

Fresh



Air

The quarterly newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group Winter 2004 Volume 36, Issue 4

Upcoming Event

If you'd like a smaller "once-a-year" volunteer gig, we still need gift wrappers on **Saturday, December 18** at the Barnes & Noble Poughkeepsie store on Sierra Day. Please sign up for a shift from sometime between 9am and 11pm; contact Bibi at 255-5528 or bibis@juno.com.

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From the Group Chair's Corner

by Bibi Sandstrom

"We're describing a new species of plant that's never been discovered before," the university botanists explained to us when we came across them on Pickett State Park's "Ladder Trail" in northern Tennessee. They showed us the delicate white-flowered plant, and we learned the process of entering a new species in scientific journals! When they said lands to the north don't really have such things due to the glaciers, I told them of Mohonk's Dwarf Pitch Pine, which caused the Nature Conservancy to rate it one of the Last Great Places. They were enthused to hear of that - as well as how I thought a local Sierra Club would love to hear them speak. I also wore a Sierra "hat" when berating the park ranger about the use of LEAF-BLOWERS in the campground to rid campsites of debris!

Yes, it was a vacation to remember - especially as I also broke my wrist! No, not while climbing the ladders on Ladder Trail - but tripping into the front wall of a

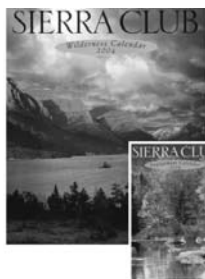
public library! Sigh; your chair is a klutz. But this favorite state park of ours, with its great short trail system, is an amusement park for easy to moderate hikers. If only I knew about more places like that near here. Thankfully, our brand-new Outings Co-Chairs, Nancy Keenan-Rich and Marie Caruso, may be able to help with that! These former chairs, knowing our drastic need for volunteers, are stepping back in to help.

Also taking on a big job was Carol Jarvis, who provided us with a good Tag Sale on a sunny raindate! Thanks to Carol, and to all who helped!

"They also serve those who" shop - we get a kickback if you buy holiday cards and items through our website, <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>.

My new year wish for us all: more trails, and fewer travails!

-- Bibi Sandstrom



Buy from us and support local conservation work

To order, call:
Bibi Sandstrom 255-5528



Mid-Sierra Reports...

We regret the news that Bob Joseph died November 21. He was one of the earliest board members in the Mid-Hudson Group, and also came to many recent events and walks, even in a wheelchair.

Treasurer Ralph Pollard says, "He got me involved about 1969 (probably the second year of the Group) and was himself active for many years after that. He was a man of many talents - lots of common sense, smart metallurgist at IBM, very good at all kinds of outdoor activities like hiking and canoeing - also good at work-

ing on conservation projects. Most important of all he was a good person to have as a friend. He will be missed by many."

He is survived by his wife, former chair Marie Caruso, to whom we extend our sympathies.

Memorial donations can be made to a variety of medical, cultural, and environmental organizations, including Mid-Hudson Sierra Club; contact Bibi for the list.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Outings compiled by Nancy Keenan-Rich

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2005. CLASS B-A.

Hike/ski pending conditions. Joint ADK. Lake Minnewaska to Castle Point, possible extension around Lake Awosting; 8-12 miles. Early start, call leaders regarding meeting place, time, and hike or ski info.

Leaders: Jean-Claude Fouere/Georgette Weir; 462-0142

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22. CLASS B.

Lake Minnewaska Snowshoe Hike. Joint ADK. Comfortable carriage ways and foot trails. Great views. Need good boots/snowshoes, appropriate clothing, water, snacks, lunch. Crampons may be needed. Meet leader at Park and Ride, Rt. 9W and Rte 299, Highland; Register by 1/20.

Leader: Bob Ellsworth 435-5072.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY, 5. CLASS A.

Joint ADK. Hike (crampons required) or snowshoe Ashokan High Point in Catskills. 7-8 miles roundtrip, 2000' elevation gain. Gradual walk with half the climb in last mile. Great views. Early start; call for meeting place/time.

Leaders: Georgette Weir/ Jean-Claude Fouere, 462-0142.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY. 12. CLASS C.

Hike the escarpment and wooded outskirts of North-South Lake in Catskills. Appropriate clothing, good boots, water, snack, lunch. Crampons/snowshoes likely. Meet in Staples parking lot in Kingston, Rt. 9W. Register by 2/10.

Leader: Bob Ellsworth, 435-5072.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

Inner Wall-Climbing Wall (no rating). No experience needed. Joint ADK. Climbing and bouldering walls. Ages 12 and over. Group rate for minimum of 8 people, a must. Climb fee \$9.00, shoe rental \$3.50, harness rental \$1.50, Rope Safety instruction \$4.50. Total \$18.50. CASH ONLY. Bring water/snack if you like. Meet leader at Meet 12:15 at Park and Ride, Rt. 94 & 299, Highland. Must register by 2/23.

Leader: Bob Ellsworth, 435-5072.

HIKE RATING SYSTEM MID-HUDSON GROUP

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

You Can Help Support: **Mid-Hudson Sierra Club**
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BOOKSELLERS: USE ITEM OR GROUP DISCOUNT CODE 47 TO DISCOUNT THE ITEM(S) 10%.

FUNDRAISING IS EASY WITH
bookfairs

SPECIAL EVENT:

DATE: Sunday, December 5th

PLACE: Deep Listening Space

on Lower Broadway on
the Rondout in Kingston:

EVENT: Documentary on depleted uranium and its effects,

TIME: 52 minutes

CONTACT: call Roberta for time at
532-6400.

CONSERVATION CORNER by Roberta Clements

With the presidential election over, environmentalists may have a long hard road ahead, but locally we can celebrate the reelection of some of our finest representatives.

The Mid-Hudson Group had a great success in our presentation to the Planning Board in Woodstock, who are looking at amending their town wetlands law that was passed last December. This presentation was praised by all who participated who had previously only been involved in adversarial relationships in such a situation. This marks the beginning of positive partnerships between activists and government that is rarely seen. Let's all look forward to a new perspective for municipalities who may begin to see organizations such as ours as a useful resource rather than antagonistic "troublemakers".

Another positive partnership is our participation in the updating of the Ulster County Open Space Plan. The plan was last revised in 1972. This project is on the fast track, looking for completion within the next year. The Mid Hudson Group has joined the Recreation Committee to address what has always been near and dear to all our hearts; enjoyment of the great outdoors in as many ways as possible. In this way Ulster County can continue to benefit from soaring development but still maintain the quality of life that makes it such a desirable place to live.

There was an informative session held by the City of Kingston related to development of the Rondout Waterfront in the downtown area. It was unanimously presented that the 2 proposed condominium type developments (on the Tilcon property and the former Brickyard property, which adjoin each other and encompass about 600 acres of Hudson River waterfront) should be carefully reviewed, should be downsized, and should be revised to be appropriate to the surrounding community in size, height, appearance, and price. Riverfront access that is available to all was repeatedly discussed as a neces-

sity. Protection of the viewshed, water supply, river water, and proper management and financial responsibility for community services (such as sewage, trash collection, road maintenance, and the demand on the school system) were repeatedly introduced as major concerns of the citizens and of activist organizations. A public hearing will occur in the future when anyone concerned should attend and show how much we care about the river and about our community.

In Gardiner, the Awosting Reserve developers continue to lay low; however, repeated assaults of somewhat smaller scale continue at the base of the Shawangunk Mountains. A 2-3 lot subdivision off Aumick road with a mile-long driveway is under review and could set a precedent for development on the ridge. An 80 house subdivision with new road construction will likely occur just below the very steep slopes near Upper Mountain Road and Peaceable Hill Road. The town of Gardiner passed a moratorium on large lot subdivisions in the ARR-200 (Ridge Area) district but even upcoming completion of the town's comprehensive master plan cannot stop the snowball of development.

This November I hope you join me in grieving for so many losses that are now inevitable. Please contact me as I'm open to optimistic suggestions. Peace and happiness to all for the upcoming holidays.

“Let's all look forward to a new perspective for municipalities who may begin to see organizations such as ours as a useful resource rather than antagonistic “troublemakers”.

**Roberta Clements
Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Mid Hudson Group
rac137@juno.com
cell (845) 532-6400**

Sierra Club Ballot

An election is being held to fill three vacancies on the Mid-Hudson Sierra Club Executive Committee. The three candidates selected by the nominating committee are listed below. (The ExComm has nine members, and three are elected each year to fill three-year terms.)

The election rules are as follows:

- Only members of the Mid-Hudson Club Sierra Club may vote.
- Write-in candidates are allowed in addition to the candidates selected by the nominating committee and listed

below.

- Vote for up to three candidates – nominated and/or write-in by making a check mark next to the appropriate names.
 - Place the ballot in an envelope and mail by December 31st to:
 - Sierra Club, Mid-Hudson Group
 - PO Box 1012
 - Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
- Sign the envelope in the upper left corner (two signatures if two members vote on the same ballot). The envelope will be separated from the ballot before counting takes place.

Carol Jarvis

After attending my first Sierra Club meeting just a year ago, I decided the best way to become involved would be to jump right in and sign up for something...and that is how I became the Tag Sale chair! It was a very rewarding "recycling" event...and a great success, thanks to the wonderful support of Sierra Club members who volunteered to help and to all those members who donated items for the sale. I treasure the Hudson Valley and am interested in environmental quality and education

Bibi Sandstrom

Let's see; I've started Summer Picnics, New Member Parties, new fundraisers, meeting agendas, reports, & timelines, and staffing at fests; sent out emails & invitations &

publicity; found speakers, locations, and volunteers; helped create a new local political questionnaire; made endorsements & resolutions; and sold calendars. You don't have to vote for me —just come on board and do all of this! (Or, vote, and do some of these - please!)

Joanne Steele

Statement not available.

WRITE-IN VOTE: _____

Mid-Hudson Group
Sierra Club
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