



Iroquois Messenger

ACTION CHECKLIST

ALASKAN OIL

- Read the column on page 2
- Call your US Senator to protest drilling for oil in the Wildlife Preserve. Capitol switchboard 202-224-3121 or you can call their NY State office.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Read the column on page 2
- Write to Pataki and your representatives to protest the transfer of \$100 million from the Environmental Protection Account to the General Fund and to tell them you think our environmental programs are already underfunded.

TRASH BURNING

- Read the column on page 2
- Contact Carl Johnson
- Request that your state senator vote for Senate Bill 3772
- Call the Attorney General's Environmental Protection Bureau 518-474-8096 to request the pamphlet "Stop Backyard Burning"

LIVING IN THE SHAWANGUNK NATURE PRESERVE

People for Animal Rights (PAR) and the Iroquois Group of the Sierra Club are sponsoring a special program by Peggy Spencer and Tim Behrendt at the Liverpool Public Library on Monday, April 29 at 7 p.m. The couple will use music and slides to recount life in the Shawangunk Nature Preserve in the Adirondack Mountains.

Tim and Peggy live in a tiny house and have left most of the preserve in its natural state, protecting wildlife from hunting, trapping and fishing. They have composting toilets, garden organically, use no pesticides and invite people to stay at the preserve.

Peggy has organized Harp and Harmony, an ensemble, which has recorded four cassettes using solar energy. She will play the harp and piano, accompanied by recorded sounds of nature.

Come and meet this remarkable couple! Free and open to the public.

PESTICIDES, PEOPLE AND PETS

Are we poisoning ourselves? Our Pets? Our Environment? On Tuesday, May 21, at 7:30 PM the Iroquois Group will present two speakers who, in their medical practices, have seen the effects of pesticides on people and pets. Dr. Michael Wolfson is an occupational and environmental medicine specialist. Dr. Peter Kraai is a veterinarian. A question and answer period will follow their presentation.

This program will interest asthmatics, gardeners, birders, parents, teachers and of course all people and pets. It will be held at the Westcott community Center, corner of Euclid and Westcott in Syracuse. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. Information: 492-4745

ACTION CONTACTS

Your Senator
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

Your Assembly Member
New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 12248

Governor George E. Pataki
The State Capitol
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

Carl Johnson, Dep Comm
Off. Air & Waste Mangmt
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1010
518-402-8549

ENVIRONMENTAL DIGEST

LOCAL

SEWAGE PLANT UPDATE

Since the City refused to sell land at Midland Ave. to the county for a sewage treatment plant, the deadline has been extended and weekly talks continue among DEC, Syracuse, the county, the neighborhood, the Onondaga Nation and Atlantic States Legal Foundation. The latest plan will change the treatment plant into 3 storage sites. The County doesn't like this proposal as it may be more expensive.

The Nation and neighborhood want an alternative disinfectant to chlorine such as ozone, proposed by the engineering firm Ensource. DEC said it may not approve ozone as it is an unproven technology and is more dangerous than chlorine. One of the smaller plants could possibly use the ozone process as a demonstration model and be retrofitted if did not work. Even with the extended deadline, the solution seems out-of-reach.

STATE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND

The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is New York's only source of money to purchase open space, create parks and fund municipal recycling programs. The EPF also helps to preserve the Albany Pine Bush, the Long Island Pine Barrens, provide access to our waterfronts, identify habitat for endangered species, control run-off of animal waste from farms.

Governor Pataki's recent budget proposal includes a proposal for the EPF appropriation to include \$28 million in programs that used to be funded by the state's general revenue fund. It also proposes to transfer

\$100 million from the EPF Account to the General Fund. In other words the EPF is bailing out the budget.

New York can ill afford to cuts in environmental spending, as it already spends less per-capita on environmental protection than any other state. See the Institute for Southern Studies evaluation at <www.southernstudies.org>.

TRASH BURNING LAW

The United Nations Environmental Program is working to eliminate or reduce the dirty dozen of Persistent Organic Pollutants, of which dioxins and furans are two. Research shows that both may contribute to many health problems. The Environmental Protection Agency has identified uncontrolled trash burning as a major source of dioxin. Yet New York has not banned backyard burning.

Less than half of New York State is protected by DEC regulations: only areas with high population densities where people do not burn their waste. In rural, regions it is legal for residents to burn waste and nearly a third of the population does — including plastic meat trays, paper, diapers, furniture, tires, and everything combustible.

Farmers produce so much non-recyclable waste that they rely on burning to reduce their solid waste expenses. The resulting pollutants are then consumed by grazing animals through leaf deposition. We in turn ingest meat and dairy products that have accumulated dioxins and other fat-soluble pollutants.

New York DEC officials and legislators are aware that trash burning is a health and environmen-

tal problem, but are unwilling to amend existing regulations or push for legislation until more people request changes. Carl Johnson, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Air and Waste Management, wants to hear from those who support amendments to DEC regulations parts 211, 191 and 215, or who want the Senate to pass Bill 3772, which would help the DEC enforce trash burning laws.

NATIONAL

ALASKA DRILLING

According to a new US Geological Survey report, opening Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling could harm caribou, snow geese and other wildlife. Yet the Bush administration assures us that oil exploration would have little impact. The remote refuge stretches over 19 million acres and holds up to 16 billion barrels of oil. Drilling would destroy "America's Serengeti" and would not yield much oil for many years. Life is harsh in the arctic; additional stress from drilling activity would reduce survival rates.

The Teamsters support Arctic drilling, saying it would create jobs, even though *more* jobs would be created with alternate technologies.. Interior Secretary Gale Norton said Iraqi threats to embargo oil require seeking more oil within USA.

That threat sent alternative-energy stocks higher on April 2. For example Latham-based fuel-cell maker Plug Power Inc., closed up 10% on heavy trading. Environmentalists say the administration has not paid enough attention to emerging-energy sources.

The Senate votes on April 11.

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Tree Huggers,

First, to new members: if you got a welcome letter from Midge, our Membership Chair, inviting you to an Excom meeting on Wednesday, April 17, **it has been changed to Tuesday, April 16**. We welcome you!

What a busy spring: Chapter meeting here on April 13, Satellite event on May 1, Onondaga Lake Partnership event on June 8. **We can use all the help you're willing to give us to pull things together.** Call me: 492-4745.

Iroquois Group will host the April 13 Atlantic Chapter Executive Committee meeting, focusing on the Onondaga Lake cleanup. The Forestry School, Atlantic States, Partnership for Onondaga Creek and Jeanne Shenandoah will present the concerns of their groups. Members may come to see, listen and eat. **Lunch will be \$10.00 to raise funds** for a church in the proposed Treatment Plant neighborhood.

If you would like to be notified of **last-minute changes in Sierra Club events**, please e-mail me, and

write "Sierra Updates" in the subject line. If you're interested in last-minute calls to action — where you can make a difference by calling or writing a politician — e-mail Linda DeStefano and write "Sierra Alerts" in the subject line.

The National Sierra Club has created a "Care for America" action kit for Earth Day, and other outreach events. They come in packages of 500, so we have plenty! Kit includes bumper stickers, postcards, and information on increasing energy efficiency, reducing waste, and participating in the voting process. If you know of an event where these would be useful, call or e-mail me and I will see that you get some. Kits will arrive around April 12, and the latest order date is May 22. Planning a *huge* event before Labor Day? Contact <ryan.silva@sierraclub.org> or phone 415-977-5536 to ask for kits in multiples of 500.

Some of you may remember that we visited an old-growth oak grove

in N. Syracuse with the Central New York Old Growth Forest Association. The group is running a workshop on Sat May 4 at Green Lakes where there are trees from 300 to 400 years old. Details in the Calendar.

The Iroquois Group continues to walk to Rome with our leader and Erie Canal buff, Ken Showalter of Central New York Parks. To date we have gone 19.5 miles — 14 to go!

New feature: check out our website at <<http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois/index.htm>>

For the earth and all its critters
Martha Loew

SATELLITE FORUM

An Iroquois first! On May 1, 2002 from 1:00-3:00 PM, we will participate in a **country-wide** Satellite Forum entitled *Communities: Setting Trends in Waste Prevention and Recycling*. Sponsored by: USEPA Office of Solid Waste, USEPA Wastewise Program, National Recycling Coalition Inc.

This is a live event that is "uplinked" via satellite to sites all over USA. A toll-free phone connection allows the audience to call in with questions and comments.

The target audience is waste-prevention, recycling and facilities managers in Onondaga County but we will save seats for Sierrans. Contact Martha Loew before April 22 for a reservation: 315-492-4745 or <marthaloew@usadatanet.net>. Sierrans who attend will be "hosts" to help things go smoothly.

HUD is at 128 East Jefferson St., Syracuse. We may be able to videotape the event and show it at a later date. Of course no questions and answers. The HUD satellite site is listed at <<http://www.epa.gov/wastewise/wwsf>>.

IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACTS

SIERRA CLUB — IROQUOIS GROUP
PO Box 182
JAMESVILLE, NY 13078

Executive Committee

Chair	Martha Loew	492-4745
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Secretary	Tasha Cooper	446-3750
Treasurer	Lynn Senke	676-5560
	senkela@juno.com	
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	debbys@dreamscape.com	

Committee Chairs

Fund Raising	Daniel Jezer	446-4942
	jezer@ix.netcom.com	
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General Meetings are at Westcott Community Center 826 Euclid Avenue, usually on fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 PM (with exceptions), and are open to the public. **ExComm meetings** are for **Sierra members only**, at the **Jamesville Train Station** in Jamesville Plaza at the corner of Route 173 and Jamesville Road on third Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Have a special item you would like to discuss? Please attend. **Event info: 492-4745, unless otherwise listed.** CPF = Council of Park Friends.

- Apr 13 Saturday, 10 AM-5 PM: Sierra **Atlantic Chapter** ExCom. South Presbyterian Church, S. Salina & Colvin Ave., Syracuse. Program: Onondaga Lake cleanup. **Lunch is \$10.00.**
- Apr 20 Saturday, 1-5 PM: NYPIRG Celebrates Earth Day in Thornden Park.
- Apr 21 Sunday, 2:00 PM: Nature Walk at Clark Reservation. Look for spring flowers and migratory birds. CPF Meet at Nature Center.
- Apr 27 Saturday, 9 AM-noon: Earth Day, celebrated in towns and villages with cleanup, recycling, and party! Check your city or town for events.
- Apr 29 **Monday, 7 PM: Joint program with PAR, Liverpool library. See p 1**
- May 1 Wednesday, noon to 3:00 PM: Satellite video-conference on Recycling and Waste Reduction at HUD (page 3). Reservations: 492-4745

- May 4 Saturday, 10 AM: Erie Canal Walk to Rome # 9. Meet at intersection of North Court Street and Canal Road. Drive out Route 5 past Canastota and turn left on North Court. Walk either 2 miles out to Cobb St. or 3 miles to Route 316. Leader, Ken Showalter.
- May 4 Saturday, 9 AM-4:30 PM: Old Growth Forests Workshop at Green Lakes State Park. Learn to search and document ancient forests in our area. Call: Tom 452-0805, Bob 458-7473
- May 11 Saturday, 10 AM: Erie Canal Walk #10
- May 12 Sunday, 2:00 PM: Annual Mothers Day walk on Mildred Faust Trail at Clark Reservation. Experience spring and the newest trail. CPF
- May 15 Wednesday, 7:30 PM Iroquois Excom
- May 18 Saturday, 9:00 AM to ?: Southwick State Park. See below. Carpool: 492-4745
- May 21 **Tuesday, 7:30 PM: Iroquois Program. Pesticides, People and Pets. See page 1.**
- Jun 1 Saturday 10 AM: Erie Canal Walk #11.
- Jun 8 Saturday, time TBA: Onondaga Lake Partnership will host a fun and education day at the Lake. <<http://www.onlakepartners.org>>
- Jun 15 Saturday, 10 AM: Erie Canal Walk #12.
- Jun 15-16 Saturday, Sunday: weekend conference for Atlantic Chapter location TBA.
- June 22 Saturday, 10 AM Erie Canal Walk #13.

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BEACH CLEANUP

The Annual Beach Cleanup at Lake Ontario is always a fun event and the weather seems to cooperate.

Meet at Selkirk State Park between about 9 AM at the beach on May 18. Take Route 3 off I-81 to Selkirk State Park and drive to the end of the campground (beach), where we meet the park ranger and Rich

Slingerland. Dress for a cool breeze and bring gloves. Bags are furnished and will be picked up by the Parks Department the next day.

If water cleanup by canoe interests you call Larry Keefe of the Ka-Na-Wa-Ke Canoe Club at 463-9782 to see if anyone needs a partner. This cleanup identifies large objects for the Parks to pick up.

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