



IROQUOIS MESSENGER

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Sierra Club Iroquois Group and People's Environmental Network of New York (pENNY)
Will Convene a Forum

Wednesday, May 29 from 6 to 9 PM

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

This year we focus on the need to make our lives and homes more sustainable.

PLAN IT FOR THE PLANET

Chris Carrick of New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will describe sustainability projects for the home, small business, and government buildings that work here in Central New York. We'll also learn about engineering and financing assistance that is available for projects. Following his presentation, Chris will field questions from the audience. Because this is a far-ranging topic, it would help us if you would send your questions or areas of interest to us in advance, using the contact information at the bottom of this page.

Forum Schedule

- 5:30 — Doors open for set up by participating groups
- 6:00 — Open to the public for networking and displays
- 7:00 — Speaker: **Chris Carrick**
- 8:00 — Question and Answer
- 8:45 — Networking and take down tables
- 9:15 — Clear building

This Environmental Forum is free and open to the public.

We invite environmental groups, individuals and companies to set up information tables, including literature and displays about their activities. Please reply by May 15, to reserve your free space. Include the following information: Name of Organization, contact person, other persons who will attend, address, phone number, email address, and whether you need a whole table, half table or a free-standing space.

Vicki Baker: vbaker002@twcny.rr.com or 469-5347
Martha Loew: mloew@twcny.rr.com or 492-4745
By US Mail: FORUM — PO Box 182, Jamesville, NY 13078

IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACT INFO

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

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SUBMIT ARTICLES BY THE 15TH OF THE
PRECEDING MONTH:
DEBBYS@VERIZON.NET
SUBJECT LINE MUST BEGIN WITH IM

Thank You

Rhea and Danny Jezer

For once again opening your beautiful lake-side home for our annual Chilifest. Your generous hospitality makes it a pleasure to be a member of the Sierra Iroquois Group.

ENVIRONMENTAL DIGEST

NATIONAL

NO NUKES IN STIMULUS BILL

The \$50 Billion in taxpayer loan guarantees for new nuclear reactors and “clean coal” plants has been stripped from the final economic stimulus bill!

STATE

BOTTLE BILL

On February 18 Sierrans Rocki Malamud and Martha Loew joined with NYPIRG students to call on Senators Valesky and De-Francisco to push for passage of the BBBB.

The proposed bill would:

- Add deposits to non-carbonated juice drinks
- Send unclaimed deposits to the general fund

It is not a slam-dunk even though it is a no-brainer, because the beverage industry currently keeps millions in unclaimed deposits and is fighting hard to retain them.

DRILLING CONTAMINATES WATER

Natural gas invading at least nine water wells in northern Pennsylvania has been tracked to the Marcellus Shale being tapped by drilling crews. The Department of Environmental Protection asked Cabot, the drilling company, to vent the wells to give the gas a means to escape. Cabot has taken

water supplies of four home off line and provided water tanks.

Cabot is drilling dozens of wells into the Marcellus Shale, a massive natural gas reserve in NY Southern Tier and Pennsylvania. Geologists cannot explain how gas trapped in bedrock thousands of feet down could migrate into shallow aquifers without drilling.

The Sierra Atlantic Chapter is working to provide information and oversight of this drilling. newyork.sierraclub.org/susquehanna/marcellusshale

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO LOBBY

Lobbying has become a bad word for many Americans, but it's a vital activity in a democracy and one that needs to be relearned and practiced long after we learn about it in high school. You could say that lobbying is a complement to voting. For big corporations, money is key; but for ordinary folks and non-profits, numbers of people matter.

On Friday March 6, environmentalists in NY State will visit their representatives. You'll have the opportunity to learn how to lobby: how to contact your representatives, the proper demeanor, how to present your position, and how to deal with the reality that you may be ignored.

WHY CLEAN A BEACH

Every year the Iroquois Group devotes a day of public service to cleaning up Southwick Beach. This isn't a frivolous aimed at making points with those who will use the beach during warmer weather to swim, sun or carouse. Although the cleanup helps to maintain the natural beauty of one of the best beaches in the Northeast, there are other benefits too.

- The rubbish stays out of the lake and the downstream areas to which it would otherwise migrate.
- Cleanup mitigates the danger of build-up of plastic particles. Plastic eventually breaks down into tiny particles that are ingested by the smallest creatures. It works its way up the food chain and ultimately can effect even humans.

- Large pieces of plastic that remain in the environment are often mistaken for food by birds and fish and contribute to their mortality.

And of course there's a growing camaraderie among the regular's who participate. This year's cleanup is on May 23. Check the Spring Events for details.

LISA DALY HONORED

Congratulations to our ExCom member Lisa Daly for receiving the Democrat of the Year award for the city of Syracuse. Lisa worked tirelessly on the Barack Obama presidential campaign from from February 2007 through the election. Prior to that, she worked on Dan Maffei's congressional campaign. In addition she is an active member of the Iroquois Group ExCom and manages our Recycling Project at the annual Corporate Challenge fund-raising race. Bravo Lisa!

YELLOWSTONE WINTER

Martin Sage presented a slide show and talk about Yellowstone National Park in winter to the Iroquois Group in December. Here he summarizes his trip for those of you who missed the presentation. *Ed.*

Yellowstone in winter is spectacular, even more so than during the summer. The deep blue sky — when it is not snowing — the many geysers with their white plumes, the ice-coated trees, the hot springs with steam rising and many-colored pools are fantastic. Few roads are open to ordinary motor vehicles. The only access by car or bus is from the North entrance at Gardiner Montana, with that road open to Mammoth Hot Springs, less than ten miles south of the entrance. Another road goes east from Mammoth to Cooke City, just outside the northeastern corner of the park. That one has some of the best winter bison viewing and passes areas where wolf packs roam, although the wolves usually stay fairly far from the road.

Elk are abundant in lower areas like Mammoth. They cannot browse when the snow gets deep, since they must move it with their hooves to reach food. Bison can feed in deeper snow since they move the snow with their head using the huge muscle that gives the bison its hump. Even so, many animals die in winter from lack of food. Bears are uncommon in winter because they hibernate.

The reintroduction of wolves has greatly changed the distribution of animals in Yellowstone and the adjacent Teton National Parks. For example overgrazing along streams by elk has decreased since the herds can no longer stay and eat but must move to safer ground. So stream-side vegetation has grown up shading the water and improving fish habitat. Also coyotes are easier to see because they are bolder, knowing that the presence of people keeps the larger predators away.

We left the plowed roads and traveled by snow coach. There are two types: one like a van with the wheels replaced by a snowmobile-like track; the other, designed originally by the Canadian military for arctic use, is better in deep snow. We toured Yellowstone Lake, Yellowstone Falls, and spent a few days near Old Faithful. We did not see snowmobiles near Mammoth but they were

plentiful on the road between Madison and West Yellowstone along the Madison River.

Environmentalists worked hard to severely limit the number of snowmobiles in the park. They succeeded during the Clinton administration, but Bush altered the regulations to allow up to 750 per day. This so-called limit allows more snowmobiles than have ever entered into the park in any day. The good news is that only relatively quiet machines with 4-cycle engines and recent pollution controls may enter. They are restricted to roads and must be in groups led by an approved guide. So hikers, snowshoers, or skiers who stay off the roads can avoid them.

If you want to see what Yellowstone looks like you can visit the National Park Service's webcams at <http://www.nps.gov/archive/yell/tours/livecams/index.htm>. You'll also gain access to the USGS Yellowstone Volcano Observatory.

Is this your first *Iroquois Messenger*?

If so, you're probably a new member or transferred here in the last few months. We would like to meet you, welcome you and introduce ourselves. Check "Spring Events", and join us some place. If you're new in town and not sure where things are, call or write anyone on the list of contacts on page 2 to see if you can get a ride.

If you email Tasha Cooper and ask to be put on our never-shared list, you'll receive reminders about all our events.

Martha Loew, Chair.

WATER

This is an excerpt from an article by Neil Diboll from the Wild Ones Journal, Nov/Dec 2008 issue. Read the entire 5-page article at www.for-wild.org.

The vast majority of the freshwater consumed globally is used for irrigation of food crops. A tremendous amount is also used in various industrial processes. And the rest is used for drinking, washing, flushing, and, of course, watering the lawn.

Water is already in critically short supply in many parts of the world. In the Middle East, tensions are simmering between Syria, Turkey, and Iraq over the use of the water in the Euphrates River...

The looming water crisis is even hitting close to home in historically water-rich

Spring Events Continued

4 miles turn right onto Rte 3. Travel 15 miles to Southwick Beach. Turn left into the park.

Tell the gate attendant you are there for cleanup. No charge. Drive straight ahead toward the concession stand. Put the concession stand on your right and turn left down a dirt road that goes to camping sites, parallel to the shore. Park in the center of the cul-de-sac at the end of the road. The ranger will meet us with plastic bags and instructions. Bring gloves, rain gear and lunch.

BIKE: REGIONAL MKT — JUNE 14

Have fun, learn the benefits of locally grown produce and help prevent global warming! Cycle to the Regional Market. About 10 miles round trip. Children who follow traffic rules and bike about 8 mph are welcome. Bring: helmets (required), water, bike lock and bag. Meet at Thornden Park swimming pool at 9:30 AM. If you drive to Thornden, park on local roads, not in the pool lot. Or meet us at the Market, Info: Adina 315-428-1905 or pepperballmeow@yahoo.com.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE — JUNE 23

Save the date for the 27th Syracuse Chargers & JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge Race at Onondaga Lake Park. Volunteer to help Sierra Club meet the goal of 100% recycling for the event. *Contact Lisa Daly in early June: 428-1384 or ldaly@yahoo.com.*

Wisconsin, as ground water supplies are depleted in some urban and suburban areas. The city of Waukesha is clamoring for access to Lake Michigan water as its wells run dry. It appears that the only way they will be granted access to lake water is to replace what they use with treated wastewater in return. Now *there's* a concept!

...There are those who say that some day water will be more valuable than oil. The human body can live for three to four weeks without food, but only a few days without water. And you can't drink oil.

Think this is farfetched? Not at all. The next time you fill up your gas tank at the convenience store and buy a quart of bottled water for \$1.50, you just paid \$4 a gallon for gas and \$6 a gallon for water.

SPRING 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 and open to everybody.

Updates, cancellations and information at newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois or 492-4745.

Sierra Club is on Meetup.com! We will publish monthly outings in the Messenger, but may add more hikes. For information or to make suggestions go to meetup.com, and search for "syracuse sierra club."

ExCom meetings — Sierra members only — March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, 7:15 PM, 128 Buffington Rd., Syracuse.

INDOOR EDUCATION

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.

STATE LOBBY DAY — MARCH 6

Visit your Legislator without going to Albany! This is a first-time opportunity to learn how to present your opinions to your state representatives both as an individual and as a member of the Sierra Club Iroquois Group. Our focus will be the Economic Stimulus Package and how it should be spent wisely on projects that create jobs, and protect our air, land, and water.

You must bring a photo ID for security.

We've set up the following schedule:

At the State Office Building on 333 E. Washington St:

10:30 AM — Ed Thater, aide to Rep. William Magnarelli

1 PM — Chuck Murphy, aide to Sen. John DeFrancisco

1:30 — Sen. David Valesky

At 4317 E. Genesee St in DeWitt:

2:30 — Rep. Joan Christensen

To join us for any of those 30-minute meetings, contact **Linda DeStefano 315-488-2140 ldestefano3@twcny.rr.com or Sarah Pralle sbpralle@gmail.com**. If you cannot participate at the scheduled times, please drop off a letter or sign a guest book, at your convenience. Let's get hundreds of Sierrans out for Lobby Day!

NUKES IN NY — MARCH 25

Jean Kessner of Peace Action and a former TV investigative reporter will inform us about the current status of nuclear power in our area. Are permits moving ahead? Are there problems? What actions are environmental groups taking and where does the current administration stand on the proposed plants? Bring your questions and opinions for an informative lecture and discussion.

ENERGY SYMPOSIUM — APRIL 17

The Annual Symposium, *Energy in the 21st Century*, will be held at Cazenovia College from 7:30AM to 4:00PM. Speakers will include Cong. Michael Arcuri, NYS Compt. Tom DiNapoli, Nassau County Exec Tom Suozzi, Rich Kassel of NRDC discussing *Smart Growth and Transportation, Solutions and Options For Energy Conservation*.

The symposium is presented by Cazenovia College, the Gifford Foundation, Syracuse Center of Excellence, and the Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University and organized by Rhea Jezer of the Sierra Iroquois Group. Registration and information <http://www.cazenovia.edu/energy> and 315.727.0123

REDUCE RUNOFF — APRIL 22

Runoff from our roofs and yards is such a problem, that if we can reduce it, we can avoid having to pay for another sewage treatment plant. Amy Samuels of Cornell Cooperative Extension will explain how various attractive water management techniques can reduce runoff from your property. Small changes can have a big impact. You'll see slides of a variety of rain barrel and rain garden designs and receive how-to literature to get you started.

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM — MAY 29

See page 1.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

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

STONE POND FOREST — APRIL 26

Hike this beautiful 1,469 acre wildlife habitat and observe the forest waking up in spring. Meet at 2 PM at Trailhead #1, off of Jones Rd., about 7 miles east of Cazenovia for a 2-mile hike. Directions: From US 20 drive south on Willowvale Road 0.8 mile to the intersection with Old State Road. Turn right onto Old State Road. Drive 0.6 mile to the intersection with Jones Road, then 0.6 mile to the second parking area on the left of the dirt road. Jenna, 315-299-7175.

BEACH CLEANUP — MAY 23

On Saturday, 10 AM, we meet for the annual clean-up of Southwick Beach on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. Rich: 298-3130.

From Syracuse: Take I-81 N to Pulaski exit 36. Follow Rte 13 into Pulaski. After

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