



IROQUOIS MESSENGER

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

REVIEW OF SIERRA IROQUOIS ISSUES 2007

COAL: THE DIRTIEST FORM OF POWER GENERATION

Sierra Club opposes coal power both for the dirty generation process and the mountaintop removal involved. In 2007 the Iroquois Group endured two attempts to build coal-gasification plants — one in Jamesville, one in Scriba — by Synfuel, a New York City company.

Currently, the owner of the Jamesville (Town of DeWitt) property says the lease on the land has expired and has not been renewed. The DeWitt Town Board is proposing a new zoning code that would prohibit refineries and other heavy industry.

The Scriba plan is also in limbo, as Sierra and local activists have prevented the Town Board from repealing a local law prohibiting production of explosive fuel within the town. Hopefully community pressure will continue to prevail in both towns.

BOTTLED WATER

Bottled water wastes energy and amounts to privatization of a public resource. A bottled water plant, planned by Nestles for Tug Hill, has failed to meet the water flow requirements from the aquifer at the selected site. So, the immediate threat is gone for Tug Hill. The Swiss company intends to try other sites in the same aquifer to find a suitable flow for their “Spring Water”. National Sierra has written to Nestles asking them to discontinue such efforts. We will stay in touch with the community on this issue.

CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFO)

CAFOs are large animal industrial production facilities that confine hundreds or thousands of dairy or meat animals in enormous buildings or feedlots. There are over 700 CAFOs in New York, mostly for dairy cows. Sierra Club is concerned that the Clean Air and Clean Water acts are not enforced effectively on these corporations. CAFOs also contribute to the disappearance of the family farm.

CAFOs in Moravia present health hazards to those living near them, such as air pollution, water pollution, noxious odors, and swarms of flies. Citizens are trying to write and enforce local laws to improve living conditions in CAFO areas.

Although there are no pending permits, other CAFOs are in the works.

- Montezuma: hog CAFO
- St.Lawrence County: 80,000-cattle CAFO by Bion

If you hear of a proposed CAFO, send information to Erin Riddle, Chair of the Atlantic Farm and Food Committee <erinriddle@verizon.net> and Linda DeStefano, Iroquois Group <ldestefano3@twcny.rr.com>.

SENECA ARMY DEPOT IN SENECA COUNTY

Competition for the former Seneca Army Depot, a 7,500-acre area in Seneca County, highlights the plight of abandoned areas. There is a bird and wildlife habitat within the depot, which may be subjected to “canned hunts” in the future. Plans are also afoot for an ethanol plant and biomass facility, producing 50-60 million gallons of highly flammable ethanol within 2 miles of Romulus schools. There is currently no environmental impact statement, but DEC may take over as lead agency and require one.

This area is outside the Iroquois Group boundaries, but we want to help maintain the habitat. For information on this complex issue and how to help, Google: fingerlakesfuture or senecawhitedeer.

Mark Naef Recycling Essay Contest

Congratulations
Manar Suleiman
of Solvay High School
Shante White
of Henninger High School

Winners of the Contest
and \$500 Prizes for 2007

Thank you Mark, for supporting recycling education. Sierra Club helps judge the contest, and is proud to participate in this important project.

IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACT INFO

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

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

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

Did you know...

- Every ton of recycled office paper saves 380 gallons of oil.
- In 1865 an estimated 10,000 hogs roamed New York City, eating garbage. Now, one of every six US trucks is a garbage truck.

BOOK REVIEW

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A year of food life by Barbara Kingsolver with Steven L. Hopp and Camille Kingsolver.

First, a personal disclaimer: Barbara Kingsolver is one of my favorite authors. In her prose works, as well as her fiction, she has shown herself to be on the right side of everything I believe in. Her style, humor, and the poetry and courage of her writing have made it imperative for me to buy each of her books as they appear.

That said, this book is still, by any objective standard, a great one, particularly for environmentalists. In its 352 pages it chronicles her family's journey away from the industrial-food pipeline to a rural life, in which they buy only food raised in their own neighborhood, grow it themselves, or learn to live without it. With great good humor, and many tips and recipes, they learn about turkey sex lives, overabundances of zucchini and how to pluck their own chickens. While this may not be a life style most of us can adopt in its entirety, I think you'll enjoy reading it and maybe even find some inspiration in it to help shrink your own carbon footprint.

ROCKI MALAMUD

BURIED IN CATALOGS

More than one billion people living in extreme poverty around the world depend on forests for their livelihoods. Nearly half of the planet's original forest cover is gone today. Forests have effectively disappeared in 25 countries, and another 29 have lost more than 90% of their forest cover. Deforestation contributes between 20% and 25% of all carbon pollution, causing global climate change.

Over 8,000,000 tons of trees are consumed each year in the production of paper catalogs. There are other significant environmental impacts from the catalog cycle. The production and disposal of direct mail alone consumes more energy than three million cars. The manufacturing, distribution, collection and disposal of catalogs generates global warming gases as well as air and water pollution.

Reducing the number of unwanted catalogs that are mailed will help the environment. You can stop your unwanted catalogues at <<http://www.cataloguechoice.org>>.

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

Mail Order — Make checks payable to Sierra Club

Calendars c/o Bernie Marcus
4373 Palmer Road, Manlius, NY 13104
bmarcus@twcny.rr.com or 692-4452

Discount Prices! No Tax! No Shipping Charge!

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ ZIP _____
Phone () _____
Email _____

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Dear Tree Huggers,

Thought for today: Does it matter whether the tree is large or small? It depends on your outlook. Is it: "Do not sweat the small stuff" or "Sweat the small stuff and the large stuff will take care of itself" or "The little things I do can not create change"? Which is your mantra?

I have a proposal to recycle for energy and resource conservation that everyone can easily do. It is called "Recycled Paper Patrol" and takes three steps:

1. Ask the local organizations, to which you belong, to publish their newsletters on recycled paper. Not the wimpy 30% stuff that bears the label "recycled", but the robust 100% kind, with a large post-consumer portion. The top choice is 100% post-consumer, using soy ink and no chlorine. It is a tad more expensive, but works just fine and the price will come down as the demand goes up.

2. Check the recycled content of the myriad of catalogues that you probably throw away — if they mention it. My survey found only one that proudly stated "100% and 100% post-consumer": Timberline Boots. The most prolific catalogs (in my house), LL Bean and Lands End made no recycling claims. One phone call from even 2% of the households they bombard would certainly create a stir.

3. This is the most interesting: magazines! The only 100%100% ones that I found are *Coop America* and the *Syracuse Center of Excellence Annual Report*. Start checking yours. Remember "recycled paper" means 30%. Check all your magazines for some real surprises. My favorite is *Newsweek* that displays a large recycled symbol and urges readers to recycle the magazine! There are some others that display the symbol and announce "recyclable."

If you send me the information you find, we can publish lists of "The Best", "It's A Start", and "Shame".

For the earth and all its critters,
Martha Loew

Did you know...

- The average American spends 8 full months of her life opening junk mail.
- Americans throw away 44 million newspapers everyday. That's the same as dumping 500,000 trees into landfills each week.

Wilderness First Aid

April 4-5, 2008
8 AM – 5 PM

Saturday & Sunday
Camp Hoover, Preble, NY

\$125 for Sierra Club members
\$150 for non-members
(includes membership)
Fee Includes: instruction, materials,
food and lodging

contact: 415-977-5711
outings.training@sierraclub.org
or Adina 315-428-1905

READING FOR THE EARTH

This list of environment-related titles was compiled by Elizabeth Elkins librarian at SUNY-ESF and Elizabeth Wallace, librarian at SU. See the complete list on line: newyork.sierraclub.org/Iroquois. Contribute to our permanent on-line reading list by submitting reviews and suggestions to Tasha Cooper — tasha.cooper@gmail.com

- Burt W. 2007. *Marshes: The disappearing edens*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Hickman GC and Hickman SM. 2002. *The ecology action guide*. San Francisco: Benjamin Cummings.
- Lanner RM. 2007. *The bristlecone book: A natural history of the world's oldest trees*. Missoula, Mont.: Mountain Press Pub. Co.
- Weisman A. 2007. *The world without us*. 1st ed. New York: Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

We need to keep in touch with those of you who live a bit far from Syracuse.

If you have environmental issues that could benefit from our help and support, please call or write any of the executive committee on page 2, and we will do our best to assist you.

We also would love to hear about your environmental victories. Tell us what worked for you, so that we can share your tactics with others.

BALLOT — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008

Vote for up to seven:

___ Lisa Daly

___ Martha Loew

___ Linda DeStefano

___ Adina Mulliken

___ Carol Fedrizzi

___ Rich Slingerland

___ Rhea Jezer

_____ Write-in

Mail to Sierra Club — Iroquois Group, PO Box 182, Jamesville, NY 13078, by December 28, 2007.

ExCom members with one year remaining: Tasha Cooper, Rocki Malamud, Martin Sage, Debby Shanahan.

WINTER 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 THE PUBLIC.

ExCom meetings — Sierra members only — on second Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Locations vary. Call 492-4745

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.

SOLAR DESIGN — JANUARY 30

Can solar energy really work in Central New York? Is solar electric right for you? Join **Art Weaver**, President and Project Designer from **Renovous Energy**, for his interactive and informative presentation on solar design. We're all looking for ways to use less fossil fuel, so come with your questions about solar generation systems and how they can work as alternative means of energy production.

NY SOLID WASTE — FEBRUARY 27

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We're all familiar with the 3R's, but can they lead to zero waste? **Mark Naef**, President of **Naef Recycling** in Syracuse, will talk about New York State's Solid Waste Strategy. We'll learn how **Dual-Stream Recycling** maintains and

strengthens the entire recycling system at a sustainable level, and how it helps to create the mindset of environmental stewardship. Also learn about his Go Green Initiative and ideas on how to improve the market for recyclables.

HONEYWELL ON ONONDAGA LAKE — MARCH 26

Much has happened since the approval in 2007 of the **Honeywell cleanup plan** for Onondaga Lake. Honeywell scientists will give us updates on:

- Removal of contamination at the sources,
- Recycling of mercury,
- 45-foot barrier wall and remediation of the trapped water,
- Habitat restoration,
- Dredge and cap.

Come, learn and find out how to be part of our lake's restoration. Public participation is part of the plan.

OUTDOORS

Outdoor programs are usually on **Saturdays at 1 PM** at various interesting locations. Info and cancellations: 492-4745.

RECYCLE AMERICA — JANUARY 12

Learn about **Single-Stream Recycling** at the Recycle America materials recovery facility, 4550 Steelway Blvd. S. in Liverpool. We will meet in a conference room at 1 PM, then tour the facility and return to the

conference room for questions and answers with Robert Comi.

Directions: go to the Village of Liverpool, then travel North on Tulip Street. Tulip becomes Morgan Road after you go over the Thruway bridge. Turn right on Steelway Blvd. The road goes directly into the yard. Enter at the office door.

ANNUAL CHILIFEST — FEBRUARY 9

For those who have never tried vegetarian or vegan dishes, the Annual ChiliFest at **Danny and Rhea Jezer's** place provides an opportunity to taste and learn about dishes that are hearty and nutritious — good for you and the planet.

Directions: Take Preble exit off of Route 81. Turn right onto 281. Take first right turn (hairpin turn) onto **Song Lake Road**. After the Song Lake sign count 8 garages on the right to #7426. Park on the side of the road, and walk to the house on the lake.

Meet at 1 PM. Weather permitting, we will hike, snowshoe or ski around or across the lake. At 2 PM we will gather inside to share food and recipes. Please bring vegetarian chilis and other dishes, with copies of the recipes. RSVP 727-0123 to help us plan.

ERIE CANAL TOWPATH — MARCH 8

Meet at the information sign at the beginning of the path, right next to the Ryder Park parking lot by the Dewitt Town Hall at 1 PM. **Learn the tools for identifying trees in winter** on the Erie Canal Towpath and identify non-migrating birds.

Sierra Iroquois Group provides two fun educational programs monthly, both indoors and out.

Help us to continue these events.

Please buy a Sierra Club calendar (see p. 2) or send a donation to:

Sierra Club — Iroquois Group, PO Box 182, Jamesville, NY 13078



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