

Fresh Air



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group Winter 2007 Vol. 39 Issue 4

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

Chair's Corner

I appreciate receiving many supportive comments about my article on overpopulation last issue - thanks muchly! Maybe I hadn't even needed to tone it down! But, just in case I did - keep in mind I write not out of being "anti-child" or "anti-nature", just as someone arguing for dieting and against obesity isn't "anti-food". I'm desperately interested in saving the planet - and we have to watch our "weight" in numbers.

Puzzling

Speaking of numbers, the answer to last issue's exponential growth puzzle:
Hope you didn't pick the \$1000 but instead picked the doubling of pennies on each chessboard square. Your grand total of all the pennies on the 64-square chessboard: **\$184,467,440,737,096,000**. See the staggering numbers generated by seemingly modest growth, when it's exponential (doubling) versus linear?

While we didn't make anything like that amount at this year's Tag Sale, we still had our best year ever!! Thanks go to all who helped, and especially to our terrific Tag Sale chair **Carol Jarvis**, who always does a great job!

Thanks Carol - and also to **Nancy Keenan-Rich** for the raffle work, and all our volunteers (see Tag Sale thanks). We couldn't do it - and couldn't keep our Group fiscally alive - without you! We also thank **Dawn Osselmann** for another direct donation to keep our Group alive.

Data: National Sierra has a new database, and we have a new database manager, **Dave Thomas**. Thanks to Dave for filling this important job! Another change is that our Volunteer Coordinator **Alexis Jette** is moving out of state; she did a terrific job of bringing our volunteer list into the computer age & we'll miss her!

Zip Codes: Our postal rates are cheaper if we have newsletters mailed to at least 10 members in the same zipcode. We have some zipcodes where we have 8 or 9 members. Can those of you who live in 12486, 12496, 12522, 12570, or 12582 find a couple?

We always need volunteers to help us staff tables at fests, and especially in December at Barnes & Noble in Poughkeepsie for our **Giftwrapping** Fundraiser. If you like to wrap gifts, and can spare a couple hours from 9a.m. to 11 p.m., we could use you on **Saturday, Dec 15** and maybe also either **Tues Dec 4** or **Friday Dec 7** - contact me immediately at 255-5528 or bibis@juno.com.

Thanks to our new member party donors of food or raffles: The new "Sweet" Shop around the corner from our meeting place in New Paltz; "Karma Road Vegetarian Deli"; Raffle items were donated by artist Jane Culp, nature photographer Paul Rich, and David Friedman who contributed a much coveted book on Woodstock.. Also, Huguenot Street Farm.

Discounted Calendars:

Last chance to buy 2008 Sierra wall (\$10) or desk (\$11) **calendars!** I especially have many desk calendars - please contact me if you can buy or sell them!

Bibi Sandstrom

P.S. Does anyone belong to the New Paltz JCC or work for Central Hudson? Let me know!

Kudos to the Tag Sale Crew

Thanks to an amazing crew of volunteers, the tag sale fundraiser was a huge success!...despite the fact that we had to change the sale to the following day due to inclement weather. The raffle tent offerings were well received as were the baked goods...and it was just great to see familiar faces from past sales, as well as meet new members. I was especially happy to greet some younger volunteers, as well as one Vassar student who showed up at the crack of dawn to help me set up tables! A special thanks to those of you who donated merchandise for the sale...we had a bounty of good quality items which increased our profits! All in all, it was a great success.

Carol Jarvis

Winter Outings:

Rating System for Activities:

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.

Mid-Week hikes: Level C/B. Thursdays (1st and 3rd) bi-monthly. On the first and third Thursday of the month, we will lead 3-5 hour hikes to different areas of the Mid-Hudson Valley. Hikes are followed by a stop for refreshment or dinner. Contact Lalita Malik, by Tuesday and she will let you know the hike plan, depending on weather and conditions. Leader: Lalita Malik, LalitaMalik@aol.com, (845) 592-0204. Joint ADK.

Sat., January 26; Hike or snowshoe to be determined by weather conditions at the time. Mt. Tremper in the Catskill Mountains. Explore the geological history and climb one of the remaining fire towers. 8 miles loop; strenuous. Start 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Call Tonda Highley at 845-255-9933 for directions and meeting place.

Sat., Feb. 2; Rain or inclement weather date, Sun., Feb. 3rd: Cross-country ski or hike at James Baird State Park, LaGrange. An easy ski on the golf course, where we might observe the habitat set aside for Blandings Turtles and, hopefully, the swans which live here virtually year round. If snow conditions are poor, we will hike in the woods instead. Meet at 10 am. For exact meeting place, contact leader no later than 9 p.m. the night before: Marie Caruso, at (845) 452-9086, or mariehv@verizon.net.

Sat., February 23; Duck Pond Carriageway, Easy to moderate 6 mile hike or snowshoe. Look for animal tracks. 10AM to 3PM. Potluck afterwards at leader's house. Meet Tonda Highley at Mohonk Preserve Visitor's Center. Call her at 845-255-9933. Fee for non members.

Late Feb. or early March; Cross Country Ski Trip at Impromptu midweek event (2 nights) pending conditions at Lapland Lake, Northville NY. Late Feb./ first week in March. An approximately 2 ½ hours drive from Poughkeepsie. Skiing, tubing, snow- shoeing, ice skating in a pristine environment perfect for learning about nature in winter. Lapland is usually blessed with snow but we won't reserve until we know the status. Share cozy tupas and prepare your own meals if restaurant is not open. Contact Nancy Keenan-Rich in February at nkrich@hvc.rr.com or 452-1727. Check the website at www.laplandlake.com for rates & details.



*“Man did not weave the web of life - he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.
Chief Seattle, 1854*

Sat., April 19. Moderate hike or snowshoe depending on weather. Some rock scrambling if conditions permit. 7 miles loop hike to explore the rock formations. Meet at Spring Farm Trailhead at 10AM. Leader: Tonda Highley 845-255-9933. Fee required for non members.

Members!!!

Can you spare the time??



Can you offer to lead or arrange a club-related outdoor event during the year. Our outings schedule is shrinking due to a short supply of leaders.

Consider easy outings like Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie, Poet's Walk in Rhinebeck, or Innisfree Gardens in Washingtonville, the estates along the Hudson, Lake Minnewaska loop. Maybe something historical like a small museum tied in with a walk.

Or more challenging activities. How about offering a first aid course? Join a speaker social and do a short presentation on how to lead an outing.

Just one contribution helps to build a schedule. Meet others and support the local group. Outing suggestions are welcome also. Contact Tonda Highley: at 255-9933 or highleyt@newpaltz.edu

Needed: Earth Day volunteers to begin planning events!!!

Sierra Club Ballot

An election is being held to fill 3 vacancies on the Mid-Hudson Sierra Club Executive Committee.

Three candidates are listed below along with their statements.

Election Rules are as follows:

1. Only MHSC members may vote
2. Write-in candidates are allowed in addition to the candidates listed

Candidates:

_____ **Garrick Bryant**

Since obtaining a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Penn State in 2002 I have been working in parks and environmental education all over the country. I fell in love with the Hudson Valley and I am very concerned about environmental issues affecting our region and the world. Currently I am working as a Park Naturalist for Dutchess County. I welcome the opportunity to become more involved with the Mid-Hudson Group and share my knowledge and passion about the natural world with others.

_____ **Bibi Sandstrom**

Currently trying to deal with selling calendars, publicizing our political work, picking dates for giftwrap fundraising, finding new committee chairs, writing my chair column, unloading leftover Tag Sale items still, arranging tables, ensuring our continued program location, describing our new member party, adding members to the new reminder list I started, figuring & typing the next agenda, sharing my National training of Group Chairs, finding out about issues, answering emails, writing up my overpopulation speech, making brochures, cleaning up bylaws, checking with our new hard-working database manager whom we met at an event I created.... (oh, and in my almost-non-existent non-Sierra life: creating a Halloween display). Not sure I have time and energy to write a candidate statement!

_____ **Joanne Steele**

Joanne Steele, nature lover, feminist and political activist. Save Our Forest Action Coalition ('96-'98)[devoted to recycling architecture and preserving the last remaining forest in the City of Kingston]; Producer of "Environmental TV" public access ('96); Finding Common Ground Working Group ('98); Friends of SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act)('98-'99) [to facilitate public input into the project review for the proposed Empire Newsprint recycling plant planned for East Kingston]; Producer "Progressive TV" public access ('98-); Study of solar photovoltaics (Woodstock Museum & UNI-Managua ('99-'00); New York Citizens for Clean Elections ('00); Hudson Valley Sustainable Communities Network Board ('99-'04); Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Mid-Hudson Group Board (02-); Klyne Esopus Historical Society Museum Board ('03-). Sustainable Hudson Valley Board ('04-'05). Informed Consent, Town of Esopus ('05). She holds a Masters Degree in Chemistry. A real estate broker for more than 20 years with deep concern for our gorgeous Earth, she is an avid hiker, biker and kayaker.

Write-in Candidate:

3. Vote for up to 3 candidates (including write-in) by making a check mark next to the appropriate names.

4. **Place ballot in an envelope and mail by 12/31 postmark to:**

**Mid-Hudson Sierra Club
POB 1012
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

5. **Sign the envelope in the upper left hand corner.**
Two signatures for two members on same ballot.
The envelope will be separated from the ballot before counting takes place.

Conservation Corner

WILLIAMS LAKE FIGHT CONTINUES

Marie Caruso

Following is a letter received by the Friends of Williams Lake regarding the issue of privacy in protecting our natural resources:

I am not your immediate constituent. The public good, however is a broad concept. I think that even I, who reside in Iowa on the banks of the muscular Mississippi River in the historic city of Davenport, come under that wide umbrella, and that you owe a duty to me. After visiting Williams Lake on multiple occasions, I have come to regard it as my lake and a vital part of the beautiful Rosendale community. Resources such as this ought not to ever be private. Historically, communities have been founded BECAUSE of their nearby waterways and lake resources.

That is why there is ample precedent in law for the right of meaningful access for the public to these vital resources. The owners of Williams Lake Resort have always recognized that the Lake is part of the community, and the community has always recognized a duty to participate in the life and protection of the lake area.

It is appalling to me that any person could presume, solely by reason of wealth, that he had a right to segregate himself from the life of the community, purchase an asset in which the community has had a historic and continuous interest, and declare as justification for his action that he requires protection from those who have preserved with reverence the vitality of the resource for generations.

Shame on such a person. Shame on any government official who mistakes his duty and lends his name to such a project.

Catherine Alexander

COOL CITIES UPDATE:

Bob Muldoon, regional representative for National Sierra Club, gave a presentation on the club's Cool Cities initiative. Nancy Cozean, Mayor of Poughkeepsie, was present and informed us of city-wide use of LED traffic lights, movement toward a green fleet, and use of the use of geothermal heating in some building construction. Bob pointed out the cost savings to communities by going green. This is a big selling point which can persuade small and large municipalities to become "cool". Presently, Sustainable Hudson Valley is leading the effort in the Valley to promote the Cool Cities concept.

Needed: Someone to attend meetings on local issues such as the above, Bellaeyre, etc. Be the club's eyes and ears!
Call Bibi!

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