



IROQUOIS MESSENGER

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

BOTTLED WATER

Recently Central New Yorkers have become concerned with the use of bottled water for several reasons:

- A general awareness of the environmental impact of this industry;
- The announcement that Nestle was considering purchasing a farm in Orwell for a bottled water plant;
- Tapping the Tug Hill aquifer for bottled water.

Before considering the environmental impacts of bottled water in general, consider the potential impact that a Nestle plant would have on water resources in Central New York. The Tug Hill aquifer is an immense underground body of water that runs from Camden to near Watertown on the western edge of the Tug Hill. It is replenished by the abundant lake-effect snowfall that blankets the plateau each winter and is the main source of water for many of the villages on the western side of the Tug Hill. In addition the NY State fish hatchery in Altmar uses 2.3 million gallons a day from the aquifer. Although the 1.5 million gallons that Nestle plans to consume each day is relatively small, the concept of using a life-sustaining natural resource for profit making is a dangerous and unjust one. Also, it opens the door for an expansion of the Nestle plant and other bottlers to move into the area.

Just because clean water is plentiful and available does not mean more bottled water is a good thing for the environment. Routine use of bottled water has serious environmental impact. Plastic bottles from water are an unnecessary component of our waste stream, wasting valuable petroleum and contributing to litter.

Over 1.5 million tons of plastic was used for bottled water in 2002. Of course if New York State included all beverages under the bigger and better bottle deposit law as environmentalists have tried to get passed for a number of years more of these bottles would be recycled. At present only about 11% are recycled and 30 million are discarded daily. But that would not stop the energy that is wasted in making the bottles and transporting the finished product.

Why is bottled water widely used? Primarily it is a triumph of marketing an unneeded product to people who find it convenient. There is no evidence that bottled water has any advantage over municipal water. In fact one of the widely used brands says that its source of water is "pws" which means public water supply. Studies by NRDC found significant contamination of bottled water by organic chemicals and bacteria in many brands.

Many conferences have cases of bottled water. However at a meeting of FOCUS Greater Syracuse in 2005, which dealt with water issues, empty plastic bottles were supplied with the message to fill them with local tap water and keep reusing them instead of buying bottled water. Bottled water should only be used when there is no reasonable alternative, not because it is sold in convenient soft drink vending machines. And it certainly should not become a replacement for municipal services.

TALE OF 2 COAL PLANTS

The efforts of many people paid off, as the Dewitt Town Board passed a six-month moratorium on development at the old quarry sites. The time will be used to study if they might be re-zoned to a more community-friendly classification.

The Jamesville coal gasification plans have not been withdrawn, but the developer has moved his sights to Scriba, in Oswego County. As in Jamesville, plans call for a 2 billion dollar facility, converting 200,000 tons of coal per day into methane or natural gas.

Sierra club will oppose that plant, as it did the Jamesville one. Coal is not a renewable energy source. We need to break that addiction, as well as our oil addiction.

If you live near the proposed Scriba site and would like to learn more, please write to Conservation Chair, Martha Loew.

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IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACT INFO

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

newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois

Co-Chairs	Martha Loew mloew@twcny.rr.com Tasha Cooper tasha.cooper@gmail.com	492-4745 446-3750
Vice-Chair	Linda DeStefano linpar@twotabbies.org	488-2140
Secretary	Rocki Malamud rowenamalamud@mac.com	446-7823
Treasurer	David Kapell david.kapell@windstream.net	682-8185
Newsletter	Debby Shanahan debbys@verizon.net	446-1273
Conservation	Martha Loew mloew@twcny.rr.com	492-4745
Membership	Rebecca Paul rebepa333@yahoo.com	436-4103
Outings	OPEN	
Political	Rhea Jezer jezer@ix.netcom.com Martin Sage mksage@syr.edu	727-0123 472-4977
Program	Carol Fedrizzi mattbullock@twcny.rr.com	449-2603
Publicity	Kim Merriweather	
Special Projects	Lisa Daly ldaly@yahoo.com Debra DeSocio ddesocio@twcny.rr.com Adina Mulliken pepperballmeow@yahoo.com	428-1384 329-0196 428-1905
Webmaster	Rich Slingerland Scott Webster sigmaun@netscape.net	298-3130 446-3640

IROQUOIS MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED
MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, & DECEMBER.
SUBMIT ARTICLES BY THE 15TH OF THE
PRECEDING MONTH:
SIERRA.DEB@VERIZON.NET
SUBJECT LINE MUST BEGIN WITH IM

GOOD-BYE & WELCOME

THANK YOU LYNN SENKE!

Lynn has served as **Treasurer** of Iroquois Group for 20 years. She handled all the money details of this large National Organization cheerfully, accurately and on-time.

Lynn is not just a bean-counter, but a loyal member who always went the extra step for the Iroquois Group. We offer our best wishes as she steps down to spend more time with grandkids and her busy life. Thanks again, Lynn.

WELCOME DAVID KAPELL!

Dave is our new **Treasurer**. He organized the Iroquois Listserv details several years ago and will give the same attention to detail in his new position. We plan on a smooth transition as we pass the records on to him in early September.

WELCOME CAROL FEDRIZZI!

As our new **Program Chair**, Carol will tap into her knowledge of the area and people to plan our educational events. You can help by sending her your suggestions for programs or speakers that explore some aspect of the environment.

HI BERNIE MARCUS

BYE BETSEY KECK

Bernie is taking over the **Calendar Sales** work that Betsey Keck handled the past 6 years. This is our only fund-raising event, so he needs your order! See AD on page 3.

CONSERVATION CHAIR'S NOTE

The Iroquois Group serves a huge region within the New York Chapter. But we actually “serve” only a small area adequately: Syracuse and surroundings. For us to do a much better job, we need your help.

You could serve as a regional Sierra leader for your town, village or county. Then, if you were to see or hear of a situation that might endanger the environment, and if it were miles from our main core, you could still engage the support of Sierra Club. You would write to me, identify the problem, and send the zip codes of the immediate area. Then we could help.

Our membership lists are arranged by zip codes. As a leader, you would request and receive a list of names of members in the affected area. You would then be able to call or write to them, explain the situation, and see if they wish to get involved.

This will make us more effective in helping the environment.

Martha Loew

Support our Group. Buy all kinds of nifty Sierra stuff on line. If you do so from the Iroquois web site (rather than the national site), we get up to 25% of sales. You can even renew your membership by credit card. Go to: newyork.sierraclub.org/Iroquois/store

Did you know...

As measured in carbon dioxide equivalents, animal agriculture produces 18 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions all transportation produces 13.5%.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE THANKS VOLUNTEERS

So, you may ask, was it worth it for 18 volunteers to pick up after 6179 runners and many more family and friends in 92° heat on June 26? Well, if you crunch only the numbers, maybe not. But we say YES! There are unquantifiable rewards that make people volunteer year after year to do their part in what is the most upbeat fund-raiser and community service event of the summer in Syracuse. Three Cheers to Lisa Daly and her crew of Sierra "Can-Canners"!

Kim Merriweather, Don Hughes, Myra Daly, Susan Lison, Suzanne Farrington, Bill Goodwin, Tasha Cooper, Holly and Morgan Rhoads, Danielle and Gabriella Rounds, Melanie Delphia, Noelle Lanzafame, Linda and Abby Hope, Meghan and Hannah Ladoceur, Alanna Keech

READING LIST

Librarians from Syracuse University Library and SUNY-ESF have compiled their first list of new, environment-related books for Sierra Iroquois. The following three would appeal to general audiences. The complete list is on our web site <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/Iroquois>.

- [Anonymous] 2006. Excursions in geology and history : Field trips in the middle atlantic states. Boulder, Colo: Geological Society of America
- Preston R. 2007. The wild trees : A story of passion and daring. 1st ed. New York: Random House
- Whitty J. 2007. The fragile edge : Diving and other adventures in the south pacific. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

We welcome book suggestions and reviews. Submit to: tasha.cooper@gmail.com

STEPITUP-2 FOR 2007

This year's program by Bill McKibbin, will be a rally at a site of some political action that was important in our history.

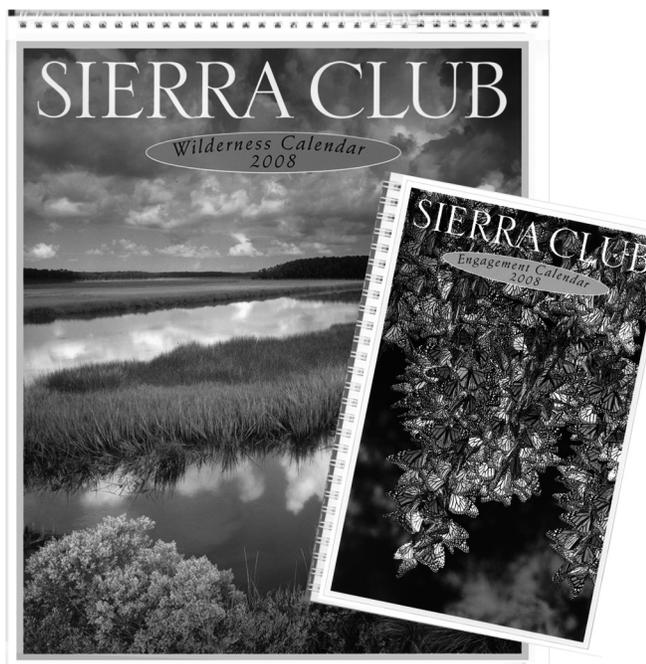
The goals for this years rallies are: an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050, a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants, and a Green Jobs Corps to help fix homes and businesses so those targets can be met. Basically, we want to find out who is simply a politician, and who's ready to be a leader.

If you have an idea or want to lead in the planning, please go to stepitup2007.org. Contact the Co-chairs (see page 2) to indicate your interest.



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Sierra Club 2008 Calendars



Mail Order — Make checks payable to Sierra Club

Calendars c/o Bernie Marcus
4373 Palmer Road, Manlius, NY 13104
bmarcus@twcny.rr.com

Discount Prices! No Tax! No Shipping Charge!

Item	Price	Quantity	Total
Engagement Calendar	\$13	_____	_____
Wall Calendar	\$12	_____	_____
TOTAL			_____

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Address _____
City _____ State ___ ZIP _____
Phone () _____
Email _____

Save More — Sierra Club Calendars will be available at Sierra Club events for \$11 each

FALL EVENTS

Sierra Club Indoor and Outdoor events are all **educational or service programs** that encourage us to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet. They are always FREE & OPEN TO EVERYBODY.

ExCom meetings — Sierra members only — are on second Wednesdays at 7:00 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. Info: 492-4745.

BLUE-BIN UPDATE — SEPTEMBER 26

Why do some things go into your Blue Bin but not others? What happens to recycled bottles? **Andrew Radin**, Director of Recycling and Waste Reduction for OCRRA, can answer your questions after his upbeat presentation: *Blue Bin Update—the Road from Here*. Learn how your filled blue bin saves you money, helps the environment and more. 492-4745

ZERO WASTE — OCTOBER 24

Only 12 ounces of waste per year, per person! Wow! In her presentation *Zero Waste (or Pretty Darn Close)*, **Chris Burger**, Sierra-Atlantic Solid Waste Committee Chair, uses suggestions from a family that has been reducing its waste for 36 years and keeping it below a pound for the last 15. A must-see if you're trying to reach Sierra's goal of zero waste. 488-2140

INDOOR AIR — NOVEMBER 28

Is indoor air making you sick? **Martin Walls** of the Syracuse Center of Excellence will tell you how to improve its quality, how to "green" your home, and how to reach a level of sustainable energy. Come to his presentation: *Cubicles For Indoor Air quality*. 449-2603

OUTDOORS

Outdoor programs are usually on **Sundays at 2 PM** at various interesting locations. Info and cancellations: 492-4745.

BUTTERNUT CREEK — OCTOBER 7

Meet at 2 PM at Vicki Baker's home on 4432 South St., Jamesville, and join us for a creek walk along wooded trails with **Ralph Manna**, retired DEC Regional Director, who will explain SPEDES (hint: it's about water quality). We'll end with a picnic where we can look over DEC materials and ask questions.

Bring lunch. Park and meet in the driveway and the adjacent lawn.

South St is route 90 from the center of the Hamlet. Also Jamesville-Apulia rd. 469-5347, 492-4745

OUTINGS WORKSHOP — OCT 12-14

There are still 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, which includes all meals, will be paid by Iroquois group. You may stay in the bunkhouse or set up your tent on

the grounds. If you have questions, contact Martha Loew: mloew@twcny.rr.com with "Outings Workshop" in the subject

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

ONONDAGA ESCARPMENT — NOV 3

Special time and day: **Saturday 1:30 PM**. Hike the western end of the Onondaga Escarpment at Clark Reservation State Park with our leader, **Martin Sage**, who will explain the unusual geological features that make this corridor so unique. The Manlius Greenspace Coalition is working to have it designated as a critical environmental area.

Clark Reservation is on Rte 173, 2 miles West of Jamesville. Meet at the kiosk near the parking lot. Trails are steep and rocky in places. 472-4977, 492-4745

CAMILLUS VALLEY — DECEMBER 2

Camillus Valley Natural Area is a Save the County property along Nine Mile Creek in Camillus. At 2 PM we will join **Rick Smardon** of STC and ESF on a "brush clearing" hike along the new rustic trail.

Wear bright clothing because of hunting season. Bring gloves and brush cutting tools. Meet at Marticso Station off route 173 in the Town of Camillus. Info: Rick rsmardon@esf.edu or Jeff redwalker@verizon.net



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