

# Fresh Air

The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group



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CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

Our website:  
[newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson)

Summer 2013 Vol. 45 Issue 2

## Chair's Corner

Joanne Steele

Environmental Groups are pulling together at last. You, yes you, are needed! It's past time for doing nothing about climate change, which not all, but some of you have been doing. Our planet just passed 400 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub>. It hasn't been that high for over 800,000 years — before humans evolved. Do you think we'll survive as our climate grinds down in five, or ten, or a hundred, or a thousand years—grinds down relentlessly to that... unimaginable?

I received an email (and hopefully many of you did as well) from Bill McKibben, Naomi Klein, Winona LaDuke, Sandra Steingraber, and Rev. Lennox Yearwood. They ask us to FIGHT! Calling the bundle of actions **Summer Heat**.

*"...from the Keystone pipeline route to the White House where the administration has broken its promise to put solar on the roof, to the Utah desert where they're getting ready for the first tar sands mine in the US, it's time to stand up — peacefully but firmly — to the industry that is wrecking our future... We need you, out on the front line. We need some of you to risk going to jail, and all of you to show up and speak out."*

Remember, it's now OK for us, as Sierrans, to take part in civil disobedience defined as being on the wrong side of a (wrong) law. The organizers add, "We'll have people there to train for the actions — in every case there will be options for people who don't want to risk arrest, but if you're ready to take it to the next

level, there will be lawyers and such on hand to help. This will be peaceful, dignified, but firm. We're serious."

"**Summer Heat** will be a powerful focus — a chance for thousands of us to show the courage we need to lower the temperature." As the organizers say, our environmental movement isn't made up of professional protesters, "for the most parts it's students, teachers, retired people, civil servants, farmers, businesswomen, fisher folk, artists, mailmen, ministers"... and you.

*Please, please, take action...*

**Summer Heat:** [joinsummerheat.org](http://joinsummerheat.org)

**Fearless Summer:** [wearefearlesssummer.tumblr.com](http://wearefearlesssummer.tumblr.com)

**Sovereignty Summer:** [defendersoftheland.org/story/318](http://defendersoftheland.org/story/318)

**CREDO:** [act.credoaction.com/sign/kxl\\_pledge](http://act.credoaction.com/sign/kxl_pledge)

**Idle no more:** [idlenomore.ca](http://idlenomore.ca)

**Remember, our Tag Sale is in September. Would you please ask your friends to donate good stuff, too, and help them get it to the Friday truck loading? See our notice on the back page of this newsletter for details.**

**Also, your Mid-Hudson group can always use your help, oftentimes on the phone!**

## Conservation Corner

Marie Caruso

### Williams Lake Report

The DEC announced that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Williams Lake had been accepted on May 15, just as this newsletter was going to press. Our consultants were to review it once it was made available online (at [www.WilliamsLakeProject.com/FEIS](http://www.WilliamsLakeProject.com/FEIS)). There do not appear to be any major reductions in the size or scope of the development,

however, and it is unlikely that its negative impacts on the water resources and biodiversity of the area can be adequately mitigated. The DEC will issue its findings after the FEIS has been available for a brief period of public "consideration". Check the website [www.savethelakes.us](http://www.savethelakes.us) for up-to-date information about what is happening at Williams Lake.

## Political Corner

Andi Weiss Bartczak

This year there will be at least one race of environmental importance; if you know of any others at the local level in our Group's territory, please let me know. The proposed overdevelopment at Williams Lake in Rosendale, Ulster County, is supported by the present town supervisor and most town boardmembers. I will be inviting our Group members who live in the town of Rosendale to meet with me and discuss finding good environmentalists to run for town supervisor and town board

this November and to decide what we should ask of our Group members to help those candidates to win.

There is only so much that I can do by myself. Help is needed to strengthen the value of a Sierra Club endorsement. Please join the Political Committee. *Contact me: Andi Weiss Bartczak, [dr.andi@scienceforcitizens.org](mailto:dr.andi@scienceforcitizens.org), (845) 255-4371*

The Mid-Hudson Group Executive Committee and members would like to thank Kevin McKenzie for his many years of dedicated service as our newsletter editor and webmaster. Kevin, "We thank you so very much for all your good work!" — Joanne

**Thank You** to the  
Alternative Baker, Big Cheese of Rosendale,  
Starbucks, and Barner Books of New Paltz  
for their donations for our New Member Party.

We had two very different outings this past quarter. The first was a beautiful, easy hike to Table Rocks at the Mohonk Preserve. The following outing was a maintenance trip to take care of the Gertrude's Nose trail at Minnewaska State Park. The trail was in relatively good condition but much growth needed to be cut back.

*The following outings were announced and organized through our online Outings site: [www.Meetup.com/SierraClubNY](http://www.Meetup.com/SierraClubNY). If you would like to participate please join the website to be notified by email. We always need volunteers to leading outings. Please contact me: Andy Moss, Outings Chair, for more information. (845-336-5446, [andy@hvi.net](mailto:andy@hvi.net))*

**April 14**

### Table Rocks

The Mohonk Preserve maintains a large area of lands on the Shawangunk Ridge west of New Paltz. If you have never visited the preserve it is well worth it. There are easy, scenic trails, as well as longer, more challenging ones. We started out from the Spring Farm trailhead on the West side of the ridge on our relaxed hike. Although a bit cool the trails were easy to navigate and the view from Table Rocks was spectacular.



*The expansive view of the distance mountains from Table Rocks*



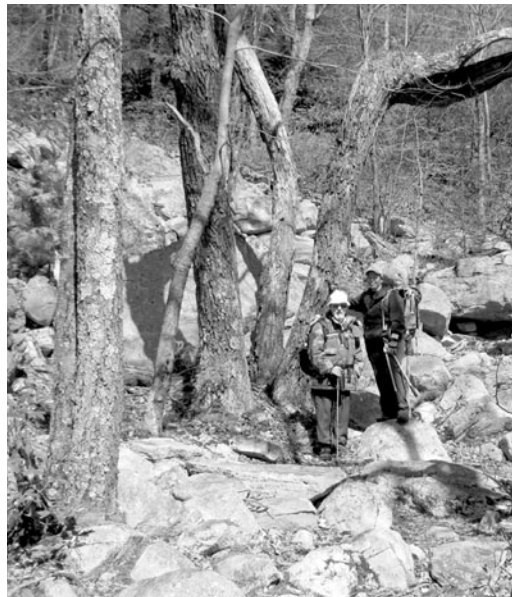
*Our group at Table Rocks. The wind kept us bundled up as we prepared for lunch.*

**April 21**

### Gertrude's Nose Maintenance Outing

As I mentioned in our previous newsletter, I have volunteered to maintain this scenic trail at Minnewaska Park. I was pleased to have two very competent and eager volunteers to help me. Pam and Murry not only made a difference with their focused attention to detail, but were kind enough to bring their own gardening tools. We focused our attention on widening the trail where vegetation was encroaching. Our two challenges were the Huckleberry bushes and the Mountain Laurel. It is amazing how much these plants can grow into the trail in a season. Thank you Pam and Murry for a job well done. I will be repeating this trip sometime in the Fall, so watch for my announcement at [Meetup.com/sierraclubny](http://Meetup.com/sierraclubny).

*Right: Pam and Murray pause for a photo. Top Right: Murray takes a seat at Gertrude's Nose just before lunch. Bottom right: the view.*



### Did you know...

**ENERGY-RELATED FLUID INJECTIONS** such as deep disposal of fracking wastewater, extraction of methane from coal beds and creation of geothermal energy reservoirs are setting off strong earthquakes of magnitude 4 and 5. Injecting high pressure chemical-laden water into gas-bearing shale results in earthquakes which rarely get above magnitude 0 (magnitudes can be negative), far less than the magnitude 3 quakes that people can feel. Injection each month of tens of thousands of cubic meters of frack waste fluids into deep disposal wells in north central Arkansas produced clusters of earthquakes, almost 1000 recorded quakes in about 6 months around 2 new wells surrounded by seismometers. When the wells were shut down, the quakes tapered off. Injection of wastewater into an aquifer 3 kilometers down increased the pressure of groundwater in the pores and fractures and then spread through a previously unknown buried fault, triggering quakes on the fault as it moved. — "Science" Vol. 335 (3/23/12), p.1436

*This information is provided by Dr. Andi Weiss Bartczak. For more Science Snippets, Science Trivia and FYI FactSheets, visit [www.scienceforcitizens.org](http://www.scienceforcitizens.org)*

PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. BRING A FRIEND!

**Wednesday, June 12th, 7pm**

**Chief Jake Edwards of the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs and Jack P. Manno:**

### **400th Anniversary of the Two Row Wampum Treaty**

The leaders of the Onondaga Nation, part of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy, and Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) announced the beginning of a **state-wide educational campaign, commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Two Row Wampum treaty signed with the Dutch.** It was the first treaty signed between the Haudenosaunee and Europeans who were just beginning to settle in what they called the New World, and established diplomatic protocols that have lasted 400 years. The campaign is highlighted by an epic canoe trip this summer.

A focal point of the year-long educational and advocacy Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign will be Haudenosaunee and other Native People paddling side-by-side with allies and supporters down the Hudson River from Albany to New York City. These two equal, but separate rows will demonstrate the wise, yet simple concept of the Two Row Wampum Treaty.

Events will begin with a cultural and educational festival in Albany on Saturday, July 27 and a flotilla will set off the following morning. Paddlers will travel between 9 and 15 miles each day and camp along the route. There will be educational and cultural events along the way, some large and others small. The gatherings will feature talks by Haudenosaunee leaders and allies and cultural sharing. The itinerary is still being finalized. Updates will be available on the [HonorTheTwoRow.org](http://HonorTheTwoRow.org) website. Paddlers will arrive in New York City on Friday, August 9 to participate in the United Nations International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

*"The Two Row is the oldest and is the grandfather of all subsequent treaties,"* said Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation's Turtle Clan who has represented the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy in world councils at the United Nations and elsewhere.

**Location:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, 67 South Randolph Avenue

*Co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie's Social Justice Committee and the Mid-Hudson Group, Sierra Club*

## Join Us for our Annual, fun-filled **SUMMER PICNIC!**

**Sunday, July 7, 2013**

**You're invited to your Mid-Hudson Group's Family-Friendly Picnic/Barbeque.**

At 12 noon we plan to gather at Wilcox Memorial Park, Route 199, Milan, NY. (Bring a friend and stay as long as you like: Park closes at 8pm) Come enjoy a summer day in one of the most picturesque parks in the Hudson Valley. Bring your lunch and beverages and the Club will provide the charcoal. Will you please bring either a dessert or side dish to share? We will lunch from 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Don't worry if you can't arrive until later — you are welcome to join us at any time. After lunch relax in the shade with a cool drink and good conversation. Or take a hike, rent a boat, fish, or relax on the beach and swim. How about a lawn game, or Frisbee? You'll be among Sierra friends all the while. Meet your Executive Committee members, tell us about your community and find out what we are doing to protect our environment. When you drive down to the lake look for our Sierra Club banner. When you see it, just pull up and unload. You can then drive your car to the parking lot. Please RSVP and tell us how many will be in your group. For further information, contact Andy Moss, our Outings Chair at: 845-336-5446 or [andy@hvi.net](mailto:andy@hvi.net). You can go to <http://bit.ly/ME2hct> for information about Wilcox Memorial Park.

Last year we had a great time. Please come. Wilcox Memorial Park features: Two lakes; Fishing & boat rentals on the "upper" smaller lake; Sandy beach on "lower" lake with life-guards, bathhouse and snack bar; Barbeque stands; Picnic tables; 5+ miles of hiking trails; Beautiful lawns and scenery. Besides lunch, here are some other items to consider bringing: Suntan lotion, Hat, Bathing suit, Beach towel/blanket, Sunglasses. Insect repellent, Beach chair, Lawn chair (for picnic area), comfortable hiking/walking footwear, Frisbee/lawn game. Directions: The park entrance is 1 mile East of the Taconic State Parkway off Route 199 in Dutchess County. (View a Google Map: <http://g.co/maps/agvny>) The closest GPS address is 1639 Rte. 199 Stanfordville NY 12581. Park phone: (845) 758-6100.

Parking Fees: County Resident Vehicles: \$5.00; Non-County Resident Vehicles: \$10.00

### **Volunteers Needed:**

- 1. Assist our Political Chair**
- 2. Help with Conservation issues**
- 3. Archivist**
- 3. Outings Leaders**

If you would like to volunteer to help your local Sierra Club your participation would be appreciated. Email us at: [midhudsonsierra@verizon.net](mailto:midhudsonsierra@verizon.net)

**Did you know that donations to our Group can also be made through estate planning?**

**We thank all of you who have given to support our local Group activities.**



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Newburgh, NY 12550  
Permit No. 8604

# ANNUAL TAG SALE

Our September Annual Tag Sale—Bigger and Better than Ever!

*Coming sooner than you think!*

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Saturday, September 21 (rain date: Sunday, September 22) at  
Mulligan's Irish House, 2146 New Hackensack Road, Poughkeepsie**

## **Start saving your items to donate to the sale.**

As always, we are looking for good quality items. Our sale represents our largest fund-raiser. We're especially looking for sporting goods, household items (small), toys, books, small electronics, knick knacks, art work, and collectibles.

## ***Volunteers Are Needed***

If you can help out at the sale contact David Friedman at 845-255-2635 (Barner Books) or by email at: Friedman\_David@msn.com. We need your help on the day of the sale as well as the drop-off day (Friday, 9/20). The Fall Newsletter will have drop off information and sale details.

## **About Your Membership**

We are so grateful for your membership, and for your renewals. However, if you take a while to renew, National starts coding you as a "lapsed/reinstated" member and you start getting new member or renewal notices, so it may be easier on you if you rejoin quickly. Of course, if that's not possible we'd rather have you rejoin late than not at all! And we especially love it if you can provide National, or us, with your email address so we can quickly let you know of any event changes. Plus, if you're willing to take our newsletter electronically (via a note with a link to it from our great database volunteer, Dave Thomas), please do! Thanks!

— Bibi Sandstrom, Membership Chair, bibis@juno.com