



OTZINACHSON

Step It Up

By Sam Pearson



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At the beginning of the year, Bill McKibben, a journalist and longtime global warming demystifier who needs little introduction for a Sierra Club audience, sent out a call for a nationwide day of demonstrations for the environment centered on the impending climate crisis. The date will be April 14, Saturday, from noon to 2pm. The event is being called Step It Up. And the idea is to generate a coherent grassroots voice in favor of significant, necessary national reductions in green-

(Continued on page 3)

QUOTE

“The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition.”

- Carl Sagan

Subsidizing CAFOs with our Tax Dollars

By David Young

The State of Pennsylvania is not only encouraging but subsidizing the growth of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), which includes the Central Susquehanna Valley.

On November 18, 2003, the American Public Health Association (<http://www.apha.org>) formally issued a resolution, policy number 20037, urging government health agencies, nationwide, to impose a precautionary moratorium on all new CAFOs and to initi-

ate and support further research on the health impacts on air and water pollution from such operations. What has Pennsylvania done a result of this recommendation?

North Carolina was one of the first states to promote CAFOs. Now, they are spending billions (billions) to repair the environmental damage caused by CAFOs.

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Message from the Chair: New Beginnings

After many years of service as the Chairman of the group, Ed Lawrence has stepped aside and I have been given the responsibility that he once held. Ed hasn't gone away, he remains on the executive committee and will serve as program chairman. Thanks to Ed for being our chairman.

As I stumble ahead learning what my new responsibilities are and how to carry them out, I have been giving a lot of thought to what we must do to strengthen our "local" group of the Sierra Club. There are over 700 members of the club that are within the Otzinachson group. While that is a substantial number of members, we are spread over a wide geographic area which makes it very difficult to do things as a group.

I would like to see if we can bring meetings to more of the members of the group, but for that to happen we need to hear from you. We have had program meetings over the last several years in the Williamsport area and hope to continue to do so. This unfortunately a great distance for many of our members. It does not take a great deal of time to become more active with us. We need contact with people in different areas of the group so that we can begin to better serve our members in those areas. If you would like to help out, you can contact me at jmiller1018@yahoo.com or give me a call at 570-837-6546 (before 9 PM). I hope to be hearing from you.

Jack Miller, Chair

Otzinachson 2007 Meeting Schedule

June 6 August 1

October 3 December 5

All meetings will be held at 7:00 P.M.,
First Baptist Church, 51 S. 3rd Street, Lewisburg

Directions available at <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/Otzinachson>

**All Sierra Club members & interested
non-members are welcome!!!**

OTZINACHSON

Executive Committee:

Jack Miller, Middleburg; **Chair**

Dave Hafer, Lewisburg; **Vice Chair**

Roy Fontaine, Watsonstown; **Treasurer/
Secretary**

Joe Detelj, Lewisburg; Agriculture/CAFO

Ed Lawrence, Orangeville; Program

Nicole Faraguna, Herndon; Conservation
Chair

Sam Pearson, Lewisburg; Global Warming/
Sprawl

David Young, Lewisburg

Committee Chairs:

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Colette Frantz, Northumberland; Fundraising

Dave Jansky, Sunbury; Outings Chair

Janet Jones, Lewisburg; Environmental
Education

Joseph Rebar, Shamokin; Membership/
Publicity

Richard Sahn, Cogan Station; Water Quality/
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<http://whistler.sierraclub.org/listsab/>

Step it Up! (cont'd)

house gas emissions, specifically 80% by 2050. The issue has come to the fore for many of us in our personal lives. These days it's on the radar of the general public even. Now it's time to bring our concerns, our will to action, and our voice to policy makers in Washington.

Rather than a centralized march on Washington or action in another big city – with a big carbon outlay required to get people there – McKibben has suggested rallying in places of local environmental importance distributed throughout the country. He and several of his former students from Middlebury College have formed a logistics and support team which can be contacted at www.StepItUp2007.org. There you can find information on the action nearest you or suggestions for holding your own.

The organizers had initially hoped to have perhaps several hundred demonstrations, but at this point there are more than 900 registered groups in all 50 states (SD must have been shamed into it in the past week). The planned actions range from marking out the potential new shoreline in coastal cities like Manhattan and Philadelphia, should Greenland melt entirely, to a rock climbing group hanging a banner off the Palisades in NY, to smaller walks, marches, picnics and gatherings across the country. No matter what the plans, it will be a great way to kick off Earth Week and send a message to the country at large that real action for the environment cannot be put off any longer.

In the Otzinachson Group area so far the Local Action Network has registered to hold an event in Lewisburg. We will convene in Hufnagle Park in the center of town at the appointed hour, noon on Saturday, April 14th, and hold a walk (a short one!) to the Susquehanna River, across the bridge and back. We will have available carbon footprint calculation opportunities and post-

cards to send to legislators. We will also have opportunities to sign up for the newest offering from the Northwest Earth Institute (www.nwei.org), "Global Warming: Changing Course," a four-week, self-facilitated small group discussion course, giving you more information on the issues and needed actions.

information on the issues and needed actions.

Please come join us in body in Lewisburg, or in spirit, at the site of your own local natural wonder. For more information, please visit www.LocalActionPA.org for local info or www.StepItUp2007.org for national info. Partners in the project include almost every known environmental

organization/group/publication under the sun, from Seniors for the Environment to the Nature Conservancy to Grist Magazine. If you don't see your favorite group listed on the partners page, ask them why they're not involved yet and whether they will help promote events for their members. See you on April 14th. ☞

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Legislative Alert!

HB 779 was introduced on March 19 to **repeal the prohibition on Sunday Hunting.**

Sunday is the only day that many residents have to enjoy the trails.

There are 3 million hikers in Pennsylvania, plus 621,000 backpackers. Add the 1.4 million wildlife-watchers who enjoy our forests and you have a pretty good resident constituency of forest-users. That's not even counting the many others visit our state to hike, go birding and stroll on our thousands of miles of footpaths.

Please call your legislator

(contact information at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>)
and voice your opinion on Sunday Hunting.



Alternative Energy Sources

by Sam Pearson

I don't mind being called a "radical environmentalist," but I do mind being dismissed as a "radical environmentalist." That's just what NPR did in a story on alternative energy on March 20th. Only the radicals, they said, would continue to insist on conservation and reduced consumption; "mainstream environmentalists" are fine with alternative energy sources like ethanol and biodiesel. These alternatives are sometimes referred to as "bridge technologies," for their potential to bridge between current practices and those of the future; however, since they are primarily aimed at perpetuating business as usual, they wind up serving more as a bridge between whatever is or ought to come next and the past.

What will come next? And will it be a good thing? How can we tell? The one thing that sure is that our energy future is far from certain. To help us tease out the differences between alternatives that are merely different and those that might actually be better than our current fossil fuel addiction, the Local Action Network will be offering a public program on Local Energy on Monday, April 16th, at 8:30pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church at 42 S 4th St in Lewisburg. (Use the entrance off the municipal parking lot.) This free session will include a short presentation on local potential and the relative economic and net energy benefits of several alternatives already in common parlance. There will also be people in attendance familiar with the specifics of biodiesel, ethanol, wind, solar, power distribution, etc. After the talk, there will be time for questions, discussion and brainstorming positive solutions for the Central Susquehanna Valley. We invite the public to attend, ask questions, and search with us for the way forward. ☐

For more information about the event and the Local Action Network in general, check www.LocalActionPA.org, email info@LocalActionPA.org or call 570.522.8159. We welcome your suggestions and input for this and other events and programs.

GLOBAL WARMING, EARTH IN CRISIS:

*What's It All About?
What Can We Do About It?*

Date/Time:

Sunday, April 22
Potluck dinner at 5:30pm
Presentations begin at 6:15pm

Location:

Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church
(40 S. 3rd St in Lewisburg)

Presentations:

Duane Griffin from Bucknell University's Department of Geography will address the first question: "what's it all about?" Come get a better sense of the state of the science on climate change.

Samantha Pearson from the Local Action Network will discuss the second question: "what can we do about it?" In that context, she will introduce the work of the Local Action Network and provide information about a new discussion course called "Global Warming: Changing Course" from the Northwest Earth Institute to be rolled out locally this spring

The event is free and open to the public, but please do note the potluck (bring a covered dish, side or dessert).

Contact Patty Johnston at pjohnsto@bucknell.edu or Doug Sturm at 570.524.4035 for more information.

A program of the Social Concerns Committee of Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church.

**An easy way to celebrate
Earth Day on April 22nd!**

**Save energy & \$\$\$ by switching your
inefficient incandescent light bulbs!
Visit http://www.smartenergyliving.org/cm/Energy_Efficiency/Lighting.html
for specific alternatives.**



**Otzinachson Regional Group of the Sierra Club
Edward Abbey Hiking Society
Spring/Summer 2007 Outings Schedule**

Saturday, March 31: Appalachian Trail

This will be the first of three hikes we will lead on the AT southwest of the Susquehanna River. We will hike from Route 94 to Bolling Springs, 9 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at 9:00 am in the Snyder County Produce parking lot on Routes 11 & 15, 10 miles south of Selinsgrove. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285.

Saturday, April 28: Mid State Trail

We will hike from the Old Coudersport Turnpike north of Woolrich to the east side of Pine Creek at Ramsey through one of the remotest sections of Tiadaghton State Forest, 9 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at 9:00am in the parking lot of the Harvest Moon Restaurant, located on Route 220 west of Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285.

Sunday, April 29: Bike ride on the Pine Creek Rail Trail

We will ride to Slate Run and back, approximately 30 miles. Meet at the Waterville access area at 10:00am. You can pack your own lunch or have the option of eating at the Hotel Manor or Wolf's General Store in the village of Slate Run. Rain cancels. Leader: Laurie Nau 570-745-2233 for more details.

Saturday, May 5: Hunter Mountain, New York,

This moderate 4 mile hike captures magnificent scenery in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. Meet at the Denny's parking lot off the Faxon Exit in Williamsport (Golden Strip, E. Third St.) at 6:00 am. A five hour drive (car pooling will be arranged). Bring lunch and water. After the hike we will stop for dinner in Woodstock. Call Richard Sahn 570-435-2401 to confirm attendance and for information.

Sunday, May 6: Mid State Trail

Route 22 (Alexandria) east to Brewer Patch in Rothrock State Forest. 11.5 miles strenuous – numerous outstanding views. Meet behind Lewisburg Post Office at 9:00am. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes/boots. Leader: Paul Shaw pshaw@ptd.net or call 570-672-2389.

Saturday, May 12: Annual River Walk Cleanup

As a service project for the community, we will do our annual cleanup and trail maintenance on the Lewisburg River Walk. Bring tools for trail clearing and trash removal. Meet at 10:30am at the very end of South Front Street in Lewisburg. Two hours should be enough time to do what is needed. Contact either Dave Hafer 570-523-3107 or Roy Fontaine 570-523-0987 for more information.

Sunday, May 20: Golden Eagle Trail

Rated one of the best hikes in Pennsylvania, this hike has everything: views, streams and history, a great nature outing. Moderate to strenuous, 9 miles. Meet at 9:00am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Ave., between Market and Hasting (Route 15), South Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Contact Roy Fontaine 570-523-0987

Saturday, May 26: Terrace Mountain Trail

As part of Pennsylvania Hiking Week we will hike the TMT through Trough Creek Wild Area into Trough Creek State Park with spectacular views of the 30 mile long Raystown Lake, Pennsylvania's largest body of water. (www.kta-hike.org for more PA Hiking Week information) 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at 9:00am in the Weis Market parking lot located on Route 522, Selinsgrove. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285

Sunday, May 27: Old Loggers Path

We will hike the southern section of the OLP from Masten Ghost Town to Pleasant Stream Road. 12 miles, moderate to strenuous, with fine views. Meet 9:00am at the Ralston Post Office on Route 14. Bring lunch and water. Contact Roy Fontaine 570-523-0987.

Sunday, June 3: Montour Preserve

This is a 4 mile hike on the West Branch Trail in the Montour Preserve, easy to moderate and a good location for birds and flowers. Bring snack and water. Meet at 12:30pm behind the Lewisburg Post Office or at 1:00pm in the parking lot at the Montour Preserve. Leader: Dave Hafer 570-523-3107

Sunday, June 10: The Pinnacle on the Appalachian Trail

We will make a loop hike on what is called the most famous view on the AT in Pennsylvania, about 9 miles moderate. Meet at

8:30am behind the Lewisburg Post Office for car pooling south, or at 10:30am at the restaurant just north of Port Clinton on Route 61. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Sue Johnson 570-325-4599. Lewisburg coordinator: David Jansky 570-988-0544.

Sunday, June 17: Mid State Trail

We will hike from Hairy Jones to R. B. Winter State Park in Bald Eagle State Forest. 11.3 miles, strenuous. Meet behind the Lewisburg Post Office at 9:00 am. Bring water, lunch, and good hiking shoes/boots. Leader: Paul Shaw pshaw@ptd.net or call 570-672-2389

Sunday, June 24: Jacoby Falls

This is a short hike to and return from Jacoby Falls in Lycoming County, an easy 3 mile walk for all. Meet at 10:00am at the Turkey Hill on Route 87, just off Route I180 in Montoursville. Bring lunch and water. Severe weather cancels. Leader: Merrily Frey 570-326-3907

Saturday, June 30: Appalachian Trail

We will hike the AT from Pine Grove Furnace State Park to Route 94 via the Pole Steeple Trail, 9 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at 9:00 am in the Snyder County Produce parking lot on Routes 11 & 15, 10 miles south of Selinsgrove. Bring lunch and water. Leaders : Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285.

Sunday, July 8: Loyalsock Trail

We will hike the LT from Sone's Pond to the end of the LT at Route 220, passing the Haystacks. 6.5 miles, easy to moderate. Meet 10:00am at the McDonald's in Hughesville. Bring lunch and water. Severe weather cancels. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-523-0987.

Saturday, July 21: The Donut Hole Trail

As part of the Keystone Trails Association "Prowl the Sproul" hiking weekend, we will lead a hike on the DHT from Kettle Creek State Park to Route 144 through one of the trail's wildest sections. 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. This weekend will offer an extensive menu of other hikes suitable for all ages and abilities as well. (More KTA info at www.KTA-hike.org) Meet at 9:00am at the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association Camp located on Route 120, south of the bridge from Hyner. Bring lunch and water. Leaders : Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285.

Saturday, August 25: Mid State Trail

We will hike the MST from Ramsey on Route 44 to Old Dam Road, south of Little Pine Creek State Park, 11 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at 9:00am in the parking lot of the Harvest Moon Restaurant, located on Route 220 west of Williamsport. Bring lunch; and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285.

Saturday, September 22: Chuck Keiper Trail

We will hike from Route 144 to Penrose Road, a section of the CKT southwest of Renovo that includes the historic rock splash dam on Eddy Lick Run. 10 miles moderate to strenuous. Meet at 9:00am in the parking lot of the Harvest Moon Restaurant, located on Route 220 west of Williamsport. Bring lunch; and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285.

Sunday, October 28: The Appalachian Trail

We will hike the AT from Caledonia State Park to Route 30. 8 miles, moderate. Meet at 9:00 am in the Snyder County Produce parking lot on Routes 11 & 15, 10 miles south of Selinsgrove. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285.

Sunday, November 18: Bruce Lake Natural Area

We will hike to and around a glacial lake complete with striations, located in Delaware State Forest, north of Promised Land State Park. 9 miles, moderate. Meet at 9:00am in the McDonalds parking lot located at the Mifflinville exit 242 of Route 80, east of Bloomsburg. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285.

Sunday, December 9: Ricketts Glen State Park

Our hiking route will depend on weather conditions. 7 miles, moderate. Meet at 10:00am in the parking lot of the Ricketts Glen Hotel, located 1 mile east of Red Rock on Route 118. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence. 570-925-5285.

PLEASE NOTE: *At times, unscheduled events will be added via e-mail. If you would like your name added to the unscheduled notification list, send your e-mail address to jrbar@localnet.com and put on the subject line "Unscheduled Hike List".*

This schedule will be revised in the fall.

CAFOs (cont'd)

In his capacity as a state representative and as a board member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, Rep. Russ Fairchild has the unique opportunity to obtain information, perhaps even develop a special report, on what is happening in North Carolina and what must Pennsylvania, and specifically the Central Susquehanna Valley, learn from North Carolina's experience.

Please contact Representative Fairchild's office and ask that he take action on this immediately. Feel free to use information from the column on the right, compiled by the Natural Resources Defense Council. ☞

Contact:

The Honorable Russ Fairchild
Felmev Road, P O Box 183
Winfield, PA 17889

Editor's Bookmark Picks

Factory Farm Project

Mission to eliminate factory farming in favor of sustainable food production.

www.factoryfarm.org

New American Dream

Teaches Americans to consume responsibly to protect the environment, enhance quality of life, and promote social justice.

www.newdream.org

Women's Health & Environment Network

Seeks to educate health professionals and community leaders as well empower women to address the link between environmental pollution & health issues.

www.when.org

Livestock pollution and public health

- ✓ In Oklahoma, nitrates from Seaboard Farms' hog operations contaminated drinking water wells, prompting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to issue an emergency order in June 2001 requiring the company to provide safe drinking water to area residents.
- ✓ In 1996 the Centers for Disease Control established a link between spontaneous abortions and high nitrate levels in Indiana drinking water wells located close to feedlots.
- ✓ Animal waste contains disease-causing pathogens, such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Cryptosporidium*, and fecal coliform, which can be 10 to 100 times more concentrated than in human waste. More than 40 diseases can be transferred to humans through manure.
- ✓ In May 2000, 1,300 cases of gastroenteritis were reported and six people died as the result of *E. coli* contaminating drinking water in Walkerton, Ontario. Health authorities determined that the most likely source was cattle manure runoff.
- ✓ In this country, roughly 24 million pounds of antibiotics -- about 70 percent of the nation's antibiotics use in total -- are added to animal feed every year to speed livestock growth. This widespread use of antibiotics on animals contributes to the rise of resistant bacteria, making it harder to treat human illnesses.
- ✓ Large hog farms emit hydrogen sulfide, a gas that most often causes flu-like symptoms in humans, but at high concentrations can lead to brain damage. In 1998, the National Institute of Health reported that 19 people died as a result of hydrogen sulfide emissions from manure pits.

Livestock pollution and water pollution

- ✓ Huge open-air waste lagoons, often as big as several football fields, are prone to leaks and spills. In 1995 an eight-acre hog-waste lagoon in North Carolina burst, spilling 25 million gallons of manure into the New River. The spill killed about 10 million fish and closed 364,000 acres of coastal wetlands to shell-fishing.
- ✓ From 1995 to 1998, 1,000 spills or pollution incidents occurred at livestock feedlots in 10 states and 200 manure-related fish kills resulted in the death of 13 million fish.
- ✓ When Hurricane Floyd hit North Carolina in 1999, at least five manure lagoons burst and approximately 47 lagoons were completely flooded.
- ✓ Runoff of chicken and hog waste from factory farms in Maryland and North Carolina is believed to have contributed to outbreaks of *Pfiesteria piscicida*, killing millions of fish and causing skin irritation, short-term memory loss and other cognitive problems in local people.

The growth of factory farms

- ✓ During the past 15 years the number of hog farms in the United States dropped from 600,000 to 157,000, yet the number of hogs remains almost the same.
- ✓ In 1999, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that 2 percent of the hog farms in the country produce over 46 percent of the total number of hogs.
- ✓ Ten large companies produce more than 90 percent of the nation's poultry.

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council, <http://www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/ffarms.asp>



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GLOBAL WARMING, EARTH IN CRISIS:



*What's It All About?
What Can We Do About It?*

Sunday, April 22nd

Potluck dinner at 5:30 pm ~ Presentations begin at 6:15 pm

Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church
40 South Third Street, Lewisburg

Event is Free and open to the publicSee details on page 4.