



IROQUOIS

MESSENGER

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

STOP THE FRACK ATTACK

TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 28, 2012

by Sandy Porter

Uh-oh, I think I volunteered again. After the incredible experience of the Tar Sands Action last November, “Encircle the White House,” I knew the positive experience of this kind of real live activism. This summer trip was made possible once again by the generous support of the Sierra Club NYS and our local Iroquois Group, hard work by many, and the inspirational Cornell student K.C. Alvey. The effort that goes into coordinating such a bus trip can only happen with the hard work of many.

Fortunately we had great coordinators. Linda Fedele in Rochester did all the early legwork of reserving the bus, and making the lists and the arrangements. Joan Littlehale graciously took on coordinating for the Syracuse area. Since they had already done all the groundwork, we agreed that I would do the collecting and reporting fares, tipping the bus driver, along with keeping the lists, logistics and tagging all riders with a radio frequency collar and a homing device. (We tried micro-chipping folks on the Tar Sands Action bus, but it was too hard holding them down.)

Some two weeks and 72,000 emails (ok, that's an approximation) later, it was the big day. Blurry-eyed from the three and a half hours of sleep, not drinking enough coffee because (well, you know why) and head spinning, hoping I'd done everything and done it

right, I joined the rest of the Syracuse-area folks to climb on board the already there-and-waiting Rochester folks. Meeting up at Thruway Interchange 34A worked beautifully.

Taking the mic and looking into the bright, receptive group onboard—okay, at least 3 or 4 people were awake and listening—I welcomed them on our bus to D.C. I was pleased to let our group know that we had the full range of amenities, including a pool and full sauna—just behind that little door in back. Seats were comfy, the few unfilled seats actually meant that some people could spread out a bit, and our bus drivers, C.C. and James, were the best! It was just like going to Simmons' Day Camp on Cazenovia Lake. We used the buddy system. At least one member of each team had to have a cell phone with C.C.'s cell number and mine; this came in really handy when we came together in Franklin Square at the end of the march and could find one another and the bus.

While at the rally in front of the Capitol Building, we had the pleasure of hearing Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350.org; Josh Fox, producer of *Gasland*; Calvin Tillman, former mayor of Dish, Texas; Allison Chin, board president of the Sierra Club, and community members from swing states affected by fracking. The day was a scorching, relentless, unforgiving, draining sunny day. Josh Fox hit the nail on the head when he was speaking about powering our country and the

world on green, renewable energy, as that very same totally-dominating sun could be used to generate power—including for cooling—for almost everyone everywhere forever. I was wishing I had one of those little solar-powered beanies with a propeller fan.

The march, despite the overpowering heat, was powerful and exciting. We even got a small number of people from as far away as Australia and Belgium, and several guys who biked the “Tour de Frack” from Butler, PA. Some 5,000 people, with banners and flags, marching and chanting, and a good three blocks long, is a very impressive sight, especially with the beautiful gleaming-white Capitol Building in the background. Delivering undrinkable water from near a fracking site to the American Petroleum Institute and rallying in front of the American Natural Gas Alliance (ANGA), the enthusiasm and momentum of citizen activist power united again in our chants. A few minutes later, meeting up in Franklin Square, people looked to be a combination of exhilarated, hot, and exhausted. But in a good way.

Back on the bus, and time to eat. Hmm, I'll make a few suggestions that have come up. “McDonald's.” Hands shoot up, well, one hand shoots up—I think Liam Sisson is around 9 or 10 years old. Unfortunately for him, the whole rest of the bus had different culinary delights in mind. So Bob Evans it was, and quite a good choice.

Continued on page 2

IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACT INFO

SIERRA CLUB — IROQUOIS GROUP
PO BOX 182
JAMESVILLE, NY 13078
newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois

GROUP OFFICERS

Chair	Martha Loew	492-4745
	mloew@twcnny.rr.com	
Vice-Chair	Tasha Cooper	446-3750
	tasha.cooper@gmail.com	
Secretary	Jack Ramsden	218-5988
	Ramskids2go@aol.com	
Treasurer	David Kapell	682-8185
	david.kapell@windstream.net	

COMMITTEES

Conservation	Linda DeStefano	488-2140
	ldestefano3@twcnny.rr.com	
Calendar Sales	Rocki Malamud	446-7823
	rmalamud@twcnny.rr.com	
Corp Challenge	Lisa Daly	428-1384
	ldaly@yahoo.com	
Membership	Laurie Walker	492-9740
	Laurie.walker001@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Jenna Mayotte	
	jennamayotte@gmail.com	
Outings	Open position	
Political	Rhea Jezer	727-0123
	jezer@ix.netcom.com	
	Lisa Daly	428-1384
	ldaly@yahoo.com	
Program	ExCom Committee	
Publicity	Carol Fedrizzi	449-2603
	cfedrizzi@verizon.net	
Sustainability	Debby Shanahan	446-1273
	debbys@verizon.net	
Water Issues	Rich Slingerland	298-3130
	richardslingerland@yahoo.com	
Webmaster	Scott Webster	446-3640
	sigmaun@netscape.net	

Executive Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Jamesville train station. Sierra Iroquois members only, for business and strategy sessions.

IROQUOIS MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED
SPRING, SUMMER, FALL & WINTER
SUBMIT ARTICLES TO: jennamayotte@gmail.com

We're always looking for great stories from our members, so let us know if you'd like to write an article or book review, or have questions for us!

FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR

by Linda A. DeStefano

Onondaga Lake

Jack Ramsden, member of the Steering Committee, keeps us informed about clean-up of Onondaga Lake. Honeywell Corporation is doing remediation and habitat development at the Geddes Brook and Nine Mile Creek junction. Along with several partners, they have created a group called Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps (OLCC) that will host several work days planting and studying ecosystems. Dredging also started this summer and will continue 24-hours a day until freezing weather arrives. Dredging is scheduled to be done each year until at least 2016. The partners for OLCC are Audubon Society, Montezuma Audubon Center, Parsons, and Honeywell.

Hydrofracking for Gas

Sierran Sharon Gambocorto reports that she and others from Syracuse and Rochester joined others on a bus organized and subsidized by Sierra Club for a rally and march in Washington, D.C.: "We arrived on the capital lawn in time for the prayer service which preceded the speaking portion of the rally. Bill McKibben reminded

us, on this 91 degree day, of the mosaic of environmental activists around the globe, each contributing their efforts to protect our Mother Earth."

A speaker from Australia encouraged us to persevere in our efforts to defeat hydrofracking in the U.S. with the warning that as the U.S. goes, so goes the rest of the world. We then began a mile and a half march to the home of the National Petroleum Institute and National Gas Association. Along the way, visitors in D.C. inquired about hydrofracking and were appalled to learn of the devastating effects. Back at Franklin Square by 5p.m., hot, dehydrated and exhausted, we boarded the bus for our return trip, validating the necessity to redouble our efforts.

In the meantime, the local Sierra Club has worked with others to achieve hydrofracking moratoria and bans, which now total more than 120 municipalities. See a map and list at fracracker.org/fracracker-maps/ny-moratoria/. So far, the courts have upheld the two bans which were challenged.

The good news is that Nationwide Insurance recently announced that they will not insure properties with gas leases. ■

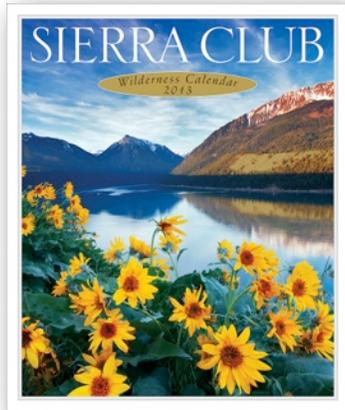
STOP THE FRACK ATTACK

(CONT'D FROM FRONT PAGE)

After hours more of digesting, almost-sleeping, and conversation with some of the remarkable folks on the bus, we're back at the Thruway Interchange. Getting off the bus (I was bungling around, trying to gather up all my possessions which had inexplicably quadrupled in mass, and no doubt keeping the weary folks from Rochester from getting back on the road home), thanking our gracious bus drivers and delivering to them the generous show of appreciation by our riders, it's goodbye to all. Hopefully that's not really goodbye, but "see you next time."

Thanks once again to all those donors and efforts by many that made this trip possible. Remember...ACTIVISM, ACTIVISM, ACTIVISM! ■

2013 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS



Discount prices! \$10 each if you pick up at a meeting or event!

Mail Order — *Make checks payable to Sierra Club, send to:*
Calendars c/o Rocki Malamud
423 Tilden Drive, Apartment #1
East Syracuse, NY 13057
315-446-7823

No tax! No shipping charges!

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
Engagement Calendar	\$13	_____	_____
Wall Calendar	\$13	_____	_____
TOTAL		_____	_____

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

FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Tree Huggers,

Hope you all had a great summer! It was perfect for lake-side sloths, but not so great for climate change indicators or city-dwellers.

Being a lake-side sloth is not what it used to be. Back in ancient times I had no phone, no computer, a less than reliable dug well and an even less reliable power company. A drilled well and a new power company have made the need for the many flashlights, candles, and oil lamps nil, and the stored jug of water is not to be found.

Now my dining space looks more like an office than an eating space. Computer, printer, phone, and wi-fi for all my relatives and friends with a

gaggle of pods, pads, laptops etc. All the more important as there is no cell-phone service! Can you imagine, there is a whole generation of local school kids growing up with no cell phones?

On the nature side, my morning walks were colorful with several milkweeds, Joe Pye Weed, Cattails, Purple Flowered Raspberry, Black Eyed Susan and Virginia Creeper. The Creeper was so happy with the weather that it out-crept the few patches of Poison Ivy. Mixed with these were the usual aliens, the plantings of the local residents and the rash of seasonal McMansions bringing city to the woods: "Down with the trees, in with the grass and landscaping."

New factor: local highway department goes on a trimming binge, down with any growth they can reach with the cutters just as I was anticipating a Monarch cocoon and waiting to see the Cattails explode!

Guess what? The aliens all re-grew, but most of the natives gave up. Fortunately, the Goldenrod was mostly out of reach, providing a great backdrop for the Chicory and Queen Anne's Lace.

So I am back home, with a fridge full of at least 4 kinds of mustard and ketchup, many loaves of bread, and at least 2 dozen mixed selection of fancy bottles of beer. If you've ever had a summer residence, you know why.

Maybe some snow this year??

For the Earth and all its Critters,

Martha Loew

Sierra Club Endorsements for Election 2012

These endorsees have great records on the environment and the issues we care about. Please go to the polls on Tuesday, November 6, and support our candidates.

Congressional Candidates:

Dan Lamb—NY 22
 Dan Maffei—NY 24

Assembly Candidates:

Bill Magnarelli—District 120
 Sam Roberts—District 119



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

SIERRA CLUB
PO BOX 421041
PALM COAST, FL 31242-6417

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1
SYRACUSE, NY

FALL EVENTS, 2012

Sierra Club events encourage us to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet. They are free and open to everybody. Parks may charge entry fees.

ExCom meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Jamesville train station. Sierra Iroquois members only, for business and strategy sessions.

INDOOR EVENTS

Indoor programs are held the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted), at University United Methodist Church, 1085 E. Genesee Street. Park and enter on University Avenue and look for Sierra Club signs.

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

OCTOBER 24: "EMPOWERED: POWER FROM THE PEOPLE"

Join us for a documentary from the cloudiest, least-windy county in NY State. The film features stories of residents as they take the leap into a sustainable future, as one community embraces renewables from solar and

wind to veggie oil and geothermal. The film is directed by Shira Golding Evergreen, empoweredthemovie.com/.

NOVEMBER 28: SU SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

Join us for a talk with Sherburne Abbott, Vice President for Sustainability Initiatives and University Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy at Syracuse University.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Our focus this season is on local parks or places of special interest.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2:00 P.M.

The Forgotten Trail from the Farmers Market to Onondaga Lake Park is an easy walk and as long as you wish, as it is an out and back hike (at most 2 hours.) Meet in the Farmers Market parking lot near the entrance/exit across from the Regional Transportation Center. Look for the Sierra Club sign. Our leader is Lindsay Speer; questions call 315-383-7210.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2:00 P.M.

Invasive species identification and controls, led by Tom Brumbelow, an ESF Graduate Student and member of the NY State Parks team devoted to control of invasives in our Parks. Learn about the latest techniques to eradicate dangerous invasives, why it is important, how to identify them and get involved. Time to check your own backyard!!

Meet at the Nature Center in Clark Reservation. We will learn about invasive species as we hike to various sites in the park where actions are underway for controls. Dress for trail hiking. Length about 2 hours. Children and dogs on leash are welcome. For more information, call 315-492-4745. ■