

# Fresh Air



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group Winter 2008 Vol. 40 Issue # 4

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

## Chair's Corner

Bibi Sandstrom

You almost didn't receive this newsletter in the mail...

Thanks to your donations to our POB (1012) in Poughkeepsie, a great Tag Sale, a slight increase in 'hard \$' dues income this year, and my frantic insistence on fundraising the last few years, we're actually doing OK right now. However, especially with the possible specter of National increasing the percentage of local funding that is harder-to-use 'soft money', we've realized that we could save about \$700 if we just once were to email one of our quarterly newsletters instead of mailing it to you, or to ask you to read that issue on the web at a library or somewhere. (If you do want to receive this newsletter electronically in general, and/or to be put on our email list for event reminders & changes, please let our database guru Dave Thomas and me ([bibis@juno.com](mailto:bibis@juno.com)) know!)

The issue we would probably pick would be the winter issue, as there are no Speaker Socials and fewer hikes, but we were always stymied by its being our ballot issue. However, that obstacle is removed by National now telling us that if it is an uncontested race, as it has been for a decade, we do not have to print & mail a ballot. Thus, we almost didn't mail you this issue... but, we figured you instead should receive a bit of warning that in the case of a financial or time emergency, you might not receive a future issue by mail.

One of the difficulties our Group has is that it seems as if we are always just one person away from an emergency or at least chaos. We have so few volunteers that it is often hard to find one person for a chore, much less a committee, or even a backup. When we have lost key volunteers, I have often been in despair trying to find a replacement. When we do get someone working hard in a position, it is always worrisome what if we lose that person? (For that matter, I'm getting very tired; anyone have 60 hours a month to be Sierra Chair??) For example, everyone in our Group should be grateful to Beate Klingenberg, (and previously Dave Page), who not only saves us hundreds of dollars with not having to go to a mailing house, but who steadfastly picks up our newsletters from the wonderful RSVP organization - another to thank for much timesaving labeling work! - counts the newsletters per zipcode, fills out the scary post office form, AND takes it to the scary bulk mail department. Thanks, Beate!

Of course, we would also be totally lost without a Tag Sale chair, and once again Carol Jarvis did a tremendous job. We thank Carol, and Nancy Keenan-Rich for the raffle, Joann Hartwig for getting us the new INDOOR location with plenty of time to price & organize, and all the volunteers who brought us great stuff to sell and who helped buy & sell -- on what ironically was a beautiful day! Thanks to Carol & Lynne for standing outside trying to draw people in!!

Speaking of volunteers....

Poughkeepsie Barnes & Noble has given us THREE days in December!! Our big day will actually be the closest to Xmas we've ever had -- **Sat Dec 20!** Just need 1 person between 4-6pm, & "emergency backups". But we also have **Tues Dec 2** (need 6-11pm) and **Fri Dec 5** (need 9am-1pm and 7-11pm). Can anyone work (part of) those shifts giftwrapping books? Contact Bibi immediately at [bibis@juno.com](mailto:bibis@juno.com) or 255-5528!



*I would like to thank all the dedicated Sierrans who gave of their time and talents to make this year's tag sale a wonderful success! The quality merchandise that so many of you donated enticed shoppers and greatly contributed to our bottom line. Having the sale indoors was a definite bonus and I especially want to thank our member, Joann Hartwig, for making this possible. Setting up the day before was a dream!*  
*Carol Jarvis*

*Thank you to the following for donations to the SC raffle:*

*Ronnie Brown for her lovely quilt wall hanging  
Walter Weigel of Eastern Mountain Sports for a gift certificate  
Paul/Nancy Rich for a Black Creek photo of Bannerman's Castle  
Suruchi's Restaurant in New Paltz  
Huguenot Farm for a food share  
All winners were very happy and a big thanks to Marko Ervolina for helping to pick them.*

*The Sierra Club also wishes to thank the family of Mary Anne McLaughlin, friend of many Sierrans, for the generous donation of her estate items which really contributed to a successful event. Mary Anne died in September much too young but with the spirit in which she lived.*  
*Nancy Keenan-Rich*

## Winter Outings **Tonda Highley**

### Rating System for Hikes:

**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.

Contact Tonda at [highleyt@newpaltz.edu](mailto:highleyt@newpaltz.edu) or at 255-9933 if you would like to lead an outing.

## Outings Schedule

### Sun Dec 14 Hike Fishkill & Scofield Ridges, A Hudson Highlands

This is the fourth and last of our High Peaks Grand Walkabout series, a set of four hikes that will hit the high points of Dutchess, Ulster, Orange, and Putnam counties. The Grand Walkabout--4 Counties, 400 Years, 400 Trails, 400 Miles, is a year-long celebration (Ramble '08-Ramble) of hiking to mark our region's Quadricentennial year. We'll follow marked and unmarked trails on this 8.25-9.5 mi., moderately paced hike. We'll visit So. Beacon Mtn. & Bald Hill. Snowshoes or crampons may be required. Bring lunch, water and dress for the weather. Limited to 12. Contact leader for meeting place/time. Leaders: Russ Faller, 845-297-5126 (before 9:30PM) or [russoutdoors@yahoo.com](mailto:russoutdoors@yahoo.com), and Jean-Claude Fouere and Georgette Weir, 845-462-0142. Joint with ADK.

**Lapland Lake** mid week cross-country ski trip in late Feb./early March pending conditions. Check out [www.laplandlake.com](http://www.laplandlake.com) for info. about the resort. Shared accommodations. If interested contact leader Nancy Keenan-Rich at 452-1727 or [nkrich@hvc.rr.com](mailto:nkrich@hvc.rr.com) in early February.

In March there will be a first aid training for hike leaders a requirement of National Sierra Club. Sierra Club may reimburse the \$50 cost of the course which will be held in Dutchess County. In addition to first aid training there will be a short leaders training including suggestions for hikes of different levels of difficulty. This will be an opportunity to decide if you want to try out being a hike leader. ADK has been invited to participate as well. Details will be in the Spring Fresh Air. Any questions contact Nancy Keenan-Rich at 452-1727



*"I never saw a discontented tree"*

**John Muir**

## Program Corner

**Bibi Sandstrom**

Early look at 2009:

Earth Day: Anyone interested in planning an Earth Day event? Contact me now ([bibis@juno.com](mailto:bibis@juno.com)) so we will know what to put in our next newsletter!

Speaker Socials: Local member Rene Tritschler will do a program on Acid Rain in April; in May, a not-so-local member from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will talk on "Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness". Mark the 3rd Wednesdays in your new 2009 calendar\*!

\*Need a Sierra calendar? \$11; contact Bibi ASAP. Want to be the one who will arrange our June/October/November programs? Ditto!

MHSC is grateful to the Plotnicks for their donation in memory of Mary Ann McLaughlin



**SHOP ONLINE** for the holidays and help Mid-Hudson Sierra!

**DATE:** ANYTIME, 48 hours, Saturday Dec 6 or Sunday Dec 7

**WHERE:** Your computer!

**GO TO:** <http://www.women-philosophers.com> & click on STORE button.

**LINKS TO:** Amazon.com, bookstores, clothing, jewelry, pet care, travel & lots more!

**YOU GET:** easy shopping!

**SIERRA GETS:** half of member/siteowner Kate Lindemann's commission for purchases made by **ANYONE** that weekend! Tell your friends & family across the world!

## DEC HOLDS SCOPING HEARING ON WILLIAMS LAKE

Several hundred people attended the Oct. 29 hearing in Rosendale on the DEC's draft scoping document for the "Hudson River Valley Resort" development at Williams Lake. The purpose of scoping is to outline the issues that need to be covered in the environmental impact statement. The DEC, judging by their draft scoping document, is requiring a very comprehensive examination of many issues before the project can proceed--water resources, geology, field surveys of ecological communities including rare and threatened species, public access, historic and cultural resources, economic impacts, etc. etc. The complete 20-page document can be found online thru the NYS DEC website, or (more easily) at [www.savethelakes.us](http://www.savethelakes.us).

Of some 30 people who made comments at the hearing, all but a few were quite skeptical of the developers' plans. Serious concerns were raised by Save the Lakes, the Nature Conservancy, the Rosendale Environmental Commission, even the Rosendale Town Supervisor. Yours truly made a brief statement for Sierra expressing general concerns about

the project's possible impacts on the region's water resources, the site's natural features, and public access.

Despite the difficulties inherent in developing a site valued by so many for its beauty, its rare and fragile ecology and its historic features, the developers seem determined to go forward, claiming that they intend to build a sustainable, environmentally friendly resort.

The Sierra Club would like to do more to protect the outstanding natural resources of this property. We need local members who care enough about the area to become involved. If you can help, please contact me at [mariehv@verizon.net](mailto:mariehv@verizon.net) or (845) 452-9086. Contributions to Save the Lakes are also badly needed to support scientific studies to document the likely environmental impacts of this project. Please see [www.savethelakes.us](http://www.savethelakes.us) for details.

Marie Caruso

### Officer Election Statements

#### Gerald A. Davison

Served: Twelve years on the Mid-Hudson Group executive committee. Have been Group's delegate to the Atlantic Chapter for almost as long. Have been doing the clean-up after the Group's annual Tag Sale for a number of years, working hard to find "homes" for most of the leftovers. Also provide much of the signage.

Interests: Photography. General science. Inquiry into the original state of the natural world (as concerns forests and such).

Concerns: Overpopulation; global warming; operation of Sierra Club. The national Club is not adequately funding (returning dues to) the Chapters and Groups. To do a good job our Group needs to put out a minimum of 8 newsletters per year, but we can only afford (even with our local fundraising) to do 4. Yet Sierra Club remains worthy of your membership. It differs from other environmental organizations in important ways and can do things other cannot. For details: (845)-339-4509.

#### Lynne Ridgeway

Sierra Club Life Member, Club member over two decades

- Mid-Hudson Group Executive Committee member and Membership Chair since 2005
- Agrees with Sierra Club principles on most important environmental issues
- Truly desires to maintain a meaningful place in the Group's leadership team
- Useful contributions have included consensus building and organizational skills
- Actively participated in Mid-Hudson Group's annual tag sales and other events since 2005
- Maintains a community of interest and fellowship with many Sierrans since 2004 "New Members Social"
- Over 30 years of leadership experience in nonprofit organizations
- A birder over 35 years and lifelong environmentalist
- Retired senior executive from major NYC health insurance after 35 years since 2002
- Has dedicated major proportions of time and energy since 2002, to Sierra Club, NYS and North American Bluebird Societies, literacy and the Plattekill Library

# Sierra Club Ballot

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Gerald A. Davison**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Lynne Ridgeway**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Bob Whelan**

**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 Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Bob Whelan**

We are in a crisis called global warming. we must initiate a policy that is less dependent on coal and oil fired electric generating units. I'm in favor of building new nuclear, wind, solar types of unites to replace the old coal/oil units. We must act now so that the next generation will not inherit a polluted environment.

Other issues that should be included in our priorities:

- alternative energies for battery-powered cars
- increase fuel efficiencies
- protect our water supply
- protect National Parks and Forrest

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

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