



# Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Group of the Atlantic Chapter

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This newsletter will be posted to our website along with all previous newsletters.

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## Chair's Corner by Bob Heinemann

### A Big Stride Forward and What's Next

New York State took a major step forward to lead the way in an effort to slow climate change with the passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) that Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law on July 18, 2019. Kudos to New York's Senate and Assembly legislators and to Governor Cuomo for taking this first step, and most climate progressive step in the country. This is also a clear reminder that elections matter and voting matters. This legislation was passed because of the new wave of representatives who changed the majority in the Senate in Albany. An article on the CLCPA by Mid-Hudson's Energy Chair, Nivo Rovedo, appears in this issue of *Fresh Air*. This important first step will require consistent efforts by NYS and local municipalities within every community state-wide to achieve the goals and timelines of the CLCPA. Delay and failure is not an option. The Atlantic Chapter's website provides information on state programs for municipalities.

Every city and municipality in New York should adopt NYS's Climate Smart Communities Pledge to promote clean renewable energy. The City of Poughkeepsie already has done so. Big hint to encourage the Town of Poughkeepsie to join this state-wide effort. [Charging stations in Poughkeepsie](#).

The Sierra Club has created a [Municipal Toolkit](#) to assist city and town administrators. Citizens concerned about climate change must engage actively with their local supervisors, administrators and mayors to take the Climate Smart Communities Pledge and to actively plan to meet the goals of the CLCPA for the future of our children and grandchildren. There are many environmental success stories throughout the country in seemingly unlikely places where green energy efforts have made significant improvements to our quality of life and to the economic vitality of those communities. Sierra's Renewable Energy brochure describes some of these environmental quality of life improvements as an example of what can and must be done in every community. [See Atlantic Chapter's Renewable Energy brochure](#).

Every individual resident, whether a homeowner or a renter, has a new opportunity to promote clean, green energy at a reduced cost. Solar energy is no longer just about panels on private homes. Solar farms, large solar arrays linked to our utility company providers, are creating the ability for any homeowner or renter to buy into a community solar program that will reduce the use of dirty fossil fuels for electricity while paying the same amount or less to your usual utility company. Some municipalities, like the City of Poughkeepsie, recently have opted into this green energy initiative. There is an increase in electric vehicles being circulated by fossil fuel interests that this will either cause an increase in cost or lock a resident into that choice for an extended period of time. Both are not accurate. Any individual at any time can opt out of the green solar choice, but then why would you?

Electric vehicles and hybrids are becoming less expensive. [There are rebates available](#). It is also, finally, becoming easier to find plug-in stations to recharge electric vehicles. With New York's commitment to the CLCPA those charging stations will become more numerous and available each year. Electric and hybrid vehicle use will become more and more convenient as our local communities, with a push from each of us, start to invest in providing local charging stations. We all need to keep pushing the green choice envelope.

It is equally urgent that we continue to push back against any and all attempts to impinge on the green and wild spaces that we enjoy in the Hudson Valley region. There are always new challenges. A current example is an effort by a developer to avoid a thorough environmental impact review on a proposal to open a large concrete manufacturing facility on land surrounded by the Catskill Park's Bluestone Wild Forest.

The Mid-Hudson Group and the Atlantic Chapter of Sierra have issued letters to the Town of Kingston Planning Board opposing any exemption or end around to an initial environmental assessment requirement. The scheduled August 29th meeting of the Town of Kingston Planning Board is not a public hearing for the 850 Route 28 project. The Planning Board is working on where and when to locate the next meeting on this project. That meeting may be scheduled with very short notice.

To be added to the Woodstock Land Conservancy's (WLC) project email list for information and updates email [maxanne\\_wlc@gmail.com](mailto:maxanne_wlc@gmail.com). [Visit their website for more information](#). Let's stay on this important issue and insist on a complete environmental impact statement before any work is permitted to go forward on this project. [View Woodstock Land Conservancy Fact Sheet](#)

Let your voices be heard!

In summary, there are big strides being taken in New York to limit the effects of climate change but there is much more for us all to need to do individually and collectively to move that effort forward with all deliberate speed, and to resist against any and all backward steps. And, of course, another giant leap forward must happen at the polls in November, 2020 when the climate-denier-in-chief must be denied a second term.

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## Conservation Corner by Joanne Steele

### Dump Here Never

(with thanks to the *Saugerties Times* and the *Daily Freeman*)

The question is, are we going to satisfy ourselves with feeling just a little bit worse, or are we going to do something about it? Our drinking water is not getting better. Our air is getting dirtier. The earth has become a dumping ground. With every bit of environmental news, things seem to be getting worse.

Yes, doing something is an inconvenience to our busy lives, but it's not too much of an inconvenience, especially considering the consequences of our continued inaction. Recognize first that you are not alone. Then, accept that you are a citizen, not a subject! It's time to act like a citizen. Here's what some of your fellow citizens did (read below). Oh, before you read, know that these things are happening all over New York State (and likely all over our country). At this time we just don't know where else.

There's a family (Joseph and Rachel Karolys) in Saugerties, an Ulster County town in our Mid-Hudson Sierra Club (SC) bailiwick, that owns some property at 1446 Route 212, which is a main traffic road, as well as other residential parcels located in the same town at 90 Goat Hill Road and 33-43 Fel Qui Road. It turns out that the family welcomes a lot of heavy dump trucks (for a fee) to their properties where they dump their contents. It is currently estimated that as of June, 2019, the total at the route 212 location, where the family also lives and has a private well, is over 60,000 tons (a treetop-level pile).

Neighbors suspected they were dumping dirty C&D (Construction & Demolition) waste, sourced from out of town. C&D waste is made up of wood, steel, concrete, gypsum, materials, plaster, metal, and asphalt. It is notable because it can contain hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead and other hazardous substances. Concerned about contamination of their well water, the neighbors complained to the Town. The Town complained to the family about possible violations. The family sued the Town and state Supreme Court Judge Richard Mott enjoined the Town, with its zoning and its police authority, from interfering. This ruling allowed the family to continue receiving C&D waste and therefore continue to make money regardless of who is harmed by their business practices. Sound familiar?

The neighbors gathered more neighbors and other concerned citizens and environmental organizations who then alerted their members. Next, all attended a meeting organized by Catskill Mountainkeeper (CM) at the Saugerties Senior Center. The citizens got to know each other and to discuss the issues. At the following meeting of the Town's Zoning Board, I berated the Board for their inaction to cheers, applause and whistles from among the nearly 80 concerned citizens present who had already made anguished statements of concern there. I gathered some names, phone numbers and addresses of those attending citizens and handed the info to Kathy Nolan of CM. At a following gathering of the citizens and for the first time, the Town's supervisor Fred Costello Jr., at Saugerties High School, CM put up their environmental lawyer, Emily Spenson, who clearly informed us all of the compelling environmental issues involved. The citizens now organized themselves into a group, *Dump Here Never*.

Neighbors, citizens, Dump Here Never, Catskill Mountainkeeper, the Town and Sierra Club then exhorted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to act. The DEC acted on a court-ordered raid on July 3rd (which made front page news in the *Daily Freeman*, Kingston, and also appeared in the *Saugerties Times*), at the family's three parcels and took test samples which had not been possible for the Town to do because of Judge Mott's injunction which he had issued in May. Meanwhile, the family kept on doing business, and the neighbors kept on photographing the trucks, videoing them, and even standing in the road to challenge their dirty work. They passed their documentation along to the Town and to the DEC.

Near the end of July the DEC finally presented their test results: their raid turned up 39 violations of clean water and solid waste disposal laws. Test results indicated the presence of heavy metals like mercury, lead and zinc; coal ash, coal and slag; and nine chemicals deemed to be "probable carcinogens," including the banned-for-decades pesticide DDT. On the witness stand, Joe Karolys said that he only accepted "recognizable uncontaminated asphalt, concrete, rock, brick and soil" at his facility. On August 2 he was arrested and charged with illegal dumping by town police. He was charged with "violating New York State executive law; violating Town of Saugerties dumping law; [and] violating Town of Saugerties zoning regulation in special use districts." Police said he was released pending a August 22 appearance in town court, set for 2:00 p.m. (Mark your calendar).

Town Supervisor Costello said that since July 27, more than 60 trucks have come on and off the property, as evidenced by neighbor's (and *Dump Here Never* members) surveillance footage and eyewitness accounts. On August 7th, Judge Mott held court on the temporary restraining order against the Town of Saugerties at the Ulster County Courthouse. He heard only two witnesses and then postponed the hearing to August 12th.

Susan Greenstein, a neighbor of the Fel Qui Road location said to the *Saugerties Times*. "To us, with all of the evidence and all of the laws that have been broken and ... the defiance of the laws and the rules on the part of Mr. Karolys ... He just keeps getting away with it, so I'm going, 'Is the justice system going to work this time, or will there be another delay?' In the meantime, people's wells have been ruined. What about the people whose lives have been ruined by this?"

Will justice prevail? To be continued. You can contact the *Dump Here Never* group at [dump-here-never@googlegroups.com](mailto:dump-here-never@googlegroups.com).

For more information, read the articles that appeared in the *Saugerties Times* and *Kingston Freeman*

**Here is a list of groups you can contact to report, or help stop other environmental violations.** Please report your findings and actions back to your Mid-Hudson Sierra Club: [midhudsonsierra@twc.com](mailto:midhudsonsierra@twc.com)

- **Stop Frack Valley.** Working to inform the public and organize citizens to action about the frack gas megaplant located in Dover, NY. They hold weekly demonstrations and generate newsletters. [Visit their Facebook page](#). Charles Davenport: [sallyham@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyham@yahoo.com)
- **Clean Energy Community Coalition.** CECC is a loose affiliation of a number of different groups which oppose the Cricklet Valley Energy Center project in Dover NY. Website: [stopcricketvalley.org](http://stopcricketvalley.org). Contact: Bill Kish: [kish@brwnco.com](mailto:kish@brwnco.com)
- **Mothers Out Front - Dutchess County.** Led by local teams of dedicated volunteers concerned about our environment who determine their community's needs and choose their own goals. We empower them with training, coaching and ideas to move their communities and states from dirty to clean energy. Mothers Out Front is organized in 10 states so far, including several counties in New York. Johanna Fallert: [jfallert@gmail.com](mailto:jfallert@gmail.com), and Rachel Berg [zrachurn@yahoo.com](mailto:zrachurn@yahoo.com) [mothersoutfront.org](http://mothersoutfront.org)
- **New Palzatz Climate Action Coalition.** A coalition of Town (New Palzatz), students, and Hudson Valley residents fighting for social and environmental justice. Meets every Thursday at New Palzatz Village Hall, 1641 Central Avenue, from 5:00-6:30 pm. Join discussions of actions and goals to create real impacts in our local community. Come and talk about what your organization is doing! This fight is all about teamwork! [newpalzatzclimateaction.org](mailto:newpalzatzclimateaction.org), [newpalzatzclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:newpalzatzclimateaction@gmail.com). Phone: 255-9297. Jess Mullen, chair.
- **Food and Water Watch New York.** Champions healthy food and clean water for all. Stands up to corporations that put profits before people, and advocates for a democracy that improves people's lives and protects our environment. Food & Water Watch is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization currently organized in 10 states, Washington DC, and Europe. Organizers: Laura Shindell [lshindell@fwwatch.org](mailto:lshindell@fwwatch.org), and Alex Beauchamp [abeauchamp@fwwatch.org](mailto:abeauchamp@fwwatch.org)
- **350.Org.** Named after 350 parts per million — the safe concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. An international environmental organization encouraging citizens to action and building a global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis. Online campaigns, grassroots organizing, and mass public actions are led from the bottom up by thousands of volunteer organizers in over 188 countries. [350.org](http://350.org). In our area: Cata Romo [cata.romo@350.org](mailto:cata.romo@350.org), Richard Brooks [richard@350.org](mailto:richard@350.org)
- **Sane Energy Project.** Committed to replacing fracked gas infrastructure with community-led, sustainable energy. Oppose the development, transport and export of fracked gas ("natural gas") in favor of a nuclear and just transition to a training and energy economy with the goal of zero fossil fuel or urgent dependence. "Our renewable and efficient communities to lead the fight for community energy infrastructure." Kim Frazcek [kim@saneenergyproject.org](mailto:kim@saneenergyproject.org). Lee Ziesche [lee@saneenergyproject.org](mailto:lee@saneenergyproject.org)
- **Catskill Mountainkeeper.** Mission: to protect our region's wild lands and natural resources, support smart development to sustainably grow our economy, nurture healthy communities, and accelerate the transition to a 100% clean energy future in New York and beyond. Wes Gillingham [weskeeper@gmail.com](mailto:weskeeper@gmail.com). Kathy Nolan [kathy@catskillmountainkeeper.org](mailto:kathy@catskillmountainkeeper.org)
- **Frack Free Catskills.** Engaged in a long-term campaign to protect our water, air and public health from the dangerous practice of hydraulic fracturing. Raising awareness and empowering the public to organize in defense of their communities. Seeks to expose the false claims of the gas industry and mobilize a citizen movement to protect our health and our future. [facebook.com/Frack-Free-Catskills](http://facebook.com/Frack-Free-Catskills)
- **Protecting Our Waters.** Iris Marie Bloom works on a variety of water, pipeline and conservation issues. [protectingourwaters@gmail.com](mailto:protectingourwaters@gmail.com)
- **Josha Douglass.** Works on various issues on the NY/CT border area. Email him to inquire and participate. [jdjustice@millerton@gmail.com](mailto:jdjustice@millerton@gmail.com)
- **Catskill Heritage Alliance.** A grassroots organization dedicated to preserving the harmony between people and wilderness in the central Catskills. [info@CatskillHeritage.org](http://info@CatskillHeritage.org)
- **Citizens Against Pilgrim Pipelines.** [rosenberg.sue@gmail.com](mailto:rosenberg.sue@gmail.com), [wtibarr@hotmail.com](mailto:wtibarr@hotmail.com)
- **Kingston Citizens.** A non-partisan organization committed to nurturing transparency in local government through citizen engagement and participation. [kingstoncitizens.org](http://kingstoncitizens.org)

Search your hometown area and County for other citizen groups! This list is just a beginning. Let us know what you're up to, what's happening and how your Sierra Club can help you and your group! Get going!

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## Onteora Lake, Bluestone Wild Forest Threatened by Proposed Concrete and Steel Manufacturing Plant

by Marie Caruso

**URGENT CALL TO TOWN OF KINGSTON RESIDENTS**

And others who may be concerned

Shortly after the Open Space Institute acquired a 208-acre parcel connecting two sections of the Bluestone Wild Forest in February of this year, the public became aware that a concrete slab and steel manufacturing facility adjacent to these lands was on a fast track for approval by the Town of Kingston Planning Board.

The property in question, known as 850 Route 28 LLC, owned by Tom Auringer, is within one quarter mile of Onteora Lake and is surrounded on three sides by the OSI parcel and the Bluestone Wild Forest, part of the Catskill Forest Preserve.

The project reportedly consists of clearing 21 acres of trees, erecting 405,000 cubic yards of rock, and constructing two buildings totaling 240,000 square feet. Construction is expected to run 13 hours a day for five years, requiring 12,500 truck trips to remove 162,000 cubic yards of material. Astoundingly, unknown to OSI and many local residents, the Town of Kingston Planning Board issued a negative declaration for this project back in March! This means that the applicant is not required to file an environmental impact statement or undergo a State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process.

Furthermore, after the negative declaration was issued, the applicant requested that upon completion, the plant be permitted to operate 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, entailing, among other impacts, 42 heavy equipment trucks daily on Route 28.

The Town of Kingston Planning Board has held several public hearings regarding the site plan review and special use permit for this project, which have been overwhelmed by hundreds of local residents, most of them voicing opposition to this project. The last hearing on July 15th was abruptly canceled because the meeting room was deemed too small to accommodate the approximate 150 people who showed up. The Planning Board is supposedly searching for a venue that will, according to law, accommodate everyone who wishes to attend. As of this writing, no date has yet been set for the next hearing.

The Woodstock Land Conservancy, the Sierra Club (through our Mid-Hudson Group), Catskill Mountainkeeper, and other groups, as well as many local residents, have been urging the Planning Board to rescind their negative declaration and require a full environmental impact review. However, it is thought that those who will have the most impact are the Citizens of the Town of Kingston. These are the people who have the most power to influence the decisions of their local town officials.

The Town of Kingston is a small entity tucked between the Towns of Hurley, Ulster, and Woodstock, with only about 900 residents. But these are the people who may have the most influence on the future of this project and its impacts on their local environment. Consequently, we urge all residents of this town to become informed and make your voices heard about having a major manufacturing facility in the midst of the Bluestone Wild Forest.

The Woodstock Land Conservancy has been especially proactive in raising public awareness about this issue. They've been sending many emails and have created a public Facebook page with a great deal of information: ["Save Onteora Lake, Pickered Pond & Bluestone Wild Forest"](#). A citizens action group has been holding regular meetings, usually on Fridays, from 5:30 to 8 pm, at the Old Dutch Church, 272 Wall St., Kingston (entrance on Wall St.). To contact this group, email [lbluestoneforest@gmail.com](mailto:lbluestoneforest@gmail.com).

And for regular updates on this issue, sign up for the WLC email list with Maxanne Resnick at [maxanne\\_wlc@gmail.com](mailto:maxanne_wlc@gmail.com). We urge all our Town of Kingston Sierrans and others who may be concerned to do so.

And don't hesitate to contact me to help further the Sierra Club's involvement in this issue. Marie Caruso, [mariehwytk@gmail.com](mailto:mariehwytk@gmail.com), (845) 684-7058

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## Energy Corner by Nivo Rovedo

### New Energy in NYS: the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and OSW Projects

It finally happened. On Thursday, July 18, 2019, the Governor of New York State held a press conference at which he signed into law the most sweeping climate-crisis legislation in the nation called the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Not only does it take a large step towards addressing global warming, it also attempts to deal with some aspects of social justice for communities affected by the crisis and the needed changes to mitigate it. This comes after several years of similar bills passing the Assembly, only to be thwarted with the Senate. The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club played a huge role, partnering with many other environmental groups, in advocating for the law, negotiating the main points, and getting legislators behind the bill. We can feel a measure of hope (and some pride) in this accomplishment.

But that is not all that was announced at that press conference. The State's first off-shore wind (OSW) projects were announced, the largest OSW commitment in the nation at 1,700 megawatts (MW). Additionally, a \$270 million investment in ports was made to support the wind turbine construction. All of this was done with project labor agreements. The investment is intended to launch NY's wind to the forefront as the hub of this industry in the east. The OSW announcement came with more benefits, such as job training centers in low income communities on Long Island, staging areas off LI, and investments in manufacturing components and the local supply chain in NY. This is estimated to create \$3.2 Billion in economic activity. These OSW projects will be the first installment of Governor Cuomo's nation-leading mandate of 9,000 megawatts by 2035.

Here is the link to the [NYS website](#) which describes the main points of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act as well as the video of the press conference.

It was a happy surprise to see Al Gore at the signing. He praised the key aspects of the CLCPA. His presence signifies the importance of this legislation. NYS now leads California in its commitment to transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable forms of energy.

The Governor's words are heartening to all of us who see the climate crisis being ignored by the powers that could help avert the worst of its effects: "The environment and climate change are the most critically important policy priorities we face." Governor Cuomo said. "They literally will determine the future — or the lack thereof. Even in today's climate of political pandering and hyperbole there are still facts, data and evidence — and climate change is an undeniable and scientific fact. But for a new, green movement are hollow political rhetoric if not combined with aggressive goals and a realistic plan on how to achieve them. With this agreement, New York will lead the way in developing the largest source of offshore wind power in the nation, and today I will sign the most aggressive climate law in the United States of America. Today we are true to the New York legacy — to lead the way forward, to govern with vision and intelligence, to set a new standard, and to match our words with action."

From the press release, here are some highlights of the new law:

**Putting New York on the Road to Economy-Wide Carbon Neutrality:** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will, through the adoption of regulations, drive an 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with an interim mandate of 40% reduction in emissions by 2030 (both relative to 1990 levels). Furthermore, an entity called the Climate Action Council will develop a plan to offset remaining emissions through carbon capture or other technologies, resulting in a carbon-neutral economy.

**70% Renewable Energy by 2030 and Zero-Carbon Emission Electric Sector by 2040:** The CLCPA codifies Governor Cuomo's nation-leading goals as called for under his Green New Deal, mandating that at least 70% of New York's electricity come from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar by 2030, and that the state's power system is 100% carbon neutral by 2040.

**Nation-Leading Clean Energy Investments:** The CLCPA also codifies Governor Cuomo's nation-leading commitments to install 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035; 6,000 megawatts of distributed solar by 2025; and 3,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030.

**Climate Action Council and Policy Roadmap:** Expert heads of relevant state agencies and legislative appointees will craft the roadmap of policies needed to achieve the law's mandates. The Council, co-chaired by the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA) and DEC will establish sector specific working groups to make sure experts and stakeholders inform all policies developed under the CLCPA. Planned working groups include a just transition working group, as well as working groups on transportation, agriculture, energy-intensive and trade-exposed industries, land use and energy efficiency.

### Landmark Investments in Environmental Justice and Just Transition

Relevant state agencies will invest 35% of clean energy program resources to benefit disadvantaged communities, and will aim to invest 40%. Additionally, the just transition working group will work to ensure that individuals working in conventional energy industries are provided with training and opportunities in the growing clean energy economy.

### Details of the Off-Shore Wind Announcement

The offshore wind section of the NYS website provides a map of the two offshore wind lease areas that will generate 1,700 MW of electricity. **The Sunrise Wind Project** area will generate about 884 MW of electricity that will be transmitted to Long Island at a proposed onshore substation at Holbrook. The turbines will be located far to the east of Montauk, 30 miles offshore. The proposed port facilities include the Port of Coeymans, the Port of Albany, Port Jefferson, and the Arthur Kill Terminal. It is planned that the turbine tower components will be manufactured in the Albany region and barged down the Hudson. The developer will be the Danish company Orsted, partnered with Eversource Energy. This project will provide electricity to Long Island. (Orsted is also scheduled to build two other offshore wind projects — one off Massachusetts and one off Virginia. The three projects total 3,000 MW).

**The Empire Wind Project** area will generate about 816 MW of electricity that will be transmitted to NYC. Empire Wind is located centrally in the New York Bight, 14 miles off the western end of Jones Beach. Port facilities include the Port of Coeymans, South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, and Homeport Pier, with a proposed onshore substation at Gowanus, Brooklyn. It will provide electricity to NYC. The developer of this project will be the Norwegian company Equinor (formerly Statoil).

Map showing location of both wind projects:



### Some Reasons to Hope

Many of us have been despairing that time is running out for actions that may avert the worst of the climate crisis effects. We have decried the Trump administration's overt denial of the climate crisis, let alone its failure to act on addressing it. We were appalled that this administration has pulled our nation out of the international Paris climate accord, which intended to reduce greenhouse gases globally, and that it has actually encouraged more use of fossil fuels. We have been horrified to hear that Trump's administration has gone so far as to silence scientists at the EPA and prevent them from attending conferences or publishing data related to the climate crisis.

But the actions in NYS are a glimmer of hope that some in power get it. They see the train wreck coming and want to mitigate it while moving our economies and lifestyles into the 21st century reality. It is one (relatively) small step in the right direction, but a giant leap compared to the federal government's behavior. We must hope — and continue to act!

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## Book Review by Sarah Kennedy

I have a strong attachment to the Great Lakes. I grew up just a short drive from Lake Erie and during summers spent time on the beaches of Lake Michigan. More recently I have explored the wild shores of Lake Superior and have likewise wandered along Lakes Huron and Ontario.

*The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan is a fascinating chronicle of the history of the Great Lakes, and of human influence on these enormously important and beautiful bodies of fresh water. Most water on our planet is saltwater; with only about three percent freshwater. Approximately 20 percent of the freshwater available for use by people is contained in the Great Lakes. Standing on the shores, you feel as if you are looking at the ocean. In fact, I had a friend who visited and was wondering where he could get a tide chart. I have seen waves over twenty feet tall crashing over the house at the end of the pier in Grand Haven, MI.

This past winter a shipwreck last visible in 1974 was revealed close to the pier at the mouth of White Lake. It is now buried offshore as Lake Michigan has risen approximately 16 inches in the past year to levels seen only once before in recorded history back in 1986. Perhaps more surprising is the fact that the lake was at record low levels in 2013.

There is evidence that climate change is likely to cause faster and greater fluctuations in the lake levels from now on. People who live near the Great Lakes are currently grappling with what might be done to control or to mitigate these fluctuations, as well as looking to this history in order to see how their decisions going forward will inevitably have further unintended consequences. While some advocate for ways to engineer a way out of these massive fluctuations, others argue for "adaptive management."

Dan Egan examines various ways that humans affected the ecology of the Great Lakes. Massive engineering feats opened the Great Lakes to international shipping. There were tremendous unintended consequences that resulted as invasive species were introduced through the St. Lawrence Seaway. A river was reengineered in Chicago so that waste water would flow into the Mississippi River basin, rather than into Lake Michigan where it was contaminating drinking water. This book tells fascinating stories of the people who worked to address imbalances caused by these well-intentioned acts.

I found this book to be surprisingly relevant when considering our Hudson River and the issues currently being addressed through the work of the many environmental organizations based in the Hudson Valley, including our own. The Army Corps of Engineers is considering a number of options to address flooding caused by storm surges. I attended two local meetings to learn about their proposals. It will be critical for us all to learn about these projects and weigh in as decisions are being made. This book certainly helps to inform my thought on the subject. I would highly recommend it to everyone who is interested in working to protect our lakes and rivers.

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## Fundraising by David Friedman

Presented by Marie Caruso and Joanne Steele



**ANNUAL TAG SALE**  
All proceeds benefit our Mid-Hudson Group

Calling all Sierrans! Please Donate, Promote, Purchase, Volunteer, and Tell Your Friends and Neighbors About Our Tag Sale!

**Start gathering stuff!**  
Date: **Saturday, September 21st, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
Rain Date: Sunday, September 22nd, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Paula's Public House, 2146 New Hackensack Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 1.6 miles southeast of the intersection of Raymond Ave. & New Hackensack Rd. (Rt. 376)  
[View Map for Directions](#)

**Drop-Off:** This year we're renting a van to store things overnight, so items can be dropped off on Friday, September 20, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Paula's, or on the day of the sale, as early as possible after 7:00 am. If you can price your items beforehand (at bargain prices) or stay for a while to help sort and price items, that would be most helpful!

**Donate:** We are looking for donations of books, CD's, DVD's, toys with all the parts, hiking/camping equipment, sporting goods with some play left in them, tools, antiques, small furniture, kitchen items, usable glassware/ kitchen items, art, camera equipment, etc. Your items should be in good condition. Small electronics must be in good working order. Please, no large electronics! We'd love to have kayaks, canoes, bicycles and other quality sporting goods. Collectibles and antiques are very desirable as well. Items should be clean and dust-free. We do not sell clothing or shoes; please donate elsewhere.

**Early Drop-Off & Pick-Up Options:** If you or a friend absolutely cannot drop off your items on Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning, we do have a few volunteers who are willing to pick up and store items beforehand. To make arrangements, please contact:

- Joanne Steele** (845) 338-0300 (H) or (845) 339-7526 (C)
- Marie Caruso** [mariehwytk@gmail.com](mailto:mariehwytk@gmail.com), (845) 702-4521
- Bill Collier** [wappingersfalls.collier@acm.org](mailto:wappingersfalls.collier@acm.org)

**Promo:** Let your friends and family know about the sale. We have a poster on our website that you can download, print and post.

**Purchase:** Come to the sale and find great buys for yourself and others. The benefits are many — low prices, great selection, recycling goods, and helping your local Sierra Club meet the challenges of protecting our environment.

**Possible Rain Date Announcements:** If weather is iffy, check our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page, or Joanne's cell phone, (845) 339-7526, for rain date messages.

**Volunteer:** We can use your help! Can you spare 2 hours or more? We especially need some strong-bodied individuals who can help load the van from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday, 9/20, and unload it starting at 7:00 am on Saturday, 9/21. We'll also need help on Friday afternoon and early Saturday sorting and pricing items, and throughout the day on Saturday, including clean-up starting about 3:00 pm. If you can spare any time at all those days or prior to pick-ups and storage), please contact [Volunteer\\_Coordinator@MarieCaruso.com](mailto:Volunteer_Coordinator@MarieCaruso.com) or [mariehwytk@gmail.com](mailto:mariehwytk@gmail.com). (845) 684-7058 (H) or (845) 702-4521 (Cell; calls or text).

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### Make A Gift - Make A Difference

Our local group depends on the support of volunteers and the generosity of our membership. The work of the group takes Sierra Club volunteer effort, and of course funds. We hope that you will consider making a gift to the Mid-Hudson group of the Sierra Club. In these turbulent times it's vital that we all do what we can to speak out and work for the protection of our environment and the future of our world. We welcome and appreciate your support, and encourage you to consider providing financial support for our efforts. Our mailing address is at the bottom of this newsletter.

To speak about specific opportunities, or with any questions, please contact David Friedman, [Friedman.David@msn.com](mailto:Friedman.David@msn.com) or our Treasurer Ralph Pollard, [ralphpollard@verizon.net](mailto:ralphpollard@verizon.net).

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- Visit our [Mid-Hudson Group Website](#)
- Visit our [Facebook Page](#)
- Visit our [Meetup Website for Programs and Outings](#)

Contact us: