



IROQUOIS MESSENGER

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Sierra Club and People's Environmental Network of New York will convene a Forum on

Wednesday, May 30 from 6 to 9 PM

**University United Methodist Church
1085 E.Genesee Street, Syracuse**

Here's where we meet like-minded environmentalists to share ideas and information about available resources. We've done what we can with the small things: we hang our wash, we've caulked and we've changed our incandescent bulbs to fluorescents. We want to do more!

BEYOND FLUORESCENTS CREATING CARBON-FREE COMFORT

John D. Manning, PE, President of Earth Sensitive Solutions. LLC, is a LEED Accredited Professional specializing in alternative energy solutions. He has installed geothermal projects locally and around the world for homes, hospitals, schools, and office buildings at existing and new structures. We will learn how combinations of technologies can eliminate greenhouse gases.

Mike Wells of TrueNorth is a contractor who builds LEED certified homes. He will talk about new construction techniques and new techniques available to "tighten" up an older home. There is more to energy efficiency than insulation and thermal windows. Learn about R-values, air infiltration and heat distribution.

Forum Schedule

6 PM — doors open
6:10 — networking and exhibits
7:00 — speakers: **John Manning, Mike Wells**
8:15 — question time
8:45 — take down tables for 9:00 PM close.

Table space is free but limited, so RSVP by May 21, to reserve space for your organization. Individual signups are also accepted.

Martha Loew: mloew@twcny.rr.com or 492-4745
Vicki Baker: vbaker002@twcny.rr.com or 492-5347
FORUM — PO Box 182, Jamesville, NY 13078

IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACT INFO

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

<http://newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois>

Co-Chairs	Martha Loew	492-4745
	mloew@twcnny.rr.com	
	Tasha Cooper	446-3750
	tasha.cooper@gmail.com	
Vice-Chair	Linda DeStefano	488-2140
	linpar@twtabbies.org	
Secretary	Rocki Malamud	446-7823
	rowenamalamud@mac.com	
Treasurer	Lynn Senke	676-5560
	lynn@syracusebanana.com	
Newsletter	Debby Shanahan	446-1273
	debbys@verizon.net	
Conservation	Martha Loew	492-4745
	mloew@twcnny.rr.com	
Membership	Rebecca Paul	436-4103
	rebeapa33@yahoo.com	
Outings	OPEN	
Political	Rhea Jezer	727-0123
	jezer@ix.netcom.com	
	Martin Sage	472-4977
	mlsage@syr.edu	
Program	OPEN	
Publicity	OPEN	
Special Projects	Lisa Daly	428-1384
	ldaly@yahoo.com	
	Debra DeSocio	329-0196
	ddesocio@twcnny.rr.com	
	David Kapell	
	david.kapell@windstream.net	
	Adina Mulliken	428-1905
	pepperballmeow@yahoo.com	
	Rich Slingerland	298-3130
	Scott Webster	446-3640
Webmaster	sigmaun@netscape.net	

IROQUOIS MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED
MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, & DECEMBER.
SUBMIT ARTICLES BY THE 20TH OF THE
PRECEDING MONTH:
SIERRA.DEB@VERIZON.NET
SUBJECT LINE MUST BEGIN WITH IM

Did you know...

The gold for a single gold ring leaves at least 18 tons of mine waste loaded with cyanide and heavy metals.

ENVIRONMENTAL DIGEST

COAL GASIFICATION — JAMESVILLE

Details of this proposed project were on the front page of the last *Messenger*.

Update:

- Both the Iroquois Group and the Atlantic Chapter have passed resolutions opposing the project.
- Over 120 people attended a community meeting April 29 to learn about it.
- DEC is now the lead agency
- Sierra will be meeting with the new State Commissioner, Pete Grannis, on June 4.
- Project may take 2 years to get through all the required steps.
- Public meetings will be held in Dewitt. Check our website for dates and times. Also check townofdewitt.com for filed applications for Synfuel.

SPRING READING

Recommended by an Iroquois Group member: *This Land: The Battle Over Sprawl and the Future of America*, by Anthony Flint, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006.

WE NEED CHAPTER AT-LARGE DELEGATES

Have you ever considered participating in Sierra Club at the state level and traveling to different parts of New York for quarterly Chapter meetings? If so, submit your name to the nominating committee for At-Large delegates. The term is for 2 years. Meetings are Saturdays, usually 10-5. All expenses paid. Regulations follow:

"Any Chapter member who requests to run in the election and so advises the Nominating Committee by July 13 shall be informed on or before July 20 whether he or she is being nominated by the Committee. After July 20, the Nominating Committee may designate additional nominated candidates at its discretion. The last day for the submission of petitions and ballot statements for all candidates shall be August 10."

Send request to be nominated to
Jamesmlane@aol.com

STEP IT UP 2007

This "child" of Bill McKibben and the Internet is over but hopefully still resonating throughout the country. Over 1500 events were held in all 50 states.

The Iroquois Group held a "gathering" at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church on Sunday April 15. We heard community leaders talk about what needs to be done. Participants wrote personal "eco-pledges."

Thanks to John and Janet Allen, Rev. Peter Schidemantle, Betsey Keck, and two clowns, Patricia Kimm and Maggie Reid, who kept things moving.

National photos are at stepitup2007.org. Enter 13214 for photos of our gathering by Lisa Daly and Debby Shanahan.

HANGING LAUNDRY

Not only have the days of laundry flapping in the breeze gone by because of convenient automatic dryers, outdoor drying has also been outlawed in many places. To counter such moves and to educate people about the environmental benefits of fresh-air drying, Project Laundry List has set up a web site: <http://laundrylist.org/index2.htm>

Did you know...

Modern detergents do not need hot water to create clean clothes. Cold will do just fine.

CALENDARS — THANKS!

Thanks to all who helped support the Iroquois Group by buying desk and wall calendars directly from us. These sales are a very important source of revenue. The photos remind you year-round of the beautiful environment we work to preserve.

Thanks to Lynn Senke, Betsey Keck, and Patricia Kimm for their help in these sales.

2008 calendars will go on sale in October, so get your list ready now.

50-YEARS IN SIERRA CLUB

Mary Gates, a 50-year member of Sierra Club wrote an interesting memoir of her activities in the club. Here's an excerpt. Visit our web site to read the full text. <<http://newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois>>

"...In order to join the Sierra Club in those days you had to have two sponsors to write a statement about your character. We drank the water and cooked on open fires. There was no prohibition on consumption of alcohol. We always had happy hour before dinner and a sing-along during the evening. From May to November we did not need tents. We just put our bags on plastic and a tarp over us to keep our bags dry from condensation. Sometimes we had individual or group commissaries when we might have steaks for dinner. These trips were deluxe. The backcountry of Yosemite was not so much used.

At that time the Monterey Peninsula SCers belong to the San Jose Loma Prieta Chapter, but in the early sixties Monterey formed its own Ventana (Window) Chapter. We had easy, moderate and difficult day hikes and backpack trips and canoe-kayaking. Sometimes I was the only woman backpacker to places like King's Canyon and Sequoia. A friend asked if I was worried about sleeping next to all of those men. I replied that I would rather sleep next to a man I knew than a bear I didn't...

One of my favorite winter hikes with SC was a ski hike with skins on the bottom of our skis. We went from Badger Pass (6,800 feet) to Ostrander Lake (over 10,000 feet.) Mary Curry Tressider liked this excursion and used to go on a private trip in a snowmobile every winter when she was quite elderly. She sent in a couple from the Curry Company as cooks and caretakers of half of the federal cabin. It cost \$15 for a cot with clean sheets and blankets, a hot drink on arrival, a huge dinner, a lumberjack breakfast and a packed lunch for the return downhill trip back to the Badger. Mary Curry married Donald Tressider, President of Stanford. This union was great for both the Sierra Club and Stanford University.

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SIERRA CLUB NEEDS YOU

1) Publicity Chair: We need somebody who is willing to keep contact lists up to date and send out press releases. You don't need to write them, just help us get the word out.

2) Program suggestions: Do you know of local parks, trails, sidewalks, fun places to walk? Interesting speakers? We need suggestions for indoor and outdoor programs and a Program Chair.

3) We have too little contact with members in the Utica/Rome area and Watertown area. We need a volunteer from each area to send us environmental tidbits about what's going on: good news and stuff that might rile us up.

4) Read any good environmental books? We welcome your suggestions and your reviews in the *Messenger* (150 words or less).

Email Martha Loew <mloew@twcny.rr.com> or Tasha Cooper: <tasha.cooper@gmail.com> if you can help with any of the 4 items.

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- ***Did you know...***
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- Now is the right time to weed garlic mustard, before it blooms.
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Continued from left

Joining the Sierra Club opened the doors to the kind of outdoor life that I had never dreamed of in my wildest fantasies. I met such wonderful people from all walks of life. In our Ventana backpack group we had a surgeon and a hod carrier, just to show the wide range. I learned the basics of rock climbing from Dave Eichorn, who was in the first group to scale El Capitan in Yosemite. I learned how to belay, rappel, and chimney climb. Knowing these simple techniques has been useful and has given me confidence.

I am also impressed by the part Sierra Club has played in promoting conservation and the expansion of the wild lands of the USA. Sierra Club is the largest private recreational and conservationist organization in the world and I am proud to be a member."

ENERGY TALK

While many Sierrans understand the dangers of continuing on our current course of energy use, their family and friends may not be on board. So how can they educate in a convincing manner while reducing the chances of the dialog escalating to anger? How do we talk about energy? Well, above all, don't harangue. Try to address our common values:

Patriotism is a great feeling. People are willing to work harder and accept some sacrifices for the benefit of the **independence and security** of good old USA. They just have to be reminded how energy efficiency or conservation will release our dependence on unstable foreign countries and make us safer.

Be enthusiastic. Americans don't believe we are doomed by global warming. They relish a **chance to turn the tide** with immediate action and inventiveness.

Mention all the new jobs from expanding **new energy solutions**. Too many people talk about the cost of change but forget that those costs pay for new jobs and industries, leading to a healthy economy.

We all need to be part of the solution to the challenges that face us: individuals, communities, business and industry, and all levels of government. Your conversations are sure to turn to ideas for Scout, school or service group community projects where you or your children get involved.

There's no point in making political enemies. Solutions to our energy problems will rely on science, money, and cooperation. This is an issue that can unite us all, no matter what our political persuasion. And if we're not scientists or don't have money, at least we can discuss our ideas with others and what we've learned about solutions.

Ask what kinds of changes they think we might make. People's common sense tells them that if we don't change direction, we can't reach a solution. They're just not sure where to go and how fast to move.

Don't forget: we want to ensure a bright future for children everywhere. That's a good way to explain the urgency to others.

SUMMER EVENTS

Indoor and Outdoor Sierra Club educational programs encourage us to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet — FREE & OPEN TO ALL.

ExCom meetings — Sierra members only — on second Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. Locations vary. Call 492-4745 Come and bring your ideas.

INDOORS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM — MAY 30

This is our only summer indoor event, but it's a biggie, scheduled for Wednesday, 6 PM to 9 PM. See page 1.

OUTDOORS

Outdoor programs are usually on Sundays at 2 PM at various interesting locations.

WILDFLOWER WALK — MAY 20

On Sunday, May 20 we'll meet at 2 PM at the Native Plant Garden in front of the Nature Center in Clark Reservation. Afterward, we'll walk for about an hour on the easy Mildred Faust Trail and identify Spring wildflowers. Leader: Debby, 446-1273.

Clark Reservation is on route 173, 2 miles west of Jamesville.

BEACH CLEAN-UP — MAY 26

On Saturday, 10 AM, we meet for the annual clean-up of the beach at Southwick Beach on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

From Syracuse: Take I-81 N to Pulaski, exit on Rt. 13. Go west 5 miles to junction of Rt. 3. Turn right and go north 10 miles to Lakeview Marsh (wildlife management area). Go to the end of the campground on the beach and meet the ranger. Bags will be furnished. Wear gloves and dress for the weather. Bring your lunch. Rich: 298-3130.

ONONDAGA LAKE DAY — JUNE 2

Spend your Saturday from 10-3 with your family at the annual Onondaga Lake Day, held behind the Griffin Visitors Center off Onondaga Lake Parkway.

Moss WALK — JUNE 10

Join a walk with the Council of Park Friends, starting at the Nature Center in Clark Reservation on Sunday, at 2 PM. Leader Jennifer Gilrich will teach us the fundamentals of moss identification. Clark Reservation: 446-0263

Did you know...

If everyone paid bills and banked online, solid waste would be cut by 1.6 billion tons and greenhouse gases by 2.1 million tons a year.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE — JUNE 26

The 25th Syracuse Chargers & JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge Race at Onondaga Lake Park may be *the* corporate social event of summer in Syracuse. It also raises money for local not-for-profit organizations. This year it's on Tuesday, June 26, starting at 4 PM. Sierra-Iroquois started participating in the event in order to:

- Perform a community service;
- Show that you can recycle containers at large public events;
- Raise awareness of Sierra Club;
- Raise funds for our Group.

But we need your help! Please volunteer. Contact Lisa Daly by June 5 at 428-1384 or email: ldaly@yahoo.com.

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

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

OUTINGS WORKSHOP — OCT 12-14

There are 5 openings left for the National Sierra Outings Workshop, to be held at Camp Hoover, the Girl Scout camp at Song Lake, from 6 PM Friday (dinner) to Sunday 12:30, including lunch.

The \$45 charge includes all meals. You may stay in the bunkhouse or set up your tent on the grounds. If you need a scholarship, contact mloew@twny.rr.com with "Outings Workshop" in the title.

Register at <Sierraclub.org/outings/training/brochures/2007> or email Jane Jontz <jontzja@hotmail.com>



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
SIERRA CLUB
PO BOX 52968
BOULDER, CO 80322-2968

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