start saving goodies for your group's Main Fundraiser.

Contact chair JANET SABATINO at 897-5370 if you can:

- a) appraise antiques, b) bake, c) donate crafts, plants, "things",
- d) drive and/or provide a truck for tables, e) be a drop-off spot,
- f) make & put up signs early.

HUDSON VALLEY: A PLETHORA OF TROUBLE-SOME DEVELOPERS

Developers, like dandelions but less benign, are popping up all over. Developments are planned in Amenia, Kingston, Poughkeepsie, and of course, the dreaded and dreadful golf

course/housing community on one of the Last Great Places on Earth, the Shawangunk Ridge.

How you can help:

--for Dutchess County areas, contact doreentig@aol.com
 --for Amenia (endangered trout/bog turtles), contact rshaun77@yahoo.com

--for the Ridge:

- 1) check out www.savetheridge.com or call 895-5577;
- 2) LETTERS are needed to the DEC and elsewhere; to DEC: SCOTT SHEELEY, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST, NEW YORK STATE DEC, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS, REGION 3 21 SOUTH PUTT CORNERS RD, NEW PALTZ, NY 12561-1696;
- 3) experts on air, water, traffic, websites needed plus lawyers;
- 4) contact our Conservation Chair Roberta Clements (687-9462 or rac137@juno.com) for more info - ditto member Ajax Greene in Gardiner (ajax@vhconcepts.com), & the main group fighting this, Friends of the Shawangunks, Keith LaBudde, clovehitch@hvi.net;
- 5) help them pay for legal aid (POB 720, Accord, NY 12404);
- 6) if you live in Gardiner, run for the board! -- and vote!!
- 7) learn more: hike the area: hikes to be led by Phil Ehrensaft (ehrensaftp@earthlink.net, 744-3573), and hike leaders coordinated by Dorothy Jessup (jessupd@worldnet.att.net, 255-0390). Read: check our winter issue (extra copies available - contact Bibi); call 687-4759 for the winter issue "Shawangunk Watch" (or better, send a stamp to Accord, above);
- 8) come to the big joint meeting planned this fall at one of our Speaker Socials - see slides of the affected area - hear what to do! And prepare for that by hearing what worked in defeating Wal-Mart at our June 18 Social (see below).

SUMMER SPEAKER SOCIALS

Come to our only Summer Sierra Speaker Social on **WEDNESDAY JUNE 18, at 7:30pm** to the Highland Cultural Center at 54 Vineyard Avenue (691-6008 for directions). Speakers will be DAVID PORTER and CHESTER L. MIRSKY, co-authors of the new book, MEGAMALL ON THE HUDSON: PLANNING, WAL-MART, AND GRASSROOTS RESISTANCE, detailing a successful local struggle to stop an environmentally and economically destructive shopping mall in the Mid-Hudson. The book and their talk use the local case-study to explore the leverage for and obstacles to meaningful citizen participation in the SEQRA environmental impact assessment process. Refreshments will be served; come eat & learn!

Back in April, we learned a lot about public funding from Gene Fischer of New York Citizens for Clean Elections. We learned that it's worked successfully in ME and AZ, it's the law in 4 states, it goes across ideological lines, it is a true grassroots movement, and it would only cost \$3-\$5 per voter in NY. But because money is now said to be a form of free speech, these rules can only be made voluntary. Public has therefore to be astute enough to realize which politician is taking money, and who is not.

Our March fundraiser: Classy folks - Classy food - Classy locale. At our first-ever Wine & Cheese Party, about a dozen members enjoyed food, wine, and Congressman Maurice

Hinchey up close and personal! It was a nice, classy evening, ably hosted by Fred Schaeffer, in a perfect venue. This also raised \$165 for our group. A big thanks to Fred, Congressman Hinchey, and all those attending!

Other Financial Help: Thanks to DAVE PAGE, our publisher, who pitched in with his own money when the RSVP labelers couldn't label. Almost all our income/fundraising goes to printing & postage; if you can help, please send a donation to MHSC, POB 1012, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602. If you can be on an "emergency backup labeler" group for when the regular volunteer group can't label one of our quarterly issues, please call Winnie Maier at 266-4853.

SIERRA CLUB THANKED for help with area successes:

Two years ago, Mid-Hudson Sierra helped out the "Save the Butternut Tree" group in Poughkeepsie. Recently, the Forbus Butternut Association put out a press release (email Bibi for a copy) about the successful saving of this huge tree and the creation of the Forbus Butternut Park. MHSC was thanked for its participation.

SPARC, the group trying to save the Stewart Airport Buffer Lands, has had some successes too, and recently thanked people and organizations such as the state Sierra Club for current contributions. They are "just" \$2950 short and would appreciate any help (SPARC, Box 90, Blooming Grove, 10914).

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Call trip leader beforehand for permission to participate and for any additional information you may need. Know that things, including weather, may change. Remember that your safety and comfort is your responsibility.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE ALONG THE ESCARPMENT, MAPLECREST NY 3B

To celebrate National Trails Day, we invite you to join us for a strenuous 7-8 mile hike along the picturesque Escarpment Trail. From the trailhead we will head north, climbing up the escarpment. Once on the ridge, we will follow the escarpment south as it traverses Acra Point and climbs Blackhead Mountain. Please bring lunch and plenty of water. We also ask that you call to register and get detailed directions. Starts 9:30 a.m.

L. Aaron Bennett, The Catskill Center (845) 586-2611, abennett@catskillcenter.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY FIVE LOCKS WALK, HIGH FALLS NY 1D

The about a mile walk will take place on our Five Locks Walk, which is a canal towpath trail maintained by the D&H Canal Historical Society. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1969. Walk will include guided tour of the locks and history of the D&H Canal in High Falls. Walk also includes a short climb to Roebling Aqueduct abutments. There is no rain date. Starts 2p.m. Jeanne Bollendorf (845) 687-9311 info@canalmuseum.org

SUNDAY JUNE 8 4TH ANNUAL STEWART BUFFER BIKE TOUR, NEWBURGH NY

Enjoy bike rides for all skill levels and ages and support local charities. Sponsored by SPARC (Stewart Park and Reserve Coalition). Call Ralph Grimaldi at 845-496-9487.

SATURDAY JUNE 21 KAATERSKILL FALLS (from the bottom) 1C

An easy 1-mile hike to one of the most beautiful and well known waterfalls in the Catskills. We will have lunch under the spray of the 150+ falls, and be back to the parking lot at 1 p.m. Ideal for novices and nature photographers. Meet 11 a.m. at parking lot.

L. Brian Carmody 845-679-6535 4-8PM.

SUNDAY JUNE 22 KAATERSKILL FALLS (from the top) 3C

This hike has 4 major viewing points: the remains of one of the largest Catskill mountain houses, Inspiration point (a 180 degree vista where you can see 4+ waterfalls from one spot), Sunset Rock and Frank Laymen's monument, and the famous Kaaterskill Falls. Each viewpoint offers unique views of the surrounding valley. Although mostly on jeep trails, good footing and no fear of heights is required. With that proviso, good for beginning hikers and picture takers looking for something special. Meet 11 a.m.

L. Brian Carmody 845-679-6535 4-8PM.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27 TO SATURDAY, JULY 26 COMMUNITY ON WHEELS

The fifth annual BikeSummer, a month-long celebration of bicycling and bike culture, will hit the streets of New York City from June 27 to July 26, 2003. BikeSummer was founded in San Francisco in 1999 and since then has traveled to Vancouver, Chicago, and Portland, OR, leaving behind more effective cycling communities. A month full of educational and fun events, BikeSummer's East Coast debut will include rides for all ages along with bike-themed workshops, competitions, exhibits, films, parties, lectures, and more. For more information, call 212-348-2601,

email: gasiorcj@att.net, or visit: www.bikesummer.org.

TUESDAY, JULY 8 BEAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK 2C

Hiking the AT in New York. Spotting a car at Bear Mt. Inn, we hike from Seven Lakes Drive 3.6 miles back to the Inn. Meet 7:00 a.m. at CDTA Park & Ride, Elm Ave. and Rt. 32 (west end of Delmar Bypass).

L. Joe Gardner (518) 439-1074 jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com

SATURDAY, JULY 19 GOOSE POND ROAD TO TYRINGHAM 2C

Hiking the AT in Connecticut. Mostly downhill to Tyringham 4.5 miles. Meet at State Employees Parking Lot on north side of Exit 23 and Rt. 9W at 7:00 a.m.

L. Joe Gardner (518) 439-1074 jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com

SATURDAY JULY 26 INDIAN HEAD MOUNTAIN 3B

Meant for experienced day hikers at 2mph (moderate pace). There are steep rock scrambles throughout this hike. The views at the top are well worth our effort. Meet 10 a.m.

L. Brian Carmody 845-679-6535 4-8PM.

SUNDAY, JULY 27 SHAY'S REBELLION HIKE SOUTH OF GREAT BARRINGTON 3C

Hiking the AT in Massachusetts. Easy 6 mile hike from Jug End Road to Kellogg Road at the Housatonic River. Meet at the State Employees Parking Lot on the north side of Exit 23 and Rt. 9W at 8:00 a.m.

L. Joe Gardner (518) 439-1074 jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7 HIKING AT KENT 2C

Hiking the AT in Connecticut. From Conn. Rt. 341 at Kent, we hike 4.7 miles to the River Road on the Housatonic. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the CDTA Park & Ride, Elm Ave. and Rt. 32, the west end of the Delmar Bypass.

L. Joe Gardner (518)439-1074 jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com

SATURDAY AUGUST 9 SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN 3B

This is rugged at an easy/moderate pace, meant for experienced day hikers as there are steep rock scrambles throughout. However, we will visit the famous "Throne Room" of the Catskills, a dais built long ago on the edge of a shale bank overlooking the entire Platte Clove area to the North. Meet 10 a.m.

L. Brian Carmody 845-679-6535 4-8PM.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 MASS, TURNPIKE SOUTH 3C

Hiking the AT in Massachusetts. From Rt. 20, we hike south 4.3 mile to the Goose Pond/Tyringham Road. Meet at the State Employees Parkin Lot on the north side of Exit 23 and Rt. 9W at 7:00 a.m.

L. Joe Gardner (518) 439-1074 jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 CONN. STATE LINE TO APPALACHIAN TRAIL RAILROAD STATION 2C

Hiking the AT in New York. We hike 7.1 miles from the NY-Conn. State Line past Webatuck (say hello to Al and Fran Braley) to the AT RR Station at Rt. 22. Meet at the State Employees Parking Lot on the north side of Exit 23 and Rt. 9W at 7:00 a.m.

L. Joe Gardner (518) 439-1074 jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com

YOU can make a difference!**Volunteers needed to:**

♦ Sit at a table at Festivals & Fairs: give out brochures, talk to prospective members; at some, maybe sell calendars, Entertainment books, etc.

{Future Fests: maybe Dutchess County Fair 8/19-8/23; Taste of New Paltz Sunday 9/14; Beacon Sloop Fest in October; Barnes & Noble in December}

♦ Buy or sell Sierra calendars or HV Entertainment books! Do you already know you'd like a 2004 calendar or restaurant coupon book? Can you sell some? Call Bibi at 255-5528 or bibis@juno.com to express interest.

♦ Receive excom email & mail to 2 people - email bibis@juno.com

♦ Find us good board members: be on Nominating Committee; contact Bibi

♦ Put local brochures in libraries, etc. - contact Bibi

♦ Suggest an event/speaker/fundraiser; contact Bibi

♦ Take us on a hike or walk; contact Joanne 339-7526, aardvark@ulster.net

♦ Help with a phone tree; contact Winnie Maier, 266-4853

♦ Label newsletters in an emergency: contact Winnie, 266-4853

♦ Fight Cement Plant; contact Marjorie Russell, 518-828-9146

♦ Help fight developers: contact Roberta Clements, 687-9462

♦ Help with our Tag Sale 9/20/03: contact Janet Sabatino, 897-5370

♦ Donate to MHSC, POB 1012, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

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bookfairs

Have You Filled Out a Questionnaire?

Do You Want to Be Reminded of Events or Alerted of Changes?

--via email: send address to bibis@juno.com

--via phone: call Winnie at 266-4853.

Would You Prefer "email only" Newsletters in Future (once we figure out how)? -- contact webmaster Peter Ford through midhudsonsierra@yahoo.com

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