

Susquehanna Sierran JUNE 2026



Founded 1892

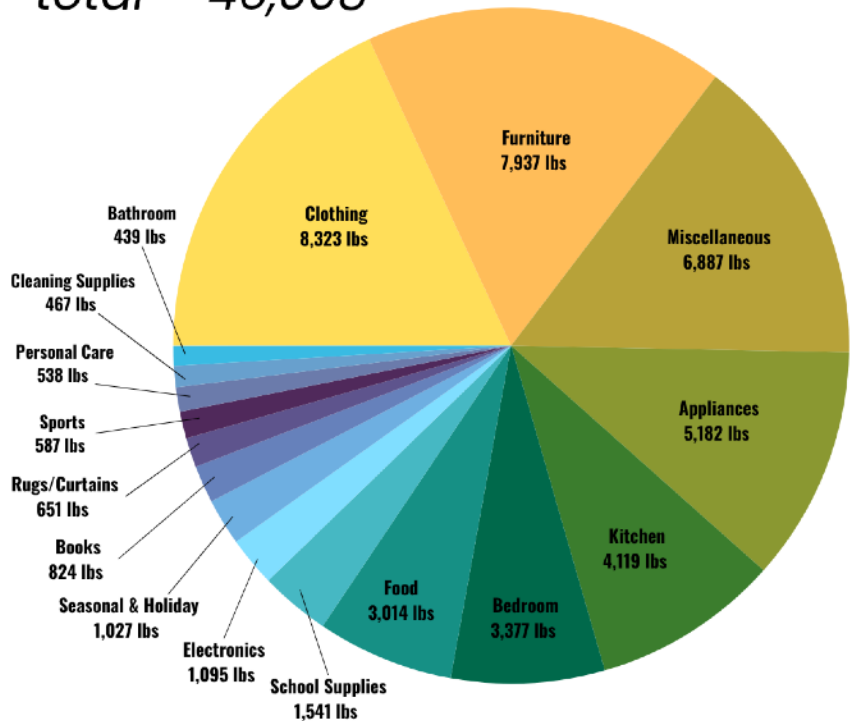
EXPLORE, ENJOY, PROTECT THE PLANET

The Mighty MOP – Christina Fuller

Binghamton **Move Out Project** (MOP) just completed its biggest year yet. With the help of over 100 volunteers, over 46,000 pounds of donations from Binghamton University students moving out of their college housing were collected over the past month, up from the 34,236 collected last year. The haul ranges from furniture, non-perishable food, and housewares, to clothing, books, appliances, and more. Donations included over 70 mini-fridges and over 30 microwave ovens.

On June 2nd and 3rd, the Project hosted its annual “Shopping Days” event during which community organizations “shopped” for free donations amongst the items for their organizations and the clients they serve. Over 50 area nonprofits, schools, and churches participated in the event. Since 2021, MOP has diverted over 60 tons of usable items from the landfill back into the community.

Pounds Diverted, 2026 total = 46,008



One of the warehouse spaces provided for the Project by Binghamton University.

Volunteers transported, cleaned and sorted in the overflowing spaces.

Rick Marsi Honored with Lynda Spickard Award

– Valdi Weiderpass

The Susquehanna Group, on May 19, presented Rick Marsi with its annual Lynda Spickard Environmental Award in recognition of over four decades of helping people learn to appreciate and protect nature. Rick said he was especially honored to receive this award, because his mother, Harriet Marsi, was presented with it in 2006, as the second recipient, for her years of environmental protection efforts including diverting Route 17 to save the Apalachin Marsh, remembered fondly as “Harriet’s Marsh.” The inscription on the award: *“Recognizing RICK MARSII, naturalist, author, birder and photographer, urging folks to take a walk, look closely, discover wilderness near home, inspiring us to explore, enjoy and protect it.”*

Rick’s bio:

‘Rick Marsi is a freelance writer, photographer, lecturer and nature guide.

Rick graduated from Colgate University and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in India. He served as director of Broome County’s Finch Hollow Nature Center.

Beginning in 1980, Rick wrote a syndicated nature column for Gannett Central New York Media every week for 44 years. As a writer for the Binghamton, N.Y. Press & Sun-Bulletin during that time, he contributed hundreds of outdoor and environment stories. During his tenure at the Press & Sun-Bulletin he won 12 Associated Press writing awards, including 1st place awards for both column and feature writing.

As a photographer and lecturer, Rick has given hundreds of slide programs on various outdoor-related subjects. He is a former First Place winner in both photo and writing contests of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. His photographs have appeared in Sports Afield, Men’s Health, Bird Watcher’s Digest, Birder’s World, Reader’s Digest Books and other publications.’

While speaking with us Rick noted that his 'soft sell' to get people interested in nature, so they may fall in love and want to protect it, is complemented by the 'harder sell' of organizations such as Sierra Club which lobby, conduct rallies and protests, organize press conferences and media campaigns to push for policies and legislation needed to protect the natural world.

Following the award presentation, Rick gave a presentation titled, “The Changing Face of Nature” featuring beautiful nature photographs with Rick recalling his experiences taking them, emphasizing how changes due to humans affect nature. He talked of how forests were cut down for farming, reducing habitat for forest dwellers, how over-hunting adversely affected some predators, how that increased the number of deer in the northeast, how mono-crop farming with intensive use of herbicides and pesticides harm many species, etc. He also told of success stories such as how restricting duck hunting brought back an abundance of wood ducks, banning DDT brought back the bald eagle and other raptors from the brink of extinction, and the re-introduction of wild turkeys after forests grew back, etc. His presentation and ongoing efforts provide hope and remind us why we work to protect our natural world.

Thank you, Rick!



Susquehanna Group

(All of Broome and Sullivan, & most of
Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, and Tioga
Counties)

Chair	*Valdi Weiderpass
Vice Chair	*Moira Ashleigh
Secretary	*Laura Seltz
Treasurer	*Joann Lettis
Political Chair, Outings	*Scott Lauffer
Chapter Delegate	*Jim Taft
Newsletter Editor	*Jim Taft
Webmaster	* Moira Ashleigh
Conservation Co-Chairs	*Doug Gausman, *Mary Cronk
Alt. Chapter Delegate	*Joann Lettis
MOP Co-Coordinator	* Christina Fuller
	* Member Executive Committee

To become a candidate for the
Susquehanna Group's Executive
Committee, mail by November 1, 2026
a candidate statement of 150 words or
less to:

Susquehanna Group
PO Box 572
Endicott NY 13760

The Nominating Committee will create
a slate of candidates, and ballots will be
mailed with the December *Sierran*.

Life of a Paper Mill

– Doug Gausman

This is a synopsis of an article that appeared in the February 2025 American Legion Magazine. The original article by Jeff Stoffer is certainly worth recalling in this day of continued attacks on the environment.

Today the British Crown maintains authority over a good amount of harvestable woodland in Nova Scotia that it cedes to the Province. Nova Scotia, in turn, licenses access to the Port Hawkesbury Paper Company (PHP) which opened in 1962 to log a small percentage under an approved forest management plan. The mill employs over 300 people inside its 300-acre compound. The mill practices full utilization of each tree cut. Boughs and branches are stripped from the tree and left in the forest providing areas where native animals including moose can browse. Larger logs are taken to sawmills in the area. The residuals come back in the form of chips that are used as pulp and bark and then burned to produce steam that is used to power the mill's massive machines.

The mill is planning to erect a series of windmills in the hills west of its location. They will provide up to 60% of the energy required to produce the mill's 1000 metric tons of paper per day. The windmills are scheduled to begin providing power by the end of 2026. Excess power will also go to the provincial electrical grid benefiting the rate payers of Nova Scotia. Among the partners in the project are the indigenous First Nations people whose communities are staged with an equity position in the wind farm. All in all, it is a win-win situation for the environment.



Wind Farm Outing - Jim Taft

On June 4 Susquehanna Group toured Northland Power's Bluestone Wind Project in eastern Broome County. Thank you Mary Cronk and Scott Lauffer for arranging this informative experience. Terry Stanley, Operations Manager, briefed us for an hour in a central control room, then led groups of us into the base of an operating wind tower. We learned much about the planning and finances of wind projects, their grid hookups and bird impacts (which reportedly are not significant). The 26-tower project with ample wind produces up to 112 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 54,000 households.

Noise: we found our whispers could be easily heard under an operating



wind mill. Blade modifications have much reduced sound production.

This year Northland is involved in no new USA land projects, and

focuses on offshore and international sites.



Confluence Park Pollinator Garden



Our garden project, in collaboration with Binghamton Parks and Recreation, continues under the new leadership of Joann Lettis. With lovely views of the Susquehanna/Chenango confluence, the garden is recovering nicely after a hard winter. It receives many commendations from park visitors, abundant fisherfolk, and the occasional unhoused person. To volunteer, contact Joann Lettis, jomom83589@aol.com

Membership Meeting: Tuesday June 16, 7:00 PM

Overview of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Vestal Public Library, 320 Vestal Pkwy E, Vestal, NY in person, or <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/3644665286?pwd=VS9kUoNBaUttMnpRa3BSNngwci9TUT09#success>

Jeremy Waddell, BA in Wildlife Management, and Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, will review the many groups and projects in the Coalition, including establishment of the J. Shepherd Preserve.



Susquehanna Group
PO Box 572
Endicott NY 13760