



Fresh Air

Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

Winter 2003

Volume 35, Issue 4

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We **URGENTLY** need help for our **Barnes & Noble Fundraising Day** on **SUNDAY DECEMBER 14**. If you like to **giftwrap** books and can do **9AM to 2PM**, please call (255-5528) or email Bibi

(bibis@juno.com) with your choice of hours so we can do this nice fundraiser where we get to keep donations from the Poughkeepsie store customers. We need to have **2 volunteers at all times from 9AM to 11PM**; Bibi will do 2-11pm, but she needs our help!

HOLIDAY & CREATIVE GIFT SWAP PARTY

Hosted by Ronnie Brown in Newburgh, New York

Saturday, December 20, 2003, 7:30 PM

Please bring a beverage or munchie for the refreshment table **AND A WRAPPED GIFT THAT YOU HAVE MADE** for the cut throat gift swap.

Space is limited so please RSVP (required) before 12/17/03:
(845) 565-6329 or
ronniebrown@juno.com

From the Group Chair's Corner

by Bibi Sandstrom

BALLOT TIME: As always, we have 3 board positions to fill each year for the next 3-year term. We have **MARJORIE RUSSELL** and Professor **PHIL EHRENSAFT** willing to run, but we need more board members, especially as long-time member **JIM MAYS** is stepping down so as to continue his hard work at the national level. If you can attend monthly board meetings in New Paltz and have email feel free to write in your own name. *Help maintain your local group; being a member of the executive committee takes a lot of time and energy but is vital to our survival!*

Speaking of vital to our survival: we need a new **TAG SALE CHAIR** for 2004; after many years of work, **JANET SABATINO** is stepping down. Janet, as usual, did a stellar job this year despite nail-biting worries a week earlier as to whether the hurricane would ruin all our plans! Instead, it was a lovely day, and thanks go to Janet and each and every one of those of you who helped. From what I hear from my husband (the last-minute truckdriver and table-fetcher because it is so hard to find volunteers for that), the early morning mob scene is intense! Even if I were the kind of person who gets up instead of going to bed at 8am, it sounds as if I wouldn't be able to handle it, so thanks to those who did!! Thanks also to those who donated or bought items. (We still have some lovely leftover items - those interested in tea sets, ceramic plates, or a towel-warmer should contact me.)

THANKS also to **WINNIE MAIER, MARLA BASTONE, MYRNA ROSS, MARIE CARUSO,** and **ELISE VIOLA**, who each helped out at festivals this summer/fall. Thanks also to anyone who bought a wall or desk calendar from us - we also have plenty left, so please contact me if you'd like one. We're selling them for \$10, which is a lot less than in the stores! *(Continued on page 2)*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY DEC 14 - Volunteers needed for Sierra Day at Barnes & Noble; pick a shift between 9am and 11pm! Contact Bibi for further information.

SATURDAY DEC 20 - Holiday Party at Ronnie Brown's.

WEDNESDAY DEC 31 - deadline for voting!

SUNDAY FEB 1, 2004 - next newsletter deadline.

NO THIRD WEDNESDAY SPEAKER SOCIALS UNTIL APRIL!

EARTH DAY: will team up with Hudson Valley Humanists with an Overpopulation Rally in New Paltz.

From the Group Chair's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

2003 RECAP:

*Two Tours and one new Fundraiser with Hinchey (see spring/summer issues);

*Second Annual Summer **PICNIC** at Fred Schaeffer's (thanks, Fred, for the food, location, and perfect weather!);

*First **HIKEATHON**; thanks to leaders Peter Ford & Roberta Clements!

***Board decided to accept ADS** (contact editor for rates); board also worked on bylaws, and created local candidate political questionnaire, which led to:

***ENDORSEMENTS** made in local races: Gardiner "Save the Ridge" slate; Nancy Cozean, Poughkeepsie Mayor; Toni Hokanson & Kathleen Healey, New Paltz Town Board; Susan Zimet, Ulster County legislature (NP); Alan Lomita & Manna Jo Greene, Ulster Co/Rosendale. All were winners with the very sad (and very close!) exception of Manna Jo Greene.

***Another successful Tag Sale**; lovely newsletters by new editor Laurie Treacy;

***Waldenbooks Coupon Book Fairs** saving you 10% & getting us 10%;

***Tables for first time** at Taste of New Paltz, Dutchess County Fair, & Beacon Sloop's Pumpkin Fest;

***20 responses** to "will receive newsletter via email" (*out of 2000 members? And only 250 addresses for event notices... how about the rest of you?*)

***Much work** on Awosting Reserve and other issues by new Conservation Chair, Roberta Clements; and the:

2003 SPEAKER SOCIALS:

We started, as mentioned in the summer issue, with learning about Clean Elections from Gene Fischer. In May, Frank Morris, President of Profits Without Pollution, came up from NYC to tell us of his information site "EcologicInvestor.com", which anyone can visit: business-ess who are looking for investment money, and investors looking for business proposals.

In June, Chet Mirsky and Dave Porter told us how Wal-Mart was defeated from building on the Route 299 aquifer in the mid-nineties, and how it was the first disapproval-finding statement in the history of Ulster County. We learned sobering details such as how the law is subordinate to politics, and that determinations are often very subjective, which makes it hard to keep protecting this source of Grade AA water.

In October, we saw incredible views and maps of the endangered Shawangunk Ridge area, thanks to Dorothy Jessup, and learned of the great amount of activism by leaders Amy

Little, Keith LaBudde, and Ajax Greene.

FUNDS & THE FUTURE:

We're thinking of having a **Silent Auction** in the spring. Let us know if you can give **advice**, or **Nice Items** or find donations from restaurants, stores, etc., and if such an event would be of interest. **Monetary donations always appreciated** at POB 1012, Po'k, 12602. Got other fundraising ideas? Or interested in being Fundraising Chair? Or...

*****NO TAG SALE CHAIR - NO TAG SALE; NO TAG SALE - NO GROUP!*****

As reported above, Janet Sabatino is stepping down as the official Tag Sale Chair after many years of service. While our Annual Tag Sale does not cover all our expenses for the year, it is our one major fundraiser, and without a chair, we'll lose the \$900 that we usually depend on each year, and thus the ability to keep our Group going. If you can step into Janet's wonderful shoes and do the all-important volunteer coordinating/day-of-sale work, **PLEASE** contact me!

MANY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

For the past 2 years I've been operating as Chair, Program Chair, Publicity Chair, Fundraising Chair, emailer, Acting Secretary, and this year the Acting Membership Chair. I'm still doing ok so far, but, if you yearn to arrange Speaker Socials, or to send out publicity, or to take charge of fundraising, or will promise to mail out monthly welcome letters, do contact ye Chair.... Festival sitters, hike leaders, volunteer coordinators, event reporters, emergency labellers, and more are also all highly desired - but a **TAG SALE CHAIR** is vital!

END-TO-END ENDURANCE CHALLENGE SCHEDULED FOR 2004

The Taconic Hiking Club of Troy, NY announces this long-standing 29-mile hike on the Taconic Crest Trail will be held on Saturday, May 8. Registration is limited to the first 25 people; contact Colin Campbell (518) 438-9629 or holesinhead@aol.com for more info.

GENERAL "FRESH AIR" SCHEDULE:

please take note of this for deadlines of submissions & ads
Deadline/hoped-for arrival/months covered:

Feb 1st; 3/1; Mar-Apr-May

May 1st; 6/1; Jun-Jul-Aug

Aug 1st; 9/1; Sep-Oct-Nov

Nov 1st; 12/1; Dec-Jan-Feb

**Check our website for up-to-date info:
newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson**

CONSERVATION CORNER by Roberta Clements

We are getting closer and closer to putting a final end to the Awosting Reserve Development proposal in Gardiner. With our successful endorsements in local elections, candidates Carl Zatz, Nadine Lemmon, Matt Bialecki, and Tracy Bartels have established a majority vote on the Gardiner Town Board and an addition to the environmental voice in the Ulster county legislature.

The Sierra Club is a member of the recently formed Shawangunk Ridge Coalition whose mission is to advocate for the preservation of the entire ridge from Stone Ridge and Rosendale all the way South to New Jersey.

With this coalition in place we might preserve this pristine region as parkland for all to enjoy! In addition to involvement in the Awosting Reserve issue the SRC is addressing the proposed Shawanga and Ellenville Casinos and a huge apartment/condominium development at the southern edge of the Ridge. The Shawangunk Ridge retains importance for preserving endangered species, preserving vital sources of drinking water, and maintaining the priceless balance of the ecosystem that keeps us all alive and well.

Our First Mid-Hudson Hike-A-Thon received quite a

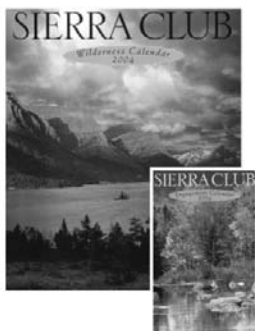
response in the way of hiker interest but the torrential rains kept all but the bravest hearts snug at home! Thanks to all of those who were able to contribute their pledges despite the wash out! We look forward to an even greater response next year!

For those who are regular readers of the Poughkeepsie Journal you may have noticed an editorial series related to the prevalence of groundwater pollution in Dutchess County. County Legislator Marge Horton has proposed a law that ensures comprehensive water testing for chemicals that cause serious health risks each time a home is sold. Her proposal was the result of an ongoing federal and state investigation of almost 350 homes in Hopewell Junction, some of whose wells are polluted with the cancer-causing chemicals TCA & TCE. The Sierra Club has not taken an official position on this issue but the Mid-Hudson Group is researching how we might take on a more active role.

For more information or To Get Involved...

Call Roberta Clements at 532-6400 or e-mail rac137@juno.com.

Make your voice heard with continued letters to the newspapers and our local representatives.



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