



# Fresh Air

Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group Summer 2004 Volume 36, Issue 2  
Website: <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

## From the Group Chair's Corner by Bibi Sandstrom

**GREAT NEWS:** We have a Tag Sale Chair! Our group can keep going for another year (if the sale's successful)! CAROL JARVIS is our new chair for this year's Tag Sale, which will take place **Saturday, Sept 18**. If you already know you can help that day, you can email Carol at [cajarvis@vassar.edu](mailto:cajarvis@vassar.edu). Call me at 255-5528 if you can be a dropoff point or a truck driver.

**GREAT TURNOUT:** We had a nice New Member Party, although I hadn't truly planned on it being quite so "structured" or so interrupted: someone burst in and begged our group to come attend a performance by an environmental songwriter down the street! Those who went returned to rave about him; he will be the star of a future fundraiser for us! Anyway, it was terrific to meet so many of you; hope to see all of you again soon.

**NEW KIND OF "SUMMER PICNIC" EVENT:** In lieu of a separate Summer Picnic, as we have enjoyed the last two years at Fred Schaeffer's, we decided instead to suggest that Sierrans go to and meet up at another festivity: **The Shawangunk Mountain Wild Blueberry & Huckleberry Harvest Festival** on Saturday August 28 in Ellenville! The Festival takes place 9am-5pm with the raindate for the street festival being Sunday 29 from 12-6pm, but folk music, conservation exhibits, and pie sale will be held rain or shine on Saturday (indoors if it's raining), with the option to return Sunday. A Blueberry Pancake Breakfast will precede the festivities. It is sponsored by the Ellenville/Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce; go to [www.wawarsing.net](http://www.wawarsing.net) and see August 2003 issue to

learn about the event.

We will have a table there and suggest that Sierrans congregate at the table around 1pm to meet and greet each other, and to have a "berry good" time! Contact Roberta if you'd agree to take a turn at the table that day.

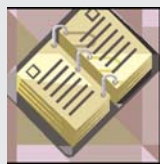
**HOW HAPPY IN HUDSON?:** Some activists in the Hudson area are asking the chapter if they can become a separate group, especially to focus on the important St. Lawrence Cement Plant issue. Hudson is at the farthest northern reaches of our area, while it's very far south in the Hudson-Mohawk Group, and thus it has been "falling between the cracks". Most of our board tentatively approves this idea, but we'd like to know YOUR thoughts if you live in/around Hudson. Would those of you in Columbia and Greene Counties like a separate group? Groups do need active members and support...

**THANK YOU:** Thomas Passero, Berry Minervini, Peter Ford, and Roberta Clements for last year's Hikeathon donations, and William Wolz, Jack Persely and Nancy Klemm, Alice Timothy, Laura Linder and Gary Kenton, and Gary and Kristin Haas, for answering the plea for funds for Mid-Hudson Sierra! Why such a call? Read on...

**ECONOMICS LESSON:** The Sierra Club has changed the way it funds its groups, making it more complicated to get money in a useful form, and hard  
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Open up the 21st century lines of communication: please send us your email address for notices!

## Upcoming Events



START SETTING ASIDE SALE ITEMS FOR OUR ANNUAL TAG SALE FUNDRAISER; MARK **SATURDAY, SEPT 18** ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Rusty Johnson, our wildlife speaker last November, is leading a trip to the Peruvian Amazon in August. 7-days All-inclusive \$1999.00 from any continental US airport. For more information go to: [www.AmazonTrip.com](http://www.AmazonTrip.com).

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 16 - Speaker Social
- Aug 28 - Berry Fest
- Sep 11 - Farm Tour
- Sep 18 - Tag Sale

## From the Group Chair's Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

er for us to make ends meet. When you send in your annual dues to San Francisco, they return about \$3 to the state (or "chapter") level, and each chapter can pick how much of that to give to its groups. New York State has 11 groups, including Mid-Hudson Group. In 2002, NYS only gave its groups 80 cents per member; that year, the only reason we didn't lose money was because our publisher, Dave Page, donated the last printing!

Since then, money has been divided into "c3" and "c4" - unrestricted versus restricted funds, "real"/soft, or "general" vs "non-political", you could say. Now the chapter sends us 48 cents a member a year, but sends .72 to an account in San Fran - and we can only get it out for expenses that can be proven to be "educational" or for "conservation" but not "political, administrative, recreational". Due to a lack of a volunteer to categorize and document our spending in 2003 (when we got .64/.40), we can't even be reimbursed out of that account for any expenses beyond a year ago. We have a couple of boardmembers now poring over our newsletters

and trying to decide things such as "Is what Bibi's writing now 'educational' (reimbursable) or either 'administrative' or 'political' (neither reimbursable)?" The paragraph on our informative speaker programs can be reimbursed, but a picnic description is only 'administrative' - so we can't get funds to pay for writeups of our "fun" events. Arggh!

Oh, and if we tell you about how a developer or politician is destroying the environment? That's educational/reimbursable, but if we then beg you to not vote for the politician? Or if we tell you of our endorsements? Then the *entire newsletter* is non-fundable....

It's been hard enough to figure out how to pay our expenses, or even to figure out if we broke even, before all this. Now... Well, you can see why we're begging for funds to come directly to us, your belaboured local level! Thanks again to those who helped, and to any who can also send a donation (non-tax-deductible due to this c3/c4 stuff!) to MHSC, POB 1012, Po'k 12602. Bottles of aspirin might be welcome, too...

- Bibi Sandstrom

## CONSERVATION CORNER by Roberta Clements

Let's use money as an example: If you've stolen \$100,000,000 and 3 years later you give back \$6,000,000 (without interest), doesn't that mean you've stolen 94 million dollars? The governmental agencies that oversee environmental issues are being given a virus that destroys them from the inside out. The very agencies whose purpose is Preservation, Conservation, and Protection are being used to undermine the laws they are entrusted to protect. There are professionals working for these agencies who are dedicated to their true goals but who are forced to shut up or get out. If these people leave that would be the very thing that allows or endorses the dismantling of our environmental safeguards. Let's support these people by opposing legislation that prevents them from doing their real work.

A proposed state laws in Albany includes language that could increase the use of motorized vehicles on state lands. Pretty much a losing situation for everyone but the ATV sellers and drivers. On the bright side, the new Bottle Bill (A.3922/S.1696-a) that expands the type of bottles to be recycled, reducing solid waste in the long run has been passed with the help of member participation through letters and phone calls and the great work of our Sierra Club staff in Albany. Also a major success was the passing of the bill that protects wetlands as small as 1 acre (A.7905/S.4480). Think of it this way, wetlands are for water filtration like air is for breathing. Speaking of air, 3 Bills - A.4082, S.4044, and A.5933- proposed increased restrictions on emissions from cars and power plants.

**Atlantic Chapter Legislative Office (518) 426-9144**

The Awosting Reserve battle rages on, this time within the ranks of the developers. John Bradley says he fired Chaffin-Light Associates from working on the project because they are not

environmentally friendly.

Ironically, he intends to introduce a new proposal that includes "only" half as many houses as the original proposal. The issue remains the same for concerned citizens - there should be NO construction on the ridge.

(Recently, I was shown my first east coast rattlesnake skin at Sam's Point, which is adjacent to the Awosting property.) While the developers hammer out their internal disputes we need to remain active and informed. Although there have been significant victories along the way we have not reached the finish line of Ridge Preservation. Stay active writing letters, attending meetings, and speaking out when the time is right. [www.savetheridge.org](http://www.savetheridge.org)

Residents of East Fishkill are still awaiting Superfund status to start cleanup on the property where their homes sit while others wait for approval to expand their businesses. The air and water inside and outside their homes is laden with petroleum-based cancer-causing chemicals yet they must continue to take showers and breathe. This is a done deal; could it have been prevented?

The Crossroads at Belleayre project hit a major roadblock from the DEC when they ruled the development would create major negative effects on the NYC watershed. We need to do an ecological/biological survey of the area to document the precious variety of wildlife on the property. Jim Mays (845) 657-2013

In Highland old Wal-Mart's don't die they just get reinvented as Lowe's. More to come...

The residents of Rosendale, Ulster, Kingston, and Esopus are

*(Continued on page 4)*

## SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

*Would you like to share or lead a hike/walk, bike or canoe/kayak but are unsure of what's involved? We need Outings nearer our homes! Our Outings Director Joanne Steele can set you up via an electronic/phone or mail/phone teach-in to let you know. She says it's easy. Of course, there are some rules you'll need to know. To inquire, either call Joanne at (845) 339-7526 or email her at [aardvark@ulster.net](mailto:aardvark@ulster.net).*

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 27 VEGETARIAN BROWN BAG LUNCH AND SIERRA STROLL. 2D**

Noon, meet (& park) at New Paltz Post Office. Completely flat walk along the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail a couple miles, stop and eat a BYO vegetarian lunch, walk back. Joint with the Mid-Hudson Vegetarian Society. Cookies provided. L. Eric Kollenberg: [kollenberg@juno.com](mailto:kollenberg@juno.com) (845)255-5528. Heavy rain cancels.

### **SUNDAY, JUNE 27 BEAR MOUNTAIN PARK 3C**

Views of Hudson River. Meet Bear Mtn. Inn Parking Lot, 9AM. German American Hiking Club L. Manfred Janowski (914)428-4573 and Gunter Georgi (516)883-2336.

### **MONDAY, JUNE 28 BEARTOWN STATE FOREST 3D**

Hiking the AT in MA south of Lee. After spotting a car we hike 6.3 miles from Beartown Mountain Road, north to Tyringham Road. Joint with Mohawk-Hudson AMC. L. Joe Gardner (518)439-8719 /[jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com)

### **TUESDAY, JULY 6 HIKING AT KENT 2D**

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 AM at the CDTA Park & Ride, Elm Ave. and Rt. 32, the west end of the Delmar Bypass. Joint with Mohawk Hudson AMC. L. Joe Gardner (518) 439-8719/ [jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com)

### **THURSDAY, JULY 8 THE GREAT HUDSON RIVER PADDLE**

arrives in Saugerties, NY. You can paddle out from the public dock on E.Bridge St to greet them. For ten days beginning in Albany on July 6 and ending in New York City on July 15, a group of thru-paddlers and guides will paddle 128 miles of the Hudson River, camping each night at prearranged

sites along the way. Riverfront festivals will be held in the afternoon and evening at some stopping points. At various places, outfitters will allow less experienced people to paddle safely out on the river under their auspices at Athens 7/7, Norrie Point 7/9, Wappingers Falls 7/10, and Cold Spring 7/11. For details and contacts see

[www.hrwa.org/ghrp/pages/day\\_paddles.html](http://www.hrwa.org/ghrp/pages/day_paddles.html)

### **SATURDAY, JULY 17 CONN. STATE LINE TO APPALACHIAN TRAIL RAILROAD STATION 3D**

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 AM. Joint with Mohawk Hudson AMC. L. Joe Gardner:(518)439-8719/[jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com)

### **SATURDAY, JULY 24 BEARTOWN STATE FOREST 3C**

Hiking the AT in Massachusetts. After spotting a car at Lake Buel Road, we hike south 6.8 miles from Bear Mountain Road in Beartown State Forest. Joint with Mohawk Hudson AMC. L. Joe Gardner (518) 439-8719 [jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com)

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 1 HOOK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK (HUDSON RIVER) UPPER NYACK, NY. 3C**

Meet: Parking lot at northern end of North Broadway; approximately 5 miles north of NY Thruway Exit 10 at 10AM. German American Hiking Club L. Henry Loddigs (718)899-1052

### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 5 STERLING FOREST, TUXEDO 3D**

Hiking the AT in New York. After spotting a car at Arden Valley Road, we hike 5.5 miles from West Mombasha Road in the Arden Mountain area. Joint with Mohawk Hudson AMC. L. Joe Gardner (518) 439-8719 [jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com)

### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 STERLING FOREST AREA 3D**

Hiking the AT in New York. We hike 7.0 miles from Rt. 17A near Greenwood Lake to West Mombasha Road at Mombasha Lake. Joint with Mohawk Hudson AMC. L. Joe Gardner (518) 439-8719 [jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jgardnjr@nycap.rr.com)

## PROGRAMS

As usual, our fall & spring Third Wednesday Speaker Socials are free and open to the public; next one is in October, 7:30pm, Jewish Community Ctr, 110 Grand Ave, Po'k. See directions on our website at <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

\*On Saturday, September 11, we will Tour an Organic Farm. Come learn about the Huguenot Street Farm in New Paltz. Farmer Ron Khosla will give a tour, and perhaps also talk about his program, Certified Naturally Grown, which Sierra endorsed 2 years ago. This is an even more stringent, yet

cheaper, alternative to the government's organic program, which ironically can be the kiss of death to small farms - the ones most likely to be organic and "good for you". This will probably also be a co-event with the Mid-Hudson Vegetarian Society, who will either provide food for a fee, or, it'll be a potluck. Details next issue!

\*Our October Speaker Social will feature political activist Lance Smith and songs about the environmental policies of the current administration! Stay "tuned"!

## CONSERVATION CORNER

*(Continued from page 2)*

fighting the approval of a proposed mine on the border of Kingston near Route 213. This mine could potentially damage the water table and cause significant disruption to a primarily residential area with truck traffic, limestone dust, and blasting for years. Local activists formed [www.stem.org](http://www.stem.org) to amass opposition to this industry in this area.

In Kingston, an upcoming meeting to review the proposed Landing Development on Hudson River waterfront will occur in the next month or so. Please keep in mind attending this meeting as local lawmakers and alderman of Kingston will be present to hear and see public reaction to this "supersized" condo development. Check our website for the upcoming meeting date or contact Ann Loeding at Friends of Rondout 331-3180.

As members, we are all watching as the Hudson Valley gets eaten alive by developers. The big proposals get some opposition but it's also the small developments that will quietly and insidiously destroy our rural lifestyle and convert it to sprawl. There are tracts of land from 1 acre to 800 acres for sale at any given time and open for development. One idea - If you can, buy tracts of land, put conservation easements on it, and sell it back to the market. Guaranteed entrance into heaven - or at least keeping heaven on earth in our region! (You'll probably make a profit too.)

Lastly, now that spring and gardening season is in gear, make sure you stay away from all the poisonous and unnatural growth products, weed killers, and bug killers on the market. The life you save may be your own. We all want the biggest reddest tomatoes on the block but is that really winning?

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