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IROQUOIS

# MESSENGER

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet

## SPRING EVENTS-

*Sierra Club events are programs that encourage us to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet. Free and open to the public.*

**INDOOR PROGRAMS** are usually held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the University United Methodist Church, 1085 E. Genesee Street, Syracuse. Park and enter on University Ave.

### April 24 Wednesday-GREENINGUSA AND THE 12 TRAITS OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Twelve traits is a rating system and recognition for communities that achieve exemplary levels of sustainability in 12 categories. In this context, "sustainability means keeping the good things about life in our communities and getting rid of things that threaten that way of life." Learn more about this process and how your community rates from Peter J. Arsenault, founding member, and Diane Brandli, President and Sustainability Consultant. [www.GreeningUSA.org](http://www.GreeningUSA.org)

### May 22 Wednesday-HOW NEW YORK STATE GOES GREEN.

Matt Driscoll, our former Mayor, who started us all thinking about a Green Syracuse, is now President and CEO of NY Environmental Facilities Corporation. EFC lends and borrows for major environmental projects throughout the state. Join us to hear about what has been happening in Green and Sustainability Projects and enjoy the pleasure he has working to improve our environment.

### Sierra Club supports Fair Elections

Instead of candidates raising large contributions from wealthy donors, a voluntary system of public financing of elections allows candidates to run for office by collecting many small donations and receiving public funds to run their campaign. It puts elections back in the hands of voters, and is proven to increase small donor participation in campaigns. For more information, contact Michelle Wolfe [mjw451@aol.com](mailto:mjw451@aol.com)

## OUT DOOR EVENTS -

### April 20 Saturday, 10AM-Noon. TOUR OF THE GEDDES-BROOK WETLANDS /NINE MILE CREEK AREAS.

Meet at the Onondaga Lake Visitors Center off of 690 exit 7. Start with a briefing of the lake cleanup. Then, carpool to Geddes Brook to start a walking tour. Honeywell's Joe McMullen will be our tour leader.

### May 18 Saturday, 10:30 AM- Noon. ANNUAL ONTARIO BEACH CLEANUP.

Meet at Southwick Beach. Mention you are a volunteer and there is no fee. Drive straight ahead toward the lake, put Concession Stand on your right and turn left to the cul-de-sac dead end. We will meet there. No heavy lugging and good fun. Bring bag lunch for a picnic table on the beach. Leaders are a Park Ranger and Rich Slingerland. Info: 298-3130, richardslingerland@yahoo.com. Carpool is suggested-go to Syracuse Sierra Club Meetup to post rides or rides wanted.

### June 16 Sunday 2:00 PM. ANNUAL FATHERS DAY WALK.

A Guided Walking Tour of Clark Reservation by Distinguished Professor Don Leopold. Join up with the Council of Park Friends at the Nature Center.

**June 18 Tuesday. CORPORATE CHALLENGE.** Litter and recycling community service for the annual race at Onondaga Lake Park. Usually from late afternoon into the evening. If you are into the fun of dumpster diving, contact Lisa Daly ,428-1384 by June 10 for parking passes and details.

***The is Messenger now printed on 100% post consumer recycled paper! The paper is also chlorine free, and FSC certified. If you would like to purchase some of this paper for your own use, contact Martha at: [mloew@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mloew@twcny.rr.com).***

## FORWARD ON CLIMATE ACTION—by Nicole J. Harbordt

Fourteen students from SU and SUNY-ESF joined about forty others from the Syracuse area on a Sierra Club Iroquois Group organized bus to the nation's capital to tell the President how we really feel about climate change. The decision to join the trip to Washington D.C. for the Forward on Climate rally, despite a long six hour bus ride, was a no brainer. It was an opportunity to show our support and voice our stance on an issue that is unprecedentedly important, for this generation and for generations to come. And on top of that, we were excited to say that we were going to be a part of the largest march on climate change in U.S. history.

Leaving Syracuse, NY in the wee hours of the morning, we thought we would be leaving the bitter cold New York temperatures behind; however, it seemed that we brought the cold weather down to D.C. with us. But, no amount of cold or wind could put a damper on our day. We, and all those at the rally, brought with us so much excitement, passion, and enthusiasm for the cause that I was feeling warm inside in no time.

From joining a group from New York to tell Governor Cuomo "No" on Hydrofracking, to hearing the inspirational words of those who spoke at the rally against the Keystone Pipeline, to joining the 40,000 people in a march to the White House, the day was filled with unforgettable experiences. Getting the opportunity to stand in front of the White House with signs in hand and yelling a chant led by Jill Stein herself was unimaginable. It was amazing to be surrounded, no matter where we went, by people from all walks of life. There were younger people, older people, college students, and plenty of children, all gathered in one place, on one day, for one very important cause. All those that attended the event were there for the purpose of making a statement on climate change, and nothing was going to get in the way of that. One man that I saw must have been around 80 years old. He walked with us with a cane in his hand, at a slow and staggering pace. He was determined to march with the crowd. The people that I had the opportunity to speak with understood the importance of why we were all there. It was clearly the time to show the President, Congress, the United States, and the rest of the world why it is time to act, and why they should too.

After a cold yet glorious day making history, it was time to leave D.C. and head back to Syracuse. Even though the bus was incredibly difficult to find, and a horrible accident on the road turned a six-hour bus ride into nearly an eleven-hour bus ride, everyone still seemed in good spirits when we returned to snowy Syracuse. Despite all of the things that could have been a negative part of our trip, it was clear that the energy and excitement from the day trumped it all. Everyone seemed content with the statement that was made on climate change that day. The conversations that were exchanged and the new friends that were made added to the whole experience of the trip—an experience that was absolutely unforgettable. *(continued on page 2)*



'Chasing Ice' Earth Day screening event to highlight climate change in CNY Greening USA will show the multi-award winning documentary "Chasing Ice," which tracks National Geographic photographer James Balog's quest to document Earth's changing climate as told through majestic glaciers, on Earth Day, **Monday, April 22, 6 p.m.** at The Palace Theatre, 2384 James St., Syracuse.

## IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACT INFO

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### IROQUOIS MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED SPRING, SUMMER, FALL & WINTER

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!

### News to your inbox:

If you join our Iroquois "news list" you will get updates, information and reminders of our events. Frequency at most is 3-4 per month, often less. You can unsubscribe at anytime. It is a closed listserv so your address is not visible, or ever shared.

If you or your friends want to be on this listserv, send an email to [tasha.cooper@gmail.com](mailto:tasha.cooper@gmail.com) with the words "News List" in subject line.

Localities have stepped up to protect their communities from fracking. There are 51 bans and 107 moratoria as of Feb. 25, 2013. See [fracktracker.org](http://fracktracker.org) for a list and maps. Several bans and moratoria are in Central NY, the most recent being a ban in the Town of Marcellus (passed Jan. 15).

Also encouraging is Elected Officials to Protect New York ([nyelectedofficials.org](http://nyelectedofficials.org)), which is calling on Gov. Andrew Cuomo for a moratorium on fracking, "until have thoroughly and properly evaluated the potential health, economic, and cumulative environmental impacts on local communities."

So far, 615 local officials have signed on from all 62 counties.

Meantime, the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations are considering lawsuits if the state proceeds with fracking. For example, the Community Environmental Defense Council, founded and led by attorneys Helen and David Slottje, is considering a lawsuit to declare the state's compulsory integration law illegal as it relates to fracking. Compulsory integration requires unwilling landowners to submit to drilling under their land if a certain percent of nearby landowners have consented to fracking.

Linda DeStefano

### FORWARD ON CLIMATE ACTION *continued:*

After an hour or two of being stuck in traffic because of the accident ahead of us, people passed around a sheet of paper to write a haiku poem on. Almost all the responses are from students, some are full of the feeling of friendship and empowerment, some are funny. They are a great way to get across what it was like that day. (The references to whales and Sea Hunt are because the driver only had a couple of DVD's and one of them was Sea Hunt - remember Sea Hunt with Lloyd Bridges?)

*We went to the man  
A cold wind blew down the hill  
Stopped in with Sea Hunt.*

*Today has moved me  
I am not the same person  
Sea Hunt changed my life.*

*Empty stadium  
They wandered there, aimlessly  
Where is the darn bus?*

*Youth energy roars  
passion compassion dancing  
for Earth, our Mother*

*Water rations short  
Warm busbound melting molting  
layers of clothing*

*Frozen nowhere. Stuck  
In traffic. Weird whale movie  
playing quietly.*

*Frozen nose, hands, toes,  
DC wind chill, dancing crowds.  
Inspiration found.*

*Thousands of people  
Gathering to make a change  
Our fists in the air.*

*In a traffic jam  
We are stuck and very sad  
Please make the cars go.*

*I am so hungry  
Anybody reading this  
Have some yummy food?*

## FROM THE CHAIR



Well this has not been the winter I expected. It was a grand opening in December and an early fizzle. The cold did make for some fun heavy activity at my feeders. My fierce senior cats long ago decided that snow and ice were not acceptable turf for sensitive toes and monitored all activity from the back of the couch, next to the picture window. Maybe that is why there was no window kill this winter?

The best new visitor was a Pileated Woodpecker. Well, not really new, just regular and up close. A bug-infested, old Chokecherry tree was the target. The huge orange holes are a great contrast to the snow and are almost to the top of the trunk. Thought: wonder why the headache remedy commercials have missed such a great opportunity? Could rival the pink drumming bunny.

Last letter, I promised a Cat, Mouse, and Bathtub Tale. "Late Fall, Just about as mice start looking for a warm, winter retreat, I looked in the bathroom and saw Bailey, the very large longhaired cat, sitting at one end of the bathtub calmly staring at a very agitated, small, mouse trying to scale the tub wall. I am not sure how s/he got there. If it could not get out, how did it get in? Probably Bailey brought it in to watch the show. In any case, rescue was needed. Go get gloves, try to catch mouse, mouse runs under Bailey, Bailey just sits there, lift Bailey's front leg, mouse runs out, mouse captured, mouse returned to outdoors, mission accomplished."

I do not dislike mice; just think house-mice have poor toilet-training. If they would use the litter I probably could deal with an occasional visit. So far they have refused to negotiate.

Enough of this foolishness. Time for special kudos to all who bused to Albany, Washington, carried signs, wrote letters, and just did not give up. I think there is some good news on the horizon!

For the Earth and all its Critters (even the house mice)

Martha Loew,

## LOBBY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2007, a new environmental organization, the Citizens Climate Lobby was formed to help citizens learn effective lobbying skills. CCL is the only climate change organization that is formed for the sole purpose of climate lobbying. The strategy is to have trained citizen lobbyists in a chapter and a chapter in each congressional district.

The mission of CCL is to "build the political will for a stable climate." The immediate goal is to persuade Congress to enact good legislation that will put a direct fee on carbon-based fuels at the point where they enter the economy and to rebate the fee revenue to legal residents of the U.S. It is designed to wean consumers away from fossil fuels and encourage them to select clean energy sources.

CCL volunteers receive training for effective lobbying. The program begins with an introductory conference call in which the speaker talks about the organization, its structure and its goals. Callers can ask relevant questions

CCL delivers the tools for effective lobbying with an organizing/training session. A trained speaker gives an overview of the CCL organization, teaches you how to speak about the proposed legislation, how to plan for an editorial board meeting and/ or a visit to a member of Congress. CCL volunteers are taught to practice communicating with congressional representatives with the goal of getting good, viable legislation passed.

After the organizing meeting, volunteers may participate in a monthly conference call. Chapter volunteers may choose to meet after the monthly call to plan upcoming actions.

Dr James Hansen, head of Goddard Institute for Space Studies, NASA, said:

"Most impressive is the work of Citizens Climate Lobby, a relatively new, fast-growing, nonpartisan, nonprofit group with 60 (now 87) chapters across the United States and Canada. If you want to join the fight to save the planet, to save creation for your grandchildren, there is no more effective step you could take than becoming an active member of this group."

Studies show that apocalyptic threats do not work well with people unless you add the important suggestion of a way to solve the problem. We need to say: "We have a disastrous situation and here is how we are going to solve it."

In partnership with your work with the Sierra Club and 350.org, you can take another important step by joining Citizens Climate Lobby. We have organized a chapter in Central New York and welcome your participation. For more information see:

[www.citizensclimatelobby.org](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org)

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