



Our hearts are heavy with the grief and pain that our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) members, friends, partners, and communities continue to experience as a result of systemic racism, [police brutality](#) and the [heightened risk from COVID-19](#).

Environmental issues [cannot be separated](#) from racial and social justice. We can't succeed in enlisting humanity in protecting the human and natural world while racism continues to divide us and inflict suffering. Sierra Club is on a journey to becoming a better ally and accomplice against racism. We commit to centering and uplifting the voices and experiences of BIPOC people.

## *Fresh Air*

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

Summer 2020 | Vol. 52 | Issue 2

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

### *In This Issue*

[Chair's Corner](#) | [Political](#) | [Conservation](#) | [Energy](#) | [Outings](#)  
[Book Review](#) | [Letters](#) | [Fundraising](#)

Because of differences in Email programs, the links above and "back to top" links below may not work.

### **Chair's Corner** by *Lalita Malik*

Over the last few months, COVID-19 has dominated the media and our lives. Life as we know it has changed drastically. The economy has been affected negatively and many of our neighbors are struggling financially with the impact of job losses and struggling with sick relatives and friends. Amid the doom and gloom, there is a silver lining. The environment.

With fewer cars and buses on the road air pollution has been significantly reduced. In cities people can see a clear sky and hear birds singing. In waterways, reduced motorized boats has led to the return of fish in clean waters. Mother nature hit a pause button to force us to see what we are doing to the environment. In spite of this proof that we human beings are causing a lot of damage to the environment, the climate change deniers continue to promote use of fossil fuel, spurn renewable energy sources and continue to remove environmental protections already in place that are working very well.

Your elected Sierra Club officers have been keeping tabs on what is going on and taking action when appropriate. We continue to fight for clean energy. New York is the first State which no longer has any coal burning plants. The battle to stop the **Danskammer Generating Station** in Newburgh continues. [[See Bob Heinemann's article on Danskammer in our Spring newsletter.](#)]

In the Catskills we are actively engaged with other organizations to stop construction of a concrete and steel plant that would destroy the peace and tranquility of the Bluestone Wild Forest. [[See Marie Caruso's update in the Conservation section of this newsletter.](#)] Elections

are just around the corner and our Political Committee has been busy interviewing candidates and endorsing the ones who will promote Sierra Club goals of conservation.

We barely emerged from the COVID 19 crisis when we found ourselves plunged deep into another crisis caused by racial divide. The brutal death of a black American at the hands of a white policeman has caused an uproar in the country to stop racial injustice. People have come out in droves to protest against this injustice. It reminds me of the time we marched across The Walkway Over the Hudson to demand action on climate change.

Are the two issues related? Is COVID-19 caused by what we have done to the environment? Should we actively get just as involved in stopping social injustice as we have been involved in protecting the environment? The answer is yes. The same economics and powers that disrespect the environment and destroy it to line their pockets, also disrespect people they think are less important than them and exploit them to add a few more billions to their bank accounts. Removing these people from office, reducing the use of products manufactured from fossil fuels, including electricity and gas for your cars is a good starting point.

Lessons learned from the events of the last few months are a wake up call. We human beings must change our behavior and treat the earth and our neighbors with respect and care.

[back to top](#)

**Political Corner** by *Alison White and Nancy Severns*

### **What's at Stake This Election Year**

Usually, in our Mid-Hudson Group newsletter, we try to address issues that are local to our geographical area ([Visit our website's "About Us" page to see our territory](#)). However, these are not usual times. It has been strikingly obvious over the past three-plus years that what happens at the highest levels of government affects each and every one of us.

The Trump administration's dismantling of federal environmental protections, catering to the fossil fuel industry, blocking climate action, silencing government scientists, defunding the CDC and quashing its messages to the public are just some of the many bad policy decisions that continue to impact our daily lives. We are fortunate, however, that in New York State measures have been taken to preserve our air and water quality, protect our health, and work towards combating climate change. This has happened because we elected responsible adults to serve us in state and local government. But state-level action cannot mitigate all of the anti-science policies of the federal government.

The 2020 election will be the most consequential election of our time, and not just for the presidency. This election will determine our ability to act against climate change before it's too late. We must elect responsible officials at all levels of government this November. The U.S. Senate elected in 2020 will almost certainly confirm the next Supreme Court Justice. The person you elect to represent you in Congress will either cast votes to protect our climate, our health, our air and water, or she/he won't.



### ***Voting by Mail***

It is imperative that we all vote in this election, that we urge everyone we know to confirm they are registered to vote, and that they have a plan for casting their ballot (by mail or in person). In the New York primary on June 23, every New Yorker can vote by mail. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Cuomo issued an executive order mandating that every New Yorker receive a postage-paid absentee ballot application. One must specify a reason for voting by mail and one of the allowable reasons is "temporary illness". Cuomo has expanded the definition of "temporary illness" to include "the potential for contraction of the COVID-19 virus". This executive order only applies to elections held on or before June 23, so a new order will be needed if the COVID-19 pandemic is still an issue in November.

## ***Early Voting***

Early voting this fall will make voting easier than in previous years. There will be nine days of early voting (including weekends) from October 26 to November 3. The Sierra Club has already endorsed several candidates (see Nancy Severns' article in this newsletter) and will be endorsing more. We will keep you informed! These candidates are thoroughly vetted for their commitment to supporting legislation that protects clean air and water, and moves us forward to fight climate change.



We can do more than vote, and if there was ever a time to get involved, it's now. If you would like to help get any of our local Sierra Club-endorsed candidates elected, please contact the Mid-Hudson Group Political Committee (email me, Alison White, at [abwsierra@gmail.com](mailto:abwsierra@gmail.com) or Nancy Severns, at [ng305@aol.com](mailto:ng305@aol.com)). Even if we are not knocking on doors this fall, we can help our candidates by making personal contact through phone-banking and letter-writing.

*Sierra Club Independent Action* has created the *Battleground States Initiative*, a massive grassroots program to contact voters in four battleground states which Donald Trump won by slim margins in 2016: Pennsylvania, Florida, Michigan and Arizona. Personal contacts to voters in these states will be made via targeted hand-written postcards, phone calls and text messages. Sierra Club, with its 3.8 million members and supporters, is positioned to run an effective operation. Volunteers are needed and this is a chance to make a real difference! [Read about it on Sierra Club's website and sign up to help.](#)

The Trump administration has used the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to relax enforcement of environmental protections, and has rolled back car emissions rules that are essential to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, the crisis could in fact offer some hope for climate action. In restarting the economy after the pandemic, the opportunity exists to accelerate the shift to renewable energy, stimulating and incentivizing the renewable energy sector and building out needed infrastructure. But the only chance to make progress towards a more sustainable future is to elect candidates who will advance the environmental agenda.

---

## **November 2020 Election Endorsements** *by Nancy Severns*

Your Mid-Hudson Group works to evaluate and submit candidates to our state's Atlantic Chapter for endorsement. Candidates are submitted to the Chapter after receiving a two-thirds vote from the Executive Committee of our Group. We base our decision based upon the candidates' response to a written questionnaire and an interview. Incumbent candidates can be endorsed based upon their voting record. U.S. Congressional candidates also follow this process and are then submitted to Sierra Club's national office for endorsement.

Our Mid-Hudson Group coverage area for membership is established by zip codes that do not necessarily match legislative districts. When a voting district crosses into another Sierra Club Group coverage area we work with the other Group in order to present a joint recommendation to the Atlantic Chapter.

A complete voter's guide summarizing all local candidates who have been submitted to, and endorsed by the Atlantic Chapter, will be issued prior to the election.

Thus far, the following candidates have been submitted and endorsed by the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club for the 2020 election.

*New York Assembly Districts:*  
103, Kevin Cahill  
106, Didi Barrett

*New York Senate Districts:*  
39, James Skoufis



42, Jen Metzger

The following candidate has been submitted and endorsed by the national Sierra Club.

*US Congressional District:*

NY19, Antonio Delgado

[back to top](#)

## Conservation Corner

### **Illegal Activities at Site of Proposed Concrete Plant in Catskills**

*by Marie Caruso*



Drone photos taken in April reveal an extensive accumulation of construction materials, trucks, and cranes stored on the premises of 850 Route 28 LLC, property surrounded by the Bluestone Wild Forest, one-quarter mile from Onteora Lake, and visible from the hiking trail along Pickerel Pond. This is the company owned by Tom Auringer which has a proposal before the Town of Kingston Planning Board to build a concrete slab and steel manufacturing plant on this property.

Your Mid-Hudson Group Executive Committee has dispatched a strongly-worded letter to State Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, asking for his intervention in this matter. There is no current permit allowing for this type of storage on the site, and the current zoning (Mixed-Use 2) does not allow it. [Click here to see our letter to Assemblyman Cahill.](#)

As of this writing, the town has taken no action to stop the violations at this site, though it has been called to their attention several times. This includes a recent complaint filed by a neighboring resident of the Town of Kingston, complaining of excessively loud noises emanating from the site, and alleging that it is being used as a truck repair garage as well as a storage yard for cranes and heavy equipment.

Our letter, authored largely by our Legislative Chair, Robert Heinemann, with edits suggested by a few others also stresses the need for a full environmental impact study (EIS) and a comprehensive SEQRA review to address the adverse impacts this proposed concrete plant is likely to have on the adjacent state lands and water bodies, natural features, recreational use, and tourism in the area.

The Town of Kingston Planning Board, which has yet to render a decision on whether to require the applicant to file a complete EIS, has just scheduled a public meeting via WebEx for Monday, June 15, at 7 pm. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and their inability to meet the public access requirements of state law, the Board has not met since January. Here's the legal notice for sign-in via telephone:

LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF KINGSTON  
NOTICE OF PLANNING BOARD MEETING

The Planning Board of the Town of Kingston will hold its next scheduled meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, June 15, 2020. The application of 850 Route 28, LLC will be discussed.

THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC HEARING, and no public comments will be allowed. A public hearing on this application will be held in the future, and will be duly noticed.

This meeting will be held via WebEx. All interested parties may attend the meeting by calling the telephone number as follows: 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 796 230 808 Password: 2345

BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING BOARD  
OF THE TOWN OF KINGSTON  
Dennis Weiss, Town Clerk

Although the public will not be allowed to speak at this meeting, it is hoped that a large turnout of listeners will demonstrate the public's continuing concern about the impacts of this massive industrial development upon the Catskill Park and spur the impetus for a rigorous environmental review.

In related news, our allies in this fight, Catskill Mountainkeeper and the Woodstock Land Conservancy, have retained legal counsel and are employing scientific expertise to demonstrate the ways in which this project may do irreparable harm to surrounding state lands and water bodies. Their staff, along with yours truly, have been meeting regularly via Zoom with the Bluestone Forest Citizens' Action Group to plan ways to combat the threats posed by this development.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Here's what you can do:

1. Sign up to attend the June 15 Planning Board meeting.
2. If you've not already done so, [sign the petition](#) calling for a rigorous environmental review of this project.
3. Go to the [Save Onteroa Lake](#) website to get further information and help support the fight.
4. [Read more about this issue in our last three newsletters.](#)
5. Send letters to the editor and contact elected officials to express your concerns about this threat to the Bluestone Wild Forest.

[back to top](#)

---

## Why We Should Care about Invasive Plants: Competition

by Nancy Severns

A native species is one that historically occurred in an area. Certain non-native species are called 'invasive' as they can cause the extinction of native plants and animals, reduce biodiversity, compete with native organisms for limited resources, and alter habitats. Invasive species have a significant effect on our natural resources, human health, and economy.

Allelopathic plants release a chemical which affects growth and reduces the seed germination of other plants. Allelopathy is a form of chemical competition. Competition is used by both plants and animals to assure a place in nature. The allelopathic plant is competing by interference.

Allelochemicals are released from live or dead plant tissues and accumulate in the soil. In one experiment, litter leachates from non-native species delayed and reduced germination and affected initial root growth of all native species studied. (Loydi et.al).

Allelopathy is often considered to be garlic mustard's most important mechanism of impact to native species. The sulfur containing compounds that garlic mustard produces may affect other species, both directly by inhibiting seed germination and growth, and indirectly by killing fungi that support root systems. Japanese stiltgrass also has allelopathic ability.



Garlic Mustard



Some native plants may have an allelopathic effect but more often we see the invasive plants suppressing the diversity of our native plants and trees. A well known native allelopathic species is the black walnut tree.

Invasive plant allelopathy plays a role in vegetation growth in our landscape and forest regeneration.

**Notes:**

Loydi, A. et.al., Non-native species litter reduces germination and growth of resident forbs and grasses: allelopathic, osmotic or mechanical effects?, *Biological Invasions* 17(2):581-595 • February 2015

New York Invasive Species Information, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 2019.s  
[Garlic Mustard](#)  
[Japanese Stiltgrass](#)



Japanese Stiltgrass

[back to top](#)

**Energy Corner by Nivo Rovedo**

On the topic of replacing fossil fuels with clean, green, renewable energy, a recent article in *The New York Times* caught my eye, It was entitled “In a First, Renewable Energy Is Poised to Eclipse Coal in U.S.”. Journalist Brad Plummer writes that despite Trump’s three year effort to boost coal’s viability as a source of electricity by loosening pollution and health regulations, “The United States is on track to produce more electricity this year from renewable power than from coal for the first time on record”. [Read the New York Times Article](#).

Ten years ago such a scenario seemed impossible. But market forces and the coronavirus pandemic are making this come true. With the economy shut down, electricity demand has dropped precipitously. “The cost of building large wind farms has declined more than 40 percent in that time, while solar costs have dropped more than 80 percent.”

Another factor is the cheaper cost of natural gas due to the fracking boom; many utilities have shut or plan to shutter coal plants as gas-fired plants replace them. This last factor, of course, is not an acceptable development in terms of climate change, despite gas not being as “dirty” as burning coal. Gas combustion emits greenhouse gases; moreover, its procurement releases methane through leaks in the delivery infrastructure. (Methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than CO2 though it is not as long-lived in the atmosphere.) And the fracking process to extract it causes more pollution.



“In just the first four and a half months of this year, America’s fleet of wind turbines, solar panels and hydroelectric dams have produced more electricity than coal on 90 separate days, shattering last year’s record of 38 days for the entire year. On May 1st in Texas, wind power alone supplied nearly three times as much electricity as coal did.” That is quite a remarkable statement.



For context, coal plants are expected to provide just 19% of the nation’s power (less than both nuclear power and renewable power) while gas plants provide about 38% of the nation’s power, Large scale battery storage technology has made large enough strides and cost declines that utilities are starting to realistically consider it in conjunction with renewable generation as a means to overcome the intermittency issue of renewables when the wind dies or the sun is obscured.

A solution to intermittency has been for utilities to turn on so-called gas-fired “peaker plants” to fill the gap if renewable supply is below the demand. Here is an example of storage making strides found in the New York Times article: Great River Energy, based in Minnesota, plans to close its huge 1.1 gigawatt Coal Creek Station coal plant in North Dakota by 2022, and replace it with 1.1 gigawatts of new wind capacity, a small amount of gas, and **battery storage**.



It is good news for the environment if we burn less coal in NY State. As of this year we will have no coal powered power plants. Thank goodness, because coal is such an incredibly dirty way to make electricity; from the mining scars it leaves on the land, to the slag, waste, and water pollution it causes; to the soot, mercury, and other toxic by-products it puts in the air. All this is in addition to the CO2 released which is causing devastation to our planet's natural systems. But we also have to give those workers whose livelihood has been in coal an option to transition to a new occupation, one that does not harm the environment or our health.

A federal infrastructure project that emphasizes clean, renewable energy generation and transmission, energy conservation and efficiency, and electrical grid resiliency would go a long way toward that goal. This would be a step forward for our nation into the modern, cleaner, greener 21st century economy.

While coal may be becoming less of a factor in damaging the environment (at least in the U.S. as China and India still burn it extensively), natural gas is a challenge. Although it is not as polluting as coal, gas still contributes to our climate crisis with all the greenhouse gases it dumps into the atmosphere. We must wean the world off that fossil fuel as well.

The expansion of gas distribution pipelines must be opposed, because once in place, they make it more difficult to transition to renewable energy sources. A gas company will spend a lot of money on a pipeline and will look for a long-term return on their investment by encouraging gas consumption and fighting attempts to replace it with renewables. This is what is expected to happen if we allow the Danskammer power plant to be augmented as a gas-fired plant. The developers say they need more gas pipelines to feed the plant, and once those are in, the owners will want to sell more gas and discourage any competing renewably sourced power.

A recent webinar on the role of energy storage sponsored by New Yorkers for Clean Power indicated how far battery storage coupled with renewable energy generation has come. One of the presenters speaking on the topic of residential and small scale commercial battery back-up gave a compelling comparison: about 10 years ago a typical installation for a household would cost \$25K, involve about 8 large lead acid batteries weighing in aggregate of some 1,500 lbs., with a functionally limited energy controller; now a Tesla Powerwall system occupies 1/4 the space, is 1/5 the weight, 1/2 the cost, 5X the lifetime, and has a power management system with enormous flexibility and user-friendliness.

Similar to the situation with renewable generation, the cost of storage is coming down. Although still pricey, the new systems are finding wider acceptance as homeowners and businesses with solar panels would like to be able to continue to use the power generated from the panels when the grid goes down (in a power outage the panels shut down for safety purposes).

Unlike gasoline or propane back-up generators, the battery system is silent and has no polluting exhaust. It can be programmed to optimize the value of the energy in cases where utilities charge more or less during certain hours of the day. So stay tuned on this development: just as solar generation cost decreases have made this energy source more pervasive, a similar trend in battery storage may help it make inroads both in the residential and in utility-scale regime.

Let me leave you with a bit of "pie in the sky" (somewhat metaphorically): in *PV Magazine USA*, there was an article in which Jean Haggerty writes about some analysis done by Ramez Naam, "a clean energy investor and expert in disruptive energy technologies". [Read the article](#).

Using data from the USA, India, and China, Naam says, "Every time the cumulative amount of solar we've deployed around the world has doubled, the price of electricity from utility-scale solar plants has dropped by a fairly consistent percentage." At its core is the notion that this "learning-by-doing" phenomenon results from the combination of technology innovation itself and "innovation that reduces the amount of labor, time, energy and raw materials needed to produce the technology".

His conclusion: "According to his research, the price of solar electricity from utility-scale solar systems drops about 30.5 to 40% with each doubling of cumulative solar deployment. Using the more conservative 30% learning per doubling rate to plot solar prices forward as a function of cumulative solar scale, the price of solar declines should get to a penny or two in the next 10 to 15 years." **That's a penny or two per kiloWatt-hour!** Okay, it sounds too good to be true, so he could be mistaken. But his analysis indicates the sun could indeed turn out to be our pie in the sky—and wouldn't that be sweet?

[back to top](#)

## Outings Corner by Andy Moss

COVID-19 restrictions have made it a challenge to find opportunities to get outdoors. Your best bet is to visit the websites of locations you are interested in to find out what recreation options are available and what restrictions are in force. This applies to local, State and national parks as well as our local recreation areas. Here are a few links to get you started. There are many other sources of information to be found if you do an online search. You should call ahead for the most up-to-the-minute information if you find a phone number is available.



[National Park Service](#)  
[New York State Parks](#)  
[New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)  
[Scenic Hudson](#)  
[Travel Hudson Valley](#)

## **Tourism by County**

[Duchess](#)  
[Ulster](#)  
[Orange](#)  
[Greene](#)  
[Delaware](#)  
[Columbia](#)

[back to top](#)

### Book Review by Sarah Kennedy

I attended several classes focused on Environmental Issues in the Hudson Valley during the past few semesters in Vassar College's Lifelong Learning Institute. Most recently, I took Harvey Flad's class called The Hudson River: Changing Human Impact. The recommended class reading was *Embattled River: The Hudson and Modern American Environmentalism* by David Schuyler. It is a fascinating account of various efforts undertaken to clean up the Hudson River, which had fallen into a pitiful state by the 1960's. There are chapters about the genesis of many organizations, including Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper and the Clearwater. Some of these local groups engendered global organizations. I met with Harvey Flad, professor emeritus from Vassar College, to discuss this book.

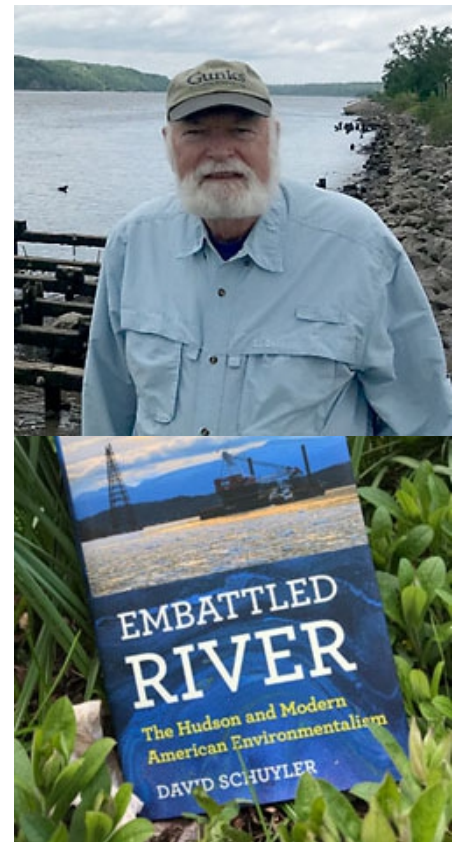
The book begins with the tale of the protracted battle to keep Consolidated Edison from putting in a pumped-storage power plant at Storm King Mountain as proposed in 1962. The primary citizen group that spearheaded this effort was to become Scenic Hudson, which to this day remains an effective environmental group based in the Hudson Valley.

The ensuing fight took decades, but in the end Storm King Mountain was protected. Harvey Flad provided me with the following quote which succinctly explains the significance of the strategy used by Scenic Hudson and a coalition of citizen groups, and of the decision regarding this case. This is from an essay he wrote titled "The Influence of the Hudson River School of Art in the Preservation of the River, its Natural and Cultural Landscape, and the Evolution of Environmental Law," in the volume *Environmental History of the Hudson River* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2011):

"Two of the court's rulings would further strengthen environmental law. The court held that environmental concern extended to natural and scenic beauty and the historical fabric, not only to the economic cost of a project. The court also held that citizen groups had the legal right, or "standing," even if they did not have a direct economic interest, to challenge the potential environmental impacts of proposed construction, and that alternatives must be presented. These features were then incorporated into the nation's most important environmental legislation, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969." (p.299)

The group of environmental groups which banded together in the effort to protect Storm King, included the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club was also mentioned as a partner in other efforts to preserve and protect our Hudson River Valley, including their support by way of another lawsuit for a group of fishermen who would become Riverkeeper. It is heartening to learn that Sierra Club was a partner in many of these efforts and has deep roots in the local environmental scene.

Harvey Flad and I also discussed his testimony in opposition to a proposal that a nuclear power plant be sited at Cementon, which lies in the viewshed of Olana. Flad brought a fresh perspective when developing his argument, stating that aesthetics, visual impact, and impact on the cultural landscape should be given serious consideration when making decisions on such projects.





He used a painting that Frederick Church had done from the Olana hillside during winter to argue that the view was culturally significant. He then used mathematical modeling to superimpose a pen and ink drawing on a photo of the cooling tower and plume that would extend for five miles should the plant be built. This made clear that building a nuclear power plant in Cementon would have had a profound and very long term impact on the view from Olana as well as from the Catskills. As a result of his testimony regarding Olana, the concept of visual impact analysis was solidified, and became a requirement of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR).

Harvey Flad was involved in other fights to preserve the Hudson River Valley which are also chronicled in this book. One in particular was how he assisted in mounting a successful defense against a nuclear power plant which would have been built on land adjacent to the Burroughs Sanctuary in Ulster County. This would have been an eyesore, visible from all along the eastern shore of the Hudson, as well as from the ridges of Mohonk Preserve. It is painful to imagine what effect a nuclear power plant there would have had on this region over the long term.

Reading about the protracted battles fought in order to protect and preserve the Hudson River is inspiring. It also fills me with gratitude for those who dedicated so much time and effort to these tasks. Without them, it is painful to imagine what might have been: a greatly degraded Storm King Mountain, a river more like a cesspool, or permanently marred views along the Hudson.

Upon reading this book we can think about what techniques worked to protect the environment over the past 60 years. Strategies that include the formation of alliances among various environmental groups coupled with the engagement of ordinary citizens continue to be employed today in the hopes we too will be successful in the long run.

The stories told here make clear that bringing different perspectives to bear on various issues is genuinely helpful. These stories also serve to remind us how important it is to take the long view, and shrug off occasional feelings of impatience, frustration, or hopelessness. Our dogged engagement with the issues we face today, such as work to preserve the Bluestone Forest, to stop excessive anchorages for barges along the Hudson, and to address issues such as climate change to give just a few examples, will likely be of great importance to those who will be here long after us.

### ***Additional Resources***

In speaking with Harvey Flad I learned that he and David Schuyler collaborated over the course of several years to put together the exhibit shown at the New York Historical Society Museum & Library called “Hudson Rising”. [Click here](#) for a virtual tour of the 2019 exhibit, and for links to many important resources for people interested in the Hudson Valley.

[back to top](#)

### **Letters from our Members**

*Editor's note:* Send us a letter about issues that are important to you—whether local, state or national. Please submit your letter to our Newsletter Editor: Andy Moss, at [and@hvi.net](mailto:and@hvi.net). Our submission schedule is posted at the bottom of our website's [Newsletters](#) page. We will consider letters of up to 250 words. Your letter will be published in the next newsletter upon review and acceptance by the editor. Subjects should focus on Sierra Club areas of interest: conservation, environmental protection, political action, climate change, getting outdoors, etc. Visit the [Sierra Club](#), [Atlantic Chapter](#), or [Mid-Hudson Group](#) website to learn more about where we stand.

### **Fundraising by David Friedman**

#### **No Tag Sale This Year**

by Marie Caruso

It seems our annual tag sale event has run out of steam.

Given that neither Joanne Steele nor I wish to continue running the event, no one else seems interested in organizing it, and the uncertainty of future Covid-19 precautions, we have decided to forego the tag sale this year. We are grateful to the many volunteers who have devoted so much time and energy to this event over the years—a few of whom, myself included, have participated since our Group's first tag sale nearly 40 years ago.

We were desperate at that time to raise money to fund our lawsuit against the Palisades Interstate Park Commission for amending the conservation easement they held on the Lake Minnewaska property, so Marriott could build their proposed 400-room hotel and 300-condominium resort. We had many great allies during that eight-year fight. I remember Al Smiley being there; polishing up, on site, a beautiful wood stove he had donated out of gratitude for our efforts to save the lake his grandfather had once owned. So, I hope you'll forgive me for being a bit sentimental about this event!

But times have changed. Customers have been scarce the past few years—in part, perhaps, because there seem to be so many tag sales occurring these days. With all the charitable sales, second-hand stores, thrift shops, etc. around, there are many ways people can donate items, and we hope Sierrans will continue to do so. Reduce, reuse, and recycle, and keep on keeping those usable but no-longer-needed items out of the waste stream!

---

#### ***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).

[back to top](#)

---

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

Contact us:

**Email:** [midhudsonsierra@twc.com](mailto:midhudsonsierra@twc.com)

**Mail:** Mid-Hudson Sierra Club, PO Box 1012, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602

You can find the names of our Executive Committee members on our website:

[Go to our Contact page](#)

If you no longer wish to receive our Newsletter by email you can unsubscribe by sending an email request to Dave Thomas at [dave@davidalexanderthomas.com](mailto:dave@davidalexanderthomas.com).