



## New Hampshire Sierra Club

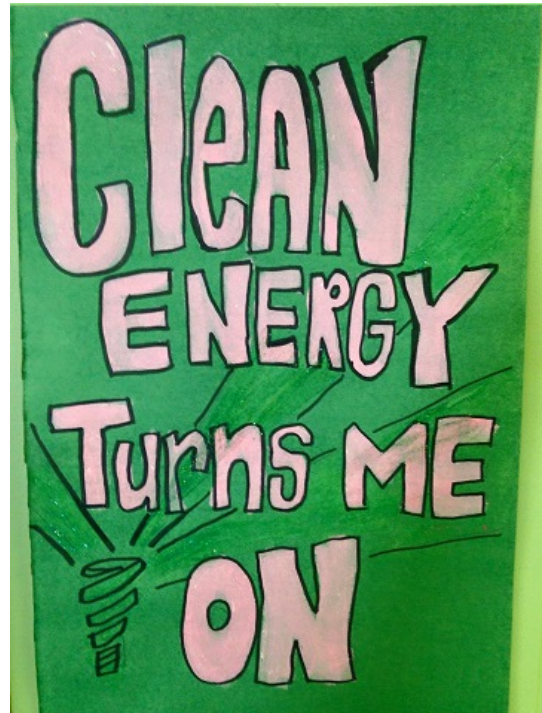
### The Engaged Sierran

#### Celebrating Our Successes

**Kinder Morgan Cancels Pipeline Plans** - On April 20, Kinder Morgan announced it was suspending plans to build a gas pipeline in southern New Hampshire. The proposed project would have extended from Wright, NY, to Dracut, Mass., with more than 70 miles located in our state.

The New Hampshire Chapter of the Sierra Club came out against the pipeline in June 2015, citing, among other concerns, that the overall plan ignored formalized goals for fuel diversity in New England, and didn't fit established regional and state energy policies.

We would like to recognize and thank all of the volunteers and organizers who spent significant time, effort, and grief opposing NED. Your determination will be needed again for the next time. Together, we can look forward to a clean energy future for New Hampshire!



**Bobcat Hunting Proposal Withdrawn** - Last month, we told you that the The NH Fish and Game Commission recently voted to open a hunting and trapping bobcat season, the first in more than 20 years. We're thrilled to share the news that this proposal was defeated. On April 13, the Union Leader announced the state Fish and Game Department withdrew its proposal to allow bobcat hunting and trapping in New Hampshire. The decision came two weeks after the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR), objected to some aspects of the proposal.

Thank you to all of our supporters who spoke out against the proposal!

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#### Acknowledging Disappointments: Mt. Sunapee State Park

The trail to protecting Mt Sunapee State Park is long and full of unexpected detours. March and April proved no different, except that the path got much steeper. The New Hampshire Chapter has long supported keeping the ski operations the same in the public park, but the operator has had different ideas, including a proposal years ago expanding trails east, taking over more park land. After years of suing the state, the operator was officially turned down by former Governor Lynch. The litigation over finer points continued in the state courts and, in the final decision, the state lost, giving the ski operators the break they wanted. The court decided that the ski operations could go as far as the park boundary to the west toward Goshen, where the operators owned the abutting property.

A draft plan was developed to allow ski operations in this untouched area in 2014. This area described as the West Bowl is true pristine wilderness - on

this state owned public land live some of the oldest forests in the state, and definitely in Sullivan and Hillsborough Counties. By their nature, the habitats are unique and rare in New Hampshire and we are lucky to have them on public land. The plan proposed last year would add a new chairlift, new ski trails, new lodge, a roller coaster, more parking and new amenities.



Rally for Mt. Sunapee in front of the State House, Concord, NH - March 2016

At the public hearing in May 2015, the opposition, including the New Hampshire Chapter of the Sierra Club (NHSC) and the Friends of Mount Sunapee (FOMS), spoke of these rare forests, the vague lease agreement, the financial risks to the state, "the pay as you play" promotion of the ski operations, the condo development plans, the past 18 years of economic stagnation in Sullivan County and the anger people feel about having their public land and resources taken away by a private for-profit corporation. We stood 3 to 1 against the plan in May 2015 and provided over 2,000 petition signatures to the state agency.

And for a while it was quiet. But a year later, on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 2016, the final plan with new lease amendments was released, and the state agency wanted Governor Hassan and the five-member Executive Council to vote on it in five days.

NHSC and FOMS demanded a time extension and we got it. Governor Hassan and the council agreed to give the plan and new lease amendments two more weeks for review.

During that time we called, met with the decision makers, and then called them again. Many of you made calls and helped raise the issue in the media. There were more than 40 letters to the editor, opinion pieces and news stories published in local and statewide media. People even came to the state house in Concord to show support for the state park.

NHSC and FOMS asked Councilor Chris Sununu to recognize his conflict of interest with the vote and asked him to recuse himself. Mr. Sununu owns a significant interest in another private ski operation in the state, making public perception suspicious of his motives. He did recuse himself, two days before the vote.

The governor took up the ski expansion lease amendments on April 6, and the four remaining executive councilors voted 3-1 in favor of the expansion. Only Councilor Colin Van Ostern voted against it. The others, including Governor Hassan, applauded the vote and were confident it would mean future economic successes for the area.

You all did a great job, and thank you! NHSC will continue to oppose the expansion of the ski operations. We are working with FOMS to recalibrate our compasses to find the new path that will protect Mt Sunapee State Park and our entire state park system. We will need your financial help and volunteer time in ways we have never needed before. I personally ask for your patience and generosity for the many requests, calls, and emails you will be receiving. It will be hard for all of us, but Mt Sunapee State Park and all of our public lands are under the chainsaw. It must be stopped.

Please email me if you would like to help: [Catherine.corkery@sierraclub.org](mailto:Catherine.corkery@sierraclub.org).

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## Exploring the Earth: Upcoming Outings

A number of outings are coming up throughout the state. [Check our website](#) for the latest listings!

### **Sunday, May 8 - North Pack Monadnock**

Greenfield, NH

We will climb North Pack Monadnock (2276'), looping from the east via Ted's and Carolyn's Trails and the Cliff Trail. Much of the route is in the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. Many outstanding views. 5.9 miles, with 1350' elevation gain. Moderate.

### **Sunday, May 29 - Ashuelot Headwaters Forest**

Lempster, NH

Explore the Forest Society's Ashuelot Headwaters Forest. We will climb Silver Mountain (2160'), with good views, then visit lovely Sand and Long Ponds. 3-4 miles, with ~700' elevation gain. Moderate.

### **Monday, May 30 - Burnt Rock Mountain**

North Fayston, VT

For Memorial Day we climb Burnt Rock Mountain (3168') via Hedgehog Brook and Long Trails. Good views. 5.2 miles, with 1950' elevation gain. Moderate.

Contact Outings Leader Peter Hope at 603-863-6456 or [phope@worldpath.net](mailto:phope@worldpath.net) if you are interested in joining us!

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### **New Environmental Program on NHPR**

You might want to check out this new offering from NHPR about the environment and all things outdoors. Five shows will be broadcast this season, starting on April 22. Listen at 3 pm Friday, 2 pm Saturday, 10 pm Sunday, and online at [NHPR.org](http://NHPR.org).

Outside/In is a show about the natural world and how we use it. Sam Evans-Brown combines solid reporting and long-form narrative storytelling to bring the outdoors to you wherever you are. You don't have to be a whitewater kayaker, an obsessive composter, or a conservation biologist to love Outside/In. It's a show for anyone who has ever been outdoors. In short, it's a show for \*almost\* everyone.



Learn more on the program's website, <http://www.outsideinradio.com>  
Follow Outside/In on Twitter: [@OutsideInRadio](https://twitter.com/OutsideInRadio)

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### **In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb**

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped us reach our fundraising goal last March -- our goal was \$11,000 and *we made it!* The annual March fundraiser is the only month of the year when we directly contact all of you, our membership. We also tried something a little different this time with our end-of-the-month match. The match started on March 28, and for every dollar that was donated, it was matched with a donation made by the New Hampshire Chapter Executive Committee and the Chapter Leaders, a group of members who gave donations of \$200 or more.

Thank you again to all of you who participated, and thank you to the New Hampshire Chapter Executive Committee for their hard work and commitment to the chapter.

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### **This DOES Change Everything**

On Saturday, April 16, we had a great turnout at Red River Theatres for the film showing of *This Changes Everything*. It is an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change. Directed by Avi Lewis, and inspired by Naomi Klein's international non-fiction bestseller of the same name, the film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond.

Congratulations to Donna Reardon of Concord, who won our door prize: the AMC's *White Mountains*

## Earth Day Clean-Up A Success



Intrepid NH Sierra Club Members hunted (and found!) plenty of trash at the Riverland Conservation land and beach area in Canterbury this Earth Day Saturday. A mutual admiration society was formed, as a number of Canterbury residents and Conservation Commission folk were on hand clearing invasive plants and encouraging us! Thanks to all who came out on this very nice day to help tidy up this important area. Particular thanks to Kelly Short and Patrice Rache of Canterbury, for setting up the collaboration with the town.

Extra credit goes to Matt, our New Hampshire Chapter intern, for bringing two abandoned beach chairs and half a cinder block all the way back to the parking lot on his bicycle. We haven't figured out how he did that yet!

Pictured above are Linda, Patrice, Fran, Gail, Steve, Ann and Mark, with Matt kneeling in front. Left are Marta and her daughter Katie, with an Arctic polar bear, who came when he heard we were serving raspberry bars.

## It Has Been a Pleasure

Fundraising is something that many people don't like to do, but I do. I started consulting with the New Hampshire Chapter of the Sierra Club back in May 2015. The goal that was given to me was to strengthen the fundraising, membership and volunteer programs within the chapter. I believe that over the past year, we have done that; we were able to meet or exceed all the goals that were established. I am thrilled to have seen how the New Hampshire Chapter has grown! However, there is still more to do. The work that I have started is really only the beginning and the chapter still needs your help.

To me, fundraising is making dreams come true, and I have

been lucky enough to help the New Hampshire Chapter get closer to funding our dream of clean energy. It has been a pleasure working with the chapter, and I look forward to contributing as a volunteer in the future.

*Amanda Gourgue*

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### **Volunteers Needed - That's You!**

**Concord Market Days** is not far away, and we need volunteers to staff our table! Three days of great weather and great people who stop by to learn more about what we're about. Come and join us at the table for a 2 hour shift June 23, 24, and 25. Contact us at [NHSC603@gmail.com](mailto:NHSC603@gmail.com) or give the office a call at 224-8222.



### **Conservation Committee Meeting: You're Invited**

Thursday, May 19 | 5:30-7pm  
NH Chapter Office, 40 N. Main St., Concord (above the Works Cafe)

This committee discusses the big environmental issues the chapter is tackling. Our current priorities are Northern Pass, Mount Sunapee State Park protection, and Northeast Energy Direct. Email us at [NHSC603@gmail.com](mailto:NHSC603@gmail.com) if you can attend.

### **Looking for Candidates for State Office**

Candidate Boot Camp May 14-15

The best way to make our government reflect our environmental and progressive priorities is to elect environmental and progressive candidates - like YOU! From town clerk to executive council, state representative and state senator - you can make a difference in New Hampshire. And we want to help. Candidate Boot Camp is scheduled for May 14-15, from 9-5 each day. You will:

- Learn how to recruit, train and retain volunteers
- Learn how to engage others with a powerful message
- Learn how to talk to the right voters at the right time
- Learn how to fundraise & write a budget for your campaign

Register online: <http://bit.do/avbootcamp>.

Cost: In order to cover the overhead cost for materials, faculty and meals the cost per person is \$50. If for some reason you cannot afford the \$50 registration fee, please contact our friends at America Votes Paula Hodges, America NH Votes State Director, at [phodges@americavotes.org](mailto:phodges@americavotes.org) or (603) 361-2685.

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### **Sierra Club In the News**

Supreme Court Critical for Climate Solutions: This editorial, written by Chapter Director Cathy Corkery, appeared in the Laconia Citizen on March 31, 2016. Read the editorial [on our website](#).

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[Become a member today](#), and support our efforts to explore, enjoy, and protect our Earth!

**SAVE THE PLANET & SOME GREEN.**  
JOIN AND ENJOY NEW MEMBER BENEFITS





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