



IROQUOIS

MESSENGER

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet

SAVE THE RAIN and PROTECT THE AIR Importation of Trash from Cortland County

By Vicki Baker



Residents of Onondaga County, are once again expressing concern for the concept of importing trash to the incinerator on Rock Cut Road. The specific impetus is a plan to send incinerator ash to Cortland landfill in exchange for importing their trash to Rock Cut incinerator. In building this plant 20 years ago, a law was passed to protect citizens from the burden of another county's garbage by banning importation. The Onondaga County Legislature is able to create exceptions.

Garbage Incineration is a dirty and dangerous method to generate electricity and the most expensive method to process trash. Waste incinerators emit large amounts of carbon dioxide and other gases that contribute to Global Climate Change. In addition, mercury, lead, arsenic and dioxins – all by-products of incinerators - are never acceptable in any amount. The fact that new incinerators are NOT being routinely built across the US indicates this process is neither favored by communities nor economical in the long run. Alternatives should be considered.

Perceive our trash as a resource instead of waste.

- Turn over the incinerator to OCRRA to operate and use only when necessary, maximize recycling and create jobs through the (re)manufacturing of recovered materials into new products.
- Establish a "swap shop" facility for citizens to utilize and reuse items and thereby reduce our waste stream.
- Set up a "Made in USA/CNY Program" and promote the "Buy Local" Campaign
- Make composting sites more accessible and promote the product for re-use by gardeners and farms.

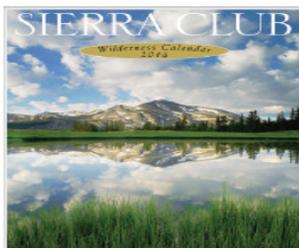


Remember the lesson from Onondaga Lake and put the environment, not money, as our guide. This is a wonderful opportunity to turn our waste disposal into a showcase for other communities

It is time for all communities to have a plan for their trash that maximizes the re-use, recycling and reduction of our waste for a safe, sustainable future for all.

2014 Sierra Club Calendars

Mail Order — Make checks payable to Sierra Club — No Tax!



Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

Calendars c/o Rocki Malamud
423 Tilden Dr, Apart #1
E. Syracuse, NY 13057
315-446-7823
rowenamalamud@gmail.com

Item	Price	Quantity	Total	Name	_____
Wall Calendar	\$12	_____	_____	Address	_____
Engagement Calendar	\$13	_____	_____	City	_____ State _____ ZIP _____
Shipping	\$4	_____	_____	Phone ()	_____
TOTAL		_____	_____	Email	_____

Save!! Buy calendars at any indoor or outdoor event for only \$10 each.

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 Iro-group@newyork.sierra.org with the words "News List in the subject line."

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to your Iroquois Group. We need your support to educate and inform our members, the public, and government officials about what must be done to protect our natural resources, health and economy from attacks on our environment. Remember New York is still not Fracked!!

If you want to help, please send a check made out to Sierra Club Foundation, with words, **Iroquois Foundation Account**, in the memo.

Mail to:
**Iroquois Group PO Box 82,
Jamesville, NY, 13078.**

Thank you.

BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN

By Michelle Wolfe

The goal of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign is to move the United States away from the burning of dirty coal. Burning coal is the leading cause of carbon emissions in this country, and directly contributes to climate change. The burning of coal makes us sick; it pollutes our air, our water, and our land. The Sierra Club has risen to this challenge. The campaign, which began in 2002, has helped educate the public about the dangers of burning fossil fuels, and has had significant victories in closing down power plants across the country.

The organization has worked to retire almost 150 of the over 500 coal plants in the United States, and strives to replace them with clean energy solutions such as wind, solar, and geothermal. This year, in New York State, Beyond Coal campaign volunteers have worked to convince the Public Service Commission to retire the Cayuga and Dunkirk coal-fired power plants, and not convert these plants to natural gas. The campaign submitted over 3,500 public comments demanding that the PSC just say no to unnecessary fossil fuel conversions. Organizations such as Citizens Campaign for the Environment, New Yorkers against Fracking, and Food and Water Watch joined with the Sierra Club in making a strong presence at the PSC's meeting in August.

According to Jennifer Tuttle, an organizer at Beyond Coal, "Throughout the course of the campaign we've encountered significant industry and special interest resistance, but we are on our way to retiring these coal plants and paving the way to clean energy investments that will protect our environment and provide much needed family-supporting jobs in New York State."

The PSC will soon decide the fate of these two power plants, but there is still much work to be done.

While the focus remains on retiring one-third of the over 500 coal plants in the country by 2020, Jennifer states that the next step for the campaign is to build grass-roots support for on/offshore wind energy investments across New York.

For more information on the Beyond Coal campaign visit <http://content.sierraclub.org/coal/>

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Tree Huggers,

Hope all had a great summer. As usual I was in the Adirondacks both as a beach comber and enjoyer of all the family birds that fly through. As the years go on the numbers grow as each family grows.

I did follow my own advice on the Monarch butterfly and got on the agenda of the local town association to talk about the problem and had great response. Some from people who already had milkweed in their yard, and others who wanted to get started. The recent monarch counts are not good, so I hope everyone will open up a monarch and pollinator snack site.

Whole new topic: The Iroquois group is so geographically large that it is impossible to really help or involve the members who are at great distance from the hub, Onondaga County. I have a pipe-dream that a small group (or even one individual) from some of the distant areas would be part of our circle of environmental efforts.

So, this is my invitation to anyone out there who is interested in exploring being a "sub-group" (I am sure we can find a better name) to write to me so we can get a dialogue started. Hopefully when an environmental issue comes up, we can share the resources of Sierra Club and Iroquois Group to help find solutions. Hope to hear from anyone with thoughts on this idea.

Not a lot of backyard news as the birds are enjoying the fresh food on the ground and in the trees.

For the earth and all its critters,

Martha Loew



FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR By Linda A. DeStefano

STOP PROPOSED 81-PIPELINE

Over hill and down dale, Ann Jamison ("A.J.") and I searched for mailbox numbers in the Onondaga Hill area (while vehicles behind us probably cursed our slow and erratic pace). We were delivering packets to people whose property has an easement for a gas pipeline. Meantime, other volunteers were making the same outreach to property owners in Lafayette and Tully. Millennium Pipeline Company is proposing to build a high pressure, 24" to 30" pipeline in roughly the same area as an old Sunoco pipeline of only 6", which is no longer in operation. Although we need gas pipelines to carry gas, which is currently an essential element of our energy supply, we don't need this particular pipeline. The opponents are calling it the 81-pipeline because it would run roughly parallel to Route 81 from Johnson City in Broome County to Onondaga Hill in Onondaga County. It would traverse the Tully Valley, which is already fractured from brine mining, causing mud boils - which pollute Onondaga Creek. It would cross many streams, involve cutting many trees and go by nine schools. It would hook up with existing pipelines, probably for the purpose of carrying fracked gas from Pennsylvania to a port in Boston for export. At least one compressor station would be needed. Millennium has a poor safety record. Do we want to destroy more Nature and endanger our safety from possible explosions so that gas companies can sell gas at a higher profit overseas? Find out more at stop81pipeline.wordpress.com

People with an easement along this route can obtain free information from environmental lawyer Joe Heath at (315)475-2559 or jheath@atsny.com

WILL FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT BE ANOTHER DOMINO IN THE FALLING NUCLEAR INDUSTRY?

As representative of the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club to the Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE), I've been pleased to work with extremely knowledgeable and dedicated people. They have submitted several petitions to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding the dangers of Fitzpatrick and Nine Mile 1 nuclear facilities in Oswego County. They pointed out that UBS, a financial analysis firm, has given a poor financial rating to Entergy, the owner of Fitzpatrick. They argued that Entergy's financial woes are likely to result in continued poor maintenance at Fitzpatrick as the company won't want to put money into a poor investment. No decisions have yet been made by the NRC but the fact that NRC is willing to review the petitions is a partial victory in itself as many petitions are rejected outright. If Fitzpatrick is closed, it will join several other nuclear plants (such as, Vermont Yankee, which will close next year) which have recently been shuttered.

AGREE has also weighed in on a proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to, among other negatives, raise the permissible radiation levels in water and soil and allow radioactive materials to be dumped in ordinary landfills.



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FALL 2013

Sierra events encourage us to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet. They are free and open to all. Some parks may charge an entry fee.

Indoor programs are held at 7:30 on the 4th Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise noted) at University United Methodist Church (UUMC), 1085 E. Genesee St. Syracuse. Park and enter on University Ave.

Outdoor events are walks or visits to places of environmental interest.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Nov 3, Sunday, 2:00PM - Hike the Butternut Creek Recreation Trail

Come clear your mind as we head into the busy holiday season by joining us as we explore this 0.9 mile trail, and the adjoining .25 mile boardwalk, that wanders through wetland and forest areas. We will be able to view Butternut Creek as we cross the Old Erie Canal Trail, and enjoy the scenery along this pleasant, and rather hidden, treasure of a trail in Dewitt.

Meet in the parking area located on Kinne Street in Dewitt, just east of the I-481 overpass, and about 0.2 miles from the 3-way stop at the corner of Butternut Drive. Look for the Sierra Club sign.

Jan 5, Sunday, 2:00PM - Winter at Baltimore Woods Nature Center

Enjoy the crisp air of the New Year as we hike the easy, level trails of this beautiful area. We will begin with the Pioneer Trail, join the Arboretum Trail, and end with the Backyard Wildlife Trail. Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed, so please leave them at home safe and warm to wait for your return.

Baltimore Woods is located at 4007 Bishop Hill Road in Marcellus. We will meet in the parking lot on the top of the hill. Look for the Sierra Club sign.

INDOOR EVENTS

NOV 20, Wednesday, 7:30 PM - MORE THAN HONEY

What is killing off the world's bee population at an alarming rate? Without bees one-third of our food would not exist. In this award-winning film, the director, Markus Imhoof, travels the world observing beekeepers, farmers, and scientists. Through a point-of-view cinematography we will soar through the air with the bees!