



IROQUOIS MESSENGER

IROQUOIS GROUP INFORMATION

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**IROQUOIS MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED
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& NOVEMBER. SUBMIT ARTICLES BY
THE 20TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH:
SIERRA.DEB@VERIZON.NET
SUBJECT LINE MUST BEGIN WITH IM-**

VOLUNTEER – CORPORATE CHALLENGE

Now in its 26th year, the Corporate Challenge Race at Onondaga Lake Park has become *the* corporate social event of the season in Central New York. Every year JPMorgan Chase makes a donation from each entry fee — about 7000 expected in 2006 — to local not-for-profit organizations.

Sierra-Iroquois' affiliation with the race has a shorter history but important goals. The race is our opportunity for community service. We show that it's possible to recycle containers at large public events. We also raise awareness of Sierra Club and funds for our group. **But we need your help!**

The Race is Tuesday, August 1, starting at 4PM. If you can help, please contact Lisa Daly by July 15 at 428-1384 or email: ldaly@yahoo.com.

Volunteers will receive parking passes, official race T-shirts, Sierra Club T-shirts and hats, a brown bag supper and good feelings. Even if you can spare only an hour please let us know. We will be happy to put you to work!

More at: http://www.jpmorganchasecc.com/events.php?city_id=13

200-MILE POWER LINE

New York State Regional Interconnect is a private developer that has applied to the Public Service Commission for a permit to build a 200-mile power line from Canada to Orange County. It would run through New York counties of Madison, Oneida, Orange, Sullivan, Delaware, Chenango, Broome, and Herkimer.

The business catalyst is excess hydro generating power in Canada. A consumer need hasn't been established. The project was withdrawn in 2003, but the new industry-friendly U.S. Energy Policy Act has revived it. Private property would be taken by eminent domain.

Since the Iroquois Group is in these areas, the Iroquois Executive Committee reviewed the impact of 110-foot tall towers running through small communities, farmlands, Nine Mile Swamp, the Delaware River Valley, the Neversink River, the Shawangunk Ridge and other DEC preserves. The ExCom decided to adopt a resolution opposing NYRI. Other Groups have adopted similar resolutions and the Chapter will also consider doing so.

If you are an Iroquoian in an affected area and have information to share about this project, please write the Messenger Editor at < Sierra.deb@verizon.net >. Begin the subject with "IM-". Read the resolution at the Iroquois web site and click on NYRI info for details.

ENVIRONMENTAL DIGEST

LOCAL

PESTICIDE NEIGHBORHOOD NOTIFICATION

Once again the County Legislature failed to pass the PNN legislation and the commercial lawn care companies prevailed. The only good news is that there is much more information on pesticide hazards in the hands of each legislator. Applause to all who worked so relentlessly.

ONONDAGA CREEK REVITALIZATION

The Onondaga Creek Revitalization Plan (OGRP) Project attracted 50-90 people at each of four Community Forums in April: in the Valley, Southside, Downtown, and LaFayette. The project will use their ideas to develop a community-based revitalization plan for the Onondaga Creek watershed. There will be three more forums in July at the Onondaga Nation School, Clary Middle School, and the Southwest Community Center. Information is at www.esf.edu/onondagacreek/.

The public also generated ideas at community events such as Water Precious Water Ceremony, FOCUS Link Expo, Onondaga Lake Day, and the Sierra/pENNY Environmental Forum.

On June 7th the OGRP Working Group attended a presentation by Robin Chanay: "Stream Restoration as a Cornerstone of Urban Revitalization." Ms Chanay is an expert in building community partnerships to improve watershed health. She supports the efforts to revitalize Onondaga Creek.

STATE

BIGGER BETTER BOTTLE BILL

An alliance of environmental and community groups have worked all spring on another round of "Bigger Better Bottle Bill" in the state legislature. The good news: it passed the assembly with a bipartisan vote of 92-45. There is large support for this bill. But, once again, the Senate Majority Leader, Joseph Bruno, refused to allow it on the floor for a vote. The bill is S1290.

SPITZER'S TAX PLAN

On June 12, in Saratoga springs, Eliot Spitzer proposed boosting revenue by \$180 million in the first year by expanding the bottle bill to include non-carbonated drinks and a provision for the state to keep unclaimed deposits.

SOLAR AT THE FORUM

Syracuse may not be San Diego but, when it comes to solar power, it doesn't have to be. On May 31, at the annual Sierra Club/PENNY Environmental Forum, Gay Canough of ETM Solar Works (etmsolar.com) explained some technical aspects and economics of solar energy. Having worked as a physicist in NASA's space program, Gay's decades of experience gave weight to her explanations of solar hype and reality.

Gay told us that solar panels

- ⊙ Don't have to face south to capture power.
- ⊙ Don't need a perfect roof pitch
- ⊙ Can look like roof shingles
- ⊙ Last for decades

She also said that solar installations can

- ⊙ Be expensive even with temporary incentives and reduced costs
- ⊙ Be more practical for air conditioning than for heating
- ⊙ Reduce you electric bill to \$0 with net metering

Her first recommendation was to conserve energy before adding solar. Gay summed up with the observation that enough sun falls on New York in a day to provide power for a year.

Elsewhere in the room, environmental and community groups competed politely for space, using all the available tables and spilling over to an open area near the refreshments. The "dot board" survey at the Onondaga Environmental Institute display showed how simple, inexpensive props can turn an ordinary exhibit into an interactive one and draw a larger audience. It continually attracted people from the crowd that milled among the exhibits, happy to be surrounded by others who shared their interests.

Iroquois Group plans to continue this annual forum, since it provides mutual support for organizations that are committed to learning and teaching about preserving the Earth's environment.

BOOK REVIEW

BY SAM SAGE

INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE UPPER MIDWEST: AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THEIR IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL BY ELIZABETH J. CZARAPATA

Are garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed taking over your property? What about common buckthorn or purple loosestrife? Those are just four of the most invasive alien plants that have taken over more and more of our meadows, woodlands, and wetlands in the Northeast. Elizabeth Czarapata has given us a concise identification guide to them. Her territory is the Upper Midwest but most of the damaging species occur here as well.

The book also provides the latest information on control – eradication is just a dream. Some of these plants were uninvited immigrants but many of them were brought to this country for a reason. The worst reason being for ornamental gardening. Some of us have tried to get laws passed prohibiting invasive plants from being sold in nurseries and for making better information available to gardeners about our concerns. Unfortunately, too many are still sold to the unwary.

As spring changes into summer, have a good time gardening. Plant natives where possible. But if you want exotics, demand proper identification and find out if the plant can become a pest – in your yard, in your neighbors' and in the wild lands around you. Ms. Czarapata's book can help you in your endeavors.

NERC FALL CONFERENCE

When: September 29 - October 1, 2006

Location: Pocono Environmental Education Center

<http://www.peec.org/>

Contact: Mary Anne Jaffe

<mary.anne.jaffe@sierraclub.org>

The NERC annual conference brings activists together to discuss environmental challenges and strategize solutions. It is an opportunity to learn about timely environmental issues and network with fellow activists.

This year's conference will focus on Energy and its relationship with other major Sierra Club Campaigns — Wildlands Legacy and Healthy Communities — and a Vision for the Northeast. We will explore tactics used by and resources available to Sierra Club members.

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

If you're looking for ideas for your "Freedom Lawn" — freedom from your mower, that is — there's a new place to go to see a work in progress.

Plant CNY, a group of native plant enthusiasts, is building a garden for the council of Park Friends in front of the Nature Center at Clark Reservation on Rte 173 in Jamesville. The garden contains only native plants, trees and shrubs that grow within the park. When finished it will have a keyed identification map to help you decide on plant material for your own native plant garden.

The group spent a morning drawing up the plan and plant list in record time; an afternoon toiling to till up the sod, contour and mulch the garden; and an afternoon digging holes and placing plants in their assigned locations. Volunteers continue to visit 4 times a week to weed, water and check on plant survival. A second planting session is planned for June.

Right now the project is a lot of work, because the shade trees don't yet provide the right habitat for shade-loving and wetland plants. Once the garden matures, however, it will be more interesting looking and almost carefree.

TELL SIERRA

Where do you want to go? What do you want to do?

Being avowed outdoors people Sierra members surely know of some great places to visit in Central New York — places that have special meaning but that our group hasn't visited. Or maybe we did a long time ago... If there is a spot that you love — park, trail, historic site, that you would like to recommend as an outing for the Iroquois Group — please tell us about it. If you'd like to lead an outing, that would be a special bonus.

We're looking for topics for our indoor meetings, too. We've had programs about energy, vegetarianism, conservation, food, members travels, global warming, whooping cranes, raising chickens, and that's not all. Let us know what environmentally relevant topic you'd like to hear about. Suggest a speaker or even offer to present a program yourself.

Email the editor sierra.deb@verizon.net.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Indoor and Outdoor Sierra Club educational programs encourage us to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet, and are **free and open to the public**.

ExCom meetings are for Sierra members only on second Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, at the **Train Station** in Jamesville Plaza, corner of Route 173 and Jamesville Road. Come and bring your ideas. 492-4745.

For event **updates or cancellations**, join Yahoo! and subscribe to our notification service at this URL:
IroquoisSierraClub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

INDOORS

Indoor programs are held the **last** Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM, downstairs at University United Methodist Church (UUMC), 1085 E. Genesee St. Park and enter on University Ave. Information 492-4745.

<http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois/index.htm>

INCONVENIENT TRUTH – JUNE/JULY

You can't miss Al Gore's blockbuster documentary about global warming! Call Westcott Theater for showings, 479-9911. *Inconvenient Truth* broke the all-time record for any documentary movie in history.

ExCom — Wednesday, June 27, 7:30 PM

ExCom — Wednesday, September 13, 7:30 PM

ATLANTIC CHAPTER MEETING – SEPTEMBER 16

The Iroquois Group will host the Atlantic Chapter Meeting to be held from 10AM to 6PM on September 16, at the Firehouse in Jamesville. This is an opportunity to attend a Chapter meeting with 11 diverse groups and learn what it's like to govern a large state chapter. You'll meet lots of dedicated Sierrans. Come at any time. Lunch will be \$10.00.

STEVE BRECHIN – SEPTEMBER 27

How is public information about climate change brought to light? How does that influence our attitudes? Does it affect people differently? Steven Brechin will share some interesting data about this topic. Steve is professor of sociology with interests in environment, natural resources and complex formal organizations. He is also interested in the social consequences and strategies related to biodiversity conservation.

OUTDOORS

Outdoor programs are usually on Sundays at 2 PM at interesting locations in the Iroquois Group area. Information and cancellations: 492-4745.

CANOE BEAVER LAKE – AUGUST 10

Join us on Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30PM, for a guided tour around the Beaver Lake canoe trail. Look for beaver, herons, turtles and wood ducks. No canoeing experience required. Cost \$2-\$8 (pay at the event), depending on the number of participants. Use Beaver Lake's boats or bring your own. Sign up and arrange for carpooling with Adina Mulliken: 428-1905 or amullike@syr.edu. In case of heavy rain, call Adina to be sure the event is still on.

Directions From I-81 or I-90: Take I-690 W (changes to N at NYS Thruway) to second Baldwinsville exit: 370 W. Proceed west on Rte. 370, 2 miles, turn right onto E. Mud Lake Rd.

STONE QUARRY ART PARK – SEPTEMBER TBA

Tasha Cooper (446-3750) will lead an outing to the link trail in Cazenovia and Stone Quarry Art Park. If you join the meeting notification group at Yahoo! we'll send you an automatic update on this outing. **IroquoisSierraClub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**.



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