

[the sylvanian]

summer 2015

Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club • pennsylvania.sierraclub.org



[operation: diversity]

can we attract a more diverse membership?



explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

[from the editors]

diversity is our priority!

In April the participants of a strategic planning session for the Sierra Club – PA Chapter determined that becoming a more diverse organization is its No. 1 priority. That said, club leaders have expressed great uncertainty about how to go about becoming more diverse.

We are not just talking about ethnicity, but also diversity in age, income levels, professions, educational backgrounds, religion, gender, and more.

Because the Sierra Club is a grassroots organization, it is up to group leaders to make this happen. Since delegates to the Chapter Executive Committee (Ex Com) are elected by the groups, the Chapter Ex Com cannot become more diverse unless the groups are diverse. We are asking our members to do something new, so the Chapter is prepared to help group leaders move in this direction with training, advice, and support.

This issue of *The Sylvania* introduces some ideas to ponder in hopes it begins a conversation about becoming a Sierra Club that is less like a club and more like a movement.



Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

WENDI TAYLOR AND PHIL COLEMAN
Co-editors of *The Sylvania*



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DO YOU HAVE
SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?



Consider this your invitation to say it on our blog. Yes, the Sierra Club Chapter has a blog that allows our members to share their thoughts, ideas and peevs with the rest of us on Sierra Keystone Conversations.

THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE.

Submit your blog to:
wendi.taylor@verizon.net

Or, of course, you can just be a regular reader. Find it at:
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[the sylvanian]

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Anonymous contributions are not accepted.

SIERRA CLUB MISSION STATEMENT:
To explore, enjoy and protect the wild
places of the earth; To practice and
promote the responsible use of the earth's
ecosystems and resources; To educate and
enlist humanity to protect and restore
the quality of the natural and human
environment; and To use all lawful means
to carry out these objectives.

Sierra Club's sexual harassment policy
can be found online at [http://mitchell.
sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-
harassment.asp](http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp) or by contacting the
Harrisburg office.

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[operation: diversity]

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[on the cover]

To illustrate the Sierra Club's desire to diversify its membership, we've presented a variety of faces. How can we achieve this goal? We explore the issue in our special section titled Operation: Diversity.

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next deadline: September 15

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chapter directory

Due to space restrictions, the Chapter Directory was not included in this issue. To view the directory, go to [http://pennsylvania.
sierraclub.org/PA_Chapter_2008/chapter-
directory.html](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/PA_Chapter_2008/chapter-directory.html)

[the view from harrisburg]

by Joanne Kilgour, Chapter Director

STATE BUDGET 2015-2016: BAD BILLS, SHENANIGANS, AND VETOES

Summer may be officially underway, but we in Harrisburg can't relax just yet – it is still raining bad bills in the legislature – and though one budget plan has passed the House and Senate we're back



to the drawing board following vetoes by Governor Wolf. In an effort to deliver an “on time” budget, House and Senate majority leaders pushed through HB 1192 on party lines in the waning hours of June 30th, a move that made it clear that this year's budget battle is as much about testing the new administration as it is about getting the state's financial health in order. The legislative leadership and the Governor are expected

to return to Harrisburg following a brief July 4th break and get back to the negotiating table to iron out differences on pension reform, liquor privatization, school funding, property taxes, and a severance tax on Marcellus shale extraction. Let's hope they can put aside political shenanigans and find common ground for the benefit of the Commonwealth.

Governor Wolf first announced his budget proposal in early March, and in the Capitol it has seemed that instead of making a serious attempt to solve the

state's fiscal challenges, the legislature has stood firmly on one side of the aisle and the Governor on the other. Governor Wolf proposed a balanced budget that would eliminate our \$2.3 billion deficit while helping to reverse the trend of reducing funding necessary for environmental protection and conservation. In addition, Wolf proposed to end the free pass for the natural gas industry and hold companies accountable. The legislative majority, however, has refused to advance a Marcellus shale tax proposal – one of the key elements of the Governor's budget – and instead stands with the American Petroleum Institute and the Marcellus Shale Coalition to paint the industry as “struggling to survive” and unable to pay their fair share.

In addition, under Wolf's proposed budget, \$20 million of the operating budget for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) would be funded through the General Fund, not the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, and DCNR's overall budget would increase by \$8.3 million. While this is just a start, it would begin to put this agency back on the path toward carrying out its mission to maintain, improve and preserve state parks and to assure the long-term health of state forest lands - rather than manage the conflict between that mission and its reliance on the industrialization of our public lands for operating support.

Wolf would also provide a modest increase in funding for the Department of Environmental Protection, an important step toward reversing the course set in recent years, during which reductions in DEP's budget strained staff have left the state ill-equipped to adequately regulate the natural gas industry.

Governor Wolf also proposed restoring significant funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission, with a 72.8% increase in General Fund monies over the appropriation from the 2014-2015 budget under Governor Corbett. Further, Governor Wolf's budget would include a \$225 million energy investment,

that would restore funding for the PA Sunshine Solar Program in the amount of \$50 million, while also proposing \$50 million for projects to improve energy efficiency at small businesses, local government units, schools and non-profits – our best hope for additional clean energy funding given the current political landscape.

In contrast, HB 1192, the budget rammed through on party lines to meet the June 30th deadline, is a budget that does not reflect the will of the people of Pennsylvania, and legislation that would have set the Commonwealth on a path to fiscal failure. The budget passed by House and Senate leaders was bad for human health and the environment because it would not have adequately funded enforcement staff at the Department of Environmental Protection; it would not have enabled the creation of a much-needed health registry for fracking-related complaints; it would not have ensured our communities protection from the harm of under-regulated fracking; and it would not have honored the Commonwealth's obligation to fully fund our share to the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. Given the disparity between the majority budget - HB 1192 - and the Governor's budget as proposed in March, it was not a surprise that the Governor vetoed HB 1192 on the evening of June 30th.

The budget presented to Governor Wolf was a short-sighted, ill-advised proposal that would have been bad for the environment and bad for the people of Pennsylvania. The Governor's veto was intended to bring the General Assembly back to the negotiating table with the best interests of the citizens of the Commonwealth in mind, rather than political power struggles. However, as of early July, while both sides have re-initiated talks, it is not looking like they will reach a compromise anytime soon.

MORE BAD BUDGET BILLS – THE FISCAL CODE: SB 655

In addition to vetoing the budget passed by legislature, Governor Wolf vetoed the fiscal code bill – SB 655. Over the past several years, the legislature has attempted to insert “riders” into the fiscal code – amendments that do not relate to the state’s finances but are buried in the text of a bill that is intended to outline how funds will be appropriated. This year, the fiscal code was amended in the House to include language regarding a prohibition on finalizing regulations for conventional oil and gas development: regulations that recently underwent extensive public process - including input from the legislature, the regulated community, experts, and the general public – as part of what is referred to as the “Chapter 78” rulemaking. Using the Fiscal Code as a vehicle for preventing the adoption of these regulations is inappropriate – and also on shaky legal grounds given the bounds of the single-subject rule.

The single subject rule is mandated by Article III, sec. 3 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, which says “[n]o bill shall be passed containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title, except a general appropriation bill or a bill codifying or compiling the law or a part thereof.” The vetoed fiscal code bill, SB 655, contained language to obstruct the final adoption of regulations to protect public health and public resources from damage related to ongoing drilling activities, a provision the subject of which is not related to how state funds will be appropriated. As budget talks continue and a new fiscal code bill may emerge, it will be important to keep watch for this and other riders.

BAD BUDGET SEASON BILLS CONTINUED – SB 562/HB 965

As if budget shenanigans and fiscal code riders weren’t bad enough, the legislature also attempted another attack on regulations this session – bills attempting to make the already overwrought regulatory review process even more susceptible to legislative interference. In the name of legislative “oversight,” SB 562 and HB 965 would empower legislators to

obstruct the current independent and bipartisan process for updating state agency regulations – like the Department of Environmental Protection’s oil and gas regulations - while also making that process much less transparent to the general public. These bills represent legislative overreach that would politicize Pennsylvania’s rulemaking process and take the “independent” out of the Commonwealth’s Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC).

This legislation would block publication of agency “Statements of Purpose” (SOP) in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, making it harder for the public to understand proposed regulatory changes. In addition, this legislation would enable standing committees of the General Assembly to repeatedly delay IRRC votes on proposed regulations, and thereby short-circuit the regulatory review process. Under current law, the Regulatory Review Act gives legislative committees the power to further review or disapprove a regulatory proposal only after the IRRC – which consists of four legislative appointees and one appointee of the Governor – has voted on it. By contrast, SB 562 and HB 965 would enable legislative committees to invoke repeatedly the power to “further review” proposed regulations before the IRRC ever votes, and also expand several post-vote periods during which legislative action can be taken against proposed regulations, and adoption of the regulations is meanwhile stayed.

The process for passing regulations in Pennsylvania is already complex and infused with red tape. This legislation would only serve to make the process even more subject to undue influence and even less independent than it already is under our Regulatory Review Act. While this legislation was not passed by the end of June, it is a bill that we will continue to watch as the budget battle persists.

MORE BAD BILLS – SB 875, THE RETURN OF SB 411 – AMD AS FRACK WATER

We fought hard last session to defeat SB 411, a bill that would have extended

immunity from liability under the Environmental Good Samaritan Act to those seeking to withdraw abandoned mine drainage (AMD) and sell it for use as water for natural gas drilling – frack water. Though the bill text has changed this session, the basics of the bill are back again as SB 875.

SB 875 known as the “Treated Mine Water Act” would be unfair to communities that are bearing the burden of coal mining activity; unjust harm will result to streams and rivers by the removal of treated mine water from the area as a result of depleted flow. The depletion of flow could prevent a stream from achieving restored quality and habitats, and diminish water supplies for those who rely on these watersheds for drinking water.

Mine water treated to effluent standards, as required by the bill, still contains contaminants and will introduce pollution in watersheds where it does not now exist, spreading degraded water. There is a provision in the bill that the treated mine water will not be considered solid waste under the Solid Waste Management Act, which also removes the regulatory floor from its handling, and would expose the public to environmental and public health risks when there are spills or releases.

Further, the General Assembly has not conducted any research or produced scientific studies on which it bases its claims that treated coal mine water is “an acceptable source of water” and can be “effectively substituted for fresh water” for use in oil and gas well development. In fact, very little research is available on how mine water reacts with fracking chemicals and information that is available exposes several problems that can result from the use of mine water – problems that responsible parties could be shielded from if this bill is enacted. It is our communities, not the companies that created – and profited from – the problem, that should be protected and this bill would only serve to add insult to injury.

[coleman's lantern]

to kill a mockingbird

by Phil Coleman

I grew up thinking of killing animals as a very normal thing. I watched my grandmother wring a rooster's neck and enjoyed eating it an hour later. I learned to chop the head off a fryer and defeather and dress it for my mother. I once watched a local butcher use a rifle to kill a steer and dress it, virtually in our backyard. I was intrigued.

When I was twelve, I sold enough Christmas cards to get a Red Ryder BB gun. I shot tin cans almost as often as I missed. And I killed a couple of sparrows and a horned toad.

One day, fifteen years later, I wounded a squirrel with a .22 and had to chase it down and kill it. Then I shot another with the same result. I dressed those squirrels and started to cook them when I realized I had no appetite. I threw them out and hunted no more. If I can't eat what I kill, I shouldn't be hunting. Even though I gave up hunting, that does not mean I'm opposed to hunting -- if it's done in the right way and in the right circumstances. I'll come back to this point.

When Atticus Finch talks to his son about using a .22 rifle in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, he says it is inevitable that the son will shoot at birds, but he shouldn't kill Mockingbirds. "It's all right to shoot Jays. They are useless and mean, but a Mockingbird has no bad qualities. And his song delights us so."

I have an affection for Mockingbird song. Also, I find no good reason to kill Jays. I would rather not make such fine distinctions. No one kills either bird for food. If bird song makes a person so mad he would kill to stop it, I suggest window closing and serious therapy.

However, there are forms of careless killing we need to consider.

When we discuss the impact of global warming, we have to acknowledge that we have a hard time predicting which species will be advantaged or disadvantaged by climate change. We know that there are so many humans on all parts of the world's earth that negative impact on us is inevitable, especially since we live such co-dependent lives. Even as we read and write, we are killing our progeny.

Animal species will have to change their ranges. We know that bird migrations



were effected by previous climate changes. But we don't know whether they can adjust at man-prompted climate change speeds which are faster than geologic climate change.

Plants will have a harder time adjusting. They don't change ranges rapidly -- unless they are cultivated species that humans decide where to plant. We also know that both Mockingbirds and Jays have year-around ranges that cover the entire United States. Climate change (absent other imponderable effects) will only serve to extend their ranges north into somewhat more of Canada. Climate Change will affect us more than it affects Mockingbirds. But this conjecture

ignores the micro world; we don't know how climate change will promote or demote diseases, predations by bacteria or viruses.

In the past six years, I have given up eating land based animals simply because consuming beef, pork, chicken, etc., requires consumption of so much energy. I eat seafood, so I am a pescatarian. I am not against hunting. In fact, Pennsylvania needs to broaden its deer hunting season. We have eliminated wolves and lions, the only successful predators of deer. We are the substitute predator. Without extensive hunting, deer will be killed on highways, damaging cars and sometimes people. They will overgraze forests and destroy understory. We have twice as many deer as our forests can sustain. Reintroducing adequate herds of wolves is a political impossibility. Somehow, we need to broaden the opportunity for responsible hunters to kill more deer over fall and winter.

Although I will not do the hunting, I would gladly eat a venison roast if it meant one less steer brought to market. Or ten less chickens. Or a healthier Pennsylvania forest.

We have twice as many deer as our forest can sustain and several more times as many steers, hogs, chickens as we should be eating.

Of course, we have four times as many people as our state can sustain. Consider how much of our food is imported from other states and/or countries. (And consider the implications of global warming for the import industry.)

Sigh!

New Veterans Outings Program

When Tom Hiegel thinks it's time to do something, nothing is going to stop him. And Hiegel thinks it is time that we serve our veterans the way they have served us. As the Chapter's Outings Chair, he thinks the best way we can do that is show veterans a good time out in the forests.

So Hiegel teamed up with Lamont "Monte" Kapec of the US Army and took a dozen veterans to Elk Camp Tannery for a "Pennsylvania Wild" weekend.

While the object of the weekend was fun, the veterans also received training in best forestry practices and managing invasive plant species in forests. While camping together, everyone had a feeling of empowerment and belonging, two things that veterans often lack upon returning from war.

The National Sierra Club is working to expand its Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program to include groups, like veterans. Later this year, the Pennsylvania Chapter should learn how we can structure our military outings program to conform to our other ICO programs in Philadelphia and Harrisburg for funding.

Those who would like to join Hiegel in the veterans outings program, please contact him at: netwrkinc@aol.com



An archery demonstration inspires competition among veterans of the Marines, Navy and Army,, which later turned into a day-to-night battle — with a woman from the Navy out-shooting them all.



Top Left: The entire Army/Marine/Navy team together at Elk Camp Tannery in May.

Top Right: The whole team is in good spirits as they enjoy the scenery and the company of other veterans

Left: Tom Hiegel pictured at camp with his Marine and Navy cabin mates from Philadelphia.



in search of pennsylvania's abandoned wells

by Genevieve Elsworth

Pennsylvania's outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists can contribute to the Commonwealth's environmental protection effort by reporting abandoned oil and gas wells they may come across while hiking.

Abandoned wells can have variable surface expressions. Signs of historic oil and gas development include abandoned pipes and well casings, wooden and metal debris, abandoned production equipment such as pumping jacks, compressor stations, and tanks and old access trails or roads. Abandoned wells can also be located in surface depressions with accumulated water. (See photo)

Pennsylvania has a nearly 150 year history of oil and gas development which began in 1859 with the first oil well drilled in Titusville by Edwin Drake. Working for the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company in search of petroleum as an alternative to rare and expensive whale oil, Drake's first productive oil well extended to a depth of 69 feet below the surface and produced between 8 and 10 barrels of crude oil daily. Since this first successful attempt at oil extraction, Pennsylvania has experienced extensive oil and gas development.

This industrial development proceeded unfettered for nearly 100 years, until the passage of legislation required permitting to drill through coal seams in 1956 and permitting to drill all wells in 1963. Regulation of oil and gas wells that had been abandoned by responsible operators was not established until 1985, with the

passage of the Oil and Gas Act of 1984 which required operators to plug nonproducing wells and established the Abandoned and Orphan Well Program to plug wells abandoned before 1985. Additionally, this legislation established the distinction between abandoned and orphan wells. Although both terms describe nonproducing oil and gas wells, an abandoned well has a responsible oil and gas operator to properly plug the well and restore the site location while an orphan well has no responsible oil and gas operator to do so, and is thus under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP).

Although assessments of the number of wells drilled since the inception of oil and gas development vary, estimates by the Independent Petroleum Association of America suggest approximately 325,000 wells have been drilled since 1859. Of this total estimate, approximately 125,000 wells are permitted while a staggering 200,000 wells are undocumented. However, the number of undocumented wells verified by the PA DEP Abandoned and Orphan Well Program, the government agency responsible for documenting and plugging abandoned oil and gas wells, are substantially lower with only approximately 12,000 wells located. The proportion of these undocumented oil and gas wells that are unplugged is relatively unknown.

Unplugged or improperly plugged oil and gas wells can negatively impact



the environment. These wells can act as a conduit for the migration of natural gas, oil, or brine to the surface, potentially contaminating surface waters or subsurface freshwater aquifers. Additionally, the emission of greenhouse gases, such as methane, to the atmosphere from such wells contributes to air quality degradation. To mitigate these harmful environmental effects, it is imperative to locate and document abandoned and orphan oil and gas wells. Many of these undocumented abandoned wells are located in stream banks in valleys, due to the belief of historic oil and gas prospectors that subterranean rivers of oil followed the streams, or are littered throughout Pennsylvania's State Forests and Game Lands. Pennsylvania's outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists can contribute to this environmental protection effort by reporting abandoned oil and gas wells to both PA DEP Bureau of Oil and Gas Management and to Penn State's Earth and Environmental Systems Institute (EESI).

Additional information on the search for Pennsylvania's abandoned oil and gas wells can be found at marcellus-matters.psu.edu. Further inquiries can be directed to Genevieve Elsworth (gwe107@psu.edu), Community Science Volunteer Coordinator at Penn State's EESI.

philadelphia hosts NY climate/justice organizers

by Susan Edwards

Excitement was in the air. Almost 200 activists from unions, community groups, environmental and environmental justice groups as well as faith communities gathered in Philadelphia on June 2nd to learn how to put together a powerful movement that could move cities to action on cutting greenhouse gas emissions and paving the way for a clean energy economy while putting principles of economic and environmental justice at the forefront.

The forum entitled “Labor, Community, and the Climate Crisis: Building Alliances for Economic and Environmental Justice,” was held at an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union hall – which have installed solar panels on their office roof. The event, co-sponsored by 37 organizations, featured leaders in New York City’s Climate Works for All Coalition and People’s Climate Movement about how they are working to move New York City forward. It was attended by activists from as many as 60 organizations and attracted one of the most diverse audiences ever seen for a climate event in Philadelphia.

John Braxton, past co-president of the union representing Community College of Philadelphia faculty and staff, opened the program with a call for solutions. He said that the climate crisis and economic injustice are

two problems with one solution: a massive green jobs program with training and income support for workers who lose fossil fuel jobs.

Eddie Bautista, Executive Director of the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance, described the ways that communities of color and low-income communities are laced with toxic sites, which affect both workers and residents. NY City identified six neighborhoods where it lowered environmental standards to retain industry. All six are vulnerable to storm surges and flooding. Bautista questioned the wisdom of siting heavily polluting industries on the waterfront. He praised environmental justice (EJ) activists who didn’t go to school for environmental studies as “street PhD’s,” for all they’ve learned. Bautista noted that “resiliency” usually means bouncing back, but in an inequitable situation, he wants to bounce forward.

Research scientist Jon Forster, co-chair of the People’s Climate Movement-NY and vice president of District Council 37 of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, said about **80 percent of his members are people of color, many of whom were devastated by Hurricane Sandy** and also first responders. He recalled the power of the 400,000 who attended the People’s Climate March in September 2014, breaking down the silos between labor, faith, environmental, and environmental justice communities, subscribing to the Jemez Principles. These were developed in 1996 led by the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice to facilitate respectful and democratic organizing among different cultures. Forster said we need a just transition away from fossil fuel, one that provides displaced workers with assistance, such as free training with wage support and

enhanced retirement benefits. He ended by saying we have to build a movement, not just mobilize for an event.

Josh Kellerman, Senior Policy and Research Analyst at ALIGN (the Alliance for a Greater New York) and lead author of “Climate Works for All: A Platform for Reducing Emissions, Protecting Our Communities, and Creating Good Jobs for New Yorkers,” explained that there is an ongoing process to build trust among the members of the coalition so that environmental groups are not making decisions on their own, but as a coalition. The NYC Central Labor Council has been a core member of the Climate Works for All Coalition, and the AFL-CIO endorsed the climate platform. Labor organizations will support strong resolutions on climate if they are crafted carefully on unifying issues. Electrical workers and public sector unions are good examples.

Paying for a transition to clean energy will require public and private investment.

Public housing retrofits will need federal Housing and Urban Development funds. Owners of large buildings will need to invest in retrofitting their properties, which use a large percent of total energy consumption. For the rest, we’ll need government to step up as it did during World War II.

Speakers highlighted some efforts being made in NY City. Training modules about climate change are being developed for neighborhoods. Laws have been enacted requiring that by 2030, all new buildings and any buildings refinanced or sold to meet “passive” building design standards, a process in which energy efficiency is designed into an architectural plan to reduce energy use and a build-

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how to accomplish our goals

by Phil Coleman

The national board has announced a new strategic plan. It is a good plan, but flawed from the second sentence on. When the board says, “Since you are grassroots . . .” it has started off on the wrong foot. The relationship of Board to membership immediately translates as the relationship we find in senior professor to freshman student. It is the kind of relationship that makes it easy for us in the trenches to put ducking before charging (to use an infantry metaphor).

Those of us in the lower echelons can admire the plan, even approve of it; but we also find it easy to say, “Okay, it’s your plan. Do it.”

The first and perhaps most important point of the plan is that the Sierra Club needs to be more diverse. We need to include ethnic and racial groups whom we have ignored and/or patronized. We need to reach out to labor, blue collar workers, many of whom work for industries we despise. We need to include religious minorities. We need to take up justice issues that aren’t narrowly environmental, recognizing that environmental justice is related to other justice issues. We need to reach out to business people, especially those who are threatened by expansion of bigger and less local business. We need to reach out to farmers. To the extent that we are old, we need to reach out to the young.

But none of this comes easy. None of reaching out works if it does not involve as much listening as telling. Telling us what we should do doesn’t work if telling comes like an edict from above. We are the elite. We are the right minded. We are sincere. We are the knowing. How can we listen to the commoners?

Do you see where I am going?

The board has told us that they are elite and that as commoners we should listen.

That they are right doesn’t make their task easier or their edicts easier to swallow.

One laudable goal is to “Address non-energy emissions such as agriculture and methane.” How do we “address” farmers about that? Do we tell them that their emissions are increasing global warming, and they should do something? At some point do we listen? They are grassroots. We know the answers. How do we discuss this issue with them? Farmers should be real partners, but right now they believe in the Farm Bureau and the Farm Bureau sees us as the enemy. Is this something we can change?

I am an old guy. I should welcome young guys – and gals – into the Club. But I know the answers and they don’t. Do I really have to listen to them? If we are to be inclusive, the answer is yes.

A SUGGESTION

As a lowly grassroots person, I’m not at all sure my suggestion will be taken seriously, but here it is, anyway.

The final section of the plan is headed: “ENSURE OUR FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND SUSTAINABILITY.” It mentions fundraising and other things and then concludes with the following point: “Ensure that all of our chapters and groups have the financial resources and opportunities to succeed.” Beyond fundraising (which got us into trouble recently), one thing we could do is to move the headquarters out of the most expensive city in America. If we move to the Midwest, all aspects of our headquarters costs – including salaries – will go down. Think of reduced airline travel and lower energy consumption as an added savings. I know that Sierra Club has an historical connection to San Francisco. Let’s end the excess expense and energy consumption.

Let’s quit paying excessive but necessary staff salaries. The savings can be used for conservation programs.



worth repeating

WHY WE NEED TO CHANGE

Excerpt from blog post of Michael Brune, Executive Director of Sierra Club

Just as the country now struggles with a legacy of white supremacy (as we have all witnessed in Ferguson, Cleveland, New York, Baltimore, Charleston, and so many other places), the Sierra Club must address both our past inaction and the negative consequences of our actions. We also must come to terms with a working environment that remains uncomfortable for, and at times outright hostile to, many of those outside the white, straight, upper middle-class, and highly educated demographics.

When I was hired as executive director in 2010, I was introduced to our diversity efforts and, like many others, I initially focused on the hiring aspect – who is in the room today and who will be in the room tomorrow. Yes, the environmental movement remains wildly behind in diversifying, as last year’s Green 2.0 report documents, but I have also come to realize that our diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work is about so much more than that. I have grappled with understanding the appropriate role an environmental organization should play in addressing the extreme racial and economic injustices of our time.

In May, the Board of Directors adopted a multi-year DEI plan (Multi-Year Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Organizational 2015-2018 Plan) that not only addresses diversity but also considers how to fundamentally change the culture of the Sierra Club and situate our work within a broader movement for justice.

ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUITY

Excerpt from the 2015 Sierra Club Strategic Plan

The advocacy work of the mainstream

environmental groups, however well intentioned, has all-too frequently overlooked how their solutions may disproportionately affect people of low income communities and communities of color. “You can’t enlist humanity if you only speak for half the population,” noted environmental justice activist Gail Swanson in Green 2.0’s 2014 report, State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations. Given the relevance of our mission, the disparities embedded in the

**... the Sierra Club
must address both
our past inaction
and the negative
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our actions.**

issues on which we work, the severity of the challenge, and the scale of our opposition, we cannot afford to postpone or deny our need to change and address the justice dimension of every environmental issue.

Defining our goals, however, is only a starting point. Just as important is knowing how we want to achieve those goals. Given the magnitude of the challenges that face us, and the power of the entities that are already resisting change, it’s clear that we need to enlist every possible ally in our cause. A Sierra Club that consists of predominantly white, middle-class environmentalists — no matter how dedicated — cannot succeed. It is es-

sential that we not only embrace but also actively work toward building a Sierra Club that reflects the true diversity of America. Only by doing so can we engage and empower a movement of the size and power required to bring about the changes the planet needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUALITIES

Excerpt from White Paper by Hollie Nyseth Brehm and David Pellow

As we consider economic- and discrimination-based explanations for environmental injustice, politics are clearly at play in both. The political power of communities, states, and industries is inseparable from racial and economic forces driving environmental inequalities.

For one, industries and corporations might purposefully seek the path of least resistance. As affluent, and often white, communities have the resources and social capital to oppose the placement of hazardous facilities in or near their neighborhoods, companies place hazards in locations where they believe they will meet little or no local political resistance.

Communities that are already socially marginalized are often excluded from participation in policy making, zoning, and urban planning, while industries, corporations, and similar entities are highly involved in these processes. It’s just easier to site industrial operations in neighborhoods where the residents have long held little political clout. In addition, working class communities and communities of color are relatively invisible in mainstream environmental movements.

If the voices of disadvantaged communities are not heard or respected in political or protest circles, they can be overlooked. Multiple forms of hierarchy and politics drive environmental inequalities.

[operation: diversity]

our plan for the future

The Sierra Club has developed a new Strategic Plan, which was approved by the national Board in May. Since you are our grassroots, you need to know what we are trying to accomplish. The plan recognizes that in order to succeed, we must build our grassroots power and help create a much broader and more diverse movement of individuals, organizations and businesses that share our values.

All who worked on this plan hope that you find it bold, challenging, visionary and compelling – a plan that will move you to join the Sierra Club in making it into reality.

IN THE COMING DECADES, THE SIERRA CLUB WILL ENLIST, INSPIRE, AND EMPOWER HUMANITY TO:

ACHIEVE AMBITIOUS AND JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Solve the climate crisis in a way that protects the environment and also is enduring, fair, and equitable.

- Transition to 100 percent clean energy.
- Maximize energy efficiency across all sectors, including transportation, urban design, and land use.
- Return greenhouse gas concentrations to a safe level below 350 ppm.
- Address non-energy emissions such as agriculture and methane.
- Protect and rebuild the capacity of forests and other lands to absorb excess carbon dioxide and provide more robust climate resilience through supporting biodiversity and natural system functions.

EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT OUR NATION'S LANDS, WATERS, AIR, AND WILDLIFE

Steward our natural resources to safeguard them for present and future generations.

- Protect and restore wildlands and waterways to provide large and connected habitats in all ecosystems that will withstand climate change, and also provide suitable habitat for the protection and restoration of rare and endangered species.
- Defend our wild heritage, onshore and offshore, from extractive energy development. Put an end to damaging mining, logging, and other highly disruptive resource exploitation practices.
- Protect our air, water, land, and communities from pollution. Promote environmentally sensitive land use and urban design to minimize sprawl, provide a healthy environment for all, and minimize resource use.
- Ensure that all who live in the United States have access to natural areas, including in or near their communities, as well as the opportunity to experience the natural world through Sierra Club outings or in other ways.

TO ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS, WE WILL:

ENGAGE AND SUPPORT A BROAD, DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE, AND POWERFUL MOVEMENT

- Attract and empower a base of supporters and activists strong enough to challenge the status quo and accomplish our ambitious programmatic goals.
- Engage the public, civil society, the business community, and other partners who share our values.
- Lead in diversifying the environmental movement to reflect the demographics of our society.
- Have the clout to influence public perception and public officials on our core issues, and to elect and hold accountable environmentally committed leaders at all levels of government.
- Help our activists, local communities, and allies win on the environmental issues most important to them.
- Engage in strategic alliances on broader issues if this can help further environmental causes and remain consistent with our values.

BECOME AN EVER STRONGER, HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANIZATION

Function as a high-performance environmental organization by building on our legacy and embracing innovation.

- Build powerful, capable, diverse, and inclusive volunteer leadership nationally and in every state and major metropolitan area. Diversify the staff at all levels and develop and support within all staff clearly defined values, leadership, and core competencies to excel in their field. Build a strong partnership and mutual respect between volunteers and staff.
- Foster an organizational culture that promotes results, account-

ability, learning, transparency, and good governance.

- Enhance the democratic and grass-roots nature of the Sierra Club in a manner that balances centralized and decentralized power, on-the ground and online mobilizing, and bottom-up, top-down decision-making.
- Maximize the effectiveness of our campaigns at the local, state, national, and international levels.
- Leverage all of our capacities, including communications, digital strategies, policy, organizing, and legal.

ENSURE OUR FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Ensure that the Sierra Club and its entities have a combination of diverse, secure, sustainable, and flexible funding that will enable us to:

- Win on our priority work and, where feasible, leverage our resources to help our movement allies win, too.
- Adapt to change as new opportunities and challenges arise.
- Invest in organizational capacity.
- Ensure that all of our chapters and groups have the financial resources and opportunities to succeed.

Did You Know?

When you see one of these icons in an email or post, you can easily click on it to post to your own account. A great way to spread the word to your network.



philadelphia hosts

continued from page 9

greenhouse gas emissions while providing for a just transition to good jobs.

John Braxton, union leader and Jobs with Justice activist; Mitch Chanin, a member of 350 Philly; and Sue Edwards, a Sierra Club Beyond Coal volunteer, organized the event.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

[operation: diversity]

Jemez principles for democratic organizing

The following “Jemez Principles” for democratic organizing were adopted by the participants of the “Working Group Meeting on Globalization and Trade” in Jemez, New Mexico, in December 1996. At the meeting, hosted by the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, participants from different cultures, politics and organizations developed these principles to facilitate working together.

#1 BE INCLUSIVE

If we hope to achieve just societies that include all people in decision-making and assure that all people have an equitable share of the wealth and the work of this world, then we must work to build that kind of inclusiveness into our own movement in order to develop alternative policies and institutions to the treaties policies under neo-liberalism.

This requires more than tokenism, it cannot be achieved without diversity at the planning table, in staffing, and in coordination. It may delay achievement of other important goals, it will require discussion, hard work, patience, and advance planning. It may involve conflict, but through this conflict, we can learn better ways of working together. It’s about building alternative institutions, movement building, and not compromising out in order to be accepted into the anti-globalization club.

#2 EMPHASIS ON BOTTOM-UP ORGANIZING

To succeed, it is important to reach out into new constituencies, and to reach within all levels of leadership and membership base of the organizations that are already involved in our networks. We must be continually building and

strengthening a base which provides our credibility, our strategies, mobilizations, leadership development, and the energy for the work we must do daily.

#3 LET PEOPLE SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

We must be sure that relevant voices of people directly affected are heard. Ways must be provided for spokespersons to represent and be responsible to the affected constituencies. It is important for organizations to clarify their roles, and who they represent, and to assure accountability within our structures.

#4 WORK TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY AND MUTUALITY

Groups working on similar issues with compatible visions should consciously act in solidarity, mutuality and support each other’s work. In the long run, a more significant step is to incorporate the goals and values of other groups with your own work, in order to build strong relationships. For instance, in the long run, it is more important that labor unions and community economic development projects include the issue of environmental sustainability in their own strategies, rather than just lending support to the environmental organizations. So communications, strategies and resource sharing is critical, to help us see our connections and build on these.

#5 BUILD JUST RELATIONSHIPS AMONG OURSELVES

We need to treat each other with justice and respect, both on an individual and an organizational level, in this country and across borders. Defining and developing “just relationships” will be a process that

won’t happen overnight. It must include clarity about decision-making, sharing strategies, and resource distribution. There are clearly many skills necessary to succeed, and we need to determine the ways for those with different skills to coordinate and be accountable to one another.

#6 COMMITMENT TO SELF-TRANSFORMATION

As we change societies, we must change from operating on the mode of individualism to community-centeredness. We must “walk our talk.” We must be the values that we say we’re struggling for and we must be justice, be peace, be community.



trains and planes, the mega-bus and the single occupant vehicle

by Nancy F. Parks

As you make your travel plans for summer, here is some information that may help you decide how to get to your vacation destination in the most environmentally friendly way – train, plane, bus, or automobile?

IS IT REALLY THAT SIMPLE? NO.

If you were traveling on a fully booked mode, the diesel bus is best (surprise), then high speed trains, then hybrid cars with 3 passengers, then a medium sized airplane. Driving in a single occupancy vehicle (SOV) is the worst thing that we can do.

In 2014, the Clean Air Task Force estimated that there were 2400 premature deaths associated with particulate air pollution (PM) in Pennsylvania. Much of that PM is breathable soot from cars, buses, trains and planes. Every one of these 2400 lives is a precious life, and every one of these transportation sectors must do better.

At the same time, Science News has just reported that “Humans are dumping extra carbon into the atmosphere at a rate unprecedented since at least the time the dinosaurs went extinct ... Not a single event during the past 66 million years released carbon as fast as we’re releasing now ...” Climate change is our fault.

SO WHAT DO WE DO?

We all use motor transportation every day when we could be walking. We should be walking and bicycling more for local errands, business, and social activities. And many of us need the exercise.

It’s more likely we will use trains and planes, cars and buses for longer distance trips that are common today. What are the impacts?

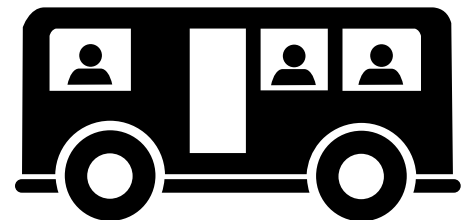
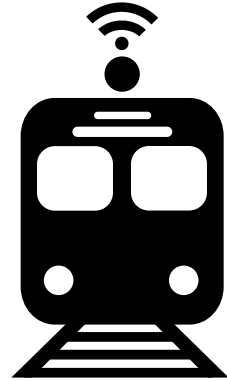
For example, I am planning a trip to

meet a friend of mine this summer at Glacier National Park. He would drive from Seattle, and I would drive from Pennsylvania. Not only is that a grueling trip driving across country, but a big deal since carbon emissions will max out at about 250-300 kg CO₂ for a single person. Then, if I decide to save time and I fly, climate impacts sky rocket. If the plane is mostly full, a single flight might expend 3 tons of CO₂ per passenger, and the amount goes up much more if the plane isn’t full. Airplanes create 3 percent of total global climate emissions. They are vastly inefficient. And they are using toxic fuels. Airplanes put out carbon, nitrogen oxides, sulfates, particulate matter soot, carbon monoxide, benzene and formaldehyde, to name a few. On the other hand, they carry a lot of people.

(You can balance these emissions by buying ‘offsets’ from a green company that provides air pollution carbon offsets to all these emissions to reduce carbon pollution effects.)

Since Amtrak has an East Glacier Park station you can scrap the idea of flying and take the train, Going by rail, you cut the CO₂ that you produce by half. That’s because you have a lot of passengers and a lot of carbon emitted. The more people using the train, the more efficient on a per capita basis it is, reducing the number for carbon emitted to 50 kg CO₂ per person.

A study by International Institute of Applied Systems and Center International for Climate and Environmental Research (IIASA/CICERO) in 2013 tested real world emissions over distances of 500-1000 km (312-625 miles) and found that carpools using a hybrid or a diesel vehicle are better than a train or bus for



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can't wait to meet you

Tom Torres, Conservation Program Coordinator for the Forest Watch Initiative

It's hard for me to talk about myself because what I really want to do is talk about all of the incredible individuals I have had the opportunity to learn from over the past six years. I have supported rural groups resisting extraction in Appalachia, worked with communities of color in the Southeast to build new economic futures, and helped build broad coalitions all across the region to fight for self-determination. I don't think it's possible to talk about campaigns and not mention those who make the wins possible: the communities driving and defining our work.

As the Conservation Program Coordinator, I'll be supporting the Chapter through the Forest Watch Initiative, a program that empowers Sierra Club members to become the eyes and ears of the forest. Through member outings and an interactive campaign platform, we hope to make connections between public land issues, oil and gas infrastructure, and frontline struggles all over the state. With over 20,000 members and a long history of successful grassroots work, the Pennsylvania Sierra Club is in a strong position to push back against the dirty industries that threaten our

land, water, and people.

Growing up the child of Mexican immigrants, I know the inherent value in resilient and diverse communities. My experience in Appalachia was as much about immigrants and manufacturing as it was mountains and riverbeds. Navigating different facets of the work — from farmers in Northeast Georgia and black landowners in the Alabama Black Belt to urban residents fighting for security and recognition — I have seen that strong communities are ones that recognize their collective power. Diversity in landscape, in issues, and in people is a value but also a challenge that must be met with compassion and understanding. I'm excited to experience everything Pennsylvania has to offer and I look forward to visiting with all of you across the state.



trains and planes

continued from previous page

shorter distance travels. This in spite of the fact that trains and buses carry multiple passengers, even though they currently average only about 40 percent capacity on average. Obviously, there is a need for more attention to public transit.

Hybrids have increased fuel efficiency (MPG) and reduce the air pollution emitted. But any gasoline emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) have longer lasting effects on our climate disruption and health.

Diesel engines emit twice the NOx as gasoline and three times the particulate matter in the form of breathable soot, affecting our health, our job performance and the number of times that we end up in the hospital. Diesel fuels also emit more toxics from their fuel combustion, and also have

longer lasting negative effects on human habitat.

A SOV is as bad as flying for longer distance travel, equal to an airplane 80 percent full and may emit 250-300 kg CO₂ per person. The carpool of 2-3 persons is as good as the train – even 50 percent full - producing only about 50 kg per person.

Airplanes produced 705 million tons of CO₂ in 2013, carrying 3 billion passengers. Aviation produces a full 12 percent of transportation sector global carbon emissions while road transport produces 74 percent. The Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) recommends that the aviation industry improve its annual fleet fuel efficiency by 1.5 percent annually between 2010 and 2020. That will require the world's airlines to purchase

12,000 new aircraft at a cost of \$1.3 trillion. After 2020, ATAG proposes that aviation should stabilize net carbon emissions by capping all emissions at that level. By 2050, net carbon emissions would be one-half of what they were in 2010. While these are laudable goals, we will need to make a conscious choice to use an airplane or not, since airline usage is accelerating. Flying creates large quantities of ground level ozone smog, aerosols, contrails and cirrus cloud formation causing significant heat trapping but has greater vehicle occupancy and efficiency and shorter-lived greenhouse gas emissions (compared to gasoline engines).

So there you have it. And oh, by the way, we have decided to take the train.

[explore enjoy...pennsylvania]

paddling pine creek

by Gary Thornbloom

Two days of paddling Pine Creek provide a nice look at a variety of Pennsylvania public lands. and that is exactly what the Moshannon Group, with group outings leader Ron Johnson has organized for the past several years on the first weekend in May.

Beginning at the Ansonia put in just off of SR 6 in Tioga County and paddling south will take you through the Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area and through the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania in Leonard Harrison State Park. State Forest, State Game Lands, and the Algerine Wild Area will be stream side at various times.

There are side hikes to waterfalls, wildlife sightings, and ice cream stops in Blackwell and Cedar Run. The steep gorge with rock outcroppings, tall white pine scattered throughout the forest, and dogwood blooming has the feel of floating through a Japanese scroll painting.

The stream level was comfortable with a reading just above 2 feet at the USGS station at Cedar Run (you can find the current reading online). Higher stream levels will increase the difficulty.

Paddling moving water with rocks can be challenging for a beginner and this is a good reason to travel with a group or with someone who knows the stream. Ron Johnson grew up not far from Pine Creek, has been paddling it for all of his adult life, and he knows the stream: its hazards, the scenic stops, and the ice cream stops. Another advantage of going with a group is that all of the logistics - setting up the shuttles, knowing where to camp, and what to stop and see - are taken care of.

We camped at Hoffman Campground (17 miles from Ansonia) which is walk, bike or paddle in only. A short stop at Blackwell, just upstream from the campground, allows us to load the canoes with

gear, left in cars parked there, and then continue on to the campground. This is part of the logistics that make camping an easy part of the outing, even for those who may not have the skill or gear to pack light enough to fit in a kayak.

After setting up camp, cooking supper, cleaning up, and then gathering some firewood late afternoon passes quickly into evening. Sitting around a campfire and sharing stories with new friends is always enjoyable. We fell asleep listening to a whippoorwill and awoke early to the call of a phoebe.

Canoes haul the gear downstream about one mile to Rattlesnake Rock Parking and then we continue paddling. The

gorge transitions to a wider valley. Different years we have taken out at Slate Run, Black Walnut Bottom, and Cammal. This year we took out at Gamble Run (6 miles).

Pine Creek Gorge was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1968. At its deepest point it is 1450 feet deep and almost a mile across. Glaciers sculpted this landscape, and Pine Creek continues to cut deeper. Public lands protect the gorge and give wildlife space to thrive. There is no better way to enjoy and explore Pine Creek Gorge than paddling, hiking, and camping in the gorge for a couple of days!



Left:

Moshannon Group paddling on Pine Creek, where the gorge begins to open up

Below:

Ron Johnson is paddling with his faithful companion, Ruby.



april's stellar weekend

by Justina Wasicek

The Stellar Weekend Awards Dinner was just that—a cozy evening on a chilly night, surrounded by long time friends who have done so much for the Club. We started the evening with dinner organized by Carli Feldman, and music by volunteer Matt Miskie. Then people who knew our award-winning volunteers stepped up to introduce the Stars of the evening. I thought I knew quite a bit about our award winners already; I have seen them in action in the Club, and I had read the descriptions of their work that were part of the awards ceremony. But at a dinner like this, you get to talk with them and their group leaders, and you find out even more about them. Whether it is part of the meeting, sitting at a table sharing dinner, or going out into the starry night for s'mores and a campfire, the weekend gave us a close setting to deepen our acquaintance and appreciate all that our volunteers have done for us.

For instance—did you know that Judy and Bill Tanner, our joint Group Star award-winners from Moshannon, have routinely traveled an hour each way to get to Sierra Club group meetings? They have set out on icy roads and stormy weather, early in the afternoon to make sure they made it on time to their meetings. They served as Secretary and Treasurer and members of the Group Excom for many years, and Judy continues to serve as Secretary, Political Chair, and Chapter delegate. They are an integral part of the Moshannon Group and the Club.

Speaking of traveling through crazy weather, the morning of the meeting there was actually snow in the

air! Thankfully that did not stop Tom Wolper, our award-winner from the Allegheny Group, from making it to Stone Valley. Then again, Tom is a former hiking leader and was ready for the outdoors! His commitment has been evidenced by all the volunteer time he has contributed as Conservation Chair, Organizing Program Co-Chair, and many other roles at the Group, Chapter, and National levels. That kind of long-term knowledge and commitment has been invaluable.

Dave Sublette, our award-winner from Lake Erie, also came quite a way through threatening weather. He is a true defender of wilderness, and has been a member for 28 years! He has worked for robust protections for wilderness in PA and nationally. Dave coordinated our Chapter's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Those of you who were at last summer's annual outing remember looking out at the lake and thinking it was a beautiful setting, while we enjoyed a memorable talk about the Wilderness Act by Justin Zanhiser.

We were so glad to see Sue Edwards, the Star for the Southeastern Group. Sue is the Chapter's Diversity Chair, where she has begun our initiatives in celebrating diversity, ensuring inclusion and working towards equity in all we do. Sue has been active in the Beyond Coal campaign organizing Black Veterans and she headed up the campaign against mountain top removal.

Dan Schreffler is our star from the Northeastern Group—he has been a member for 31 years! Long involved in community activism, you may appreciate him most recently for all

the work he has done as the Chapter Webmaster—our well-maintained and designed, up-to-date website has been a huge asset. Our online presence is a way to link us to each other and to introduce us to new members. It takes a lot of expertise and commitment and is so appreciated.

Robin Broderick, our GVP Star, exemplifies the get-it-done enthusiasm that has made local projects so successful. Robin organized the annual Wildwood Environmental lectures that are a great opportunity for the community to learn more about conservation efforts. She has also organized the annual Susquehanna River Cleanup, first helping Jack Flatley and then assuming a lot of the work herself. Robin served as Chair and Vice Chair for several years, and has always been glad to help with fundraising and participating in outings.

Lancaster Group's Star is Stephen Heim, who has occupied several different chairs for the Group. He is the Group Co-Chair, the Outings Chair, Polar Bear 5 K Run fundraiser co-chair, a member of the Education committee, and has been an Alternate delegate. A welcome presence, he attends and helps at almost every function in which the Group is involved.

Kittatinny chose Laura Fake as their Chair—a committed member since 2003, Laura is one of those welcoming and friendly people that make the Club a warm and interactive place to be. She reaches out to people and makes them feel a part of the Club. Laura's consistent and engaged participation in events is so appreciated—her welcoming approach

helps bond people over our common interests.

Otzinachson chose Nicole Faraguna as their Group Star—and it is obvious why. She has been a powerhouse—on the Executive committee for 7 terms, the editor of their newsletter, and their web page manager and social media chief. Wow! Nicole was the Chapter Co- Chair of the Power Line Committee and helps the Chapter and Group on the political front. She does all this without making it look hard, and she always makes time to connect on a personal note with our members.

Finally, the highlight of the evening was our Supernova Award—to Wendi Taylor! Here is one of our jewels—one of those volunteers who do more than most of us are even aware. I thought I knew Wendi pretty well—but the more we looked into her background, the more we found that Wendi has quietly and modestly contributed over the years.

Wendi is friendly, pragmatic, smart, and elegant. She also takes on some of our most demanding tasks!

After joining in 1998, Wendi devoted countless hours to making our Chapter better. From 2004-2005, Wendi was the Treasurer for the Political Action Fund. She gave up that position to become Chapter Treasurer from 2005-2009. Being the Treasurer was a time consuming task, but it helped us achieve our objectives with limited financial resources. From 2010 -2015,

she has been an At-Large Delegate. She also has been a HELEN administrator.

Plus—since 2009, Wendi has contributed her journalism skills as Co- Editor of the *Sylvanian*. (I am relying on Phil, the other co-editor, to make sure that modest Wendi does not edit out our appreciation of her!)With her guidance and efficiency, *The Sylvanian* has been a resource for members and the public to learn about the issues that

the environment, helping to run the administrative side of the Chapter, and participating in several conference calls weekly.

Wendi never talks about how much she does. Instead, she reaches out to our members to tell them how much she appreciates them. Her enthusiasm and hard work inspire us to work alongside her. Wendi Taylor has enriched the PA Chapter of the Sierra Club with her hours of volunteering,

her enthusiastic participation in the Club, and her warm and appreciative manner. You are a Super Star, Wendi!

It was a great evening. Check out the photo of the award winners—I don't know who was smiling more, the winners or the audience. I hope you can join us next year when we celebrate our wonderful volunteers again.

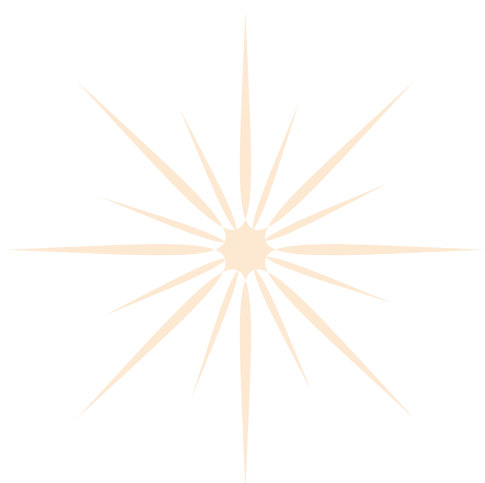


Our stars from left to right: Sue Edwards, Wendi Taylor, Tom Wolper, Judy Tanner, Bill Tanner and Dave Sublette.

concern us in a professional and engaging format.

She has contributed to the well being of the Club on all levels. In her local GVP Group, Wendi serves as Political Chair and is active on the ExCom.

In January 2012, Wendi became our Chapter Chair. She has been tireless in this role, serving as a public spokesperson, lobbying and advocating for



remembering Benjamin D. Fields, Esq.

by Julie Mann

In the death of Benjamin D. Fields, the environment has lost a true friend and tenacious defender. Fields, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel US EPA and nationally-recognized expert in administrative legal practice, died peacefully at home in Wyncote, Montgomery County, on April 20, 2015, of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and Leukemia. He was 56.

In his nearly three decades at the EPA, Fields “handled some of the most environmentally significant and legally complex enforcement matters in [the Mid-Atlantic] Region,” according to Cynthia Giles, President Barack Obama’s appointed head of the US EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance, who praised Fields’ “slam-dunk victory” in the recent Chem-Solv case, and lauded his success as lead attorney in Euclid of Virginia, which resulted in the largest civil penalty ever assessed in a contested EPA administrative case under any federal environmental statute to this day.

Fields’ “achievements in administrative litigation for EPA are extraordinary,” says Shawn M. Garvin, head of EPA’s Mid-Atlantic Region, who also praised Fields for an “innovative settlement” that ensured full investigation and remediation of contamination in a hazardous waste enforcement action against a company in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings (Talon Manufacturing), and added that Fields’ recent victory in the highly-contested Chem-Solv case sends “a strong signal

to the regulated community that pollution doesn’t pay, especially in Region III.”

In addition to his full docket of cases, Fields chaired an EPA working group facilitating inter-regional coordination, acted as National Coordinator for complex multi-statute environmental actions, and ran numerous Agency trainings.

A 1980 graduate of Swarthmore College, Fields spent a tireless year with the League of Conservation Voters before attending Northwestern University School of Law (JD, 1984). While serving as Judicial Law Clerk to Justice Thomas Moran, Illinois Supreme Court (1985-1987), Fields was active in the local Chicago Sierra Club, where he did legislative work and participated in outings.

Fields enjoyed travel, rock climbing, canoeing, backpacking (including a four-week trek in Nepal), nature and travel photography, cooking (particularly Spanish tapas and some favorite



Hungarian specialties), great music from jazz to classical to classic rock, sharing his vast wealth of knowledge and experience, spending quality time with family and friends, and stimulating conversation – always with a smile.

Fields is survived by wife Stephanie Nova Fields, children Jacob and Cara Fields, brother Matthew Fields, sister Leslie Fields, and several adoring nieces and nephews.

Contributions in Ben’s memory may be made to Sierra Club or to a charity of one’s choice.

call for at-large delegates

by Jack Miller

The Nominating Committee wants to know who you think is qualified to represent you on the PA Chapter Executive Committee. Each year the statewide membership of the Sierra Club elects three members as delegates to the Chapter Executive Committee for two-year terms. These delegates, along with representatives from each group, comprise the governing body of the Pennsylvania Chapter.

Generally, At-Large delegates have a broad interest and/or knowledge of the activities of the Club throughout the state. Nominations are now being sought for these three important At-Large Delegate positions. Members are encouraged to submit the names of people (including yourself) to the Nominating Committee. Submit the names and contact information of people you want to be considered by the Nominating Committee as nominees no later than August 15, 2015.

Further, members who are not officially nominated by the Nominat-

ing Committee can be added to the election ballot for At-large Delegates through a simple, written petition process.

A valid petition consists of the name, address and membership number of the petition candidate, along with a statement that the candidate has given approval for the petition and intends to serve if elected. A telephone number and e-mail address of the candidate are also requested. Members signing petitions must include their printed membership name and address, the date and a legible signature. The telephone number, e-mail address and membership number of members signing the petition are also requested in order to verify current membership. Both members of a joint membership may sign. A minimum of fifteen (15) valid signatures is required on a petition. Because some signers may have unknowingly let their membership lapse, a greater number of signatures is recommended. Petition candidate statements and completed

petitions must be received by the Nominating Committee no later than August 31, 2015. (See the address below.)

Ballot candidates for At-Large Delegates should prepare a written statement highlighting their qualifications to serve as delegates, which will appear in the fall edition of *The Sylvanian*. Statements are limited to 200 words and should be e-mailed to the Nominating Committee by September 5, 2015. Petitions and petitioners' statements should be mailed to the Nominating Committee by the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial overnight delivery service at the following address:

Chapter Nominating Committee; Jack Miller; 130 Delong Road; Middleburg PA 17842-8182

In addition, the Nominating Committee will gladly accept recommendations for various posts and volunteer positions. Please contact Jack Miller at: jmiller1018@yahoo.com

answers to crossword puzzle

(from page 24)

Across

- 4 Community
- 5 SOV
- 6 National
- 8 Enjoy
- 9 Air
- 11 Action
- 12 Severance

Down

- 1 Tom Torres
- 2 Kill
- 3 Leopold
- 7 Orphan
- 10 Gorge



avoiding a natural gas bust

by Wendi Taylor

Governor Tom Wolf's proposed 2015-16 budget contains many of the elements that experts say may help avoid a natural gas bust. When Gov. Wolf took office, Pennsylvania was experiencing an uncontrolled boom in the natural gas industry. Towns across the northern tier and southwest portion of Pennsylvania were being inundated with people and industrial sites, which put stress on the local services: from emergency responders and roads to housing and the courthouse.

This is not the first time that Pennsylvania has been subjected to booms from an extraction industry. Before natural gas there was oil, timber and coal. Each have come and gone. Every boom has been followed by a bust.

There are several strategies that have been suggested to help lessen the impact of the bust, which comes when the industry has finished its extraction and moves on.

They are:

- Control the growth of the industry so that the impact can be absorbed over a larger period of time.
- Spread the impact over a larger geographic area, so that the economic activity is shared throughout the county, the region and the state.
- Use a portion of the wealth generated to prepare people for the bust.
- Build infrastructure that benefits the community in the future and

avoid projects with large maintenance costs that will be unaffordable after the industry leaves.

CONTROL THE GROWTH

During his campaign for governor, Gov. Wolf promised to regulate the industry so that the drilling was done safely and in an environmentally responsible way. Wolf's budget calls for the hiring of 50 new inspectors for the PA Department of Environmental Protection to help regulate drilling sites. Not only will this make drilling safer for those who live in the community, but it will also control the industry.

Even though the first fracked well was drilled in Pennsylvania in 2004 by Range Resources, the PA DEP is only now proposing new regulations of the oil and gas industry to address the issues raised by fracking. For a long time PA DEP did not have the political will or the staff to enforce the regulations on drilling that were in place.

SPREAD THE IMPACT

The Governor's budget calls for enacting a severance tax which will help spread the wealth around and make lasting investments in communities across Pennsylvania. Throughout his campaign for governor, Wolf said he would enact a severance tax and people supported him with their votes. **The budget lays out spending plan to increase spending for education, economic development and renew-**

able energy and energy efficiency.

After a decade of having its way, the natural gas industry is now whining about Wolf's proposed severance tax. The industry says that the price for natural gas is so low that this is the wrong time to institute the tax. Yet, when Governor Ed Rendell proposed a severance tax it was also the wrong time because it could hamper the growth of a new industry.

Gov. Wolf has proposed a 5-percent tax on the value of gas at the well-head, plus 4.7 cents per thousand cubic feet of volume, with the funds directed to education, environmental protection and communities that are impacted by the gas industry. There are also funds set aside to make the debt service payment on a \$675 million bond issue to invest in economic development, infrastructure and energy. That bond includes \$325 million Alternative Energy Initiative that includes \$20 million each for Green Agriculture and Wind power, and \$50 million each for the PA Sunshine program and energy efficiency.

USE THE WEALTH TO PREPARE PEOPLE

There is no better way to prepare people for what is to come than through education. Insuring that every child gets a good education is the best way to prepare for the future, whatever may come. Learning is something that cannot be lost even during economic hard times.

Further, by investing in clean, renew-

able energy the state would be investing in an industry that is poised for growth.

Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts have the oldest building stock in the country. By spending \$50 million on energy efficiency projects, we can grow the remodeling industry in the same areas that will be hit hardest by the bust.

BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE THAT HAS LASTING BENEFITS

Gov. Wolf is proposing to spend \$500 million to beef up Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PEN-VEST), a special fund to help local governments improve their water and sewer systems. Many water and sewer systems have been neglected as local governments have tried to keep taxes low by not making improvements to their water and sewer systems.

Eighty-five municipalities in the northcentral Pennsylvania are under orders from the federal Environmental Protection Agency to improve their storm water management systems,

which will help clean up the Chesapeake Bay. With climate change bringing more severe storms and more run off, many storm water systems throughout Pennsylvania need to be improved. Many of the older systems combine their storm drains with the sewer lines and are sent to their sewage treatment plants. When the treatment plants are inundated with storm water during heavy rains, the plants fail.

By planning for the future and supporting industries like clean, renew-

able energy, **Pennsylvania may be able to short circuit the cycle of boom-to-bust** and make a transition to economic stability.

[meetings and outings]

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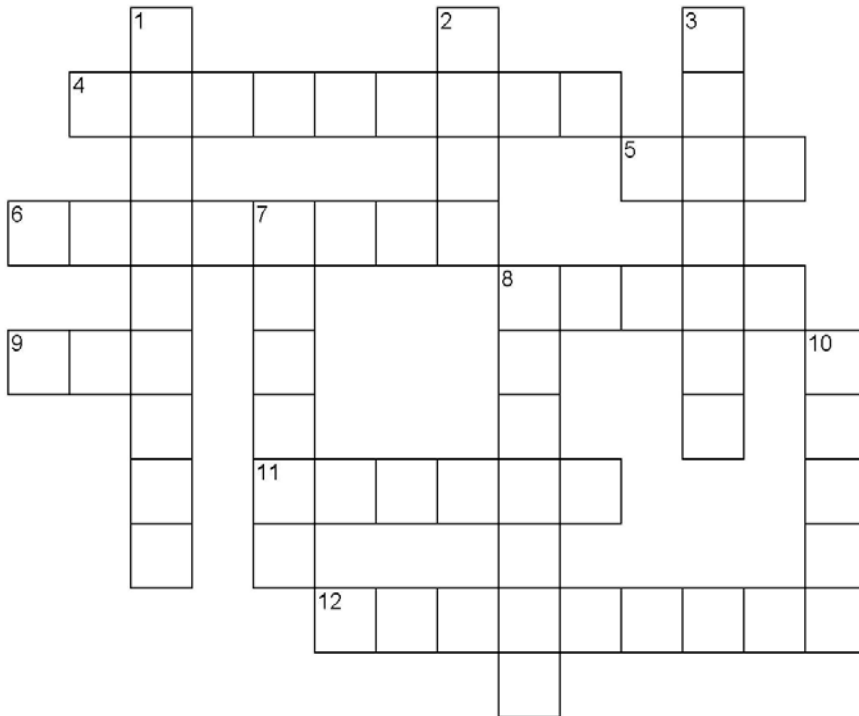
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NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG
PA
PERMIT NO.
705



explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

[summer crossword]



Across

- 4 Labor, _____, and the Climate Crisis
- 5 Single Occupant Vehicle
- 6 Glacier _____ Park
- 7 _____ Wildlife Grant
- 8 Explore, _____, and Protect
- 9 Clean _____ Taskforce
- 11 Political _____ Fund
- 12 Governor Wolf's proposed _____ Tax

Down

- 1 Conservation Program Coordinator
- 2 To _____ a Mockingbird
- 3 Wrote Sand County Almanac
- 7 Abandoned and _____ well program
- 8 Enlist, Inspire, and _____ Humanity
- 10 Pine Creek _____

answers on page 21